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.
The statement above is the Stanley Park Ecology Society’s Vision adopted as part of our recent strategic planning. As I reflect back on the past year, I am drawn to ponder our Vision. First, I think it is important to understand that our Vision answers the challenging question of why we, as an organization, do the things that we do. I believe that the Vision we adopted answers this question of why very well.

We start by envisioning Stanley Park as a “worldwide model representing harmony between nature and people”. Finding such harmony is by no means an easy task, as can be seen in the challenges of rehabilitating Stanley Park after the windstorms. Were Stanley Park a place of wilderness only, the fallen logs could be left without consideration of safe trails and fire hazards. Likewise, if Stanley Park was a place of recreation only, the fallen logs could be removed without consideration for the regeneration of the soils or habitat preservation. However, Stanley Park is a beautiful mix of both wilderness and recreation, and this is what provides an opportunity to show that harmony between nature and people is possible.

We then speak of making Stanley Park a place “where informed communities are inspired to make choices that support healthy ecosystems”. Particularly like the fact that our Vision uses the word “inspired”—we do not want to lecture people into change; we want them to see the beauty and importance of ecosystems and have this experience cause them to think about the positive changes they can effect.

The Stanley Park Ecology Society obviously cannot achieve our Vision alone, and we must continue to work together with our park and community partners. Fortunately, Stanley Park is such a special place with so many passionate stewards that I have the utmost confidence that our Vision will continue to be a reality.

Sincerely,

Brett A. Horton
President, Board of Directors, Stanley Park Ecology Society
Scrambling slowly through Stanley Park after the hurricane force winds of December 15, 2006, SPES staff saw first hand the powerful impacts – buried roadways, uplifted trails, shattered forests, displaced wildlife. Over the course of a few short weeks, however, shock and dismay gave way to action, and action to understanding, and understanding to a whole new optimism that this marked a most strategic and positive chapter in the history of Stanley Park.

The SPES staff and directors had already been working hard through the Fall and winter on reviewing and revamping the society’s Mission statement and Goals. Thus, we were well positioned to be wholly integrated in the Restoration Planning, to contribute a network of experts, to lend our heads, voices, and hands to research and surveys for baseline wildlife and habitat information, and to interpret it through education.

With the forest canopy now opened and new nutrients on the forest floor, songbirds and birds of prey taking advantage of expanding light-loving understory shrubs, park visitors are able to see nature in one form and phase of its own renewal strategy. We’ve seen the public at a revived connection to nature. And we see SPES in a re-invigorated commitment to excellence in active conservation: contributing mapping and wildlife data and monitoring skills, removal of non-native opportunistic plants, and development of legacy education programs.

This has been a truly exciting period of growth for both the Park and its Park Partner – SPES. We encourage one and all to stand side by side with us in our initiatives and efforts!

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society

2006-2007
SPES Team

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director

Mia (Haab) Torr
School Programs Manager

Jarrid Jenkins / Annemarie De Andrade
Public Programs Manager

Koren Johnstone
Volunteer Coordinator & Nature House Interpreter

Regina Bandong
Office Coordinator

Tracy Miranda
Lisa Bourdages
Rachelle Delaney
Environmental Educators

Project Positions:

Tracey-Kim Gillard
Morag Wehrle
Urban Camping

Noah O’Hara
EcoRanger Coordinator

Jennifer Smith
Megan Stewart
Nature House Hosts
Dec-January 2006-07 will be well remembered as a winter of wicked windstorms in Stanley Park. Extended wet weather, coupled with the hurricane-force storm of December 15, and subsequent blows the next month, caused thousands of trees to topple or snap, and left extensive damage to Park trails and the seawall.

