



# PARK Partners

The newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Partnership Program · Spring 2007 · Vol. 8 No. 2

## Burnaby Lake nest boxes get a spring cleaning

By Diane Hayward Meek

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) in partnership with the BC Institute of Technology (BCIT) has just completed another successful season of nest box maintenance and servicing at Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

With more than 200 nest boxes in the park that provide homes and nesting opportunities for wood ducks, swallows, chickadees, purple martins and flying squirrels, it takes a lot of volunteer time to get the job done. The program is led by BLPA member and BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation instructor Bob Gunn. Each year, dozens of volunteers come out on weekends from January to March to assist with the servicing and maintenance of the boxes, as well as with data collection.

The contents of each box are removed and checked for eggshells and membranes as well as the remains of any young that hatched but did not survive. Data sheets are completed and compiled; and the box itself is inspected to see if repairs are needed or if a replacement box is



Photo: Derek Tam

**Helping hands:** BLPA member Bob Gunn (with cap) shows volunteers how to check and clean a nest box, an integral part of a healthy nest box program.

necessary. Once this is done, the box is refilled with fresh shavings and returned to its original location, in time for the upcoming mating season. Because each box has a colour-coded tag that is numbered to indicate the type of box and location, it is possible to track a box over time. If a box is continuously unsuccessful, we can then move it to another, hopefully more successful location.

This year, more than 40 individuals from the BLPA, BCIT, two scouting groups and the general public provided more than 400 volunteers hours on site to clean, inspect and compile data on existing

boxes and to paint new boxes. Even more volunteer hours go into building new boxes off site.

The BLPA received a great financial boost to our program this year as a recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Foundation. We are very grateful for their financial support and to all the volunteers who come out in the cold and the rain to be a key part in the success of the Nest Box Program at Burnaby Lake.

For more information on the Nest Box Program or to volunteer with the Burnaby Lake Park Association, please call Diane, BLPA volunteer coordinator at (604) 522-9314 or Trina Sakata, GVRD Central Area community development coordinator at (604) 520-6442.



Tree swallow

# Campbell Valley hosts successful Ideas Fair

Campbell Valley Regional Park hosted this year's Ideas Fair on a beautiful spring day. More than 200 park volunteers and other friends of parks took part in the tours, which included a nature walk (right) along some of the lesser-known trails in the park. Rare spring wildflowers such as western trillium (inset) were the highlight for many.

Other tours took in highlights of the past, such as the class held in the one-room 1924 Lochiel Schoolhouse. (We heard that only one student that day had to be disciplined.)

Afterwards, back at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, everyone enjoyed lunch, presentations and words of thanks from GVRD Parks Committee Chair Gayle Martin.

The annual Gordon Smith Award was presented to this year's winner, Corey Bunnell, who later helped Gayle cut the first slice of a GVRD 40th Anniversary celebratory cake (below).



Photos: Dawn Hanna



Photo: Dawn Hanna



Photo: Joseph Lin



## 40th Anniversary logo unveiled

The new logo to celebrate GVRD Park's 40th anniversary was unveiled at Ideas Fair. The image, created by GVRD graphic designer Debbie Bowles depicts a stylized chickadee -- a favourite resident in many regional parks.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary will be part of most events in regional parks over the year, but there will also be some special events to mark the occasion. And there will be opportunities for volunteers to help out. If you're interested in finding out more, send an email to [volunteer.info@gvr.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer.info@gvr.bc.ca) or call (604) 432-6351.

# From Drainage Problem to Habitat Enhancement Project

Story and photos by Janice Jarvis

Located in the Hazelmere Valley of south Langley, Campbell Valley Regional Park (CVRP) is 551 ha of a variety of terrain and vegetation. The uplands – often pocketed with scrub swamp – fall about 30 metres via steep terraces before levelling off to form the Little Campbell River Valley.

The upper reaches of the Little Campbell River (mostly located within the park) flow regularly during the rainy season. During summer, however, flow only occurs when intermittent rains replenish the water supply. The river provides productive spawning and rearing habitat for a variety of fish species including coho, chinook, pink and chum salmon, steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout, as well as several other fish species that are not important in a commercial or recreational way.

