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# PARK Partners



The newsletter of the Metro Vancouver Parks Partnership Program • Spring 2008 • Vol. 9 No. 2

## Park Partners invited to new and improved Regional Parks Forum at June 24 event

For the past year, members of the Administration and Governance Committee have been working with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff to make changes to the format of the Regional Parks Forum with the idea of revitalizing this important component of the Park Partnership Program.

On Tuesday, June 24, the new and improved forum will be unveiled to park partners from around Metro



Vancouver. Bob Gunn, who serves as the A&G chair will make a short presentation on the forum changes and introduce the four new “streams” that will be the focus of the revitalized forum. The four streams are: Stewardship; Advisory; Outdoor Recreation; and Education, Training and Communications. Then we’ll break into small groups for a “Parks Café” and it will be your turn to ask some questions, maybe make some suggestions and think about the ways that the forum can assist you, your organization or

group in doing what you do in Metro Vancouver’s regional parks.

It promises to be an exciting, interactive session with lots of opportunities for networking with your fellow parks volunteers to share stories, information and more.

Invitations should arrive shortly. If you don’t receive one, but would like to be involved, please contact Janis Beaumont at (604) 432-6351 or by email at [Janis.Beaumont@metrovanco uver.org](mailto:Janis.Beaumont@metrovanco uver.org).

Hope to see you there!

**Date:** June 24

**Time:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 2nd floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby (Metro Vancouver)

## Catching the Spirit gears up for a new season!

Catching the Spirit is getting ready for another summer – with a difference. Under contract with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, WildED is coordinating and delivering this year’s program from beginning to end.

“We’ll be incorporating an educational component so that youth get to know and understand the parks they are in and also the value of the work they are contributing to,” notes Sherry Reid, WildED coordinator. “It’s a big part of understanding why they are spending three hours pulling ivy



or removing a tree stump from a bog.”

Also new is a first-time program based out of Camp Capilano at Capilano River Regional Park. As well, bicycles are back to the Pacific Spirit Regional Park rangering program.

Youth between the ages of 12 and 18 are invited to get involved and get active in Metro Vancouver regional parks by joining a Catching the Spirit program this summer. Catching the Spirit is an exciting environmental stewardship program run by youth for youth!

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## Catching the Spirit, cont.

This free program provides experiential, hands-on opportunities for youth to explore, camp, learn and participate in environmental stewardship projects. Youth will learn about hot topics such as sustainability and stewardship, receive training, gain leadership skills and, above all, will have fun while making a valuable contribution to the community.

Some of the activities planned for this summer include:

- overnight camping and cook-outs in Metro Vancouver regional parks,
- training for outdoor and leadership skills, nature interpretation, restoration and stewardship, no-trace camping techniques, orienteering, first aid.
- stewardship projects to restore bogs and streams, build and repair trails and fences, help out at salmon hatcheries, build nest boxes, remove invasive species, inventory and monitor environmental projects
- patrolling the park on foot or bike (Pacific Spirit Regional Park only) to assist park visitors, and monitoring park use.

Other benefits include earning volunteer contribution



**Park hoppers:** A Catching the Spirit crew from Pacific Spirit Regional Park got to spend a day lending some helping hands at Iona Beach Regional Park last summer.

credits for community service awards and school credit, as well as an opportunity to earn a scholarship.

Programs will run at Pacific Spirit, Capilano River, Burnaby Lake and Tynehead regional parks throughout the summer. Join for a day, a weekend or more!

For more information, go to [www.catchingthespirit.com](http://www.catchingthespirit.com) or call (604) 562-0583.

## Spring is busy season for Kanaka's Bell-Irving Hatchery

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year at the hatchery and this year has been no exception. However, the seasonal fish culture activities have been at least three weeks later than normal. The colder than average March and April has meant that the eggs and alevins have been slow to develop, and a portion of the coho were still in the incubators as of early May.

To date, 396,000 pink salmon have been released to Kanaka Creek. About 88,000 chum fry have also been released or are very close to release.



In addition, 100,000 chum fry were released to streams in Burnaby and Vancouver.

Since the hatchery first opened in 1983, a total of 8.1 million pink, chum and coho fry have been released.

