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# PARK Partners

The newsletter of the Parks Partnership Program for Metro Vancouver Regional Parks • Summer 2010 • Vol. 11 No. 3

## Camosun Bog buddies teams with kids in unique learning partnership

By Suzanne Stewart-Patterson with Laurence Brown and Susan Ng Chung

Camosun Bog became the site of an innovative learning program this past spring with Bog Buddies, a program that not only uses the bog to teach biology to secondary school students but passes that learning on to a younger generation as well.

Grade 11 students from Prince of Wales Secondary School in Vancouver visited the bog to learn about ecology, plants, mosses, aquatic insects etc. as part of their Biology 11 course. Students conduct species inventories



and examine bog plants in their natural environment. They learn to identify bog laurel (*Andromeda polifolia*), Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*) and sundews (*Drosera* spp.) and learn about the importance of the bog ecosystem

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## Parksfest 2010 coming your way!

### Biodiversity:



Making a World of Difference

Mark November 6 on your calendar for another fabulous Parksfest! We've got great speakers and awesome workshops – in fact we think you'll have a hard time making choices about which to attend.

Morning keynote speaker: Don Gayton, an ecologist who specializes in grassland and dry forest ecosystems and author of books such as *Kokanee* and *Interwoven Wild*, will start the day off with a discussion of how we define biodiversity, what we're trying to save and how we're going to do it.

Then it's off to the first round of workshops that will include a session on *The Mouth that Ate Metro Vancouver: Bullfrogs in our midst*, with conservation biologist Stan Orchard; *Celebrity Wildlife* with biologist and wildlife cam pioneer David Hancock; *Building Better Butterfly Habitat* with entomologist Cris Guppy and *A Bird in the Hand: An introduction to bird banding* with master bander Derek Matthews.

The lunch keynote speaker is Rob Butler, a well-known scientist, professor

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*Camosun Bog, cont. from page 1*

and its role in the ecological health of the region. On weekends, guided by the Pacific Spirit Park Society's own Crazy Boppers, students helped with the bog restoration efforts of the Camosun Bog Restoration Group (CBRG).

Laurence Brown, co-leader of the CBRG, found the program to be an ideal way for students to learn about the natural world. They helped a great deal in the restoration work and took responsibility for one section, which is now called the Prince of Wales area. Laurence says that many of the students had little experience of nature and of working in the outdoors. Coming to the bog was a life-changing experience for some of them as they found they really enjoyed this kind of activity – despite initial misgivings.

The unique feature of this program is that these grade 11 students then teach a group of elementary students about the bog. To demonstrate their learning they became bog tour guides for a group of kids. Their assignment was to translate the bog narrative into a children's story and create learning games to conduct an interpretive tour. The results of this program were imaginative – dramas, children's stories, bog flashcards, board games and songs to describe the species inventory, environmental conditions and history of Camosun Bog.

Benefits are shared by all who are part of this program – teens must learn in order to teach and children enjoy the care and respect from older youth. Students left the program with a deeper appreciation not only of Camosun Bog but also of regional parks and the restoration efforts of the Camosun Bog Restoration Group.

Biology teacher Susan Ng Chung began to take her classes to Camosun Bog nine years ago when her student, Laura Super, asked for a field trip to the Bog. Laura, a Crazy Bogger, had been volunteering there on weekends. Susan was not familiar with the bog at the time, so she invited Laura to be the tour guide for the class. Laura is



**Champions of the bog:** Crazy boppers and bog buddies work together to help restore the unique and delicate ecosystem of Camosun Bog.

now a graduate student in botany and Susan never stopped taking her class. Biology teacher Deenu Haji is pleased to be able to access this outdoor classroom. "This program helps students get motivated and engaged!" Bog restoration, species inventory and now, intergenerational mentorship is an integral part of the Biology 11 program.

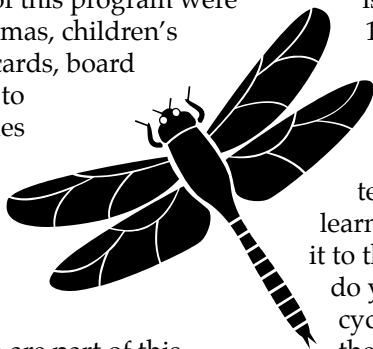
In the end, Susan's reasons for going to the bog are pragmatic: "Students may or may not study for the test, but you can bet they will learn the material in order to teach it to their bog buddy! And how else do you teach the reproductive cycle of bryophytes? Without the bog, this stuff could put the teacher to sleep."

The Camosun Bog Buddies program is a unique partnership between Camosun Bog Restoration Group, Prince of Wales Secondary School and David Lloyd George Elementary School. Congratulations to all involved for their efforts in creating this program and supporting education and stewardship of Camosun Bog and regional parks! A special thank you to Susan Ng Chung, Laura Super and Laurence Brown for their commitment to sharing their passion for nature, and parks and being an inspiration for the region.

For information about the Camosun

Bog Restoration Group, the Crazy Boppers and Camosun Bog restoration, go to [www.camosunbog.org](http://www.camosunbog.org) or the Pacific Spirit Park Society website at [www.pacificspiritparksociety.org](http://www.pacificspiritparksociety.org)

For more information about the Prince of Wales Secondary School Camosun Bog Buddy Program, contact Susan Ng Chung at [scng@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:scng@vsb.bc.ca) or check out the Camosun Blog for students and members of CBRG at [www.camosunblog.blogspot.com](http://www.camosunblog.blogspot.com)



*Parksfest, continued from page 1*

and author, whose talk is about BiodiverCity: Bringing people and nature together.

