


PARK Partners

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Regional Parks Forum undergoes an extreme makeover

When the Regional Parks Forum was launched in 1999, its intentions were straightforward. It was to be a mechanism that engaged the public, politicians and regional parks staff. Its focus was on facilitating systemwide activities and processes (individual park-specific issues were to be addressed by the individual park associations and parks staff). A key function of the forum was to support the development of park partnership



associations, and the communications and learning needs of its members.

Over the years, the forum grew and changed, as did the needs of the park partners and park associations. During the past three years, attendance at forum meetings dwindled and interest appeared to wane. Efforts were made to rekindle involvement by restructuring the meetings, changing content and moving forum meetings out to the communities. It became clear, however, that the forum in its present form wasn't working well.

The last formal Regional Parks

Forum meeting was held May 22 in Fort Langley. Attendees weighed in with suggestions for change, and feedback on their needs and desires.

Since then, the Administration and Governance Committee (A&G) has been working hard to make changes to revitalize the forum – a key component of Metro Vancouver's Park Partnership Program. The first step was to look at what did work, what didn't work and what forum members had said they wanted from the forum.

Out of that came three main "streams" or roles for the forum: Advisory; Stewardship; and Education, Training and continued on page 2

Bateman CD launch highlights Catching the Spirit and Metro Vancouver parks

Capilano River Regional Park was the venue for the national launch of the Robert Bateman Get to Know Interactive CD, aimed at getting youth outdoors to learn a bit more about their wild neighbours.

As part of the launch weekend, about 40 youth – including participants from Metro Vancouver's Catching the Spirit program – got to spend some time with Robert Bateman.

"I had heard it said that the average North American young person can recognize a thousand corporate logos but doesn't know the names of 10 species that share their own air and neighbourhood," Bateman said. "Caring begins with knowing the names of our neighbours of other species."

Four Metro Vancouver regional parks are featured on the CD – Capilano River, Pacific Spirit, Burnaby Lake and



Back to basics: Youth participants discuss nature, art and education with Robert Bateman at the CD launch.

Tynehead. The CD contains lesson plans for teachers, virtual hikes, field guides, reference materials and more. For more information, go to www.gettoknow.ca

Pacific Spirit Park Society champions keeping public parkland intact

The Pacific Spirit Park Society recently passed a motion to oppose the removal of any part of Pacific Spirit Regional Park as part of the negotiations taking place between the provincial government and the Musqueam Indian Band.

The provincial government has been involved in talks with the Musqueam in response to a Court of Appeal ruling that suspended the intended sale of the University Golf Course to UBC. As rumours of the repatriation of the golf course to the Musqueam began to swirl, a group of golfers headed by Marty Zlotnik formed the Save the Course Committee to lobby government to offer a 50-hectare portion of Pacific Spirit Regional Park as an alternative to the course.

The Pacific Spirit Park Society, which works with Metro Vancouver to protect the natural environment of the park, maintain recreational use that is in harmony with nature and promote stewardship activities, was,



not surprisingly, opposed to such a trade. Recently, the PSPS board passed a motion that included the following

“Whereas Pacific Spirit Park Society is a community-based volunteer organization that works with Metro Vancouver in the planning and management of Pacific Spirit Regional Park and has a vision of an urban forest and foreshore park protected and cared for in perpetuity for the benefit of all,

“The Pacific Spirit Park Society is opposed to the removal of any land from Pacific Spirit Regional Park. This is to ensure that it remains parkland in its entirety, in perpetuity, for the use and enjoyment of all British Columbians.”

On Oct. 18, Aboriginal Relations Minister Mike de Jong told members of the legislature that the government is not interested in park-for-golf swap.



Multiple users: Pacific Spirit is important to recreational users (above) and wildlife residents such as the barred owl (left) alike.

Photo: Darcen Hanna

“We are just not prepared to entertain that notion,” de Jong told The Province newspaper later that day. “The notion that we would replace the golf course with vast tracts of parkland just isn’t on for the government.”

However, de Jong also noted that a 13-hectare parcel of the park, adjoining the Musqueam reserve, is part of the negotiations.

For more information on the situation, check out the PSPS website at www.pacificspiritparksociety.org

Forum makeover, cont.

communications. A&G Committee is conducting surveys of forum members, partners, volunteers and the public to get a better sense of their needs and to make the forum relevant and interesting to all park partners.

