

Join us in the Valley

Campbell Valley Park Association Park News

CAMPBELL VALLEY HOSTS THE GVRD'S IDEAS FAIR

Each year GVRD Parks recognizes Park Partners and stakeholder who have contributed time and effort with invitations to the every popular Ideas Fair and Volunteer Appreciation Event. The event celebrates partnerships, and recognizes the efforts of volunteers and staff and provides a chance for people to exchange ideas and to explore a Regional Park.

The Campbell Valley Park Association and Park Staff have been asked to host the 2007 Ideas Fair which will be held on Saturday March 31. As we go to press final details of the tours are being put together. Tours include:

1. Little Campbell River Tour - from the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Hatchery on the river to the Little Campbell Estuary in White Rock. This tour will look at the health of the river and the enhancement projects being done. This tour is outside of the park and hosted by the Little Campbell Watershed Society and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay as well as the hatchery.
2. Horses in Harmony Tour - a visit to the CVRP Equestrian Centre and the Spirit of the Horse Memorial, a riding demonstration by the Campbell Valley Equestrian Society and demonstration Backcountry Horsemen of donkey/horse packing for trail excursions. A Tour of the Pacific Riding for the Disabled facility and demonstration riding.
3. A Natural History Walk with the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists looking at birds and plants of spring.
4. Something Old and Something New - a Heritage Tour. A schoolhouse program at the Lochiel School with the Langley Centennial Museum; a visit to the Rowlett/Annand heritage barns with the Langley Heritage Society; and a presentation at the former Langley Speedway track by the Langley Speedway Historical Society members.



Black-capped Chickadee

photo: Al and Jude Grass ©

5. Hug a Frog, Love a Leech: Connect with Campbell Valley Ponds. A visit to the Visitor Centre run by Volunteers followed by a hands-on GVRD Park Naturalist program in the pond looking for aquatic critters.
6. Canines, Critters and Trees - Campbell Valley's Eclectic Circle Tour. This tour starts at the Vancouver Parks Tree Farm and moves on to Critter Care, the wild mammal rehabilitation centre in the park, and finishes with a BC Labrador Retriever Club demonstration of dog training methods.

Following the tours the groups will return to the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club for a luncheon.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PARK

BUTTERFLY GARDEN - SPRING WORK PARTY

March - Date to be announced

Contact Esther at 604 596 7262 for details.

CAMPBELL VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE HOSTS

Last fall our Visitor Centre was painted a nice bright yellow on the outside in preparation for our 2007 summer openings.

If you are interested in being a volunteer host on weekends between the May Long Weekend and Labour Day please contact Sylvia at (604) 534-8419. There will be a workshop for volunteers in the spring.

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CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ASSN. BOARD MEMBERS 2007

At the Annual General Meeting on November 20, 2006 the following were 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 Mike Hebert: Langley Speedway Historical Society
- o Gerri Jack: Backcountry 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 Patrick Murphy: Park Neighbour
- o David Riley: Little Campbell Watershed Society
- o Emily Robertson: Park Neighbour
- o Norma Wilson: Park Neighbour

LANGLEY SPEEDWAY PUT ON HERITAGE LISTING

The Langley Speedway Historical Society (LSHS) put forward a proposal for the Little River Bowl site in early 2006. After consideration and input by the CV Park Association's Board, Park Staff, and the GVRD Park Committee the LSHS has become a member of the CVPA with representation on the board.

The LSHS has undertaken a special event and project at the Little River Bowl Site.

The latest development is the Township of Langley's decision below.

Dated: 2 October 2006

This letter is to advise that Council approved the addition of the Langley Speedway to the Township's Heritage Listing at its meeting of 25 September, 2006. Their action was based on a recommendation from the Community Heritage Commission.

The motion reads as follows:

"That council include the Langley Speedway site on the Township's official 'Listing of Heritage

Resources', that they encourage the GVRD to interpret the site's human heritage values in a manner that is appropriate for the Park, and that they encourage the Langley Speedway Heritage Society to grow the archival documentation of the Speedway in collaboration with the Langley Centennial Museum."

Sue Morhun
Manager, Community and Heritage Services
Township of Langley

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2006

This has been a year of change for the board as we spent time reviewing

- o how to increase the relevance, efficiency and streamlining of the PA Board Meetings;
- o how to meet individual needs and reflect GVRD's business process and timelines; and
- o how to meet the requirements for consultation and shared decision making.

At our first full board meeting in January 2006, Park Staff lead us through a process to develop a framework for our meetings and activities throughout the year.

The four key outcomes from the planning session were:

1. To plan 5 meetings of the board per year (every second month September through May), but to book the alternate months to be available for the subcommittees or project teams, and if special things came up we would use those dates for additional board meetings.
2. To run the meetings on a shared decision-making and consultation process
3. To have active sub-committees and projects to work on
4. To have more communication between CVPA and our affiliated groups.

How has it worked?

To complete Board business more than 5 meetings were needed last year. This in part was due to the fourth key outcome which was to have more communication between groups and our planning of a special initiative to include more of the affiliated groups into an information sharing format - which we designated as Federation of Park Users. They basically are groups that are not represented by a board member but that do carry out activities on a regular basis in the park. Groups include Critter Care, BC Association of

Retriever Trails, and Scouts Canada. Other groups such as the Langley Centennial Museum and Langley Heritage Society which are interested in the heritage sites associated with the park but don't use the park for their activities regularly.

