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# PARK Partners

The newsletter of the Parks Partnership Program for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks • Fall 2009 • Vol. 10 No. 3

## Park Partners Networking Event gets people talking

Partners from across the region got a chance to swap stories, suggest ideas and ask questions on the subject of regional parks and volunteers during the first Park Partners networking event, held on Sept. 23.

The evening featured a few words from Ed Andrusiak, manager of regional parks; Bruce Drake, Parks Committee member and Bob Gunn of the Regional Parks Forum.

Then partners got a chance during a networking break to do some schmoozing, talk about stewardship and education in parks, find out more about what the Pacific Parklands Foundation is doing this year and catch up with *Catching the Spirit*.

After that, it was time to find out about some of the things that various park associations and partners are up to. Colony Farm Park Association chair Elaine Golds talked about their great heron counts, Pacific Spirit Park Society rep Brian Woodcock told about some of the fun and innovative education programs that volunteers have taken on. Malcolm Weatherston of the Mountain View Conservation and Breeding Centre spoke of the programs that the non-profit organization is involved with.

The evening wrapped up with a Q&A panel with park managers. Door prizes were given away and a fun evening was had by all. ☺



**Lots to talk about:** Ed Andrusiak (above) Bob Gunn (right) share some info at the event's start; Councillor Bruce Drake and East Area Community Development Coordinator Theresa Harding chat during the networking break. (top right)

## Parksfest 2009

**Saturday, November 7**  
**BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby**

Mark your calendars now and be sure to attend Parksfest 2009. There will be great keynote speakers (Harry Parsons and Dr. Faisal Moola), interesting workshops, networking, camaraderie, great door prizes and more!

*For details, check the enclosed brochure  
or go to [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca)*

# Workshops being planned for Stewardship and Education streams

The Regional Parks Forum is undergoing some changes to update its activities and remain relevant and useful. As part of that revitalization, the idea of activity “streams” were introduced as a way of getting partners and volunteers involved in areas that park partners had identified as important to them.

## Stewardship Stream

The Stewardship Stream kicked off the year with a wildlife tree stewardship workshop led by Jeanne Hughes of the Wildlife Tree Stewardship program at Burnaby Lake Regional Park, soon followed by two others – at Campbell Valley and Deas Island regional parks. All were well attended and new wildlife tree stewards got to work identifying and cataloguing wildlife trees.

The stewardship stream also help facilitate two wildlife tracking workshops, led by Roger Bean, the first at Boundary Bay Regional Park and a second at Brae Island Regional Park. Both filled quickly and participants had amazing days. (A third wildlife tracking workshop is scheduled for Oct. 31 at Minnehada Regional Park. For more details, go to [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca))

One other workshop on community stewardship was held at Boundary Bay Regional Park and was led by Andrew Appleton of Evergreen. It’s hoped that the interest generated in Tsawwassen may lead to a sustained stewardship effort in the park.

The stewardship stream steering group – 21 park partners from across the region – has met over the months, discussed lots of possibilities and identified three possible workshops to be put on between now and spring. We’ll be working with Metro Vancouver staff and park partners such as the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council, the Native Plant Society of BC and more to bring you workshops on:

- invasive plants best management practices
- tree identification, and
- the basics of biophysical inventory

Keep checking [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca) for details as they become available.



Photo: Linda Mueller

**On the ground learning:** Participants at last spring’s wildlife tracking workshop at Boundary Bay Regional Park had a great time and learned lots.

## Education, Training and Communications Stream

Three workshops were held during the spring and summer. Denise Coutts, executive director of the Pacific Parklands Foundation, led two workshops on successful grant writing, one based out of Campbell Valley Regional Park, the other for the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.

At Burnaby Lake Regional Park, Stephen Suddes led a workshop on the basics of creating a podcast. (Metro Vancouver has three podcasts available through the Metro Vancouver website at [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)).

