



STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Connecting People With Nature

Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Stanley Park Ecology Society



MISSION

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.

VISION

Stanley Park is a model representing harmony between nature and people, inspiring and empowering communities to make choices that sustain healthy ecosystems.

Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that formed in 1988. SPES directly engages in habitat restoration, monitoring and conservation action as well as provides scientific information to help Park managers create better management plans. SPES provides environmental education programs at Lost Lagoon's Nature House, and throughout Stanley Park's three unique and diverse ecosystems.

Charity Number: 119166890 RR 0001

Cover: Tree swallow nest with eggs and duck feathers (Photo: Meghan Cooling/SPES)
This page: Tree swallows at home on Lost Lagoon (Photo: Frank Lin)

Connections Built Through The Year



I'd like to share a little about my journey with SPES over the past year. I moved from the role of School Programs Manager for the previous four years, to lead the organization as its new Executive Director. I have since been able to build a deeper connection with the diversity of programs that we offer, and help enhance our ability to meet our mission. SPES will continue to lead through collaboration on large projects of biodiversity enhancement in Stanley Park and expand ecological literacy within our region. To reach these goals, we initiated an important change within our organization this year: our Public Education and Outreach department united with our School Programs department to become one Education department. SPES's two main branches of focus, Education and Conservation, now collaborate on a deeper level.

Ahead of our official launch of the updated State of the Park Report on the Ecological Integrity of the Park, we have successfully implemented monitoring protocols for over 20 ecological indicators. One study of interest even caught the elusive flying squirrels of Stanley Park on camera! We have shared survey data with local, provincial and national databases (for example, seabird survey data to Bird Studies Canada) to monitor trends and enable effective ecological management strategies for the Park and greater region. Over 700 volunteers have helped create a lasting positive ecological impact within Stanley Park this past year – largely on the perimeter of Lost Lagoon and at the ongoing restoration of Stanley Park's bog next to Beaver Lake. Students themselves have helped us better understand the ecology of the Park. Notable examples from this past year are the integration of citizen scientists during school programs in Beaver Lake wetlands – forging connections to local habitats while collecting water quality data and connecting high school students with STEM field work to gather data and better manage invasive species.

Our work continues to connect Stanley Park to the broader region. We have successfully connected with more municipalities across Metro Vancouver for education and reporting for healthier interactions with urban wildlife. In August and May of this past year, we coordinated bird education programming for the International Ornithological Congress and Vancouver Bird Week, respectively. These two events reached more municipalities than ever before.

I continue to be amazed at the buzz of activity and creativity within the SPES team. With a clear organizational shift to two departments, we have been able to successfully integrate deeper conservation practices within our education programs while incorporating learning opportunities into our conservation projects. I am proud to share our successes from this year and know these stories will continue to grow into the future.

Dylan Rawlyk, Executive Director (Photo: Chandehl Morgan/SPES)

Dylan Rawlyk
Executive Director



1 flying squirrel sighted by BCIT students, confirmed presence for the first time since 2008



547 bats recorded emerging in one night from the Stanley Park Dining Pavilion



5523 students participated in 254 SPES-led field trips in Stanley Park



13 Indigenous Plant Use Walks introduced First Nations' culture to 271 school students



119 kids participated in week-long outdoor spring and summer day camps



4 streams in Stanley Park surveyed for aquatic invertebrates



6 Beaver Lake Bog restoration events completed with the Camosun Bog Restoration Group



20 wildlife and habitat surveys conducted in Stanley Park's forests, wetlands and beaches



1,023 m² of invasive plants removed from forest and riparian ecosystems



5,318 hours donated by volunteers to Park habitat restoration work



719 volunteers assisted SPES: 25 from Germany, Mexico, Ireland and the UK



1400+ coyote sightings reported to the Co-existing with Coyotes program

YOUR IMPACT

OUR WORK: Enhancing Biodiversity

SPES conducted over 20 wildlife and habitat surveys including coastal water birds, eagle nests, barn and tree swallows, bats, stream invertebrates, amphibians, owls, water levels in Beaver Lake bog, and invasive plant mapping. New surveys focused on the intertidal zones, huckleberry productivity and soil decay rates.

Significant on both a local and global scale, these surveys track what lives, breeds, grows, thrives or declines in Stanley Park providing essential information on how population numbers change and how habitats are faring. On a local scale, this data sheds light on what conservation efforts SPES should prioritize to best conserve and protect native animals and plants of Stanley Park. On a larger global scale, SPES shares this baseline data with groups that have common research goals. These include Bird Studies Canada, BC Community Bat Program, USGS, DFO, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Hancock Wildlife Foundation, and Vancouver Park Board.

