

STANLEY PARK

ECOLOGY SOCIETY



encourages
stewardship of our
natural world through
environmental *education*
and *action*, and builds
awareness of the fragile
balance that exists
between urban
populations and nature.

Annual Report 2005 - 2006



President's Message

Oh how quickly a year passes by. It seems like just yesterday that I took on the role of President of the Board of Directors of the Stanley Park Ecology Society, and here I am, a year later, writing my message for the annual report.

In this past year I have learned very quickly what makes our Society great—it is the people. Our creative Executive Director leads a team of truly extraordinary staff. One needs to spend only a few minutes speaking with any one of our team members to feel the dedication each of them has to environmental education and action.

The work of the staff is supplemented by over 500 equally passionate volunteers. From the members of the board of directors who put in many behind the scene hours, to the Eco Rangers that bring environmental education directly to Stanley Park's visitors, to our monthly army of ivy pullers battling against the invasive species, the volunteers bring a dedication and energy that helps make our Society shine.

The passion and dedication of our people take us far, but we also need the support of the community. I want to express the utmost appreciation to the Vancouver Park Board which continues to provide us with support financially, physically and morally. We also thank our other long term supporters including Capers Community Markets, The RBC Foundation, and the BC Ministry of the Environment. We have also been fortunate to have received significant contributions from the Vancity Envirofund, TD Friends of the Environment, the Province of BC and the Government of Canada. There are many other contributors to our Society and we give our sincere appreciation to each of you.

Together our staff, volunteers, and community partners help the Stanley Park Ecology Society excel. I look forward to continuing to work with this excellent team and I also look forward to what I am certain will be another very successful year for the Stanley Park Ecology Society.

Sincerely,

Brett A. Horton

President, Board of Directors, Stanley Park Ecology Society

2005 - 2006

Board of Directors

Brett Horton (P)

Evelyn Hortobagyi (VP)

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Brian Herrin

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Angela Gerst

John TW Gray

Cristina Velez

Danny Catt

Peter Bromley

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Rowena Liang (Past T)

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Daphne Solecki

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Terry Walton

Vancouver Park Board

Joslin Kobylka



Executive Director's Address

What's in a Name?

There is far more in the Stanley Park Ecology Society than its name evokes:

While it may at least paint a vaguely green image in the mind, a great deal of the general populace is not sure, for example, what "Ecology" means. An answer is simply the "study of whole relations between living organisms and their environments". For SPES, this translates to gathering information about the natural world around us, and sharing this information within our human communities, building awareness and modeling stewardship in the process. Indeed, from it has emerged SPES's tagline: Connecting People with Nature.

A misconception of the name, too, is that we are *only* active in Stanley Park. Our interest and impact has, however, grown far beyond park boundaries. This year let us highlight that:

- The Ivy Busters invasive species removal program became a founding member of a collaboration of non-profits, municipalities and governments that spans the lower mainland,
- Data collected on wildlife of special concern continues to be shared with federal and provincial agencies,
- The school programs' *Urban Stewards* manual has been recognized by the Province as a recommended resource for teachers across BC,
- The Co-Existing With Coyotes program has been media-profiled for urban wildlife response and education across the continent, and
- We made education presentations to more than 13,000 youth outside of Stanley Park (and 4,500 within), interpreted nature to over 10,000 tourists from across the globe, and provided training in public speaking, stewardship and administration for volunteers who joined us from around the world.

What's in the SPES name, then? Community collaboration for healthy wildlife systems in Stanley Park ... but also for the world beyond...

Once again, we are grateful for your membership and sponsorship, for your involvement, input, and collaboration.

Patricia Thomson

Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society

2005 - 2006
SPES Team

Patricia Thomson
Executive Director

Annemarie De Andrade
Public Programs Manager

Koren Johnstone
*Volunteer Coordinator &
Nature House Interpreter*

Mia Haab
School Programs Manager

Rob Boelens
Urban Wildlife Coordinator

Tran Tran / Regina Bandong
Office Administrator

Holly Broadland
Laura Paddags
Environmental Educators

Project Positions
Jesse Eckert
Tracy Miranda
Urban Camping
Michelle Gaudry
Stewardship Coordinator

Robyn Worcester
EcoRanger Coordinator

Maya Credico
Amy Cox
Nature House Hosts



School Programs

Connecting children & teachers with nature

Connecting school children with the environment...