The afternoon workshops include Bee-odiversity: Making parks and greenspaces more pollinator-friendly with Joe Sadowski, Connecting Youth, Parks and Biodiversity with Natalie Haltrich and youth from Metro Vancouver's Catching the Spirit youth program, Bats, Bugs and Biodiversity in BC with biologist Susan Leech and Engaging Audiences in the Spice of Life with Metro Vancouver's amazing park interpreters.

Watch for details and registration info on the Park Partners website at [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca)



# Burnaby Lake Regional Park gets BioBlitzed!

By Stella Ramey

The United Nations designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. With that in mind and as part of the Nature House season opening, park interpreters helped the public celebrate by hosting a BioBlitz at Burnaby Lake Regional Park on May 16.

It was a great success, with over 300 participants! There were lots of activities for the participants, with pond dipping, bug hunting, guided plant walks, nature journaling workshops and lots more.

Catching the Spirit, the Burnaby Lake Park Association and Wildlife Rescue Association helped host the event, with amazing displays and enthusiastic volunteers. They had even more fun activities for participants, and got the public excited about local ways they could get involved in the park.

Participants loved the Nature House animals: fish, butterfly larvae, the pacific tree frog, and our new addition, "Buddy" the red-eared slider!

As well as public activities, the BioBlitz also had a scientific component. Nineteen volunteer experts from SFU, UBC, the Stanley Park Ecology Society and other organizations attempted to find and count as many species as possible during the event. There were experts looking for birds, fish, lichens, plants, fungi, slime molds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and any other living things. Our scientists have been hard at work identifying all of the species they found during the BioBlitz, and we have finally identified them all. We only looked for species at Burnaby Lake for one day, and we found 397 different species in the park!

Some notable findings included a western screech-owl (a species at risk), brassy minnows in the lake and *Dryopteris filix-mas*, which, despite one of its English names – common fern – had not been recorded in the area before!

It was a great event and was a wonderful introduction for the public about how much biodiversity actually exists in our region.



## Species totals

mammals	9
birds	46
reptiles and amphibians	4
fish	6
invertebrates	27
trees and shrubs	55
herbaceous plants	85
grasses, sedges & rushes	13
ferns, horsetails & clubmosses	10
bryophytes (mosses)	75
lichens	35
fungi and slime molds	32
total	397



**Signs of biodiversity:** Western screech owl (top) and *Dryopteris filix-mas* (above) were two surprise species found during the Burnaby Lake BioBlitz. Buddy the red-eared slider (left) may be cute, but he and his kin are an invasive species found in Burnaby Lake.

# Accomplished teen wins Gordon Smith award

By Elizabeth Birss

**B**lair Moro is the winner of this year's Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award. This is the eighth year that the award has been given to a student who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to environmental conservation and stewardship of the region.

Blair's list of accomplishments is long and includes over 900 hours of volunteer service at the Tynehead Hatchery. Over the past nine years he has participated in all aspects of hatchery work including capturing brood stock, caring for fish, giving hatchery tours and taking part in fish releases and events.

Blair was also a peer leader with the Catching the Spirit youth program in 2009 and will return again for the summer of 2010. For three years before becoming a peer leader, he both participated in and led many stewardship activities including invasive plant removal, planting native plants, trail building, decommissioning illegal trails and teaching others about no trace camping.

Always on the honour role, Blair is a Grade 12 student at North Surrey Secondary. According to the school vice principal, he has demonstrated a history of service to his school and community, and "is a leader of great integrity and compassion".

Active with the scouting program for 12 years, Blair has received his



The proud recipient of the 2010 Gordon Smith Award, Blair Moro (centre) is joined by (left to right) Metro Vancouver's Frieda Schade, Blair's father Greg, sister Marlissa, mother Marnie and Denise Coutts of the Pacific Parklands Foundation.

Queen's Venturer Award and continues to volunteer 10 to 15 hours a month with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

And the kudos don't stop there! Blair has also been the recipient of bronze, silver, and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, an international program that "challenges young people to reach for their best".

One item of particular pride to Blair and his family is that Blair was one of two young Canadians selected to represent Canada at the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, last fall. He travelled with 48 veterans and elected officials and spoke at numerous services and memorials as an ambassador of Canadian youth.

What's next? Embracing his passion

for acting and the stage, he will be attending University of Victoria in the fall, pursuing a degree in theatre.

The Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award was created to honour Gordon Smith, a former park planner and champion for the environment, who loved involving children and youth in his projects. Runners up for the 2010 award include Allison Tai, Edward Ngai and Amy Tan. The Pacific Parkland Foundation administers the fund and welcomes donations (which can be made at [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca)). Start thinking about next year – applications for 2011 are available now!

## Catch a falling star in Abbotsford

**M**ake it a summer to remember with a night spent watching meteors fall at Aldergrove Lake Regional Park. On Aug. 11, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Vancouver Centre chapter and Metro Vancouver to take in the Perseid meteor shower. This annual celestial event is expected to peak between 2 and 4 a.m. when you may see up to 50 meteors per hour. Take a guided constellation walk, and hear tales of the mythic Greek hero Perseus.

