



***Earth Day 2007***  
*Everett Crowley Park*  
*April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007*

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." (M.Mead)**





It was a great day for Champlain and VFK Communities! The day dawned clear and cool much to the relief of the planners who feared that rain might continue to fall.

Four thousand people turned out and planted 1,000 native trees and shrubs. Distribution of 14,000 colourful brochures with maps is

credited with improved attendance and we will extend our distribution area as much as we can for the next Event.

The young trees and shrubs were watered and invasive competing weeds removed. The work was accomplished by scout troops, girl guides, Craig's List volunteers, local residents, and sponsors' staff, Committee Members and Directors from Champlain Heights Community Association.



Comments made by both young and old were that this was the best Earth Day ever held at Everett Crowley Park. One long-time resident actually said she had never heard of an Earth Day at the Park before this year and she was delighted that she now had a map to find her way around. Good work Team!!



## *Highlights of Earth Day 2007*

Musqueam Elder Jewel Thomas welcomed people to the Earth Day Event. She explained that these Fraserlands had been traditional Musqueam territory in bygone years. She blessed the gathering with a special blessing for the children and encouraged continuing care of our environment to improve the lives of people everywhere.



Mayor Sam Sullivan opened the Event and was escorted by an honour guard of Cadets from B.C. Regiment. He commended the restoration work being done at the Park calling it, “....a symbol of hope for the future.”



That sentiment was echoed by Parks Board Chairman, Ian Robertson, who quoted Martin Luther as saying, “If told I had only one day left to live, I would plant a tree.” Ian grew up not far from the Park and rode his bike through the old landfill.



Councillor Heather Deal spoke of Everett Crowley Park as a vital carbon sink where our air can be cleaned. She added a few words of encouragement for the Vancouver Canucks as well.

Parks Commissioner Loretta Woodcock spoke about the implementation of the Management Plan for the Park pointing out that restoration of



native species may help in controlling invasive plants by depriving them of light. She hoped that work to improve water flow at Avalon Pond would soon begin.

Commissioner Spencer Herbert commended the ECP Committee on launching the experimental dog and green waste composting project in the Park. He expressed the hope that composting of this kind could be done in all City Parks.

Master of Ceremonies Milt Bowling concluded the opening ceremonies by urging the volunteers to plant and weed vigorously as the Parks Department was standing by with tools and trees.

Although parking was at a premium and people parked as far away as Kent



Avenue, everyone was cheerful and the parking lot was kept clear and controlled by the Chairperson Leslie Thomas and assistants. We plan to have a shuttle bus for the next Earth Day Event.

including: Linnea Nursery, Master Gardeners, Natural Gardener, Native Plant Society, the Natural History Society, Sierra Club, Master Gardeners, City Entomologist and City Farmer, Alternative Energy Climate Change Organization, Guides, and many others.

Visual artist Nicole Dextras constructed a jacket made of laurel leaves and stitched with thorns to a bamboo frame as an example of her “Ephemeral Art.”

Artist Dianne Morann brought photographs and artwork gifts from survivors of the Katrina disaster in Louisiana where she did relief work.



Colourful kiosks lined three trails with interesting and educational displays





Musqueam carvers Doug Baker and Richard Campbell displayed beautiful carvings and demonstrated their techniques.

The Crowley Family sent their Avalon Dairy kiosk with lots of cheese and chocolate milk samples and was a very popular stop.



Musicians and dancers provided entertainment throughout the day both on the main stage and as wandering minstrels of Calamity Jane's group.

The Acchords, a group of accomplished musicians provided charming music near the dining area.



Steve Lamorie, Nathan Marcuzzi and Brandy Gibb offered different styles and memorable performances. The Greenhorns were especially lively, upbeat performers.

The ladies of the Tiddley Cove Dance Group made the whirl of colourful skirts and the sound of the concertina absolutely contagious. Everyone wanted to join in their dances. The Return-It Man from Encorp did just that and seemed to thoroughly enjoy himself.



The Children's Activity Area was supervised by Erica Mark and her group of volunteers from Champlain Heights Youth Group and others. The children were treated to botanical scavenger hunts, learned about butterfly biology, had tattoos, face painting and many opportunity to win ribbons and prizes.



Zox of the Forest came to entertain with song and puppetry and was a treat in his rendition of the Coyote Howl Song.



Fire engines and the firefighters from FireHall No. 5 provided a great attraction for young and old. Their good-humour and patience is legendary and they are now a tradition at every Earth Day Event.

Capt. Yan and the St. John's Ambulance Cadets and First Responders were on hand to provide First Aid. What a grand group of young people!



