

STANLEY PARK

ECOLOGY SOCIETY

connecting people with nature



annual report 2009-2010

president's message

2009-2010
Board of Directors

Patricia Stevens
President

Fred Cuzner
Vice President

Brian Herrin
Secretary

Judy Chui
Treasurer

Brett Horton
Past President

Judith MacPherson

Danny Catt

John Gray

Denise Pritchard

Jude Grass

Mike Mackintosh

Don Enright

Brenda Jones

It's a pleasure to say welcome to the Stanley Park Ecology Society Annual Report!

It has been an extraordinary year with the release of the **State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park**. This report will drive the Board's strategic plan for the coming years.

Many of you have experienced the beauty of the Park and understand its value to the heritage of the City of Vancouver. But have you taken advantage of all the programs that SPES offers? I encourage you to take part in those offerings – get your hands dirty pulling up invasive species, test your eyesight counting birds or other species in the Park, stretch your mind by learning about nature through a Discovery Walk, or come volunteer on the Board!

SPES is an amazing organization that enhances your experience of Vancouver's jewel – Stanley Park.

Come join us!

Best wishes,



Patricia Stevens
President,
SPES Board of Directors



executive director's message

In every generation, there are landmarks that reflect a coming of age, so to speak: The first day in school, the 16th birthday, graduation, leaving the 20's behind... Each of those milestones suggests a personal maturation, a higher positioning to give back to the world in which we function.

Adding to SPES's own previous growth spurts, the three restoration years following the unnamed 2006-07 windstorms was a tremendous coming of age for the society. And now, equally as notable, is our release in 2010 of the first ever "State of the Park Report for Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park".

This comprehensive compilation of all things known – and those identified as gaps – in the wildlife, habitats, and stressors of historic and current Stanley Park is a foundation of information that will serve to inform decisions and actions not only for SPES, itself, but for Park Managers, academics, and researchers, including those far beyond the boundaries of BC who look to Stanley Park as a model of the urban wilderness interface.

This information is as important to the pace of our educational and stewardship programs as it is for our ongoing and future conservation initiatives.

Representing many accomplishments this year, we invite you to explore the report in summary or in full:
www.stanleyparkecology.ca/programs/conservation/SoPRfEI/

With sincere appreciation for your community support,



Patricia Thomson
Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society



2009-2010

SPES Team

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director

Mariee Devereux
School Programs Manager

Robyn Worcester
Conservation Programs
Manager

Roger Keyes
Public Programs Manager

Phil Dubrulle
Co-Existing with Coyotes

Greg Ferguson
Stewardship Coordinator

Koren Johnstone
Volunteer Coordinator &
Nature House Interpreter

Suchitra Reddy
Office Coordinator

Liz Winston
Eco Ranger Coordinator

Brian Titaro, Sonya Powell,
Jonanne Gage
Environmental Educators

Jon McIvor, Amanda Klein
Nature House Hosts

Norm Andreassen,
Ananthay Sivakaran
Sales Service

school programs



In June, a group of Nature Detectives set off into the forest, in search of the many mysteries hiding there. Using their senses to explore, they looked at tree bark through magnifying lenses, and made some hearty bowls of “soil soup” to feed to the trees. One student spotted a red-breasted sapsucker, while others carefully captured a millipede that was hiding under some bark. While these kindergarten children continued to explore and discover the wonders of the natural world, a little voice rang through the excitement. “I found the secret!” exclaimed an inquisitive little boy as he held his hands in the steam emitting from a sunlit nurse stump. He had made the connection between the ingredients the trees need to grow (water, sunlight and air) and how these ingredients are hidden everywhere in the forest. He quickly encouraged the other children to come and feel the “magic” of the nurse stump. It is this kind of experience we hope all of our visitors go home with; a sense of wonder for the natural world, and reverence for its many mysteries and profound beauty.

