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.
On February 5, 1988 the Stanley Park Zoological Society, as we were then known, was incorporated. I thought it might be interesting to use our 20th birthday to look back at 1988 and see what has changed and what has stayed the same.

Since 1988 many things have changed, not the least of which is our name -- to the Stanley Park Ecology Society. In February 1988, the Soviet Union won gold in hockey at the Calgary Olympics, Bishop Desmond Tutu was arrested for protesting Apartheid in South Africa, and Tiffany’s “Could’ve Been” topped the charts. If these are not good examples of how things have changed, the fact that I found all of this information within minutes on the internet most certainly is!

However, many things have also stayed the same, like the dedication of our members, volunteers, supporters and staff both to Stanley Park and to nature in general. For SPES in 1988, our mission was “to promote public interest in and to encourage a greater understanding of wildlife and to support and participate in wildlife conservation and survival programs.” I think the values underlying our mission are actually quite similar to the values of our mission in 2008: “to promote awareness of and respect for the natural world by playing a leadership role in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation.”

Another event that occurred in 1988 that I think is worth mentioning, is that it was in that year that Dr. James Hansen gave a warning to the US congress that global temperatures had risen beyond the range of natural variability. Sadly, this has not changed.

We should be proud to be part of an organization with twenty years of dedication, but we also should look forward to the next twenty years. We should all strive to be able to look back on SPES’s 40th birthday and say “look how things have changed for the better!”

Sincerely,

Brett A. Horton
President, Board of Directors, Stanley Park Ecology Society
1.04 trees not sacrificed... 3.01 lbs of waterborne waste not generated... 443.48 gal of wastewater flow not created... 49.15 lbs of solid waste not generated... 96.57 lbs of greenhouse gases not released... 739500 BTUs of energy not consumed...

A notable sign of the times is, thankfully, a growing list of options to “go green”. As per this list of “What-nots” above, SPES is grateful to have mitigated impacts on the environment during recent production of our society brochure. Internally we use less paper, and re-use it three times over before recycling it. We choose launderable hand towels, collaborate with caterers who provide organic and locally grown foods, and avoid landfill by making ceramic mugs available to groups who use our office spaces.

But SPES is also ever-better in contributing on the social front: This past year we provided an unprecedented level of skills training to community volunteers in mapping, monitoring, presentations, and more. We collaborated with six universities and colleges to forward meaningful projects for their students and the Park. We worked with high school students for volunteer experience coupled with career insights, resume development, and references.

Of course, it is the front-field accomplishments that will still greatly define this past year for SPES: Wildlife monitoring in advance of heavy restoration machinery, 1.3 hectares of invasive plants removed, 1807 volunteers engaged, nearly 700 native plants placed in restoration areas. We championed wider culverts under trails in wetter areas for small animal migration, and set monitoring in place to evaluate results of renewed forest areas. New education programs were developed for students from preschoolers to university levels, plus we co-created 36 interpretive panels for Stanley Park.

Between “What-nots”, then, and “What-fors”, we continue to strive towards sustainability both in front and behind the scenes. Evolving with the signs of the times.

Sincerely,

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society
Take your class outdoors with the Stanley Park Ecology Society! Our hands-on ecology programs engage students with nature, foster connections with BC’s temperate rainforests, and inspire environmental stewardship, all while helping teachers make science leap to life. Students can spot eagles with binoculars, go on safari through the temperate rainforest, dip into Beaver Lake for frogs and aquatic insects, save ecosystems from invasive plant species, or explore sea stars, kelp and shore crabs at low tide.

Park & Class Programs
In the 2007/2008 school year, SPES shared forest ecology with 2470 students through delivery of 109 park and class programs. This represents a modest increase over the number of programs offered in 2006/2007. While the popularity of spring park programs remained high and increased over previous seasons, there has been a trend away from winter classroom programs. After an initial rise in popularity, SPES winter classroom programs were booked with less frequency in 2007-2008 than in the previous year. For the 2008-09 school year, we will continue to offer and promote these valuable classroom programs, while supplementing our winter offerings with exciting new teacher professional development workshops.

