



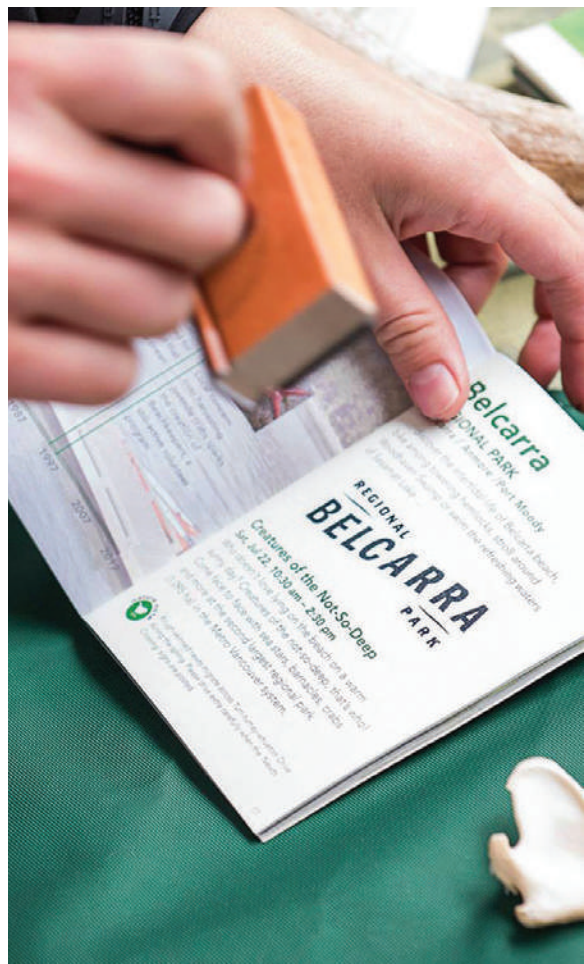
Pacific Parklands
FOUNDATION

Supporting Metro Vancouver
Regional Parks

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

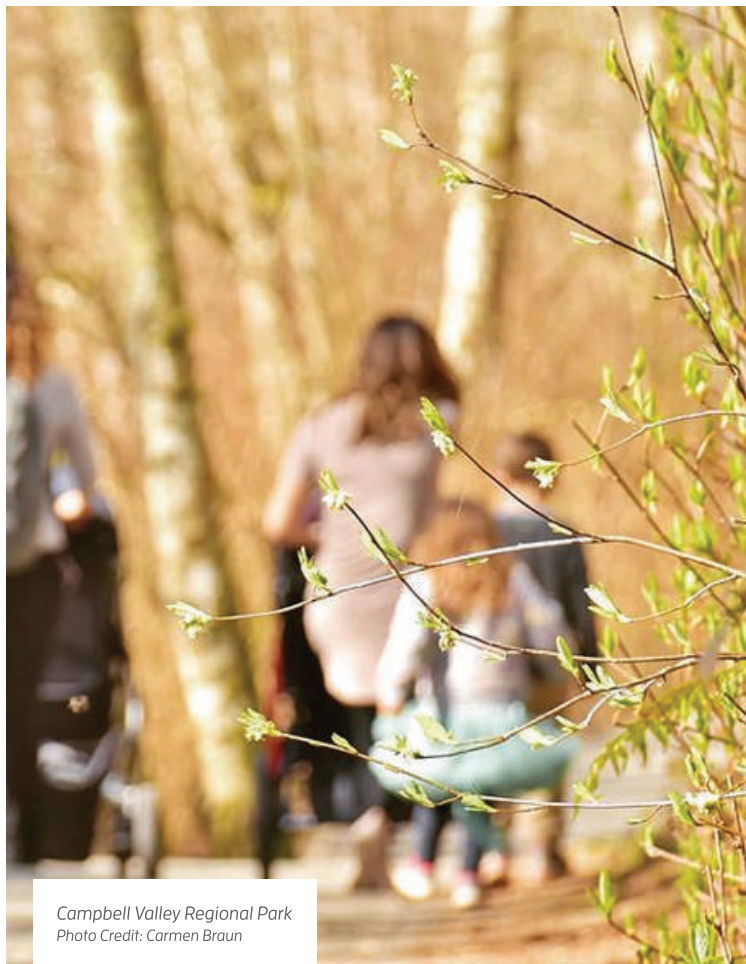
PERIOD ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Minnekhada Regional Park
Photo Credit: Jeremy Plotkin



