



STANLEY PARK

 **25**
years

ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Connecting people with nature since 1988



Annual Report 2012-13

The Year In Numbers

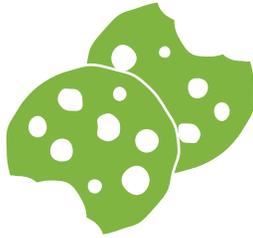


SPES' membership grew by almost **50%** in the last year



2,468 volunteers helped out & **16,285** hours were donated

3,640 home-made oatmeal chocolate chip cookies were consumed by our volunteers



25 years for SPES' longest serving volunteer

295 m³ of invasive plant material was removed = **197** wheelbarrows



46 students took part in **12** post secondary projects



15,057 visitors learned about Stanley Park's ecosystems at the Stanley Park Nature House



Our **209** events connected **4,109** people with nature

552 young students got enthused about intertidal life through Beach Explorers - SPES' new beach-based education program for grades K-3.



We engaged a record-breaking

5,401 elementary students; **17%** were from inner city schools



The Year In Review

In a human lifespan, 25 years marks a certain coming of age; there is an acknowledgement of maturity, responsibility, even stamina with broad potential on the horizon. As so for our society, SPES marks stamina in our evolution and growth from our earliest days as the Stanley Park Zoological Society through the recent 2006 windstorm restoration, and the global 2008 economic collapse. We remain nimble, fluid and creative in our passions to produce, promote and protect ecological integrity and environmental education with visions for important work ahead.

In 2012-2013, along with our tried-and-true works of connecting people with nature, working for wildlife, and enhancing habitats, we also grew our membership by almost 50%; engaged 40% more elementary students with nature, as well as 30,000 individuals at the Nature House and by our roving Eco Rangers. SPES completed removal of climbing ivy from 8,000 trees, stumps and shrubs; restored Stanley Park's bog; rebuilt Lost Lagoon islands; decommissioned unsanctioned forest trails; and collaborated towards the Park's first boardwalk. Significantly, SPES also became regularly engaged at the City level this year, and we remained a go-to for the media on urban wildlife issues across the city.

SPES is, indeed, out of its youthful years and pressing forward at an unprecedented pace in our mission for collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation, strengthening Stanley Park and its partnerships towards the 50 year milestone. Thank you for allowing us to stay on that pace!

*Patricia Thomson,
Executive Director*

Not long ago, as I was enjoying a beautiful Saturday here in the world's best urban park, I had a vision. Not a religious epiphany – it was a little more down to earth than that. You see, it was Stanley Park's 125th anniversary, and it was also Bioblitz weekend. The Park was alive with people. I saw passionate SPES staff sharing the work they love with local families. I saw energetic volunteers in bright green shirts introducing cyclists and walkers to the incredible tiny creatures that call Beaver Lake home. I saw tired but euphoric conservation stewards returning from plant and wildlife surveys, where they enumerated the many species large and small that inhabit this urban oasis. I saw citizens and like-minded organizations gathered together at Lumberman's Arch to celebrate this treasure that was set aside for us all 125 years ago.

At SPES, we have a vision of Stanley Park as a model representing harmony between nature and people, inspiring and empowering communities to make choices that sustain healthy ecosystems.

And as a very busy and successful year draws to a close, we are so very grateful that you chose to share our vision. Thank you.

*Don Enright,
Board President*

Highlights



Protecting wildlife:

In collaboration with the City of Vancouver, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Vancouver and other partners, SPES launched the inaugural Bird Week, a week-long celebration of birds and their habitats in Vancouver with participation by more than 700 people.

Photo by Mark T. White



Celebrating 25 years of conservation and education:

This year, SPES celebrates its 25th anniversary of making a difference to people and wildlife in Vancouver with a big birthday party for the community, SPES' first ever photo contest, the Stanley Park BioBlitz and new murals on the Stanley Park Nature House.

Photo by Michael Schmidt

Educating the community:

2012-2013 saw immense public interest in the threat of accidental oil spills in and around Vancouver. SPES organized a popular panel discussion on the ecological impacts a major oil spill could have on Stanley Park's wildlife and ecosystems with participation from Vancouver Aquarium and the Wilderness Committee.

Photo by Ross Montgomery



Stewarding the Park:

SPES and a team of volunteers celebrated a hard fought milestone against English ivy, a destructive and invasive plant that robs valuable habitat from native wildlife. Completing a first full sweep across Stanley Park, the team has freed more than 8,000 trees and shrubs from climbing ivy which produces berries and increases its spread in Stanley Park and beyond.

Photo by Robyn Worcester



Freshwater conservation success:

In 2012, we launched the HSBC Freshwater Initiatives in Stanley Park thanks to generous support from HSBC Bank Canada. Through this unique program, SPES has been enabled to conduct restoration work on the Park's aquatic ecosystems and enhance wildlife habitat through community stewardship activities.

Photo by Andre Chan

2013 – 2014



Restoring ecosystems:

SPES celebrated the restoration success of the Stanley Park Bog by Beaver Lake. After decades of deterioration, we have restored it back to a healthy sphagnum-peat ecosystem that supports rare species integral to wetland biodiversity.