SPES’s roles in Restoration Planning and Implementation have included:

- Inclusion at the twice-weekly meetings of the Park Board Restoration Committee meetings
- Stakeholder meetings input
- Networking and collaborative communication with Steering Committee members, Park staff, consultants, in-field staff, academics, researchers, and other strategists.
- Creation of the Park’s first Environmentally Sensitive Areas mapping and rationale.
- Creation of reports on Species at Risk (SAR); collaboration with VPB, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment on conservation protocols of SAR and associated habitats
- Wildlife and habitat surveys and baseline data collection, complete with GIS mapping
- Ecological monitoring of work in machine areas
- Invasive Species removal strategies
- Information and communications via EcoRangers, phone lines, forums, and Nature House public contacts
- Assistance with fundraising for the Stanley Park Restoration Fund
- Education programming and legacy education interpretation
- Advocacy for no-net-loss of forest zones, no net gain of trail systems nor asphalt, while encouraging boardwalk replacement of specific trails.
Our School Programs staff lead curriculum-based field trips for teachers and students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. Students experience environmental science in action with our hands-on forest, wetland and intertidal ecology programs, delivered in Stanley Park and in classrooms across the Lower Mainland. Imagine catching aquatic bugs at Beaver Lake, solving a salmon mystery, camping overnight in the forest, or seeing a virtual forest in your classroom!

Park & Class Programs
Teachers and students learn about our natural world and environmental stewardship by exploring wetland, rainforest and intertidal ecosystems with our park and class program leaders. Lessons include post-program information on how students’ personal choices can affect environmental change, and how they can respond to urban wildlife in their own schoolyards.

The December 2006 windstorm did present some significant challenges to our school programs – notably, the destruction of many trails we normally use for our programs, as well as teachers’ perception of the Park as a field trip destination. Nevertheless, our program bookings matched those of the 2004/05 school year, with continued growth expected into next year.

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.

Urban Stewards Teacher’s Manual
Last year, the British Columbia Ministry of Education honoured our 240-page Urban Stewards Manual with a place on their “recommended resources” list for teaching the new intermediate Life Sciences curriculum. This year, many staff hours have been spent redesigning the existing content for easier use by teachers. We have edited all lessons to fit a simpler teaching format while keeping the existing concepts and research, and have created a new electronic format to be released on CD-ROM in Fall, 2007, which will be sold to elementary teachers province-wide.

This program was a great way for students to gain confidence and independence. You’ll see your students’ abilities in a new light after Urban Camping!”
- N. MacLennan, grade 5 teacher

I saw raccoons, mallard ducks, gulls, squirrels and SO many bats at Stanley Park. It was really fun when we built the shelters. I had such a great time, I hope we come again!”
- Karman, grade 5

In Spring 2007, 557 students experienced Urban Camping through 23 programs, a 35% increase over last year.
- 33% of students participated from inner city schools.
- Due to increased demand, Urban Camping programs started in mid-April this year; our earliest spring season start to date!

In the 2006/2007 school year, SPES shared forest ecology with 2560 students through delivery of 104 park and class programs.
Public Programming

Not only is SPES excited about our renewed focus on offering a variety of educational programming, we are excited about the expanding awareness of our programs within the educational community, especially in English as a Second Language schools. This market alone holds much promise for SPES as several satisfied customers have begun incorporating Stanley Park ESL walks into their regularly offered curriculum.

SPES is also collaborating with Canada Parks to develop messaging and events that will communicate the significance of Stanley Park’s National Historic Site status. The first phase of this project will take the form of extensive telephone surveys that will provide insight into local visitation and preferred messaging channels, information that will definitely shape our future communications initiatives.

With the increased community and visitor interest in Stanley Park generated by the 2006 December windstorm events, SPES intends to continue expanding our public program offerings and to redesign Nature House displays as we re-introduce visitors to a park that is more exciting than ever before.

Eco Rangers

A highly successful program of 5 years, Eco Rangers trains and coordinates a diverse team of volunteers to provide a roving service of ecological and general information to summer visitors.

The Eco Rangers program benefited from the return of last year’s coordinator and we again had a full team of 35, including 10 veterans from the previous year. Increased efforts in training led to an even more informed group of volunteers roaming the walkways of Stanley Park, answering questions and helping to ensure the protection of our environmental resources.

The Eco Rangers were again outfitted in Eco-friendly fibres this year with our bamboo/cotton blend t-shirts, a tradition that suits SPES quite well.

