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# PARK Partners



The newsletter of the Parks Partnership Program for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks • Fall 2008 • Vol. 9 No. 3

## Stewardship Stream moving forward

As part of a revitalized Regional Parks Forum, the Stewardship Stream is off to a good start. A number of volunteers took part in a working session to talk about some of the exciting possibilities of what the Stewardship Stream could take on. And, in a nod to the constraints of time and money, chose a couple of ideas with which to move forward with over the next few months.

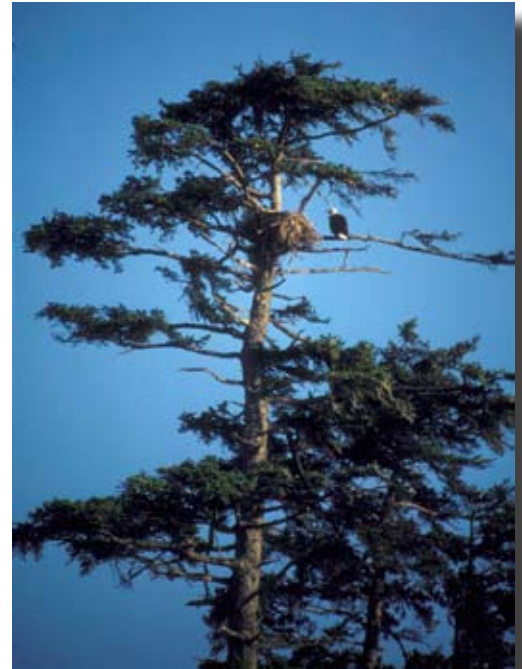
One of the first projects will be to work with the Wildlife Tree Stewardship program, also known as WiTS. The goal of WiTS is to protect wildlife trees – trees that provide habitat for nesting birds and other animals. With the help of volunteers, WiTS collects information about wildlife trees – including who is using them – and makes it available for land-use planning by both the public and by government.

Central to WiTS are the Wildlife Tree Monitoring Program, through which volunteers identify and monitor wildlife trees, and the Wildlife Tree Atlas, an online atlas of known wildlife trees in BC.

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, the forum and WiTS are working together to bring this interesting and important program to Metro Vancouver's regional parks. We hope to offer a workshop in January to get everything rolling, so stay tuned to the Park Partners website for details.

The Stewardship Stream is also pulling together information throughout the regional parks system on what kinds of stewardship initiatives are already taking place in our parks. Having that

*continued on page 2*



**Home sweet home:** A bald eagle guards the nest from its aerie advantage.

## Parksfest 2008 proves a big success

A record number of parks lovers, staff and volunteers attended Parksfest 2008 (formerly known as Super Saturday). More than 140 people came in out of the rain to hear inspiring speakers and attend practical and interesting workshops.

Neil Dawe of the Qualicum Institute spoke about building a truly sustainable economy that recognizes the limitations of the natural world (for more on that, you can visit [qualicuminstitute.ca](http://qualicuminstitute.ca)) Afternoon keynote speaker Karsten Heuer spoke of the amazing journeys he has undertaken

*continued on page 2*



**Making tracks:** Attendees at a workshop on monitoring wildlife led by East Area operations supervisor Roger Bean got a chance to pour some plaster casts of wildlife tracks.

*Photo: Stephen Suddes*

## Regional Parks Forum gets makeover

On June 24, more than 50 park partners and volunteers came together to brainstorm new ways to make the Regional Parks Forum work better and smarter for all of Metro Vancouver's park partners.

The session was the culmination of a year's work by the Administration and Governance Committee to re-vamp and revitalize the Regional Parks Forum.

The A&G committee had developed an approach that focussed on four areas of interest, or streams:

- Advisory
- Stewardship
- Outdoor Recreation
- Education, Training and Communications (also known as the Etc. Stream)

Following are some of the suggestions that participants had for how the new streams can best work.

