



# STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Connecting People With Nature

Annual Report 2015-16

# The Year In Numbers

Our coyote information line received over **1,600** coyote sighting reports

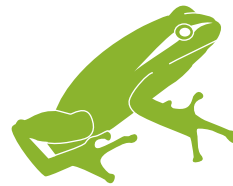


**502** volunteers collectively donated **14,807** hours of their time

**2** student interns from Germany and Brazil joined the SPES team



More than **1,400** m<sup>3</sup> of invasive plant material was removed from Stanley Park



**5** Pacific chorus frogs were heard for the first time in over a decade at Beaver Lake

**445** students camped in Stanley Park during *Nature Ninjas* Urban Camping school program



We found over **90** softballs during our habitat enhancement work at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park



**9957** people visited our Creatures of the Night exhibit at the Stanley Park Ghost Train event



School Programs connected **6,777** elementary students in **279** classes to nature in Stanley Park, 32% more than the previous year





# The Year In Review

**A**s I reflect back, not just over the past year, but the past ten years that I have been involved with the Stanley Park Ecology Society, I am filled with appreciation for this organization and regard for how it has grown and matured into the respected establishment we see today.

The people – our staff and volunteers – continue to dream, vision and innovate. The passion for the Park and for our organization’s role as guardian, educator and steward continues to grow. It’s evident in the programming and activities that are carried out with commitment and enthusiasm; in the work done by volunteers with energy and dedication; in the demand from the public to attend and learn more about the Park; in the many news stories citing SPES; and in the support received from our generous donors and funders. Together, we have built a great community.

As you read the annual report, you will get an idea of the energy, passion and commitment that makes SPES. If you aren’t already involved with us, please consider how you might join us in contributing to the Park’s health and well-being.

I look forward to continuing the journey and hope we meet in the Park!

*Patricia Stevens*  
*Board President*

**A** young buck that swam across Burrard Inlet and set up temporary turf in Stanley Park started our year with an exciting challenge: How to connect enthused Vancouver commuters and tourists with nature, and yet protect that nature from being loved to death. People were far too eager to tame “Downtown Deer”, as he was dubbed, and his habituation to bikes and vehicles eventually, and sadly, led to his early demise on the Causeway.

In another love-it-and-leave-it-alone challenge of ‘connecting people with nature’, the SPES Public Education staff worked to creatively dissuade duck feeders at Lost Lagoon: Their inclusion of would-be feeders in a fun, festive social media campaign that declared, “I love ducks so I let them feed themselves” was embraced in a far more successful way than traditional signed bylaws or finger wagging.

Our Interpretation Plan, completed in 2016, helps us to determine the interface for linking important Park issues like these with various audiences, be they the 6,000 school children educated in field programs, or the 2,140 public education participants on talks, walks and workshops, or even our most important partner, the Vancouver Park Board. In parallel, our Conservation Projects team advanced the initiatives that engage the community at large in valuable habitat enhancements and rehabilitations, investing and invigorating them in this Park that is loved far beyond its borders.

As a proud contributor this past year to the City’s Biodiversity Strategy, we are privileged to continue almost 30 years strong in connecting people with nature, and to have such powerful support by the public, sponsors, and stakeholders.

*Patricia Thomson*  
*Executive Director*

## Board of Directors

**Patricia Stevens** *President 2016*  
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**Terry Lee**  
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*Photo by Don Enright*



# Highlights



Photo by Don Enright

## Working for Wildlife

Dedicated volunteers helped clear and work on the rehabilitation of **bamboo-infested islands** in Lost Lagoon. Native plants and wildlife features like perching logs will restore the island to useful wildlife habitat.

In a **Noise Disturbance Study**, SPES monitored the great blue heron colony in Stanley Park to determine if there is a certain quality &/or level of sound that forces the herons to leave their nests. Based on this information, Park events and operations' work can be scheduled to avoid colony disruption.

SPES Conservation acquired a YSI Multi Parameter **Water Quality Sampling Probe** to collect baseline data for monitoring changes within the Park's watershed to guide future restoration projects for fish, amphibians and other aquatic species.

SPES engaged as a key stakeholder in mitigating loss of green space as the **Causeway** sidewalks were widened for bike and pedestrian safety.

SPES was a key contributor to the City of Vancouver's new **Biodiversity Strategy**, released in January 2016.

## Engaging the Community

Photo by Sam Cousins



Post secondary students partnered with SPES to conduct valuable research in the Park: **BCIT's** Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program students surveyed marine birds along Stanley Park's shores, and **UBC's** fourth year Environmental Science students assessed the ecology of freshwater pools ringing Beaver Lake.

In a new partnership with the Squamish First Nation Trade Centre, SPES welcomed three local **First Nations environmental monitoring** students as volunteers within the Conservation team. They contributed over 300 hours to help us collect habitat and wildlife monitoring data in the Park.



# 2015 – 2016

## Engaging the Community

Photo by Kari Pocock



SPES showcased its unique approach to habitat restoration by demonstrating “upcycling” at our April Earth Day event and later at a summer Tsleil-Waututh gathering at Cates Park. Participants removed blackberry canes, and wove invasive plant waste into beautiful baskets and useful bionets for slope stabilization in restored sites in Stanley Park.

