



LIGHTHOUSE PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Fall, 2022

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lighthouseparkps@gmail.com
www.lpps.ca

SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN LIGHTHOUSE PARK by Alexandra Mancini and Daphne Hales



LPPS directors, members, and public gathered at the celebration event.
Photo Credit: Alexandra Mancini



The start of Birdsong Path (top left). Photo Credit: Alexandra Mancini

New accessible picnic table on Birdsong Path (top right). Photo Credit: Daphne Hales



Valerie Boyer enjoying the new bench on Birdsong Path (bottom left). Photo credit: Daphne Hales

Inside this issue:

<i>Special Celebration in Lighthouse Park</i>	1-2, 6
<i>Volunteer Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Education Walk and Talk</i>	4
<i>LPPS News</i>	5

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society is a membership based non-profit organization formed in 1998 to:

- Protect the natural integrity of Lighthouse Park;
- Promote public awareness of its natural features;
- And support the development of biological zones near the park boundaries

President - Alexandra Mancini
Vice President - Areta Sanders
Treasurer - Hilary Clay
Secretary - Areta Sanders
Membership - Lynn Nordman

Directors
David Broughton
David Cook
Daphne Hales
Sally McDermott
Jennifer McQueen



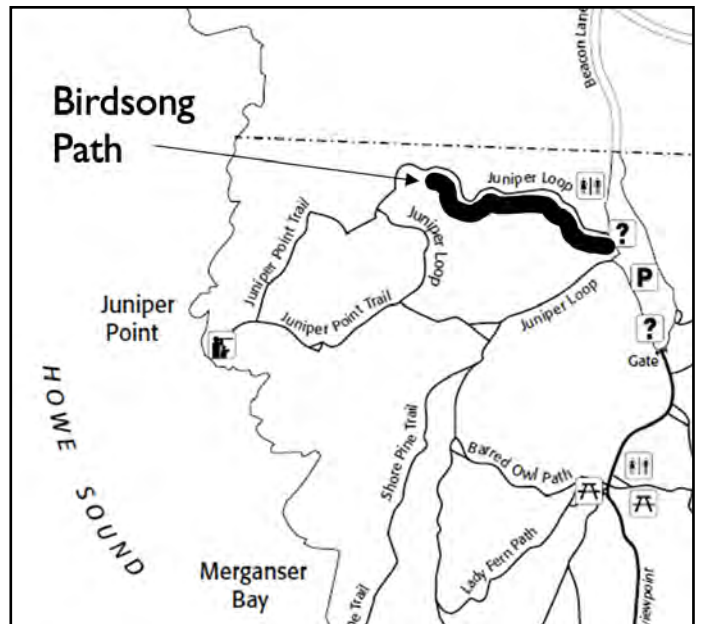
On June 18, 2022 we hosted the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society's Special Celebration in the park. It was wonderful to be able to hold this gathering in person again after two years of COVID restrictions. In addition to celebrating 24 years since our Society was formed, we had two very important achievements to announce – Birdsong Path, a new accessible trail along a section of Juniper Loop, and the unveiling of a new Tree Cookie.

Our celebration event lasted for most of the day and was well attended with about forty people there for the opening remarks and others who came later. We led guided walks along Birdsong Path, then to the new Tree Cookie, and through the old-growth forest down Beacon Trail, ending at several educational displays, including one set up by OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society) with a live bird. Patrick Weiler, our Member of Parliament for the Sea-to-Sky Riding, joined us and acknowledged the importance of Lighthouse Park to our community and the work that our Society does. We finished with our 24th Annual General Meeting. All in all, a very successful day!

Below are two brief summaries about Birdsong Path and the Tree Cookie. But first, a special thank-you is owed to Daphne Hales. She was able to obtain funding to help us push these two projects across the finish line. Daphne was one of the founding Directors of our Society in 1998, and 24 years later she is still helping as a member of our Board of Directors.

Birdsong Path

The Society is happy that a short accessible trail leading into deep forest is now a reality. The trail is called Birdsong Path to distinguish it from the entire Juniper Loop, on which it is situated, and also as a tip of the hat to the many songbirds which can be heard there, particularly at the far end.



Map of Birdsong Path

The path starts at the lower northwest corner of the parking lot, next to two paved 'accessible' parking spots. It is almost flat and nearly 450m long with a firm surface of compacted rock dust. There is an interesting variety of habitat in this short stretch, from the skunk cabbages and ferns of the wetland to the towering cedars, Douglas-firs and maples of the forest, to the more open area at the end with its large moss and fern covered rocky outcrop. Salal, sword ferns and salmonberry grow by the trail sides along with seasonal patches of wildflowers. Nurse logs and the almost spooky shapes of aerial roots can be seen where new trees have sprouted on top of the stumps left by the early loggers who worked in this corner of the Park.

A bench stands opposite the wetland and a second one has been placed in the more open spot at the end of the path. Both handsome wooden benches were made 'in house' in the District's carpentry shop and both are already used by visitors. An accessible picnic table made of 100% recycled plastic, has been installed off to the side of the trail looking into the forest. *Continued on page 6.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For all volunteer events please wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and work gloves. Volunteers who are 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. The events may be cancelled subject to government COVID-19 restrictions. Please check our website www.lpps.ca.