Since fall 2018 SPES volunteers have been restoring a riparian site along the south edge of Lost Lagoon. By hand, they dug out thick brambles of invasive Himalayan blackberry to preserve a few stands of native salmonberry and hardhack. Weavers with EarthHand Gleaners and SPES youth volunteers wove red osier dogwood fences to protect the site where rushes, sedges and grasses were planted in the spring. This restored native habitat will support a greater diversity of bird species contributing to the overall biodiversity of the ecosystem.

With 131 chicks fledging, 2018 was the most successful year yet for the barn swallow colony inhabiting the mounted police barns in Stanley Park. SPES has been monitoring this colony, one of the largest in BC, since 2014. The data we collect allows us to apply best management practices when needed, including informing the best timing for Park operations and other disturbances. This is important for a species whose populations are in steep decline due to habitat loss (fewer old barns), a decline in insect prey, and a changing climate.



SPES initiated intertidal surveys in Stanley Park to track the abundance and diversity of invertebrates and algae over time.

(Photo: Meghan Cooling/SPES)

Sparking Connection

SPES's volunteer team of summer nature interpreters was comprised of 22 roving EcoRangers and 19 Nature House hosts, all trained in sharing the latest Park wildlife news, and offering directions and answers to thousands of summer visitors. Our Nature House on Lost Lagoon experienced the busiest summer on record with 13,968 visitors while our roving EcoRangers, stationed throughout the Park's wetlands, forests and beaches, interacted with 5246 visitors – enriching their Park visit with hands-on nature experiences such as pond dipping for aquatic insects, spotting eagle nestlings, or identifying beach creatures.

This year we ran our first three part program on invasive species management with high school students. 112 students – all TREK program participants – took ownership of a 960 m² area of forest: mapping the site's invasive plant species, analyzing their data using GIS software, and returning to Stanley Park to remove 9.5 m³ of invasive English Ivy from the site.

5523 elementary school students explored the “wilds” of Stanley Park with SPES's expert environmental educators. This year SPES introduced a new field trip called “Seasons and Cycles”. The popular program used hands-on exploration and fun activities to teach primary students all about life cycles, the water cycle, and seasons with direct links to the BC curriculum.

SPES continued to expand its public program offerings with a variety of new topics. This year, we began working with Contessa Brown Qmdmaxl of the Heiltsuk Nation to offer two cedar bark weaving workshops: “Roses & Rope Twists” and “Cedar Baskets”. Jill Taylor's “Flower Embroidery” course introduced the Park's native wild flowers to participants, while Pierre Cenerelli's “Wildlife Photography” and Bea Martin's “Wildlife in Watercolour” shared natural history notes about the workshops' wildlife subjects.

“I couldn't have found a better volunteer position than one as an EcoRanger. I loved being able to help people appreciate the nature around them!”

Erin McHugh, EcoRanger



(Photo: SPES)

Building Skills

SPES carried its educational reach beyond Stanley Park's borders by teaching teachers how to engage their own students in outdoor environmental education. Through three workshops for teachers and five workshops for student teachers in Stanley Park, SPES educators shared field-tested activities and techniques for teaching outdoors and connecting children with nature. The 96 participants left with an increased knowledge of ecology and outdoor education skills to use in their local parks or on their school grounds.

SPES relies on its volunteer team to fulfill its mission of education and conservation in Stanley Park. This past year, 719 people donated their time to help us deliver school programs, restore habitat, monitor wildlife and keep our office running. Tamara Walton and Kate McEvoy were two of these people making a positive difference while, at the same time, acquiring skills for their own careers. Trained on GIS Mapping software by SPES's Stewardship Coordinator, Kate and Tamara developed a mapping program for our SIRT (Special Invasives Removal Team) to map invasive plants that they encounter off trail on their twice weekly invasive plant removal events in the Park. The two women also expanded our plant identification resources for invasive plant ID in the field to assist with accurate plant mapping in the Park.

As a SPES intern, I have had the opportunity to partake in various ecological studies and conservation projects in Stanley Park. These experiences will undoubtedly give me a competitive edge as a recent Environmental Scientist graduate.

Tamara Walton, Conservation Volunteer

Chandehl Morgan, a SPES Environmental Educator, leads a Teacher Workshop at Beaver Lake.