### Advisory Stream

- Review policy and provide feedback on Metro Vancouver priorities/plans across systems
- Play an advocacy role by seeking input from park partners, park groups and streams on issues of concern across the region
- Serve as a mechanism for gathering input on regional park issues
- Solicit input from the broader public on issues of relevance to regional parks
- Act as a conduit between the public and Metro Vancouver on parks issues

### Stewardship Stream

- Develop a "stewardship network" enabling volunteers involved in a variety of stewardship activities to share information and find out more about what people are doing
- Develop standards for data collection, invasive species, monitoring trails, mapping and inventory projects
- Look at ways to capture historical information about a park and about the people who have a history with the park (their stories, experiences, etc.)

- Bring in guest speakers from outside the region that may have expertise
- Offer workshops on best management practices, resource inventories, wildlife monitoring, etc.

### Outdoor Recreation Stream

- Create/select criteria to determine what existing, new, and non-traditional (e.g. Tai Chi) recreational uses are most appropriate on parkland)
- Identify ways in which to engage new Canadians and other non-traditional users of regional parks
- Provide insight into how to avoid/mitigate/manage conflict situations
- Provide presentations on trail standards, trails technology, construction practices and best practices

### Education, Training and Communications Stream

- Identify/assess what individuals/groups don't know and would like to know more about in terms of skills/knowledge/experience
- Provide opportunities for cross-training between streams (e.g., birding training to participate in count/inventories)
- Provide workshops/information on engaging volunteers and building a volunteer base through volunteer recruitment and management
- Provide 'Park System' talks that provide information on parks, the ways in which they are connected and the things that make them distinct (promoting an understanding of the parks as an integrated system)

If you'd like to read all the comments made by participants, go to the Park Partners website. Watch for more on the new streams in future issues of Park Partners and on the Park Partners website.



*Stewardship, continued from page 1*

information can help in a number of ways, including:

- attracting new volunteers to existing efforts
- helping volunteers working on similar projects to learn from one another
- helping staff gauge the levels and areas of interest of volunteers.

If you'd like to participate in the Stewardship Stream, there are a number of ways to do so. You can attend the workshops, presentations and other offerings as they arise. Or, if you're interested in helping steer the course of the stream, you could be part in the steering group.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Dawn Hanna at dawnhanna@telus.net or (604) 831-5069.



*Parksfest, continued from page 1*

over the past decade, in order to help provide a voice for the wilderness and the creatures who depend upon it for their survival. (You can find more on Karsten and his journeys at [www.beingcaribou.com](http://www.beingcaribou.com))

A wide variety of workshops allowed attendees to learn about everything from wildlife tracking to better photography to how parks affect our bodies, minds and souls.

The Pacific Parklands Foundation provided several door prizes for the event as well as gift baskets of locally grown food from BC Hot House, a silk night shirt from Patricia Fieldwalker Designs, golf wear from Scott Construction Limited, and a numbered print from Ducks Canada Unlimited

Planning for next year's Parksfest will start in the New Year. If you're interested in helping out, send an email to Forum Facilitator Anne Cochran at [acochran@infinet.net](mailto:acochran@infinet.net)



# Pacific Spirit's human history comes alive

by Dagmar Hungerford

On Sept. 14, the Lily of the Valley Trail was the setting for Stories Along the Trail, the annual story-telling event in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Like colourful shiny beads on a thread, storytellers in costume were dotted along the trail connecting tales of adventures from the past (1830) to the present and into the future. This treasure of tales included stories of exploration, discovery, mystery and intrigue.

One storyteller revealed a large hollowed out cedar stump as the hiding place for her family's heirlooms and jewels during World War II. She and her family were members of the Japanese community and on the day they were told they must leave their homes, she ran to the forest to hide their possessions. Another story involved two women sitting on a bench with colorful kerchiefs on their heads, and edible and poisonous mushrooms in large wicker baskets on their laps. Meanwhile a real estate agent from days gone by was peddling land in the Point Grey area for a few thousand dollars while lumberjacks, explorers and fishermen shared their personal adventures in the park.

More than 300 people of all ages – including many children dressed in their own costumes – strolled the trail. Talking and laughter filled the air as princesses, hobos, pirates and cats ran from one story to the next. As I walked along the trails, I did not expect this storytelling event to



**Telling tales:** (Above) Park visitors listen to a PSPS volunteer portraying a hard scabble logger tell how hard it was to make a living in the 1900s. (Right) Children look into the stump where Mariko, a fictional Japanese immigrant hid the family treasures during WWII, when her family was sent to an internment camp.



transform me from an adult back to an eager, excited, curious, mischievous child, but it did.