Surrey Bend Regional Park





MAKING REGIONAL PARKS *Count*

Our Metro Vancouver Regional Parks are a precious public heritage and for many children and adults living in Metro Vancouver, the only place they ever experience nature is in regional parks. With the introduction of our Bus Grant Program and the ongoing contributions from the George Ross legacy gift, we continue to protect and connect people with all the health benefits and beauty found in our regional parks.

This report highlights some of our proud accomplishments in 2017, so join us and *let us count the ways...*

Campbell Valley Regional Park
Photo Credit: Carmen Braun

Message From **THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The goal of Pacific Parklands Foundation (PPF) is to help make Metro Vancouver Regional Parks the best they can be. We would like to thank all our donors, dedicated volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly, and provided funding to help our parks.

With their support, PPF has grown from an idea to an established foundation that helps connect people to nature, protect our natural environment and improve accessibility for people with barriers. We look back with pride and forward with anticipation.

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that our regional parks remain strong and healthy, for the plants and

animals that call them home, as well as community health and wellness. There is strong evidence that says spending time in nature and outdoors helps to lower blood pressure, strengthen the immune system and reduce stress.

In 2017 we introduced the Bus Grant Program that helps fund groups with barriers to travel to regional parks. This program successfully helped immigrant, student and senior groups experience nature first hand, and we look forward to expanding this program in 2018 with the help of our new partner YVR!!

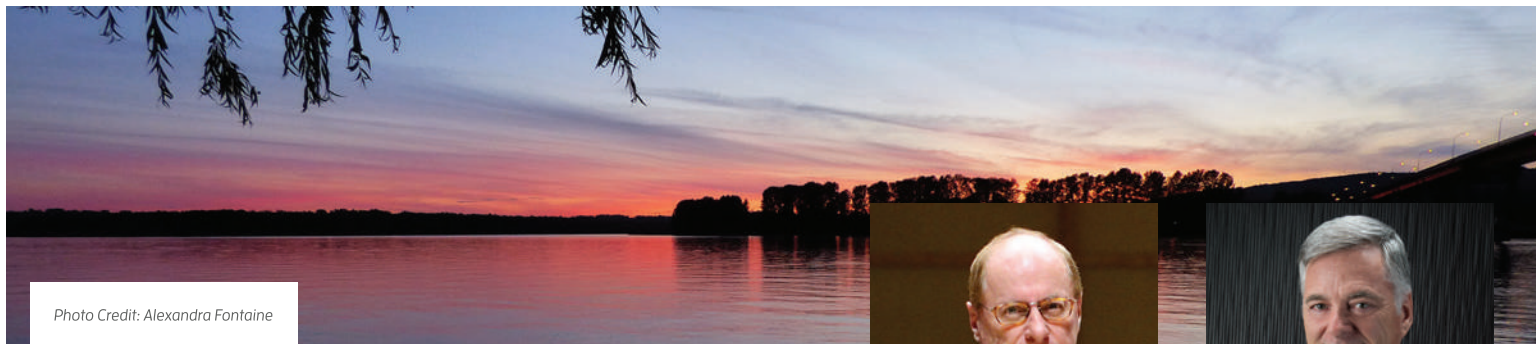


Photo Credit: Alexandra Fontaine



The George Ross Legacy Grant Program continued to provide much needed financial support to park partners in 2017. The exciting new bat condo project at Colony Farm was made possible by this legacy and you can read more about it in this report. Thank you, Mr. Ross and our other supporters who have made the same decision, to support our regional parks.

In closing, we want to thank our supporters, those who have been with us all these years and those who have joined us for the first time, like the Sitka Foundation for one. Thanks to their generous grant we were able to provide the plants and equipment required for coastal sand ecosystem restoration at Iona Beach and Boundary Bay during EcoBlitz.

Dave Pohl • President

Joe Hargitt • Executive Director



Photo Credit: Jennifer Strang

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS TURNS 50

Count Our Blessings

To celebrate, we purchased a new outreach tent and participated in the 50th anniversary festivities alongside Metro Vancouver.

