

# Join us in the Valley

## Campbell Valley Park Association Park News

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PARK

(For information call 604 530-4983)

- **CAMPBELL VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE**, open May 19 to Sept 3, weekends and holidays from 1 - 4 PM
- **BUTTERFLY/WILDLIFE GARDEN VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY**, Saturday Oct 20, from 10 AM -12 PM. Meet at the Visitor Centre off of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- **CVPA VOLUNTEER PROJECT** - Realignment of creek immediately east of Little River Bowl, enhancement with planting of native species (Phase 2 of 2006 project). Saturday Nov 17, from 9:00 AM -12:00 PM. Meet at the bottom of 208<sup>th</sup> Street, at the Little River Bowl entrance.

### PARTNER PROGRAMS - EVERYONE WELCOME

#### CAMPBELL VALLEY EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

- **CAMPBELL VALLEY HORSE TRIALS** - August 17-19, 2007. Friday - Dressage, Saturday - Cross Country Jumping; Sunday - Stadium Jumping.
- **PONY CLUB PHASE EVENT** - September 23



Photo: Al and Jude Grass ©



Nature Walk at Ideas Fair

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

A very big THANK YOU to all the Campbell Valley Park Association Partners, and their volunteers, for their many contributions at the Ideas Fair on March 31. All the tours were well received and through your activities on the day you have introduced our wonderful park to a number of other keen park supporters in GVRD. Many of those attending had never been to Campbell Valley before but commented that they would be back, and SOON to explore the park on their own.

I would also like to thank all the GVRD staff from both Head Office and East Area for their hard work, assistance and support for this event. Events like this do take a lot of work at a time when staff is gearing up for the summer season.

Our next major event will be the Campbell Valley Regional Park Country Celebration on September 15-16<sup>th</sup>. Again we will be asking for CVPA volunteers to help out with our display at the event over the two days.

If you are one of our many CVPA members please drop by and say hello at our booth. We would love to meet you and talk about some of the interesting projects and events that we are involved with in the park

Have a good summer.

Jude Grass  
Chair

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# CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ASSN. BOARD MEMBERS 2007

- The following have been elected to the CVPA Board:
- o Margaret Cuthbert: Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
  - o Jude Grass: CVPA Chair, Forum Rep. Langley Field Naturalists
  - o Marilyn Gregory: Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
  - o Gerri Jack: Back Country Horsemen
  - o Deb Jack: Chair of the Regional Park Forum
  - o Esther Johnson: White Rock and Surrey Naturalists
  - o Murray Jones: Langley Speedway Historical Society
  - o Guy LaFramboise: Park Neighbour
  - o Phillip Milligan - Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club
  - o Patrick Murphy: Park Neighbour
  - o Russell Petrie - Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
  - o Larry Sproule - Langley Speedway Historical Society
  - o David Riley: Little Campbell Watershed Society
  - o Emily Robertson: Park Neighbour
  - o Norma Wilson: Park Neighbour



Watershed Tour at Ideas Fair

## CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK STAFF UPDATES

### SYSTEM NEWS

The GVRD has been protecting green space and enriching communities for 40 years! Watch for anniversary celebrations, special programs and opportunities to celebrate throughout 2007.

Heavy rainfall on snow in March caused serious shoreline damage and closure of several trails in Kanaka Creek Regional Park. The Spit Trail was undermined and required emergency stabilizing which cost \$250,000 and involved barging rock material over from Derby Reach Regional Park.

The first phase of the Pitt River Regional Greenway was opened on April 21<sup>st</sup> as both a recreational and an environmental resource. GVRD will operate the greenway and the City of Pitt Meadows will be responsible for dyke maintenance. Once complete, it will stretch 31 km from Harris Landing to Grant Narrows Regional Park.

The GVRD and Maple Ridge have acquired 30.1 hectares of parkland along the North Alouette River and will cooperate to manage the sensitive corridor and floodplain forests as well as maintain and operate the park. Opportunities for walking, jogging, cycling and horseback riding will soon be available.