This wonderful afternoon was made possible by Pille Bunnell, chair of Pacific Spirit Park Society, and her team of volunteers and friends who put so much time into making this a memorable afternoon and an event to look forward to next year.

## Pacific Spirit walk and talks scheduled for fall/winter

The Pacific Spirit Park Society is holding a series of interesting speakers and exploratory walks throughout the fall and winter.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, come hear a talk about English holly; author Anne Tempelman-Kluit will talk about its history and traditions; restoration ecologist Dawn Hanna will talk about holly's invasion of the Pacific Northwest and its impacts on the forest. (St. Philip's, 7 p.m.)

Instead of a walk, you'll get a chance to lend a hand to the "Holly Haulers", a volunteer group helping to rescue the park from a serious holly

invasion. Work parties are planned for Dec. 13 and 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet on 16th Avenue at Salal Trail, just west of Blanca Street. For more info, go to [www.pacificspiritparksociety.org](http://www.pacificspiritparksociety.org)

On Jan. 8, the speaker is scheduled to be Bob Kull, a biology researcher who spent a year on a remote island off the coast of Chile to study the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual effects of deep, wilderness solitude on an individual human being – himself. The talk will be followed by a walk on Jan. 11 on the theme of Silence: a walk in the hidden forest of Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

**Holly for the Holidays**

How did holly get to be special? Why do we associate it with the Christmas season? And more that we have brought it here, what is it doing in our forests?

Join us for two part event presentations:

- the history of holly by author Anne Tempelman-Kluit
- and a story of invasion by restoration ecologist Dawn Hanna.

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
7 to 8 PM  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
1751 West 27th Ave.

**Saturday, Dec. 13 & Dec. 20**  
1-3 PM  
Meet us 15th Ave at Salal Trail, just west of Blanca Street. Please confirm with [www.pacificspiritparksociety.org](http://www.pacificspiritparksociety.org)

Join the Holly Haulers, have fun, get fit, and help control this invasive species!

*Two Programs Created by Pacific Spirit Park Society*  
For more information go to [www.pacificspiritparksociety.org](http://www.pacificspiritparksociety.org)

# Burnaby Lake volunteers win environmental awards

By Diane Hayward-Meek

Two long-time volunteers of the Burnaby Lake Park Association recently received awards from the City of Burnaby for their efforts to increase public awareness of the environment and for their work to enhance the city's environment.

Tony Fabian and John Thomson were very deserving of this honour and distinction and have been volunteering and championing for the environment and in particular Burnaby Lake, for decades - long before there were any kinds of awards or recognition for this type of awareness, participation and community education.

Both of these fellows are wonderful examples of what hard work and determination can do. They were part of the original group of 10 people who formed the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association and, while working full-time, volunteered thousands of hours over three decades to fundraise, organize, plan, coordinate and, in some cases, hire and supervise workers to build the trail system around Burnaby Lake as well as the viewing tower and convert a residence into the existing Nature House. These features remain integral features of Burnaby Lake Regional Park and have been providing enjoyment on a daily basis to the 200,000-plus annual visitors to the park.

Tony continues to be a very active member, volunteer and director of the Burnaby Lake Park Association, as he

has been since the group formed in 1999. He attends monthly meetings, bringing his vast knowledge of the history of Burnaby Lake Regional Park as well as the City of Burnaby and its history to share with the other members. He is constantly researching and reading about environmental issues, and then presents this valuable information to the group. Tony stays current on municipal and regional environmental issues and writes numerous letters to local papers, attends public open houses and stays informed on proceedings and topics discussed at city council meetings.

John has been an active member in many Burnaby stewardship organizations including the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association, the Burnaby Lake Park Association and the Eagle Creek Streamkeepers. As a director for the Burnaby Lake Park Association, John attended meetings and was actively involved in the early evolution of the BLPA (at that time he was in his 70s). Even after he left the BLPA as a director in 2001, he still continued to contribute to our nestbox program at Burnaby Lake by building wood duck boxes at his home. Now in his 80s, John has finally hung up his hammer for good to focus his time and energy on his vast garden, and in so doing, now donates hundreds of pounds of fruits and vegetables to a local food bank every year!



