encourages *stewardship* of our natural world through environmental *education* and *action*, and builds *awareness* of the fragile balance that exists between urban populations and nature.
President’s Message

On any given day, a visit to the Stanley Park Ecology Society’s offices will find our staff busy maintaining programs while developing new and exciting ideas. This has been especially true this past year as we bid farewell to staff departing for new experiences and welcomed those who joined the Society to continue what we do best: connecting people with nature. Led by our talented Executive Director Patricia Thomson, it has also been a year for us to reconnect with our park partners, notably the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the Vancouver Aquarium, as we share the common goal to appreciate our natural environment and encourage park stewardship.

I am grateful to once again have this opportunity to thank our numerous funders and volunteers for their continued and valued support. This support enabled the Society to complete its earthen architecture project or cob structure. Last year, over two hundred volunteers totaling over one thousand volunteer hours participated in the construction of our new cob popcorn stand in the miniature railway and farmyard plaza in Stanley Park. This year, an equally large number of volunteers met regularly to pull the invasive ivy plant from Stanley Park as a joint project with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation or to track the status of the flourishing heronry. We also continue to be an educational leader in school programs. I am sure you will enjoy reading about these exciting initiatives in the following staff reports. Without funder and volunteer support, our numerous programs would not be able to flourish.

As I complete my three-year tenure as president, I have watched the Society grow, strengthen, and expand. In order to maintain this forward momentum, we need to become more self-reliant financially. Over the past two years, I am pleased to write that we have increased our self-generating revenue over 200% due to our popcorn sales and space rental. In order to continue this growth, we need to increase our membership, seek donations, and inaugurate a signature fundraising event. I look forward to this exciting future.

Sincerely,
Judith MacPherson
President, Board of Directors, Stanley Park Ecology Society
Executive Director’s Address

Where Out is In....

As an outstanding outdoors, Stanley Park is an internationally recognized “In” place to be. In fact, the globally-centered, New York Based Project for Public Spaces (pps.org) has recently inducted Stanley Park as one of ten of the world’s best public spaces.

For 17 years, SPES has been proud to contribute to all that is great about this huge urban wilderness, and proud to integrate the community as lifelong learners, stewards, and interpreters. Whether you are interested in the mysteries of mushrooms, intrigued by specifics of insects, want to investigate the intricacies of the full functioning forest, or wish to have individual stewardship input, SPES is your conduit.

This past year has been no exception. More than 762 community volunteers got involved in SPES projects including the building of the Cob Earthen Architecture and Native Plant Garden. Those inclined to be Ivy Busters and urban wildlife watchers helped invest more than 1900 hours of smiling service into Park stewardship. Despite being inundated with flood waters in the winter, once renovated, the Lost Lagoon Nature House is once again an inviting indoors full of information for 5977 drop-ins. EcoRangers interacted with 5000 individuals. And 3425 students and public individuals were instructed through innovative hands-on classes and inspiring field education.

The intent and success of all that SPES accomplishes is that invaluable stewardship behaviour is integrated into neighbourhoods and schools throughout BC’s Lower Mainland ~ and ripples into the Interior. We surge ahead, expanding our reach through teacher CD-ROMs, web interactions, and dreams of a Nature Interpretive Centre in Stanley Park.

We are grateful for your membership and sponsorship, and for your involvement, input, and indispensable support.

The urban outdoors is, indeed, in!

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society
Teachers and students spent over 200 hours with our educators this year exploring wetland, rainforest and intertidal ecosystems. Programs extended students’ understanding of our natural world and applied this knowledge to their everyday lives, encouraging environmental stewardship through personal choices and actions.

Our 240-page Urban Stewards Manual, launched last year, provides a one-stop science resource for teachers, enabling them to deliver a hands-on environmental stewardship program. This year, the British Columbia Ministry of Education has honoured the Urban Stewards Manual with a place on their “recommended resources” list for teaching the new intermediate Life Sciences curriculum. Teachers across the province are adopting a new science curriculum for the coming year, and many of them will be pointed to our manual for assistance!
Urban Camping

This year, our Urban Camping program gave 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 practiced leadership skills, discovered plant and animal interactions in forest and aquatic ecosystems, set up tents and shelters, cooked meals and learned survival skills with the help of staff, teachers and community volunteers.