Participants must arrive before 11 p.m., but can leave at any time. Bring a flashlight, tent, warm clothing, snacks and blanket to help you enjoy the celestial show above. Entrance is \$2/person (including HST). Meet at the Aldergrove Bowl entrance to the park on Lefeuvre Road in Abbotsford. For more information, call (604) 530-4983.





# Wildlife Reserve at Boundary Bay Regional Park dedicated to Dr. Bert Brink

By Suzanne Stewart-Patterson

In June, at a small gathering of family and friends, Metro Vancouver recognized the late Dr. Vernon Cuthbert (Bert) Brink's remarkable contribution to regional parks, by naming a wildlife reserve in his honour. Dr. Brink's contributions as a volunteer and conservationist span 47 years, and he was highly influential in the long-term planning and strategic land acquisitions taken by Metro Vancouver (GVRD) to assemble the regional parks system.

Dr. Brink, who passed away Nov. 29, 2007 at the age of 95 years, was a recipient of the Order of BC (1990), Order of Canada (1990), the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), Lieutenant-Governor's Conservation Award (2007), Douglas H. Pimlot Conservation Award, Canada Nature Federation (1982), J.B. Harkin Medal for Conservation (1992), the UBC Distinguished Alumni Award (awarded posthumously in 2008) and many more.

Bert's direct contributions to Metro Vancouver laid the foundation for one of North America's best regional park systems. From the early 1960s until 2007, Bert was active as an advisor to regional parks, and advised many levels of government and non-profit organizations on the importance of protecting sensitive habitat for not only conservation and education, but also for responsible outdoor recreation.

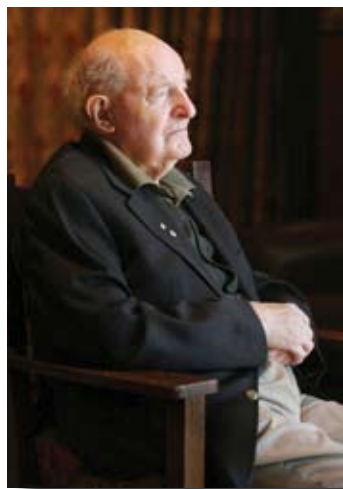
Over the 47 years of Bert's involvement in regional parks, his list of contributions is impressive. Of the 13,350 hectares (33,000 acres) of parkland that Metro Vancouver has acquired, Bert was either directly involved or quietly supporting the acquisitions. Some of the regional parks where

**Park Partners • Summer 2010**



**Sign of respect:** Helping to unveil one of the two signs that marks the Dr. Brink Wildlife Reserve are (left to right) Hudson Stewart and Kane Stewart (grandsons of Dr. Brink), Ross and Aubin Stewart (Dr. Brink's son-in-law and daughter, respectively) and Delta Councillor Scott Hamilton, representing the Metro Vancouver Parks Committee.

Bert was directly involved include Minnehada, Campbell Valley, Kanaka Creek, Pacific Spirit, Burns Bog, and the protection and acquisition of the former Spetifore Lands that now form part of Boundary Bay Regional Park.



Dr. Bert Brink

Metro Vancouver chose Boundary Bay Regional Park to honour and recognize Bert's contribution because the land base represents many significant park values that Bert stood for. He was not the only person who advocated for the purchase and protection of these important lands, but he often spoke about the overall importance of Boundary Bay to the region and its international importance as part of the Pacific Flyway.

Bert was soft spoken, but when he spoke people listened. Bert's passion for wildlife and habitat protection,

education and support for appropriate outdoor recreation was a constant reminder that we must find solutions that make sense for a wide range of interests, not just single interests.

We recognize Dr Brink's remarkable long-time service to regional parks. The Dr. Brink Wildlife Reserve is truly reflective of Bert's contribution to regional parks. It protects important habitat as part of the greater Boundary Bay area, and provides outdoor recreation opportunities for birding enthusiasts who, from a distance, can observe amazing raptor and songbird activity. The long-term educational opportunities will be enhanced as regional parks have made a commitment to manage the old fields to ensure raptor habitat is maintained.

At Centennial Beach, commemorative signs have been placed at both ends of the Savannah Trail. (Both the Savannah Trail and the Raptor Trail allow for viewing of the wildlife reserve. Note that the reserve is home to many wildlife species, and is itself not accessible to the public.

# Wildlife camps connect kids with nature at Burnaby Lake

By Krystal Brennan

The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC is running summer camps that aim to reconnect children with nature and encourage a new generation of environmental stewards. These camps give children the opportunity to learn about Lower Mainland wildlife by exploring the wilds of Burnaby Lake through a bird's, bug's or beaver's eye view! The camps include mammal tracking, wildlife scavenger hunts, nature journaling, pond dipping and even learning how to bring out the birds, among many other fun games and activities. Information about urban wildlife will also be covered, where campers will learn how to safely co-exist with animals around the home and what to do if they come across an injured or orphaned wild animal.

The summer nature camps have individual theme days running Tuesdays (six to eight year olds) and Thursdays (nine to 12 year olds) in July and August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Themes include: A Day in the Life of a Wildlife Rescuer, Habitat Habits, It's for the Birds, Mammal Madness,



**Biologists in training:** Kids taking part in a Wildlife Rescue Association summer camp learn to see a familiar place from a different perspective.

Going Buggy, Watery Wonders, Plant Paradise and WILD Recycling.

At the end of each day, participants will know that they are making a real difference when they bring home a craft such as a bird feeder, bird house, bee box or other item that helps our wild friends.