John Thomson



Tony Fabian



## Christmas Nature Walk at Burnaby Lake Sunday, December 7

1 to 3 p.m.

Come on a brisk, guided winter walk along forest trails to discover wild-life and birds in the park. Then return to the Nature House for delicious complimentary refreshments. Burnaby Lake Park Association volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the park's natural history. You can support the association by purchasing goodies at their Christmas bake sale table. For more information, call (604) 520-6442 or email [bbylakeparkassn@hotmail.com](mailto:bbylakeparkassn@hotmail.com)

Presented by Burnaby Lake Park Association



# Burnaby Lake viewing tower comes tumbling down

By Diane Hayward-Meek

It is never easy to say goodbye to an old friend but this is what many of us did in September to the original wooden viewing tower at Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

Built by the construction class of Burnaby Central Secondary School and erected in 1975, what historically was called the observation tower, stood as a sentinel at Piper Spit providing a spectacular view of Burnaby Lake and the surrounding skyline. This wonderful vantage point has provided untold enjoyment to hundreds of thousands of park visitors, photographers, wild life enthusiasts and birders over the past 33 years.

It was a bittersweet parting when the tower was demolished during the second week of September to make way for a new steel tower. Although many people were sad to see this landmark go, we also look forward to the tower that will replace it in the near future, as it will be wheelchair- and stroller-accessible on the first level and large enough to hold a classroom of children as well.



The old viewing tower



Photo: Diane Hayward-Meek

**Demolition derby:** Volunteers from many community groups came together to dismantle an old friend in anticipation of a new and improved tower.

On the morning of Sept. 14, members of the public as well as members from three Burnaby Rotary Clubs (Burnaby, Burnaby Deer Lake and Burnaby Metrotown), joined Metro Vancouver and the Burnaby Lake Park Association to dismantle the pieces of the tower and separate the various components of wood and metal for recycling and removal. More than 30 people helped with this task in a two-hour work party. Two of the Rotary Clubs also presented cheques to the Pacific Parklands Foundation towards the cost of building and erecting the new tower. We were also very fortunate to have Tony Fabian, one of the original members from the Burnaby Lake Advisory Association – the group responsible for the original tower – say a few words to those gathered about the history and significance of the original tower.

When the work party ended the participants were given a well-earned lunch and refreshments by Metro Vancouver, and then had an opportunity to relax at the picnic tables and enjoy the beautiful weather and butterfly garden as well as the displays inside the Nature House.

## Burnaby Lake viewing tower donors

Many generous donors from the community are helping to build a new viewing tower at Burnaby Lake that will continue to support outdoor education and public enjoyment of the park's natural beauty and wildlife. Our sincere thanks to these donors!

- CH2M HILL
- Impark
- Kinder Morgan Canada
- McDonald's Restaurants, Burnaby
- McDonald's Restaurants, McHappy Day
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Rotary Club of Burnaby
- Rotary Club of Burnaby, Deer Lake
- Rotary Club of Burnaby, Metrotown
- Visitors to Burnaby Lake Regional Park (Donation Station)

Pacific Parklands Foundation  
[www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca)



# Volunteers make headway in restoring sand dune habitat at Iona Beach Regional Park

The fight to reclaim rare sand dune habitat in the Lower Mainland is moving ahead nicely thanks to hundreds of volunteers and the support of a number of organizations to the work on-going at Iona Beach Regional Park.

So far this year, more than 600 volunteer hours have been logged at Iona, more than 2,500 stems of Scotch broom have been pulled (enough to fill more than three city buses) and more than 500 units of native plants have been planted.

Special thanks goes out to our outstanding volunteers (especially Johnson Morris) and to our support organizations – Evergreen, Vancouver Aquarium’s Riverworks program, the Jericho Stewardship Group and the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council.

Extra special thanks also goes to Metro Vancouver regional parks staff Erik Anderson, Tina vanderKraan, Tom McComb and Mitch Sokalski for their continued support.