GVRD, the Township of Langley and TLC (The Land Conservancy) joined forces to purchase the 163 acre West Creek Wetlands, one of the most significant areas of wildlife habitat in the municipality. The main channel of West Creek runs through the property and is one of BC's 14 designated 'sensitive streams'. The area is also home to 18 threatened or endangered species. GVRD will operate the site in cooperation with the Partners and Glen Valley Watershed Society.

Emergency upgrades are largely complete at Matsqui Trail and Kanaka Creek Regional Parks. Regional Parks



Equestrian Tour at Ideas Fair

To contribute to the **CVPA Park News** please contact:

Jude Grass, Editor

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[judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca)

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September, January and May.

Deadline for submissions for September (Fall)  
edition is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

continues to cooperate with municipalities as they prepare for potential high freshet and the threat of flooding. Of the 13 East Area Regional Parks and Greenways sites, 10 could be affected by the impacts of potential Fraser River flooding.

Congratulations to the DR/BIPA Board for hosting the Regional Park Forum meeting on May 22 in Fort Langley. The Forum offers training, networking and leadership to Park Associations across the system. The meeting in Fort Langley will be the last of its kind for the moment, while staff and partners determine the most efficient and effective way to meet Park Association needs.

Come and join us on July 21<sup>st</sup>, Parks Day, for the official opening celebration of Brae Island Regional Park. The experiential event will celebrate this new facility and highlight opportunities in the surrounding Fort Langley community. The revitalized campground and new day-use facilities are expected to open mid-June. The \$5.24 million project will include 155 new or rebuilt campsites, a group campsite, energy and water conserving washrooms, green roofs on new buildings. The day-use area will offer 2.1 km of accessible walking and cycling trails, canoe/kayak launch and small regatta staging area, viewpoints, picnic areas and a 47 space parking lot.

#### **CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (CVRP)**

Congratulations to the Campbell Valley Park Association (CVPA) for hosting a very successful Ideas Fair on March 31. We are also grateful to the 17 partner groups that assisted in delivering a variety of tours which highlighted Campbell Valley, Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club and the lower reaches of the watershed. Invitations went out to all of GVRD's active volunteers, and 200 attended this annual appreciation event. One volunteer stated "2007 has been the best Ideas Fair I have ever attended!"

Drop by the Visitor Centre this summer and sign out one of our new "Forest Edition Discovery Packs". Visitor Centre Hosts will be loaning out this free resource for families. Each Discovery Pack has tools and activities, like tracking and bug hunts, which will uncover the secrets of the beautiful Ravine Trail. The pack will encourage low impact activities that are hands on and exploratory. Pond Edition Discovery Packs are also available from the Visitor Centre.

The ponds near the Visitor Centre provide an excellent outdoor classroom and are one of the most

popular sites for GVRD Interpretation programs. A consultant will be enlisted this year to assess one of the ponds and provide recommendations to improve pond ecology and accessibility for programming.

Ecosystem Restoration Associates have entered into a partnership with GVRD to plant 40,000 trees in four Regional Parks over the next year. There is an opportunity to pursue a spring planting in Campbell Valley Regional Park, with CVPA members. A student from Simon Fraser University is conducting a Barn Owl study this spring and has found four eggs in the nest box in the Red Barn at Rowlatt Farm. The student will monitor the nest and chicks through the nesting season.

Staff is acting on the recommendations of the GVRD Board from July 2006 with regards to the Langley Speedway Historical Society (LSHS) proposal. The former Langley Speedway site (Little River Bowl) has been added to the Township's official Listing of Heritage Resources. The LSHS has become a park partner with two members on the CVPA Board. The LSHS has organized and delivered events and work parties that fit within the required permitting process and complement the Little River Bowl as a special event area. In January of this year, the LSHS provided a more detailed proposal for staff to consider. Through consultation with the CVPA Board, other groups and the public as required, staff are evaluating which parts of the proposal are compatible with the mandate and policies of Regional Parks and the CVRP Management Plan. Final decisions on the scope and extent of what will be approved in the LSHS proposal are expected in the fall. Evaluation may include a biophysical assessment of the Little River Bowl area and event capacity evaluation of the 208<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.