~ Ross Davies

### Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Partnership Program

**Metro Vancouver Regional Parks**  
Public Programs and Community  
Development Division  
4330 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8  
(604) 432-6351

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

#### Forum Facilitator

- Anne Cochran  
[acochran@infinet.net](mailto:acochran@infinet.net)

#### Communications Coordinator

- Dawn Hanna  
[parkpartners@telus.net](mailto:parkpartners@telus.net)

# Inspiring youth gets down and dirty for the environment; wins Gordon Smith Award

Angie Ramey is the recipient of this year's Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award. The 19-year-old Vancouver resident is a first year student in engineering at the University of BC and a dedicated environmental steward. She has played a key role at Camosun Bog in Pacific Spirit Regional Park and at Jericho Park in Vancouver.

Here is some of what Laurence Brown of the Camosun Bog Restoration Group wrote in his nominating letter:

"She has worked on all areas of the restoration, including removal of non-bog species, leveling the ground, propagating and planting bog species and weeding. She enjoys challenging projects and her favorite activity is taking out stumps from the bog. I have been amazed at the size that she has been able to move by her intelligent use of simple tools like a saw and a lever. In the process she invariably gets covered by mud!

Last spring, despite her age, we asked Angie to be one of the supervisors for our Bog Buddy program for families with children aged 5 to 12. It involves games, interpretation and restoration activities. This was a major responsibility but she did an absolutely outstanding job, inspiring the children but ensuring that they were working in a safe and controlled environment. She made a number of constructive suggestions for improving the program.

Angie is an outstanding young person – bright, knowledgeable and a born leader."

In a letter of support, Dawn Hanna of the Jericho Stewardship Group also noted Angie's gift for getting youth out: "Bringing new youth volunteers to our monthly work parties has been beneficial not only in the additional physical help, but in introducing youth to the issues and impacts of invasive plants on native ecosystems and their inhabitants. It has also been



*Above: Angie Ramey (third from right) with (from left to right) Laurence Brown, Margaret Smith, Dawn Hanna, Andrew Smith and Parks Committee Chair Gayle Martin.*

*Right: A more typical Angie, seen after a day's work at Camosun Bog.*



a great way to integrate an age range not typically seen in community restoration projects and gives our efforts a real feel of the whole community being involved."

There were also two runners-up selected this year.

- Nominated by KEEPS, 16 year-old Jannemarie Smyth is a Grade 11 student at Maple Ridge Secondary School who has been volunteering with KEEPS since she was 11. She particularly helps with public events like Return of the Salmon, Goodbye Chums and Rivers Day and is involved with other youth in hatchery and scouting activities and mentors younger children. Jackie Campbell describes Jannemarie as "an unsung hero for Kanaka Creek Park and KEEPS."

- Fifteen-year-old Blair Moro is a Grade 10 student at North Surrey Secondary School and a seven-year hatchery volunteer, this time with the

Tynehead Hatchery. Here he gives tours and does egg takes as well stream restoration. He has "given hundreds of tours and knows the hatchery right side up and up side down". Blair has also volunteered with Catching the Spirit youth program for the past three years, first as a participant and then as peer leader. He is also active with scouting.

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.

To contribute to the Gordon Smith Award so that we can continue to celebrate our youth visit [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca)

Photo: Stephen Suddes

Photo: Laurence Brown

# John Heaven celebrates 25th anniversary

Recently, John Heaven was honoured for 25 years of service as manager of Bell-Irving Hatchery in Kanaka Creek Regional Park.

The Bell-Irving Kanaka Creek Hatchery is operated by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks; the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Habitat Enhancement Branch; BC Environment, Fisheries Branch and the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.

The hatchery is an integral part of the Kanaka Creek Regional Park and is open to visitors seven days a week, year round. Groups can call (604) 530-4983 to arrange a tour. For general inquiries, call the hatchery at (604) 462-8643.

John is also a bit of a YouTube star. You can find a video of him giving a tour of the Bell-Irving Hatchery at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGMh0nGb-VM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGMh0nGb-VM)



Photo: Ross Davies

## Remembering Frank Grundig 1932-2008

By Ruth Sherwood

No matter what was going on with Frank, he always had a story and a laugh to share – even when he was in pain. As one of the first volunteers at Lynn Headwaters Park and with the BC Mills Museum, he was dedicated to this place.

