
PARK Partners

The newsletter of the Parks Partnership Program for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks • Spring 2010 • Vol. 11 No. 2

Catching the Spirit revs up for summer

By Natalie Haltrich

Catching the Spirit's summer program is on the spring breeze! And with that breeze comes memories of years past and excitement of the new season ahead. I can feel last year's Catching the Spirit tent overhead and taste Coleman's tasty cooked chow. Now all that's needed is this year's new Catching the Spirit team to help make it all feel fresh again!

Just to fill you in, Catching the Spirit is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing leadership and social responsibility in youth through environmental awareness and stewardship, outdoor recreation and youth ownership. Like in 2009, Catching the Spirit will be at Burnaby Lake (Burnaby), Capilano River (North Vancouver), Pacific Spirit (Vancouver) and Tynehead (Surrey) regional parks this summer. Like last year, we'll get a great leadership team together and run leadership training throughout May and June. And like last year we'll rally the energy to recruit a great group of participants. Together we'll steward various environmental stewardship projects, explore park trails and streambanks, create new activities for the program and make new friends. We'll participate in the over-



Look, over there! Participants from Burnaby Lake Spirit Steward camp point at some Catching the Spirit excitement to come!

night Spirit Steward camps and camp with friends, take ownership of the afternoon Spirit Ranger program and put forward new environmental initiatives. We'll continue to build on collaboration and partnership and on our zero-waste challenges.

But this year we'll do it all with a bit of a new twist. We'll do it all while keeping in mind that we are celebrating 10 years of youth leadership! We'll celebrate the newly revived Youth Council and all that they are doing for this upcoming season and, more than ever, will encourage

our "For youth, by youth" mantra of youth ownership. What do you want to do this summer? After all, this program is yours. You can help make it happen!

Register now for Catching the Spirit's great summer program!

We're thinking about the summer ahead and about how YOU might like to be involved. We're looking for participants, peer leaders and supervisors. Summer recruitment is here and we would love you to help us celebrate our 10th anniversary.

continued on page 2

Weedbusters looking for helping hands at Burnaby Lake Regional Park

By Ann Green

Come and be a Weedbuster and help remove invasive, non-native plant species such as English ivy, Scotch broom and policeman's helmet that have replaced native plant species from Burnaby Lake Regional Park. The work parties are fun but can be physically demanding so a basic level of fitness and agility are necessary. If you are interested in bringing a group or you want more information, please call 604-432-6359 or e-mail the Burnaby Lake Park Association at bbylakeparkassn@hotmail.com.

Otherwise, meet us 15 minutes prior to the event start.

Weedbuster events are scheduled for the following dates at Burnaby Lake.

- Sun., Apr. 25, 1 – 4 p.m., meet at Glencairn Parking Lot
- Sun., May 30, 1 – 4 p.m., meet at Glencairn Parking Lot
- Tues., Jun. 1, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., meet at Nature House
- Tues., Jun. 15, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., meet at Nature House
- Sun. Jun. 20, 1 – 4 p.m. meet at Avalon Parking Lot
- Sun., July 4, 1 – 4 p.m., meet at Avalon Parking Lot
- Tues., Jul. 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., meet at Avalon Parking Lot
- Tues., Jul. 27, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., meet at Nature House



Catching the Spirit, cont. from page 1

Participants! If you are between 12 and 18 years old and would like to participate in Catching the Spirit, the time to register is now. We need your energy to fuel the summer season!

And if you are between 15 and 18 and would like to challenge yourself at leading your peers in the delivery of Catching the Spirit, we are in the midst of putting together a great leadership team and need you to apply to become a peer leader by April 26th. The rewards are many! But what's that I hear? You're not quite under 19 but still youthful in energy and spirit? It's your lucky day. We're also looking for program supervisors to mentor and support a great group of tomorrow's leaders. We'll be recruiting supervisors until Apr. 8 and look forward to receiving your cover letter and resume. Call, email or check out our great website for more information.

Welcome to Catching the Spirit!
604.562.0583
info@catchingthespirit.com
www.catchingthespirit.com

Funding for the Catching the Spirit program is provided by Pacific Parklands Foundation and is made possible thanks to the generosity of Metro Vancouver and our many donors:

\$25,000

RBC Foundation

\$10,000 to \$10,500

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Vancity Community Project Grant
Coast Capital Savings

\$500 to \$5000

Shell Canada Limited
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Coast Capital Savings Foundation
Rotary Club of Burnaby-Deer Lake

In-Kind

Loewen Stronach & Co.