Below, a bit more on the “streams”:

Advisory Stream

- providing input into strategic plans
- liaising with Metro Vancouver on policy and budget issues
- acting as a conduit between park associations, park groups and all park partners and Metro Vancouver
- soliciting input from park associations and park groups on issues to ensure the public voice is

heard

- advocating on park issues on behalf of park associations and all park partners

Stewardship

- providing support to and mentoring park associations and park groups on park stewardship issues
- developing standards on regionwide programs that would help Metro Vancouver make better decisions on stewardship issues
- facilitating discussion and sharing of ideas between representatives of park associations and all park partners
- involving staff to encourage and support park associations, park groups and park partners

Education, Training and Communication

- providing support to and building capacity of park associations and all park partners through hosting/facilitating workshops and information sessions on topical issues
- supporting the key events of Ideas Fair and Super Saturday
- generating volunteers through workshops, information sessions and events in the community
- enhancing communication between park associations, park groups and Metro Vancouver
- enhancing good communications about park initiatives with the public.

Heritage apples draw hundreds to Derby Reach

By Sharon Meneely

Apples, apples and more apples – red, green, yellow, striped, sweet, sour, crisp, crunchy – Derby Reach had them all! More than 350 visitors enjoyed tasting different varieties of heritage apples at the second Heritage Apple Day on Sept. 29.

Laurelle Oldfield-Downs expertly organized the apple tasting, bringing apples from her own organic heritage orchard and from Dave's Orchard in Langley. Derry Walsh shared her extensive knowledge and dispensed expert advice on apples, while Glenn and Cheryl Howes showed everyone how easy it is to peel them with an apple peeler. And what an impressive variety of heritage varieties Linda Wright set up at the BC Fruit Testers Association apple display! Langley Environmental Partners Society brought activities for the kids, and Derek Bisset showed them and their parents how to make apple cider. And the bees! Everyone was wowed by the bee displays, brought by Lenn Basaraba, Linda's husband. Talk about teamwork! I would be remiss not to mention the Metro Vancouver mascot, the chickadee, who bore no resemblance at all to Lisa Ferris.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, few people knew of the historic orchards in Derby Reach Regional Park. This year, apple experts from Vancouver and Fraser Valley historians are expressing curiosity about our historic orchards, locals are helping to fill in the jigsaw puzzle that is their history, and the community at large is beginning to take ownership of its heritage.

Five years ago, the ancient apple trees on the three different farm sites that comprise a large portion of the park were covered

in brambles and competing with broom. Untold numbers had already been lost to the river, and those in danger of falling had been neither identified nor catalogued. Now, many of the trees have been assessed and rehabilitated, where possible, by volunteer arborists under the direction of Bill Wilde. Park staff and volunteers have cleared away brambles and broom, and Derry Walsh has identified and propagated trees for future replacement and continuity of both history and species.



Photos: Lisa Ferris

Within your reach: Picking heritage apples amid the blackberry is a lot less prickly when you have a helping arm.

That we can indeed replace trees that have been lost with their own genetic stock caught the hearts of visitors during the three guided walks that I led. When winter loosed horrendous winds last November, one of the largest and most prominent trees alongside the Fort-to-Fort Trail fell, taking with it almost 100 years of history. How proud I was to tell people that in 100 years time their great-grandchildren will see a 100-year old tree in its place! The grins were huge. And so were the questions!

A major item of curiosity was an old pear tree, one of two that had been planted side-by-side, alone now because its companion tree had died. The pears on this old tree are round and taste like apple-pears. Can apple and pear trees cross? Fortunately for me, very knowledgeable apple experts answered the questions for me: such genus crossings would be very rare, but not impossible. Since it was a lone pear tree, what pollinated it? It must be self-pollinating. A rare tree!

Having explored the Markow Orchard and learned a little about this heritage orchard, visitors were unanimous in their support of our project. Walking the Fort-to-Fort Trail back to the historic 1827 cairn, many chose to hang apples on the "Tooney Tree," dropping donations in a jar to support more propagation of the apple trees.

All told, Apple Day was a huge success. Almost double the size of last year's event, it shows every prospect of gaining momentum like an apple rolling down a hill. It has drawn amazing support from heritage apple experts, Metro Vancouver staff, our Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association board and members, and our community. Thank you to all of the volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you!



Taste test: Participants sampled dozens of varieties of heritage apples.

Mysterious nodules found in Camosun Bog

Story and photos by Laurence Brown

The restoration of Camosun Bog involves removing the top layer of soil in order to raise the water table. We often find interesting artifacts when we do this. Notable finds have included a Spanish silver coin, hockey pucks, marbles and even a button hat (from a craze based on the old Archie cartoons). These generally date from the 1960s and earlier when the bog was wasteland and people dumped garbage there.