School Programs create opportunities for elementary students to discover forest, wetland and beach ecology through hands-on exploration and fun, interactive science activities. Stanley Park's natural beauty transforms learning experiences for our students – from beachcombing to birdwatching, science comes to life in the park!

Program Highlights

- 8 brand new programs were launched
- 3388 students discovered the great outdoors
- 35 winter programs resulted in a 250% increase over previous years

Park and Class Programs

The School Programs department developed and delivered 8 brand-new park and class programs for the 2005/2006 school year, bringing our total number of program offerings to 12.

Teachers and students spent over 275 hours with our educators this year exploring wetland, rainforest and intertidal ecosystems. Each program strives to deliver key environmental stewardship messages that emotionally engage students, encourage critical thinking, and relate to students' everyday lives.

- In the 2005/2006 school year, SPES shared forest ecology with 3388 students through delivery of 140 park and class programs – a 30% increase over last year!
- This year, we delivered 35 winter classroom programs – a 250% increase over the previous school year.
- For the first time, we have offered active stewardship programs in the park for grade 6/7 students. Intermediate students get into the forest and remove invasive ivy as part of our innovative new War of the Worlds program.
- We have developed two intermediate classroom programs on rainforest ecology – a first for SPES!
- Also for the first time this year, our school programs posters were distributed in full colour to over 600 schools in the Lower Mainland.

Urban Stewards Teacher's Manual

Last year, the British Columbia Ministry of Education honoured the Urban Stewards Teacher's Manual with a place on their "recommended resources" list for teaching the new intermediate Life Sciences curriculum. Teachers showed an excellent response to the recommendation and we have completely sold out of the first run of the 240-page environmental education manual. For the upcoming year, Urban Stewards will undergo a second revision and be available in an interactive, CD-ROM format as of December, 2006.



School Programs

Connecting children & teachers with nature

Program Highlights

- 407 students slept under the stars
- 31% of participants from inner city schools discovered their leadership skills

Urban Camping

Our Urban Camping program combines a dynamic two-day forest ecology and environmental stewardship program with students' first camping experience. Students learn survival and leadership skills, discover plant and animal interactions in forest and aquatic ecosystems, set up tents and shelters, and cook meals with the help of staff, teachers and community volunteers.

- 407 students experienced Urban Camping through 17 programs in April, May, June.
- 31% of students participated from inner city schools.
- For 2006, Capers Community Markets generously sponsored a range of local organic foods creating a healthy sustainable menu for all Urban Camping participants.
- This year, each Urban Camping program was assisted by dedicated volunteers from the Katimavik youth program and CAPP students from St. Patrick's highschool.

"Urban Camping is very educational, a wonderful experience, a fantastic opportunity for new campers, very curricular." - Jessica Adams





Public Programs

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship

Fostering not only a respect for the environment...

but also an understanding of the interconnectedness of nature, SPES Public Programs play a leading role in raising awareness of Stanley Park's natural resources, and its importance as a wildlife sanctuary. By providing hands-on conservation opportunities in the park for the urban population, we foster a sense of park ownership, as well as a deeper involvement with nature. We are proud to support a community of environmentally well-informed citizens!

Program Highlights

- 432 volunteers donated 1263 hours of their time to Ivy Busters
- 2.8 hectares of English Ivy was removed
- 5,000 visitors to the park were reached by the Eco Rangers

Ivy Busters

Ivy Busters is heading into its third full year!

We wrapped up 2005/06 with big smiles and a sense of mission accomplished. This year, Ivy Busters volunteers removed 7,500 square meters of alien invasive English Ivy that was suppressing native vegetation and destroying wildlife habitat throughout Stanley Park.

To date, our Invasive Plant Removal Program has cleared 4 hectares of Ivy - an area equivalent to four football fields!

With growing support from community partners such as Vancity, Service Canada and the Vancouver Park Board, Ivy Busters has reached new heights. New program initiatives this year include: Native Plant Salvaging, Student Volunteer Program, and Adopt-An-Acre, a program that promotes Corporate Social Responsibility. A special thank you to Capers Community Markets for being the first to Adopt-an-Acre in Stanley Park.