We are thankful for the support and commitment from all our donors, and are especially grateful to be able to deliver Catching the Spirit to all youth once again this year free of charge. To learn more about how you can support Catching the Spirit, please visit the Pacific Parklands Foundation at: www.pacificparklands.ca



**Pacific Parklands
FOUNDATION**

Pacific Parklands Foundation

Spring 2010 News

Growing legacies: our first decade

By David Pohl

Ten years ago, some heartfelt conversation among concerned individuals led to the establishment of the Pacific Parklands Foundation: a group of volunteers passionate about protecting our greenspace for future generations, enriching the communities we live in and encouraging philanthropy to those ends.

Our tenth anniversary has provided us with a unique opportunity to honour the outstanding vision, determination and hard work that has brought us to this point, and to look ahead to how we will fulfill our vision over the coming decade and beyond.

We have come far and will go further, building on our existing strengths. One of the most important of those is recognizing that we can multiply benefits by working with partners, whether they are individual volunteers ripping out invasive species or corporate sponsors funding large projects.

That's why we're so excited about



Pacific Parklands
FOUNDATION

our recently reached funding agreement with the David Suzuki Foundation to complete a natural capital review of the Metro Vancouver area, followed by a public engagement strategy to share the findings so people understand what natural treasures they have in their midst, and what risks those treasures face from human activity.

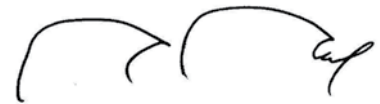
We're concentrating on maintaining and improving relationships with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, the Parks Committee and staff, our partner volunteer groups and the young people who will both carry on our vision and benefit from it in years to come.

Although 2009's economy presented some challenges, we believe we are well positioned for a strong future with expanded office space and resources and a highly committed board of directors.

Pacific Parklands Foundation has



shown how much can be accomplished in a decade. In fact, we'll be celebrating our first 10 years with a special event in the fall of 2010. We invite you to share the celebration and to join us as we move forward. Together we can accomplish great things.



David Pohl, President

2000 to 2010

Celebrating 10 years of protecting greenspace, enriching communities and encouraging philanthropy

A number of events and activities have been planned throughout the year that will increase public awareness of the Pacific Parklands Foundation, its mandate and its 10 year history of raising funds for projects, programs and activities that support the Metro Vancouver regional parks system. These activities will culminate in

a significant anniversary celebration in November that will serve as awareness building, donor and award recipient recognition and an opportunity for friend-raising and fundraising. Details of the events and activities will be announced in the coming weeks.

Sarah Marsh joins the board

President David Pohl announced the appointment of Sarah Marsh to the Pacific Parklands Foundation board following the foundation's directors meeting on Jan. 21.

Sarah Marsh is a senior manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Vancouver Assurance practice, bringing over 10 years of experience in the provision of external and internal audit services, as well as advisory projects. She currently leads a team of 100 people taking responsibility for the communication to staff around people, learning and education, resourcing and profitability.

Sarah holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hon.) from York University, UK and a CA designation from England and Wales with specialization in the areas of external audit, internal audit and operational reviews.

She worked in the UK public sector practice for six years and now continues that specialization in the government and not-for-profit practice in BC. In that capacity, she has served a wide variety of government and not-for-profit organizations.

David Pohl said, "Sarah's extensive professional experience in the not-for-profit area will be invaluable to the foundation as well as her keen interest in community work. She is very enthusiastic about promoting the activities of the Pacific Parklands Foundation and will make an excellent addition to the board of directors in her role as treasurer."

Sarah joins an accomplished and dedicated group of Pacific Parklands Foundation board members.



Sarah Marsh

Pacific Parklands Foundation Board of Directors

Executive

President: David Pohl

Vice President: Bryan Wallner

Secretary: Anastase Maragos

Past President: John Scott

Treasurer: Sarah Marsh

Directors

John Good

Rick Hankin

Ken Hicks

Steve Hnatiuk

Dr. Ed O'Brien

Kevin O'Callaghan

Janice Podmore

Blake Pottinger

Peter Robinson

Donna Rossi

Tamara Taggart

Terry Wilshire (to 11/09)

Dr. Mordehai Wosk

Ex-officio

Ed Andrusiak

Manager, Regional Parks, Metro Vancouver

Mel Kositsky

Councillor, Township of Langley

Denise Coutts, Executive Director

Environmental Leadership Awards presented

Henry Fung, Ivy Wan, Erin Rutherford and Adam Heffey (see photo) received the 2009 Dr. M. Wosk Awards for Environmental Leadership at the Pacific Parklands Foundation Annual General Meeting on Apr. 1 from David Pohl, president.

Henry Fung, a grade 12 student at Richmond Secondary, has been involved with Catching the Spirit since 2005, contributing more than 333 volunteer hours ranging from patrolling the park to removing litter from the trails, to clearing away hazardous obstacles along the paths and restoring habitat.