Through these camps, WRA is encouraging children to look closer at nature, hopefully inspiring individuals to care for our parks and the plants and animals within them. For more information about our programs, please visit [www.wildliferescue.ca](http://www.wildliferescue.ca) or call (604) 526-2747.

## Heritage Day at Boundary Bay a success

By Geoff Hacker

Heritage Day at Cammidge House took place this year on Feb. 21, a perfect morning with sunny, blue skies. This year's theme was History of Sport. Everything was ready with cookies and pastries on the plates, coffee brewing, tea steeping, a photo display in place, classic cars and tractors on the lawn, ladies and gents dressed in their period costumes and our artist set up and was ready to paint.

The first visitors stepped through the front door just before our 1 p.m. start; by the 4 p.m. ending, 92 people had visited Cammidge House. After looking over the house and exhibits, they were served refreshments in the downstairs living room. *Geoff Hacker is the event coordinator and chair of Cammidge House Committee/Boundary Bay Regional Park Volunteers.*



**A nice cuppa:** Volunteers Ursula Easterbrook (left) and Kathy Van Vliet (right) set the tone for tea.



# Pacific Parklands Foundation

## Summer 2010 News

### Catching the Spirit program receives generous funding and celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

This summer, the Catching the Spirit youth program received \$25,000 from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). The cheque was presented to Denise Coutts, Bob Gunn and Ed O'Brien by Jennifer Cabeldu of RBC. RBC has been a champion for the Catching the Spirit program providing over \$160,000 for the past decade. The Catching the Spirit program recognizes RBC as a principal donor for the program, and wishes to express a deep gratitude to the company for the last 10 years, and looks forward to their support for the next 10 years.

Vancity has also been a long-time supporter of the Catching the Spirit youth program, and continued its dedication this year with \$9,000 from the Vancity Community Projects Grant. The cheque was presented to Pacific Parklands Foundation executive director Denise Coutts and Catching the Spirit program coordinator Natalie Haltrich by Susan Long of Vancity. Vancity has been an integral partner for the Catching the Spirit youth program since its inception 10 years ago, contributing over \$88,000 in total. A huge thanks to Vancity for its continued support of this amazing program. The Catching the Spirit Youth Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing leadership and social responsibility in youth through environmental stewardship. To help celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the society will place an emphasis on the "For Youth, By Youth" mantra, and continue to build on the zero-waste challenge.

The Catching the Spirit program is open to youth ages 12 to 18, is free and takes place at four regional parks in Metro Vancouver: Pacific Spirit (Vancouver), Tynehead (Surrey), Capilano River (North Vancouver) and Burnaby Lake (Burnaby). Participants learn important stewardship activities within regional parks, all while building strong friendships and spending time outdoors.



Denise Coutts, Bob Gunn and Ed O'Brien (left to right) receive a generous donation from Jennifer Cabeldu (second to right) in support of the Catching the Spirit program this summer.



Natalie Haltrich (left) and Denise Coutts (right) receive \$9,000 from Vancity's Susan Long (centre) for the Catching the Spirit program this summer.

The Catching the Spirit Youth Society will be celebrating another great summer of youth leadership, stewardship and fun, and of course, will be recognizing everyone that helped to make it happen at their annual Catching the Spirit appreciation barbeque on Aug. 25.

### **Thank you to our project partners and donors!**

- BC Hydro
- Kinder Morgan Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment:
- Vancity Community Fund
- Coast Capital Savings
- Metro Vancouver
- Burnaby/New Westminster Chapter,
- Vancouver Odd Fellows
- Dr. Ed O'Brien
- RBC Foundation
- Langley/Surrey/White Rock Chapter,
- Lodge #90
- Evergreen/Walmart
- Shell Environmental Fund
- North Shore Chapter, Vancouver Chapter

# Terry Wilshire retires after years of service

A service award was presented to Terry Wilshire for his dedication and meritorious service to the board by past president John Scott and president David Pohl at the Pacific Parklands Foundation Annual General Meeting.

Terry is the past president of a small high-tech manufacturing company, Industrial Laser Cutting Ltd., which he founded in 1991 and later sold in 2004. He also served as president of Tally-Ho Enterprises, was chairman of the Delta Airpark Management Committee and vice-president of the Recreational Aircraft Association. Terry first came to Canada in 1963 as a merchant seaman and later emigrated in 1965. Graduating from BCIT with an engineering diploma, he commenced a varied career in construction project management that took him to many national and international locations.

"Terry Wilshire was instrumental in playing a part in the initial planning of the concept for the Pacific Parklands Foundation, and participated as an active board member from 2002 to 2009 when he was forced to resign from the board due to facing the challenge of ALS," noted past-president John Scott. "His contribution to the board and foundation was invaluable and he will be greatly missed."



**With thanks:** Past-president John Scott (right) and president Dave Pohl (left) honour Terry Wilshire (centre).

## Pacific Parklands Foundation celebrates 10 years!



Pacific Parklands  
FOUNDATION

2000 - 2010  
*Growing legacies:  
our first decade*

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Pacific Parklands Foundation! The foundation has seen many changes from its original roots, but maintains its three founding principles: protecting greenspace, enriching communities and encouraging philanthropy. We have been fortunate to work with many outstanding groups of volunteers and donors alike, some of whom have watched us grow into the organization we are today.