More recently, Ivy Busters is becoming an attractive opportunity for international students interested in gaining satisfying volunteer experience in one of Canada's most famous parks.

Lost Lagoon Floating Islands

The Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement Project has been a success straight from the start. This summer, SPES launched 6 log rafts in Lost Lagoon to enhance resting habitat for resident and migratory birds. The logs were instantly taken over by a multitude of birds (including the threatened Double-crested Cormorant) as well as a few sunning turtles!

The islands have been strategically placed around the Lost Lagoon, providing the public with ideal viewing opportunities that are far enough away from the shoreline to protect the birds from human disturbance. Volunteers will be monitoring the success of the logs using a new manual developed to help identify bird species frequent to Lost Lagoon.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all those who helped support this project and make it a reality: Public Conservation Assistance Fund, The Vancouver Park Board, The Home Depot, Rona, Lafarge Canada Inc., Caravan Canopies and, of course, all of our hard-working volunteers!



Public Programs

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship

Additions to this year's Eco Rangers program:

- new eco friendly shirts to distinguish the Eco Rangers
- increased visibility through a larger team of Eco Rangers
- New and updated interpretive material

Eco Rangers

The Eco Rangers were out in full force again this year! Trained in Stanley Park's natural and cultural history, 34 new and returning volunteer Eco Rangers from a diversity of backgrounds engaged over 5,000 visitors!

This year the Eco Rangers looked striking in their new eco-friendly fiber T-shirts which coordinated well with our trademark vests. They could be spotted on a variety of routes throughout Stanley Park, including Prospect Point, where one could witness the 'Raccoon Rangers' in action daily.

The Eco Rangers have been essential in educating the public about the diversity of life in the park as well as raising awareness about what we can do as visitors to be 'good neighbours'.

Additions to this year's Eco Ranger program included:

- Increased awareness of the program and volunteer needs through local schools, businesses and publications.
- An added essential training module on invasive species including an Ivy Pull.
- An updated training module on interpretation.
- Diversified/increased times and a larger recruitment of volunteers for 'Raccoon Ranging'.
- New/updated uniform T-shirt made of eco-friendly fibers
- New and updated interpretive material
- More Eco Rangers per shift reached a larger audience and increased visibility for the program.

Stanley Park Earthen Architecture Project

SPES's organic popcorn stand was recognized in celebrated fashion this year by the esteemed Vancouver Regional Construction Association. In the annual VRCA awards ceremony that recognized many landmark buildings which are far in excess of \$40M projects, the humble hand-built "Cob House" was presented with the first annual Award for Innovation.



Public Programs

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship

Encouraging people to explore the Park...

and to develop an awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, the Lost Lagoon Nature House serves as a meeting place for beginner and experienced naturalists alike. It provides information on the local flora and fauna, as well as activities and guided walks throughout the Park.

Lost Lagoon Nature House

This year has been one of successful and inspiring collaborations between the Lost Lagoon Nature House and other organizations including:

- TD Friends of the Environment and Stelmark Inc.: their contribution to the creation of modular displays and our new wall map will significantly increase our effectiveness in bringing natural history interpretation to Stanley Park. The wall map is a dynamic display depicting the phenology (natural cycles) of Stanley Park, so that visitors are able to track current seasonal changes in the wildlife and plants of the park.
- The Vancouver Natural History Society celebrated with us the launch of 'Wilderness on the Doorstep: Discovering Nature in Stanley Park', which featured contributions from SPES staff.
- UBC: The Cowan Vertebrate Museum in the Department of Zoology generously

"...I am interested in becoming a volunteer with SPES because of my love of nature and a firm belief that people can learn and understand why biodiversity and ecology are important factors in protecting whole environments..." -Jill Taylor, SPES native garden and Nature House bird count volunteer, June 2006

loaned us a wide range of bird specimens for our exhibit of natural history collections. After consulting with us, students of the Department of Botany produced a website highlighting the bryophytes of Tatlow trail as well as a brochure on the Park's bryophytes.

- BCIT: Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program students produced a display on sustainable living and assisted in wildlife monitoring.
- Katimavik: participants contributed towards building a comprehensive database for past bird count data.
- WERA: SPES continued to develop its native plant community garden in partnership with the West End Residents Association.

