

A photograph of a coyote standing in a forest, looking towards the camera. The coyote has grey and brown fur. The background is filled with thin, brown tree trunks and some green moss. A solid green circle is positioned over the word 'ECOLOGY' in the title.

STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Stanley Park Ecology Society



"Thanks for getting us through this pandemic year with offering these amazing outdoor field trips in Stanley Park. It certainly gave us something to look forward to!" - Christine Lang, grade 2 teacher

MISSION

Stanley Park Ecology Society promotes awareness of and respect for the natural world through collaborative leadership in environmental education, research, and conservation in Stanley Park.

VISION

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

We gratefully acknowledge that the land on which we gather and help steward is the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation, and Səlílwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nation. Since time immemorial, Coast Salish peoples have lived reciprocally with the land, harvesting and cultivating foods and medicines and practicing ceremony. The abundance of these lands and waters, which enables us to live, work, and play here today, is a result of the past and on-going stewardship and advocacy of the Coast Salish peoples.

Cover page: A coyote pauses in Stanley Park (Photo: Josephine Hrynkiw)
This page: Observing giant water beetles in Beaver Lake during a SPES school program. (Photo: Justine Kaseman/SPES)

A Message from Our President

This past year can best be described as one of transition. Our halting recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic is the most obvious aspect of this.

But many of SPES's internal activities have also been in transition: the evolution of our on-line programming; the departure of Dylan Rawlyk as our Executive Director (thank you for an outstanding job!) and his replacement by Tricia Collingham (already making a mark); a more than 50% change in the composition of our Board of Directors; and the shift in our Conservation programs to align with our second SOPEI report's focus (State of the Park Report on the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park) are just some examples.

The commitment of our staff, volunteers, members, and program participants throughout all of this has been incredible. Your enthusiasm every day is what makes SPES special. Thank you.

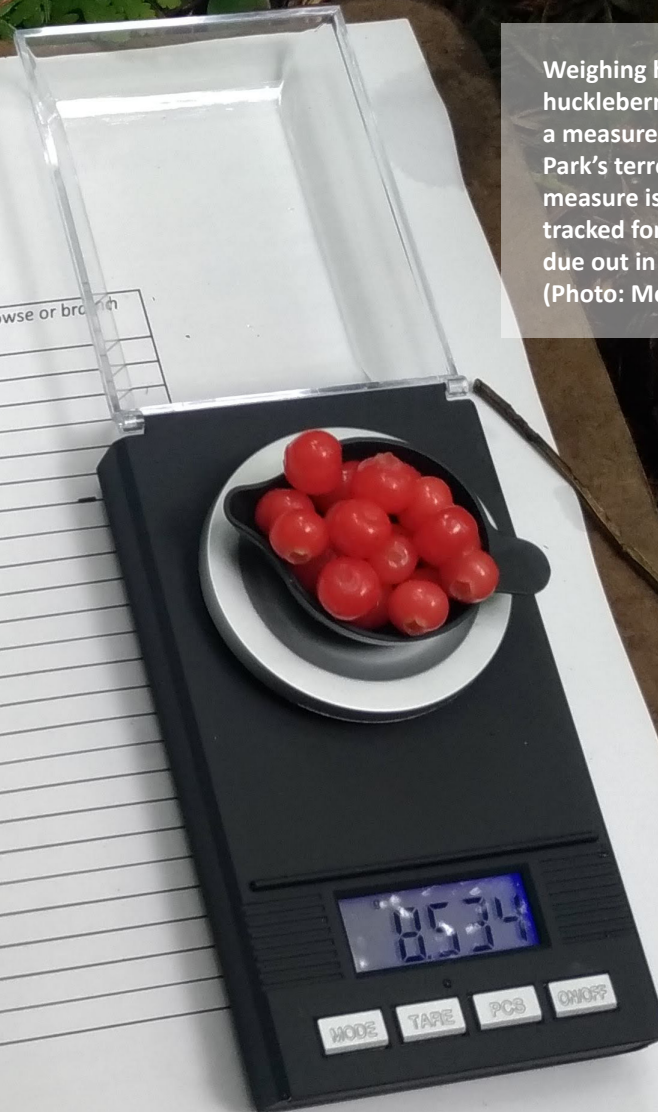
As we look forward, it becomes more and more apparent that the future of Stanley Park depends on how we - as individuals, as an organization, as a society - respond to the challenges of global warming.

