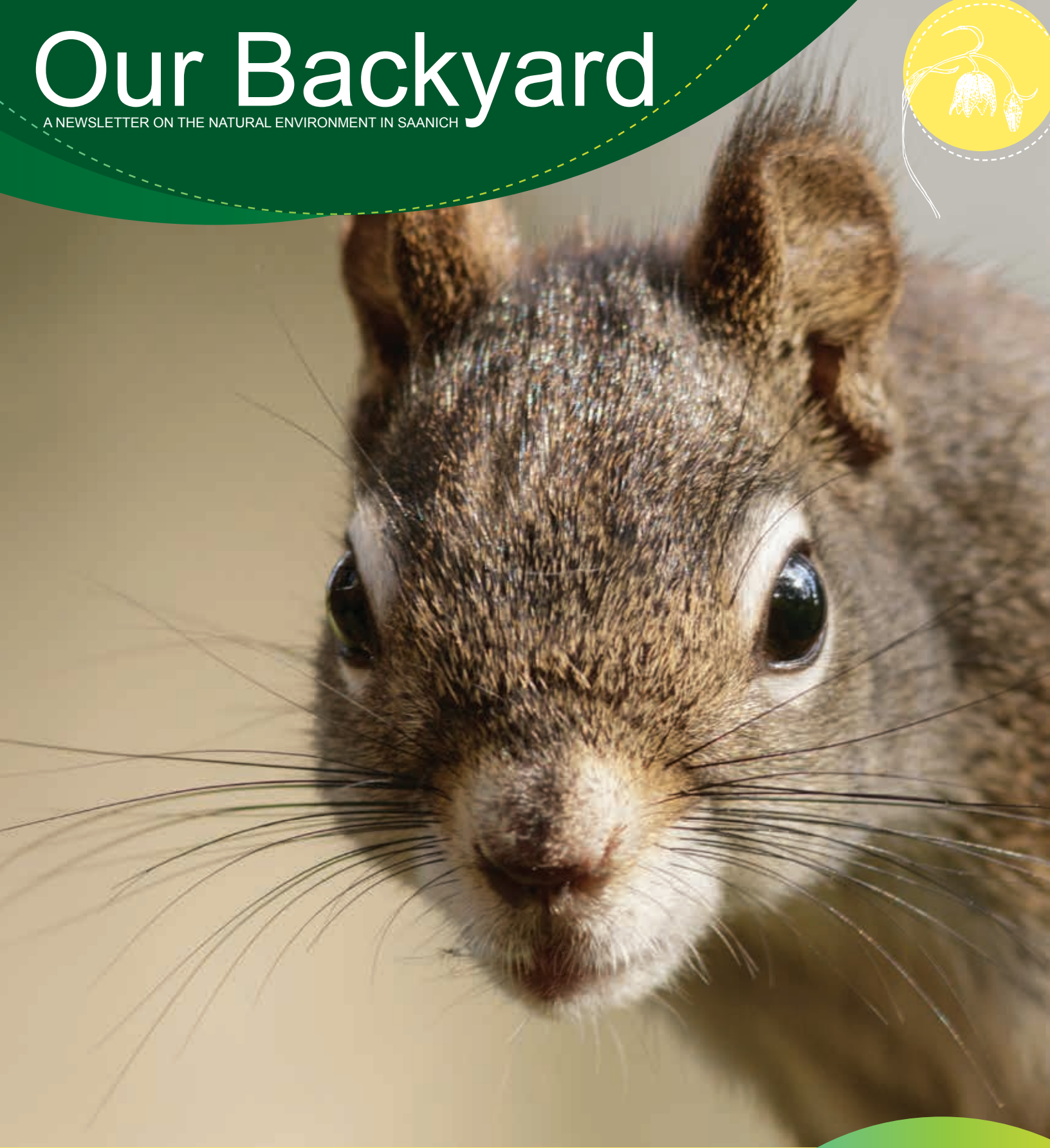


Our Backyard

A NEWSLETTER ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SAANICH



Volume 17 | Issue 2 | Summer 2017

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A crew from the Saanich Engineering Department's Public Works Division Street Operations Section places some finishing touches on the Prospect Lake Road reconstruction and amphibian crossing.