As well, our team of talented volunteers participated in the creation of brochures on the Nature House and our native garden, a game featuring the life cycle of the Great Blue Heron, a soil display and the phenology map. Volunteer wildlife monitors conducted monthly surveys, and recorded the habitat usage and behaviours of birds around Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake.



Volunteer Programs

Inspiring people to get involved with nature

Inspiring members of the community to engage with nature ...

SPES's volunteer program follows the society's mission of 'Connecting People with Nature'. We applaud our wonderful team of volunteers for their dedication, generosity and enthusiasm - they are our most valuable resource and we could not achieve the scope of work we do without their help!

Program Highlights

- 762 individuals donated their time volunteering.
- 9,900 volunteer hours were received by SPES programs:
 - School Programs - 138
 - Public Programs - 6347
 - Cob House - 2000
 - Urban Wildlife - 640
 - Administrative - 775

Volunteer Coordination: *What can one person do to help the environment?*

The Stanley Park Ecology Society offers volunteers the chance to connect themselves and others with nature. Our volunteers are an energetic, dynamic, and diverse crew dedicated to making a difference to our ecological community. By participating in SPES' education and stewardship programs this past year, they have helped to awaken and enrich visitors' appreciation of Stanley Park, as well as the species that we live with and the spaces that we share.

- This past year, our team of over 530 dedicated volunteers contributed almost 11,000 hours towards the success of our programs (almost 1000 hours more than in the previous year). In addition to offering volunteer opportunities in Urban Camping, EcoRangers, Ivy Busters, Public Programs marketing and promotion, wildlife monitoring, IT and office administration, special events, Native Garden maintenance, Nature, Story and Craft, Creatures of the Night, and Nature House hosting, we created new volunteer positions for an expanded graphic design focus, for stewardship initiatives such as our floating islands and bird manual, as well as for School Programs.
- SPES formed a mutually beneficial partnership with Katimavik, a federal government-funded program that gives youth between the ages of 17 and 21 the opportunity to live in a community for three months and work full-time with a community work-partner.
- With the implementation of our new database, SPES now has a more effective system for recording of volunteer hours.

"....We as School Programs volunteers, get to share our ideas to help create exciting new programs....we have already learned so much this trimester and can't wait to learn more...." - Karina Stickle and Andrew Laforest, Katimavik volunteers, Dec 2005



Urban Wildlife

Learning to co-exist with wildlife

Providing communities and individuals with resources on how to co-exist with wildlife...

these unique and invaluable programs such as the well known Co-Existing with Coyotes program, and Species Monitoring (Eagles, Herons) play an important role in creating healthy and safe environments for people and our 'wild' neighbours.

Program Highlights

- 12,492 students learned about Coyotes and Urban Wildlife
- responded to 900 information and help requests from the public

The SPES designed Co-Existing with Coyotes program continues to be in high demand in the schools and streets of Vancouver, and as a result of its success, in jurisdictions far beyond. The unique coyote management program was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and the City of Vancouver in 2001 and reduces the risk of conflict between people, pets and coyotes through a balance of education and action.

SPES works to provide targeted audiences such as elementary school children and pet owners with the information and resources they need to respond to an urban coyote, as well as providing an on the ground response to neighbourhoods that are experiencing an increase in the frequency and concentration of coyote sightings.

The program's philosophy, approach and materials have drawn inquiries from agencies across North America developing urban coyote plans and policies of their own. This year's additions included, among many, the Province of Ontario, the Cities of Calgary and Tampa Bay and the California based Animal Protection Institute. The Ecology Society was also one of two main speakers in an Audubon Society organized Urban Coyote Workshop in Portland, Oregon for federal, state, county, city and NGO staff in May, 2006 as well.

But, the program lives and breathes in the Lower Mainland. In the past year Co-Existing with Coyotes:

- Had a combined elementary school audience of 12,492 students, bringing the five year audience total to a size that would fill BC Place
- Responded to more than 900 individual requests for information and help concerning urban wildlife



Urban Wildlife

Learning to co-exist with wildlife

- Visited 32 neighbourhoods, several repeatedly, tracking and responding to individual coyotes that were displaying behaviour of concern. By engaging residents to provide a simple and safe response (Appear Big Mean and Loud) to any coyote and working with City Governments to have untidy premises and properties maintained, the coyote generally adapted its behaviour and moved on
- The Stanley Park Ecology Society also coordinated one coyote's removal with the Ministry of Environment's Conservation Officers. The coyote had been deliberately fed by residents in a Vancouver neighbourhood. It was the first coyote destroyed in Vancouver since January, 2003.
- Provided at least 36 media interviews including front-page feature coverage in the Washington Post Magazine and Vancouver Courier. The Ecology Society also started working with the Vancouver Sun on a weekly wildlife feature appearing in the weekend edition as of May 2006.