As an organization we must also come to terms with our role as part of a colonial society, and move to a new relationship with the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who have much to teach us.

It will be a challenging and exciting year. If you would like to share the excitement with us - as a volunteer, a program participant, a donor - let us know. Your support makes the Park stronger.

Tom McIlfaterick
President

Weighing huckleberries to gauge huckleberry productivity provides a measure of the health of Stanley Park's terrestrial ecosystem. This measure is one of many being tracked for the next SOPEI report, due out in 2030.
(Photo: Meghan Cooling/SPES)





1534 students engaged in school programs online and in-person



8 beavers surveyed in Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake



77 children participated in eight week-long summer day camps



1048 native plants planted in restoration sites



99 community programs delivered to **2134** participants



3.7 hectares of Park habitat restored



69 Pacific Great Blue Heron nests produced **116** fledglings



41 songbird species recorded during bird surveys



10,000 coastal waterbirds surveyed among **45** waterbird species



5325 volunteer hours donated by **208** volunteers



Over **3900** visitors to the Nature House



1095 coyote sightings reported to the Co-existing with Coyotes program

Graphic design by Carlo Acuna

YOUR IMPACT

Working for Wildlife

Health Check

The launch of our second “State of the Park Report for the Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park 2020” (SOPEI 2020) in October 2020 provides a snapshot of how Stanley Park’s ecosystems are faring, and how they are responding to natural and human impacts. This decade-long ecological assessment guides SPES’s conservation work to support over 1030 native species in the Park, including 46 species at risk. Of the myriad of surveys that SPES conducts to gather data for SOPEI and to monitor wildlife, we offer some highlights from the past year:

Getting a Buzz

Olga Lansdorp, SPES’s Conservation Technician, and Shelby Lynn-Soney, Conservation Intern, developed a pollinator survey with a focus on bumblebee species. Easy to identify, bumblebees (and other pollinators) are great indicators of the overall health of an ecosystem. UBC’s Plant Insect Ecology and Evolution Lab helped Olga and Shelby develop the sampling protocols. Five bumblebee species were identified from samples in Ceperley Meadow, Brockton Point, Lost Lagoon and near the Rose Garden.

Birds, Birds, Birds

As Caretaker of the “Important Bird and Biodiversity Area” (IBA) stretching along the seawall from Brockton Point to Lions Gate Bridge and between Second Beach and Slhxi7elsh (Siwash Rock), SPES conducted its monthly coastal waterbird surveys counting over 10,000 birds belonging to 45 species, including a flock of over 3,000 Surf Scoters offshore and 1,222 Barrow’s Goldeneyes. Survey data is submitted to the Birds Canada IBA Program, a science-based initiative to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada’s bird populations.

“Through assisting with wildlife surveys, volunteering has given me a new appreciation for the diverse wildlife calling Stanley Park home, which has been especially valuable to me as an aspiring ecologist. My favourite experience to date has definitely been unleashing my inner bee nerd and capturing and identifying bumblebees!”

- Mac Repovs



Volunteers help SPES Conservation Technician Olga Lansdorp sample bumblebees in Ceperley Meadow. (Photo: Tulika Bose)

Working for Wildlife

Biodiversity at Stake

SPES volunteers began staking the restoration site at Ceperley Meadow in April 2021. Having cleared away the invasive Himalayan blackberry, volunteers laid out cardboard sheets through which they pushed rebar to create planting holes for stakes of red osier dogwood, hardhack and Pacific willow. While the cardboard deters invasive plants, the staked wetland plants will root and establish a native wet meadow ecosystem. (Photo: Alison Johnstone)