This spring we had a very unexpected find. Several hundred nodules were scattered over an area around two m², at a depth of about five cm.

They were pea-sized and rusty brown on the outside. When broken open they appeared to be porous and glassy or metallic.

We had absolutely no idea what they were. They were found below the rhizomes of false lily of the valley, but they certainly were not seeds. We thought they might be beads, but they had no hole and the shapes were often somewhat irregular.

We initially believed that they were bog iron nodules as they were the right size and colour and found at the correct depth. These are formed by bacterial concentration when the bog water contains significant amounts of iron. These have never been found in bogs in BC but are often found in northern Europe and eastern North America. The Vikings used them as their source of iron for items such as helmets and swords. When the Vikings settled in L'Anse-aux-Meadows in Newfoundland, they smelted bog iron to make nails and rivets for their ships. It was quite an exciting possibility for us to have found such a material.

We continued studying the nodules

in more detail and sadly a very different picture gradually emerged for the nodules.

Their composition was determined on the scanning electron microscope in Materials Engineering at UBC. These results were analysed by Dr. Chak Chaklader, professor emeritus of ceramics who showed that their composition could be considered to

be impure kaolinite clay but with significant extra iron (12 percent) and carbon (11 percent). The presence of kaolinite strongly suggested that the

nodule was a manufactured

product and not a bog iron. Dr. Chaklader also noted that the microstructure appeared to be a porous glass like some types of lava but this would mean that the kaolinite would have had to have been fired at a very high temperature.

It was Frances McCoubery, a park interpreter in West Area who solved the mystery. She had seen a similar material in a planter, used for decorative purposes. She showed me such a pellet and, although somewhat larger, the internal and external appearances seemed the same as our bog nodules.

I then spoke with an employee at David Hunter Garden Centre. He had seen something similar and, with a lot

of searching, was able to locate a bag of Hydroton, a German product. He said they had not sold this for years. As you can see in the image below, it is identical to the bog nodules.

A search on the Internet indicated that Hydroton is made from shale pellets burned in large rotating kilns at 1200°C. The organic substances inside the shale burn and cause the pellets to become porous. At the same time, the outer portion melts, forming a glazed shell. This scenario agrees with Dr. Chaklader's observations and explains the presence of carbon in the chemical analysis as presumably some of the carbon in the shale had not burned. Hydroton is still used for horticultural applications such as hydroponics, hydroculture and decoration. It provides good support while being inert, pH neutral and sterile.

There are still some uncertainties about the nodules. Hydroton has been manufactured for the last 40 years but has only been sold in Canada since 1991. Thus the nodules must have been dumped in the bog after the area became a GVRD park in 1989. However there has been very little

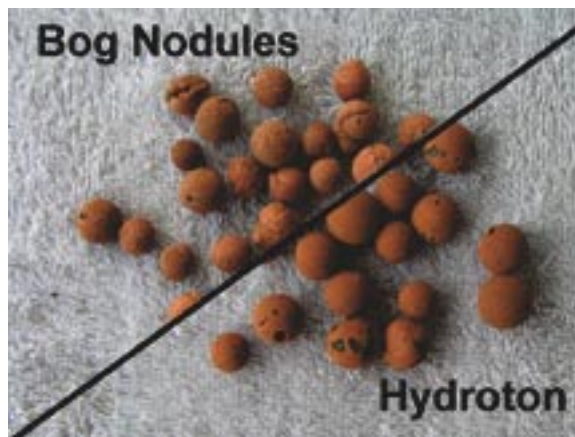
garbage put in the bog since then. Further, the nodules are found well below the surface and at a depth where other much older artifacts are found. It is hard to imagine that nodules were

pushed down to a uniform depth by some unknown person dumping garbage!

However, I think we have to accept that the nodules are manufactured and are much less interesting than we originally thought.



Mysterious bog nodule



The mystery solved

Catching the Spirit marks a summer of success

By Sherry Reid

Catching the Spirit is a unique outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship program targeted to youth aged 12 to 18. The program is based in Metro Vancouver regional parks and provides opportunities for youth to connect with nature. It also helps to inspire social and personal development, and fosters youth leadership. Catching the Spirit contributes to the sustainability in the region by providing practical hands-on experiences for youth, including camping, park patrols, trail resurfacing, invasive species removal, stream restoration and protection measures, hatchery work and light construction.

