



**Pacific Parklands**  
FOUNDATION

A Foundation for the Future of Our Parks

# annual report 2010

PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

## What a difference a decade can make



David Pohl

The Pacific Parklands Foundation is entering its second decade of existence. In preparation for moving forward to even greater heights, partnerships and accomplishments, we unveiled a new logo and brand for

the Foundation at our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration lunch.

The simple brushstroke tree and its watery reflection represent the natural resources we strive to protect and enhance, while revealing their fragility if not properly preserved.

Our redesigned website, our insert in the Park Partners newsletter, and a new seven-minute video also showcase our revised logo and our reinvigorated vision, based on our past successes.

In business, we would say PPF leverages; in science, we might call it a catalyst. Essentially, Pacific Parklands Foundation brings people and groups together so their total contribution is worth more than the sum of their individual donations.

Our partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada is a good example. For almost 10 years, RBC has partnered with PPF

to offer the *Catching the Spirit* program to youth, helping them build leadership and life skills while they learn about conservation and the importance of our parklands.

RBC also contributed to the Camosun Bog signage project, enabling us to hire professionals to work with our volunteer experts to create content and design the interpretive signage that Parks staff installed. Now, visitors understand the significance of what they see as they explore the bog from the renovated boardwalk.

Our Board of Directors and staff work closely with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks management and staff and volunteer groups, as well as generous business and individual donors, to stretch each gift to provide maximum benefit to Metro Vancouver's regional park system. Pacific Parklands ensures there is a long-term return on current investments, in dollar value contributed and in legacies for future park users.

It's a formula that's worked well for a decade, and will see us well into the future.

David Pohl, President

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Denise Coutts

# A spirit worth catching—and spreading

Last summer, 312 youth aged 12 to 18 volunteered 14,693 hours to regional parks while developing skills in leadership, social responsibility and environmental stewardship, through the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the *Catching the Spirit* program. With a mantra of “for youth by youth,” they learn how they can contribute ideas and lead others to help preserve Metro Vancouver’s valuable park spaces.



*There’s nothing like digging and planting to make stewardship real to urban youth. The Catching the Spirit program teaches environmental and life skills.*

For the first time, CtS youth connected via video conferencing with youth in Maai Mahiu, Kenya, who were celebrating Ubuntu (I am because we are) Day, a day to bring community together through environmental stewardship and celebration. The energy and enthusiasm grew to inspirational heights as youth from widely different backgrounds connected to share how they were working to help the planet.

In another first, participants from regional parks across Metro Vancouver gathered at the BCIT campus to design a garden, prepare the site and plant vegetables that supplied some camps for the summer, as well as the program’s season-end barbecue.

The Pacific Parklands Foundation also encourages youth leadership through two annual award programs. The Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award winner in 2010 was Blair Moro of Surrey, a 10-year volunteer at the Tynehead Fish Hatchery, a Queen’s Venturer in Scouting, and peer leader and participant for six years in *Catching the Spirit*.

The Dr. Mordehai Wosk Leadership Fund has recognized several outstanding leaders since its establishment in 2006, most recently Henry Fung, Blair Moro, Ivy Wan, Erin Rutherford, Lucia Lam, Adam Heffey, Claire Truesdale and Melanie Roseburg.

## Self-guided nature walk teaches and intrigues

With financial support of \$25,000 from RBC, a long-awaited self-guided nature walk opened in 2010 at Pacific Spirit Regional Park’s Camosun Bog.

A planning committee including representatives from the Camosun Bog Restoration Group, Pacific Spirit Park Society, Musqueam Nation, Pacific Parklands Foundation and Metro Vancouver worked with a consultant to identify their goals and what information the signs would share.

Long before the bog area was called Camosun Bog, it was known as məq˘e:m to the Musqueam people. Visitors can read important cultural and natural information about the bog. The self-guided nature walk is intended to encourage appropriate use of the site and to celebrate community involvement in protecting, restoring and sharing information about the bog.

Camosun Bog Restoration Group volunteers have invested more than 10 years of time restoring the bog. Parks staff modified the existing boardwalk as part of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks’ annual capital replacement program, increasing accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers and walkers, while providing pull-out areas where larger groups such as school classes can gather for learning opportunities.



*A revamped boardwalk and attractive, informative signage have created an extraordinary learning experience at Pacific Spirit’s Camosun Bog, through a multi-organizational collaboration.*

# Groups repatriate native forest

In 2009, Pacific Parklands Foundation initiated a collaborative, matching funds strategy that included several parties who together would restore part of the ecosystem in Vancouver's Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

A grant from BC Transmission (now BC Hydro) paid for bird surveys, project planning, excavator machine time, soil replacement and a consultant. The Pacific Spirit Park Society and Camosun Bog Restoration Group volunteers helped develop the forest restoration site plan, then staged 17 work parties involving more than 340 hours of labour.