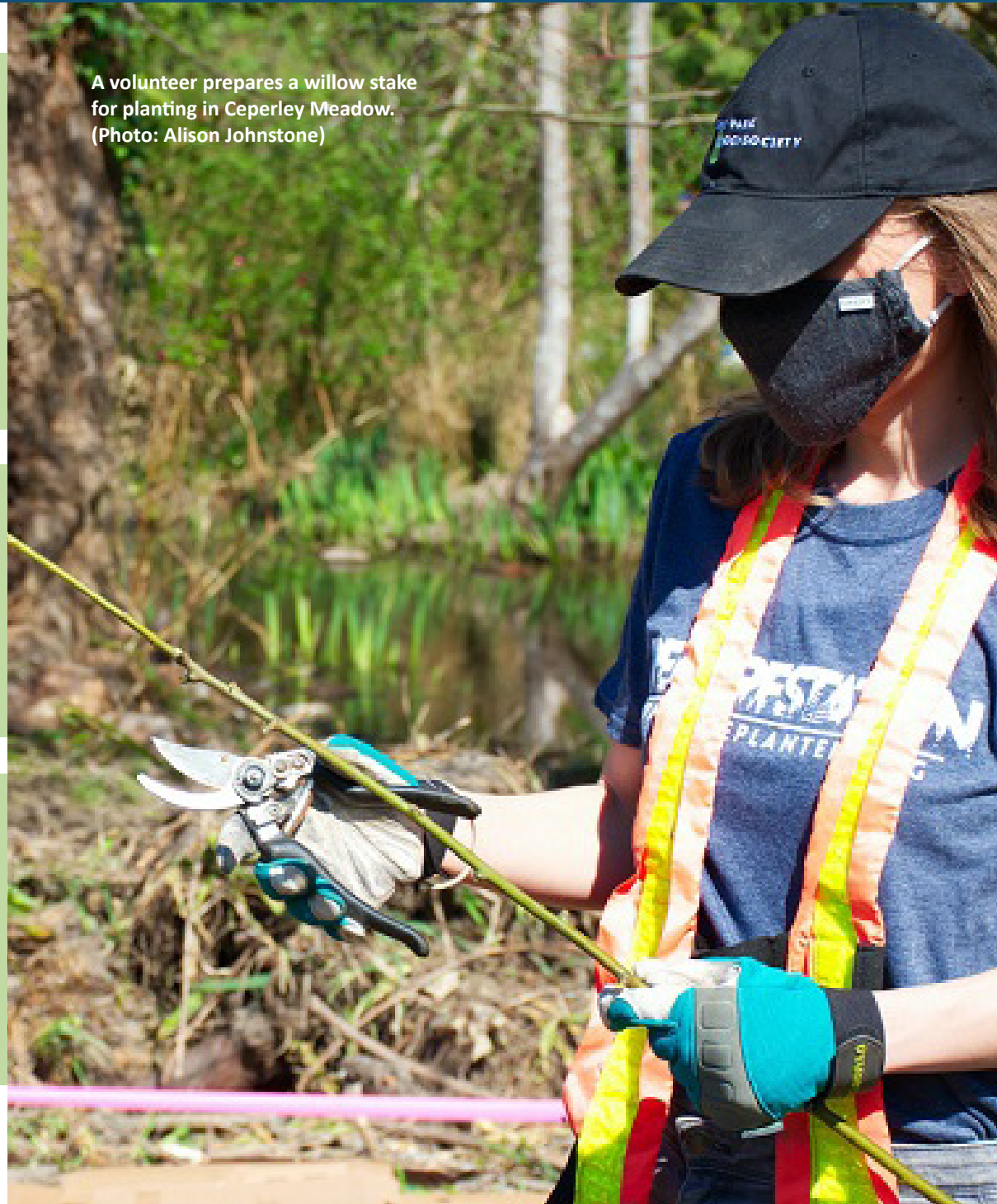
Marsh Monitoring

SPES participated in Birds Canada's inaugural British Columbia Marsh Monitoring Program this past spring and summer. Alongside scientists from Wild Research, SPES volunteers used playback (recordings of calls) to listen for and record responses from birds and amphibians in Stanley Park's wetlands.

Batting for Bats

Five bat species inhabit Stanley Park, and for the first time, bats were observed using the SPES-installed roosting boxes on South Creek Trail and by Beaver Lake. 149 bats were recorded emerging one night from the large roost in the Stanley Park Dining Pavilion attic and 95 were counted at the Vancouver Rowing Club roost. These counts are part of the BC Community Bat program's monitoring efforts.