The stream steering group including 12 park partners has also met and discussed options for upcoming workshops. Again, we’ll be working with Metro Vancouver staff and partners to bring potential workshops on:

- mason bees and the role of pollinators in our parks
  - the art and science of self-guided interpretation
  - Take Another Look (a very successful Pacific Spirit Park Society program)
  - more grant-writing workshops with Denise Coutts.
- Look for details on the Park Partners website. ☞

# A Sparkling New Toy for Connecting People with Astronomy

By Lisa Ferris

Metro Vancouver park interpreters are ‘over the moon’ to receive recognition from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Vancouver Centre (RASC).

Ron Jerome of the RASC said “we

are donating telescopes to various groups to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy and to recognize the efforts of educational groups who do outreach and who have worked with us over the years.” The telescopes are 60mm refractors with a tripod and two eyepieces. They are basic but

useful for showing off the moon, the brighter stars and the close planets, and are great introductory tools. The RASC will be giving telescopes to scout and guide groups, educators and as prizes to attendees at public events. The goal is to encourage more interest in astronomy. ☞

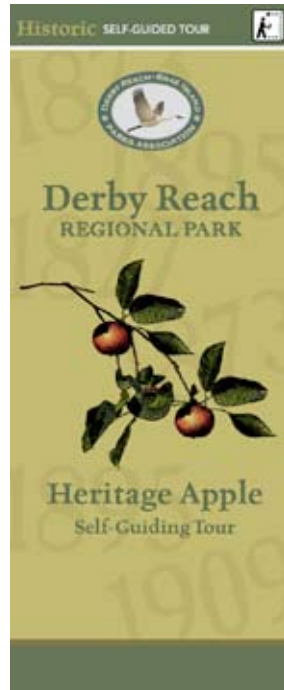


# Derby Reach unveils new apple tour brochure

By Sharon Meneely


October in Derby Reach Regional Park is a splendid season: anglers in waders line the Fraser in pursuit of salmon, children laugh and play in the sand, cyclists cycle, walkers walk and all the while autumn leaves rustle and raptors soar. This is a contemporary snapshot of Derby Reach: a lazy Sunday afternoon of simple and rustic pleasures. Yet the Derby of pastoral splendour is also a significant historic site, with many histories and many tales to tell and no brochures or podcasts to tell them – at least, up until now.

Trees can tell tales, we've discovered! And so, it is with great pleasure that the Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association and its partners Metro Vancouver, the Pacific Parklands Foundation and the Township of Langley are proud to unveil the very first historic self-guiding tour brochure in the parks



system: A heritage apple tour that walks visitors through Derby's three historic orchards and back more than 100 years in time. With text by noted historian KJ Watt, photographs by Larry Meneely and design work by Metro Vancouver staff, the brochure adds a whole new dimension to a walk in the park. And to say we are proud is an understatement!

The Heritage Apple Self-Guiding Tour debuted on Heritage Apple Day, held Oct. 3 at Derby Reach Regional Park. Watch for the brochure in park kiosks, and learn about Roger,

who planted an orchard in the early 1890s and lived in a makeshift shelter under the roots of a large tree after his house burned to the ground in 1895. And keep your eyes open thereafter; podcasts and a self-guiding tour of Derby's historic farms will follow in the months to come.  Sharon Meneely is president of the Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association.

*Editor's note: The new brochure was developed as a potential template for partners across the region.*



## 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 2010 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 years of age or younger and their volunteer service must

be in the Lower Mainland but not necessarily within 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 2010 award must be submitted by April 1, 2010. Send submissions to [denise.coutts@metrovancover.org](mailto:denise.coutts@metrovancover.org) or by mail to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, 4330 Kingsway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8 Attention: Denise Coutts.

# Kids develop an eye for nature at photo workshop

By Bren Simmers

Seen through the lens of a camera, Burnaby Lake Regional Park is “a cool place”, according to 10-year-old Matthew, who participated in a Nature Photography for Kids program held on May 16.

The workshop was led by local photographer Mari Omori, who was inspired to teach a class for kids based on her own experience outdoors. “Nature photography has gotten me to slow down and appreciate nature, and I wanted the kids to connect to nature the same way,” she said.