GVRD has provided comment regarding a possible twinning of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in a letter to Township of Langley in response to their Transportation Plan. Potential widening impacts on CVRP could include increased traffic, accompanying noise and visual affects, safety concerns for park patrons, loss of habitat and effects on wildlife crossing.

This summer will see many changes along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in CVRP. The Perimeter Trail construction and connection to Shaggy Main trail will begin. As envisioned in the CVRP Management Plan, this trail will provide cycling around the edge of CVRP. The rental house on the North side of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and at the corner of 200<sup>th</sup> Street will be removed to expand the trail. ◇



## SPOTLIGHT ON A PARTNER

### LANGLEY SPEEDWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Langley Speedway is located south of 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. on 208<sup>th</sup> St., in what is now the Campbell Valley Regional Park. It is currently referred to as "Little River Bowl" by the GVRD.

From 1963 until 1985 it was an important racetrack for amateur and professional motor sports in Langley. When it first opened, it was privately owned and operated by Mr. Craig Frazier, a retired Surrey Pharmacist. Township Councillor, Noel Booth, presided over the opening ceremony in 1965 and welcomed it as "a private enterprise into the field of recreation" and praised it as a "wonderful development". In 1969, the entire 130-acre facility was sold to the GVRD to be included in the Regional Park and continued to operate as a Speedway under a lease agreement.

As soon as track was opened, it was a huge success from several standpoints. Young people from many communities, who wanted the thrill of driving fast, were able to do so in a safe and controlled environment. Some drivers took their fast cars off the street and onto the track, enjoying the experience far more than speeding on the roads. Some have said it may have saved their lives. Most have said it enhanced them. Many of these people passed on their love of motor sports to their children by bringing them to the track. Several of those children, now grown, have continued in racing and are very successful today, or have their children involved in motor sports.

Many businesses got involved with the track at different levels. Some sponsored single race events, some entire seasons, and a lot of them sponsored individual teams. CJJC radio in Langley, and later, CFUN, broadcast the races over the airwaves for everyone to hear. Also, CKVU TV filmed many events at the track and aired the races the following weekend. Even if you couldn't make it to the track, you knew what was going on. This amount of press coverage is almost unheard of at most tracks of a similar size, for the period and in this present age.

During its time, Langley Speedway hosted some of the most important motor sports events in Western Canadian history, rivaled in BC only by Westwood Racetrack in Coquitlam, Mission Raceway in Mission and Western Speedway in Victoria. NASCAR, now the largest motor sports group in the world, and the second most watched sport on television, came to Langley, bringing millions of dollars and thousands of people to the area. Some of the greatest names in motor sports made their way here to compete against each other and against local talent, which was abundant. Several times, the local talent won!

Men, women and children, as families and individuals, came to the track to watch the races. They came in large numbers. Some of the events at Langley Speedway had in excess of 9,000 people watching from the stands. The largest crowd, attending a NASCAR sanctioned event, was an estimated 11,000 people. Over the two decades that Langley Speedway was in operation, hundreds of thousands of people attended events at the Speedway. Whether as spectators, workers, or participants, everyone was happy to be there and would likely prefer to be nowhere else.

Langley Speedway is still legendary throughout the Pacific Northwest, despite having not been in operation these last twenty-three years. Mention Langley Speedway at a motor sports event or car show in this region and many people will take notice and share their stories. Almost every person in this community that has lived here long enough has been favourably influenced by the track or knows someone that was.

To explain the value and importance of the role of Langley Speedway in the community of the Township of Langley and the reason that it is recognized as a heritage site, one need only to ask anyone who has ever had anything to do with the Speedway. Local businesses were formed to support the activities at the speedway and many others benefited from it. Local men, women and children experienced great thrills in the competitions held there. Many people learned of fair play, sportsmanship, camaraderie and ingenuity by building, driving, fixing, winning and losing with the great array of machines that drove on the Speedway's surface. Families spent a lot of time together there. For some of them, it was a good portion of their lives. For many, it was the best part of their lives.