Northern Pacific Treefrog



Roughskin Newt

Collaboration breeds Innovation!

By Jill Robinson

Habitat Acquisition Trust Executive Director

hat.bc.ca

A group of passionate community members wait patiently for the go ahead to begin their nocturnal work. Night after night they wait in the comfort of their homes for just the right conditions, looking for a sign to give them the green light and take to the streets. Then it happens. One drop, then two. Rain begins to fill the empty puddles that have been left dry and cracked under the long summer heat. Droplets bead across the windows under the glow of the living room lamp. Tonight is the night. Finally, the conditions are right for the fall migration to begin and these dedicated volunteers spring into action. They don their waterproof jackets and safety vests, and grab data sheets, flashlights, and field guides as they run out the door. They take extra caution, as they walk out into the dark streets on these wet, slippery nights. And why do they do it? For the frogs of course! Within BC, more than 60 percent of frog and toad species are listed by federal and provincial agencies as being species of concern. The most significant threats to amphibians include the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of their habitat. Most amphibians need to travel between wetlands and forested habitats to breed and overwinter, often waiting for wet nights to make their spring and fall migration. As residential and commercial development increases throughout the region, more trees are removed, important wetland habitats are drained, and busy streets make travelling between habitats more and more challenging.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a local registered charity whose mission is to conserve nature on south Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. In order to better understand these threats to our local amphibian populations, more than 200 volunteer hours have been dedicated to counting frogs and salamanders (dead or alive) along roads across the Capital Regional District since 2014. Habitat Acquisition Trust has been leading this project as part of a larger effort to protect amphibians across BC. It's not glamorous work, but with the help of biologists Kristiina Ovaska and Christian Engelstoft, they are doing important work that can make a positive difference for our local frogs and salamanders. In just 2 years (2015, 2016) 2,330 amphibians were found on roads across the CRD. This includes seven different species (three species of frog and 4 different salamanders). Sadly, more than 75% of these were roadkill.

HAT has been collecting these data in hopes that it will drive government action to mitigate the threat and reduce the numbers of dead amphibians on our roads. Collected data was then mapped to identify hotspots throughout the area where mortality was the greatest. Roughskin Newts, in addition to Northern Pacific Treefrogs, are particularly vulnerable on a short section of Prospect Lake Road bordering a wetland. Thanks to the dedication of a HAT volunteer and engaged community member, John Potter, these data have been put in the hands of decision makers and are now being put into on-the-ground action in Saanich.

HAT partnered with the District of Saanich on a collaborative pilot project this summer that could make a powerful difference for native frog populations, and engage the community in wildlife stewardship efforts. The hardworking staff in the Public Works Division of Saanich's Engineering Department, led by Street Operations Manager William Doyle, have taken the first step in the region to implement an underground culvert allowing for safe amphibian travel on Prospect Lake Road. Fencing aimed at funneling amphibians away from the road has been installed and will be monitored for success in the coming fall.

While this is an encouraging leap towards amphibian protection, there is still much to learn on effectively directing amphibians to culverts or tunnels to provide safe underpasses for travelling frogs. HAT will continue to work with local municipalities to find the best solutions to reduce amphibian road mortality and monitor the effectiveness of these underpasses.

HAT also aims to work with local landowners to help restore and protect important wetland and forested habitat through HAT's Stewardship and Land Protection Programs. To help our native amphibians, the public can also report sites where there are concentrations of amphibian roadkill or dead amphibians. If you have a pond or forest on your property, join HAT's stewardship program to learn how you can support amphibian-friendly habitat and be a part of the solution!

Funding for this project was provided by the District of Saanich, as well as a significant donation from a private donor to HAT, and a grant from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program.

Feature Volunteer

Christy Gain Rithet's Bog and Baxter Park

By Jenny Eastman, *Pulling Together* Volunteer Coordinator

Christy provides a buffet for the birds, each time she volunteers. When we meet, she patiently tugs at some English Ivy on the forest floor at Braefoot Park. This park is well known for sports, but it's also the site of a remnant Garry Oak ecosystem. As she gently lifts the oppressive carpet of ivy, she reveals insects and worms and birds flutter in for the meal. "This park is alive with birds - they land near to me and seem to know I pose no threat. Getting so close with wildlife is part of what I love about volunteering, and I'm always careful to check for nesting sites."