“For some students, Urban Camping initiated them in their first sleepovers. The program pinpointed leaders and gave students many unique hands-on activities. Ms Mercer, Gr 6 - Fraser Academy.
Fostering not only a respect for the environment... but also an understanding of the interconnectedness of nature, SPES Public Programs play a leading role in raising awareness of Stanley Park’s natural resources, and its importance as a wildlife sanctuary. By providing hands-on conservation opportunities in the park for the urban population, we foster a sense of park ownership, as well as a deeper involvement with nature. We are proud to support a community of environmentally well-informed citizens!

Ivy Busters

Now in just its second year, the Ivy Busters Program has become extremely popular with volunteers and with the media, attracting attention from newspapers, radio & television stations, and the Canadian Gardening Magazine. We’ve also had tremendous volunteer and community employee support, including a cash donation of $2,725 from four employees of HSBC of Canada.

To date, we have removed 2.8 hectares of English Ivy from Stanley Park, thanks to the efforts of 432 volunteers, who donated 1263 hours of time to the organization. This program is a long-term and very necessary initiative, with the infestation of English Ivy and other invasive plant species estimated to range from 50 to 75 hectares of the park’s forested area.

Program Highlights

- 432 volunteers donated 1263 hours of their time to Ivy Busters
- 2.8 hectares of English Ivy was removed
- 5,000 visitors to the park were reached by the Eco Rangers
Eco Rangers

The Eco Rangers Program continues to be the hottest summer program in Stanley Park. The success of the program is reaching beyond the park. It is now being used as a model for two new Eco Rangers Programs in the Lower Mainland: Surrey and Richmond.

This year, the program attracted 21 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. Together, they provided quality interpretation to more than 5000 visitors, and contributed more than 1000 hours of time to the organization.

Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Located above the Nature House, by the foot of Alberni Street, the SPES native garden has been in existence for two full years. The native garden is part of the community garden, and represents a partnership between SPES, the West End Residents Association, and the Vancouver Park Board.

Fulfilling two main roles, the native garden provides a space for volunteers to enjoy the experience of gardening with native plants, and educates the public about the importance of incorporating native plants in urban gardens.

The next focus for the native garden is to produce native plants that will support the restoration of areas in Stanley Park impacted by the removal of invasive species. With a new bronze plaque and two benches recently installed, the community garden has become a pleasant place to be gardening, or simply just “be”.

Additions to this year's Eco Rangers program:

- New/updated uniforms
- Radios replacing cell phones
- New and updated interpretive material
- A new brochure
- Weekly Bird Counts
Encouraging people to explore the Park... and to develop an awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, the Lost Lagoon Nature House serves as a meeting place for beginner and experienced naturalists alike. It provides information on the local flora and fauna, as well as activities and guided walks throughout the Park.

Lost Lagoon Nature House

2004 - 2005 was a busy year for the Nature House! After extensive renovations, it now proudly features:

- a new office space, complete with 2 updated computers, a printer and a scanner for research and the production of displays
- a freshly drywalled and painted main display and extended library area
- new window bulletin panels containing information on the latest sightings in the Park, Heronry and Eagle’s nests updates, the results of the weekly Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake bird counts, as well as other related events taking place in the community at large.
- new fun interactive games and displays, including one by BCIT students on native plants, which nicely complements our expanded collection of native plants in the nearby SPES Native Garden.

Cob Earthen Architecture

The Cob That Wouldn’t Crumble!

In Autumn 2004, the Stanley Park Earthen Architecture received its crowning roof of reclaimed timbers, and a garden to top it off: Hundreds of strategic seedling plants burst forth in blues and yellows and pinks in the Spring. Now fully established, this Living Roof adds an aesthetic and eco-friendly finish to the whole “Cob” building that models alternative, sustainable architecture.

The “Cob” is constructed of sand, clay and straw. A half size model was structurally put to the test twice at UBC research facilities; it didn’t significantly buckle until pummeled with a force of Richter 9!

More than 200 volunteers contributed over 2000 hours to the construction of the “Cob.”

SPES began to serve CAPERS organic popcorn and Glacier Water appropriately for the Fall season. Sales 100% support the diverse programs of the Ecology Society.
Inspiring members of the community to engage with nature ... SPES’s volunteer program follows the society’s mission of ‘Connecting People with Nature’. We applaud our wonderful team of volunteers for their dedication, generosity and enthusiasm - they are our most valuable resource and we could not achieve the scope of work we do without their help!