SPES delivered more than 120 stewardship events with our **EcoStewards** and **Special Invasives Removal Teams** who collectively contributed over 4000 volunteer hours to remove invasive plant species and restore habitat in the Park.



## Connecting People with Nature

Photo by SPES

The **Stanley Park Nature House** unveiled its comprehensive “Conservation Corner” exhibit at SPES’ annual Earth Day event. With 13,743 visitors to the Nature House last year, the exhibit provides a public showcase for SPES’ conservation and stewardship initiatives and volunteer opportunities.

**Thirty EcoRangers**, SPES’ roving Park interpreters, offered 6,340 visitors an insider’s look at Stanley Park’s natural and cultural history during the summer of 2015. They also provided directions, intercepted 129 people from feeding wildlife, and took 374 photographs for visitors.

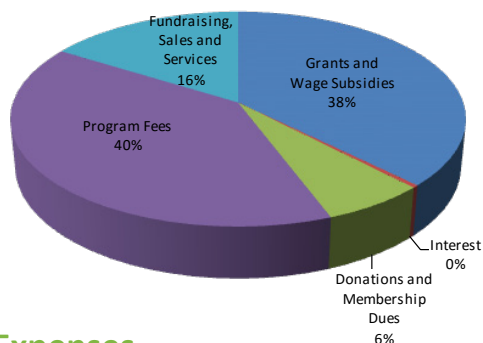
The **CoExisting with Coyotes** program delivered its first program for a pre-school audience. Like older audiences, toddlers learned how to identify a coyote and what to do if they encounter one: Be big! Be brave! Be loud!

SPES hosted its first week-long Spring Break and summer **daycamps** for 102 children. Campers explored Stanley Park’s forests, wetlands and beaches with SPES staff and volunteers in this immersive outdoor experience.

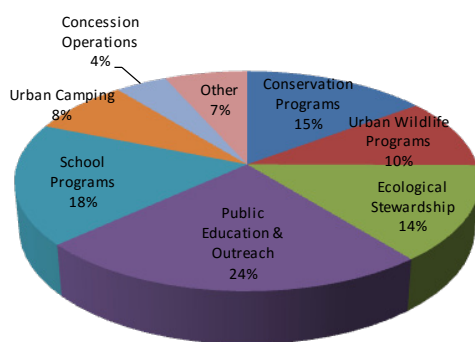
Photo by Don Enright

# Financials

## Income



## Expenses



\*The complete unaudited financial statements can be obtained through SPES for \$1 per page. 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	\$249,112
Interest	\$2,533
Donations and Membership Dues	\$42,840
Program Fees	\$263,316
Fundraising, Sales and Services	\$107,477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$665,278</b>

Expenses	
Financial Service Charges	\$3,465
Program Supplies and Equipment	\$83,473
Concession Supplies and Service	\$7,665
Administrative Supplies, Services and Support	\$7,739
Wages and Benefits	\$556,781
Professional Fees	\$8,562
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$667,685</b>

**Net Ordinary Income**      **(\$2,407)**

## Statement Of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$222,064
Cash - Restricted	\$100,000
Accounts Receivable	\$12,337
Grants Receivable	\$6,075
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,540
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$10,848
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$353,864</b>

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$9,763
Wages Payable	\$43,850
Sales Taxes Payable	\$1,048
Deferred Income	\$175,666
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$230,327</b>

Net Assets	
Internally Restricted	\$100,000
Unrestricted	\$12,689
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	\$10,848
<b>TOTAL Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$353,864</b>

## What Our Supporters Say...

"SPES can bring in a small army of volunteers while adding an educational and park stewardship component to the work [in Stanley Park] that nobody else can." – *Alan Duncan, Environmental Planner, Vancouver Park Board*

"Words cannot describe the experience my mom and I had with you. It was so beautiful and we are forever changed from it. I want all people to experience what you are able to provide." – *Melanie Scheuer, "Indigenous Plant Use" walk participant*

"We are so lucky to have such a rich resource in our "backyard." Our day trip to Stanley Park was well organized, smoothly run and with an appropriate pacing to fit the students' needs." – *Erin Coleman, teacher, Mountainview Montessori*

"My first volunteer experience [with SPES] was amazing.... It was nice to be surrounded by people [who want] to make a difference. And I will continue to volunteer each week." – *Alexis Holmes, SPES Volunteer*



# Your Support Is Invaluable

Our team expresses immense gratitude to the countless supporters who contribute to our conservation and public education efforts. You are making a difference. Thank you!

## Visionaries (\$30,000 and above)



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of  
the Province of British Columbia.

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

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



TD Friends of the  
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### GREENEST CITY FUND



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## Supporters (\$1,000 and above)

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Times Square Suites  
Vincent Ting  
Dennis Urbonas  
Thomas Vadney  
Syoko Watanabe  
Diccon Yamanaka  
Sharyn Yuen



...and 502 volunteers who collectively contributed \$222,105 in service.





Photo by SPES



Photo by SPES



Photo by Don Enright

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

Stanley Park Ecology Society  
Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 2nd floor  
PO Box 5167  
Vancouver BC V6B 4B2  
T 604-257-6908  
E [info@stanleyparkecology.ca](mailto:info@stanleyparkecology.ca)  
W [stanleyparkecology.ca](http://stanleyparkecology.ca)

**STANLEY PARK**  
ECOLOGY SOCIETY



Photo by Kathleen Stormont