Other urban wildlife were within SPES's notes and eyes as well this year as Ecology Society volunteers monitored:

- 14 Bald Eagle nests in the City of Vancouver. One backyard nest produced 3 eaglets this year, rare in a species when 1 or 2 young is the norm! The Society is also part of a committee including members from the GVRD, Environment Canada, The Federation of BC Naturalists and Langley Environmental Partners introducing and promoting Wildlife Tree Stewardship to Cities in the Lower Mainland.
- More than 160 nests in the Stanley Park Heronry as the Great Blue Herons had another successful nesting season. The Society also worked with Vancouver Park Board Staff to create and adopt a management plan for the heronry.
- SPES monitors also formed the Vancouver centre area of the Bird Studies Canada Province wide Beached Bird Survey. By patrolling the shorelines from the north end of Main Street to the south side of the Burrard St Bridge monitors help gather and share data about the impact human activity has on waterbirds.
- SPES produced a Wildlife Map for Stanley Park, highlighting some of the species and locations around the Park.



Media Awareness

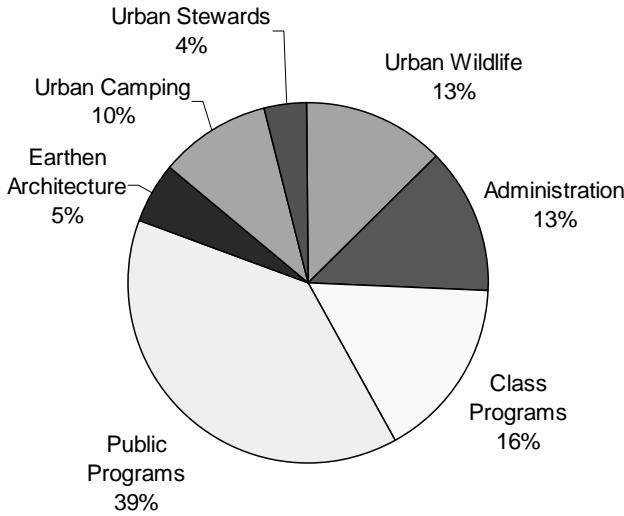
SPES makes the News in 2005 – 2006 ...

June 28 2006	BBC	Urban Wildlife In Vancouver
June 16 2006	CTV	Aggressive Raccoon in Surrey
June 16 2006	CBC Radio Van	Aggressive Raccoon in Surrey
June 15 2006	Vancouver Sun	Aggressive Raccoon in Surrey
June 8 & 9 2006	CBC Radio Calgary	Urban Coyotes
May 24 2006	National Geographic	Urban Coyotes
May 15 to June 25	Vancouver Sun	Weekly Wildlife Update
May 10 2006	Vancouver Courier	Hérons
May 9 2006	CITY TV	Hérons
May 4 2006	CITY TV	Eagles
May 3 2006	CFML Radio	Coyotes
May 2 2006	CBC TV	Eagles
April 2006	Washington Post	Urban Coyotes
April 2006	Vancouver Courier	Eagles
March 13 2006	CBC TV	Urban Wildlife
March 7 2006	Fanny Keifer Shaw TV	Coyotes
February 20 2006	CBC Radio	Coyotes
February 19 2006	The Osprey Journal	Hérons
February 18 2006	CFML Radio	Coyote
February 13 2006	Vancouver Courier	Coyote
January 16 2006	Vancouver film School Doc	Coyotes
January 12 2006	CBC TV	Eagles
January 4 2006	Vancouver Courier	Coyotes
January 2006	Georgia Straight	Ivy Busters
December 16 2005	COOP Radio	Urban Wildlife
November 16 2005	Langara Voice	Coyotes
November 14 2005	CBC Radio Toronto	Urban wildlife
October 3 2005	Maison Neuve Magazine	Hérons
August 11 2005	Vancouver Province	Coyotes
August 10 2005	APTN TV	Eagles
August 8 2005	Placial Magazine	Coyotes
August 2005	Canadian Gardening Magazine	Ivy Busters
July 26 2005	CBC Radio	Eagles
July 25 2005	CBC Radio	Hérons
July 19 2005	Urban Rush Shaw TV	Urban Wildlife
July 4 2005	Vancouver Courier	Coyotes
July 2005	Vancouver Magazine	Hérons
July 2005	Georgia Basin Action Plan	Ivy Busters