In 2007, projects were organized and youth were recruited for programs in four Metro Vancouver regional parks: Pacific Spirit, Burnaby Lake, Tynehead and Kanaka Creek. In addition, day programs were carried out at Boundary Bay Regional Park and Iona Beach Regional Park.

This summer, participant numbers were up and, as a result, waiting lists – particularly at Pacific Spirit and Tynehead – were common. More than 150 participants and seven youth supervisors contributed more than 17,000 hours of their time to training, education, camping and park stewardship activities in Metro Vancouver regional parks.

The success of Catching the Spirit is dependent on the guidance and support of regional parks staff, as well as various park partners and community groups active within Metro Vancouver regional parks. In addition, Pacific Parklands Foundation plays a key role in securing donations needed to operate the program.

Sherry Reid is the coordinator of Catching the Spirit and program director of WildED, (the Spaces for Nature Wilderness Education Program.



Many hands: CTS participants lend a hand to remove Scotch broom at Iona Beach Regional Park (above) and to remove non-bog species at Camosun Bog in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.
Photos: Sherry Reid

The last word

Some comments from this year's CTS participants:

- "The camp projects were an opportunity to learn more about nature and have fun. I probably wouldn't have had the chance to do many things like that, outside of Catching the Spirit." ~ Catherine
- "I didn't notice regional parks before going to CTS, but now I am aware of the good things that the programs at regional parks do." ~ Gabrielle
- "Great outdoor experience and leadership training, new friends and bonding, fun and games and ecological awareness. I have more respect for the work involved and required and more appreciation of regional parks!" ~ Dara

A dragonfly's dance of life

By Larry Meneely

The sun sends long rays sparkling across the pond where they mingle with the gathering shadows. Near the borders, the water has receded from lack of rain and a light cool breeze gently sways grasses heavy with seed. The dragonfly feels herself weakening as the dimming sunlight robs her strength. She sweeps gracefully to the pond surface one last time and then, dipping her abdomen in the water, drops her precious cargo of eggs to the pond surface.

Darting this way and that, the male weaves a menacing presence above the pond until he sees that she is finished. Her eggs, pressed by the gentle breeze into the edges of the pond, become entangled in the grasses and water iris. There, the eggs will overwinter until waves of spring sunlight stir them awake, causing them to hatch into nymphs. Drained from the effort, she lights upon a branch that is bare save for a few crumpled brown leaves. He moves to settle beside her and his wings become still. The morning will find them there together, silent and unmoving in the cold autumn air.

Over a period of several years, the nymph, one of their offspring, passes through eight instars or larval stages, shedding his skin to grow larger at each stage. He is a very strong swimmer and his brown colouring blends well with the muddy pond bottom. He pulls a breath of water through his anus and into a gill-like cavity. With a powerful squeeze he then expels the water behind and shoots himself with precision toward a passing tadpole. The nymph's lower lip, or labium, shoots out, extending his reach with suddenness; hooks

on the lip attach themselves to the tadpole and draw the prey into his waiting mouth. Now full to bursting, the mature nymph will endure one last molt and become a dragonfly.

It is an early July morning and steamy heat rises from the pond into thick still air alive with the buzz of insects. The nymph has crawled up the stem of a nearby iris where he is sheltered by grasses and slender leaf fronds that dapple his perch with light and shadow. As the sun reaches across the pond, the nymph's thorax begins to split. Soon



Eight-spotted skimmer female (above) and male (below)



All photos: Dawn Hanna

the larval cuticle (a hard non-cellular outer skin layer) will entirely part, allowing the dragonfly to emerge.

He extracts himself from the old shell covering (exuviae) and carefully unbundles his wings. Gathering strength, he pumps insect blood (hemolymph) into veins until the expanded wings droop fully unfolded by his sides. He waits while the wings dry; 30,000 facets in each big eye warily search 360 degrees of sky for enemies. His new soft exoskeleton, or

teneral, is colourless and featureless but this will only be for a day or so. His thorax will be blue; his wings will bear an eight-spot design. In 10 weeks or so, he'll reproduce and then die.

He is *Libellula forensis*, an eight-spotted skimmer of the order *Odonata* meaning "toothed jaw" due to his crushingly powerful mouthparts. He is also known as "clacking stick", with a sound similar to that of the cedar

tongs the Nootka used to remove coals from the fire. Parents call him the "devil's darning needle", telling naughty children that their lips will be sewn together by a passing

dragonfly. In Japanese mythology, *Shoryo tomo* is the Dragonfly of the Dead, whose job it is to carry the spirits of the family's ancestors to the family during the *Bon* festival. In Japan, the dragonfly, a national emblem, is the symbol of playfulness and victory in war. He is the oldest remnant of the Carboniferous Period, over 300 million years ago – a powerful predator in the insect world.