Photo by Robyn Worcester



Engaging our community:

Our Eco Ranger program ran for the 13th consecutive year and its 51 volunteer nature ambassadors had 5,400 conversations with Park visitors about local wildlife, plants and cultural history as they roved Stanley Park throughout the summer.

Photo by SPES



Celebrating Stanley Park:

More than 500 images of Stanley Park's special places, wildlife and people were submitted by almost 100 local photographers as part of SPES' first ever photo contest: "A week in the life of Stanley Park."

Photo by Shannon O'Grady

Connecting youth to nature:

SPES' education team ensured that a record number of students participated in our school programs; with more than 5,400 students, this was almost 1,500 more than in any previous year.

Photo by Mike Mills



Protecting sensitive habitats:

In partnership with the Vancouver Park Board, SPES worked for the sensitive construction of Cathedral Trail boardwalk, Stanley Park's first ever raised trail. It will help restore the area's ecological health and reconnect a divided wetland.

Photo by Brian Titaro



Financials

Income



Expenses



*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.

Statement Of Activities

Support and Revenue	
Grants and Wage Subsidies	\$243,674
Interest	\$4,610
Donations and Membership Dues	\$35,656
Program Fees	\$236,726
Fundraising, Sales and Services	\$68,523
TOTAL	\$589,189

Expenses	
Program Supplies and Equipment	\$67,696
Cost of Goods Sold	\$6,101
Administrative Supplies, Services and Support	\$11,449
Wages and Benefits	\$489,127
Professional Fees	\$6,052
TOTAL	\$580,425

Net Ordinary Income | **\$8,764**

Statement Of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$242,340
Cash - Restricted	\$100,000
Accounts Receivable	\$4,728
Grants Receivable	\$8,360
Sales Tax Recoverable	\$1,514
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,777
TOTAL	\$359,719

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenditures	\$5,828
Wages Payable	\$20,469
Sales Taxes Payable	-
Deferred Income	\$207,214
TOTAL	\$233,511

Net Assets	
Internally Restricted	\$100,000
Unrestricted	\$26,208
TOTAL Liabilities & Net Assets	\$359,719

Our team expresses immense gratitude to the supporters who contribute to our conservation and public education efforts. Thank you.

Visionaries and Sustainers (\$10,000 and above)

Vancouver Park Board
 City of Vancouver
 Province of BC
 HSBC
 Vancity
 Vancouver Foundation
 TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 NSERC
 Collette Foundation

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Federal Department of the Environment

The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia

Supporters (less than \$10,000)

Eco Canada
 RBC Foundation
 Bowman Employment Services
 Whistler Water

Whole Foods
 Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau
 Keith Lord Sports Foundation Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation

Recreation Foundation of BC
 CKNW Orphans' Fund
 North Face Explore Fund
 Spectra Energy

How You Can Help Nature In Stanley Park

We help wildlife that flies, hops, crawls and flutters in Stanley Park by directly tackling habitat needs through habitat restoration, monitoring and conservation action. But we don't stop there.

Every year, we give over 20,000 children and adults opportunities for learning about nature on their doorstep through our weekly public events, school programs, Young Naturalist's Club, volunteering or by visiting the Stanley Park Nature House on Lost Lagoon — Vancouver's only ecology centre.

Building on this past year's success, we'll be embarking on several projects and initiatives in the months ahead, including:

- Working with partners such as City of Vancouver and Bird Studies Canada, we'll raise awareness of the importance of birds and their habitats in Vancouver by assisting with the creation of a Bird Friendly Strategy and taking a lead on education and planning efforts, including a week-long celebration of birds in May 2014.

- Beaver Lake is shrinking very rapidly; if nothing is done many of its wildlife values will disappear. We will provide scientific and technical support to the Vancouver Park Board's assessment the environment of Beaver Lake that looks at ways to restore the lake back to a healthier ecosystem.
- Beaver Creek is one of Vancouver's only remaining salmon-bearing streams, but urgent action is needed to remove significant migration barriers to salmon. Over the next year, we'll begin the restoration of Beaver Creek so coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout can persist and once again thrive in the creek.

Please join us in making an impact, as a member, donor or volunteer. Our supporters are the backbone of SPES and we rely on the generosity of individuals and companies to support our environmental stewardship, conservation and education programs in Stanley Park.

Visit www.stanleyparkecolology.ca for more information on how you can get involved or call us 604-718-6523.

What Our Supporters Say About Us

"When my husband and I got married and moved downtown we didn't have a lot of money so Stanley Park was our backyard, fitness centre and urban retreat all in one. We got to know the trails, the trees, the streams that sprout up on rainy days. I always wanted to give back to the park that has given us so much and SPES is the best way to do so."
- Rebecca Bollwitt, award-winning entrepreneur and author of the Miss604 blog



"Stanley Park brings nature into the city like no other park and it is where many people first come close to the natural world. I grew up in Vancouver and Stanley Park is where I began to identify birds. Safeguarding and telling others about nature in Stanley Park is why I support SPES."
- Dr. Rob Butler, scientist with Bird Studies Canada and President of the Pacific Wildlife Foundation

"Stanley Park is a massive backyard for me and thousands of other people. Having a connection with nature gives peacefulness to the hustle and bustle of the city. Volunteering with SPES and being a member is my little part in keeping it green and wild."
- Jesse Wiebe, civil engineer and SPES volunteer





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