Christy and her team of volunteers have been hard at work for three years and have had help from Scouts, Guides, schools, Inclusion Works, and other community groups. Before they began, most Garry Oak trees were weighted with English Ivy and the ground was a solid carpet. It takes strength and perseverance to work here. This park once looked like an impossible site to restore, but Christy knew the habitat could be improved. "I was sure we could increase the biodiversity if we got to work on the invasives. There have been mountains of it to remove", she notes.

Christy grew up in Nelson, BC, a Kootenay life filled with time outdoors, horse riding, and playing in the snow. After a move to Victoria in 2000, Christy looked for volunteer work. As an Environmental Technician and Horticulture Professional, she wanted something that allowed her to work outdoors and stay fit. "The Pulling Together Program was the perfect fit for me - flexible, close to home, like-minded people, and a chance to care for the park I love. Braefoot has keen neighbours and others are noticing our work too. It's really gratifying."

Christy and I carry on with our conversation at the University of Victoria (at the buffet), thinking of the next steps she'll take to care for her park and about the next buffet she'll set for the birds.

We need your help and we welcome volunteers of all ages and abilities. To learn more about the Pulling Together Volunteer Program and our work on more than fifty Saanich Parks visit saanich.ca/volunteers



The Geological Past of Braefoot Park

By Raymond Lett (retired geologist)

Rock exposed along a low ridge in small Garry Oak wood near the south west corner of Braefoot park is of Colquitz Gneiss. The Colquitz Gneiss is a metamorphic rock consisting of alternate light and dark bands of the minerals biotite, hornblende, quartz and plagioclase. The gneiss is believed to have formed between 208 and 135 million years ago from older volcanic and sedimentary rocks by intense heat and pressure, caused by the tectonic activity during the early stages of Vancouver Island formation.

About a million years ago a person looking north across Braefoot park would have seen a very, rugged, rocky landscape, similar to the Canadian Shield in Ontario today. This rocky landscape was modified by the Fraser Glaciation between 29,000 and 13,000 years ago when Vancouver Island was covered by kilometre thick glaciers. Periodically during the Fraser Glaciation ice sheets advanced from the north and then retreated and in the process, the ice eroded and smoothed the exposed bedrock. Although the Colquitz Gneiss typically has a rough surface there is

evidence of glacier ice erosion from moulded, smoother north facing surfaces seen on some outcrops in Braefoot Park. The rocky ridge in the park is an example of a *rôche moutonnée* or (sheepback) glacial landform created by ice advancing over bedrock to form a gently inclined “stoss” (upstream) side and steeper, broken “lee” (downstream) side to the landform. The advancing ice also eroded and milled bedrock, depositing the product beneath the ice as a dense clay-rich glacial sediment known as till. Braefoot Park and much of the surrounding area is underlain by till.



Example of typical Colquitz Gneiss

Rolston Reclaimers Final Work Party of 2017

By Heather Pass, Lead Steward, Rolston Reclaimers

On June 6th, Colquitz School's Grade 8 students in the Sustainable Resources Classes had their final work party in Colquitz River Park.

In the morning, approximately 24 students and three adults arrived from the school to start removing invasive thistles, blackberries, and other weeds. Like everywhere else in Saanich, these invasives spring to life after cold, wet winters. In the cul-de-sac of Rolston Crescent, teams cut back grasses to expose Woolly Sunflowers full of yellow blossoms. The mulched area outside the rail fence was also weeded and Rosy Pussytoes seed heads were scattered inside the fencing. In the pan-handle driveway area, another team pruned the Tall Oregon Grape to allow more sunlight in.

A third team worked on the Garry Oak Meadow where, in November, native plants were tucked in amongst the oaks. Weeding was started inside the rail fencing, but despite great effort, this task was not finished by the time the students had to return to school. A fourth team removed English Ivy in the Maple Grove.

After lunch, another class arrived. Everyone worked steadily in the Garry Oak Meadow. Weeding around the path was almost finished, plus delicate work around the Sea Blush, Monkey Flower, and Spring Gold... But the 90 minute work period passed before everything was accomplished.