Rachel Raccoon joins School Programs Manager Mia Torr to introduce Kindergarten children to “forest soup.”
Urban Camping
Each year, our Urban Camping program brings hundreds of students their first camping experience, combined with a dynamic two-day environmental stewardship program delivered in the forests and wetlands of Stanley Park. Students practice leadership skills, discover plant and animal interactions in forest and aquatic ecosystems, set up tents and shelters, cook meals and learn survival skills with the help of staff, teachers and community volunteers.

In Spring 2008, 451 students experienced Urban Camping through 18 programs, with a unique mix of schools attending. This year, the Urban Camping program can celebrate its diversity of students: two classes attended from Vancouver inner city schools; six classes came from as far away as Abbotsford; and for the first year, we had participants from a Sikh school and a homeschool group.

Teacher Workshops
Teacher professional development workshops are a new initiative for our environmental education team. In October 2007, the Stanley Park Ecology Society partnered with the Environmental Educators Provincial Specialist Association (EEPSA) to host a conference for over 200 BC teachers at the Stanley Park Pavilion. Additional teacher workshops were conducted for a UBC in-service teacher education course and for Vancouver School Board teachers through EEPSA. For the 2008-09 school year, we aim to offer these workshops on a regular basis for teachers who want to find new ways to connect their students with nature.
SPES Public Programs has enjoyed a very successful year with regards to increased program offerings and audience attendance as we continue exploring new ways of engaging people.

This year saw the debut of the Bright Nights Holiday Humbug Hike, which met with a very favorable reception from all participants. Unfortunately, city job action during the fall meant that the Creatures of the Night program could not run throughout the Halloween season as the Ghost Train itself was not running. The same job action also affected many of the community centers registered in our Daycamp programs but those participants that were able to attend left very satisfied and with an intention to return the next summer.

A major highlight for Public Programs during the last year was the opportunity to contribute information, images and editing to the Legacy Education Program. This program, funded through the Stanley Park Restoration budget, supported the development of 36 interpretive signs that will be distributed throughout various ecosystems and historical sites within the park. SPES hopes that these signs will help visitors discover many hidden aspects of Stanley Park that are so worth exploring.

A new collaboration with the Vancouver Aquarium overnight program is opening new programming opportunities, as is the Stanley Park Environmental Art Project - connecting people to nature through art. These, in addition to our focus on English Second Language audiences make for a promising future for Public Programs.
Eco Rangers
The Eco Rangers program was given a boost this past year through the creation of a Spring Recruitment and Training campaign that saw more than 50 volunteers signing up for the program, some of whom were returning from previous years.

These applicants, thoroughly trained in the natural and cultural history of Stanley Park, enjoyed an almost completely re-vamped training program that, according to participant evaluations, was very well received. This new approach to Eco Ranger and volunteer training in general has been instituted, in part, to increase the number of qualified volunteers for the Creatures of the Night and Bright Nights programs during the Halloween and Christmas seasons. It is our hope that by investing even more into the training of our volunteers that they will begin to develop the same sense of excitement about Stanley Park that has led so many volunteers before them into the different costumes that our seasonal walks depend on.

Our new and improved training experience has also allowed us to send teams of Eco Rangers out to the Great Blue Heronry, some eagles’ nests, and around Beaver Lake, armed with scopes, images and educational materials that have been very well received by the public. Given time, the Eco Rangers program will grow to be an even more important part of the Public Programs offered by SPES.

Lost Lagoon Nature House
The LLNH is experiencing a banner year for changes which is important as it is Vancouver’s only nature house. One successful collaboration with a team of design students from Emily Carr University of Art and Design gave us a bright and bold new direction to work towards with regards to the interior of the building. The exterior also has a refreshed colour treatment which will make it an even more enjoyable stop on your wander through the park.
The growing need and interest for invasive species programs, research, mapping and wildlife monitoring in Stanley Park resulted in the creation of SPES Conservation Programs in September 2007. Our first year has been a great success as we received tremendous support towards maintaining and enhancing the health and biodiversity of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives and community involvement.