**Pullin’ and plantin’:** In early October, volunteers from Business Objects SA lended a hand at Iona Beach Regional Park to remove invasive Scotch (above) and plant native dune plants such as pearly everlasting (right). Park operator Erik Anderson used his trusty chainsaw to help reduce the volume of broom so that it would all fit in the debris bin.



Photos: Daren Hanna

## Kanaka Creek welcomes home its native sons (and daughters)

By Ross Davies

The Maple Ridge fall classic, Return of the Salmon, occurred in pleasant dry weather on Oct. 19, and 725 visitors turned out to be greeted by our small army of volunteers and of course, the salmon. It was a great chance for visitors of all ages to see salmon up close.

Speaking of the salmon, the chum return to date appears to be fair to moderately strong.

The run appears to be at or near its peak at the time of this writing on Nov. 3. To date, 130,000 chum salmon eggs have been obtained at Bell-Irving Hatchery. Coho salmon began to appear early in the month; however, they present a much more challenging enumeration exercise due to their natural tendency to migrate upstream under the cover of high water events.



Photo: Ross Davies

**Amazing journey:** Brandon gets ready to release a female chum upstream in Kanaka Creek.



# Donors receive recognition for making a difference

By Denise Coutts

The Celebrating our Heroes event held on Sept. 17 at the Langley Bog recognized a number of generous donors, including the Martini family, the Township of Langley, Vancity, Tom Skidmore and the Chippendale Foundation, Evergreen, Unilever Canada, and Pacific Parklands Foundation directors, members and staff.

May 15, 2007 was a very special day for the Foundation as it received a significant land and cash donation as a result of an arrangement between the Township of Langley, the Martini family, the Pacific Parklands Foundation and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. The donation included a 23-acre parcel of land in Langley and a cash sum of \$500,000, gifted unconditionally to the foundation. The land was appraised in 2007 at a value of \$691,500.

Recently the foundation entered into a long-term lease agreement with Metro Vancouver which allows for the 23-acre parcel, part of an extremely valuable wetland complex, to form part of Derby Reach Regional Park. In addition, the board of the foundation approved more than \$100,000 of the cash gift to be used to help support a variety of much needed regional park projects in the Township of Langley and surrounding areas including:

- the Brae Island trail system;
- green roof technology at Brae Island (completed);
- the trail for Elkgrove to Aldergrove Bowl;
- the Derby Reach wheelchair-accessible trail;
- matching funds for various other projects; and
- the Langley Bog Stewardship Project (underway).

The balance of funds will go toward a much needed endowment that will help leverage additional funds for future regional park projects.

The Langley Bog at Derby Reach will be the site of scientific research and education projects by Trinity Western University students and professors, and is a great example of how one gift can be matched by many more and a unique bog research and restoration project can be undertaken.

**Right:** Vancity representatives Louise Pochaillo, Sonny Nielsen, (far left) and Anna Sawatsky (far right) present a \$10,000 cheque to Dave Pohl (third from the left) in support of the Langley Bog Stewardship Project. Also pictured, Paul Brown, TWU (centre), Parks Chair Gayle Martin and PPF board member Richard Hankin.



Above: PPF President Dave Pohl (left) presents a Conservancy Award to Ron and Mary Martini recognizing their generous gift valued at \$1.2 million.



## Thank you to our donors and partners

- The Martini Family
- Township of Langley
- Vancity Community Foundation
- Chippendale Foundation
- Evergreen
- Unilever Canada Inc.
- Scott Construction Group
- Pryke Lambert Leathley Russell LLP
- Anglo Canadian Shipping Co.
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Adam Snow
- Ed Andrusiak
- Richard Hankin
- Janice Podmore
- Terry Wilshire
- Laura Swift
- Bryan Wallner
- Dr. Mordehai Wosk
- Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
- Trinity Western University
- Derby Reach Brae Island Parks Partnership Association
- Langley Environmental Partners Society Watershed Stewardship

# Partners come together to raise the roof on Tynehead Hatchery

By Lorene Meyer

The Serpentine Enhancement Society, which operates the Tynehead Hatchery in Tynehead Regional Park, has a new roof. The new roof and gutters, valued at \$40,000, were installed over the past summer. Major sponsors included BC Transmission Corporation, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Province of BC (Dave Hayer, MLA), Pacific Parklands Foundation, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, City of Surrey, Lions, Malaspina College and Advantage Gutters.