This was extremely hot and prickly work for all the students, but still they worked with such enthusiasm! Next year, they move on to high school. I will miss all of them. Good luck in your coming years of schooling!



2017 Environmental Award Winners



Individual Environmental Achievement - Winona Pugh

Winona received the award in honour of her leadership and participation in community environmental stewardship and education initiatives. At her home and in the community, she has worked to promote sustainability and the protection of natural areas and aquatic ecosystems, including as an active member of the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed. Winona is tireless as she continues to inspire and share with others: leading tours of natural areas, aquatic plant surveys, invasive species removal and community events as well as promoting environmental stewardship through writing and as an artist.



Volunteer Organization - Greater Victoria Green Team

The Greater Victoria Green Team was honoured for its achievements in coordinating an environmental volunteer program helping to restore local ecosystems. Founded August 2014, the Greater Victoria Green Team now has over 1,500 members and has since that time engaged 2,500 volunteers with up to 4 to 6 events per month in the CRD, including in Saanich Parks and natural areas. As a coordinating organization, volunteers are provided the opportunity to learn about and experience natural areas and stewardship in the region through planting native species, invasive plant removal and shoreline cleanup.



Business/Commercial - Mike Geric Construction Ltd.

Mike Geric Construction Ltd received this award to honour their achievements developing sustainable multifamily homes in Saanich. With a mission to leave a lasting legacy of responsible development, the latest projects of Mike Geric Construction have included features such as preserving and restoring natural spaces, providing community gardens and walking trails, using building materials with longer lifespan, solar assisted hot water, transportation alternatives including electric vehicle charging stations, 100% on-site rainwater treatment and recycling of building materials. The Geric Family aim to lead and inspire green building in the region.



Youth - Ocean Han

Ocean Han was honoured for his achievements in Garry Oak ecosystem restoration and leadership in student research projects. Since Grade 7, Ocean has been a very active volunteer with Garry oak ecosystem and invasive plant projects in Saanich and Victoria. Ocean is a leader for the Mt. Douglas Secondary Environment Club and provided significant leadership for a major Grade 10 Science team project studying effectiveness of invasive plant treatment methods and native plant regrowth. We look forward to many more years of Ocean's leadership.





Biodiversity Conservation

Beckwith Park Pulling Together Volunteer Team

The Beckwith Park Pulling Together Volunteer Team was honoured for their achievements in restoring sensitive Garry Oak and riparian ecosystems at Beckwith Park. Under the leadership of Eyllin Gilbart and Don Mills, this team has made significant strides in restoring ecosystems at Beckwith Park with their work including developing restoration plans, supporting ecological research, engaging neighbours, acquiring grants, installing nest boxes, removing a “stunning” volume of invasive plants and hosting school and University groups. Beckwith Park is now described as an “island of nature much loved by neighbours”.



Sustainability - Natalie & David Chambers

Natalie and David Chambers were honoured for their achievements in promoting local food security, organic food growing, habitat and soil preservation. After inheriting Madrona Farm in the Blenkinsop Valley from David's family, they worked with the Land Conservancy to preserve the farm. These and other efforts raise awareness of sustainably grown food, including hosting the annual Chef's Survival Challenge. Through their farm practices and community involvement, they continue to advocate for and provide a sustainable example of organic and local food production hand in hand with ecological stewardship.



Long Term Achievement - Vic Derman

The award for Long Term Achievement was provided posthumously in honour of Vic Derman's long-term leadership in environmental stewardship and advocacy for climate change action. Vic's earlier legacies included being a founding Director and Vice President of the Land Conservancy of British Columbia and President of the North Quadra Community Association where he fought for the preservation of Christmas Hill. From 2002 he served five terms on Saanich Council where his work included efforts to improve Saanich's pedestrian and cycling network. In 2004, Vic initiated and chaired the international conference “Water in the City”. Vic Derman passed away earlier this year but will be remembered as an environmental champion who fought tirelessly for the natural environment and climate. His legacy is an inspiration for all Saanich residents.



The Long and Short of the Leash

By Kathleen Burton,
Executive Director, Swan Lake
Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

Did you know that only six of Saanich's parks have any restriction on dogs?