We look forward to completing large-scale projects such as the Natural Capital Review in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation, and playing a role in replacing the Kanaka Creek hatchery facility, while still dedicated to the Catching the Spirit youth program and our various involvement with individual parks. Keep your eyes open for new events coming this fall to celebrate our 10 years, including a luncheon with a high-profile speaker on Oct. 28, and a volunteer recognition event in November. Together, we can continue to do great things for our youth and our parks for another 10 years!

## Donation stations go high tech

The Pacific Parklands Foundation is pleased to announce that the donation stations within regional parks are getting a makeover! Impark will be replacing the existing donation stations with new cell phone technology in the fall.

Please check out our website at [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca) to learn how to donate online or call the Pacific Parklands Foundation office at (604) 451-6168 to make a donation of cash or In Memoriam, or to learn how you can set up an Endowment Fund, donate land or real estate or leave a bequest in your will.





# First phase of natural capital review completed

The Pacific Parklands Foundation has partnered with the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF) to complete a natural capital review of the ecosystem services provided by natural and wild spaces in the Lower Mainland, which includes our many parks and greenways. There is a specific focus on the preservation of wetlands, as a whopping 90 percent of the wetlands in the Lower Mainland have been drained for agricultural or commercial purposes. Metro Vancouver (MV) plays a key partnership role in this study; their target to protect all endangered wetlands in the region by 2015 will be affected by the results of this report. Furthermore, MV also plans to identify a regional protected areas network by 2011 in collaboration with both local and senior levels of government, and other agencies to provide greenways and habitat corridors in accordance to their commitment to ecological health.

Phase one has already been completed, and we are looking forward to the completion of Phase two, which is being conducted by DSF and will place a monetary value on non-market environmental services. DSF will use four methods to evaluate the services: replacement/damage cost, revealed preference, stated preference and the popular benefit-transfer method. These methods are used to determine total economic value, which can then be expressed as different types of value. Popular valuation schemes are travel time (how long it takes to arrive at the destination shows how much some one values it), production costs (how much it would cost to manufacture the service instead of using the environment) and mitigative costs (how much would one be willing to pay to avoid the damage caused if the service was removed).

Phase three is set to start soon, so watch for public engagement events happening early this fall.



A boardwalk allows visitors access to the spectacular wetlands at Burnaby Lake.

## Did you know?

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks is proud to manage many of the largest remaining wetlands in the region. Due to their sensitivity, most bogs have restricted public access, but check out the lakes and streams in our backyard!

- Burnaby Lake is the largest natural wetland in the region.
- MV owns over 2,330 hectares of protected bog and fen wetland systems, with up to 26 hectares of upland area purchased to protect the future of these wetlands.
- Both Langley Bog and Burns Bog were mined for peat until the 1980s.
- Langley Bog contains 11 species of sphagnum moss.
- Gordon's Brook is home to two of the most endangered fish species in the province, the Salish sucker and the Nooksack dace.
- The West Creek Wetlands were created and maintained by four active beaver dams, while the wetland at Colony Farm Regional Park was man-made by Ducks Unlimited.
- Camosun Bog (located in Pacific Spirit Regional Park in Vancouver) is open to the public and, with help from the PPF, has an interpretive trail that educates visitors about the bog ecosystem.
- Codd Wetlands is the last undyked wetland area in the Pitt Meadows area, and provides important migratory bird habitat.
- Two of the southernmost raised peat bogs are managed by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks; their age is estimated to be close to 10,000 years old.



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



Pacific Parklands  
FOUNDATION



## Kanaka Creek says Good-bye Chums!

Over 500 volunteers at the Kanaka Creek Bell-Irving Hatchery released chum salmon fry this year. The Pacific Parklands Foundation continues to work with Metro Vancouver to establish a new watershed stewardship centre that can be a regional leader in aquaculture education, which would include hands-on interpretive experience, facilitation programming and volunteer activities. The Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society looks forward to completing this \$3 million project, which has taken over 19 years to establish.

*Left: Children release chum fry and learn the important life cycle of salmon.*

## Pacific Parklands Foundation hires summer student

Suzanne Hopkinson is an undergraduate studying natural resource conservation at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of BC. She is a past-president of the Forestry Undergraduate Society, was published in the May/June edition of the peer-reviewed *Forestry Chronicle*, and is the most recent (and youngest ever) appointment to the committee of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals for 2010/2011. She has started her role as marketing and communications manager for the Pacific Parklands Foundation, and is pleased to re-launch the donation station program, as well as work with donors for recognition and stewardship. Suzanne is graduating with honours in December, and plans on moving to a small town on the North Coast, where her experience at the foundation will help her in working with small, not-for-profit organizations



protecting aquatic ecosystems and connecting communities through volunteer activities. Funding to hire Suzanne was received through the Government of Canada and their 2010 Summer Jobs program.



## Spirit of the Horse Garden continues to thrive

Joy Richardson, visionary and keeper of the Spirit of the Horse Garden located in Campbell Valley Regional Park in Langley, has maintained the garden for years and is at last retiring. The Spirit of the Horse Garden is one of a kind in North America, and the Pacific Parklands Foundation is helping to coordinate an event this fall to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the garden.

For information on how to purchase tickets for the October fundraising event, or to donate to the preservation and maintenance of this beautiful garden, please see our website at [www.pacificparklands.ca](http://www.pacificparklands.ca) or call the Pacific Parklands Foundation office at (604) 451-6181.