- We visited **18** regional park events
- Supplied **15** prize donations for the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Passport Program
- Increased our e-news subscribers by **562** people
- Made **1,660** regional park loving friends



NEW TENT

+



PARK EVENTS

+



NEW FRIENDS

=



SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

ECOBLITZ *Count Us In*

2017 marked Metro Vancouver's 4th annual EcoBlitz event with the support of Pacific Parklands Foundation (instrumental in its growth). A **\$10,000** grant from the Sitka Foundation enabled program organizers to expand EcoBlitz activities to two new regional parks and a new habitat type - coastal sand ecosystems.

Two rare but significant CSE (Coastal Sand Ecosystems) sites are found in Iona Beach and Boundary Bay Regional Parks. The generous grant from the Sitka Foundation allowed Metro Vancouver to upgrade restoration equipment, purchase more native species and pursue important restoration work to benefit the ecological integrity of the regional parks network.







Iona Beach Regional Park Restoration



VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED

+



HOURS AT

+



EVENTS

+



REGIONAL PARKS

NOT FAMILIAR WITH ECOBLITZ?

EcoBlitz is a week-long regional parks stewardship event that engages the public, community groups and park partners in stewardship activities.

These include invasive species removal, planting native trees, shrubs and groundcover, and wildlife monitoring.



Kanaka Creek Regional Park
Photo Credit: Natalya Khan



BUS GRANT PROGRAM

Count On Us

At Pacific Parklands Foundation we believe that everyone should have access to nature, and more specifically Metro Vancouver Regional Parks. No one should be deprived of nature and its healing and learning benefits because of their age, income, background or abilities. Unfortunately, the reality is that many groups face barriers to accessing nature.

One of the main obstacles they face is a lack of funds for transportation to and from the parks.

In 2016 we developed the Bus Grant Program to address this issue and in 2017 we connected **600** people to regional parks.