(Photo: SPES)

Sharing Knowledge



Madeleine Irving-Chan, Co-existing with Coyotes Coordinator, shares coyote facts with Park visitors at Lost Lagoon.

(Photo: K.Stormont/SPES)

SPES'S Co-existing with Coyotes (CwC) program continued to spread awareness about coyotes to communities across Metro Vancouver during 32 outreach events and three "Coyote 101" school presentations. CwC collected over 1400 coyote sightings from the public on its online interactive sightings map. Only 0.75% of coyote encounters were reported as aggressive. As more people understand how to co-exist with coyotes, fewer issues with "problem" coyotes will arise.

SPES was a key contributor to the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) held in Vancouver in August 2018. Birders from around the world experienced the diversity of bird species in Stanley Park through 16 SPES-led bird walks, including one overnight camping trip in Stanley Park. Those who visited the "Stanley Park Lounge" during the IOC enjoyed a piece of the Park right in downtown Vancouver. SPES staff hosted the bird-themed lounge at the concurrent Vancouver International Bird Festival's (VIBF) "Nature and Birds Expo" in the Vancouver Convention Centre. The VIBF was created to build on the success of Vancouver Bird Week which has been enjoyed in the city since 2013.

Following a four-year hiatus, SPES returned this past year as the official coordinator of Vancouver Bird Week held May 11-17, 2019. The week-long festival presented 48 programs - the most ever - and for the first time included the municipalities of Richmond, Surrey and Burnaby. Hundreds of people attended the Richmond hawk and owl show, while the bird banding program and the "Feathers and Fungi" walk proved popular. 1500 people participated in the festival, a 50% increase over previous Vancouver Bird Weeks.

SPES' Executive Director, Dylan Rawlyk presented at Park People's Heart of the City conference in Montreal. He presented on SPES' approach to monitoring ecological integrity within an urban park context. The conference brought together over 200 professionals and community leaders who work in city parks across Canada.

SPES Conservation Technician Meghan Cooling leads a volunteer into Beaver Lake to set up a wood duck nest box. SPES shares its wood duck nesting data with Bird Studies Canada. (Photo: Nora Omosura)



FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

Donations and Membership Dues	\$49,156
Fundraising, Sales & Services	\$102,980
Grants and Wage Subsidies	\$264,273
Interest	\$2,982
Program Fees	\$283,889
Sponsorship	\$28,384
Total	\$731,664

Expenses

Administrative supplies, services, support	\$14,746
Concession Supplies and Service	\$3,378
Financial Services Charges	\$9,624
Professional fees	\$31,793
Program supplies & equipment	\$62,554
Wages and benefits	\$619,771
Total	\$741,866

Net ordinary income **\$(10,202)**

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 Financial Position

Assets

Cash - Unrestricted	\$179,533
Cash - Restricted	\$125,000
Accounts Receivables	\$20,348
Grants Receivable	\$63,973
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,009
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$458
Sales Tax Recoverable	\$500
Total	\$392,821

Liabilities

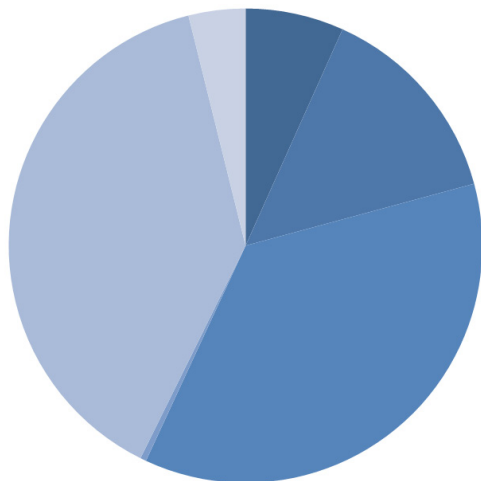
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$10,680
Wages Payable	\$37,894
Sales Taxes Payable	\$0
Deferred Income	\$197,820
Total	\$246,394

Net Assets

Internally Restricted	\$125,000
Unrestricted	\$20,969
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	\$458
Total	\$146,427