Near the Little River Bowl, an unnamed channel ran down a steep gully and made an unnaturally sharp turn to the west at the toe of the slope. Although the channel was dry most of the year, it conveyed large amounts of water during high rain events. The old channel, confined by the trail, was undersized and, for many years, flooded the field and trails in the area. Both the Deer Trail and the Little River Loop Trail are popular with hikers, who were forced to wade through water and wet fields during the rainy season.

In 2006, GVRD Parks teamed up with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to design a more natural alignment and configuration of the lower part of the creek. The new channel is about 30 cm deep, two metres wide with a three-metre wide bench on either side, and is reinforced with large woody debris. We also included a deeper pond area in the floodplain that hopefully will become overwintering habitat for



**Metamorphosis:** First, the old seasonal channel was cleared of blackberry (top), then crews dug out a new profile (above) that would resolve drainage problems and create off-channel habitat for overwintering salmonids (To get a sense of scale, note the person standing next to the backhoe) .

salmonids. The banks were seeded with native grasses and protected from immediate erosion with hay mulch while the seeds sprouted and the grass established. In November, we worked with the Campbell Valley Park Association, the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, as well as Evergreen to plant the riparian area with native shrubs and trees. A large area of invasive Himalayan blackberry

was removed and replanted with native vegetation. A new footbridge was constructed and installed over the new channel as well.

The Deer Trail was also realigned through higher ground and a short section of boardwalk was installed around a low spot that was excavated to create a shallow pond

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for amphibians. This habitat was designed to be intentionally shallow so that it will be dry most of the year, thus discouraging the invasion of bullfrogs. Small woody debris and shrubs were placed around the edges to better define the habitat and give native amphibians cover.

In 2007, GVRD Parks is planning to work with DFO and the community once again to realign a second creek directly east of the Little River Bowl.

*Janice Jarvis is a resource management specialist with GVRD Parks.*



**Riparian enhancement:** Volunteers from the Campbell Valley Park Association, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists and Evergreen plant native shrubs.

## In Memoriam:

# Jon Shaw 1945 – 2007



On Mar. 26, long-time Park Operations Supervisor Jon Shaw died after a five-year battle with cancer. During that time he was an example to us all, maintaining a positive attitude and living life to the fullest each day as best as he was able.

Jon started working for GVRD in 1985 at Derby Reach Regional Park, after starting out as an unemployment insurance crew leader. In 1991 he was promoted to operations supervisor in parks' Central Area.

Jon's good work had an impact on facilities and operation of numerous GVRD parks, among them Deas Island, Boundary Bay, Burnaby Lake, Tynehead and Colony Farm. He particularly enjoyed his time on the Delta Heritage Airpark Flight Monitoring Committee, where his experience as a pilot helped him (and GVRD) connect with other pilots. His finest hour came at Colony Farm. He established the first park operations there and supported the Colony Farm Park Association in its formative years. Jon hired and mentored many people who have proven to be dedicated regional park employees. He had a career-long interest in safety.

Jon first became ill in 2001 and left

work several times to seek treatment. As an example of the fact that there is no fairness in life, his wife was diagnosed with cancer about two years after he was and, in fact, died before he did. Nevertheless he soldiered/cowboyed on, bought himself a red truck and even remarried and traveled to Edmonton, Toronto, Mexico and Hawaii in the last months of his life.

No mention of Jon would be complete without reference to "cowboy". He was a longtime organizer and volunteer for the Cloverdale Rodeo. But it was more his cowboy style and cowboy attitude that everyone remembered. He was benevolent, gruff and witty. He often wore a cowboy hat and looked good in it too! His sayings of "cowboy wisdom" were well known to us all. Jon's friends and colleagues will miss him.

Parks staff are collecting money for a memorial bench for Jon, to be installed at Derby Reach, near the Fort-to-Fort Trail. If you wish to contribute, call Gin Paul at Parks Central Area office at (604) 520-6442. Contributions are tax deductible.