**Wildlife Monitoring**

**Regular surveys:**
- 18 bald eagle nests in the City of Vancouver monitored by 20 volunteers.
- 151 great blue heron nests in 21 trees; over 40 surveys conducted representing over 200 hours of volunteer work.
- Heron Adopt-a-Nest program grew from 26 to 51 participants this year.
- 12 regular bird counts of Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake with help from over 25 volunteers.
- More than 82 bird species recorded including 3 regularly sighted Species at Risk.

**Specialized Surveys:**
- 2 owl surveys were conducted at 3 sites with the help of 11 volunteers; of note, a western screech-owl (a blue-listed Species at Risk) was detected.
- Amphibian surveys took place at Beaver Lake and the ponds inside the miniature railway area with the help of 3 volunteers.
- 18 Breeding Bird Surveys were conducted at SPES’s 9 long-term monitoring stations; 7 volunteers and 20 members of the public were trained at a Birding by Ear workshop; additional surveys were conducted at 29 sites in Stanley Park in collaboration with Jacques Whitford and Associates.
- Invertebrate surveys were conducted through student projects and by faculty of UBC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘07-’08 Conservation Program</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>161 Conservation volunteers (not including Stewardship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Habitat survey crews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Map layers created</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Student research projects facilitated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Types of wildlife surveys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Habitat Monitoring and Mapping

- Mapping continues to guide conservation program planning and creates a foundation for research and data collection in Stanley Park.
- 33 new volunteers were trained and participated in SPES’s survey and mapping program.
- Mapping efforts have been directed mostly towards invasive plant species as we identify the distribution and extent of more than 30 species identified in the Park.
- This year, surveys and map layers began for 14 invasive plant species. This information is essential in guiding our invasives removal program and our ongoing collaboration with the Park Board in targeting the most detrimental species (such as giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed).
- Other map layers created this year include: Lower Mainland coyote sightings 2004-2007, wetlands, veteran trees, and interpretive features.

Research

- A great blue heron feeding study was undertaken by SPES staff and volunteers during the 2008 breeding season.
- Partnerships were created with 6 post-secondary faculties, 2 environmental consulting companies, and many other organizations including the Entomological Society of BC and the South Coast Conservation Program.
- Student projects this year involved students from Churchill Secondary, UBC, SFU, BCIT, VCC, Douglas College, and the Langara Environmental Institute. Projects involved mapping and GIS analysis, wildlife surveys, invasives pull-out plot analysis, interpretive materials and studies of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the Park.

“Working as a volunteer with SPES has allowed me to meet a wide variety of people working in the field, while getting practical experience in data collection and plant identification skills required in the field of conservation.”
– Hajar Courteau, GIS/Survey volunteer

“From my experience, there are endless volunteer positions available for research and management projects through the SPES.”
– Ben Bondzio, SFU student project volunteer
Environmental Stewardship Programs
July 2007 through June 2008 has been a banner year for Ivy Busters. This year has marked many new beginnings for the program, as well as some major feats for Stanley Park’s stewards:

- Through the dedication of Ivy Busters volunteers, we were able to clear almost 1.3 hectares of invasive plants from the Park - a total volume of 696 cubic meters (the same volume as 6 backyard swimming pools!)
- Stewardship volunteers helped support restoration efforts by planting 400 trees and over 290 shrubs and herbaceous plants.
- Volunteer positions now include Ivy Busters Volunteers, Ivy Team Leaders, Invasives Youth Team Members, and Conservation Interns.
- Collaboration with corporate groups this year included the HSBC Climate Partnership with the Earthwatch Institute, Spectra Insurance, Telus, Nokia, and Axa-Pacific.
- The Ivy Busters Program also worked with the following community-based organizations: Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council, River Works, Van Dusen Gardens, Ismaili Youth CIVIC Day, and Green Drinks Vancouver.
- Stewardship youth programs are increasing in popularity; in addition to holding numerous events with students from schools and service groups around the Lower Mainland, we held 13 youth-focused Ivy Busters events last year and started new initiatives including student-led Churchill Secondary School events and SPES’s Stanley Park Invasives Removal Youth Teams (SPIRYT).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘06-’07</th>
<th>‘07-’08</th>
<th>Stewardship Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2800</td>
<td>5158</td>
<td>Volunteer hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>886</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Stewardship volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Invasive removal events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Species of invasive plants focused on for removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>Native plants planted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Invasive species brochures distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Planting events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Training events and workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Unlike typical volunteer opportunities, the Ivy Busters program provides us with a fun and enjoyable volunteer experience that allows us to help the environment in a meaningful way while teaching us a lot about the natural ecosystem of our beautiful city."
- Roger Zhang, Student Coordinator, Churchill Secondary School