A volunteer prepares a willow stake for planting in Ceperley Meadow.
(Photo: Alison Johnstone)



Engaging the Community

Indigenous Collaborations

SPES collaborated with Indigenous-owned Talaysay Tours in winter 2020 to provide professional development for SPES staff as well as five public online “walks” that shared how Skwxw7mesh Uxwumixw – Coast Salish people – utilized the forest for food, medicine and technology. Among a variety of Indigenous-led programs during SPES’s “Earth Month” in April, SPES welcomed Hereditary Tsleil-Waututh Chief Reuben George’s online presentation, “Tsleil-Waututh Land and Water Stewardship and Activism.” SPES looks forward to continued collaboration and relationship building with the Indigenous community to support each other’s goals and provide robust programming for our audiences.

Birds Eye View

SPES held Vancouver Bird Week in October 2020 after cancelling the May event in the face of COVID-19. We coordinated it again as the re-named Vancouver Bird Celebration in May 2021. The event successfully inspired a love of nature through birds by incorporating conservation, art, and collaborative relationships with local community groups, engaging 31,276 people in 2020 through online experiences including Facebook Live events, a downloadable Birder Passport activity book, and social media contests. Our launch of the “Birding with Me” series in 2020 invited in a variety of language speakers and hosted walks specifically for the 2SLGBTQAI+ and BIPOC communities. SPES will continue to diversify our programming to connect a wider audience to nature.

Going Online

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted our public and private programs forcing the cancellation of all summer 2020 in-person programs. However, public outreach continued through online programming, reaching into the US, UK, Scotland and Australia! New online private programs were so well received that some organizations, including long term care facilities, booked multiple times. In all, SPES presented 22 privately booked programs for 642 participants, and 77 public programs for 1492 participants – down only 104 participants from the previous year.



Hérons On Tap

For the 21st year, Pacific Great Blue Herons returned to their Stanley Park colony across from the tennis courts and the new Stanley Park Brewing Restaurant and Brewpub. In May 2021, SPES and Stanley Park Brewing unveiled a heron display within the restaurant, encouraging patrons to look up and learn about these threatened birds. The “Conservation Corner” will host four displays a year to showcase SPES’s conservation work in Stanley Park. With our EcoRanger Heron Desk at the colony, online presentations, live tours, and the Park Board’s Heron Cam, these birds are some of Vancouver’s most famous wildlife!

Engaging the Community

The Coyote Crisis in Stanley Park

SPES's role as educator and researcher in Stanley Park was amplified during the coyote crisis this past year. As aggressive coyote encounters in the Park rose to 57 incidents and 30 bites between January and June 2021, SPES's Urban Wildlife Coordinator juggled 20 media interviews, collaborated with University of British Columbia experts on coyote research in the Park, and connected provincial, civic, and Park Board authorities monthly for a coordinated approach to the problem. Through media interviews, Park signage, social media and direct email, SPES communicated and responded to the public's concerns during the span of the crisis which resulted in the controversial Park-wide coyote cull of 11 animals between January 2021 and September 2021. (Photo: Dannie Piezas/SPES)

VANCOUVER


AGGRESSIVE
COYOTE IN AREA
PLEASE KEEP OUT



Connecting Kids to Nature

Take It Outside!

