

STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



4

amphibian species
confirmed in the
Park



950

m³ of invasive plants
removed from
Stanley Park



5700

students attended
219 field trips in
Stanley Park



88

public programs
connected 3,342
people with nature



10

Indigenous
Plant Use Walks
conducted for 197
students



825

volunteers donated 14,931
hours of their time



15

volunteers from Belgium,
Japan, Mexico, Germany
and USA assisted with
SPES programs



6

bat species identified
in Stanley Park

98

great blue heron
chicks fledged



552

kids camped overnight during
the Nature Ninjas Urban
Camping school program

1989: SPZS begins its volunteer-led school programs

1995: SPZS rebrands as the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) following the zoo closure in 1993

1997: Nature Ninjas launches – Vancouver’s only urban camping program for schools

2001: Co-Existing with Coyotes, the first educational coyote co-existence program in North America, is launched

1988: The Stanley Park Zoological Society (SPZS) is founded to support education and conservation initiatives at the Stanley Park Zoo

1997: SPES Public Education takes on management of the Stanley Park Nature House on Lost Lagoon

2000: EcoRangers program debuts with more than 30 volunteer nature ambassadors roving the Park every year

EDUCATION



With its sensationalized international media coverage, The Blob (as it was dubbed) grabbed the world’s attention upon its discovery in Lost Lagoon during SPES’s Stanley Park BioBlitz. This bizarre-looking organism’s presence was a powerful reminder of nature’s potential to amaze and intrigue us, even on the doorstep of a major city. With just over 39,000 Facebook views, the freshwater bryozoan, *Pectinatella magnifica*, revealed the power of social media to connect people with nature – or, at the very least, introduce us to it.

SPES’s Urban Wildlife Programs Coordinator conducted 24 interviews with major news outlets and reached over 6000 people at 20 outreach events to spread awareness and share tips about coyotes, herons, beavers, and other wildlife. These engagements help the public better understand—and ultimately co-exist with—Vancouver’s diverse urban animals

Teachers from British Columbia and around the world learned how to connect their students with nature in real outdoor settings thanks to the leadership of SPES educators at both the World Environmental Educators Congress and the BC Teachers Federation province-wide Super Conference. Through hands-on teacher workshops, our educators are helping to increase awareness and appreciation for nature beyond Stanley Park’s borders while increasing our school programs’ profile among local teachers.

SPES public programming broke into the Millennial audience with creative program offerings combining art and science: “Traditional Medicine Making: Devil’s Club Salves”, “Art Night: Sketching with Skulls”, and “Bitter Truths”, a workshop crafting bitters from native plants, generated waiting lists and repeat programming.



Celina Starnes

RESEARCH



SPES resumed its role as caretaker of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) around Stanley Park. Staff conducted monthly Coastal Waterbird Surveys from January to May between Siwash Rock and Second Beach for Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada, the Canadian co-partners for the IBA program. Of the 32 bird species documented, the Barrow’s goldeneye, surf scoter and Western grebe are considered indicator species of ecosystem health. IBAs are an important tool for identifying conservation priorities, and fostering greater success in the conservation of bird populations.

Between April 1 and August 1, 2018, SPES’s bat surveys in Stanley Park confirmed the presence of six species: big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). SPES staff, volunteers, and experts from SCBats, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, and the University of British Columbia documented bats flying and foraging at the Dining Pavilion, Stanley Park Railway, Vancouver Rowing Club, and Beaver Lake. Roosting was observed at the Vancouver Rowing Club and at the Dining Pavilion despite its extensive roof replacement work. Protecting roosting habitat like these, monitoring bat populations, and testing for the deadly white-nose syndrome is critical to supporting bat species in the region, especially the endangered little brown myotis.

SPES’s amphibian surveys in 2017/18 confirmed four species of amphibian dwelling in the wetlands and forests of Stanley Park. Our year-long monthly cover board surveys, coupled with our monthly pond surveys from February through May, turned up three salamander species: Northwestern salamander (*Ambystoma gracile*), Ensatina salamander (*Ensatina eschscholtzii*), and Western red-backed salamander (*Plethodon vehiculum*). The calls of the Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) confirmed this native species’ presence during six call surveys between April and June. Understanding the composition, numbers and distribution of amphibian species in the Park informs Park management plans for amphibian habitat.

SPES continued its partnership with the University of British Columbia’s Animal Welfare Program to determine the effectiveness of humane coyote-deterrent measures. With the successful deployment of wildlife cameras in Stanley Park and Jericho Beach, SPES expanded the camera program to citizens’ yards to confirm the presence of coyotes. Deterrent devices will be tested at these sites with the goal of reducing human-coyote conflict in urban settings.



Michael Schmidt

2010: SPES Conservation Department compiles the first State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park

2013: SPES volunteers celebrate the first Park-wide removal of invasive English ivy from over 8000 trees and shrubs, and begin removal of over 30 other non-native species

2015: SPES launches children's daycamps

2018: SPES celebrates 30 years of working for wildlife and connecting people to nature

2006-2007: Wild windstorms sweep through Stanley Park, felling 10,000 trees; SPES provides key contributions in the restoration of Stanley Park's forest

2011: Vancouver Park Board and SPES co-create the Stanley Park Ecological Action Plan

2013: Stanley Park is voted the best city park in the world by TripAdvisor

2014: SPES's phase-one restoration of Stanley Park Bog by Beaver Lake is complete while work continues on multiple habitat restoration initiatives

CONSERVATION



Tree swallows and violet green swallows, both in steep decline, captured the hearts of the media and public in November 2017. In support of these acrobatic avians, volunteers repaired, built and installed 15 nest boxes for Lost Lagoon. Many more would-be carpenters requested the building plans for at-home projects, offering SPES the finished boxes. Others installed their nest boxes in wetlands outside Stanley Park. And those not handy, donated to SPES's swallow monitoring and habitat restoration efforts in Stanley Park. We are happy to report that 12 of the 15 swallow nest boxes erected in Lost Lagoon were used by the spring migrants – raising their broods over the summer and returning to South America in the fall.