"Busting ivy allowed me to become more aware of the intricate interactions that occur in nature, and it was an awesome learning experience!"
- Caitlin Gomez, Ivy Busters Volunteer

Volunteers transplant sword ferns for slope stability.
Co-Existing with Coyotes
The Co-Existing with Coyotes (CWC) program was developed in partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment and the City of Vancouver in 2001 in order to reduce the risk of conflict between people, pets and coyotes through a balance of education and action. The program continues to be in high demand in the schools and streets of the Lower Mainland.

- CWC continues to receive requests from across North America for guidance in developing coyote management policies. This past year we have been contacted by jurisdictions in Arkansas, Minneapolis, New York State, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland and Ontario.
- Between January and July 2008 alone, CWC received almost as many hotline calls and emails as in the previous years (Fig 2). Interest resurged after a program notice was sent to many agencies in the Lower Mainland (police and park departments, city halls, animal control offices, SPCA branches, etc) that receive calls from the public about coyotes.
- The Coyotes 101 school program was promoted in both the fall and winter terms this year. As a result, 49 programs were delivered during the school year, more than double that of 2006/07.
- Posters and brochures were distributed to the public, elementary schools, vets and pet stores around the Lower Mainland.
- Coyote Alert signs were installed in an additional 5 parks in Vancouver. The cities of Burnaby, Richmond, Delta and Langley are currently reviewing the Coyote Alert sign to have installed in municipal parks with high coyote activity.
- With the help of GIS volunteers, SPES is developing a map of all recorded coyote sightings in the Lower Mainland. The map will help facilitate future coyote research projects, identify areas of increasing coyote activity, and patterns of coyote movements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'06-'07</th>
<th>'07-'08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>465</td>
<td>754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6541</td>
<td>9420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coyote phone / email requests  
“Coyote 101” programs delivered  
School children taught safety awareness  
“Coyote Zone” / Urban Wildlife public talks / events  
Neighbourhoods visited for coyote response  
Coyote removed from neighbourhood
This year of exciting new developments for SPES has been paralleled by an unprecedented growth in our Volunteer Program. The large increase of volunteer contributions in all areas of our School, Public and Conservation Programs has been a major factor in our organization’s resounding success for 2007-8.

During this time, over 1800 SPES volunteers contributed a total of 15,936 hours. This represents a 65% increase of the number of volunteers and a 31% increase of total volunteer hours over the previous year. There were 8 new volunteer positions created as opposed to 3 in 2006-7.

Highlights of the SPES Volunteer Program this past year include:
· A large increase in recruitment of corporate groups and volunteers from ESL schools and organizations
· The creation of internships to provide for longer-term coverage especially for our Stewardship and Public Programs
· The creation of a corps of volunteers with specialized training from colleges and universities in order to fulfill increased capacity needs in our fast-growing conservation programs
· The provision of a minimum of twice yearly core training for our volunteers so as to provide them with increased opportunities to contribute in other areas and capacities within SPES.
· The creation of new volunteer training materials including a CD with our updated 2008 Volunteer Handbook, as well as the provision for other training opportunities throughout the year
· The updating of the SPES website ‘Volunteer’ section along with the provision of an online version of the bi-monthly Volunteer Bulletin
· The establishment of two yearly volunteer recognition events: the end-of-summer party, and the Christmas party/award ceremony.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Vols.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Programs</td>
<td>3583</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Programs</td>
<td>1363</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Programs</td>
<td>7541</td>
<td>1612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin/IT/ Graphics</td>
<td>2834</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>15487</strong></td>
<td><strong>1807</strong></td>
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**Financial Highlights, fiscal year ending June 30, 2008**