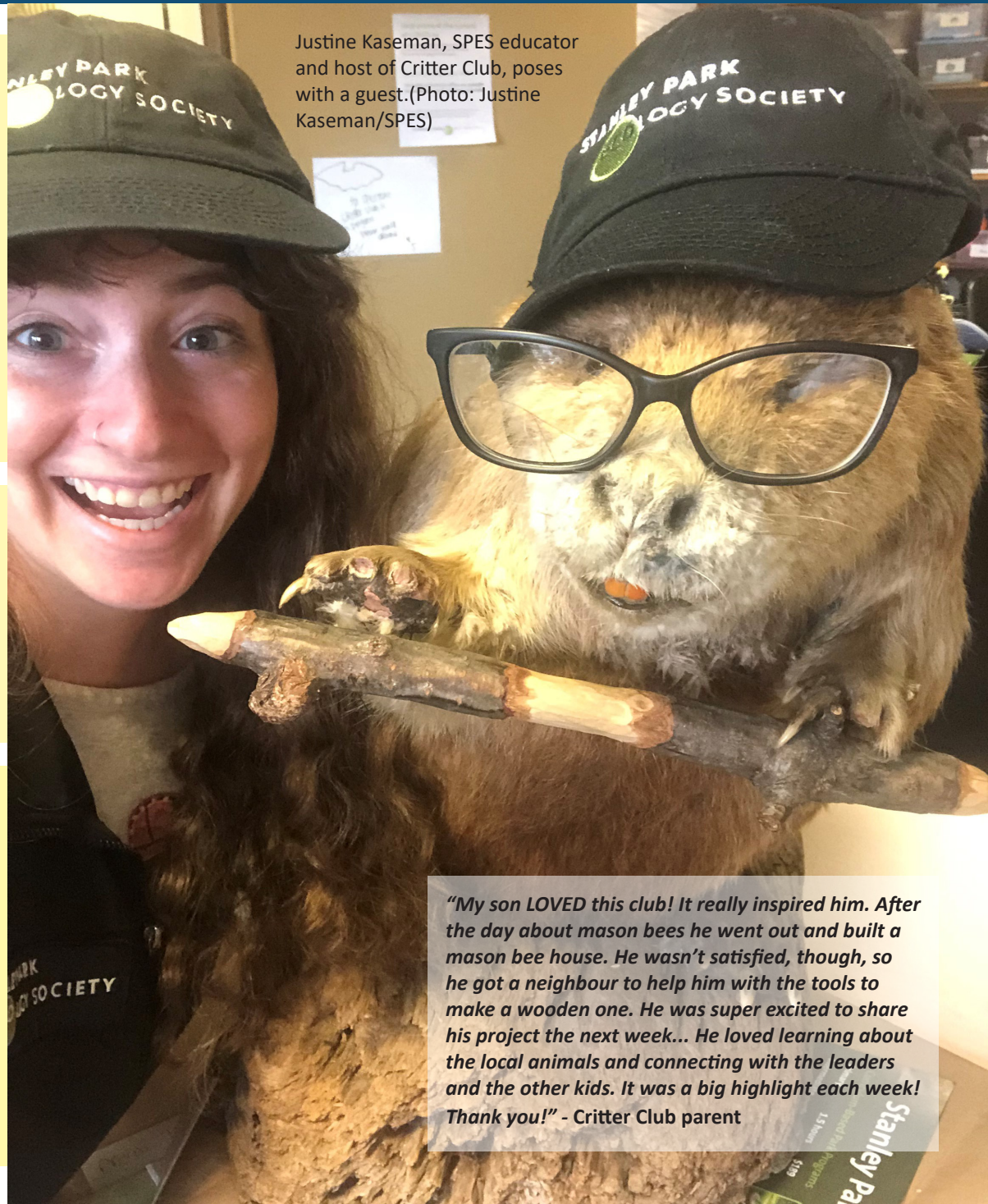
To counter COVID-19 travel restrictions, SPES educators brought a piece of Stanley Park to Metro Vancouver schools. 15 classes of 291 K-12 students participated in five new online programs while 214 students in 11 classes joined our educators for in-person programs at greenspaces near their schools. As teachers observed the programs, they learned how to activate the greenspaces for their own outdoor lessons (SPES educators also hosted six teacher workshops to empower teachers to meaningfully connect their students to nature near their schools in this trying time). 52 classes of 1029 students did manage to participate in our hands-on curriculum-based nature programs in Stanley Park while adhering to masking and distancing rules.

Critter Club

Homeschoolers added Stanley Park wildlife to their syllabus with SPES's launch of its new online club catering to kids keen to learn more about local animals, wildlife conservation and sustainable living. Forty-two 9 to 13 year olds attended our four to six week Critter Club and met weekly to explore wildlife through activities, art, short presentations, Q&A, and more.

Summer Fun

SPES's resourceful environmental educators delivered modified in-person daycamps during the restrictive COVID-19 pandemic this past spring and during summer 2020. They adjusted camp programming to enable distancing and hygienic conditions for campers, staff and volunteers. Held outdoors at 50% capacity, the camps hosted no-touch games (defend your territory like a coyote) and reduced sharing materials with personal kits of hand sanitizer, binoculars, aquatic magnifiers, pencils, coloring supplies, and other program materials. Our spring camps were at maximum capacity over the two weeks, and our eight summer camps hosted 77 out of 80 potential registrants.