The skimmer believes his wings to be dry enough for a test flight. He stirs his four wings independently flexing the muscle attached directly to each. These wing muscles are thick and comprise 24 percent of his body weight – more than any other insect devotes to wing power, making him superior in flight. He lifts off with a slow rhythm, gradually increasing from 20 to 90 beats per second, soars upward and comes to an abrupt stop a metre above the pond. Although his wings beat silently, he is noticed by a passing songbird whose beak makes a futile attempt at capture, for the skimmer is already racing away at

over 30 kph. He will leave the pond area now; it is too dangerous for him and he must find a new territory with the resources to make him stronger.

Hungry after the moult, his course is erratic as he searches for prey. As he flies, three simple eyes on top of his head identify the horizon and connect this information directly to the wing muscles thru nerve endings. Hairs on his thorax tell him how his body is positioned relative to the head while he swoops and loop-the-loops in the air. Along the borders of the pond, the air is thick with smaller flies, midges and mosquitoes. The skimmer is as clever in the air as Fred Astaire on the dance floor. With a bop here and a boogie there, his legs fold around a passing mosquito and deliver the prey to his powerful jaws. He sucks the mosquito dry and lets the body drop. Now stronger, he sets a direction away from the pond and its everpresent predators.

Many days pass and the skimmer has become strong, with a thickened abdomen. His colour patterns are developed and a bluish powdery bloom (pruinose) covers his body. A bump has formed under the second abdominal segment; this is his accessory genitalia, or storage site, where sperm will be stored after transfer from the genital pore at the end of his abdomen. During sex, the female curls her hind end to the male's accessory genitalia to collect the sperm, resulting in the characteristic wheel position.

The skimmer has spent many weeks gathering strength for the ordeal and pleasures that now await him. He spies a passing honeybee and in a glorious improvisation makes the capture, matching speed and angle by vectoring backward and sideways – a virtuoso performance. The awkward bee is no match for him, but it is his final meal locally; he must leave his familiar patrol and find a mate. This means a return trip to the pond – an area fraught with danger and thick with competitors. He must fly there and must hold a territory, for no female will have him if he cannot

defend a position near the pond. The next morning, under a warming sun, he takes flight.

Finding the pond of his metamorphosis, he settles into a regular pattern, daring all comers. He doesn't have long to wait: this is the territory of *Leucorrhinia intacta*, a dot-tailed whiteface dragonfly, and he is not about to give it up. Coming in at over 40 kph, the whiteface attempts a strike. The skimmer isn't there. Showing no fear, he rockets upward, loops tightly and comes to the attack. The aerial battle is spectacular and many of the pond's residents perch to take it in. Now flying and turning at over 50 kph, the skimmer stops abruptly to nail the whiteface with a clean bite to the abdomen. Wings rattle



Dot-tailed whiteface dragonfly dines on a recently caught damselfly.

together and it is over. There will be more battles, but the territory remains in his hands over a period of weeks, until a new development disturbs his routine. He speeds to a corner of his patrol and, while turning, comes face to face with a new interloper.

The skimmer gives chase. During the pursuit he is aware of differences; this dragonfly is brown with yellow markings and the abdomen is wider with a prominent bump near the end. The 20 percent of his brain that isn't devoted to flying understands; she is a stunningly beautiful female skimmer with all the grace and poise of Ginger Rogers. She is attracted to him but this does not mean that she will be his exclusive consort; dragonflies will mate with multiple partners. To be completely sure that she will deposit

his offspring, he must capture her and retain her while excavating any existing sperm from her ovipositor before adding his own sperm. It will require continuous contact over an extended period – as long as 10 hours – but he must catch her first.

He puts on a burst of speed, positions himself above and slightly in front of her, twists when she twists and turns when she turns. As they float through the air a song unfolds in the skimmer's mind:

"Heaven, I'm in heaven,
And my heart beats so
that I can hardly speak.
And I seem to find the happiness I seek,
When we're out together
dancing cheek to cheek."