From the opening of the park in 1998, the park and the museum became significant to Frank in many ways. He was a professional photographer as well as an experienced outdoorsman and took the opportunity to capture the beauty of this wilderness sanctuary in hundreds of photos, many of them archived at the BC Mills Museum.

He could always be relied upon to give new volunteers an orientation based on his own knowledge of the natural surroundings as well as of the history of the park.

Frank obtained his photography skills the hard way. He put himself through a photography degree at the Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara by working in several mines in BC, including the Grand Duke, Britannia and Hedley mines. When you think that as a new immigrant who started school at six years old with absolutely no English, Frank was a role model for determination.

My first impression of Frank was in the early 2000s on an outing to view the large trees in the area. He was using a cane as we bushwhacked through the undergrowth to find these



giants. Having to use a cane did not deter him one whit from taking photos of the group in front of the various ancient trees.

Those of us who knew and loved Frank will sorely miss his humour and his enthusiasm.

To contribute to the Frank Grundig Memorial Fund, please visit [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca)

# Sig Techy Recognition Day in Camosun Bog

By Brian Woodcock

**S**ig Techy, one of Pacific Spirit Regional Park's pioneer "crazy boggers", recently received thanks, certificates of appreciation and a special recognition in the form of "Sig's Site" – a dedicated restored area of Camosun Bog.

On Mar. 22, friends and family gathered to recognize this hero of our park and to thank him for everything he has done

Tom Nichols and Pille Bunnell from the Pacific Spirit Park Society presented Sig with a certificate of appreciation from PSPS calling him one of Pacific Spirit Park's most dedicated volunteers – and an unsung hero of this park.

Judy Williams called him "Pacific Spirit Park's Johnny Appleseed".

She explained how he realized that some areas of the park are suffering from vegetation neglect – due to smothering undergrowth and virtually no coniferous tree growth. Sig, sometimes along with youth volunteers, planted many native coniferous trees throughout the park, doing his thing to help restore some of the park's original natural forest balance.

Sean Zavislak presented Sig with a certificate from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and said thank you on behalf of park management and staff. Sean noted that Sig is most fondly appreciated as one of the Camosun Bog pioneers, who have worked in Camosun for the past 12 years.

Right from the early days of 1996, Sig devoted himself to working with the small team of fellow Crazy Boggers to restore Camosun Bog. Their vision was to restore Camosun Bog to a truly unique natural treasure right on the edge of the city – a rare natural ecosystem with rare bog plants left over from the ice age, a beautiful nature spot for the people of Vancouver to visit, learn about and appreciate.

Sig devoted his energies in those early days to excavating, removing



Photo: Laurence Brown

**Bog buddy:** Sig Techy, hard at work, removes non-bog plants from a test site in this rare ecosystem in the heart of the city.

stumps and invading trees and non-bog plants in the so-called "test bog" area. We worked incrementally, from initial mini-boglets, to larger test bog areas, to increasingly larger areas throughout the bog – learning along the way, incorporating advice from experts at the University of BC and always working in conjunction with Metro Vancouver Regional Park management and staff. Sig was a huge part of this process, from the test bog, to designing, fundraising and supervising the building of the boardwalk.

I shared with everyone at the celebration how we were always amazed by this man's physical strength and endurance – a human dynamo: "We always had trouble keeping up with him! Working side by side, we had a great time labouring away in the bog – lots of fun – joking and getting muddy up to our ears. Always exhausted after the day's work, we were happy with the work accomplished and looked forward to returning the next day to start all over again."

Bit by bit, year after year, the bog got restored – through dogged determination and hard work by Sig

and his fellow pioneers.

At the end of the event, Laurence Brown dedicated an area of the bog to Sig, explaining that Sig never did a job halfway – he always completed things to a tee, as evidenced by the small section of the bog now known as the Sig Techy Area or "Sig's Site". Sig restored it by himself and did a great job. He pulled the invading blackberry, salmonberry and salal plants and replaced them with sphagnum moss, Labrador tea and bog laurel, planting them around some very artistic and almost surrealistic looking pine stumps.

In closing – there is a story that we love sharing. Sig had a career as a forester, cutting down trees all over this province. He once told us that because of that, he wanted to give back to nature and to parks by working in his retirement to replant trees and restore important natural areas – so future generations could enjoy them.

And that is exactly what Sig has done and this world, Pacific Spirit Park and especially Camosun Bog is a much better place today because of him

Many thanks good friend.