Volunteers working at Klootchman Park. Photo Credit: Sally McDermott

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 9:00 am-noon **WEED PULL, CAULFEILD PARK.**

Meet at the anchor on Pilot House Road.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 9:00 am-noon **WEED PULL, NORTH PICCADILLY PARK.** Meet at the intersection of Clovelly Walk and North Piccadilly Road.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:00 am-noon **RESTORATION PLANTING, THE DALE PARK.** Meet at the corner of Water Lane and The Dale.

MONTHLY BIRD COUNT



Happy but very wet bird watchers.

Beginners are welcome. The experience of participating in the count is unique – you will get to know the birds, their sounds and will contribute to

expanding our knowledge of the Park's feathered inhabitants. Meet at the lower kiosk of the parking lot in Lighthouse Park on the first Sunday of the month at 8.30 a.m.

October 2, November 6, December 4

Call Suann at 604-926-9094 for more information.

We do meet rain or shine, but at the July count it rained so hard we couldn't hear the birds – not our most successful event!

After a hot, dry August we noticed at our September count that chickadees and other small birds were enjoying a bath in cupped leaves that collected water during a rain shower; there is always something of interest on the count.

EDUCATIONAL TALK



Photo Credit: Dr. Elizabeth Elle

The Buzz about Bees with Dr. Elizabeth Elle

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2:00-3:00 pm

A presentation at the West Vancouver Memorial Library

Dr. Elizabeth Elle will share “The Buzz about Bees.” Learn about the amazing diversity of pollinators in BC and what you can do in your backyard, community garden, or on your balcony to help support them (Hint: Plant some flowers!).

Dr. Elle is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University where her research has focused on protecting pollinators and enhancing pollination services to wildflowers and crops.

To register go to: <https://westvanlibrary.ca/event/the-buzz-about-bees/>

EDUCATIONAL WALK



Birds Nest mushrooms in Lighthouse Park.
Photo Credit: Jenny McQueen

Identifying mushrooms in Lighthouse Park and forest ecology

It's still too dry for mushrooms in Lighthouse Park! As soon as their season starts, join a walk led by LPPS director David Cook to search for mushrooms and learn about the temperate old growth forest where they grow.

Date and time to be determined, watch your emails for an announcement or contact David for more information, cookeco2@yahoo.com

LIGHTHOUSE PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWS

THIS PAST YEAR'S VOLUNTEER EVENTS

We would like to recognize all the work done by volunteers in the past year. It included restoration planting as well as the removal of invasive species such as ivy, blackberry, holly, laurel and broom. There were twelve work party events:

- 5 in Lighthouse Park
- 3 in North Piccadilly Park
- 2 in The Dale Park
- 1 in Caulfeild Park
- 1 in Klootchman Park



Ivy Pull at Klootchman Park. Volunteers working (left) and completed work (right). Photo Credit: Sally McDermott

We have a great team who organize and lead these events. Many thanks to Sally McDermott, Alexandra Mancini and David Broughton.

KATHARINE STEIG

By Elaine Graham

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society was saddened to learn that our long time supporter, Katharine Steig, passed away on August 12, 2022. Renowned for her dedication to environmental conservation work with Nature Vancouver, Friends of Cypress and West Vancouver Old Growth Conservancy, Katharine always found the time to join our Society's weed pulls, talks and meetings.

Her thoroughly detailed records of environmental issues helped others and inspired them to take action. Katharine was a quiet but powerful force for good who will be honoured and remembered.



Katherine Steig. Photo Credit: Elspeth Bradbury

Special Celebration in Lighthouse Park ...con't

The Society thanks the Parks Department for doing the heavy work, the Rick Hansen Foundation for a grant for the carpark paving and the first 330m of the path, and the West Vancouver Foundation which paid, along with the Society, for the extension of the path and the furniture. Our next wish is for more interpretive signage. There is already an illustrated panel at the wetland, provided by the Society a few years ago. Wouldn't it be lovely to have similar signs for the trees and shrubs, the birds, the aerial roots and nurse logs. We have the information; all we need now is the money!

Tree Cookie

The tree cookie has been in the works for seven years and finally has a place of honour just east of Beacon Trail. It is a slice of yellow-cedar, finely sanded and polished to show off its 1,448 annual growth

rings. It sits, well protected, under a sturdy shelter and was greatly admired by those who attended the celebration. In early July, an impressive interpretive sign was suspended above it.

The full story of this particular tree cookie is available on the society's website (www.lpps.com). Suffice it to say here a huge 'thank you' to LPPS board directors David Cook and Sally McDermott who led the restoration efforts, the West Vancouver Parks Department, the UBC Department of Forestry's Dendrochronology lab and grad student Spencer Bronson for counting the rings, Adrienne Nicholson for designing the wonderful sign, and the West Vancouver Foundation for helping, along with the Society to fund both sign and shelter. It daily continues to attract the attention of many Park visitors.



Yellow Cedar Tree Cookie. Photo Credit: Sally McDermott