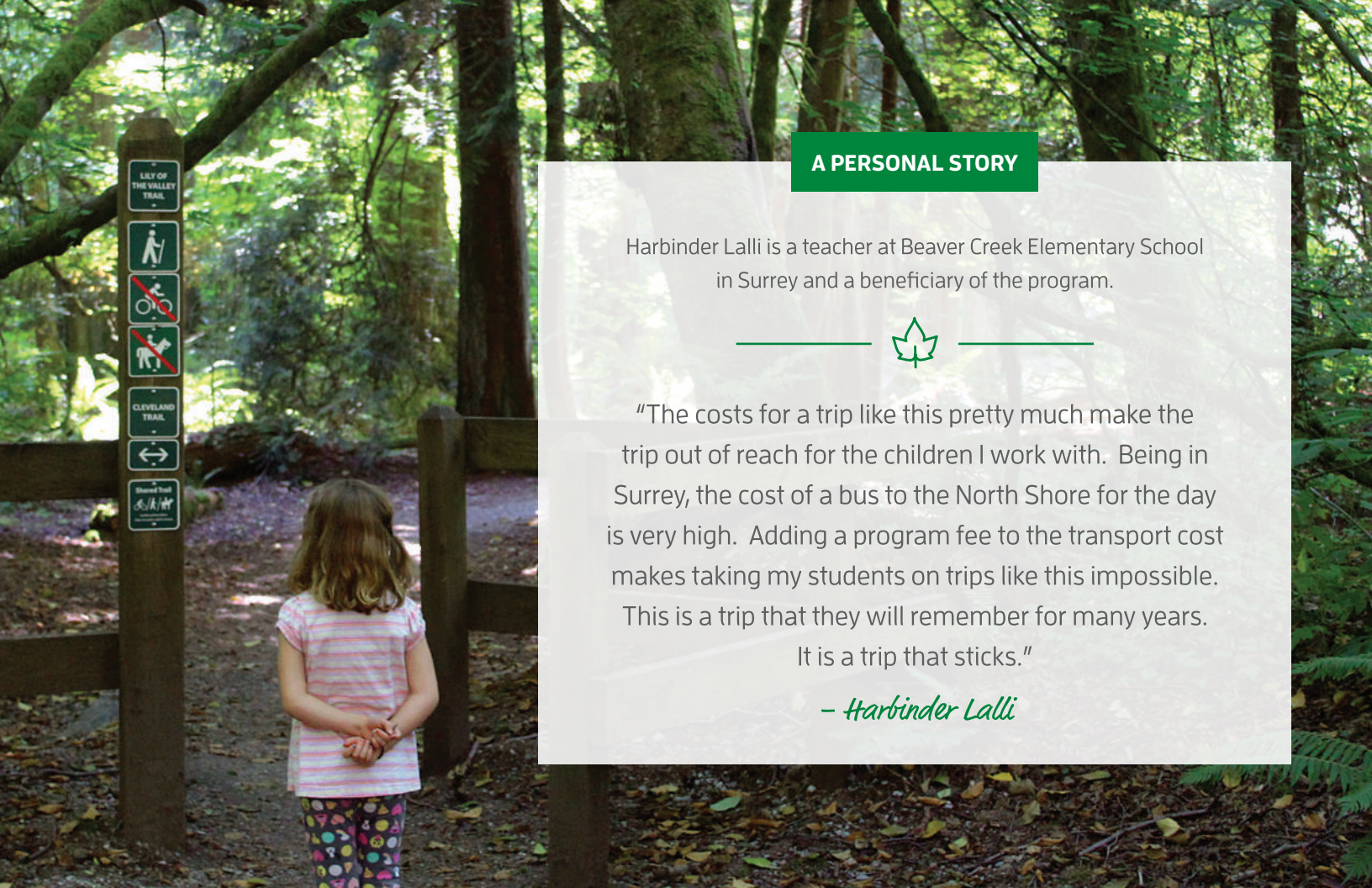
THE RECIPIENTS

To date, the Bus Grant Program has supported a range of recipients, including inner-city elementary schools, families using the services of Ronald McDonald House, recent immigrants and refugees, and many others.



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

At the end of 2017 we received exciting news regarding the future of the program. We are thrilled to report that the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) will be supporting program expansion through a generous grant of **\$30,000**.



A PERSONAL STORY

Harbinder Lalli is a teacher at Beaver Creek Elementary School in Surrey and a beneficiary of the program.



"The costs for a trip like this pretty much make the trip out of reach for the children I work with. Being in Surrey, the cost of a bus to the North Shore for the day is very high. Adding a program fee to the transport cost makes taking my students on trips like this impossible. This is a trip that they will remember for many years. It is a trip that sticks."

— *Harbinder Lalli*

2

BAT COLONIES

with increased roosting space

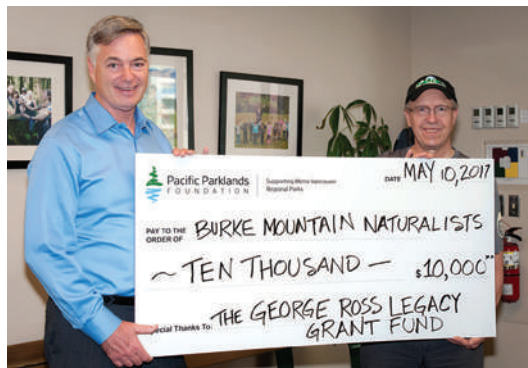
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BIODIVERSITY BOOST+ countless nature
interpretation opportunities

=

1

BATTY BONANZA

Bat Condo Construction
Photo Credit: Paul Steeves



COLONY FARM'S NEW BAT CONDO

Numbers Count

In 2017 Burke Mountain Naturalists were awarded *\$10,000* thanks to the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program. They used this money to design and develop a bat condo

for the maternity bat colonies found in Colony Farm Regional Park. We are thrilled to announce that the project is now complete, and the structure is ready for its unusual occupants.

WHAT IS A BAT CONDO?

Like the condos we are familiar with, a bat condo is a housing structure designed to increase roosting habitat for bats. A bat condo is exactly what it sounds like - a "condo" for bats! The structure was created as an upgrade to Colony Farm's bat boxes, as the local colonies had outgrown the boxes and the 10-year-old structures were falling into disrepair.

