



# LIGHTHOUSE PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Spring, 2025

Issue #43  
lighthouseparkps@gmail.com  
www.lpps.ca

## ARE ANY OF THESE PLANTS GROWING IN YOUR GARDEN?

**By Richard Beard**

These invasive plants spread from our gardens into our common land and neighbouring forests. By spreading and creating large monoculture areas they outcompete native plants. Over time, even the mix of trees will change because tree seedlings need light. This will lead to negative changes including fewer and less diverse insects and birds, more soil erosion and a monotonous landscape.

If they are on your property, please consider their removal to prevent further invasion. Consider them as COVIDS of the forest.

LPPS has worked for 26 years to control them and other invasive plants manually in Lighthouse Park and the five neighbouring parks that make up the Six Park Network.



Common ivy (top left), yellow lamium (top right), periwinkle (bottom left), English holly (bottom right). Images Credit: Richard Beard

### Inside this issue:

Are any of these plants growing in your garden?	1, 2
Presidents Message: Spring 2025	3, 6
Get involved	3
Volunteer Opportunities & Educational Talk	4
Marine Litter	5
LPPS: How it all began	5, 6

### About us:

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

### Directors

- President – Alexandra Mancini
- Vice President & Secretary – Areta Sanders
- Treasurer – Hilary Clay
- Other Directors
- David Broughton
- David Cook
- Daphne Hales
- Sally McDermott
- James Mitchell

### Membership

Membership – Lynn Nordman

### Newsletter

- Elspeth Bradbury
- Jennifer McQueen
- Areta Sanders



## ARE ANY OF THESE PLANTS GROWING IN YOUR GARDEN? . . . CONT'D

These are all tolerant of shade so are the biggest threats to coastal forests. Yet local nurseries still sell them. Ten years ago the forest immediately north of West Vancouver's urban area (Millstream Road) was surveyed and 20,000 holly plants were counted over a 3 hectare area with little else growing underneath.

Other shade tolerant invasive plants include Daphne laurel with its toxic berries accountable for at least one human death, and cherry laurel with its cyanide containing leaves. I collected butterflies and moths as a teenager and we found crushed laurel leaves very effective in the killing jar.

Then there are the plants in our area which prefer open spaces e.g. Himalayan (European) and cutleaf blackberry, Scotch broom, buddleia, Japanese (giant Bohemian) knotweed, and Himalayan knotweed.

Himalayan blackberry is misnamed as such because it was first sent to North America as seeds via a package from India. The plant's home range is actually Armenia and northern Iran, hence the Latin name *Rubus armeniacus*. It was apparently imported into North America around 1885 by Luther Burbank who promoted it in the Pacific Northwest in 1894.

With blackberry removal, we should not mourn the loss of berries which provide a feast for wildlife over a few weeks. Monocultures exist at the expense of a more diverse food source available over a much longer period.

Invasive plant control seems a daunting task but performed at the Six Park Network by LPPS and elsewhere it:

- Protects populations of native plants, insects and animals that might otherwise disappear.
- Will inform future restoration e.g. by comparing biological diversity of the Six Park Network versus nearby heavily invaded areas.

The poem to the right was inspired by my wife. I had just finished hours of invasive plant removal work on Keats Island and as she listened to my description she

whimsically began to see it from another angle - the Himalayan blackberry point of view.

### Hurry Up and Die

What's that tool, stupid ole fool, you think you can defeat us

Look at you drool, stupid old fool, we know that you can't beat us.

In dry and wet gear, year after year, a temporary state you retreat us

But when all is said, you'll soon be dead, and lack of control will greet us.

Don't shed a tear, silly old dear, 'twas your countrymen who brought us

Prickles in rear, silly old dear, you have relentlessly sought us

While we grow and spread, where trees are dead, except the patch where you caught us

We reign supreme one helluva team, just waiting like nature taught us.

We cover and smother, 'till all's like another, no space, light or food for locals

Salmonberry is none, more berries are done, declining bees and bird vocals.

We love the saw, with its mighty roar, for it means lots of trees to fall

Makes what we like best, no cover forest, and lots of light makes us tall.