Scout Troops did themselves proud and turned out in force. Hundreds came to plant trees and they did that very well indeed. Girl Guides were everywhere lending a hand as needed and they brought their cookies too.

Leadership classes from local high schools provided volunteers who have an interest in community work. We have a wonderful generation of young people growing into maturity with a desire to contribute and participate. They served as guides, others worked on the registration table or on the information table and some on clean-up crews. We could not have managed without them.

Radio Station Clear F.M. were on hand for live broadcasts and CTV came for an interview and took pictures as well.

A Seniors' Kiosk was made available to invite comments about services they considered to be lacking in the area and express their interest in a local Seniors' Centre. Response was gratifying and response forms were signed even by teenagers on behalf of grandparents.



The planting was an enormous success and volunteers planted more than 1,000 trees and shrubs. Huge stacks of blackberry roots and weeds lined the paths as ground was prepared for the new trees. This event not only builds our stock of native trees but builds community pride and team spirit as well.

The ParkLane Homes kiosk provided pictures and information panels about the new housing development which will be built beside the Fraser River. This display attracted a lot of interest. They also provided delightful little birdhouses for children to paint. This is the second year these have been available and the kids love them. The birdhouses will soon be on view along the new East Fraserlands Walkway.





Vancouver WaterWorks demonstrated devices and methods to reduce water consumption and showed the Rainsaver Barrel which was donated as a raffle prize.

B.C.Hydro's Power Smart booth provided ideas and information on saving electricity in daily living.



Biodegradable Plastics introduced plastic bags. This plastic is not only biodegradable but feeds microorganisms in the soil. They gave out generous samples of plastic bags for kitchen waste and doggy-doo.

Bank of Montreal had colorful gifts and souvenirs including reusable shopping bags. Their brilliant blue shirts were seen everywhere planting and weeding. Some others were seen learning how to handle reptiles.

One of the busiest kiosks had to be the Herpetological Society. Their reptiles were the friendliest you could ever meet. Many people got to touch and handle snakes for the first time and were delighted by the experience.



VanCity came to show off their energy-efficient SmartCar and also took part in the event by planting and participating in other activities.

Orphaned Wild Life (O.W.L.) organization had their Ambassador Owl and Falcon on display. These beautiful birds held the attention and fascination of many visitors for a long time. O.W.L.'s work is ongoing and many young people expressed an interest in participating as volunteers.



The main stage was managed by Los Memories and featured Harry Fast, Al Osborne, Art Schrade, Cliff Hagel and drummer Lloyd Brow. This group is a great favorite with the Champlain Community and they are asked to perform regularly at Champlain's Summer Fairs.



Appearing for the first time at the Earth Day Event was the Kwayedza Marimba group playing their dynamic, high energy renditions of Zimbabwean music. A great performance and we hope they will be back next year.



The food...Ahh, the food. It was wonderful. The crepes were lovingly built by La Boheme's chef Bruno and served up by Paola. Nothing but the best and most wholesome ingredients are used in both sweet and savoury crepes. There was a bit of a line-up but the reward was worth the wait.



Of course, Mr. Tubesteak was offered. What would an outdoor event be without the sizzle and aroma of barbecued hot dogs and the wonderful condiments that go with them.

Mr. Cool offered fruit sherbets or an ice cream on a stick. What could be nicer to finish off an outdoor lunch.

Grant Crowley and the South Vancouver Lions' Club came to do their annual post-event park clean-up. Well done Lions! Thanks for your sponsorship and thanks for your labour.

The Earth Day brochure, the colorful banners and signs were designed and donated by Tucker Media. These maps fill a need we have had for years and will help newcomers find their way around the Park..



Volunteer photographers included Steve Weiss, Nick Lum, and Ron Tucker. Thanks to all of you. Photographs make memories more vivid and we will treasure them.

Champlain Heights Community and EastVan Parks & Recreation can be proud of the Earth Day Event presented this year. There was no paid staff and the work was accomplished by the hundreds of volunteers who participated. What a team!!! Congratulations.





The day ended much too soon. At 4:30 the generator was removed and we had to leave. We hope to have extended hours next year to sing and dance a little longer after the work is finished.

We thank the B.C. Regiment and Lt. J. Tam who escorted the Cadets to honor Mayor Sullivan.



This event and the wonderful memories were made possible by the generous donations from our corporate sponsors. We wish to acknowledge their support and have listed these public-spirited companies and included their logos on the following page, their websites can be accessed through these links. Our local merchants supplied gifts to make an exciting raffle possible. Thanks also to the City of Vancouver and the staff of East Vancouver Parks & Recreation and Champlain Heights Community Association.