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

The condo will support local bat species, including two maternal colonies that live in Colony Farm - the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and the Yuma bat (*Yuma myotis*). By providing an increase in roosting space, project leaders are hopeful that the new bat condo will support *1,500+* bats and attract new bat species to the colonies.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Making It Count

At Pacific Parklands Foundation we have the pleasure of awarding young environmentalists with modest bursaries and scholarships through the Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award and the Dr. M Wosk Environmental Leadership Award.

This year something crazy happened- we had the honour of presenting both awards to one family. Miranda and Griffin Andersen proved their excellence in stewardship and leadership and received their respective awards alongside other deserving winners. We can only imagine how proud their parents must be!



AWARDS

+



YEARS

=



IN SCHOLARSHIPS
& AWARDS



2017 AWARD WINNERS

Gordon Smith Youth Environmental Stewardship Award:

- Miranda Andersen

Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Award:

- Brennan Strandberg-Salmon
- Sofia Slater
- Griffin Andersen
- David Bromley
- Jasmine Lee



PARK PARTNERS

In 2017 we continued to support Park Associations with their stewardship projects and community events. At the beginning of the year we distributed George Ross Legacy Stewardship Grants to successful recipients, including Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS). PSPS was granted \$5,000 to restore 2.82

hectares of the Acadia Forest in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Later on in the fall we presented the Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association with a \$1,500 grant for their annual community event, Heritage Apple Day.



GENEROUS
LEGACY GIFT

=



ENDOWMENT

=



GENERATED FOR
STEWARDSHIP GRANTS
IN 2017

HEALTH

At Pacific Parklands we believe that a park visit a day keeps the doctor away. Time spent in regional parks benefits our health and wellness, but it's not just the spectacular landscapes that provide this benefit- interactions with urban wildlife also play a part.

- As little as **15** minutes in nature can benefit our nervous system (think: drop in blood pressure, drop in stress hormone levels)
- A forested park walk can increase anti-cancer proteins in the human body

Research has shown that listening to birdsong alone can boost happiness levels. How else can spending time in nature affect us?

- **10,000** + scientists have demonstrated that nature interactions can boost our brain power (mental restoration, relaxation, improved attention)
- It's no surprise that healthy parks = *Healthy People*



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Accountability

Total *\$1,513,957*



\$666,000
Land Funds



\$339,642
General Funds



\$274,468
Endowment Funds



\$70,858
Dr. M. Wosk Funds



\$143,067
Project Funds



\$14,945
Gordon Smith Funds



\$4,977
Program Funds

Revenues Total *\$423,044*



\$185,648
Designated Donations



\$178,913
Government Grants



\$27,120
Memorial Gifts



\$18,148
Undesignated



\$13,215
Interest



Revenues \$423,044

Revenues \$423,044

Grants to Programs & Bursaries	\$61,942
Grants to Projects	\$70,450
Fundraising	\$15,997
* Administration	\$175,000

Grants to Programs & Bursaries **\$61,942**

Grants to Projects	\$70,450
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Fundraising **\$15,997**

* Administration **\$175,000**

Unrealized Gain on Investments *\$11,338*

Fund Balance	Beginning of Year	\$1,402,964
	End of Year	\$1,513,957

*A portion of our annual budget comes from a generous contribution from Metro Vancouver. PPF is incredibly grateful for this ongoing support and as a result we have some of the lowest administration costs in the charitable sector - virtually all of your donation goes directly to support and enhance your regional parks.



16

**GREAT BOARD
MEMBERS**

+

2,600

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

=

1

**DEDICATED BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Belcarra Regional Park
Photo Credit: Joun Ju

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank You

Pacific Parklands Foundation's volunteer Board is made up of generous community leaders who provide us with direction, strategic advice, leadership and consultation on a variety of topics. Thank you to all of our Board members for your continued commitment and dedication to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| • Anastase Maragos | • Gaëtan Royer | • Lindsey Fryett-Jerke | • Richard Hankin |
| • Craig Hodge | • Heather Deal | • Mark van der Zalm | • Sarah Marsh |
| • Dave Pohl | • John Scott | • Mel Kositsky | • Steve Hnatiuk |
| • Dr. Mordehai Wosk | • Kevin O'Callaghan | • Mike Redpath | • Tamara Taggart |

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