Removing over 30 invasive species of plants from Stanley Park demands a plan. Thanks to 39 mapping volunteers, SPES now has one. The mappers contributed 796.5 hours last year to map the locations and abundance of invasive plants throughout Stanley Park's 404 hectares. This baseline information will enable our Conservation Department to flag changes in composition, quantity and location of invasive species to create a targeted management plan, especially for highly invasive species like Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

SPES hosted its third BioBlitz on August 12th and 13th – one of five nationwide BioBlitzes to celebrate Canada's biodiversity during "Canada150", the national celebration of the 150th anniversary of confederation. Collaborating with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Vancouver Aquarium, SPES engaged 1248 people through a weekend of surveys, festivals, and activities. Nearly 200 citizen scientists helped experts scour the Park in a 24-hour inventory of all things biological. The resulting species list helps SPES Conservation staff track the ecological health of the Park and guides future conservation efforts such as prioritizing areas for restoration or habitat enhancement.



Ariane Comeau

30 YEARS OF SPES

Thirty years ago this year, Stanley Park Ecology Society was born as the Zoological Society, supporting education and conservation of wildlife that was then represented in the Stanley Park Zoo. When the zoo closed in 1995, the society rebranded as the Ecology Society – SPES – and we amped up our initiatives in connecting people with local nature. Today we are a mightier force of 20 staff, 14 directors, and an annual average of 600 community volunteers.

In straight numbers, we have designed and delivered school field programs to the equivalent of 40% of Metro Vancouver students at least once over the course of their elementary years. Combining that with Public Education and Outreach, we are now offering about 500 events each year. Specially, we opened this past fiscal summer with a citizen science Bioblitz that engaged 1248 people in 25 surveys and activities that identified 346 different species – some new to the already extensive life list of Stanley Park. And by the close of the year, we had already organized more than 25 events and designed a transportable Nature House for the prestigious International Ornithological Congress and Vancouver International Bird Festival of August 2018.

With the need of the Park Board to recondition facilities in Stanley Park, this was also a year of championing bat and barn swallow habitats within Park buildings, and to engage in the public's passionate consideration for great blue herons and bald eagles with respect to human activities. We wrap this fiscal year feeling accomplished and yet still strongly challenged for the ecological work ahead.

We are certainly fully grateful for friends, fans, and fellows of wildlife and nature in general, and remain especially grateful for direct supporters of SPES's work. This annual report is dedicated to you.

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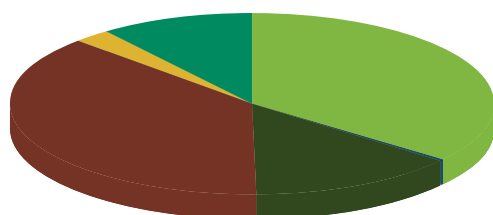
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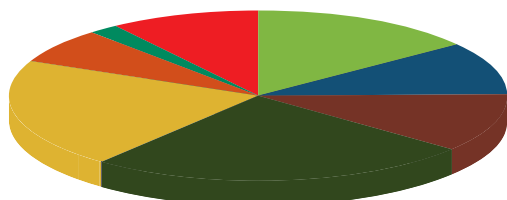
Don Enright

INCOME



Grants and Wage Subsidies 36%	Donations and Membership Dues 14%	Sponsorship 2%
Interest 0%	Program Fees 38%	Fundraising, Sales & Services 10%

EXPENSES



Conservation Programs 15%	Ecological Stewardship 11%	School Programs 20%	Concession Operations 3%
Urban Wildlife Programs 10%	Public Education & Outreach 25%	Urban Camping 7%	Other 9%

Statement Of Activities

Support and Revenue	
Grants and Wage Subsidies	\$290,004
Interest	\$1,930
Donations and Membership Dues	\$112,384
Program Fees	\$304,600
Sponsorship	\$20,000
Fundraising, Sales & Services	\$83,197
TOTAL	\$812,115

Expenses	
Financial Service Charges	\$6,077
Program supplies & equipment	\$64,305
Concession Supplies and Service	\$2,899
Administrative supplies, services, support	\$12,190
Wages and benefits	\$681,910
Professional fees	\$6,784
TOTAL	\$774,165

Net ordinary income	\$37,950
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Statement Of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash - unrestricted	\$222,129
Cash - restricted	\$125,000
Accounts Receivable	\$24,472
Grants Receivable	\$21,207
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,980
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$549
TOTAL	\$396,337

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$6,370
Wages payable	\$55,691
Sales taxes payable	\$1,102
Deferred Income	\$176,545
TOTAL	\$239,708

Assets	
Internally restricted	\$125,000
Unrestricted	\$31,080
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	\$549
TOTAL Liabilities & Net Assets	\$396,337

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.

SIGNIFICANT SUPPORTERS



We are also grateful to our individual donors who contributed to our conservation and public education efforts in 2017/18.

Thank you!

**STANLEY
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ECOLOGY
SOCIETY**

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