The skimmers glide in harmonious step and the female skimmer, immediately distracted by his colourfully spotted wings, thinks: I like *The Way You Look Tonight*. In that moment, he lunges with his abdomen extended as if to strike. He grasps her at the back of the head using appendages on the end of his abdomen to take firm hold. She reacts by curling her hind end and they wheel across the pond in a fusion of ballet and jazz. While in this clutch he removes the sperm of other dragonflies with his penis. When this is done, she positions her hind end to his accessory

genitalia to collect his sperm. They circle dance a tarantella up and down the pond to *A Fine Romance*. He would like to continue on, blissfully thinking *They Can't Take that Away from Me*, but the female skimmer abruptly breaks free.

She makes a lazy pass low to the pond while the male frets overhead, guarding her jealously in order to protect his sperm. They will not see the offspring that endures, and their lives as dragonfly are close to an end. The skimmers, now satisfied, are prepared for the long rest that will soon follow. A few sunny rays tapdance their way across the pond and the day begins its end. Fred and Ginger take their bows as the curtain of darkness drops.

Golfers take swings to help raise funds for Belcarra Playground – Phase Two

By Laura Swift

The official opening of the new Belcarra Park playground was highlighted in the last newsletter. Since then, the playground has enjoyed renewed vigour as many children explored it this summer, helping to make it one of the most visited sites in the region.

Now, we are starting a \$55,000 fundraising drive for Phase Two of the playground.

This much anticipated second phase provides a play area that will be accessible to all children, including those with limited mobility and in wheelchairs.

Play components designed specifically for wheelchair accessibility will include wider stairs and rubber surfacing. These components, which promote group play, will also make it fun for toddlers, parents and grandparents to join in.

The fundraising drive is off to a good start!

Early Donors

This summer, the **Richard Brodeur Celebrity Golf Classic** dedicated a portion of its proceeds to the Belcarra playground. This tournament is held every summer at Meadow Gardens Golf Club in Pitt Meadows; the committee of former Vancouver Canucks hockey players and their friends choose different children's charities to support.

We are thrilled that they agreed it was important that all children have the opportunity to use the playground regardless of physical ability!

The **2007 Metro Vancouver Charity Golf Tournament** was a success! On Aug. 26, more than 100 players teed off for the annual tournament. The weather cooperated, and after a day of draws, fades, hooks and slices everyone gathered at the clubhouse for food and prizes. When the sand settled players had raised a total of almost \$5,000 for two charities: Pacific Parklands Foundation and Casa Refugee Housing Project. Pacific Parklands Foundation is pleased to be one of the charities chosen by the Metro Vancouver Golf Tournament and has decided to dedicate the \$2,400 to the playground.

Foundation directors are working hard to raise the rest of the funds so that the playground can open this spring. ParkLane Homes, Village of Belcarra and Impark (also donors to Phase One), have said they are on board to support Phase Two. They agree the playground isn't complete until *all* children are able to participate.

We are also working with TEAM 1040 Radio. Popular radio host Don Taylor will lead an on-air drive in December, so keep your radios tuned.



Photo: Terry Hughes

Long live the king: Team 1040 interviews renowned goalie "King Richard" Brodeur at the Richard Brodeur Celebrity Golf Classic.

Memorial Gifts

You can remember someone special with a gift to the Pacific Parklands Foundation and support a project of your choice from our website.

To donate In Memory or In Honour:
Tel. (604) 760-7631 Email. lauraswift@telus.net
www.pacificparklands

Or mail to:
19th Floor, 4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8

Please include:

- Your name and address for a tax receipt
- The name of the person being remembered
- The name and address of the individual to send a card to



Telus volunteers help sweep out the broom at Iona Beach Regional Park

By Laura Swift

It was a cold and blustery day at Iona Beach Regional Park on Sept. 29, when more than 40 volunteers of all ages, joined Metro Vancouver staff: Lesley Douglas, Erik Anderson, Jill Deuling and Vanessa Lee, as well as uber-volunteer Dawn Hanna to tackle that most noxious of weeds: Scotch broom.

In the course of just four hours, volunteers cleared a large swathe of broom from along the Fraser River – leaving native dune grass, snowberry, Nootka rose and other wildlife-friendly plants to thrive. About 800 stems of broom were removed, enough to fill a city bus!

It was all part of the annual Telus Day of Service, created to build on the importance of volunteerism. One day every year the entire Telus team gets together to lend a hand where they live. Thousands of Telus team members and retirees along with family and friends, volunteer to improve the communities where they live and work. The Telus Day of Service provides much needed people resources that are important to a non-



Bye-bye broom: Despite the less than pleasant weather, volunteers had a great time helping make Iona Beach Regional Park a better place for wildlife (and park visitors).