For the past 22 years, the Stanley Park Ecology Society has offered children the chance to become immersed in nature. The outdoor classroom of Stanley Park is the ultimate place to learn and reconnect with our sense of self and community. It is in those quiet moments that we discover the many wonders that nature has to offer. The multitude of sensory experiences paired with collaborative play is what makes our outdoor educational school programs so special. When people have an authentic and sensory filled experience with nature, they are much more likely to think about how their everyday actions effect local ecosystems and in turn become urban stewards of our parks and protected areas.

The School Programs department offers year-round programming in Stanley Park as well as classroom workshops, teacher workshops, BC of Education Ministry recommended teacher resources and an ever popular overnight Urban Camping experience that immerses students in grades 4-7 in all of the best our programs have to offer.

Programs	2009-2010	2008-2009
Park Programs	141	79
Classroom programs	29	31
Urban Camping programs	19	17
Total programs delivered	189	127
Total students	2,838	3058



“If you want nature to come alive for your students, this is the program for you!”
-T.Fransen, Gr. 4 teacher

“SPES school programs are entertaining, hands-on and informative for students, teachers and parents.”
-D. Palmer, Canadian Assn for Girls in Science



“[VSB] acknowledges the long-standing contribution that SPES continues to make for the communities of the heavily populated Lower Mainland...”
-Valerie Overgaard, Vancouver School District

public programs



In early March, we were approached by Jamie Dolinko, a local artist and West End resident. For the last decade she has been photographing the Lagoon in all seasons with all its people and creatures. Out of her images, Jamie created a visual meditation. She asked if we might be interested in hosting it. The result: 'The Lagoon' a visual meditation on the intersection of people, animals, and nature: a digital installation in three parts of 108 photographs selected from a decade of walks around Lost Lagoon.

Our mission, Connecting People with Nature, is challenging in a society that lives on oil and, increasingly, plays in pixels. This year Public Programs set its sights on engaging not only the people who come to us but to reach out to those who do not or cannot.

While we do traditional approaches such as nature exploration with our Sunday Discovery Walks, we have expanded our topics to subjects such as Invasive Species, Environmentally Sensitive Areas of Stanley Park and Biodiversity. Additionally we linked our Valentine's Day Walk to a display in the Nature House on the same topic of courtship and mating in the natural world.

The Nature House has undergone a renewal with new displays to complement the habitat based interpretive panels. We have created a community space to host special displays such as art exhibits, wet labs and children's activities.

This year, Public Programs attended several community events such as Car Free Day on Denman and the West End Seniors' Strawberry Days. By making contact with literally hundreds of people, we are helping to raise the profile of SPES and all of its programs. By reaching out in a myriad of ways, we hope to connect people with nature in a way that is natural and comfortable to them.

Public Programs Statistics	2009-10		2008-09	
	Events	Participants	Events	Participants
Nature House visitors		9,232		10,103
Discovery Walks	55	565	56	444
Private and ESL tours	19	637	34	752
Young Naturalists Club	11	121	3	48
Birthdays	5	68	3	108
Community events	6	2,832	-	-
Total Participants		13,455		11,455



"Just wanted to express my sincere thanks for your involvement in the Olympic/Paralympic Village Open House event on Saturday. I've heard estimates of between 12 – 15,000 people visited the site on May 15th... I believe everyone had a great time!"
-Event Organizer



"I would like to thank you for a truly wonderful and memorable birthday for my son. Joshua has already gone through the Stanley Park magazine page by page at his bedside. Your thoughtfulness and hard work shone through in every detail, and the children and the parents loved the day."
-Birthday Party Parent



conservation programs



*As SPES's Environmental Educators were teaching a group of students about forest ecology, one of them pointed to a Douglas fir tree and found to her surprise a bat clinging to the bark. She used the opportunity to teach the children about how bats use tree bark as roosting sites. The teaching staff alerted the Conservation Programs Manager about the discovery. With field survey supplies and a camera, they hurried back to the site and safely captured the bat for careful inspection. After measuring and weighing the docile creature, they confirmed that it was a silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*). This species has never been documented before in Stanley Park. In fact, there are only a handful of records of sightings in the Lower Mainland region. One of the best parts of working in Stanley Park is that there are always new discoveries to be made!*