The all-volunteer non-profit society formed in 1985 and built the hatchery in 1988. The hatchery raises four different species of salmon: chinook, chum, coho and steelhead. During the last 20 years, the Serpentine River has changed from being not much more than a ditch with a few salmon to a vibrant river with thousands of returning salmon. The SES has played a crucial role in the transformation through their hard work and determination. "Over 250,000 salmon fry are released into the river each spring," noted Carol Wright, SES' fish culture director

In the early 1980s, a young scientist studying at Simon Fraser University had a dream to re-build the river and he taught SES members the skills necessary to raise the salmon. Initially, the salmon brood stock were captured in a nearby farmer's creek, raised and released.

Later, several members put second mortgages on their homes to raise funds to build the hatchery where they had secured a land lease arrangement with what was then Greater Vancouver Regional Parks. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans was interested in sponsoring



Chinook salmon

community organizations to run salmon hatcheries and SES applied for sponsorship.

Throughout the years, many members participated in the salmon life cycle and passed their skills on to other volunteers.

Education is an important part of SES' mandate. The hatchery is involved with the Surrey schools "Salmon in the Classroom" program.

Last year 75 classes attended programs at the hatchery lead by Chris Hamming, SES education director.

The annual "Salmon Send-off" is held at the hatchery on the first Sunday in May. Last spring, the almost 1,000 people in attendance were treated to an awesome announcement, by Lorene Meyer,



**With a little help from some friends:** Celebrating the new roof for the Tynehead Hatchery are (left to right): Glenn Wright, Serpentine Enhancement Society; Paul Kariya, Pacific Salmon Foundation; Frieda Schade, Metro Vancouver; Mayor Diane Watts, City of Surrey; Michael Vershooor, BC Transmission Corp.; Lorene Meyer, SES; Bradley Meyer, SES youth representative and Laura Swift, former executive director, Pacific Parklands Foundation.

SES fundraising director: "The SES has been able to raise the funds for a new roof and it will be installed during the summer." In addition, in celebration of their 20 years of commitment, a cake was cut by the youth representative and a founding member, with assistance from Surrey Mayor Diane Watts. Representatives from the major sponsors attended to unveil cheques and lend their support to ensure future generations will continue to reap the benefits of the hatchery.

The SES is very appreciative and thankful for the support of the community. Thank you to all the volunteers! Here's to another 20 years! For more information about Serpentine Enhancement Society and the Tynehead Hatchery visit [www.tyneheadhatchery.ca](http://www.tyneheadhatchery.ca)



# Pacific Parklands Foundation – making a difference!

At its May 15 board of directors meeting, the directors of the Pacific Parklands Foundation approved disbursements of over \$275,000 in funding to the following programs and projects:

- Langley Bog Research Project
- Catching the Spirit Youth Program
- Colony Farm Hedgerow
- Burnaby Lake Park Association Nesting Box Program
- Alouette Greenway Project
- Burnaby Lake Viewing Tower
- Belcarra Playground
- Serpentine Hatchery Roof
- and the Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award.

Ken Hicks, managing partner and co-founder of three Vancouver based search firms (Titan Recruitment Services, TRS Contract Consulting Group, and Total Staffing Solutions) joined the Board in May.

He is very involved in the community and has strong ties to the southern region of the Lower Mainland. Ken's expertise was quickly put to good use, as he joined the executive search committee and the task of hiring a new executive director to replace Laura Swift, who, for the past four years, had achieved many significant accomplishments and made some very valuable contributions to the foundation. "This new appointment

will help fill the gap on the board with representation for the Fraser Valley," said John Scott, the foundation's past president.

On Sept. 2, Denise Coutts joined the Pacific Parklands Foundation as the new executive director. David Pohl, president of the foundation, announced: "After an extensive search, we are excited to have selected Denise to lead the foundation into a new era of expansion and growth. Denise brings more than 20 years of senior non-profit management experience to this assignment, having

recently served as the executive director of the Minerva Foundation for BC Women. Over the years, she has led the expansion of several non-profits in introducing new fundraising strategies, building financial stability and growth, and creating new

programs. We look forward to working with Denise as we embark on an exciting time of growth and change."