Financials

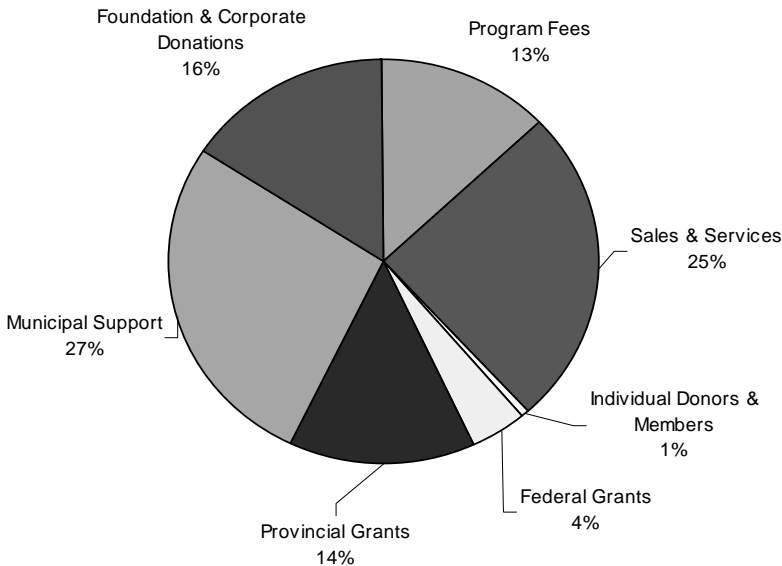
Expenditures by Category



The Stanley Park Ecology Society ensures that all of its programs, from education to action, are available to individuals and families of all income levels. Offering low cost to no cost events and programs, SPES is dedicated to offering everyone the chance to be a positive and informed steward!

To allow SPES to maintain these invaluable programs at little cost to no cost for groups and individuals, SPES draws financial support from an amazing group of diverse partners. Foundations, Corporate Donors, Grants, Members and Individuals offer SPES the financial resources needed to continue and further its mission - to encourage stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action.

Sources of Revenue



*Working together -
we all make it
happen!
Thank you!*



A Special Thank You...

Visionary (more than \$10 000)

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation – Nature House, Co-Existing with Coyotes, Eco Rangers
BC Gaming Commission – Urban Stewardship and Innovative Education Programs
NSERC PromoScience – Park and Class School Programs
RBC Foundation at Royal Bank of Canada – Urban Camping
Ministry of Environment – Co-Existing with Coyotes
VanCity Savings Credit Union – Stewardship Programs
Capers Community Markets – School Programs, Urban Camping, General Programs

Sustainer (5,000 to 10,000)

BC Hydro – School Programs

Supporter (\$1,000 to \$5,000)

FutureWorks Training - Stewardship Programs
AWARE Wage Subsidy - School Programs
Workstart Programs - Administration
Service Canada - Nature House Programs
Keith Lord Sports Foundation at Vancouver Foundation – Urban Camping
Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau – Urban Camping
Vancouver School Board – Urban Camping
Labatt's - EcoRanger

Inkind Supporters

Inventure VanCity - Computers



Every Dollar Counts...

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Stelmark
Home Depot
Rona Hardware
LaFarge Canada Inc.
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Deloitte and Touche

FRIENDS (UP TO \$1000)

Victor Balon
Janet Farrell
Luke Ferdinands
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Ray McNabb
Victoria Garland
Colleen Loader
Elizabeth Dill
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Monica Jaeschke
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Monica Wilson
Ann McWilliams
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Sandra Biggerstaff
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Shauna & Steve Bamford
Chris Ashby
Steve Bastien



Stanley Park Ecology Society 2005 - 2006 Annual Report



The Stanley Park Ecology Society encourages stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action.