The greatest achievement and the biggest challenge for Conservation Programs this year was the creation of the 'State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park'. Although some work had been done leading up to last year in terms of compiling background documents, data and other resources for the report, most of the writing, editing, peer review, and the release of the report was done between July 2009 and June 2010. This massive undertaking was officially completed when it was approved for information by the Vancouver Park Board in May 2009. But the work has only just begun as this document will act to set priorities for SPES's conservation efforts, will inform park managers, and will provide information that will be integrated into SPES's education programs for many years to come. See the full report and supporting appendices at <http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca/programs/conservation/SoPRfEI/>

Workshops, Tours, Training Sessions, Walks, Park Board Meetings	17
Participants engaged in workshops and tours	290
Wildlife Surveys accomplished	51
Wildlife Reports produced	20
Volunteers involved	181
Volunteer Hours contributed	4002
Map layers created	17
Partnerships created or maintained	17
Media and/or other profile coverage	18



"The hands-on approach of SPES to work with the community to survey for wildlife, map sensitive and threatened habitats, and to finally create a first-ever State of the Park report for Stanley Park will produce positive results and benefit both this urban wilderness and the broad community."
-Ross Vennesland, Species at Risk Recovery Specialist, Parks Canada

"It's been a great thing to go out every month and do my bird survey. It's a simple thing, but makes me feel helpful and it's exciting."
-SPES Conservation Volunteer



stewardship programs

“Engaging a wide diversity of community stewards from the everyday citizen to corporate groups shows that SPES is vested in long-term action without which Greater Vancouver risks losing a significant portion of its biological richness.” -Ross Vennesland, Species at Risk Recovery Specialist, Parks Canada



It's 9:30 on Tuesday morning and the team has convened to head out for our weekly tree ivy removal session. We've decided to work in Zone 3 today, one of six designated removal zones in the park. We start with fresh smiles and relatively clean jeans, choose our equipment and data sheets, check the maps, and spill out into the forest. We start working in an area that is thick with ivy; it's covering the entire ground and climbing up high on a number of large trees and important dead, standing snags. With the use of hand clippers and saws, we work to cut the ivy around the tree and pull it away. The rain doesn't deter our determination.... We're always happy to know we're preventing stress and a possible early death to native plants of Stanley Park.

Eighteen months after the start of the tree ivy removal program in April 2009, volunteers have spent 621 hours removing English ivy (*Hedera helix*) from vegetation in Stanley Park. The goal is to remove invasive ivy that is climbing native trees and shrubs in the park, and to reduce its spread via fruiting.

Data carefully collected by our volunteers tell us that we've removed ivy from a total of 1,837 trees and 515 shrubs; approximately half of the Park has been surveyed and cleared of tree ivy where it's growing on vegetation.

With the ongoing help of dedicated volunteers, SPES continues to work towards habitat enhancements and restoration.

Program	2009-2010	2008-2009
Invasive plant removal events	57	78
Invasive plant species removed	7	11
Area of invasive plants removed (hectares)	1.06	0.88
Volume of invasive plants removed (cubic meters)	380	1046
Number of native species planted	1,429	718
Nest boxes installed and monitored	12	13

co-existing with coyotes

“[When] our cat, Spunky, was missing for many days, I felt sure she had become coyote fodder. My daughter, Elizabeth, said one morning, “Mom, I prayed for Spunky to come home but then I thought, I'm sure there's a hungry coyote out there praying for something to eat...so which prayer does God answer?” We are not a religious family so I had no good answer for her, but the question was wonderful. In any case, Spunky was returned to us on Christmas Eve by the SPCA who tracked her to us via her ear tattoo. Thank you for all the important work you do to help us learn to share our world”. -Marianne Lawrenson

Now in its tenth year of operation, the Co-Existing with Coyotes (CWC) program strives to balance the needs of Vancouver citizens with an appreciation, respect and understanding of urban wildlife and our natural functioning ecosystems.

A notable achievement of this year was the development of an Urban Coyote Forum held in January 2010 at the Dunbar Community Center. Hosted in collaboration with the Vancouver Park Board, the aim was to foster a clearer understanding of how different stakeholders (including the SPCA, Animal Control, BC Ministry of Environment, and communities) are involved in the education and management of coyotes.