All other parks in the District of Saanich currently allow dogs as long as they are on leash or under effective control. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary does have restrictions. Pet owners are reminded that dogs are not permitted when you visit the Sanctuary.

Each year, many a pooch and their two-legged companion are asked to leave the Sanctuary grounds by staff, volunteers, and frequent trail users who are familiar with the ban on dogs at the Sanctuary. Many people ask why: some curious, some frustrated. When owners and their dogs are happened upon and informed that their furry friend is not permitted, leashed or unleashed at either Swan Lake or Christmas Hill, we are abiding by District of Saanich's Bylaw, No. 8556 to provide for the regulation of animals within the municipality.

As many of us are dog owners ourselves, we also understand that it can be frustrating to face restrictions when trying to exercise and enjoy nature with our furry friends. We appreciate that dog owners are some of the most frequent users of parks and in no way do we want to discourage anyone from enjoying the great outdoors. People should not hesitate to ask questions about alternate locations; staff would be more than happy to redirect dog walkers to areas that welcome dogs.

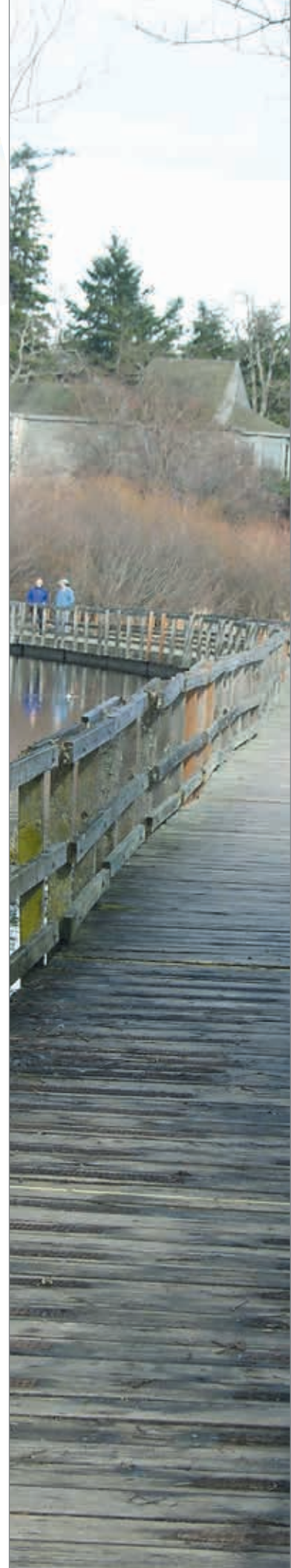
For many it is easier to process the restriction on dogs once they understand that the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is not a recreational park. The Sanctuary is a nature reserve and a protected bird sanctuary;

owned by the District of Saanich and operated by a non-profit society. The sanctuary was established with the following goals: safe guarding and preserving sensitive ecological areas and communities, for the purpose of research, study and observance of native flora and fauna, and of course as an area within a busy urban setting where community members can enjoy the tranquility of the natural world.

Located right in the heart of the city, Swan Lake offers a series of trails that pass through a variety of important and increasingly rare ecosystems in Victoria. The trails that wrap around the lake pass through Garry oak meadows, fallow fields, and marshlands. The diversity of this property provides a unique opportunity to see a wide variety of organisms that make this place their home, some seasonally during migration, and many year round.

The Christmas Hill portion of the Sanctuary offers glacially-moulded rock faces, a vernal (seasonal) pond, and majestic views from its high elevation. Of particular interest for many is the beautiful Garry Oak and wildflower meadows. Though admittedly tempting as a location to walk a pet, these shallow soiled ecosystems are very sensitive and rare. Dry in the summer and very damp in the winter, the living conditions in Garry Oak meadows can be very challenging for even the toughest and well adapted plants. Off-trail traffic has huge impacts, no matter how well intentioned.