– by Frieda Schade

# Budding researcher wins Youth Environmental Stewardship Award

Corey Bunnell is the recipient of this year's Gordon Smith Environmental Youth Award. He is a dedicated naturalist, budding researcher and committed environmental steward.

Now 18, Corey is already a published author, having had the results of his 2005 research project on the red-eared slider – an introduced species that is a threat to BC's native painted turtle – printed in a peer-reviewed natural history journal.

"His project design was scientific, his commitment to gathering field data was thorough, and he followed this with many tedious hours of searching technical literature to summarize the results of his research," noted renowned bird biologist and *Birds of BC* co-author Wayne Campbell in his nominating letter. "The paper is a major contribution to the herpetology of British Columbia and has already stimulated similar studies on southern Vancouver Island, the Okanagan Valley, and the Kootenays."

Not bad for a then Grade 11 student.

Corey is also a student director for the Langley Environmental Partners Society, a volunteer with the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and is also involved in stewardship activities with the Langley Field Naturalists and the



Photo: Daron Hanna

**Recognition due:** Gordon Smith Award winner Corey Bunnell (second from left) accepts his award from Margaret Smith, widow of the late Gordon Smith (left), Campbell Valley Park Association president Jude Grass (second from right) and Andrew Smith, Gordon and Margaret's son.

Young Naturalists Club. He has been a volunteer Eco Ranger for Surrey Parks, and has participated in annual Christmas Bird Counts for eight years. In many activities, such as the Christmas Bird Count and Earth Day events, he has inspired other students to join him.

"Despite the time he commits to environmental stewardship," added Campbell, "he also participates in Reach for the Top, has qualified for the provincial finals of debating, has

received several academic awards, and currently maintains a scholastic average of more than 90 percent in Grade 12."

The Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award was created to honour Gordon Smith, a champion for the environment who loved involving children and youth in his projects. The award encourages and inspires young people to pursue environmental activities and studies.

## Catching the Spirit gears up for a new season

Another season of connecting youth and parks is ready to roll. This year, the environmental stewardship program will take place in four regional parks: Pacific Spirit, Kanaka Creek, Burnaby Lake and Tynehead.

This year, WildED will take on coordination of the program, following on the very successful wilderness education programs that they do in schools throughout Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

Catching the Spirit, as always, is



open to youth aged 12 to 18. The amount of time you spend in the park is up to you, it can be as little as a day or all summer long. Participants in past years have helped build trails, remove invasive species, build nest boxes, cared for and released salmon, conducted invertebrate surveys and water quality testing.

To find out more about the opportunities in each of the four parks, go to [www.catchingthespirit.com](http://www.catchingthespirit.com) and click on "Volunteer". Downloadable application forms are also available online.

# Wild weather breaks records at Kanaka

Story and photos by Ross Davies

The weather during the last few months has brought extreme conditions to Kanaka Creek Regional Park, with windstorms, floods and heavy snow that rank among the wildest on record.

Most recently, Kanaka saw record cold and snow on Apr. 2. The event also marked the first time ever that a KEEPS field trip took place in snow. Four days later, temperatures reached 24° C at the hatchery weather station.

The month of March was another one for the history books when the all-time precipitation record of 381mm (set in 1997) at the Bell-Irving Hatchery weather station was obliterated by a whopping 473mm. The Mar. 11 storm was particularly vicious, as it caused widespread property damage in Maple Ridge, including the significant damage on the Spit Trail at Riverfront. The Canyon Trail to Cliff Falls also suffered major impacts. Repairs will continue well into spring. The effects of these storms on the salmon (chum and pinks) are unknown; however, they came at a critical stage of alevin development.

(The earlier storms of winter resulted in a bleak situation for returning coho. A combination of severe weather and dismal returns resulted in no coho eggs being collected in 2006. This means that there will be no fish on hand by the end of May.)