So pull all you like, no time to hike, 'till your back is all bent and sore

We'll wait for that patch, cause you're no match, and who will take up that chore?

We have no fear, just give a few year, we'll be happy to give the odd pie

But when all's said and done, we'd like to get on, old one just hurry up and die.

by A. Blackberry

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SPRING 2025

**By Alexandra Mancini**

It is a calm morning, with sunshine peeking through the clouds after the latest winter storm. Enjoying a cup of hot spiced apple juice and the quiet after the busy holidays, I am reflecting on all the changes we have seen in Lighthouse Park since our Society began as environmental stewards. Some changes are due to the inevitable progression of a maturing forest. Others are the result of human impacts, especially the work we have done collectively over the past 27 years to protect the park.

Back in 1998, Entech Environmental Consultants Ltd. was hired by the District of West Vancouver to evaluate and record the many biological and geological features of Lighthouse Park and assess the environmental impact of public access. They did a very thorough job, resulting in two large volumes of collected data and evaluation, plus several large maps.

In one of the maps (page 6), the green and blue zones and lines (trails) represent the areas with minimal signs of

physical disturbance, the orange zones had moderate disturbance (invasive species), and the red zones and black lines had very significant disturbances (erosion, vegetation trampled, and extensive invasive species). Green was good and there was not very much of it at that time. A lot of the park had orange zones (faint on map). If we were to create a similar map today, we would see much bigger green zones because of the work our volunteers have done for almost 3 decades. Today we see very few large patches of ivy and other invasive plants. Most of the orange zones would be green now.

Additionally, we can see from this map that there were so many more trails than exist today. One of the first steps undertaken after this study was to close off many of the small trails and reduce the fragmentation of the forest. Those two activities – closing trails and removing invasive plants – have been transformative for Lighthouse Park. Congratulations and thank-you to all our members and volunteers who have collectively achieved this!

*Continued page 6.*

## GET INVOLVED

### ***Do You Love Lighthouse Park? A Call for New Members***

Please consider becoming a member of our Society to support the work we do as volunteers in Lighthouse Park and 5 nearby sister parks. Membership fees are modest, but they help us a lot. When we apply for grants, the size of our membership is proof that the work we do is valued and supported by community members.

Memberships can be purchased by credit card on our website. You do not need a PayPal account.

<https://lpps.ca/membership>

Or you can download a form, print it out and mail a cheque to the address on the form.

Thank you for your support!

### ***Greening your balcony - and a park***

Could your apartment balcony benefit from a bit of greenery? Do you want to help 'green' the streetscape where you live? LPPS member Irene Barr, working with the Parks Department, will provide a plant or two for you to nurture and enjoy until it is sturdy enough to plant in a local park that needs restoring. Contact Irene if you'd like to learn more. [irenebarr2268@gmail.com](mailto:irenebarr2268@gmail.com) 604-816-4322

# 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.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 9.00 a.m. – noon

## **WEED PULL, LIGHTHOUSE PARK**

Meet at the Juniper Trail entrance in the parking lot.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 9.00 a.m. – noon

## **WEED PULL, CAULFEILD PARK**

Meet at the Anchor on Pilot House Road. This event will be led by West Vancouver Parks.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 9.00 a.m. – noon

## **WEED PULL, THE DALE PARK**

Meet at the corner of Water Lane and The Dale.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 9.00 a.m. – noon

## **BROOM REMOVAL, LIGHTHOUSE PARK**

Meet at the upper kiosk in the parking lot.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held June 14, 2025. LPPS Members will be contacted by email with details.

## **MONTHLY BIRD COUNT**

The first Sunday in the month we meet in the parking lot at the entrance to Birdsong Path. All are welcome, and you do not have to be an experienced birder, for extra eyes and ears are very helpful. For more information call or text Suann 604-240-2452.

February 2	8.30 a.m.	June 1	7:00 a.m.
March 2	8.30 a.m.	July 6	7:00 a.m.
April 6	8.00 a.m.	August 3	7:00 a.m.
May 4	7:00 a.m.	September 7	7:00 a.m.