Justine Kaseman, SPES educator and host of Critter Club, poses with a guest. (Photo: Justine Kaseman/SPES)

"My son LOVED this club! It really inspired him. After the day about mason bees he went out and built a mason bee house. He wasn't satisfied, though, so he got a neighbour to help him with the tools to make a wooden one. He was super excited to share his project the next week... He loved learning about the local animals and connecting with the leaders and the other kids. It was a big highlight each week! Thank you!" - Critter Club parent

Celebrating Our Volunteers



208 SPES volunteers, 75 of whom volunteered with us for the first time this year, offered their time, energy and skills to support conservation and education in Stanley Park. Their generosity is reflected in the number of hours they donated to help SPES steward a world-class park. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Amphibian survey, Beaver Lake, May 2021 (Photo: Meghan Cooling/SPES)

EDUCATION

EcoRangers: These roving naturalists provided visitors with a more meaningful experience in Stanley Park by answering questions about local animals and plants and providing other important on-the-spot interpretation.

25 individuals collectively volunteered 692 hours

Nature House Hosts: Based at SPES's Nature House in Lost Lagoon, Nature House Hosts welcomed visitors and provided information about Stanley Park's ecology and history in an informative and engaging way.

6 individuals collectively volunteered 283 hours

EcoCamp volunteers: Supporting the delivery of SPES' famous spring and summer EcoCamps, these volunteers helped empower children to connect with nature in meaningful ways.

15 individuals collectively volunteered 288 hours

And many thanks to our Office Volunteers who assisted with administration, website management, design and photography.

4 individuals collectively volunteered 124 hours

CONSERVATION

EcoStewards: Our weekend warriors helped restore valuable habitat in Stanley Park through invasive plant removal, native tree and shrub planting and other enhancement efforts twice monthly.

76 individuals collectively volunteered 672 hours

DIRT (Dedicated Invasive Removal Team; formerly SIRT, Specialized Invasive Removal Team): Weekly this group tackled invasive plant species removal throughout the Park, making an important contribution to habitat conservation and restoration in Stanley Park.

56 individuals collectively volunteered 2,680 hours

Wildlife Surveys: Volunteers participated in a variety of wildlife monitoring surveys gathering baseline data on important environmental indicators to track changes in Stanley Park's ecological health. Surveys focused on beavers, amphibians, eagles, stream invertebrates, intertidal biodiversity, water quality and on one of the largest urban Pacific Great Blue Heron colonies in North America, a species at risk in BC.

40 individuals collectively volunteered 315 hours

Coyote Information Line: Volunteer responders helped manage the Coyote Information Line by recording public sightings of and encounters with coyotes, contributing data to long-term monitoring of coyote behaviour. They also played an educational role with callers by discussing measures to prevent human/coyote conflict.

6 individuals collectively volunteered 270 hours

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Volunteers uncovered an Ensatina salamander during a SPES amphibian survey (Photo: Meghan Cooling/SPES)

"Volunteering for the SPES conservation department is very special for me. I love spending time outdoors doing wildlife surveys, I gain experience on biodiversity and ecology and I meet new people who have the same interests. This year, I was particularly happy to share my knowledge from the previous year with the new volunteers and to participate in the BC Marsh monitoring program learning more about the local amphibian and bird populations. I cannot wait for the next opportunities in conservation." -- Marine Baud

"After 30 years of adventures and intrigue around the world, I was worried retirement would be a sedentary life devoid of purpose. Volunteering for Stanley Park Ecology Society has, however, not only provided a new purpose to life – restoration and conservation of nature – but also a unique opportunity to work with and learn from highly motivated individuals passionately committed to nurturing Stanley Park, a true Vancouver treasure." -- Barry Khadalia

"I learned a lot more about the work that SPES does, BC's ecosystems, and had the awesome chance to meet new friends and interact with the public on a regular basis and share my knowledge and passion. Volunteering with SPES was really the best part of my 2020." -- EcoRanger volunteer, Summer 2020

"I am truly grateful for all the knowledge and experience I have gained over the last year and a half volunteering with Stanley Park Ecology Society; I have learnt so much about native and invasive species, and habitat restoration. Working in the park has also been so beneficial to my mental and physical well being - especially considering the last year we've had! A massive thank you to the team at SPES and my fellow volunteers." -- Hannah Lane

FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities

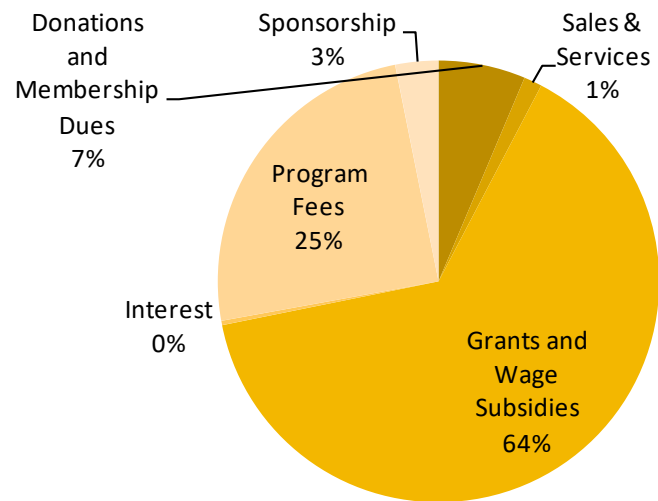
Support and Revenue	
Donations and Membership Dues	\$50,521
Sales & Services	\$10,520
Grants and Wage Subsidies	\$509,135
Interest	\$2,479
Program Fees	\$196,183
Sponsorship	\$25,000
Total	\$793,838
Expenses	
Administrative supplies, services, support	\$20,043
Concession Supplies and Service	\$0
Financial Services Charges	\$6,781
Professional fees	\$11,317
Program supplies, services & equipment	\$56,147
Wages and benefits	\$658,236
Total	\$752,524
Net ordinary income	\$41,314

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.

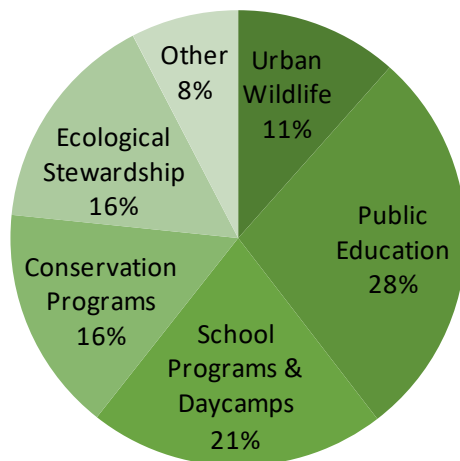
Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$213,114
Cash - Restricted	\$125,000
Accounts Receivables	\$10,581
Grants Receivable	\$22,910
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,230
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$ 13,742
Sales Tax Recoverable	\$1261
Total	\$389,838
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$8,727
Wages Payable	\$37,672
Sales Taxes Payable	\$0
Deferred Income	\$194,470
Total	\$240,869
Net Assets	
Internally Restricted	\$125,000
Unrestricted	\$16,464
Invested in Property, Plant and Equipment	\$13,742
Total	\$155,206
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$396,075

Income



Expenses by Class



"A natural, healthy and sustainable Stanley Park needs SPES. That's why I make a monthly donation and volunteer my time to remove invasive species."

Martin Addison
Donor, Volunteer, Board Member



Photo: Martin Addison

THANK YOU

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

VISIONARIES: Organizations \$75,000+



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Service
Canada

Government
of Canada
Gouvernement
du Canada
Canada

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



vancouver
foundation

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



WALTONS
TRUST



TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation

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

Keith Lord Sports Foundation held at the Vancouver Foundation



Individuals \$5,000+

Laurence Brown
Alan Duncan

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

Paula Caird
Rachel Dodds
Mark Turin

Individuals \$500 - \$999

Heikal Badrulhisham	Marilyn Mattenley
Jim Hall	Anne Mauch
Judy Hoang	
Gordon Howe	
Ethan Lippman	

Individuals \$200-\$499

Spencer Chandra	Tobias Jones	Carol McGrandles
- Herbert	Joslin Kobyłka	Tom McIlfaterick
Leanne Dospital	Sandra Lindahl	Martin Podolsky
Christine Elliott	Judith MacPherson	Jennifer Preece
Andrea Elvidge	Bradley McKillop	Moura Quayle
Brian Herrin	Anne Mathisen	Patricia Thomson