Ivy Wan, a grade 12 student at R.C. Palmer Secondary in Richmond, earned her school's Top Scholar Award in 2009. For the past 10 years, Ivy has been a dedicated volunteer with the 32nd Richmond Scout Group and is currently their group commissioner and venturer advisor. Ivy volunteered last summer as a peer leader with Catching the Spirit.

Erin Rutherford is attending BCIT where she is completing her Diploma of Technology in Fish, Wildlife and Recreation. Most recently, Erin volunteered for the Stanley Park Ecology Society; this has led Erin to conduct her year-long BCIT applied research project on the bats of Stanley Park.

Adam Heffey, a grade 12 student at Sullivan Heights Secondary in Surrey, has been involved with Catching the



Spirit for the past five years. Adam is a seasoned volunteer at the Tynehead Hatchery and has helped to raise public awareness, worked directly with many species, and inspires others to protect fish and their habitat.

The leadership awards were established by Dr. M. Wosk and his family to encourage youth leadership in environmental areas. A total of \$3,000 was awarded to eight successful candidates. Award winners Lucia Lam, Blair Moro, Melany Roseburg and Claire Truesdale were recognized in absentia.

New trails help visitors explore regional parks in Langley

Two new trails were officially opened in January: the new Tavistock Loop Trail at Brae Island Regional Park and the universally accessible upgrade of the Edge Farm Trail/Trans Canada Trail at Derby Reach Regional Park.

The opening of the new Tavistock Loop Trail at Brae Island Regional Park was a significant milestone, adding to the Fort Camping experience and completing the park's trail system. The Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association jumped right in to support this project and was enthusiastically supported by the Pacific Parklands Foundation who pledged \$50,000 and used these funds to leverage funds with the federal Western Economic Diversification Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program to receive a grant of \$26,500 to complete the trails.

The opening of the new section of upgraded trail at Derby Reach was also a major milestone, completing a universally accessible 2.3 km route from the Heritage Area to Edgewater Bar. The Edge Farm Trail will connect with new sections of the Trans Canada Trail, being constructed through an exciting and unique project with the Province of BC, Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District called Experience the Fraser. Working with the Township of Langley and Trails BC, Metro Vancouver plans to connect the trail to the Golden Ears Bridge and make the entire route accessible.

"The outcome of these projects is an inspiring one," said Gayle Martin, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee chair. "Both trails were built to meet universally accessible standards and both came to fruition thanks to the tremendous support and fundraising efforts of the Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association and the Pacific Parklands Foundation, who raised more than \$90,000 to complete the projects."



Making it official: Coming together for the opening of the new Tavistock Loop Trail at Brae Island Regional Park were (left to right): Bryan Wallner, PPF vice president, Mark Warawa, MP for Langley, Gayle Martin, chair, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee and Sharon Meneely, chair, Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association.

PPF directors carry the torch

The Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics transformed our region into a more magical place than usual for February and March. Many PPF supporters and directors were part of that magic, including two directors who were torchbearers – Anastase Maragos and Tamara Taggart (picture right).

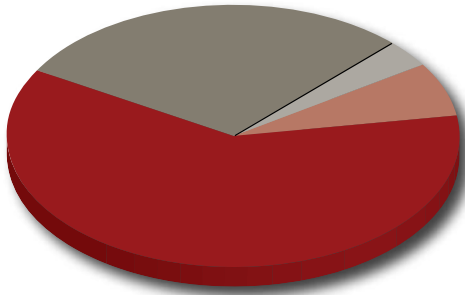
Salute to the Olympics: Pacific Parklands Foundation director Tamara Taggart carries the torch during the run up to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.








2009 Financial Highlights

For the year ending September 30, 2009

Total Revenues: \$337,635



	Designated donations \$97,657
	Government grants \$205,831
	Interest and other \$22,442
	Undesignated donations \$11,555
	Youth fund endowments \$150

Statement of Operation and Changes in Fund Balance

Revenues:	\$337,635
Expenses: Administration	\$165,965
Grants	<u>\$197,788</u>
	(\$26,118)
Fund balance, beginning of year	\$1,475,537
Fund balance, end of year	\$1,449,419

Designated Fund Balances at Year End (September 30, 2009)

General Fund	\$550,832
Capital Fund	\$676,635
Gordon Smith Fund	\$13,602
Mordehai Wosk Fund	\$57,244
Program Fund (<i>Catching the Spirit</i>)	\$57,974
Project Fund	<u>\$93,132</u>
Total	\$1,449,419