We appreciate you taking the time to learn about this little piece of protected paradise and we encourage everyone to come and enjoy the magic this place has to offer. To learn more about which parks you and Fido can explore, visit <http://bit.ly/DogsinParks>



Plantwise

By Carolyn Richman,
District of Saanich Environmental Education Officer

Whether you are a long-term gardener or just starting out, if you have a huge yard or just a small patch, or you are a landscape professional: you can be “Plantwise”. Plantwise is a provincial program based on the idea of being personally committed to using plants that are not going to cause harm in some way. For the Grow Me Instead brochure and other Plantwise resources: <http://beplantwise.ca/resources/>

Gardening and horticulture-related industries are a key pathway for the introduction and spread of invasive species. Toxic invasives such as Giant Hogweed were first planted as ornamentals in this region, but we now realize the serious health issues for humans and ecological damage this species can cause. Plants such as English Ivy spreading from gardens are causing widespread damage to our ecosystems. Other species such as knotweeds not only cause serious ecosystem damage, but have costly impacts to infrastructure.

How Can You Be Plantwise?

- Select non-invasive plants (resources like the Grow Me Instead brochure): beplantwise.ca
- Plan for “right plant, right place” and think twice about choosing exotic “fast spreading” plants
- Be aware of invasive alert species and check reliable resources (such as the local CRISP priority invasive plant list): crispinvasives.ca
- Be very cautious about using “wildflower” seed mixes – which are often not “wild” to our region and often include invasive seeds
- Local programs and resources can help you with invasive plant control: saanich.ca/invasives and www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species
- Dispose of all garden waste at the appropriate locations
- Spread the word, not the plant

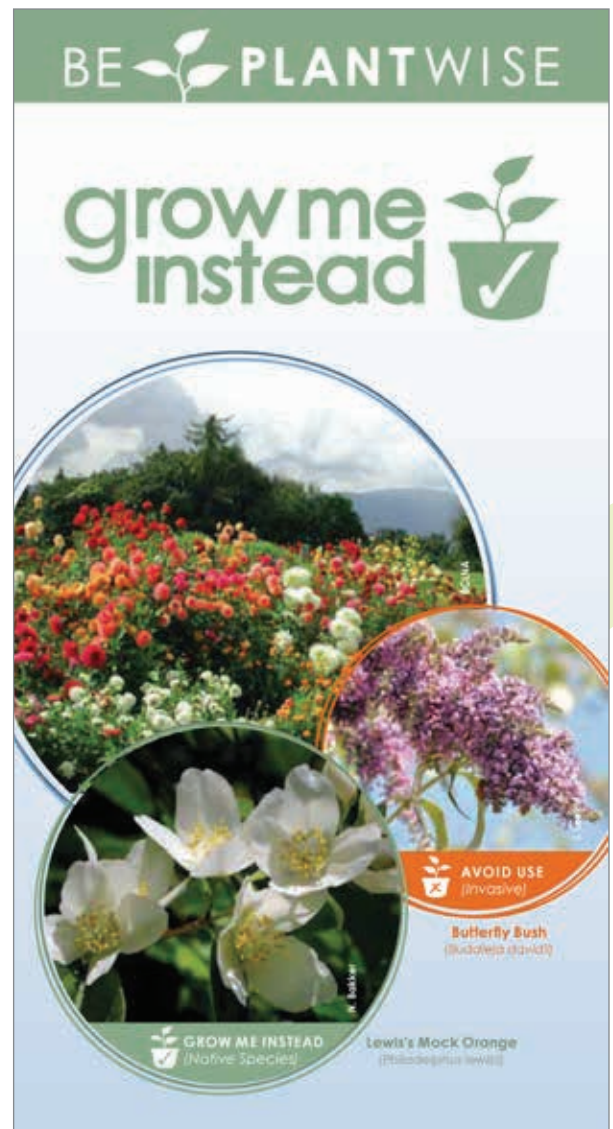
Avoid planting Yellow Flag Iris. It commonly invades local wetlands, creating dense stands that exclude native plants.



Disposal of Garden Waste and Invasive Plants

- Hartland Landfill: takes invasive plants (bagged and marked invasive/species) for a basic fee. This is a safe way to dispose of invasive plants.
- Local Government Drop-off sites: check with your local government as many have garden-waste drop-off sites (and check any restrictions on invasive plants)
- Private companies may also take garden waste and invasives.

Please always dispose of garden waste responsibly. Note that work is still going on in our region to improve safe invasive disposal. It is important to make sure that garden waste processing, transportation, and resale of compost products (from processed garden waste) do not contribute to the spread of invasives.