And connect they did! Right from the beginning, the kids (age 8 to 10) were into it, bending over to take close-ups of flowers and fiddleheads, slugs and mud. After each shot, many ran to Mari to show her what they took and to receive one-on-one coaching. Over the course of two hours, the children’s confidence grew and they started getting creative with the angle of their cameras. Several of the pictures the kids took “made my jaw drop,” said Mari.

One mother commented that she could never get her eight-year-old



**Show and tell:** Instructor Mari Omori shows budding photographers some of the considerations when choosing how to shoot a subject.


daughter to notice things in nature before, but with camera in hand, Katie was intent on observing everything. She couldn’t walk more than 10 feet without stopping to take a picture. Katie wasn’t the only one. Once the kids started observing, they found the opportunities for photos were endless.

This doesn’t surprise Mari. She believes that photography teaches us to be more aware of our surroundings. “I used to just walk through parks and not pay attention to the flowers growing along trails. But ever since I picked up photography again, I began to notice flowers and wildlife. I became curious about the plant or the bird I saw and wanted to know their names.”

Such careful observation can also lead to respect for nature. One participant, Johann, took care to move a slug off the trail so it wouldn’t get

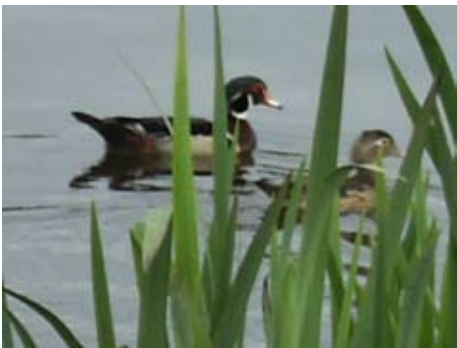
stepped on. He waited until everyone had finished photographing it first!

Nature Photography for Kids is just one of the new arts programs regional parks are offering. Others that took place this summer included Drawing from Life, Wild Scribblers and Nature Scribes.

More courses like these are planned for next year. Stay up to date with the offerings in the Check-It-Out guide for more details. In the meantime, grab a notebook, camera or binoculars and head to nearby park or green space. You’ll be surprised what you find there when you look closely. 

*Bren Simmers is a Metro Vancouver regional parks interpreter.*

## Photo workshop gallery



Wood ducks by Olivia Bell



Piper Spit by Sara Bell



False lily of the valley by Nick Filush



# Pacific Parklands Foundation

**Fall 2009 News**

## New viewing tower rises over Burnaby Lake

Special guests including local politicians, donors, guest speakers, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee members and staff, Pacific Parklands Foundation board members, local schoolchildren and Ronald McDonald came together May 21 to officially open the newly-constructed viewing tower in Burnaby Lake Regional Park.

Frieda Schade of Metro Vancouver emceed the event and Councillor Colleen Jordan (acting Mayor) brought greetings from the City of Burnaby.

Gayle Martin, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee chair, welcomed everyone and provided a brief history of the original tower – built through the dedication and hard work of an industrial arts class at Burnaby Central High School, led by their teacher, Aril Dalsvaag. She noted that what was then called the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association sponsored a local initiatives project, employing students who helped to construct the tower.

Almost 35 years old, the original tower was removed from the site last year. It is rumoured that materials used to build the tower back in 1975 cost \$200; some three and a half decades later, the new tower cost almost \$600,000. Like its predecessor, the new tower is a shared project between Metro Vancouver and its partners.

Pacific Parklands President David Pohl noted that the new tower, accessible to all, is a great asset and will be well used by the many visitors to the park including schoolchildren who come to learn more about nature and environmental issues. He recognized



and thanked the many donors who helped make the new tower possible. He also said that the new tower would continue to support outdoor education and public enjoyment of the park's natural beauty and wildlife. From atop the new tower you experience the calm waters of the lake, the surrounding marsh and forest. You also hear the sounds of birds, see a beaver lodge and can spot other wildlife that makes Burnaby Lake such a special place.

Guest speaker Daniel Wesley (retired five-time paralympian 1992 – 2002), provided highlights of his life leading up to his last Paralympic Games where he won four gold, five silver and three bronze medals for Canada. "The new viewing tower provides accessibility for all," Wesley said. "It is clear that Metro Vancouver is committed to ensuring all visitors are able to experience the natural environment of regional parks."