Photos: Dawn Hanna (above), Derek Brown (left)

profit.

Telus has been very supportive of Pacific Parklands Foundation initiatives over the last few years, donating \$20,000 towards the Catching the Spirit youth program.

This year they also sponsored a group of youth from Hastings School to visit Pacific Spirit Regional Park in June and introduce them to Catching the Spirit.

Thank you Telus!

Regional Parks Forum Members 2007

Boundary Bay

- Don Farquhar
- Ursula Easterbrook (alternate)

Burnaby Lake

- Tom Saare
- Bob Gunn (alternate)

Burns Bog

- Dave Murdoch

Campbell Valley

- Jude Grass
- Murray Jones (alternate)

Capilano

- David Cook

Colony Farm

- Corinne Riedyk

Crippen

- Sue Ellen Fast

Derby Reach & Brae Island

- Sharon Meneely

Iona Beach

- Judy Williams

Kanaka Creek

- Jackie Campbell
- Dave Smith (alternate)
- Ken Williams (alternate)

Lynn Headwaters

- Ralf Kelman

Minnekhada

- Roger Loubert

Pacific Spirit

- Tom Dunn
- Judy Williams (alternate)

Members at Large

- Hilda Avery
- Leon LeBrun
- Joseph Lin
- Mel Turner
- Marianne Smyth
- Eugene Duruisseau

GVRD Park Committee

- Councillor Bruce Drake

GVRD Parks

- Ed Andrusiak (Parks Manager)
- Stephen Suddes (Division Manager, Parks Visitor Services and Partnerships)

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Communications Coordinator

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Forum Chair

Deb Jack

Forum Vice-chair

Tom Dunn

The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: Part 4

By Dawn Hanna

In this fourth installment of an informal look at the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan, we'll at some more of the goals and strategies outlined for regional parks and greenways over the next 10 years.

Last time around, we looked at how Metro Vancouver plans to secure lands and provide and expand recreation facilities for outdoor experiences in Metro Vancouver parks and greenways. This time we'll look at the second strategy designed to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and education programs, and foster community stewardship.

Goal 2, Strategy 2: Manage, operate and maintain affordable and safe facilities for outdoor experiences.

The first action outlined involves putting in place a systems-wide preventative maintenance and facility replacement program. Metro Vancouver is to provide appropriate funding for such things as repairing, upgrading and/or replacing such things as:

- Built structures;
- Water and sewer utilities;
- Trails, access and circulation roads;
- Engineered resource protection works;
- Use of green technology where appropriate; and
- Educational and interpretive displays and signage.

The second action addresses ways to better ensure public safety and to protect built and natural resources in Metro Vancouver parks. So, for example, Metro Vancouver will focus on such things as:

- Providing parks services close to communities;
- Applying best industry practices;

- Expanding bylaw education and enforcement to increase compliance;
- Applying crime prevention through environmental design principles to improve public safety in parks;
- Managing natural hazards to ensure a safe environment for visitors; and
- Working with municipalities to



Walking wonderland: Boardwalk on the Varley Trail in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park helps protect delicate areas from trampling, and keeps hikers boots drier and less muddy.

Photo: Dawn Hanna

resolve traffic and other visitor management issues that impact their communities.

Next, we move on to the third strategy linked to outdoor recreation in Metro Vancouver parks:

Goal 2 - Strategy 3: Coordinate planning and delivery of outdoor recreation programs.

While planning and delivery may not be the most exciting aspect of outdoor recreation, it's critical to ensure that resources aren't overused, that multiple uses (e.g. hiking, biking, horse riding, birding and dog walking) are all given consideration and that volunteers in those areas be fostered.

To that end, the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan calls for establishing a Technical Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee, otherwise known as TORPC. The idea is to optimize the expertise,

resources and capabilities among different partners – municipal parks departments, BC Parks and the Fraser Valley and Squamish-Lillooet regional districts. The committee will work together to coordinate strategies and actions across all three goals related to securing conservation

lands, providing outdoor recreation opportunities and supporting economic development. So, for example, the committee might get together and coordinate and partner on such things as:

- Recreation and conservation land acquisition priorities;
- Stewardship programs and strategies;
- Regional and sector recreation planning;
- Recreation studies and facility

development;

- Education programs and tourism information; and
- Resource and recreation management like mountain biking, dogs and invasive species management.

The committee would also provide input and recommendations related to the work of two other bodies suggested elsewhere in the plan, namely the Parks and Greenways Advisory Panel (see Goal 1, Strategy 2) and the Conservation Land Forum (see Goal 1, Strategy 1).