*Left: The statue was made in China and modelled after a horse that Joy once owned. Commemorative plaques surround the statue.*



# Catching the Spirit jumps into summer

By Natalie Haltrich

Back in the thick of it we are! The 2010 Catching the Spirit Leadership Team, all 13 supervisors and 40 youth peer leaders, has jumped head first into the training season getting ready to lead their peers and create an energy that's all their own for the summer season ahead. This year's leadership team hopes to welcome almost 300 youth participants to the program, keeping on par with last year's numbers and making the early season training sessions all the more important.

Training started with our meet 'n greet at Burnaby Lake's Nature House in early May (where park teams came together for the first time), carried on to our overnight at Picken House (where youth bit off everything from the whys of stewardship to the hows of knot tying), continued with an all new leadership development session and will conclude with GPS and first aid trainings and an overnight in each leadership team's respective park (Burnaby Lake, Capilano River, Pacific Spirit and Tynehead that is!). Kudos to all returning leaders and to those new to Catching the Spirit for challenging their team building and leadership skills in preparation for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! Catching the Spirit certainly wouldn't be what it is without them.

Nor would it be what it is without its many committed stewardship partners. We are thrilled to be working once again with the Spanish Banks Streamkeepers and the Camosun Bog Restoration Group, the great folks at the Burnaby Lake Park Association and Pacific Spirit Park Society, the crew from Evergreen and Toxic Free Canada, fabulous



Keen? You want to see keen? Members of Capilano River Regional Park's leadership team show their enthusiasm for the season to come.

individuals like Dawn Hanna, the Moros and Judy Wellington, and of course, the many Metro Vancouver park operators and staff who have been dedicated to Catching the Spirit since day one. We're looking forward to this year's many stewardship projects with all of our park and program partners. And of course, in true Catching the Spirit fashion, we're looking forward to some newness for 2010 just to spice it up a little: an all-new Catching the Spirit community garden and the introduction of Ubuntu Days. We are grateful to Wal-Mart/ Evergreen green grants and the good folks from the Burnaby Rhododendron and Gardens Society for providing funding to Catching the Spirit for its community garden that will be built and grown in partnership with various community groups. (The first work party took place on Jun. 12.) We were also excited to learn about Ubuntu Days this summer.

Originating in Kenya, *Ubuntu* comes from the understanding that we are all part of a global community bound and interdependent upon one another. Ubuntu Days invites people to come together monthly to combat environmental issues and work together in community wide "clean up your town" days. Catching the Spirit youth connected with a Kenyan youth group on Jul. 25 to do their part in experiencing and sharing Ubuntu here in Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

What a summer we have in store! Looks like you have your work cut out for you Catching the Spirit leadership team.



To find out more about  
Catching the Spirit,  
go to  
[www.catchingthespirit.com](http://www.catchingthespirit.com)

# Minnehada Art in the Park returns!

The Minnehada Park Association and Metro Vancouver invite you to the second annual Minnehada Art in the Park Festival on Saturday, Aug. 21 and Sunday Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Once again, the park will be transformed into a creative space for exhibits by talented BC artists and activities to inspire your senses.

Take a scenic walk to explore the park's natural beauty and experience it through the eyes of an artist. At historic Minnehada Lodge, be delighted by a wide range of artists' work, live

music and roving performers. Explore the charming gardens, indulge your taste buds at the outdoor café, go on a guided nature walk or create a craft in the children's area.

Parking is available at the Quarry Road parking lot with a pleasant walk through the park to Minnehada Lodge or take the free shuttle bus.

For more information check out the website at [www.metrovancouver.org/artinthepark](http://www.metrovancouver.org/artinthepark), email: [artinthepark@metrovancouver.org](mailto:artinthepark@metrovancouver.org) or call Trina Sakata, community development coordinator at (604) 520-6442.



## New river trail opens at Matsqui Trail Regional Park

Walkers, hikers, cyclists and horseback riders can now enjoy a new trail that offers the public some stunning views of the Fraser River waterfront.

The trail passes through a former poplar tree farm that Metro Vancouver purchased last year and added to Matsqui Trail Regional Park. The park now encompasses 163.5 hectares (404 acres) of land along the Fraser, BC's largest river. The new 640-metre long River Trail extension and restored parkland contribute to the vision of completing an 11-kilometre stretch of accessible public waterfront.

Trail construction and site restoration were completed with financial assistance from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program, a major job-creating investment from Canada's Economic Action Plan, and help from many community partners.

"One of the most inspiring aspects of the project was the response from the community to assist with restoration of the new parkland," said Gayle Martin, Metro Vancouver Parks Committee chair. "Thousands of dollars were raised to buy native plants, and a number of groups volunteered their time to help replant the site. The new trees, shrubs and perennials will be there for years to come, enhancing the park for both visitors and wildlife."

A number of groups assisted with the site's restoration and replanting:

- Ecosystem Restoration Associates planted a variety of conifer seedlings to sequester carbon and increase biodiversity;
- Volunteers with Central Valley Naturalists completed the first community planting in November, braving terrible weather to install a mix of 1,000 trees and shrubs;
- The Take a Hike-Youth at Risk Foundation raised over



**Neither rain nor cold:** Volunteers brave the elements to plant shrubs along the recently-opened River Trail in Matsqui Trail Regional Park.