**Program Highlights**

- 762 individuals donated their time volunteering.
- 9,900 volunteer hours were received by SPES programs:
  - School Programs - 138
  - Public Programs - 6347
  - Cob House - 2000
  - Urban Wildlife - 640
  - Administrative - 775

**Our Volunteers**

Volunteering for SPES is a valuable experience for participants, and an amazing resource for the Society. Providing the opportunity to learn a variety of new skills and to contribute to the welfare of Stanley Park, SPES volunteers gain valuable tools to use in daily life, while helping SPES achieve its mission of “Connecting People with Nature”.

This past year, over 762 volunteers participated and contributed almost 10,000 hours towards SPES programs. Several new positions were created to include graphic design, as well as IT and office management volunteers to support our expanding programs. We look forward to furthering our efforts to ensure a welcoming and fulfilling program for new and existing volunteers.

...Stanley Park is an amazing place to engender greater feelings of stewardship among its visitors. This is especially true of children. Creating meaningful and fun activities which have the potential to awaken a sense of magic and wonder for children is amazing and rewarding work. It is also important that this experience be made available to the widest and most diverse group of children possible, which SPES programs focus on explicitly. It is my wish to be a part of children’s formative nature experiences...

from Kathleen Lewis, Volunteer - Urban Camping  June 2005.
Co-Existing with Coyotes continues to be recognized as a model urban wildlife program. Established partnerships with the Ministry of Environment and the Cities of Vancouver and Surrey continue to provide the public with the urban wildlife assistance they need.

This year Co-Existing with Coyotes was:

- **In your backyard**: Providing an on-site response in 17 neighbourhoods that attracted a coyote

- **In your child’s elementary school**: Reaching 8,000 elementary school students with coyote awareness presentations

- **In your vet clinic**: Each pet services business in Vancouver and Surrey receive urban coyote information for their clients’ pet’s protection

- **On your phone, doorstep, TV and in-box**: Responding to more than 800 urban wildlife requests from residents, agencies and media continent-wide with situation specific and wildlife management policy advice, brochures and posters

- **On your golf course and in your parks**: More than 60 permanent signs are posted in Vancouver’s parks, golf courses and off-leash dog areas

Program Highlights

- onsite response to coyotes in 17 neighbourhoods
- Species monitoring expanded into collecting vital data on beached birds
- 168 Heron nests monitored, creating a record year!
- 12 Bald Eagle nests and 13 Eaglets monitored

Providing communities and individuals with resources on how to co-exist with wildlife... these unique and invaluable programs such as the well known Co-Existing with Coyotes program, and Species Monitoring (Eagles, Herons) play an important role in creating healthy and safe environments for people and our ‘wild’ neighbours.
Heron and Eagle Monitoring

The Heron and Eagle Monitoring had a busy year:

- Counting and counting and counting: Monitoring the heronry in Stanley Park in a record setting year: 168 active nests in 24 trees.
- Looking up!: Monitoring 12 Bald Eagle nests and 13 eaglets in The City of Vancouver
- On the Beach: Conducting monthly surveys for beached birds along Vancouver’s coastline from Portside Park (north foot of Main St) to the south side of Burrard St Bridge.

Urban Wildlife Awareness

- Putting Wildlife on the map: Creating a “Wildlife Map” of Stanley Park to inform visitors which and where wild animals are likely to be seen
- Receiving over 18 media features
- Partnering: With the City of Vancouver, the Provincial Ministry of Environment, the City of Surrey, the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Studies Canada, the Federal Ministry of Environment, the GVRD and the Vancouver Natural History Society
SPES makes the News in 2004 – 2005 ...