INDIVIDUALS up to \$200 & ORGANIZATIONS up to \$1000

Sally Aagaard	Andre Dahl	Jill Johnson	Kelly McCormack	Mike Stack
Leeann Anaka	Nicole Delapierre	Melanie Johnson	Ann McDonell	Susan Steward
Carol Allan	Raimonde Demopoulos	Grace Jones	Lauren McIlfaterick	Megan Stuart-Stubbs
Brad Anderson	Samantha Diamond	Ruth Jones	Ena McInnis Elizabeth	Kate Sullivan
Christine Andress	Rita Douglas	Susan Jones	McKeown	Elika Sy
Julie Andreyev	Marie Dussault	Fernando Junqueira	Sara McLaren	M. Sytnick
Tom Baldigara	Rachel Earl	Maxwell Kates	Ceola McLynn	Kerry Thompson
Victor Balon	Akemi Eddy	Nora Kelly	Jacqui McMullen	Katarina Thorsen
Karen Barron	Maybe Ellis	Melissa Killion	Marjorie McPhee	Vincent Ting
Sailen Black	Julie Emerson	Elsa Kim	Amanda Mitchell	Rani Tolton
Clare Bolam	Regina Eustace	Verity King	Sheena Mitchell	Toronto Foundation
Rebecca Bollwitt	Caryn Fehr	Eric Kowalski	Anna Morris	Krista Voth
Alan Braun	Alan Fietz	Robin Krzysiek	Ileana Mota	Susan Waiste
C Garth Brooks	Sebastian Fiszman	Mary Landell	Marisa Nichini	Dr Rory Wallace
Susan Brooks	Debbie Fjortoft	Hannah Lane	Carole Nash	Arinn Westendorf
Natalie Brown	Barbara Fousek	Violetta Lapinski	Gary Nisbet	Michelle Wittenberg
Tara Brown	Marilyn Gee	Marie-Claude Leonard	Nicole Ogen	Daelyn Woolnough
Peter Burch	Erin Giblin	Frank Lin	Bryndis Ogmundson	David Young
Francis Burnside	Sheila Girox	Lee Lipton	Olivier Pauzet	Karen Yuen
Junni Cai	Lanie Goebel	Fern Logan	Carolyn Railton	Julie Wang
Tyler Chapman	Jason Grigg	Janet Logie	John & Jeong Rattray	West Point Grey Academy
Kaylea Chard	Jennifer Hall	Jennifer Lord	Haydn Richardson	Whistler Blackcomb
Gracen Chungath	Catherine Hanley	Julie Lustig	Laura Richmond	Clark Wilson LLP
Jared Collette	Elizabeth Hardy	Helen Male	Linda Rose	Jessica Wu
Maureen Collier	Jorgen Harink	Pamela Manson	Patricia Russell	
Yves Comeau	Kenji Hayakawa	Dorota Maslowski	Robin Russell	
Catherine Condon	Elizabeth Hennessey	Kirsten Mathison	Wendy Sarkissian	
Deborah Cooper	Barbara Hodgins	Diana Matrick	Ingrid Severson	
Mary Corbett	Brett Horton	Terry Mattu	Ingrid Severson	
Cynthia Crick	Rupert Hudson	Ann McCall	Judy Sharp	
Stephen Curry	Dane K. Jansen Architect Inc	Colleen McConnell	Doug Shearer	
Natalie Cushing	Bill Jeffries	Charley McCormack	Ruth Shell	

Help us conduct long term conservation projects in Stanley Park. Become a monthly donor at <https://stanleyparkecology.ca/support-us/donate/>

STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY




A flame skimmer dragonfly
(*Libellula saturata*) rests by
Beaver Lake. (Photo: Rees Tucker)



Board of Directors

Tom McIlfaterick - President
Rita Douglas - Vice President
Rebecca Bollwitt - Secretary
Genie Lam - Treasurer
John Gray
Judith MacPherson
Ian van den Dolder
Jennifer Preece
Martin Podolsky
Martin Addison
Elizabeth McKeown
Stefani So
Siobhan McDowell-Powlowski
Judy Hoang - Advisor

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