\$2,300 to buy plants, and over the course of two days to celebrate Earth Day some 36 youth planted an additional 1,200 trees, shrubs and perennials with the help of a Grade One class from Margaret Stenersen Elementary School, Abbotsford;

- Two Vancouver-based law firms McCarthy Tetrault and Lawson Lundell provided generous support for the Take a Hike Youth-at Risk Foundation and assisted in the planting.

Visitors can access the new trail and parkland by parking at Mission Bridge and hiking or riding 2.1 km east along the River Trail to Kelleher Street, or by parking at the Page Road trailhead and hiking or riding 4.1 km west along the dyke to Kelleher.

For more information, please contact the Information Centre at (604) 432-6200.



# Bigger, better playground at Boundary Bay means fun for children of all abilities

By Suzanne Stewart-Patterson

Metro Vancouver's first fully equipped playground for children of all abilities was officially opened Jun. 20 at Centennial Beach at Boundary Bay Regional Park. The opening was part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunday in the Park event and Father's Day pancake breakfast hosted by Camridge House Committee/ Boundary Bay Regional Park Volunteers and Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club.

Metro Vancouver, Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club and Corporation of Delta produced the opening event to 100 guests to mark the completion of the third and final phase of the Boundary Bay Regional Park playground, and to acknowledge the vision and partnership that made this community and park project.

The Centennial Beach Playground Expansion project involved a partnership between Metro Vancouver Parks, Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lion's Club, Province of BC and the Corporation of Delta. This phase of the playground expansion was to make the playground accessible to all children of all abilities.

"This is a first for Greater Vancouver," noted Harry Caine, project chair and representative of the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lions Club, "a first to coordinate and combine a special needs playground (alongside an existing one) for all our children to play together."

The fundraising program led by the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lion's Club involved raising \$400,000 to complete the expansion (not including



**Fun for all:** Kids of many ages and abilities can explore the expanded playground at Boundary Bay Regional Park

in-kind contributions).

The concept for the playground was first presented by the Tsawwassen Boundary Bay Lion's Club in 2008.

There was a sod turning event to recognize the start of construction in November 2009; the playground expansion project was completed and opened for play in May 2010.

"This playground addition has now created a new centre, a gathering place for the day use area of the park," added Adam Vasilivech, landscape architect of parks engineering who led the project for Metro Vancouver Parks. "It is welcoming to all and provides space for children of all abilities to play together."

Throughout the project West Area staff received calls from parents of

children keen to know when the playground would open. One local child held their fifth birthday party on site on the opening weekend.

The unique feature of this playground is its ability to facilitate play for all our region's children. The mother of five-year-old Nicola Schmidt (who uses a wheelchair) shares the significance of this for her daughter and family:

"For Nicky, this park means that she can be included," said Kim Klewchuck. "A little girl who was in her preschool class just came and joined her, so it means she can just play spontaneously with other children. That's one of the disadvantages of having a disability – those opportunities to play are infrequent. A park like this really facilitates being included with other children and having the opportunity to be like every one else."

To see a video clip about the playground (and other clips) go to [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)



## Who's watching whom?

Article and photos by Mike Stefiuk

Ever had that feeling that you were being watched? If you were in downtown Vancouver during the 2010 winter Olympics, you may have had that feeling, thanks to the dozens of cameras set up for security and crowd control.

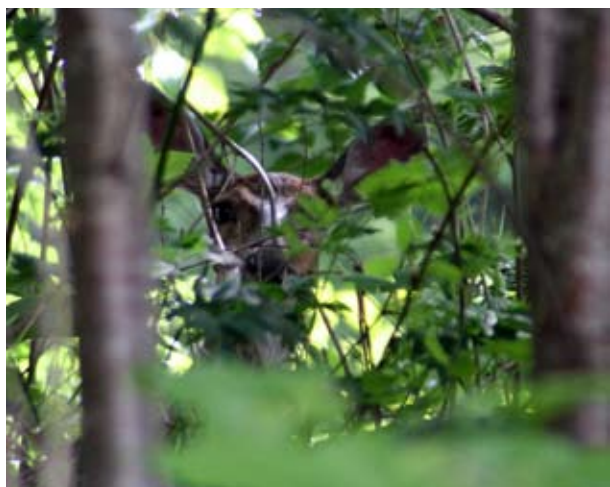
But you might also have that same sensation where there are no cameras – when you're walking on the trails in our parks, and odds are that you're right. Many times, you're being watched and will not even know it. Because when forest-dwelling animals want to they seem to be able to blend so completely into the background that it's almost like they disappear.

It's natural for creatures who live in the forest to be stealthy – it's part of how they survive. Whether they're being stealthy to hunt or stalk prey or whether they're trying to avoid another creature, animals are masters of disguise.

There have been many times that I've seen a hawk fly past and lose sight of it for just a second, and then I can't find it again. Once, I spotted a bobcat and in the moment that it took me to prepare to take a photograph, it was gone without a sound – as if it had simply vanished into thin air.

There are many other creatures that are good at blending into the background of their habitat: frogs, insects, small birds and aquatic insects, even fish. Some insects blend in so well that you could mistake them for a dead leaf or a twig on a branch. Some moths have the same colouring and patterns as the tree bark on which they sit. Fish fry that lurk in the bottoms of small pools in a stream are nearly invisible when the cast of a shadow startles them. They freeze and blend in with the gravelly stream bottom.

Next time you are out on the trails, hoping to spot some wildlife, just remember they're probably watching you too.