# Volunteers have a blast helping reduce carbon footprint

By Peter Perugini

I have always had keen interest in the environment. I have also been inspired by the work of David Suzuki for many years and in all my previous jobs I have tried to implement more environmentally friendly practices.

In October 2007, I started working at Blast Radius – a web-based marketing and branding company – and was happy to find that they had a Green Team of individuals dedicated to improving Blast Radius' environmental practices. In my first meeting, I proposed an idea to calculate our company's carbon emissions and to offset those emissions by planting trees. The idea was accepted warmly by my new colleagues and the company allowed me to have access to hydro bills, photocopy consumption records and business flights for 2007. Using the Tree Canada carbon emissions calculator, I figured that the carbon emission footprint for our Vancouver office came to 2,578 trees.

Next, we recruited volunteers who would be interested in donating a weekend to plant trees to try to



**Dig it:** Andrew Appleton from Evergreen (far left) goes over the basics of tree planting for Blast Radius volunteers.

make a dent in our carbon footprint. Since there was no formal budget for purchasing trees, I approached Tree Canada to obtain some free trees. Christian Walli was extremely helpful in helping us acquire 200 trees and shrubs, and introducing me to Laura Swift of the Pacific Parklands Foundation, who did an amazing job coordinating with Janice Jarvis of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and Andrew Appleton of Evergreen.

The primary focus that day, as Janice told us, was to repair damage to the riparian area where river access was created to remove a log jam in order to prevent flooding. We also enhanced the riparian area around an equestrian field where the buffer had become too narrow.

MV staff did the planting plan and plant layout.

On the planting day things went very smoothly and all the participants from Blast Radius had a great time. Thirty-four employees from Blast Radius came out and many brought family and friends, for a total of about 50 participants. Andrew gave a brief but informative demonstration on how to properly plant a tree or shrub to better ensure its survival. Shovels and gloves were supplied by Evergreen, which was really helpful, seeing that most of the participants didn't have access to such tools. After we planted the trees, we all enjoyed snacks that were donated by Evergreen.

Blast Radius has planned to have a Global Blast Radius Day of Giving, where employees are given the opportunity to give back to the community. Since the recent tree-planting event was so successful, Blast Radius is going to sponsor another event where we plan to complete our goal of 2,578 trees to offset all of our carbon emission for the Vancouver office from 2007.



**All hands help:** volunteers look on as PPF director Ed O'Brien (hat), Evergreen's Andrew Appleton and Blast Radius' Peter Perugini lend a hand to a young planter.

# Volunteers do spring cleaning at Burnaby Lake

By Diane Hayward-Meek

The Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA), under the direction of program leader

Bob Gunn recently completed another season of maintenance with our nestbox program. This year, more than 270 volunteer hours were contributed at three work parties held on weekends in February and March.

Members of the BLPA, along with students in the BC Institute of Technology's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program, and members of the public came out to clean and service the boxes and to record data on the multitude of chickadee, wood duck, flying squirrel and swallow nestboxes at Burnaby



Lake Regional Park. Due to a late start this year, we already had swallows that were starting to pick out their houses, while we were attempting to clean the boxes and put in new nesting material!

The nestbox program received a valuable contribution of \$2,690 in 2007 from the Doreen Lawson Memorial fund, thanks to the support of the Pacific Parklands Foundation. Having had the pleasure to volunteer at Burnaby Lake with Doreen, I'm sure she would be

pleased to know that her legacy and love of the lake, the park and wildlife lives on thanks to her generous spirit.

# Weedbusting at Burnaby Lake – with a little help from our friends

By Diane Hayward-Meek

On Apr. 4 and 11, the Burnaby Lake Park Association partnered with BEST (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation) and grade 4 and 5 students and their teachers, from Buckingham Elementary School to do some "weedbusting" at Burnaby Lake Regional Park with the support of Metro Vancouver.

BEST has an exciting new program called "Colour Our World: Agents of Change", that offers students the opportunity to learn about local environmental issues including: food security, land-use and sustainable transportation. This program provides trips to local composting centres, community gardens, greenways and parks and allows students to get a little hands-on education.

During their visit to Burnaby

Lake, the students of Buckingham Elementary found out about some of the invasive plant species that the BLPA and Metro Vancouver are trying to eradicate in our Weedbusters program. The students had an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the park while they pulled English ivy from the forest floor, and gave native plants such as false lily of the valley, bleeding heart and ferns a chance to thrive once again.

