

Old Growth Conservancy Society OGCS  
Directors' Report for 2017

The Directors of the Old Growth Conservancy Society at the end of 2017 were:

- President: Karen Marzocco
- Vice-President: Marshall Bauman
- Secretary: Alan Bardsley
- Treasurer: Doug Bardsley
- Directors-at-Large: David Cook, Mike Phillipoff, Hugh Hamilton, Katharine Steig, Herb Storm
- Advisory Member: Terry Taylor
- District Representative<sup>1</sup>: Corinne Ambor, Parks Stewardship Manager, District of West Vancouver

The Old Growth Conservancy Society (OGCS) held 10 regular directors' meetings in 2017. The AGM was held March 8, 2017 at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. An OGCS Purposes Workshop was held September 13, 2017 in the Mountain Room at the West Vancouver Community Centre.

**2017 Snowshoe Hikes (We had Snow!)—Summer Guided Tours**

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**Summer Trips:** The OGCS led five guided tours into the Conservancy. A total of forty participants were able to experience areas of old-growth forest and compare it to a once logged second-growth stand dominated by western hemlock and amabilis fir with some cedar just south of the Conservancy boundary. The tours provide a bounty of botany information, not only about the trees in the Conservancy, but also about the plants and fungi that make up the ecology that exists there solely because of its old-growth environment.

The tours are limited to eight participants at a time and the Saturday, August 26th guided tour included Paul McGrath of the North Shore News who accompanied David Cook, Hugh Hamilton and Alan Bardsley into the OGC. The 2017 summer guided tours raised \$170.00 from participants who greatly appreciated the time and expertise of our volunteer tour leaders. In particular, David Cook who shared his wealth of knowledge

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Our Secretary, Alan Bardsley, who organized the tours, included the following description on the tour application: About the OGCS: The OGCS is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers working to inform the public about old-growth in West Vancouver and ensure its protection. The Society is funded through membership fees, grants and donations. Annual membership is \$10. Donations made by tour participants help to further the conservation and education work of the Society and are gratefully received.

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As stated to Council, in the second referendum, held in 1993, District voters overwhelmingly endorsed both the dedication of a park to preserve the old-growth—creating what was then known as the Old Growth Park—and additional studies that could lead to further dedication by referendum of Municipally-owned lands containing old-growth trees. In fact, the Municipal Mountain Lands Committee had recommended that the Old Growth Park's protected area be 350 acres—almost double the 133 acres voted on in that referendum.

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Councillor Bill Soprovich said a special public thank you to long-time OGCS directors Hugh Hamilton and Katharine Steig, praising them for their dedication to our community. The presentation can be viewed in the December 13 Council video.

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#### **OGCS Newsletters #11 and #12**

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#### **OGCS Minutes**

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#### **Plans for 2018:**

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##### **Snowshoe Trips into the Conservancy**

Keep your calendars open for **March 4!**

##### **Tours Outside the Conservancy**

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##### **Inventory of Old-Growth in the Conservancy**

BCIT will advise OGCS of their work plans for 2018 in the upcoming months.

##### **Brothers Creek and McDonald Creek Area Old-Growth Biophysical Study**

David Cook and Alan Bardsley will venture back into the wilderness to tag and map veteran trees. The old-growth biophysical study requires David and Alan to hike into some very rough terrain, including travelling on some difficult transportation routes just to get to the study areas. In 2018, David and Alan may contact the DWV Parks Branch to request assistance with travel into and out of the study areas.

##### **Community Day and Coho Festival**

Our public outreach will continue in 2018, in part through participating in these popular and well organized public events.

##### **Ongoing Monitoring**

Monitoring the Conservancy is an ongoing activity. Thank you, Marshall!

##### **Website**

Keep your eyes on the website as it is regularly updated with news of guided tours and other pieces of interest throughout the year.

**Special Thanks**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Directors and WV District's Corinne Ambor for their dedication to the conservation and educational work of the OGCS.

Thank you,

Karen Marzocco, OGCS President

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Old Growth Conservancy Society OGCS  
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##### **Snowshoe Trips into the Conservancy**

Keep your calendars open for **March 4!**

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In years past, OGCS directors led educational hikes into a number of District old-growth areas that were outside the Conservancy itself. The OGCS wishes to again lead tours of old-growth areas throughout the District. If you are interested in helping us lead a tour—let us know!

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Old Growth Conservancy Society OGCS  
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The community lost Alita Stoltmann, Greg and Randy's mother, this January 9, 2018. She was very pleased to hear about the replica sign and know that Randy's memory is being kept alive. Our condolences to Greg for his loss.

#### **OGCS Newsletters #11 and #12**

As in previous years, a very big thank you to Hugh Hamilton for writing the 2017 OGCS Newsletters for our members. Many parts of this Directors' Report comes from the extensive research and material that Hugh wrote for the #11 and #12 OGCS Newsletters.

#### **OGCS Minutes**

This report and Hugh's Newsletters owe an enormous thank you to both Alan Bardsley and Katharine Steig for their detailed notes and minutes of all board meetings. 2017 saw Alan take over the duties of Secretary to offer Katharine a well-deserved break. Though, as you may know and luckily for us, Katharine doesn't take many breaks.