The official ceremony concluded following the unveiling of the donor plaque and cutting of the ceremonial cake.



### Thanks to our donors and partners

- CH2M Hill
- Burnaby Deer Lake Rotary Club
- Burnaby Metrotown Rotary Club
- Kinder Morgan Canada
- Impark
- McDonalds Restaurants – Burnaby
- McDonalds McHappy Day
- Metro Vancouver
- Mitchell Installations Ltd.
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Rotary Club of Burnaby
- Visitors to Burnaby Lake Regional Park

# Nominations wanted for Dr. Mordehai Wosk Leadership Awards

If you are a student or individual who has made a significant difference in the Metro Vancouver regional parks system, we want to hear from you. The Pacific Parklands Foundation recently established a fund for the development of youth leadership. The objective of the fund is to reward students and individuals who have demonstrated a sense of responsibility for park preservation and environmental care.

Applicants will be trained in ecological issues and environmental preservation as well as possess the leadership, organizational and communication skills necessary to make a profound difference. The impact of their work will be felt by all as they grow to become the leaders of the future. Outstanding and consistent concern for the improvement of the environment could make you eligible for a Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership award or scholarship.

*"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

## Who is eligible to apply?

Dr. M. Wosk awards and scholarships are open to students and individuals in the Metro Vancouver regional parks area who have

- demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities as a teacher, counsellor, advisor, youth leader (student council, scouts, girl guides, cadets, etc.), volunteer, supervisor or peer leader with the Catching the Spirit Youth Environmental Stewardship program; or started up an environmental club, camp, work team, etc.
- demonstrated a passion for the environment through involvement with clubs, programs, activities, etc., in regional parks and
- volunteered within the environmental framework by setting up or assisting with environmental stewardship activities in regional parks.

Having a concern for the environment and doing good for 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.

## Award and scholarship value up to \$1,000 each

The Selection Committee will review all nominations and applications and will determine the number of recipients and the value of each of the awards. The award values will range from \$250 to \$1,000 each.



**Leading by example:** Dr. Mordehai Wosk presents a leadership award to Sarah Beirsto (grade 6 teacher at Maple Lane Elementary School in Richmond) at the March 2009 PPF Annual General Meeting.

## Need an application?

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



**Pacific Parklands  
FOUNDATION**

### Completed forms

All completed forms and supporting documents should be sent by mail to:  
Pacific Parklands Foundation  
Attn: Environmental Leadership Selection Committee  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4330 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8

Applications and nominations for the 2009 Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Awards must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2009. No late submissions will be considered.



# Langley Bog inspires works of artists

Nestled in Derby Reach Regional Park, the Langley Bog is typically not open to the public because of a current lack of facilities and existing hazards. With special permission from Metro Vancouver, three local artists were able to explore and draw inspiration for artwork from this unique site and display it in a show entitled *Bog: Transformation and Memory* from Aug. 19 to Sept. 6.

On Friday, Aug. 21, nearly 100 local residents and other guests joined artists Doris H. Auxier, Suzanne Northcott and Jeff Warren at the Fort Gallery for an extraordinary display of their artwork. Many attendees were unaware that a bog existed in their community and everyone was reminded of the important essential natural services that wetlands provide.

Artist Doris Auxier noted that “the sense of community involvement has been remarkable for an art show of this kind. The times I have been in the gallery, we had a



**Park interpretation:** Local artists Doris H. Auxier (in black), Suzanne Northcott (centre) and Jeff Warren (with baby) at the opening of *Bog: Transformation and Memory*.

steady stream of people who were drawn in because of the publicity and their interest or involvement in the Langley Bog. People seemed to like looking and hearing about the artistic responses to the bog.”

## Partners work to restore Langley Bog through stewardship project

The Langley Bog is a rare and distinct ecosystem and an ongoing project is underway to see intact bog protected, and many hectares of bog that were mined for peat in the 1950s and '60s restored over the next decade or so. The project team, consisting of representatives from Metro Vancouver; Trinity Western and Fraser Valley universities; and a wide variety of local park, environmental and other related organizations and associations, is dedicated to bringing health to the Langley Bog and to restoring and maintaining its unique ecological value.