For more information on the BLPA's Weedbuster program please visit our webpage at [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca) (under Park Associations) or contact the BLPA at [bbylakeparkassn@hotmail.com](mailto:bbylakeparkassn@hotmail.com)

To book a visit or to find out more about BEST's program call Sarah Albertson at 604-669-2860 ext 211. Or visit BEST's website at: [www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca)

# Burnaby Lake Park Association: A year in review

By Diane Hayward-Meek

Thanks to our many volunteers and dedicated members, the Burnaby Lake Park Association (BLPA) had a lot to celebrate in 2007 and ended the year with a volunteer appreciation event at the Picken House heritage home in Burnaby. More than 40 volunteers, along with BLPA members and Metro Vancouver staff, enjoyed refreshments and a great slide show, thanks to a grant from Vancity, and, with the generous donations and discounts from Starbucks and Choices Market, each person received a small gift as well. **Some highlights from 2007:**

- **Nestbox Program:** Five work parties involving more than 30 community volunteers who contributed more than 350 hours of their time.

- **Weedbusters Program:** With the support of Metro Vancouver, six work parties were held as well as an Earth Day event and a corporate team-building event where English ivy and policeman's helmet were pulled. A total of 585 hours were volunteered and 3,670 kilograms of invasive plants removed.

- **EcoAction Planting:** More than 60 native trees and shrubs were planted with a scouting group and BLPA members (in a torrential downpour) for a total of 55 volunteer hours.

Many more volunteer hours were contributed through maintaining the butterfly garden, attending community events, hosting two free nature walks and supporting the Catching the Spirit program.

# Nominations wanted for the Dr. M. Wosk Leadership Awards

If you have made a significant difference for youth in the Metro Vancouver region, we want to hear from you. The Pacific Parklands Foundation has recently established a fund for the development of youth leadership, rewarding individuals who have demonstrated a sense of responsibility for youth leadership, park preservation and environmental care.

Outstanding and consistent concern for the improvement of the environment could make you eligible.

## Who is eligible?

Awards are open to individuals in the Metro Vancouver area who have:

- demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities (teacher, counselor, advisor, youth leader – student council, scouts, girl guides, cadets, peer leader – Catching the Spirit

program; starting environmental clubs, camps, work teams etc.)

- demonstrated a passion for the environment (clubs, programs, activities etc.)
- volunteered within the environmental framework (setting up or assisting with environmental stewardship activities).

Having a concern for the environment and improving your community within Metro Vancouver requires particularly outstanding leadership and commitment.

This is why, as part of

the selection process, the personal circumstances and/or challenges of each applicant will be considered.

## Need an application?

- Go to the foundation web site at [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca)
- Call 604-451-6168 or send a fax to 604-432-6296 requesting an application.

*“With one good leader there is the potential of attracting a thousand or more participants. Without that one good leader, thousands of people may never get involved.”*

– Dr. Mordehai Wosk



Dr. Mordehai Wosk

## Nominations

Nominations for the 2008 awards should be submitted by Sept. 30 to Pacific Parklands Foundation by mail to Pacific Parklands Foundation, 19th Floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8 Attn: Laura Swift

# Park Partners Summer Calendar

## June

**22 Weedbusters Work Party**  
Burnaby Lake Regional Park  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Help remove policeman's helmet and English ivy.  
More info: (604) 432-6359

**28 Camosun Bog Work Party**  
Pacific Spirit Regional Park  
9 a.m. to noon  
Help restore Camosun Bog and have fun!  
More info: (604) 224-5739

**Cambridge House Boot Sale**  
Boundary Bay Regional Park  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vendors: \$10 (for two parking stalls), Shoppers: Free  
More info: (604) 948-2392

## July

**12 Wreck Beach Day**  
Pacific Spirit Regional Park  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Clothing optional activities include sandcastle competition, kite flying and body painting  
More info: (604) 856-9598

**19 Creatures of the Not-So-Deep**  
Belcarra Regional Park  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
More info: (604) 432-6359

**22 Weedbusters Work Party**  
Burnaby Lake Regional Park  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Help remove policeman's helmet and English ivy.  
More info: (604) 432-6359