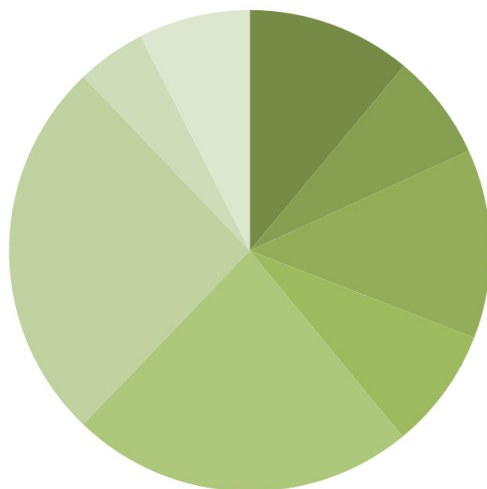
Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$392,821**

Income



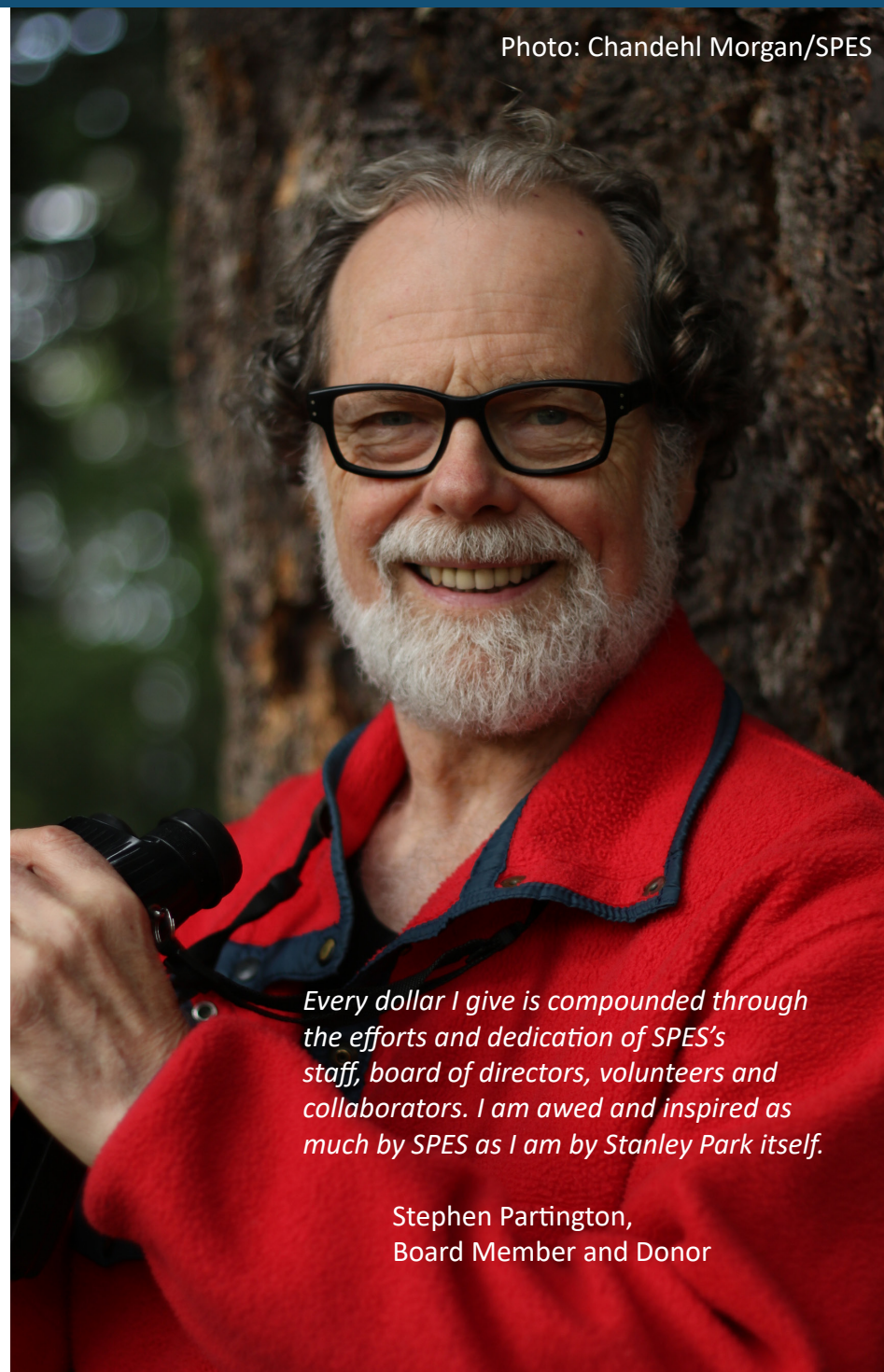
39%	Program Fees
36%	Grants / Wage Subsidies
14%	Fundraising / Sales
7%	Donations / Memberships
4%	Sponsorship
0%	Interest