Sept. 30 marked the end of the 2007/2008 fiscal year for the foundation. The board met on Oct. 6 to approve the 2008/2009 operating budget, and identify fundraising strategies and priorities for projects for the new fiscal year.



Denise Coutts



Ken Hicks



Pacific Parklands  
FOUNDATION

## Nominations wanted for Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Service Award

Know of a young person who has worked tirelessly for the environment and been an inspiration to others?

Nominations are being sought for the 2009 Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award. The award, created to honour Gordon Smith, a former GVRD Parks planner and champion for the environment who loved involving children and youth in his projects, encourages and inspires young people to pursue environmental activities and studies.

Nominees must be 19 or younger and their volunteer service must be in the

Lower Mainland but not necessarily with regional parks.

Application forms are available at [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca). Briefly describe the student's volunteer work and its impacts on the environment, other youth and the community, plus their educational and career interests.

Nominations for the 2009 Award must be submitted by Jan.31. Send submissions by email to [wendy.dadalt@metrovancover.org](mailto:wendy.dadalt@metrovancover.org) or by mail to: Metro Vancouver, Regional Parks, 4330 Kingsway, 19th floor, Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8 Attn: Wendy DaDalt.



# The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: Part 7

By Dawn Hanna

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

Last time around, we looked at some of the ways that Metro Vancouver plans to support economic development and quality of life in the region. This time, a bit more about the strategies and actions contained within Goal 3.

**Goal 3, Strategy 3: Maintain and operate parks and greenways to a standard that enhances real estate values, attracts employees and employers and makes the region more competitive.**

Metro Vancouver's role in this strategy is to manage and promote the natural assets of regional parks and greenways to enhance the livability of the region. To that end, it will embark on such actions as implementing customer service standards for facilities maintenance, public programs and the provision of services. Actions in this case might include :

- developing standards to maintain infrastructure, buildings and other kinds of public structures or to replace those that cannot be maintained to a certain standard.
- planning and delivering quality education services that appeal to the region's diversity of residents and visitors, and
- engaging communities by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities to provide value-added stewardship, social and outdoor activities.

Metro Vancouver also has a role to play in integrating regional parks and greenways programs, services and developments to support the Live-Work-Play Policy of municipalities. To that end, Metro Vancouver will examine how regional park sites and greenways can provide:

- services that respond to the cultural and social needs of residents;
- improved access and



**Green ways on greenways:** An intrepid cyclist takes a spin on the Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway that runs from Burnaby Mountain, along Stoney Creek and the Brunette River to New Westminster, a great way to recreate and commute!

greenway connections that support transportation choices like cycling and walking;

- open space and recreation opportunities for employees and residents in town centres; and
- expanded commuter cycling trails through collaboration on regional greenways and municipal cycling strategies.

Metro Vancouver will also be working with municipalities, the business community and public agencies to promote the greenspace benefits of the region.

This could include providing information and developing materials to help businesses, economic development and chamber of commerce offices in promoting the natural values of regional parks and greenways as attractions for tourism, recruitment and business relocations.

Metro Vancouver also wants to partner with businesses to provide services that attract visitors, create employment and increase public choice and opportunities – in appropriate locations. Such partnerships might be to provide basic park facilities and/or enhanced

services for residents and visitors, but doing it in a way that can leverage public funds with private investments, non-profit and philanthropic contributions.

**Goal 3, Strategy 4: Encourage philanthropy.**

Metro Vancouver's role will be to support fundraising and other philanthropic activities to provide value added public amenities, land donations and other programs.

To that end, Metro Vancouver will support the Pacific Parklands Foundation established specifically to raise funds for conservation, stewardship and recreation initiatives in regional parks and greenways by:

- implementing a donor recognition program;
- identifying habitat enhancement, park improvement and recreation projects needing sponsorship and financial support from citizens, community and service organizations and the private sector;
- supporting and sponsoring special fundraising events in parks; and
- considering donation stations in regional parks.