Other notable weather events:

- On Jan. 10, a powerful Arctic airmass made a mad rush down the Fraser Canyon and out to the coast, where it interacted with Pacific moisture to produce more than 40 cm of snow in Maple Ridge.
- On Dec. 15, a low-pressure center rapidly intensified as it barreled towards the coast. By midnight, hurricane force winds were pummeling the area. The days and weeks that followed revealed damage that exceeded 1962's Typhoon Freda.
- November's precipitation totals surpassed the normal average for the entire month by Nov. 13. The particularly vigorous storm of Nov. 6 rendered the Kanaka fish fence inoperative. All of this has made this fall's broodstock collection efforts extremely challenging.

Ross Davies is the coordinator for the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.



History was made on Apr. 2, when it snowed on a KEEPS field trip for the first time ever.



The 240th Street fish fence site on Kanaka Creek is barely recognizable during the deluge of Mar. 11.



The aftermath of the Dec. 15 windstorm along Thornvale Creek, a tributary of Kanaka Creek.

## Volunteers in Parks

# Birds, bees and weeds inspire Burnaby Lake Regional Park volunteer

By Diane Hayward Meek

**T**ed Bassett is a full-time teacher at St. Thomas More Collegiate in Burnaby, with 41 years of service, beginning as a science teacher. In 1979, after taking one course in computing at Simon Fraser University, and the only teacher on staff with any computer experience, Ted found himself with two computers and a new position as the school's Computer Science teacher! Today, it is a program called Information Technology which Ted still enjoys teaching.

Ted's involvement as a volunteer at Burnaby Lake Regional Park began a few years ago with an announcement in the Burnaby Now newspaper about a presentation on mason bees (given at that year's annual general meeting of the Burnaby Lake Park Association). He attended the presentation at Copeland Arena, stayed for the AGM, and then, as they say, "the rest is history"!

"I attended the next monthly BLPA meeting – arriving half an hour late the first time," says Ted. "And have been volunteering ever since."

The Burnaby Lake Park Association is grateful to have Ted's enthusiasm and dedication, as well as his relaxed attitude and warm disposition. He has been involved in most of the park association's programs at Burnaby



Photo: GVRD Parks

**Helping hand:** Ted Bassett helps replant the forest floor with native plant species, part of a continuing effort to restore Burnaby Lake's natural areas.

Lake, including Weedbusters, the Nest Box Program and EcoAction plantings. He also attends many community events to help spread the word about the BLPA and its work at Burnaby Lake.

"I continue to be involved because I want to do something in the broader community beyond my school work," notes Ted. "I've come to know

some interesting people through my association with the various programs at Burnaby Lake. As well, there is a certain sense of accomplishment to know that you've helped to make things a little better for everyone." Diane Hayward Meek is the BLPA's volunteer coordinator at Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

## Super Saturday volunteers wanted!

**S**uper Saturday may still be a few months away, but the planning has already begun.

The planning committee is in the process of securing some exciting keynote speakers, planning fun and useful workshops and much more.

At this point, we're also looking for folks who would be willing to lend a hand on Saturday, November 3.

It might be helping out at the registration desk or posting signs to let folks know where to go or handing out evaluation forms. We just need a bit of help making sure things run as smoothly as possible.

If you're interested, please contact Anne Cochran at (604) 731-7055 or email [acochran@infinet.net](mailto:acochran@infinet.net)



# The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: Part 2

By Dawn Hanna

In this second 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 GVRD plans to secure and enhance significant landscapes and critical habitat in the region. This

time, we expand that theme a bit to look at how GVRD will manage those places in the region that have been set aside because of their biodiversity or cultural value.

## **Goal 1 – Strategy 2: Manage conservation lands and habitats to protect their biodiversity, environmental and cultural integrity.**

The GVRD's role will be to:

- lead in protecting and managing species at risk, biodiversity and cultural values in regional parks and greenways.
- partner to develop strategies to manage biodiversity in the region, and put them in place.

There are five main actions that spell out how the GVRD will do this.

### **• 1. A Parks and Greenways Advisory Panel will be established.**

That panel's job will be to provide advice on policies and strategies aimed at managing conservation and recreation in regional parks and greenways. This might involve expanding the Regional Parks Forum to include a variety of organizations – conservation, agricultural, stewardship and recreation – as well as technical institutes, scientists and members at large.