With well over 1400 contacts made with the public this year, the Eco Rangers program continues to contribute to our efforts to protect and communicate the wonders of Stanley Park.
Ivy Busters enjoyed a very successful year with almost 900 volunteers contributing over 2800 hrs of time to the removal of highly invasive English Ivy from the forests of Stanley Park.

Not only did we enjoy the almost 700 volunteer students that the Maccabi Youth Olympics (Canada) group brought to fight ivy last summer, but we also enjoyed a growing interest in the program from the downtown corporate community. This very local and highly rewarding stewardship opportunity continues to appeal to a growing corporate interest in volunteerism and citizenship.

Ivy Busters is also benefiting from increased public awareness of the impact that invasive species can have on the biodiversity of the forests in Stanley Park. Community groups, colleges and universities have all provided volunteers in our efforts to *carpe hedera* (Seize the Ivy)! Over 2 hectares of forest were “de-vined” this year and our program expanded with the addition of a joint effort with Park Board staff to remove an area infected with Purple Loosestrife.

The Ivy Busters program intends to focus on additional invasive species lurking in the park and is currently developing a new working plan for an expanded removal schedule to be supported by trained volunteers and the Vancouver Park Board.

And we also want to congratulate HSBC on becoming our 2006 major Adopt-an-Acre sponsor and for contributing directly to educational programming around invasive species, and to our ability to buy the tools, tarps and snacks needed for volunteers. Thank-you also to the Vancouver Park Board, Vancity and Capers for your continued support of this important program.

Lost Lagoon Nature House

After almost a year of being closed due to mold-related issues, the LLNH re-opened in May of 2007 with freshly swept floors, new drywall and another wonderful collection of bird and mammal specimens, on loan from Dr. Rex Kenner of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at UBC. New displays were created to provide information about the December 2006 windstorms and additional displays are being designed with community volunteers. There is a new mission for the LLNH that will eventually see a completely re-designed display area that will act not only as an introduction to the ecology of Stanley Park, but also a source of information regarding the Restoration activities carried out by the Park Board.

“\[The Nature House is very interesting and educational\]”
- Jasmine, Zoe, Jessica and John, visitors from California

“\[Merci...tres bonne initiative de sensibilization!\]”
- Delilah, visitor from Quebec
Despite the cancellation of some of our scheduled programs in the aftermath of the December 15, 2006 windstorm, our teams of 1090 volunteers contributed a record-breaking 12,153 hours towards SPES’ environmental education and stewardship programs this past year!

Several areas have been expanded within the volunteer program, including administration and IT, Creatures of the Night and Ivy Busters. New positions were created such as children’s summer programs assistants, native garden stewards, display assistants, nature journal illustrators/ writers, and assistants to the Volunteer Coordinator.

As SPES is increasing its commitment towards conservation and stewardship, we have created several positions for initiatives in wildlife monitoring, and GPS/GIS and mapping. With research assistance from our volunteers, we produced preliminary reports for the Vancouver Park Board’s Restoration Plan, including a compilation of Species at Risk, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Invasive Plant Species.

We have made strong efforts to be inclusive in our programs and this is reflected in the diverse backgrounds, abilities, ages and ethnicities of our volunteers. We have expanded our program to include more ESL (English Second Language) groups and academic institutions. We also have increased the numbers of company-sponsored volunteer groups participating in our stewardship events as a team-building activity benefiting employees, our community and the local environment.

Other examples of achievements made possible through the time and expertise of our committed volunteers include:

- An inventory and technical analysis of our IT resources, and an upgraded networking system
- A bimonthly SPES volunteer bulletin
- A digital library system to meet expanding needs for efficient and up-to-date information management

Volunteers Engaged: 1090

Volunteer Hours Summary

<table>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>12,153</td>
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</table>

“Just knowing that my work is having a significant benefit for SPES makes every shift special.”
- Edward Park, SPES volunteer assistant to Volunteer Coordinator

“I thoroughly enjoy the responsibility given to us as volunteers. It gives us the freedom to come up with proposals and ideas, and to do some decision-making with consultation. This is exactly the kind of volunteering I enjoy.”
- Wilma Mosmans, SPES volunteer Garden Steward
Urban Wildlife programs of SPES have grown in response to our strategic plan and the effects of the December 2006 windstorm. New initiatives include regular bird surveys, GIS mapping, habitat monitoring, and several research projects undertaken in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board as a part of their Restoration Plan. Meanwhile, the Co-Existing with Coyotes program continues as a busy and valuable service in Metro Vancouver and across North America, and the Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagle monitoring expanded this year in response to the increased number of nesting birds.