Metro Vancouver can also play a



# Memorial bench honours long-time volunteer at Lynn Headwaters

A memorial fund was set up earlier this year in memory of Frank Grundig, a dedicated BC Mills House volunteer at Lynn Headwaters Regional Park. Frank brought his enthusiasm for the outdoors and love of people to his role as BC Mills Host. He volunteered the history of the area and the BC Mills House and orient visitors to Lynn Headwaters Regional Park. (An article on Frank ran in the spring 2008 issue of *Park Partners*.)

Frank shared his extensive knowledge of the area, his love of mountaineering and his sense of humour with visitors, staff, and fellow volunteers. He was a real asset to the park, and brought a lot of joy to those that knew him.

To honour Frank, a memorial bench has been purchased with some of the funds contributed and is in place at Lynn Headwaters.

Donations to the Memorial Fund can be made online at [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca) or by cheque to Pacific Parklands Foundation, 4330 Kingsway, 19th Floor, Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8



## Thank you to the donors

- Alan Chubak
- Elaine Pura
- Carl and Syliva Drugge
- Caroline Duncan
- CBC Reference & Image Research Libraries
- Gordon Hill
- Grant Emison
- Gun L. Van Hanswijk Pennink
- Gunter Preissi
- J.R. Palliardi
- Joyce Roots
- Katherine Sheridan
- Krista Lee Hanson
- Krisztina Laszlo
- Laura and Bernard Thierney
- Marko Ferenc
- Marnie Carter
- Mary and Chris Meakes
- May Murray
- Michael Binkley
- Nuri Grundig
- Ralph McGreevy
- Rolf Frowein
- Ruth Sherwood
- Sharon Kirk
- Shawn and Shelley Stevenson
- William and Mavis McKee

## *RPGP, continued from page 10*

role in encouraging private land donations that can expand recreation opportunities and help conserve regional biodiversity.

Support for land stewardship is growing with some landowners whose property encompasses natural areas wanting to see their lands retained for public benefits. To assist, Metro Vancouver will:

- promote eco-gifting of lands to expand the conservation land base of existing regional parks, greenways and conservation sites; and
- work with private landowners wishing to donate their lands for public recreation, especially near or adjacent to regional park sites.

*This marks the final installment in our series on the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan. You can find the complete document on the web at [www.metrovancouver.org/about/publications/Publications/ParksGreenwaysPlan.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/publications/Publications/ParksGreenwaysPlan.pdf)*



# Crippen Stewardship Group roots out invasive plants



Photo: Dawn Hanna

**Many hands:** Bowen Island volunteers help remove thickets of blackberry that are choking out native vegetation along Davies Creek.

The first official work party of the newly formed Crippen Stewardship Group took place on Sept. 27 on Bowen Island. About 10 volunteers showed up to help remove invasive plants choking out native vegetation along Davies Creek, a trout- and salmon-bearing stream in Crippen Regional Park.

About eight m<sup>3</sup> of invasives were removed (as well as an uncounted number of bottles, golf balls, plastic bags and at least one toy dump truck) The species removed were: *Rubus discolor* (Himalayan blackberry), *Rubus lasciniatus* (evergreen blackberry), *Hedera helix* (English ivy) and *Clematis vitalba* (traveller's joy). In the process, volunteers freed up a significant amount of salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) that had literally been crushed by the blackberry and clematis.

In October, the group followed up by planting some native species – *Crataegus douglasii* (black hawthorn), *Rosa nutkana* (Nootka rose), *Gaultheria shallon* (salal) and *Polystichum munitum*

(sword fern) -- that will both enhance habitat for wildlife and reduce erosion of the streambank.

Metro Vancouver and the Crippen Stewardship Group would like to acknowledge the generosity of Evergreen, which donated the plant material.

A big thanks to Moira Greaven for organizing this auspicious work party. And to park operator Kevin Huskisson for bringing tools to the event, even though it was his day off!



Nootka rose

The Crippen Stewardship Group is a collaboration between Metro Vancouver Regional Park, the Bowen Island Garden Club, the Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club, the Bowen Island Conservancy and the residents of Bowen Island to help restore habitat at Crippen Regional Park. For more information on the initiative, please contact Dawn Hanna at [parkpartners@telus.net](mailto:parkpartners@telus.net) or Moira Greaven at [gaucho@ca.inter.net](mailto:gaucho@ca.inter.net)

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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)