Our grateful thanks to friends, donors and partners

Ed Andrusiak	Mike Stefiuk
Backbone Technology	Stephen Suddes
Danny Catt	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Coast Capital Savings	Telus
Coast Capital Savings Foundation	The Land Conservancy of BC
Anne Cochrane	Tree Canada
Denise Coutts	Trees Ontario
David Suzuki Foundation	Ruth Trivell Brownlee
Heidi Goto	Vancity Community Project Grant
Government of Canada	
Dawn Hanna	Fall Parksfest 2008 Donors
Impark	Arabesque Design Ltd.
Tristan Johnson	David Pohl
Martini Family Fund	John Scott, Scott Construction Group
Metro Vancouver	Ducks Unlimited
Metro Vancouver Regional Parks	Carol Dion
Mitchell Installations Ltd.	BC Hot House Foods Inc.
Park Partner Associations	
Tim Pringle	Donation Stations donors
RBC Foundation	
Rotary Club of Burnaby Deer Lake	Charitable No. 88935 3017 RR0001

The power of shared passion



After one year at PPF, I've gained a great appreciation for our regional parks system, as it exists and as it can be for future generations.

I have especially enjoyed connecting with so many others who share our vision. It's exciting to see how we can leverage our volunteer power and passion by working with park partner groups such as the Camosun Boggies, the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society with its plans for a \$3 million Kanaka Creek Watershed Stewardship Centre, the David Suzuki Foundation, the outstanding youth leaders recognized by our awards programs, our own dedicated board, our small but hardworking group of employees (Carol Dion, Maria Ramirez and Victoria Patrick) and others.

Our modest foundation has an ambitious mission as the foundation for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. Now I know that with your help, we can achieve it. Thank you for your continued support of the Pacific Parklands Foundation and all that we can accomplish together.

Denise Coutts, Executive Director

The Photographer's Eye with Mike Stefiuk

Spring has sprung!

Article and photos by Mike Stefiuk

Spring 2010 showed indications of new life early this year with magenta blossoms on salmonberry and new grass shoots pushing up through the ground. Alevins emerged from the gravel redds of last fall's salmon spawn and robins sang at daybreak. As the days lengthen, you have a little more time to stay out and enjoy the greening of the landscape, watch for the return of your favourite migratory birds and observe the multitude of newborn creatures beginning a new life.

I have returned to certain areas every spring, to see the changes from year to year; sometimes those changes are very dramatic and sometimes they're not. I've visited the western trillium for the last three years: each time show their white petals proudly in the sunshine. At other locations, I watch for raptor nesting activity. Wherever I go, I'm always hopeful to see bears, deer, river otters and the other mammals. I'll also check out the little ponds and streams along the trails for their hidden treasures.

Have a great time in your spring-time outings; take home your memories and photos and remember to be safe and respect the parks you enjoy. Stay on the trails.



Signs of spring: (Top) Newly-hatched American robin chicks await grocery delivery service; (right) western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*) in bloom; (bottom right) yellow wood violet (*Viola glabella*) provide a splash of colour in the forest understorey; and (bottom left) salmon alevins begin their journey in the streams of the Lower Mainland.



Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society gets busy for spring



Students at Samuel Robertson watch a tree frog they had released moments before.

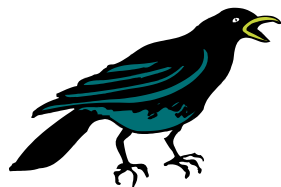
Story and photo by Ross Davies

At Kanaka Creek Regional Park, field trip season is now in full swing, as participating schools with the Salmonids in the Classroom program have begun to release their classroom aquarium reared chum salmon fry. School visits to Bell-Irving Hatchery will continue for the duration of spring.

Elsewhere, Samuel Robertson students are continuing their work in Albion Park, which includes an introduction to conifer identification. Removal of invasive policeman's helmet will begin shortly, at least three weeks ahead of last year's pace.

Overall, 17 programs involving 450 participants took place in March.

Springtime also means that public event season is upon us, and KEEPS again attended the annual Nature Days event at Amsterdam Greenhouses in Pitt Meadows on Mar. 20. Our KEEPS display and Mike Stefiuk's photo collection was accompanied by a Bear Aware presentation that we provided. At the hatchery, roughly half of the approximately 200,000 chum on hand had been ponded as of the end of March, and 180,000 pink salmon fry were released to Kanaka Creek at 240th Street on Mar. 31. The average monthly stream temperature of 6.3 °C means that fry development has been about three weeks ahead of last year.



For the latest updates on activities, news and more on the Regional Parks Partnership Program, check the website at: www.parkpartners.ca

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

Publication Agreement 41397555

Deadlines for future issues:

Issue	Copy Deadline	Mailout
Spring 2010	Mar. 1	Apr. 1
Summer 2010	Jun. 1	Jul. 1
Fall 2010	Sep. 1	Oct. 1

Park Partners is published four times a year by Parks Partnership Program for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. The contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Metro Vancouver.

We welcome your contributions.

To make submissions, contact Dawn Hanna at (604) 831-5069 or parkpartners@telus.net