Cooper's Hawk in Salmonberry Meadow, Image Credit: Paola Merkins

We may have what seems like a very quiet day and then we are treated to a special sight. Once, we watched three Cooper's Hawks hunting in Salmonberry Meadow. On the December count four Humpback Whales were spotted from Shore Pine Point in addition to a number of sea lions. What a treat!

# EDUCATIONAL TALK

## **From Estuaries to Ice Ages, Tide Flats to Tafoni: The Geological Intrigues of the Salish Sea Region By Bob Turner**

Saturday, April 12, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Geologically, the Salish Sea region has it all: glacier-carved fiords, towering volcanoes, the rumble of earthquakes, an island-strewn sea, honeycomb-weathered sandstone, ancient exotic terranes, and ecologically rich estuaries to name just a few. This talk pulls the curtain back on the fascinating stories behind these geological intrigues.

Bob Turner is a long-time resident of Nexwlélexwem / Bowen Island, its former mayor, a retired federal

geoscientist, and co-author of several books on the geology of the Vancouver and Sea to Sky region. He is also a filmmaker with over 45 short movies about wildlife and wild places around the Salish Sea posted on his 'Bob Turner' YouTube channel and website ([OurSalishSea.ca](http://OurSalishSea.ca)). He was part of the team that achieved the UNESCO Biosphere Region designation for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound in 2021, and currently leads the Bowen Island Conservancy's biodiversity conservation initiative.

Register for this event at:

<https://westvanlibrary.ca/event/from-estuaries-to-ice-ages-tide-flats-to-tafoni-the-geology-of-the-salish-sea-region-2/>

# MARINE LITTER

Lighthouse Park is known for its rugged beauty and pristine coastal views, but unnoticed by most visitors, a steady stream of marine litter floats by this special forest. The debris quietly wends its way into each cove, where it washes up on land or is pulled back into the water and on to the next cove. If you look closely from Shore Pine Point, you will see a slow-moving current, not far offshore, which carries with it debris large and small.

Styrofoam is a common type of such litter and is notorious for its long-lasting presence in the ocean. Often broken from foreshore infrastructure, chunks as large as suitcases break into fragments that can persist for centuries. Sandwiched between rocks and logs along the shoreline, they are difficult to collect and are often mistaken for food by wildlife. Ghost gear is a common term for fishing equipment such as ropes, nets and bait boxes that further endanger marine life.

Cigarette butts and filters also pose a significant threat due to toxic chemicals that leach into the water. One day, a large, dead Lion's Mane jellyfish floated in Merganser Bay alongside two barely smoked cigarettes. Although it was unlikely that the cigarettes killed this spectacular creature, to see the three travelling together perfectly illustrated the unfortunate reality that marine life and pollution coexist in our oceans with often catastrophic results.



Marine litter collected by the author from her paddle board.

Plastic food wrappers of all sorts also take years to break down and commonly cruise by the park, their vibrant colours stark against the natural beauty of the coastline. Other debris includes coffee-cup lids, water bottles, balloons, tennis balls, jugs, buckets and jerry cans. It is thought that it takes twenty years for plastic bags to break down, but a 'Honeyboy' bread bag found near Juniper Point challenged that idea. The company closed down in 1990.

The variety of marine litter that passes our park or lands on the shoreline highlights the urgent need for better waste management, more personal accountability and more awareness of the long-term consequences so that we can all continue to enjoy our beautiful gem by the sea.

## LPPS: HOW IT ALL BEGAN

**By Daphne Hales** with the help of reminiscences from *Marja de Jong Westman, May Loudon and Allan Blair.*

At Christmas time some of us met in person, and a newer member asked how our Lighthouse Park Preservation Society (LPPS) began, so for those who weren't in on the ground floor, here's the story.