Langley Speedway is a site worth keeping, preserving, and protecting.

The Langley Speedway Historical Society is working to restore this site as a tourist destination, much the same as any heritage site, house or building would be.

Car shows, fundraisers and many other types of events can be held at the facility, increasing revenues for the Park and supporting other initiatives within the park system.



Over time, we would like to replace one or more of the buildings that stood atop the grandstands, overlooking the track. This could house a collection of artifacts and a display of documents and photographs for the public to view. Certain aspects of the facility could be dedicated as memorials to drivers that once raced there and have since passed away, much the same as the "Spirit of the Horse Garden" does for those beloved animals.

There is a strong feeling that Langley Speedway can once again be a valuable asset to this community.

We have an increasing number of businesses interested in supporting us financially and with materials and equipment, as well as an ever-increasing number of individuals that are willing to help us with the labour and logistics of this project.

The GVRD Parks Committee, the GVRD Board and the Township of Langley have recognized Langley Speedway as a heritage site and have asked us to pursue our goals as proposed to them in several presentations. That is where we are today. Working with Park staff and members of the CVPA, the Langley Speedway Historical Society is working towards its goals. We appreciate your support.

Murray Jones  
Langley Speedway Historical Society

If you would like more information go to:  
[www.langleyspeedway.ca](http://www.langleyspeedway.ca)

## HAVE YOU READ - CHECK IT OUT? GVRD ACTIVITIES PROGRAM GUIDE

To get your copy phone: 604-432-6359  
Or visit the website: [www.gvrd.bc.ca](http://www.gvrd.bc.ca)  
Summer Guide is available now.

## BIRDS ON THE BAY

Now a Year Round Program  
For full programs and events  
please go to

[www.birdsonthebay.ca](http://www.birdsonthebay.ca)

Watch for programs at Campbell Valley

## CV PARK ASSOCIATION

Board Meetings - 7pm  
at East Area Office

Sept. 17; Oct. 15 & Nov. 19 (AGM)

## GVRD PARKS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The GVRD has been protecting green spaces and enriching communities for 40 years! Come see what makes your regional parks system something to be proud of. Watch for special programs and opportunities to celebrate throughout 2007.

## BUTTERFLY / WILDLIFE GARDEN IS LOOKING FOR PLANTS....



If you have any summer blooming annuals or plants such as Lambs ears, the garden is looking for donations. Plants need to be a good size because rabbits do graze in the garden.

For more information and to arrange drop off of plants please contact Esther at 604 596 7262

## THE WIDENING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE: & THE IMPACTS ON CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The following letter was sent on behalf of the Campbell Valley Park Association Board to notify the Township of Langley of our concerns and to identify some of our questions. At press time we are still awaiting a response from the TOL.

May 1, 2007  
Mr. Paul Cordeiro  
Manager of Transportation Engineering  
Township of Langley  
20338 68 Avenue  
Langley, BC V2Y 3J1

Re: Master Transportation Plan

Dear Mr. Cordeiro,

As Chair of the Campbell Valley Park Association (CVPA) I am responding to the Master Transportation Plan report to Mayor and Council dated February 5, 2007. We have a number of concerns relating to the immediate area around Campbell Valley Regional Park and the impacts that they will have on the park's ecology, especially the widening of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 200 Street and 208<sup>th</sup> Street and the widening of 200<sup>th</sup> Street between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue as land will be removed from the park for the highway and an easement.

The Campbell Valley Park Association is made up of 23 community organizations that use the park on a regular basis, and some of these groups have formal representation on the CVPA Board. In addition the CVPA has a membership composed of 170 families and individuals. We have heard from many of these groups (through a survey we did in 2006) and through individuals about how important this park is to their recreational use (be it nature study, horseback riding, or other activities) and as a place to go to get away from their hectic family/work lives in today's busy world.