The Pacific Parklands Foundation needs your help to continue with this very important environmental project. Your contribution and support can make a difference. If you wish to support the Langley Bog Stewardship Project, we will find the way that works best for you, from cash or in-kind donations to endowment funds or other methods of giving. You can gain tax benefits as well as the opportunity to help ensure that this project is successful for future generations. To those donors who are already helping us, our grateful thanks. To those considering supporting this project to the next level, please feel free to contact Denise Coutts at [denise.coutts@metrovancouver.org](mailto:denise.coutts@metrovancouver.org) or 604-451-6168.



**Taking stock:** Trinity Western University students survey part of Langley Bog.

### Thank you to our donors and partners

- Anglo Canadian Shipping Co.
- Chippendale Foundation
- Evergreen Foundation
- Scott Construction Group
- The Martini Family
- The Township of Langley
- Vancity Community Fund
- Unilever Canada Inc.
- Trinity Western University
- Derby Reach/ Brae Island Park Assn.
- Langley Environmental Partners Society
- Pryke Lambert Leathley Russell LLP
- Metro Vancouver
- Bryan Wallner
- David Pohl
- Ed Andrusiak
- Laura Swift
- Richard Hankin
- Terry Wilshire
- Dr. Mordehai Wosk
- Adam Snow



Vancity's Susan Lund and Susan Long receive a certificate of appreciation from Bob Gunn and peer leader Adam Heffey.

# Wrap up barbeque celebrates Catching the Spirit successes



A wrap up barbeque was held on Aug. 26 to thank the many people involved in the Catching the Spirit summer program. More than 150 people came to the event including youth, peer leaders and supervisors, parents, many parks staff and special guests. There was much to celebrate as this year's program had close to 300 participants filling nearly 90 percent of the Spirit Steward camp's capacity this summer.

The event was emceed by Adam Heffey, a Tynehead peer leader and program participant for the last four years. The evening started with games hosted by the many youth participants, peer leaders and supervisors who came out. Burgers and hot dogs were on the menu (veggie and meat) as well as salads, chips, juice and cake.

Councillor Gayle Martin, chair of Parks Committee, offered words of thanks, followed by Pacific Parklands Foundation President David Pohl, Catching the Spirit Youth Society Chair Bob Gunn and Program Coordinator Natalie Haltrich.

Scholarships were given out to two peer leaders per park (one \$500 and one \$200) for outstanding dedication, effort and leadership to the program. The recipients were:

- Burnaby Lake: Sarah Mohr, Jenna Barmi
- Capilano River: Brehnen Rowell, Angelica Guevara
- Pacific Spirit: Ivy Wan, Matthew Kwan aka B-Fly
- Tynehead: Laurel Huget, Adam Heffey

Paddles painted by the youth (a project initiated by Burnaby Lake Supervisor Claire Truesdale) were also handed out as a token of thanks from the society to Metro Vancouver and the Pacific Parklands Foundation.

The evening ended with a presentation by each park, some comedy, singing, and storytelling. Catching the Spirit is all about the youth, and the wrap-up barbeque showcased it all.



Councillor Gayle Martin and PPF President David Pohl cut the cake with scholarship winners (L to R) Isabelle Guevara, Ivy Wan, Adam Heffey, Sarah Mohr and Jenna Barmi.

## Thank you to our donors

- Burnaby Deer Lake Rotary Club
- Coast Capital Savings
- RBC Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Vancity Community Fund
- Metro Vancouver



## The Photographer's Eye with Mike Stefiuk



### Columbia black-tailed deer roam our regional parks

**B**lack-tailed and mule deer are both members of the same species, *Odocoileus hemionus*, yet they are very different from one another.

When ice covered BC 18,000 years ago, deer stayed within the southern refugium in the United States. As the ice sheets retreated 15,000 to 10,000 years ago, the Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus ssp. columbianus*) spread northward from Washington State to Vancouver Island and along the coast to southeast Alaska. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus ssp. hemionus*) moved north into the interior.