### Statement Of Activities

**Support and Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$300,749.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$10,649.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and Membership Dues</td>
<td>$23,529.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$72,022.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising sales &amp; services</td>
<td>$57,944.82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$464,895.26</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Supplies, permits, and services</td>
<td>$37,509.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR: wages, benefits</td>
<td>$384,778.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and overhead expenses</td>
<td>$12,468.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees - audit, consultant, IT</td>
<td>$6,191.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Goods Sold</td>
<td>$5,635.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Travel</td>
<td>$1,756.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilities expense</td>
<td>$8,269.42</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$456,609.26</strong></td>
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**NET ORDINARY INCOME**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$8,286.00</td>
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### Statement Of Financial Position

**Assets**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$252,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$2,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
<td>$10,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Receivable</td>
<td>$7,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies Inventory</td>
<td>$1,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$276,849</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable &amp; Accrued expenses</td>
<td>$6,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages payable</td>
<td>$2,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales taxes payable</td>
<td>$1,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Income</td>
<td>$166,714</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$196,891</strong></td>
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</table>

**UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$79,958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Special Thank You

Visionary (more than $10,000)
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation – Nature House, Co-Existing with Coyotes, Eco Rangers, Stanley Park Environmental Art Project
BC Gaming Commission – Environmental Stewardship and Innovative Education Programs
RBC Foundation at Royal Bank of Canada – Eco Rangers, School Programs, Urban Camping
Vancity Saving Credit Union – Environmental Stewardship Programs
BC Ministry of Environment – Co-Existing with Coyotes Program
The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (PromoScience Program) – School Programs
The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian Visual and Expressive Arts Program, made possible though a generous gift from the Ford Foundation – Stanley Park Environmental Art Project
Environmental Youth Alliance – Environmental Stewardship Programs
Eco Action – Environmental Stewardship
Vancouver Foundation – Stanley Park Environmental Art Program

Sustainer ($5000 - $10,000)
Capers Whole Foods Market – Urban Camping, General support
TELUS – Environmental Stewardship Programs
Spectra Energy – Environmental Stewardship Programs

Supporter ($1000-$5000)
AWARE Wage Subsidy – School Programs, Public Programs
Keith Lord Sport Foundation held at the Vancouver Foundation – Urban Camping
Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau – Urban Camping
Vancouver School Board – Urban Camping
Mountain Equipment Co-op – Environmental Stewardship
Environmental Partners in Organizational Development – Organizational Development
Nokia – Environmental Stewardship Programs
Futureworks – School Programs
HSBC Earthwatch Partnership – Environmental Stewardship Programs
Every Dollar Counts

Friends (Up to $1000)

A&B Chilcote
Shiloh Bouvette
M. Landell
S. Shaver
Rivard Printer Maintenance
M. Stott
J. M. Schindler
Jim Lowden
Bret Conkin
Spencer Herbert
Lynn Vardeman
Brett Horton
Anne Derek
Judy Chui
Joyce Prior
Victor Balon
Rosalyn
Ron and Wendy Stuart
Alan Stewart
Cheryl Quon
B. Schwab
D. & J. Phelps
Denise Pritchard
Trish Stevens
Victor Cottingham
Kent and Colleen Martin

In Kind Donors

West End Community Centre
Coal Harbour Community Centre
Bobolo Productions
Five Fathom Studios
Vancouver Aquarium
Concord Security
Parrot Label
Ethical Bean Coffee
Jacques Whitford and Associates

Sharon Masynyk
Rory Wallace
Isabelle Groc
Eco-handbags.ca
Nancy Kent
Kevin Klecker
Kathryn Gjernes
Paul Kopas
Harpers Island Television Production
South Surrey Garden Club

...and volunteer time valued at more than $155,000!