Widgeon Marsh, as seen from Grant Narrows

Photo: Dawn Hanna

### **• 2. Management plans for each regional park and greenway will be completed and adopted.**

Those plans – aimed at ensuring the ecological integrity of land set aside for conservation – will define the role, policies, land use zones and best management practices to protect biodiversity and species at risk. As well, they will manage vegetation and address recreational activities. Parks for early action include:

- Burns Bog
- Blaney Bog
- Codd Wetlands
- Widgeon Marsh
- Surrey Bend

### **• 3. Critical habitats and cultural features in regional parks and greenways will be restored and enhanced.**

This is a two-parter. In the first part, aimed at protecting the habitat of native species, the GVRD will support, engage and train park associations, volunteers and community organizations to help in habitat restoration and enhancements. Habitat improvements currently being defined in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy will be put in place. The priority will be on habitat for endangered fish, threatened mammals and birds and

on managing invasive species that compromise critical habitat.

For the second part, aimed at protecting, restoring, maintaining and designating historic buildings, heritage landscapes, cultural sites and features, the GVRD will work with community groups, First Nations and municipalities. This part would, for example, involved managing some land for agriculture to retain the historic rural landscape (e.g. Minnekhada Farm and Colony Farm) as well as old-field habitat for wildlife.

### **• 4. The GVRD will open discussions with the province to explore a role for GVRD in managing Wildlife Management Areas adjacent to GVRD parklands.**

Since a number of regional parks – Colony Farm, Boundary Bay, Grant Narrows, Iona Beach and Minnekhada – as well as the Pitt River Greenway sit next to provincial Wildlife Management Areas, the GVRD will talk with the provincial government to see what role GVRD might play in managing those areas.

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# Evergreen helps volunteers help parks

By Dawn Hanna

Whether it's Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom or Japanese knotweed, most regional parks have experienced the problems that come with these alien invaders. To help repel the advance of these invasive plant species (and others), many park volunteers are taking an active role in removals and replanting.

Part of that effort comes not just from park volunteers, but also from a non-profit organization – Evergreen, a national charity dedicated to bringing communities and nature together for the benefit of both. For the past four years, through their Stewards in the City program, Evergreen has been assisting volunteers in managing invasive plants in a number of regional parks, including Burnaby Lake, Campbell Valley and Derby Reach.

“The regional park system contains some of the most significant habitat in the Lower Mainland and provides popular locations for residents to be in touch with nature,” notes Andrew Appleton, Evergreen’s manager of stewardship and restoration services. “We feel it’s critical to support parks staff and community volunteers in caring for these areas. And we really value our collaborative projects.”

At Burnaby Lake, Evergreen staff has worked with GVRD Parks staff and members of the Burnaby Lake Park Association to support the Weedbusters program in removals of English ivy and policeman’s helmet. The project has garnered broad support from the community, particularly with Scout groups. During one day in the fall of 2006, volunteers removed more than 600 kg of ivy!

At Campbell Valley, Evergreen staff has worked with park volunteers to enhance old-field habitat by removing invasive species and planting fruit-bearing shrubs around the perimeter. Native plants were also enhanced



**In the bag:** Some of the 600 kg of habitat-destroying English ivy removed on a single day at Burnaby Lake Regional Park awaits disposal.

around the park’s vernal ponds, and Evergreen also assisted with the stream restoration project just east of the Listening Bridge.

At Derby Reach, Evergreen staff has worked with park volunteers to remove some of the Scotch broom that plagues that park.

Stewards in the City is Evergreen’s largest public stewardship initiative in the GVRD. It brings together community partners and citizens to restore and enhance natural spaces that support habitat for native plants and animals. Between 2005 and 2007 Stewards in the City has engaged more than 2,800 volunteers, planted more than 5,200 native plants and removed more than 215 cubic metres of invasive species. (Just to put that in perspective, one cubic metre is about the same size as an average kitchen stove. Now, imagine 215 of them lined up side by side.)