Co-Existing with Coyotes (CWC)
The SPES designed Co-existing With Coyotes program continues to be in high demand in the schools and streets of Vancouver, and a result of its success, in jurisdictions far beyond. The unique coyote management program was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and City of Vancouver in 2001 and reduces the risk of conflict between people, pets and coyotes through a balance of education and action.

- SPES was a featured speaker at an Urban Coyote Symposium organized by the Wildlife Damage Working Group in Corpus Christi, Texas. This Spring gathering for wildlife managers and other groups across the USA, resulted in new exposure and interest in our world class program.
- CWC received numerous requests for information sharing with other agencies including interest from Kaslo BC, Fairfax County VA, New York State, Long Beach CA, Minneapolis MN, and Okaloosa County FL.
- Posters and brochures were delivered to the public, elementary schools, vets and pet stores around Vancouver.
- The City of North Vancouver and Burnaby were added to this year’s promotion of the Coyote 101 program for elementary students.

### Co-existing with Coyotes Stats

- **Coyote phone/e-mail requests**: 465
- **Coyote 101 programs**: 23
- **School children taught**: 6541
- **Coyote Zone/Urban Wildlife talks/events**: 10
- **Media interviews**: 52
- **Neighbourhoods visited for Coyote Response**: 15
- **Coyote removed from neighbourhood**: 1

### Coyote Phone Line Request Topics

- *Urban Wildlife Info* - 28%
- *Coyote Info* - 64%
- *Storm Info* - 8%
Wildlife Monitoring

- A record number of 183 Great Blue Heron nests in the Stanley Park Heronry were monitored by four volunteers and one SPES staff. There were 44 surveys conducted in the 2007 nesting season representing 200 hours of volunteer work. SPES was involved in the installation of a Stanley Park Heronry webcam run by the Hancock Wildlife Foundation.
- The Society piloted a research project to determine where the Park’s nesting herons hunt. This research has piqued the interest of heron researchers from the Canadian Wildlife Service. A more formal research plan will be created for 2008.
- Improvements were made to the Adopt-a-Nest sponsorship program which attracted 25 participants this year.
- 17 Bald Eagle nests in the City of Vancouver were monitored by 20 volunteers.
- Updates were made to the Wildlife Tree Stewardship atlas such that all nest locations are now GIS mapped and productivity records are up to date. SPES is a member of the WiTS committee that manages and promotes the atlas that can be accessed by the public and Governments for use in management decisions.
- Monthly bird surveys were conducted at Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake. As they include public participation, these also serve as a great introduction to SPES and to birding for new volunteers.

GIS Mapping

SPES staff are directing volunteers in GIS mapping projects in Stanley Park. This year, SPES contributed the first maps on Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Species at Risk as tools for Park Management. We continue work on invasive species mapping and select other maps for baseline information and management monitoring.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Stanley Park (made by SPES)
Habitat Monitoring
• SPES has established volunteer-supported Monitoring Stations in the Park. Through field photographs and a series of surveys in these study plots, we are gathering baseline information that can be monitored over time to help guide long term ecological management.