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Our presentation was well received by Mayor and Council, especially by Councillor Craig Cameron, who reminded those present of the regrettable loss of the Black Creek old-growth trees.

Councillor Bill Soprovich said a special public thank you to long-time OGCS directors Hugh Hamilton and Katharine Steig, praising them for their dedication to our community. The presentation can be viewed in the December 13 Council video.

#### **District of West Vancouver**

Working with the District of West Vancouver on the protection of the Conservancy is one of the core purposes of the Society. This continues to be one of the most important, and most rewarding activities for OGCS Directors. The District continues to be a helpful, responsive and supportive partner. In particular, this year the Parks Department has been highly supportive of the inventory work begun by BCIT.

We are grateful to the District for its support. We also greatly value Corinne's Ambor's dedication to our Conservancy and her willingness to spend quite a few of her evenings and her personal time assisting the OGC and enjoying its extraordinary beauty during some of our guided trips.

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activities of the OGCS and supports both the recommendations of the Municipal Mountain Lands Committee and the voters' express wishes from a quarter century ago.

Our presentation was well received by Mayor and Council, especially by Councillor Craig Cameron, who reminded those present of the regrettable loss of the Black Creek old-growth trees.

Councillor Bill Soprovich said a special public thank you to long-time OGCS directors Hugh Hamilton and Katharine Steig, praising them for their dedication to our community. The presentation can be viewed in the December 13 Council video.

#### **District of West Vancouver**

Working with the District of West Vancouver on the protection of the Conservancy is one of the core purposes of the Society. This continues to be one of the most important, and most rewarding activities for OGCS Directors. The District continues to be a helpful, responsive and supportive partner. In particular, this year the Parks Department has been highly supportive of the inventory work begun by BCIT.

We are grateful to the District for its support. We also greatly value Corinne's Ambor's dedication to our Conservancy and her willingness to spend quite a few of her evenings and her personal time assisting the OGC and enjoying its extraordinary beauty during some of our guided trips.

#### **Replica Stoltmann Sign Installed Near Hollyburn Fir**

In 1985 West Vancouver resident and big tree hunter Randy Stoltmann discovered the Hollyburn Fir – a huge nearly 1100 year-old Douglas-fir on Hollyburn Ridge. Randy carved a sign showing the tree's dimensions and installed it on a nearby stump. Over the years the sign deteriorated, causing David Cook to recommend its replacement. In 2016 Bruce McArthur carved a new sign for the tree and the deteriorated sign was taken down and saved for archival purposes.

This December Alan Bardsley installed the new sign on the same stump near the giant fir. OGCS is now working with DWV Parks to create an interpretive sign about Randy himself for placement near the fir.

The community lost Alita Stoltmann, Greg and Randy's mother, this January 9, 2018. She was very pleased to hear about the replica sign and know that Randy's memory is being kept alive. Our condolences to Greg for his loss.

#### **OGCS Newsletters #11 and #12**

As in previous years, a very big thank you to Hugh Hamilton for writing the 2017 OGCS Newsletters for our members. Many parts of this Directors' Report comes from the extensive research and material that Hugh wrote for the #11 and #12 OGCS Newsletters.

#### **OGCS Minutes**

This report and Hugh's Newsletters owe an enormous thank you to both Alan Bardsley and Katharine Steig for their detailed notes and minutes of all board meetings. 2017 saw Alan take over the duties of Secretary to offer Katharine a well-deserved break. Though, as you may know and luckily for us, Katharine doesn't take many breaks.

#### **Plans for 2018:**

##### **We Want to Engage You!**

Help us to come up with creative ways to increase the awareness, interest and education of people of all ages in the District so that we will all value the exceptional old-growth ecology that lies on our doorstep. Student photo competitions? Artwork? Invite local artists into the woods? First Nations carving of a fallen old-growth nurse log? Your ideas here\_\_\_\_\_.

##### **Snowshoe Trips into the Conservancy**

Keep your calendars open for **March 4!**

##### **Tours Outside the Conservancy**

In years past, OGCS directors led educational hikes into a number of District old-growth areas that were outside the Conservancy itself. The OGCS wishes to again lead tours of old-growth areas throughout the District. If you are interested in helping us lead a tour—let us know!

##### **Summer Trips into Conservancy**

Planning for summer guided trips will begin in the spring of 2018.

##### **Inventory of Old-Growth in the Conservancy**

BCIT will advise OGCS of their work plans for 2018 in the upcoming months.

##### **Brothers Creek and McDonald Creek Area Old-Growth Biophysical Study**

David Cook and Alan Bardsley will venture back into the wilderness to tag and map veteran trees. The old-growth biophysical study requires David and Alan to hike into some very rough terrain, including travelling on some difficult transportation routes just to get to the study areas. In 2018, David and Alan may contact the DWV Parks Branch to request assistance with travel into and out of the study areas.

##### **Community Day and Coho Festival**

Our public outreach will continue in 2018, in part through participating in these popular and well organized public events.

##### **Ongoing Monitoring**

Monitoring the Conservancy is an ongoing activity. Thank you, Marshall!

##### **Website**

Keep your eyes on the website as it is regularly updated with news of guided tours and other pieces of interest throughout the year.

**Special Thanks**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Directors and WV District's Corinne Ambor for their dedication to the conservation and educational work of the OGCS.

Thank you,

Karen Marzocco, OGCS President