

Old Growth Conservancy Society Newsletter

January - June 2012

The Board of Directors for this year decided that a Newsletter would be a useful addition to the minutes of our monthly meetings and that it would help in keeping the membership informed of the activities of the Society. We hope to provide two or three more newsletters this year.

- 1. Annual General Meeting:** The fifth AGM was held at the West Vancouver Library on February 15th 2012. The new board comprises: Alan Bardsley, Marshall Bauman, David Cook, Hugh Hamilton, Miles Hume, Alexandra Mancini, Bruce McArthur, Katharine Steig and Herb Storm. The Treasurers' report was read and received, and then Bruce McArthur presented the Directors' report which summarized last year's activities. At the March Directors' meeting Hugh Hamilton was elected President; Alan Bardsley, Vice-President; Katharine Steig, Secretary and Herb Storm, Treasurer. Godfrey Lynum, Bill McCuaig and Terry Taylor agreed to serve for another term as Advisors to the Society.
- 2. Snowshoe Hike:** At the AGM it was reported that there was not enough snow to carry out the scheduled Snowshoe hike on Sunday February 19th, so the official hike was cancelled. However an alternative short walk took place along the Conservancy Crossing trail and a hike was also taken in good snow by three people up to the largest Mountain hemlock in Cypress Provincial Park from the overnight parking lot.
- 3. April Snowshoe Hike:** The snow kept coming in March and April so a snowshoe hike was planned for April 14th. Six of us met at Hi-View Lookout and then proceeded to the Cypress Mountain works yard where we started the hike. The trip enabled the party to see features of an old growth forest and appreciate the grandeur of the old redcedar, the snags (wildlife trees), rotting logs and canopy openings. One of the decisions that developed from this trip is that we should try to put on at least two or three snowshoe trips in the winter of 2012-2013.
- 4. Nelson Canyon/Whyte Lake Hike:** On Saturday May 12th Hugh Hamilton led a hike to Whyte Lake. There were thirteen in the group, comprised mostly of Old Growth Conservancy and Nature Vancouver members. The walk up to Whyte Lake and around the lake was quite casual and afforded plenty of time to look at the West Vancouver Streamkeepers fish hatchery, discuss old growth stands, examine many ferns and other plants and appreciate the great work by Parks in building the Nelson Creek bridge and other facilities made out of locally gathered and sawn wood. The walk through the woods was all in shade, but we stopped for lunch at the small dock on Whyte Lake and soaked up the sun.
- 5. Parks Master Plan:** The OGCS has been very active in the West Vancouver District's Parks Master Plan and we have one member on the Working Group. We have put in a number of submissions to the Working Group and attended the two open houses on February 29th and March 6th.
- 6. Interpretive Sign:** The Directors decided that it would be useful to put up an interpretive sign on the Conservancy Crossing trail adjacent to a large old growth redcedar. Accordingly a committee was set up to determine what the sign should look like, what features it should portray, and how we would gather the information needed. The committee has made a lot of progress, and during the summer photos will be taken and scripts will be written to complement the images.

7. **OGCS Website:** The website is now public. Miles Hume is working on it with others and is continually improving it. Links will be added as well as a section on events. See <http://ogcs.ca>
8. **Community Day:** On Saturday, June 2, the OGCS will be joining other environmental groups under a 20x20 tent in Ambleside Park. It will be located just inside the park entrance and it will be open to the public from 11:30 till 4:00 pm. If you have time to provide help at our display table, please contact us at ogcs.wv@gmail.com, but please come to see us anyway.
9. **Frog Day:** Paul Berlinguette of the North Shore Wetland Partners Society put on a Save the Frogs Day at Cypress Trails Park on April 29th to promote the protection of the wetlands just north of Cypress Park estates. The wetlands are a great place to listen to the chorus of Tree frogs in the spring.

Hugh Hamilton, President
May 2012
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