Research / Restoration
• Detailed Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Species at Risk and Invasive Plant species reports were created for the Park Board and used for the restoration planning.
• A new section was added to the SPES website giving first-hands information on the Dec. 2006 windstorm and its effects on the ecology of the Park. In addition, walks and presentations were designed and delivered to school and community groups and dozens of interviews were given in the months following the storm.
• SPES was a key participant in the many breeding bird surveys, several owl surveys, and amphibian surveys that were undertaken in the Park for the Restoration Plan.
• SPES staff acted as official environmental monitors during restoration operations. Monitors watch the machine operations to protect wildlife and habitats, and proof that site prescriptions are followed.
### Media Awareness

#### Interview Stats
- Contacts Made: 38
- Interviews - TV: 5
- Interviews - Radio: 11
- Interviews - News: 8
- Interviews - Other: 16

#### Stanley Park Ecology Society In The News Included...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>CKNW - Bill Good Show</td>
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<td>December 19, 2006</td>
<td>CKNW - Pledge event for trees</td>
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<td>December 19, 2006</td>
<td>CBC Radio - Early Edition</td>
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<td>Vancouver Courier</td>
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<td>Province Newspaper</td>
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<td>January 11, 2007</td>
<td>The Vancouver Sun</td>
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#### Conference Presentations

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<td>2007</td>
<td>WDWG Texas Coyote Symposium</td>
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</table>
The Stanley Park Ecology Society ensures that its programs, from education to action, are available to individuals and families of all income levels. Offering low cost to no cost events and programs, SPES is dedicated to offering everyone the chance to be a positive and informed steward!

To allow SPES to maintain these invaluable programs at little to no cost for groups and individuals, SPES draws financial support from a diverse group of partners. Foundations, corporate donors, grants, members and individuals offer SPES the financial resources needed to encourage stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action.
Visionary (more than $10,000)

- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation - Nature House, Co-existing With Coyotes, Eco Rangers
- BC Gaming Commission - Urban Stewardship and Innovative Education Programs
- RBC Foundation at Royal Bank of Canada - Urban Camping
- Ministry of Environment - Co-Existing With Coyotes
- Vancity Saving Credit Union - Stewardship Programs

Sustainer ($5000 - $10,000)

- BC Hydro - School Programs
- Capers Community Market - School Programs, Urban Camping, General Programs

Supporter ($1000-$5000)

- AWARE Wage Subsidy - School Programs
- Service Canada - Nature House Programs
- Keith Lord Sports Foundation at Vancouver Foundation - Urban Camping
- Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau - Urban Camping
- Vancouver School Board - Urban Camping
- Labatt - Eco Rangers
- Christ Church Cathedral - General support
- Mountain Equipment Co-op - Conservation
- CKNW Orphans Fund - Public Programs
- Environmental Partners in Organizational Development - Organizational Development
- Tides Canada Foundation - General Support
- Nature Canada/Parks Canada - Urban Camping
Every Dollar Counts

In Kind Donors
Daniel Group
Vancouver Aquarium
Deloitte and Touche
Mountain Equipment Co-op
Playground Media Inc.
Five Fathom Studios
Roundhouse Community Centre
Starboard Custom Print and Finishing
MapInfo
Rivard Printer
Maintenance Inc.
Concord Security
Parrot Label

Friends (Up to $1000)
Rosalyn and Dean Kaardal
Paul Kopas
Kathy Holley
D.B. Kiernan
Dale Collin Essar
Ron and Wendy Stuart
Mia Haab Toor
Victor Cottingham
Jan Cook
Brian Herrin
Joslin Kobylka
Judith MacPherson
Stephen Rivard
Graham Rodwell
Citizens Bank of Canada
Candian Tire
Brett Horton
Patricia Thomson
T.N.T Garment Manufacturing
Bobolo Productions
Carnarvon Elementary
D.J. Mackinnon
John H.E. Colby
Shirley-Anne Blackadder
Gillian Woolfson
Audrey Hetherington
Trish Gauntlett
Annette Aarbo
Masako Matsumoto
Ray McNabb
Todd Prodanuk
Janet Schindler
Leanne Howes
Paula Ramsey
Barbara Porco
Fiona Sinclair
Joyce Prior
Victor Balon
Pat and Paul Hart
Shirley Mulligan
Kristine Lampa
Doug Wilson
Yuichi Shimada
Paul and Gail Horton
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Christine Corby
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Dr. Margaret Stott
Cherry Davies
Diane Friedman