Blacktails are smaller than mule deer and slightly darker in color, with a small white rump patch and a tail that is dark brown or black for most of its length, rather than just at the tip (as in mule deer). Adult males in good condition weigh about 48 to 90 kg, females 40 to 65 kg.



**All in the family:** A buck (top left), a doe (top right) and a fawn (above) were all seen in Metro Vancouver regional parks this summer.

Common in our parks and rural neighbourhoods, black-tailed deer can seem placid and entertaining but these are wild animals and can react when they feel threatened. Most will keep to secluded areas, while others will visit residential areas where they help themselves to garden plants.

In natural habitat, black-tailed deer

eat a variety of plants, from grasses to the leaves of shrubs and trees to the lichens that grow on trees.

This year, there seems to be an abundant population throughout the Lower Mainland. These photos were taken in Minnehada, Grant Narrows and Kanaka Creek regional parks. 📷

~ Mike Stefiuk



# Catching the Spirit rocks the summer

By Natalie Haltrich

Well, you did it. You made it through the summer's heat, the many ivy pulls and the Friday night pastas. You got dirty, got wet, got tired and made friends. You built fences, painted wings, made stepping-stones and took pictures. Some of you used drills for the first time. Others zipped tent zippers for the thousandth time. To all of you, kudos.

I wasn't sure what to write about for this edition of the Park Partners newsletter. So many options really. After all, we did just finish a rather fantastic summer that spanned four regional parks.

I could write about the Bottled-Water Awareness Project with Toxic Free Canada that visited each of our camps this summer. Or about the across-camp Zero-Waste Challenge. I could even throw the ever famous Capilano River Zero-Food-Waste Challenge in there somewhere (where a slop bucket of any left-over food is carried throughout the weekend for an unlucky participant to chow down on at the end of camp – a joke really to keep helpings small but return trips to the kitchen plenty in efforts to minimize food waste), or a tidbit on how one of our fantastic Pacific Spirit supervisors bikes all the food into camp for 20 people and five meals each weekend from the grocery store.

I could also throw numbers out there like the four cubic metres of Scotch broom that was removed from Iona Beach or the 50+ lovely Colony Farm

birch trees that were protected from teething beavers. I could chat about the lightning entertained everyone to under oohing and seconds ka-bang. Or games of and the Burnaby Lake evening chill- outs on Piper Spit.

Like I said, so many options really. But all seemed too insular, too partial, too "not just right". And then it came to me. *The youth*. It is all about them after all. What really needs to be written here is a thank you, a great big fat thank you, to the 300 individual participants, peer leaders and supervisors who dedicated near 10,000 volunteer hours at Burnaby Lake, Capilano River, Pacific Spirit and Tynehead Parks this summer. You are truly fantastic. Thank you.

Weekend after weekend for eight straight, these inspiring (and I don't use the word lightly) youth came together, decked out in red, to work in, maintain and beautify our parks. Some returned weekend after weekend. Others popped in for a quick visit. Either way, we are grateful. And we extend that gratefulness to the



**Team work:** Catching the Spirit volunteers put in long hours and accomplished a lot, but still found time for fun and games.

many park partners, operators and staff who assisted in a plethora of ways to help make this summer one of our best. Thank you.

To all the red "Ts" out there, we've just about come full circle for this time around. You've taught us plenty, strengthened the foundation of the program even more, and let us know what we can do even better for our next go around. We hope to see you again in 2010, if not before. Again, kudos for all your time, energy and dedication to Catching the Spirit.