## August

**16 What Lies Beneath**  
Belcarra Regional Park  
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Get a closer look at the mysterious undersea creatures that call Belcarra home.  
More info: (604) 432-6359

**19 Watershed Keepers**  
Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Help keep watershed habitat healthy.  
More info: (604) 987-1273

*For info about more events and volunteer opportunities, go to [www.gvrd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/parks)*



# Pacific Parklands Foundation board executive announced



Dave Pohl



Bryan Wallner



Anastase Maragos



John Scott

By Carol Dion

Pacific Parklands Foundation announced the following board appointments at the foundation's recent AGM: Dave Pohl, president; Bryan Wallner, vice president; Anastase Maragos, secretary; and John Scott, past president.

Dave Pohl is vice president, commercial markets for Royal Bank of Canada. He has held many positions within the bank over a career that has spanned 30-plus years. For most of this time he has been with commercial banking. He also has considerable experience within retail and international banking. Pohl has served as member of the PPF board

since its inception in 2000.

Bryan Wallner is responsible for the overall operational activity at Imperial Parking in both the United States and Canada. As the company's president and chief operating officer, he is responsible for managing key client relationships and the development and execution of targeted strategic objectives in the areas of operations, business development and technology.

Anastase Maragos has been a partner with Watson Goepel Maledy LLP since 1999; the primary focus of his practice is representing claimants in personal injury litigation and disability insurance matters. He has been featured as a speaker at the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC on disability claims and has

extensive experience in representing personal injury claimants in matters before the Supreme Court of BC.

John Scott is chief executive officer of the Scott Construction Group. A professional engineer, John founded the company in 1984 and turned it into one of Western Canada's largest and most respected construction firms. John is founding president of the Pacific Parklands Foundation.

The new board executive will join an accomplished and dedicated group of PPF board members including Blake Pottinger (treasurer), Ed O'Brien, John Good, Richard Hankin, Steve Hnatiuk, Janice Podmore, Donna Rossi, Tamara Taggart, Terry Wilshire and Mordehai Wosk.

## Pacific Parklands Foundation board news

Councillor Mel Kositsky, Township of Langley, was recently appointed to the Pacific Parklands Foundation as a non-voting representative of the Metro Vancouver Board and confirmed as a member of the PPF Board at the Foundation's AGM held on Mar. 5. **Special thanks to departing board members**

Foundation President Dave Pohl praised the contribution of John Leathley Q.C. and Dr. Brian Gillespie at the foundation's AGM and thanked them for their dedication

and meritorious service to the Pacific Parklands Foundation over the years. Dave said they both will be greatly missed.

Leathley was a founding member of the board and served as secretary for a number of years. He was instrumental in rewriting the foundation's bylaws. John is a barrister and solicitor with Pryke Lambert Leathley Russell LLP.

Dr. Gillespie, a past president of the BC Institute of Technology, served on the PPF board since 2001 and chaired the Projects Committee.



**Pacific Parklands**  
FOUNDATION

# The Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: Part 6

By Dawn Hanna

In this installment of our informal look at the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan, we'll look 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 work with community, social and ethnic organizations to expand recreation and wellness opportunities as well as providing education programs to foster environmental stewardship, health and wellness, personal safety and social responsibility. This time, we'll look at the third and final goal of the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan: To support economic development and quality of life in the region.

## Goal 3 – Strategy 1: Partner with businesses and organizations to provide enhanced services for visitors.

The idea behind this is for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks to take a lead in the region in offering partnered- or private-sector-operated enhanced park services. And to facilitate tourism operations in appropriate areas.

The first of three actions outlined under this strategy calls for Metro Vancouver to integrate tourism strategies into facility and program planning, development and operations. The intent is to ensure that tourism can co-exist with parks and greenways goals. Ways that Metro Vancouver can do that include:

- Establishing standards, best management practices and guidelines to direct tourism operators to appropriate sites on Metro Vancouver lands with a focus on eco-tourism activities;
- Implementing a new signage and marketing strategy for regional parks and greenways;
- Developing and implementing strategies to promote special values and features to attract visitors;



Photo: Dawn Hanna

**Healthy parks, healthy people:** Father and son enjoy a walk through the meadows of Crippen Regional park on Bowen Island

- Expanding market-based permit fees for business activities; and
- Providing enhanced services provided through business agreements.