You can make a difference!
Please be Plantwise.

BATS!

By Alanah Nasadyk
Community & Development Coordinator, Habitat Acquisition Trust

Habitat Acquisition Trust has prepared a colony of Dark Night volunteers for the Annual Bat Count in Saanich, including Elk/Beaver Lake Park and across the Capital Region as a part of the BC Community Bat Program of Southern Vancouver Island. This citizen-science initiative encourages residents to count bats at local roost sites. "Bat counts are a wonderful way for residents to get involved in collecting important scientific information" Katie Bell, Bat Coordinator at Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). "No special skills are needed, kids can be involved, and you can relax in a deck chair while counting."

Our local bats return from their elusive winter hibernation sites in caves and firewood piles, and take up a summer residence in warm hollows, including old hollow trees, attics, soffits, barns, sheds, and of course bat boxes. This year the Annual Bat Count will help the BC Ministry of Environment collect baseline data on bat populations before the devastating White Nose Syndrome fungal disease affects bats in the province.

"White Nose Syndrome is estimated to have killed more than six million bats since it was first discovered in eastern North America a decade ago," says biologist Dr. Purnima Govindarajulu with the Ministry of Environment. "In March 2016, the disease was detected just east of Seattle. This has greatly increased our urgency to understand bat populations in BC. We need the public's help to census local bat populations. This may be our last year to obtain population estimates before White Nose Syndrome causes widespread declines in western North America."

Volunteers wait outside a known roost site, such as a bat box, barn, bridge, or attic, and count bats as they fly out at twilight. They record the final number along with basic information on weather conditions. Ideally, two counts are done between June 1 and 21 before pups are born, and two more between July 21 and August 15, when pups are flying.

"We know relatively little about bats on Southern Vancouver Island, including basic information on population numbers," says Bell. "This information will be extremely valuable, particularly if it is collected annually. If people have bats living in one of their structures, or know of a place where bats may be roosting, we want to hear from them. Counting your bats can make a difference to our knowledge of local bat populations."

HAT provides information for people dealing with bat issues on their property or have questions about how to attract bats. Funded in part by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, a community MEC grant, LUSH, and the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program, HAT would also like to thank Victoria Natural History Society for supporting the HAT for Bats fundraiser in 2016. This coming fall, the Big Bat Bike Ride fundraiser takes place October 29th and participants are welcome. Additionally, HAT is collecting donations and fundraising for bat stewardship by selling biologist-approved bat boxes for \$100, available at the HAT office.

To find out more about bat counting, get assistance dealing with bat issues, or if you know of a roost location, visit bcbats.ca, call 1-855-9BC-BATS or email hatmail@hat.bc.ca. For more information on the Big Bat Bike Ride email volunteers@hat.bc.ca or call 250-995-2428.

Silver-haired Bat in wood shed.



Katie Bell and Christian Engelstoft at a Saanich resident's house.



Upcoming Events

Saanich Recreation Trails & Treks

saanich.ca | 250-475-5408

Weekend Walks (FREE Drop-In)

Sundays | 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Discover the beauty of the Saanich parks right in your backyard. These FREE guided hikes are open to adults of all ages. No registration necessary just drop in at the appropriate time and meeting place. Please wear sturdy and supportive footwear. Carry drinking water. Walks go rain or shine.

Sep 17 | Glencoe Cove to Tyndall Park

Meet at Vantreight Park on Vantreight Drive

Oct 15 | Knockan Hill and The Parks Of Strawberry Vale

Meet at Marigold Park on Iris Avenue, off Grange Road

Nov 12 | Lambrick Park to Bow Park

Meet outside main entrance

Gentle Walk & Talk (FREE Drop-In)

Thursdays | 9:30 am to 11 am

Enjoy beautiful scenery, a friendly chat, and gentle exercise as we walk through our parks & trails.