The second action related to better planning for outdoor recreation in Metro Vancouver parks is to develop a new Metro Vancouver Parks, Greenways and Open Space Plan. The idea here is to prepare and adopt a new long-range plan to:

continued on page 11

Stories along the Trail bring Pacific Spirit's history to life

By Jennifer Swanston

Many of us spend happy hours on the trails of our regional parks hiking, walking dogs, biking or jogging. Have you ever wondered what stories the trails of Pacific Spirit Regional Park could tell? If you take the time to really look and listen, sometimes stories can be revealed in ways you least expect!

On the afternoon of Sept. 16, three kilometres of park trails came to life during Stories Along the Trail. Pille Bunnell and other volunteers from the Living Language Institute and the Pacific Spirit Park Society worked with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Interpreters to create this unique family event.

Salish Trail rang with excited calls as children and



Photos: Pille Bunnell

Walk through time: Volunteers shared stories of times past, present and future with park visitors to add another dimension of discovery at Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

parents searched for fascinating forest features. Participants were given clue card sheets at the start – each clue being represented by an image of an enchanted forest dweller! Along St. George's Trail children from the Creative Minds Daycare shared a botanical "I Spy" activity with passers-by. Between the Salish Trail junction and Clinton Meadow, the Clinton Trail came to life through costumed storytellers. Three stories and potential futures of the park unfolded as each character from different times – from 1830 all the way to 2037 – shared tidbits of historical stories with participants.

Despite cold rainy weather, this very special event attracted many visitors who were invited to see the park with new eyes. Participants, small and large alike, to shared in a unique experience and were enthralled by some of the stories that our park trails have to tell.

Regional Parks and Greenways Plan, cont.

- Define policies, principles, selection criteria and site priorities to guide land assembly of future regional parks, greenways, conservation sites and blueways;
- Define appropriate programs and services to be delivered;
- Establish long-term priorities and funding for development and management of public facilities and infrastructure;
- Expand partnerships and volunteer programs; and
- Explore alternative models to partner on programs and services.

The third action in this strategy is to implement a regional greenways

system. To that end, Metro Vancouver will collaborate with municipalities and provincial agencies to expand linear recreation opportunities and connect regional, provincial and local parks by:

- Completing a core trail network to provide east-west and north-south greenway connections across the region;
- Partnering with Metro Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage, Metro Vancouver Water, TransLink, municipalities and community partners to acquire public access, to build and manage integrated greenways, transit and water crossing

connections;

- Partnering with port authorities, the Fraser Basin Council and municipalities to implement a "Blueways" strategy to expand water-based recreation, protect shoreline habitats and manage the region's waterways; and
- Working with the Agricultural Land Commission and farming community to provide and manage access and greenway connections in farm areas.

That's it for this time. In the next installment, we'll look at how Metro Vancouver intends to work with the community to develop recreation and wellness opportunities.



Photo: Ross Davies

Trash trophies: A bicycle, a large piece of plywood and a plastic deck chair make up just some of the trash pulled out of Cottonwood Creek by these scouts and their parents on Sept. 22 at Kanaka Creek Regional Park.

Kanaka cleanup culls creekside trash

Each September, people across Canada head down to lakes, ponds, streams, rivers and ocean beaches to take part in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. This year at Kanaka Creek Regional Park, two cleanups took place. The first was on Sept. 18, when about 150 students from Riverside Elementary came down to Riverfront to help clean up the banks of the Fraser River and get some cool interpretive tours from KEEPS in return. The second event took place on Cottonwood Creek on Sept. 22 with scouts and their parents.

Although the numbers aren't all in, the mounds of trash picked up in Maple Ridge will go into the BC total. Last year, participants BC picked up more than 28,400 kilograms of garbage, including some pretty strange stuff. Among the oddballs from last year: song booklets, a burned engagement ring box, a bathtub, a Christmas garland, handcuffs and toenail

clippers.

In addition to coordinating the massive trash pickup, organizers also collect valuable data from each cleanup, which then allows us to determine the major (and minor) causes of shoreline litter in each region.



The Dirty Dozen

(The most commonly found items during the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, in order)

1. cigarettes, cigarette filters
2. food wrappers/ containers
3. bags
4. caps, lids
5. beverage bottles (glass)
6. beverage bottles (plastic) < 2 litres
7. cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons
8. beverage cans
9. straws, stirrers
10. building materials
11. cigarette packaging/ wrappers
12. buoys, floats

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