This year, Evergreen will continue their work in all of the above parks and has become a partner in a working group at Iona Beach Regional Park that also includes the Vancouver

Aquarium’s Riverworks program and the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council. The working group will be removing invasive plants – mostly Scotch broom – to allow the native flora to flourish in this rare sand dune ecosystem. There are also plans for additional native plant plantings.

To find out more about Evergreen’s efforts in GVRD Parks, contact Andrew Appleton at [Andrew@evergreen.ca](mailto:Andrew@evergreen.ca) or call (604) 689-0766 ext. 22.



## Stewards in the City has four goals:

- To restore and enhance the urban environment by planting native plant species,
- To remove invasive plant species, and create native flora and fauna habitat.
- To increase public involvement in community-based habitat restoration by engaging communities across the GVRD in stewardship activities, and to increase public awareness of the important ecological and social roles played by native plant and animal habitat in the urban environment.
- To develop a long-term ethic of community-based habitat stewardship.

## 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

- vacant

### Pacific Spirit

- Tom Dunn
- Judy Williams (alternate)

### Tynehead, Surrey Bend & Roberts Point

- vacant

### Members at Large

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

### Catching the Spirit Youth Society

- Rick Hankin, Chair

### Pacific Parklands Foundation

- Laura Swift

### GVRD Park Committee

- Cllr. Bruce Drake

### GVRD Parks

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

### Forum Facilitator

- Anne Cochran  
(604) 731-7055  
acochran@infinet.net

### Communications Coordinator

- Dawn Hanna  
(604) 831-5069  
parkpartners@telus.net

### Forum Chair

- Deb Jack

### Forum Vice-chair

- Tom Dunn

## In Memoriam:

# George Wadsworth 1914 – 2007

George Wadsworth, an honorary member of the Minnekhada Park Association and a very dedicated worker for several other community organizations passed away peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 7 in Port Moody.

George was born in England and was a World War Two veteran who served in the North African desert campaign through to Italy as part of the Royal Air Force grounds crew that was responsible for setting up captured enemy airfields. He saw much action and was mentioned in dispatches for bravery.

In 1958, married and with a young adopted son, he emigrated to BC and settled in Mission. He graduated from UBC as an English teacher and taught school in Mission and then Pitt Meadows.

In the early 1970s, he started blueberry farming part-time and moved to Coquitlam, along the DeBoville Slough. In 1979, he retired from teaching and became a full-time farmer, specializing in organic fruits.

George also became involved in local social and political activities. In 1990, he joined the Burke Mountain Naturalists and was an active member until 2005. In 2000, he joined with Eleanor Ward and me in the early formative stage of the Minnekhada Park Association. He was a founding



member and, in 2003, was elected the association's first Honorary Member for services to the park and local area. He declined office but attended monthly meetings, always available for advice and consultation.

The last meeting he attended was in December 2006; he enjoyed the business and the Christmas party. Little did we know that we would lose him so soon after.

"Uncle George" was a very friendly, well-educated, quiet spoken and active gentleman farmer who had a passion for his farm, his friends (especially children), his locale and nature.

Thanks George for many wonderful memories. We will miss you!

– Submitted by Mike Griffin, Chair  
Minnekhada Park Association

## Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: Part 2, cont.

• 5. The GVRD will put in place policies and strategies to manage health, user conflicts and environmental issues in regional parks and greenways.

Working together with municipalities, health authorities, academic institutions, provincial and federal governments, the GVRD will strive to:

- manage West Nile virus and wildfire interface issues;
- reduce recreation conflicts related to dogs, bikes and trail users;

- control forest diseases and pests
- conduct environmental research on climate change; and
- partner with the agricultural sector to protect habitat values on farmland.

*Next time around, we'll take a look at Goal #2 of the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: To provide outdoor recreation opportunities and education programs, and foster community stewardship.*

# Pacific Parklands Foundation hosts its first-ever donor recognition event



With a little help from some friends  
Left: Pacific Parklands Chair John Scott thanks emcee Tamara Taggart and keynote speaker MP Stephen Owen for their participation and support at PPF's donor recognition event.  
Below: Jennifer Cabeldu and David Pohl accepted the award on behalf of RBC Foundation.