Aug 24 | UVic Alumni Trail - meet at Henderson Rec Centre, outside main door, 2291 Cedar Hill X Rd

Aug 31 | Lambrick Park to Sierra Park - meet at Gordon Head

Recreation Centre front doors, 4100 Lambrick Way

Sep 7 | Calvert Park to Logan Park

Meet at far West end of Viaduct Ave, off Interurban

Sep 14 | Swan Lake

Meet at end of Nelthorpe, off McKenzie

Sep 21 | Cedar Hill to Peacock Hill

Meet at Cedar Hill Rec Centre main doors

Sep 28 | Interurban Rail Trail

Meet at Red Barn Market, 5550 West Saanich Rd. parking lot

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

swanlake.bc.ca | 250-479-0211

Wondrous Wetlands (Drop-in Event)

Wednesday, August 23 | 12 pm to 3 pm

What makes a wetland such a great place to enjoy and protect? Find out with hands-on exploration, pond dipping for live wetland creatures, crafts, and games.

Creatures of the Summer Night (Register)

Friday, August 25 | 8 pm to 9:30 pm

Check out the nightlife of Swan Lake! Sharpen your senses to look for owls, bats, and other nighttime creatures. Using a grab bag of tricks we'll discover how these animals are adapted to their nocturnal life. Suitable for families with children over 6 years.

Amphibians! (French Special Event)

Sunday, September 24 | 12 pm to 3 pm

Discover the amazing world of amphibians – en français! Games, displays, crafts and fun in a bilingual setting. Everyone is welcome.

Gardening with Native Plants (Workshop)

Saturday, September 23 | 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sunday, October 1 | 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 11 | 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Jay Rastogi, expert gardener and Site Manager at Swan Lake, will explore the many benefits of planting, propagating and harvesting of native plants in your yard this fall. \$20/Member / \$25/Non-Members. Pre-registration required.

Victoria Natural History Society

naturevictoria.ca

Hawk Watch (Drop-in Event)

Saturday, September 30 | 11 am to 2 pm

East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

This 20-minute trek up a steep, rocky trail requires hiking shoes.

Natural History Night (every 2nd Tuesday)

Cool Plants & their Fungal Friends | Tues, Sep 12, 7:30 pm

Butterflies Observed on the Island | Tues, Oct 10, 7:30 pm

UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

Botany Night (every 3rd Tuesday)

Plants and people in Nicaragua | Tues, Sep 19, 7:30 pm

Death Cap Mushroom | Tues, Oct 17, 7:30 pm

Swan Lake Nature Centre

Birder's Night (every 4th Wednesday)

Australia Birding | Wed, Sep 27, 7:30 pm

Coastal Raptors | Wed, Oct 25, 7:30 pm

UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

Marine Night (last Monday of the month)

Humpback Comeback | Sep 25, 7:30 pm

Hitchhikers on Marine Debris | Oct 30, 7:30 pm

UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

URBAN FOOD-GARDEN TOUR


SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF 14 INSPIRING
HOME FOOD GARDENS


SAT 9 SEPT 10 AM - 4 PM

VICTORIA SAANICH OAK BAY ESQUIMALT

This fundraiser supports sustainable food locally at Haliburton Community Organic Farm and 1UP-Single Parent Resource Centre, and globally at Hleketani Community Garden, South Africa.

Tickets \$15 (under 19 free) at GardenWorks locations, brownpapertickets.com, or email us at jopifarm@gmail.com.

 [victoriaurbanfoodgardens](https://www.facebook.com/victoriaurbanfoodgardens)

 [vicurbanfoodgardens.wixsite.com/tour](https://www.wixsite.com/tour)

Take the **150** Challenge
Naturescape
saanich.ca/naturescape

To celebrate Canada 150, we are aiming to have 150 participants in the Naturescape Challenge. There are so many ways to create habitat on your property. You may already have a native tree or a water feature—so what can you add? If you would like to participate, visit our website, and take the pledge to start Naturescaping!

Cover: Although uncommon since the introduction of the Eastern Grey Squirrel, rural Saanich residents may still see our native Red Squirrel where forested habitats occur. Photo: Sean McCann.

Back Page: A Red Squirrel and her nest near Beaver Lake. This female had a litter of four offspring. Photo: Sean McCann.

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Be kept up to date on local community stewardship projects and environmental issues. Subscriptions to this quarterly newsletter are free and available in electronic or paper version.

To subscribe, please send your contact information to the editor or visit saanich.ca/ourbackyard



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