Expenses by Class



26%	Public Education
23%	School Programs
13%	Conservation Programs
11%	Ecological Stewardship
7%	Urban Wildlife
7%	Urban Camping
5%	Concession Operations
8%	Other

Photo: Chandehl Morgan/SPES



Every dollar I give is compounded through the efforts and dedication of SPES's staff, board of directors, volunteers and collaborators. I am awed and inspired as much by SPES as I am by Stanley Park itself.

Stephen Partington,
Board Member and Donor

THANK YOU

We are grateful for the individuals and organizations whose generosity makes our work for Stanley Park possible.

VISIONARIES

Organizations \$75,000+

Individuals \$5,000+



Laurence Brown
Stephen Partington

CHAMPIONS

Organizations \$30,000-\$74,999

Individuals \$1,000 - \$4,999



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation

Paula Caird

SUSTAINERS

Organizations \$10,000-\$29,000

Individuals \$500 - \$999



Andrea Elvidge
Jim Hall
Gordon Howe

FRIENDS

Organizations \$1,000-\$9,999

Individuals \$200-\$499



Gareth David
Margaret Elvidge
Alan Fietz
Ronald Goetz
Jill Johnstone

Judith MacPherson
Marilyn Mattenley
Leanne Porter
Christine Rock
Vincent Ting

Keith Lord Sport Foundation Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation
McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation

INDIVIDUALS supporting up to \$200

Lisa Alexander
Drew Allison
Adrien Amadeo-Vittone
Julie Andreyev
Tom Baldigara
Victor Balon
Thomas Bates
Noah Benjamin
Nazani Beybitova
Evelyn Billy
Sarah Billyard
Elizabeth Blackwood
Margaret Patricia Browne
Marie Brunelle
Youngsung Byun
Spencer Chandra Herbert
Maggie Chuang
Anita Clipston
Ryan Cross
Gregory Duggan
June Dutka
Joy Fai
Ferdinandi Eckhardt
Deanna Ferguson

Sarah Fielding
Maureen Glover
Sandy Goldman
Johnathan Grieve
Michelle Gurr
Alain Haertig
Elizabeth Hardy
Jorgen Harink
Nancy Henderson
Elizabeth Hennessey
Megan Herod
Brian Herrin
Barbara Hodgins
Erin Hoff
Eric Hudz
Alastair Izzard
Jill Johnson
Tobias Jones
Linda Kaastra
Anastasia Kaplina
Maxwell Kates
Nora Kelly & Bill Jeffries
Calypso Kenney
Megan King

Joan Kirkwood
Andrea Law
Mary Lay
Ruth Leckie
Marie-Claude Leonard
Chelsea Leslie
Tristan Lesperance
Mae Lingren
Esmee MacDonald
Helen Manner
Elizabeth Mateo
Anne Mauch
Evalisa McIlffaterick
Meaghan McKie
Jacqui McMullen
Ray McNabb
Chelsea McPherson
Camille Mitchell
Bonnie Morrissey
Andrew Munroe
Marisa Nichini
Josephine Padro
Christopher Pavsek
Roberta Peets and Yogi Sepp

Ken Pepper
Wren Peters
Elena Popovic
Julie Prescott
Kristine Radu
Dylan Rawlyk
Laura Richmond
Cynthia Ross
Kelly Samuels
Kathie Schwaia
Judy Sharp
Torrie Smith
Michael Spearing
Liam St Louis
Mike Stack
Kathleen Stormont
Kate Sullivan
Kristine Todd
Omna Toshniwal
Stanley Ulmer
Helena Upham
Rory Wallace
Theresa Williamson

And the 719 volunteers who collectively contributed \$220,140 in service!

Help us conduct long term conservation projects in Stanley Park. Become a monthly donor at
<http://stanleyparkecology.ca/get-involved/donor-information/donate-to-the-stanley-park-ecology-society/>




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Tom McIlfaterick
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Stephen Partington
Ian van den Dolder
Ron Goetz

Conservation Technician,
Meghan Cooling, holds a
tree swallow nest box and
its contents at the end of
nesting season on Lost
Lagoon.

STANLEY PARK
ECOLOGY SOCIETY

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(Photo: SPES)