## New for Catching the Spirit

And it doesn't end there. An event per month and the revival of our Youth Council is what we have in store for fall and winter. We hope to keep the spark lit throughout the darker months so these fantastic youth can continue to take the bull by its horns and lead the way. Whether you have participated before or are intrigued for the first time, you are more than welcome to join. Just email for details, [info@catchingthespirit.com](mailto:info@catchingthespirit.com), or call us at 604.562.0583. There is just one catch however; you need to be between 12 and 18! ☘  
*Natalie Haltrich is the coordinator for Catching the Spirit.*



# Minnehada hosts Art in the Park Festival

Story and photos by Jeremy Plotkin

The First Annual Art in the Park Festival took place Aug. 22 and 23 at Minnehada Regional Park in Coquitlam. For two full days, 28 artists displayed and sold their art work in Minnehada Lodge, and on the grounds surrounding the lodge. Artists included stone carvers, wood carvers, photographers and painters. This was all complimented by an excellent jazz band that played on the lawn outside the lodge, and a harpist who played indoors. We also had a roving magician, a storyteller, a children's area complete with craft-making and face painting, an outdoor barbeque and guided nature walks through the forest.

For the first year of this event, it was a great success. On Saturday, we had 241 participants (not including any staff, volunteers, artists or musicians) and on Sunday there were 388 participants, for a total of 629 participants! Considering how far away Minnehada is, and that parking was a concern, we had a great turn out! Volunteers were instrumental in the success of Art in the Park. The Minnehada Park Association put in over 175 volunteer hours in planning meetings, staffing the barbeque, soliciting grants and donations, and booking and driving the shuttle bus for two days. Other volunteers put in over 50 hours to help make this event a success.

The feedback from the public has been great. I received more than 150 surveys with comments like:

*"Great day. A++. The whole atmosphere was very relaxing with a jazz group playing outside and harp inside. The quality of the artwork was excellent"~ Randy Hawryzk*

*"I really like that this event was held at this venue. I've lived here (Port Coquitlam) 12 years and had never seen the lodge before today. Excellent!" ~ Karyn McLaurin*

*"Wonderful art, music and park! It must happen again!!!" ~ Lynn Sarna*

*"The venue is fantastic – glad it didn't rain. Some very beautiful artwork. I loved walking along the trail. Nice music!!"~ Melissa Boyes*

*"Thank you!! This was a fabulous event! We were so impressed and had such a lovely afternoon here with our children! Enjoyed the art, music and children's activities. We like to support and see local artists display their work."~ Heather Gretton*

Already, many of the artists and participants have



**Something for everyone:** A harpist serenades visitors inside the lodge (above); volunteers provide food (and drink) for thought (right) and art lovers pursue the artistic offerings on the grounds of historic Minnehada Lodge (below right).



expressed interest in participating in this event next year. I look forward to helping organize it again in 2010! ☺

# Experience the Fraser project gets underway



Photo: Mike Stefiuk

**First hand experience:** Participants from the Salmon Enhancement Program's Community Workshop 2009 held in May in Maple Ridge get some up-close and personal time with a hidden channel of the Fraser.

Earlier this year, the BC government announced that it would provide \$1.25 million apiece to Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District to begin development of a system of inter-regional trails, river-based infrastructure and heritage features through the Lower Fraser River corridor.

Since then, all parties have begun putting together the initial pieces, sorting out responsibilities, consulting with First Nations and doing preliminary research.

The provincial government, Metro Vancouver, FVRD and Trails BC will partner with communities and First Nations to establish trail routes and utilize the natural heritage and infrastructure to develop integrated land and water-based recreation and cultural heritage opportunities along the Lower Fraser River to facilitate tourism and active, healthy living.

"Metro Vancouver looks forward to working cooperatively with our neighbours in the Fraser Valley, the government of BC and others in this exciting project. Enhancing the regional parks, trails and greenways system provides even more opportunities for citizens to enjoy the outdoors and access the Fraser River, one of our province's most enduring symbols and a thread that ties together many of our communities," noted Metro Vancouver Parks Committee Chair Gayle Martin.

With the goal of showcasing the Lower Fraser River as a world-class recreation, heritage and cultural tourism destination, the project will focus on the following themes:

- outdoor recreation
- First Nations, heritage and culture
- environment and nature
- industry and transportation on the river
- riverfront communities
- celebration

Experience the Fraser will also celebrate the Lower Fraser River wildlife, communities, people and their stories through cultural events, festivals, theatre and the arts.

Watch for more information on Experience the Fraser in the winter issue. ☞

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

Publication Agreement 41397555

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Summer 2010	Jun. 1	Jul. 1

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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)