**Masters of camouflage:** (Top) A barred owl watches trail activity perched safely above it all; (above) a black bear knows how to move through the forest understorey without being seen; (left) a black-tailed deer adult is a jumble of ears and shadows in the woodlands, but it is their fawns that are the best at remaining undetected.



# The good, the bad and the unusual: The plants of Iona Beach Regional Park

By Dawn Hanna

Iona Beach Regional Park in Richmond is an underappreciated gem. It has no majestic stands of old-growth conifers, no sweeping wildflower-studded mountains, no orchid-, violet- or trillium-dappled understorey.

What Iona has is sand. A lot of sand. It also has strong winds. And salt water (or salt spray). And, in summer, it has scorching temperatures.

All of which makes it a tough place to flourish as a plant. With little to no organic component to the soil, it's a tough place to find nutrients. Sand is not so good at retaining moisture. The winds and temperatures can suck the life out of most things.

But in this most plant-unfriendly environment, you can find some beautiful and unusual forms of plant life and two of the rarest plant communities in the province. Unfortunately, you can also find some nasty invasive plant species that threaten the rest.

But before we get into the floral details, a little bit of history.

Today, the area referred to as Iona is a stretch of land that appears tethered to the mainland by a narrow isthmus and to have grown two long appendages to the northwest and southwest (artificial jetties).

But once upon a time, pre-1958 to be exact, Iona was an island – an alluvial island shaped and reshaped each year by the freshets and silt of the Fraser River. Its western edges were a sandy beach. Its other edges a typical



Photo: Dawn Hanna

**More than meets the eye:** *Elymus mollis* (dune grass) and *Carex macrocephala* (large-headed sedge) thrive in a harsh – yet beautiful – environment at Iona.

riparian assortment of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

In the 1880s, settlers began to farm the centre portion of Iona and dyked the northern, eastern and southern edges.

In 1914, the north arm of the Fraser River was dredged to improve passage for the boats, barges and ships that used the river as a transportation corridor.

Thousands of tonnes of sand were deposited on Iona Island.

In 1958, a causeway was built between Sea Island and Iona Island, creating McDonald Slough. The south arm jetty was built in 1961. (The north arm jetty had been first built in 1917, extended in 1935 and a breakwater added in 1951). It all had an influence on the habitat that would develop at Iona.

What is left today at Iona Beach Regional Park (which inhabits the

northwest portion of the former island) is an odd mish-mash of habitat. There are artificially created wetlands (the ponds), a riparian zone (without the usual complement of nutrient-rich organic soil and riparian vegetation) and modest sand dunes.

So what does the history of the site have to do with the flora of Iona Beach? It gives us clues as to why the flora that is there is there. And it gives us some parameters towards an ecological restoration of the habitat at Iona. But more about that later.

Now, on to the flora. The exact number of species is hard to pin down, but it is somewhere between the 120 species that Terry Taylor and Hubert Moore noted in 1994 when they compiled a plant list of Iona and the 592 species contained in the *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Islands of Richmond*, compiled by Frank Lomer, Rose Klinkenberg and Brian Klinkenberg in 2002. (The latter is available on the web at [www.geog.ubc.ca/richmond/city/richmondchecklst.pdf](http://www.geog.ubc.ca/richmond/city/richmondchecklst.pdf)) \*

Look for part two in the fall issue of Park Partners



# Walk for the animals at Campbell Valley Regional Park

By Gaby Wichman

Wildlife lovers, fire up your social networks; it's time to start raising some friendly cash for Critter Care's Second Annual Walk-A-Thon "Walk on the Wild Side" in Campbell Valley Regional Park in Langley. The event takes place from 11:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 3. Onsite registration is open from 11:15 a.m. to noon; the walk starts at 12:15 p.m.



Beavers have been the occasional patient helped at Campbell Valley's Critter Care.

Bring along your furry friend and enjoy the four-kilometre walk amid the nature of Campbell Valley. Please remember all dogs must be on leashes, and scoop bags will be provided to pick up after your dog.

It's a great way to spend the day, that the whole family will enjoy and that will help support many wild creatures.

Critter Care Wildlife Society is a non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and releases back into the wild, our native mammals of BC from black bears to skunks. Over the last 20 years, thousands of mammals have been cared for at our facility. Each year the numbers and species of native mammals grows along with the cost of caring for them!

Whether you'll be participating as an individual or as part of a team, register today and join us as we walk to raise money to care for the many mammals that come into our care.

Prizes will be awarded to the three highest pledges turned in the day of the walk. Raise \$100 and receive a nice surprise. To be eligible for prizes, please submit your pledge form and any donations collected on the event day.

Registration fee for all walkers is only \$ 5 and includes a complementary light lunch. Please note: Pre-registration is required for lunch! Until Sept. 24, you can register by calling Elaine at (604) 530-6840 or email [nike11@telus.net](mailto:nike11@telus.net), or Cathy at (604) 530-2350 or [claycath@telus.net](mailto:claycath@telus.net)

### Some Fundraising Tips:

- Set a goal for the animals. The more money you raise, the more that goes to helping our furry friends back at the facility!
- Take the lead and sponsor yourself with a high pledge and then start "pawing" your friends for pledges today.
- Check with your employer and see if they have a matching gift program or are willing to make a corporate donation. This may double your total pledges!
- Get a team together and talk to coworkers, friends and family and walk with your "Friends for Life!" team.



For the latest updates on activities, news and more on the Regional Parks Partnership Program, check the website at: [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca)

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