"From a small seed a mighty trunk may grow." Aeschylus

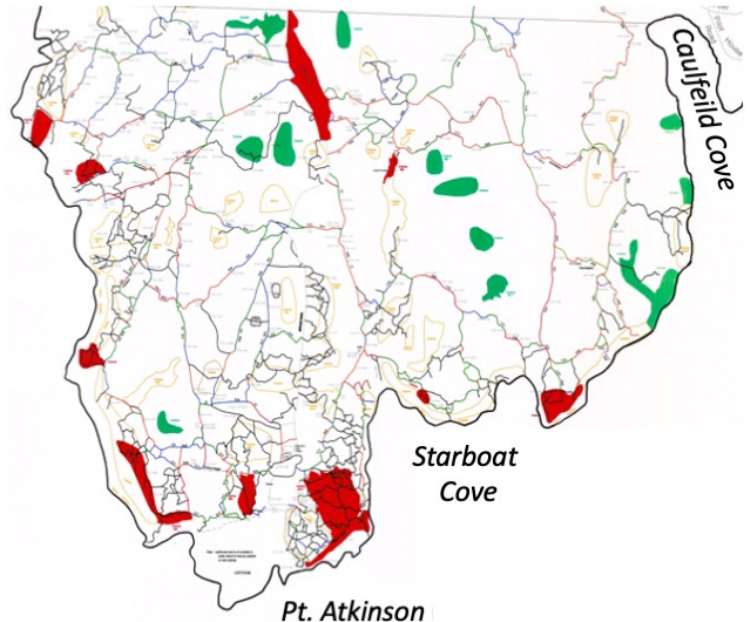
Well, actually, two small seeds grew into the society that has saved a number of mighty trunks as well as the forest that surrounds them in the Park. The first seed sprouted in conversations between Marja de Jong Westman and Elaine Graham. They both loved Lighthouse Park and on their frequent walks together in the 1990s they shared their concerns about the widening of trails and the worsening state of the forest. "I had walked in the park since 1966" Marja says, "and within that time I had seen it wither away and become tangled with invasive plants. Elaine and I chatted about getting a group together and she mentioned that the Newmans (Murray of Vancouver Aquarium fame and his wife Kathy) were interested and also some others associated with the Girl Guides who rented an old army hut in the park as a base for teaching girls about conservation and the environment"

*Continued on page 6*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SPRING 2025, CONT'D

Over the summer we started a new project to create a map/pamphlet outlining some of the highlights in the park for visitors. We are starting with finding noteworthy trees, perhaps those with the biggest diameters, or the tallest specimens. We are using the valuable information in the Entech Report as a baseline and comparing our data to theirs. This is a fun new project and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you within a couple of years.

Wishing all our members and volunteers a very good year in 2025!



## LPPS: HOW IT ALL BEGAN, CONT'D

The second seed had been germinating in the minds of those Girl Guide leaders after one of them, May Loudon, had arrived at a meeting with the light of battle in her eyes. She had been upset at the sight of people scrambling over rocks, destroying the precious lichens, mosses and ferns that are the very foundation of the forest and she suggested that a group - maybe Friends of Lighthouse Park - could educate people to respect the forest. "That's how it happened!" says Marja. "One of the first meetings was held in the Girl Guides' Phyl Munday Nature House and included the Newmans, Elaine and Don Graham, May and Ian Loudon, Daphne Hales, and Hilary and Allan Blair. Perhaps others were there, but this is what I recall. We decided to form a society and Murray Newman suggested that I take the Presidency. Allan, I believe, assisted with the paperwork and also took on the Treasurer's position."

In fact, Allan did more than the paperwork - he saved the name of the Society! He volunteered to register the group as a charity, but when the official name came back from the government department as Lighthouse Park Reservation Society he noticed the error right away and called them. The response from the person he spoke to

was "Just a minute," and she went to check. When she returned she said, "Oh - I'll take fifty lashes!"

And so, the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society was born. It has been nurtured ever since by residents who have volunteered tens of thousands of hours pulling weeds, restoring trails, planting degraded areas, fighting the destructive work of film crews, sharing expertise and cooperating with the Parks department. All this effort, along with an educational program of newsletters, talks, walks, bird counts, signage and information booths, has made a noticeable difference to the attitudes of visitors and to the health of the park.



Left to right; Hilary Blair, Daphne Hales, Allan Blair, Marja de Jong Westman, and May Loudon. Image Credit: Tony Westman