The CWC program has continued to build on the momentum generated by the forum by developing a Vancouver Urban Coyote Network (VUCN). The VUCN will involve many of the same forum stakeholders, as well as community groups such as Vancouver's Block Watch and Community Policing Centers.

Program	2009-2010	2008-2009
Coyote phone/email requests	483	659
Coyote 101 programs delivered	10	31
School children taught	3079	8472
Urban Wildlife talks/events	9	10
Site visit coyote response	18	0
CWC volunteers	15	8

“We appreciate the relationship we have with the CWC program, as urban coyote issues present unique challenges in our communities, and working together effectively combines both organizations' limited, but knowledgeable, resources.” -Sara Dubois, Manager of Wildlife Services, BC SPCA



volunteers



“Volunteering at Stanley Park has been a marvelous experience. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity because I really wanted to help in an area to do with ecology. At SPES I have met wonderful people who are passionate and committed to their work, and who really care about nature. I have learnt about local animals and plants, and I am very glad I have been able to help visitors from other countries as a Nature House Host. Since I started my volunteering, I have been noticing so many things around me (like trees, bird songs, plants and of course all the English Ivy!) that I hadn’t noticed before. I know SPES is a very committed organization and I am proud to be a part of it!”

It has been another busy and very fruitful year for SPES, with our volunteer sector continuing to grow by leaps and bounds.

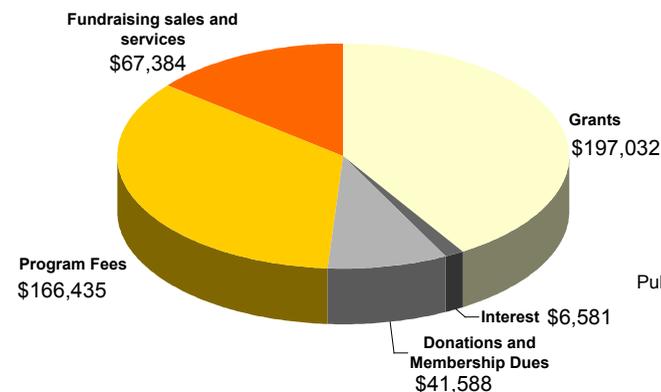
The extension of our team-volunteering approach into such areas as the Nature House, Special Events, Stewardship and Wildlife Monitoring provided more effective coverage for our Environmental Education and Conservation programs, both in day-to-day operations as well as for specialized projects. Our internship program was expanded to provide long-term support for our coordinators and managers, a win-win situation for both our interns, who were exposed to a variety of volunteer opportunities, and for SPES staff, who benefited from their energy, innovative approaches and contagious enthusiasm.

In this landmark year for SPES, the creation of the State of the Park Report for Ecological Integrity in Stanley Park marked a pivotal chapter in our organization’s history. Volunteers worked countless hours, individually, in teams, and in partnerships, assisting in all stages of the report’s creation including research, writing, editing and production. The report is a shining example of what volunteer spirit and teamwork can accomplish. Once again, our volunteers have shown that they are SPES’s greatest resource, and are ready, willing and able to make a difference!

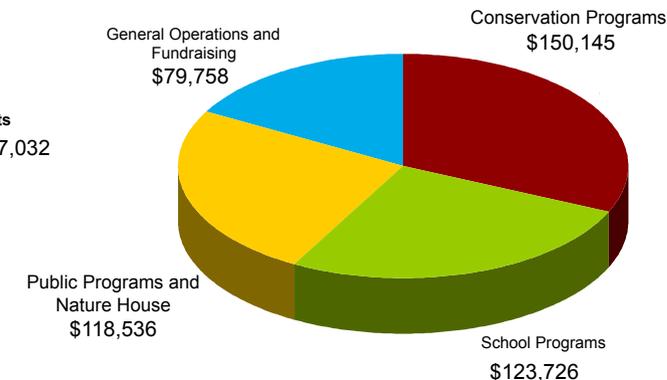
	Total Hours	Total # Volunteers
Board of Directors	593	13
Office/graphics/IT, etc.	1,762	26
Public Programs	5,787	139
School Programs	433	7
Conservation Programs	9,152	1,264
Grand total	17,726	1,449

financials

Sources of Revenue



Expenditures



Financial Highlights*, fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

Grants	\$197,032
Interest	6,581
Donations and Membership Dues	41,588
Program Fees	166,435
Fundraising sales and services	67,384
Total	479,020