The CVPA reminds the Township that the park was originally established in 1973 as a NATURE PARK and has been managed as that since. The Park Management Plan continues to support that designation.

Some CVPA groups are very concerned about the potential impact on the Little Campbell River and its fish and wildlife populations which are already facing serious problems with chemical, pathogenic and sediment pollution, water extraction, etc. Another concern is with the air quality around the park with the increased car and truck traffic along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue - the poor air quality will have a long term effect on the plants and trees as well as the animal population.

At our last CVPA meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> our Board voted to request the following items and the participation of the CVPA as a stakeholder in the environmental process and that we will correspond with the consulting company to provide information on the impacts to the environment with regard to the proposed highway construction including the crossing of the Little Campbell River. The CVPA also wishes to have access to the accounting, auditing and monitoring reports of the project.

The CVPA is also interested in finding out about what form of compensation the Township of Langley is planning to provide the GVRD Parks and Campbell Valley Regional Park specifically, regarding the loss of land from the park for the highway development. The CVPA has several suggestions that it would like to formally make to your department.

The CVPA does recognize an efficient transportation system is important part to the Township's growth but stresses that care and diligence must be a priority so as not to compromise the remnants of the natural environment that are still left in the community.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will allow us to work with the Township of Langley in this project.

Yours truly  
(Ms.) Jude Grass  
Chair

**Editor's Note:** The Transportation Report and attachments can be seen on the Township of Langley's website <http://www.tol.bc.ca> and comments can still be sent to the Mayor and Council, and the Manager of Transportation Engineering.

# NATURE NOTE

## SUMMER SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Your precious warmth invokes a lassitude; and  
contentment rare,  
Which, in itself is sweet, and, tossed into the  
space of time  
Affords a pause in hurrying, obligations to  
fulfill and care,  
A moment tasted, savoured, treasured, found to  
be, Oh, so sublime!

Harold Craven  
*Poems on Birds and Nature*

Summer days at Campbell Valley Regional Park are full of wonder, with sounds, scents, and colours that are a feast for our senses. From bats, to butterflies and birds, it is a time to really enjoy the wonderful diversity of life that makes Campbell Valley Regional Park so special.

The best time of day to really enjoy the park's amazing sights and sounds is in early morning, as the sun's rays begin to bathe the valley: birds are singing and the rustling of dragonfly wings is heard in marshy habitats.

My favourite nature walk in the park is the 2.3 km Little River Loop Trail, partly because it is just a beautiful place to be, but as a naturalist, it offers a fine variety of habitats like marsh, forest and meadow. You can (as I usually do) begin at the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue park entrance, but I also suggest the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue entrance, starting at the Visitors' Centre (open Saturday and Sunday and Holidays 1 - 4 pm), where park volunteers can help you with suggestions about what to see and do in the park, and let you know about any special upcoming events.

At the visitors centre be sure to visit the nearby Butterfly/Wildlife Garden, maintained here by dedicated volunteers. Be sure to take your time here - sit for while watch for butterflies visiting plants. Two types of butterfly friendly plants are in the garden - larval (caterpillar) food and nectar (energy) sources. Look for Swallowtails - Western Tiger and Black and White (pale), Lorquin's Admiral, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and the Woodland Skipper.

Sit on a bench at the nearby pond and watch dragonflies 'hawking' insects from mid-air. Dragonflies and their kin Damselflies, have marvelous

names, including meadowhawks, darners and skimmers, and come in a variety of flashy colours including blue, gold and red. A dragonfly watching has, in recent years, become very popular, especially with the aid of new close focusing binoculars which mean we can see details without collecting. The Bins are great for butterflies and other insects too.

As you walk the trails listen for summer songsters like the Warbling Vireo, Spotted Towhee and Song Sparrow. Bridges crossing the Little Campbell are where you can expect to find the Yellow Warbler, Marsh Wren and Cedar Waxwing. Look for waxwings flying off branches to catch insects in mid air - sometimes dragonflies. Check out the nice benches at the Listening Bridge (south end of the Little River Loop).

