

## **Nature Vancouver Conservation Section Report to the Annual General Meeting – 24 April 2008**

During the past year the Conservation Section has mourned the loss of legendary conservationist Bert Brink, but we have also celebrated his life and achievements. We have welcomed some new and some returning members to the section. We regularly report on key current conservation issues in Vancouver Naturalist. Our Chair, Tim Blair, has not only done a great job keeping the group on track, he re-created the VNHS website, is working hard to support the UBC Farm, and we congratulate him on his recent election to the UBC Board of Governors.

The section has been involved in Earth Day celebrations, and has plans for celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Nature Vancouver. We review conservation resolutions proposed to the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, hold potluck events in July and December, and periodically host speaker presentations on conservation topics.

Throughout the year we network with other organizations including: BCWF-BC Wildlife Federation, BCSN-BC Spaces for Nature, BBCC–Boundary Bay Conservation Committee, Burns Bog Society, COSEWIC-Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, CRCTS-Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society, CPAWS-Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, FMC-Federation of Mountain Clubs, FOSP-Friends of the Sechelt Peninsula, FCPP-Friends of Cypress Provincial Park, GSA-Georgia Strait Alliance, GVRD Parks Planning, Nature BC/FBCN-Federation of BC Naturalists, ORC-Outdoor Research Council, PSPS-Pacific Spirit Park Society, SARCO-

Species at Risk Coordination Office, SPES-Stanley Park Ecology Society, SOPA-Save Our Parkland Association, WCWC-Western Canada Wilderness Committee and others.

Specific issues addressed April 2007- April 2008: The section contributed expertise, research, networking, letters and lobbying to the following conservation issues during the past year. The section responded to alerts regarding potential conservation concerns, and investigated as appropriate to determine whether the VNHS should/could respond.

- 37th and Oak Park – Organized bird and plant surveys and provided recommendations on planning options
- ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve) – Delta, Garden City Lands, Tsawwassen (golf course). Generally opposing exclusions from the ALR, supporting efforts by community and government to retain ALR lands
- Arbutus Lands corridor – supporting development options which include greenspace and habitat preservation
- BC Parks Budget – annual review of budget
- Canadian Wildlife Service – responding with concern over staff cuts
- Cape Roger Curtis – supporting CRCS trying to establish park/conservation area
- Capilano River Dam (endangered rivers report) – supporting fish-safe dam improvement options
- Deltaport Third Berth – soliciting expert analysis of impact on lifeforms in proposed development of area
- Deltaport 2nd Terminal – reiterating concerns over wildlife impact for this new project phase
- Fish Farms & Sea Lice – FBCN resolution support

- Fraser River gravel – supporting preservation of natural gravel habitat
- Fraser River Trap – supporting trap funding
- Gateway – opposing development
- Hadden Park – our support sought for turning Hadden Park back to natural state if museum is moved away in future
- Hastings Park – protecting it as a conservation area
- Iona Island and log salvage – monitoring possible impact
- Lily Point – donation to land conservancy made
- Maplewood Flats – monitor trail building re nesting bird impacts
- Migratory Bird Act – responding to the Ministry of Environment, with our concerns about the proposed amendments which facilitate ways for industry to get around nesting season restrictions.
- Mountain Caribou – opposing increased development for snowmobile access in caribou park range area
- Mt. Fromme Mountain Biking – developing relationships with mountain bike users to promote habitat friendly activities amongst mountain biking community
- Mt. Robson Management Plan -
- Nesting birds – advocating avoiding nest destruction during invasive plant removal and other projects in parks
- Pacific Spirit Park – opposing removing areas from this park & ongoing representation/ involvement in the PSPS
- Park Tenures – opposing park tenure extensions for private companies whose activities negatively impact parks
- Pinecone Burke & Elk Mountain & Upper Pitt & Elk Thurston – opposing development, opposing building of new logging road
- Queen Elizabeth Park tower and tree cutting – advocating choices that least impact trees and fauna habitat
- Roofed Accommodation – opposing development of new roofed accommodation inside parks
- SAR – our response to annual proposed new species for the Species At Risk list
- South Okanagan Similkameen National Park proposal – encouraging members to support
- Squamish - Garibaldi Housing -
- Stanley Park – representation/involvement in the restoration stakeholders group
- Sunshine Coast Caren Range – opposing expansion of and damage caused by mining
- UBC Farm – Saving the Farm and supporting the dedication of an interpretive trail to Bert Brink
- Vanier Park – help preserve natural habitat in this area by surveying species and supporting invasive plant removal
- Vision for Parks – supporting the original traditional BC vision for Parks. March 2007 Parks night.

**Next steps include:** All are welcome to join us at our annual picnic potluck gathering, July 16 rain or shine at the UBC Farm greenhouse. Our guest will be Lindsay Coutier from The Suzuki Foundation and we will be discussing Species At Risk (SAR). Coming and current issues for the section include the Deltaport 2nd Terminal, the Perimeter Road and its impact on Burns Bog, the ongoing rebuilding of BC Parks, and support for making Gibby's Field a park.