The second action relates to investigating opportunities for development of integrated recreation and tourism strategies to support the upcoming 2010 Olympics. The intent would be to create a lasting Olympic legacy by working with municipalities and businesses to coordinate development and integration of recreation and tourism strategies in the region. Examples might include

- The Grouse Grind, Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, Capilano River and Lynn Headwaters regional parks;
- Provision of RV Camping for the traveling public; and
- Exploring the potential to create habitat enhancements in regional parks to offset the impact of Olympic venues.

The third action identified under the first strategy is to encourage corporate and non-profit sponsorship of acquiring lands and the provision of enhanced services. To achieve this,

Metro Vancouver will work with the Pacific Parklands Foundation to:

- Seek corporate sponsorship and donations of land and funding for the development of enhanced services; and
- Explore business partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide basic and enhanced services.

## Goal 3 – Strategy 2: Improve health, wellness and the social well being of residents and reduce those costs through programming, recreation opportunities and partnerships.

Metro Vancouver intends to partner on programs to reduce health costs and crime and foster social development.

The first of two actions outlined under this strategy calls for Metro Vancouver to collaborate with agencies to promote active living and healthy lifestyles. That would involve working with regional health authorities, municipalities, school boards, social service providers and community support groups to expand regional park opportunities, programs and education efforts that promote physical fitness, active living and

## RPGP, continued from page 10

social responsibility. (Last year, Metro Vancouver started a partnership with the Corporation of Delta to offer health and wellness programs at Deas Island regional park.)

Metro Vancouver also wants to use the network of community recreation associations and community centres to implement this strategy and will focus its efforts on facilitating and encouraging delivery agencies to lead in funding promotions and programs such as:

- The Heart and Stroke Foundation's Hearts in Parks;
- Developing fitness trails for all abilities;
- Sponsoring walking and running events that support the public health agenda;
- Working with service clubs and community organizations to facilitate the use of parks and greenways to develop social networks and group activities like family or club picnics, festivals and other outdoor events;
- Expanding the Catching the Spirit program to promote skill and leadership development of youth;
- Encouraging school boards and teachers to use parks for fitness activities; and
- Expanding the community garden program beyond Colony Farm Regional Park.

The second action under this strategy is to encourage health authorities and social service agencies to incorporate the therapeutic benefits of parks into public policy, programs and promotions.

Towards that end, Metro Vancouver will encourage academic institutions to conduct research to further demonstrate the direct benefits of parks in improving personal health and social wellness, along with life expectancy. Metro Vancouver will consolidate and communicate to government the growing body of evidence that access to and interaction with nature through parks and greenways is essential to human health and wellness.

*That's it for this time. Next issue will be the final installment in our series on the Regional Parks and Greenways Plan.*

# Ideas Fair 2008: Colony Farm Regional Park and beyond



Photo: Ross Davies



Photo: Dawn Hanna



Photo: Candace Ng

**P**ark Partners of all kinds from all areas came out to enjoy the tours and speakers of Ideas Fair 2008, hosted by Colony Farm Park Association.

Kids and parents (top) became Nature Explorers for the morning, putting all their senses to use.

Another group learned a little more about the wide variety of native and non-native plants at Colony Farm (centre).

And veteran birder Istvan Orosi (left) led a walk on the dike trails in search of surprise spring migrants among the hedgerows and fields of Colony Farm.

A terrific time was had by all!

# Goodbye Chums 2008 makes a big splash!



Photo: Ross Davies

**Swim wild, swim free:** A participant introduces salmon fry to Kanaka Creek, the start of a long-term journey to the sea.

By Ross Davies

Goodbye Chums, our annual spring open house, co-hosted by KEEPS, Bell-Irving Hatchery and Metro Vancouver, was a roaring success. More than 500 visitors took part in this 25-year anniversary of the hatchery. The day marked another significant occasion – KEEPS officially turned 10. The day of children’s activities, displays and, of course, salmon fry releases was punctuated by a special ceremony that was complete with a Katzie First Nation blessing and a commemorative cake. We wish to thank all of our volunteers, as well as Panagos Pizza for their kind donation to the event.



Photo: Ross Davies

**Fun for all:** The Metro Vancouver mascot (above) was a favourite, as was the salmon hand puppet theatre (below).



Photo: Mike Steftuk

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