Mid-summer flowers in meadows and along forest trails include daisies, buttercups, eyebright, and owl's clover, which attract a nice variety of insects. Speaking of insects, the edges of the meadows have ant hills (mounds) made by thatching ants. If conditions are right you can often smell the vinegar like scent (formic acid produced by the ants). Millions of little feet have actually made ant highways through the grass.

Evenings in the park have their special rewards for the woodland wanderer for it is when the nightlife begins to stir. Listen on high for the nasal "peeent" calls of nighthawk which is not a hawk at all but a species of nightjar or goatsucker. Evening is also when bats come out to feed, using their sonar to catch insects on the wing: species here include Small Yuma and Little Brown Bats, and the Big Brown Bat.

Four books (field guides) that will help you to enjoy the parks' wonderful diversity of plant and animal life are:

1. Acorn, John. Butterflies of British Columbia. Lone Pine Publishing. 2006. A must have book for all those who enjoy butterflies.
2. Cannings, Richard, et.al. Birds of Southwestern British Columbia. 2006. Heritage House. A new guide, excellent, and up-to-date.
3. Cannings, Robert. Introducing Dragonflies of British Columbia and the Yukon. Royal British Columbia Museum. 2002. The best for dragonfly spotters.
4. Pojar, J. et.al. Plants of Coastal British Columbia. 2004. Lone Pine Publishing. Revised edition 2004. Cover wildflowers, trees, shrubs, lichens, mosses and liverworts. A must for those interested in local botany.

Al Grass

## CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ASSOCIATION (CVPA)

The Park Association is made up of individuals in the community, as well as groups who have a direct interest in Campbell Valley Regional Park. These partners have come together to form a partnership with the GVRD and to take an active role in planning and managing Campbell Valley Regional Park for the benefit of the community and GVRD.

The CVPA provides a valuable forum for expressing community ideas and concerns about the park, and receive updates on GVRD. It also provides a practical framework for working with Regional Parks.

The CVPA Board gives input and has discussion on issues pertaining to the maintenance and use of Campbell Valley Regional Park, its features, facilities and heritage sites.

In March 2006, the CVPA hosted a Federation meeting for all of Campbell Valley's affiliated partners. We hope to offer similar networking opportunities again in the future.

### AFFILIATED PARTNER GROUPS:

- ARocha
- Back Country Horsemen ◀
- BC Labrador Retriever Club
- Campbell Valley Visitor Centre Hosts\*
- Butterfly Wildlife Garden Volunteers ◀\*
- Campbell Valley Equestrian Society ◀\*
- Critter Care\*
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay ◀
- Langley Centennial Museum\*
- Langley Environmental Partners Society
- Langley Field Naturalists Society ◀
- Langley Heritage Society
- Langley Horse Federation\*
- Langley Speedway Historical Society ◀
- Little Campbell Watershed Society ◀
- Pacific Parklands Foundation\*
- Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club ◀
- Scouts Canada Fraser Valley Council
- Vancouver Parks Board Tree Farm\*
- White Rock and Surrey Naturalists ◀

◀ Groups with current representation on CVPA Board.

\* Groups with current, formal working relationships with GVRD for CVRP

For more information go to: [www.parkpartners.ca](http://www.parkpartners.ca)

### PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND! THEY TOO CAN JOIN THE CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ASSOCIATION TODAY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all your interests from the items below.

- Community park event
- Dog walking
- Educational projects
- Environmental projects
- Family activities
- Fundraising
- Habitat protection
- Heritage
- Horseback riding
- Marketing/communications
- Nature appreciation
- Walking
- Cycling
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on the Campbell Valley Park Association please contact:

Lisa Ferris,  
Community Development Coordinator  
GVRD Parks  
604-530-4983

[Lisa.ferris@gvrd.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.ferris@gvrd.bc.ca)