In total, they removed five dumpster-sized bins of invasive plants and soils, replacing it with eight cubic yards of new topsoil. Diamond Head Consulting donated the actual planting of 1,072 native plants. Metro Vancouver Parks supplied staff time



*Dedicated volunteers like Etienne Levasseur plant native plants in areas where volunteer work crews have removed invasive species from Pacific Spirit Park.*

and contributed \$4,000 for disposal bins and \$5,000 for split rail fencing.

This truly collaborative venture provided a great opportunity for various groups and individuals to get to know each other, planting the seeds for potential future projects together.

## What is nature worth?

We all value preserving natural ecosystems within our urban centres, but how do you put a price on it?

In a unique cooperative effort between the Pacific Parklands Foundation, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, Metro Vancouver and the David Suzuki Foundation, the natural capital of BC's Lower Mainland was valued at approximately \$5.4 billion per year, or \$2,462 per person.

The report measured natural benefits including climate regulation, clean air, floor protection and water regulation, waste treatment, water supply, pollination, salmon habitat, recreation and tourism, local food production, and air pollution absorption in

**Read more about these and other programs, projects and special initiative that the Pacific Parklands Foundation supports at [www.pacificparklands.com](http://www.pacificparklands.com).**

## An apple a day... maintains our heritage

Pacific Parklands and the Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association have begun rescuing heritage apple trees in Derby Reach, an early site of First Nations habitation and the first permanent human settlement in the Lower Fraser Valley. The earliest trees were likely planted in the 1830s by the Hudson's Bay Company with more planted circa 1858 by the Royal Engineers of Fort Langley.

By removing invasive species and propagating new trees — 10 so far — from the still-productive orchard, the groups will continue an agricultural tradition. The Derby Reach Heritage Apple Orchard will also provide much-needed winter habitat for deer, squirrels and birds in an increasingly urban area, food for animal mating and birthing seasons, and food for needy families through donations of apples to local food banks.

The preservation of heritage genetics within these rare species showcases sustainable agriculture methods through an increased biodiversity index, long-term permaculture activities, and by fostering organic farming principles.

Funds raised — \$10,000 through a community grant from Vancity — are leveraged with support from Metro Vancouver and enhanced through in-kind contributions of volunteer time and expertise.

## Enjoy a beer, preserve a park

Vancouver's Granville Island Brewing donated \$3,750 to the Pacific Parklands Foundation this year by, well, selling beer.

For the month of August, the brewery donated 25 cents for every six-pack of Robson Street Hefeweizen and Brockton IPA sold. The funds will support two small but important projects in Brae Island and Campbell Valley Regional Parks.

# 2010 Financial Highlights

For the year ending September 30, 2010

## Statement of Operation and Changes in Fund Balance

Revenues:	\$323,879
Expenses: Administration	\$170,409
Grants to projects	\$366,759
	(\$213,290)
Fund balance, beginning of year	\$1,449,419
Fund balance, end of year	\$1,236,130

## Designated Fund Balances at Year End (September 30, 2010)

General Fund	\$165,209
Endowment Fund	\$250,000
Capital Fund	\$677,070
Gordon Smith Fund	\$13,583
Mordehai Wosk Fund	\$57,526
Program Fund (Catching the Spirit)	\$27,396
Project Fund	\$45,346
Total	\$1,236,130

## Our grateful thanks to our friends, donors and partners in 2010

B.C. Society of Landscape Architects

BC Transmission Corporation

Betty Carrington

Coast Capital Savings

David Pohl

Dr. Mordehai Wosk

Dr. Ed O'Brien

Ed Andrusiak

Government of Canada

Granville Island Brewing

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The Real Estate Foundation of BC

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Vojislav Ilic

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Xiaowei Huang

### Fall Parksfest 2009 Donors

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Marion Webber

The Beatty Biodiversity Museum

The Vancouver Aquarium

University Publishers

Royal Bank of Canada

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch Donors and Partners

CTV

Dr. Faisal Moola

Larry Meneely

Rhino Print Solutions

Scott Construction Group

the idea partner

### Donation Stations donors

Charitable Number:

88935 3017 RR0001

## Partnerships multiply results



The Pacific Parklands Foundation has experienced the power of partnership many times over this past year and in its 10-year history.

Each Metro

Vancouver regional park has its own support group of staff and steadfast volunteers who make all of our projects possible at the individual park level. Larger organizations, such as the David Suzuki and Real Estate Foundations, pool resources with us on regional projects.

Our dedicated staff and board members pull all the pieces together, repeatedly defying the laws of mathematics—instead of adding up resources, they multiply them to accomplish amazing things.

Without the donations from our generous donors to leverage into more, we would not have the impressive list of accomplishments that we do. This includes those who support our awards programs, recognizing young people who embrace and live our vision.

We invite you to join this extraordinary group. Volunteer your time, give a one-time donation or set up regular giving, support a special project or our overall operations. Consider a bequest; we would be happy to explain the various options to you so that you gain the most tax benefit from your gift.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary donor recognition event in October proved so popular that it will now be an annual event. We'd love to see you at the next one.

Denise Coutts  
Executive Director

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