Bryan Wallner, Impark president and COO accepted on behalf of Impark.

On April 12, the first-ever Pacific Parklands Foundation Donor Recognition and Awards Luncheon was held at the Vancouver Club. Following opening remarks by PPF Chair John Scott, the Honorable Stephen Owen, MP for Vancouver Quadra gave the keynote address on how sustainability is good news for business. Emcee and PPF director Tamara Taggart moved the afternoon on to awards meant to honour the support and contribution that individuals and organizations have made towards regional parks. The Conservancy Award for Leadership was given to Impark for its seven donation stations, cited as "an innovative and sustainable" means for visitors to make a donation on-the-spot, and immediately receive a receipt for their charitable donation.



Dr. Mordehai Wosk accepted an award for helping encourage youth leadership in parks.

Patron Environmental Awards went to:

- Catching the Spirit program for engaging youth in volunteerism, leadership and stewardship activities in regional parks;
- RBC Foundation for its continuing support of the Catching the Spirit program
- Vancity for its support of numerous projects including the Delta Heritage Airpark hedgerow project and Camosun Bog Nature Walk.
- Dr. Mordehai Wosk for his donation that enabled the existence of the Youth Leadership Fund.



Moira Teevan, community specialist accepted the award for Vancity.

# Volunteer coordinator is hooked on Burnaby Lake

*Diane Hayward Meek is the volunteer coordinator for the Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA). In addition to helping organize volunteers for Weedbusters events, the nest box program, planting projects and other on-the-ground activities, she also helps keep the association organized by keeping up with administrative tasks, funding applications and more. Here, in her own words, Diane talks a bit about her job and history with Burnaby Lake.*

The first time I volunteered at Burnaby Lake was in the spring of 1998 at a lake clean-up event. I was on a broom removal crews; it was a great day and I was hooked! Within a year, my husband Bruce and I joined the park association as members at large. I was fortunate to start volunteering at a time when our predecessor group, the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association (BLAA) was disbanding and evolving into what would become the BLPA. This lively group had been volunteering and shaping the future of the park for decades (some as long as 30 years!). Sitting around the table with them and hearing their stories of dedication and determination to fundraise more than a million dollars (!) and build the existing trail system and viewing tower (and more) was inspirational to say the least. Not to mention their humour and loyalty, so what else could I do but stay some more!

Staying on led to becoming treasurer for the group and lots of great opportunities to participate in the planning and implementation of new programs and events. And as much as I love nature, the outdoors and the park itself, the part I've always loved the most is working with the other BLPA members, who always put a fun spin on a rainy day or hard work and make it interesting!



**All in the family:** Diane and her daughter Sarah plant a tree at Rivers Day 2006.

When the opportunity arose for us to hire a volunteer coordinator, it felt like exactly the thing I'd love to do for the group.

It has only been about 10 months now that I've been in the role, but I love it! It has given me an opportunity to test my organizational skills and think about the bigger picture of park and community and what we want for the future of our group and our park. One of the challenges for me has been creating "office time". As I work mostly from home, except when I attend meeting or events, and have a part-time job that I've been at for eight years as well as a three-year-old at home, I've found I have to be very organized to do the job effectively. (Especially when there are piles of dishes and laundry waiting for me! And my daughter wants to play "Polly Pockets" as soon as I turn the computer on!)

One of the biggest helps to performing the job efficiently has been the excellent working relationship we've enjoyed with our GVRD community development coordinator who is always able to provide support, positive direction and a helping hand.

I'm looking forward to another year of being the volunteer coordinator, working with our members, volunteers and CDC!

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
GVRD Parks  
19th floor, 4330 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8

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Summer 2007	June 30	mid-July
Fall 2007	September 30	mid-October
Winter 2008	December 31	mid-January

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We welcome your contributions. To make submissions, contact Dawn Hanna at (604) 831-5069 or [parkpartners@telus.net](mailto:parkpartners@telus.net)