Expenses

Salaries and benefits	\$400,029
program supplies, equipment	32,538
cost of goods sold	2,913
facilities	9,685
supplies, overhead	10,596
professional fees	15,159
staff travel	1,245
Total	472,165
NET ORDINARY INCOME	6,855

Unaudited Balance Sheet as at June 30

Assets	2010	2009
Cash - unrestricted	\$156,172	\$146,667
Cash - restricted	100,000	105,660
Accounts Receivable	2,010	98
Grants Receivable	2,389	9,223
Interest Receivable	2,067	4,784
Supplies Inventory	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	2,534	2,669
TOTAL Assets	265,172	269,101

Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Exp	\$17,234	-
Wages payable	4,251	3,106
Sales taxes payable	422	1,524
Deferred Income	128,047	156,108
TOTAL Liabilities	\$149,954	\$160,738

Net assets

Internally restricted	\$100,000	\$100,000
Unrestricted	15,218	8,363
TOTAL Liabilities & Net Assets	\$115,218	\$108,363

*The complete unaudited financial statements can be obtained without charge through SPES. The unaudited financial statements contain notes that provide additional relevant information to the financial information contained in the annual report.

a special thank-you



Visionary (more than \$10,000)

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
 Vancity Savings Credit Union
 HSBC Bank Canada
 The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of
 Canada - PromoScience
 Environment Canada EcoAction
 Capers Whole Foods Market
 BC Hydro
 Futureworks

Sustainer (\$5,000 - \$10,000)

HSBC Earthwatch Institute Partnership
 Fairmont Pacific Rim
 Grand & Toy
 RBC Foundation
 Spectra Energy
 The Centre for Sustainability
 Service Canada

Supporter (\$1,000 - \$5,000)

Accenture
 Turning Point Brewery
 Telus Communications Inc.
 lululemon athletica
 Keith Lord Sport Foundation Fund held at the Vancouver
 Foundation
 Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau



every dollar counts

Friends (Up to \$1000)

Mark Payne
 Carol Davies
 Anna Guest
 Joyce Prior
 Sheyla O'Flynn
 Jania Chilima
 Dr. Margaret Stott
 Susan Shaver
 Suzanne Arnold
 Ian B G Mackenzie
 Dan and Jan Phelps
 Gwyneth Foulds
 Wanda and James Pickell
 Dale Collin Essar
 Ray McNabb
 Victor Cottingham
 Joslin Kobyłka
 Nancy Henderson
 Louise Irwin

Patricia Thomson
 Judy Chui
 Alvin Quiring
 Audrey Hetherington
 Ron and Wendy Stuart
 Bob Holden
 Paul Kopas
 Fiona Mackay
 Mary Landell
 Susan Grenville
 Rosalyn Kaardal
 Judith Macpherson
 Joyce Craig
 Victor Balon
 Lois Ballance
 Stuart MacKinnon
 Shannon Labelle
 Brita 2010 Earth Month
 Supernatural (Season 5)

Vancouver School Board
 Delta Hotel Suites
 Vancouver
 Shoo-Foo Bamboo

In Kind Donors

Kruger Products
 Daniel Group
 Ethical Bean Coffee
 Parrot Label
 Mark White
 Happy Planet
 Kiwano Marketing
 Urban Eden Design
 Red Case Creative
 Robert Holden
 Bobs and Lolo



...and 1,449 volunteers who contributed \$177,260 in service hours!

Stanley Park Ecology Society promotes awareness of and respect for the natural world by providing a leadership role in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation.



www.stanleyparkecology.ca