Sing Tao Daily (Earthen Architecture gets Green Roof)
BCIT “the Update” (Earthen Architecture gets Green Roof)
Burnaby Now (coyotes in Burnaby)
BCTV News (coyotes in Burnaby)
CBC Radio – Sounds Like Canada (Earthen Architecture)
Shaw TV – The Rec Report (Earthen Architecture)
WestEnder (Discovery Walks)
Georgia Strait (Birding and Discovery Walks)
BCTV News (coyotes in Deep Cove)
CBC Morningside (Ivy Busters)
Weather Network News (Ivy Busters)
Global TV, Health and Wellness show (urban wildlife risks)
Shared Vision (urban wildlife in Vancouver)
CBC TV – “Cliché” (Earthen Architecture)
Labatt People in Action Newsletter (Ivy Busters)
CITR radio - The flip side (coyotes)
Shaw TV (Ivy Busters)
GVTV – The Sustainable Region (Ivy Busters)
CFML radio (coyotes)
CITR radio - The flip side (herons and eagles)
CBC radio Quebec City (herons)
CBC Radio (Insects)
CBC radio Quebec City (herons update)
BCTV Global (Nature Interpretation)
Vancouver Magazine (herons)
CBC Calgary, News (coyote bites kids in Calgary)
CBC Calgary, The Stretch Drive (coyote bites kids in Calgary)
Shaw TV Express, The Rec Report (Nature House flooded)
Shaw TV Express, The Rec Report (Discovery Walk)
CBC French, Vancouver (herons)
Vancouver Courier (coyotes)
BCTV News (coyotes)
Vancouver Courier (coyotes)
Shaw Cable Urban Rush (coyotes, raccoons and skunks)
CBC radio News (herons)
CBC Early Edition (herons)
Vancouver Magazine (herons)
Canadian Gardening (Ivy Busters)
BCAA WestWorld Magazine (Public Program Discovery Walks)
Georgia Straight - Best of Vancouver edition (Cob Popcorn Stand & Lost Lagoon Nature House)
The Stanley Park Ecology Society ensures that all of 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 cost to no cost for groups and individuals, SPES draws financial support from an amazing group of diverse partners. Foundations, Corporate Donors, Grants, Members and Individuals offer SPES the financial resources needed to continue and further its mission - to encourage stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action.

Working together - we all make it happen!

Thank you!
A Special Thank You...

VISIONARY (more than $10 000)

- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation – Nature House, Co-Existing with Coyotes, Eco Rangers, Cob Earthen Architecture
- BC Gaming Commission – Urban Stewardship Programs
- NSERC PromoScience – Park and Class School Programs
- RBC Foundation at Royal Bank of Canada – Urban Camping
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (Environment) – Co-Existing with Coyotes
- VanCity Savings Credit Union – Stewardship
- Capers Community Markets – School Programs, Cob Earthen Architecture
- EcoAction – Urban Stewardship

SUSTAINER ($5000 to $10 000)

- Labatt People in Action – Ivy Busters, Cob Earthen Architecture, Native Plant Demonstration Garden
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – Nature House
- Public Conservation Assistance Fund – Urban Stewardship

SUPPORTER ($1000 to $5000)

- Vancouver School Board - Urban Camping
- FutureWorks Training – Public Programs
- Human Resources Development Canada – Operations
- Keith Lord Sports Foundation at Vancouver Foundation – Urban Camping
- Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau – Urban Camping
- CCHREI - BEAHR - School Programs
- The Vancouver Trolley Company - Operations
- Socially Aware Marketing - Operations
- Starbucks Coffee Company - Operations
- HSBC of Canada - Ivy Busters
- Workstart Programs - Administration
- City of Surrey - Co-Existing with Coyotes
Every Dollar Counts...

IN-KIND DONORS
Impact Demolition
Magnet Home Hardware
Sharp Verdir Systems Inc.
TEK Roofing
F&M Glass
Eco-Lumber Co-op
Nature’s Path
BCIT Greenroof Research
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3 Vets
Down to Earth Building Bee
Ocean Construction Services
Robertson Geoconsultants Inc.
Roundhouse Community Centre
Bruce Cassels
I.Chen Architect
Sandy Congram
University of British Columbia
Environmental Youth Alliance
Mountain Equipment Co-op

FRIENDS (UP TO $1000)
Lisa Thompson
Philippa Mennell
Kristine Lampa
Cathy O’Connor-Morris
Joyce Prior
Doug Wilson
Kelly Quinlan
Jerry Miehm
Christine Spinder
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Jim Lowden
Roger Sexton
Christine Corby
Margaret Dresen
Eileen Brown
Sandy Congram

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

Norman Kennedy
The Stanley Park Ecology Society encourages stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action.