To that end we had an Open House on March 27th where we invited non profit groups, volunteers and municipal organizations that use the park to come and exchange ideas and meet other park users in a casual, social setting. In addition we attached to the invitation a survey asking about their group, what kind of activities they do in the park and how often they occur, and, which areas of the park they use. At the meeting we also gave groups a chance to give a short outline of their groups use and interest in the park. The results from their survey responses were pulled together and given to board members and park staff. At a following CVPA board meeting it was felt that this was a good opportunity and we got some new contacts and interest in the park as a whole and that the process should be continued on a regular basis.

To follow up further, all groups invited to the March meeting have been invited to the AGM today and we are planning to have one or two special meetings a year to hear from park users and interest groups, and for them to hear about various activities of the Park Assn and to hear from Park staff about new park initiatives.

Also under the category of communication we have started a new Campbell Valley Park Association Newsletter that will be published three times a year September, January and May. The newsletter covers upcoming events, by various partners and user groups, special GVRD Park events, profiles of various partners, notes on the human and natural history of the Park, and a report from park staff.

Another Key Outcome was to have active sub-committees and projects. We do have committees for:

- Conservation and Stewardship Cmte - we have worked with park staff in location of a new trail along 8th Avenue,
- Field Management Cmte - worked with Evergreen Society in removing Blackberry and invasive plant along 8th Avenue in October.
- Trails Cmte - that worked with the Evergreen Society in planting trees along a newly developed channel of a small creek along the Deer Trail which flows into the Little Campbell - which work was done in November.



Photo: GVRD Parks

- Visitor Centre Hosts - formed from member groups and individuals who run the visitor centre from May to September on weekends and holidays
- Butterfly Garden Gardeners - a small group of dedicated people who manage the garden by weeding, planting, watering and caring for plants that are beneficial to wildlife.
- Country Celebration - a two day event in September where PA members provide Park Association information and talk to local residents about the park.

We have followed the shared decision-making and consultation process at our meetings, which does allow for all groups to express their concerns, suggestions and in the end allows the board to make decisions that best represent a majority of the members.

As CVPA chair, I would like to thank all the board members for their contributions, and directions throughout the year. Special thanks to Ian Robertson who is stepping off the committee after seven years where he has provided his expert knowledge on the biophysical aspects of the park.

I would also like to thank Lisa, Wendy, Roger, Janice and all the other staff who have made mine and other board members tasks easier with their support, direction and assistance throughout the year.

I look forward to next year and some exciting things that are being planned such as the CVPA hosting the GVRD Parks Ideas Fair on March 31, 2007. This one day event for all GVRD Park Associations and volunteers will showcase our park including the Little Campbell River, our Park Association and our many organizations and volunteers. This is a great opportunity to show and tell others just how special and wonderful this park is.

Jude Grass, Chair

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK STAFF UPDATES GVRD PARKS - EAST AREA

A huge achievement for all of our parks was the completion of Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping. The data will be used for assessing fire risk and identifying potential critical habitat for some species at risk. GVRD Parks has been working with the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council in order to share information regarding early detection and response, control methods and maintenance issues with representatives from various municipalities, Non Governmental Organizations and senior agencies.

The GVRD Parks **Best Management Practices Guide for Beaver** was completed and adopted. Many beaver management prescriptions were implemented in a number of parks with emphasis on accommodating beaver wherever possible, while recognizing their contribution to habitat diversity.

We're also gearing up for the development and opening of the Pitt River Greenway in 2007. Park patrons will enjoy stunning vistas along the Pitt River in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Aldergrove Bowl, in Aldergrove Lake Regional Park, is now open to the public and restoration and installation of facilities will begin.

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

As you're travelling along 200th Street, at 19th Avenue, look for the Township of Langley pumping station, which is almost complete. Staff made the preliminary design of the structure's exterior which is reminiscent of many small horse barns found throughout the neighbourhood. Extensive landscaping will be completed in early 2007 to complete the project.

The Campbell Valley Regional Park Management Plan envisages a walking and cycling trail for the park that will navigate around the perimeter of the park. The first kilometre of this new perimeter trail will be constructed in 2007 from 200th Street and 8th Avenue to the Visitor Centre at 204th Street and 8th Avenue. A link for equestrian users, with a maze gate, will also be provided from 200th and 8th Avenue north to the existing Shaggy Mane Trail connection (from our existing 201st and 8th Avenue gate). The trail is being largely funded and constructed by

Highpoint Developments so that users in the southwest quadrant of the area can have access to the Campbell Valley equestrian and pedestrian trail system. For safety sake please follow all construction signs posted by Park staff during the duration of construction.



Photo: Jude Grass©

We are also very pleased to have completed a creek diversion project on the east side of the Little Campbell River just upstream of the Listening Bridge. This creek that comes off the hillside near the Equestrian Centre has caused trail flooding many years due to its unnatural alignment and an undersized culvert under the trail. GVRD Parks, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Campbell Valley Park Association, the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists and Evergreen got together to design, excavate, shape and plant a brand new channel complete with a new foot bridge and pond for over-wintering salmonids. In addition, a boardwalk was installed a bit farther upstream on the east side of the river to get walkers through a very wet spot. In this location, we took the opportunity to excavate and plant a new seasonal amphibian pond. It is our hope that it will attract Red-legged frogs, which are a species at risk.

A total of three beaver levelers were installed to help reduce the risk of flooding while still allowing beaver to carry on with their daily activities. Operations staff also tackled invasive plants this year mostly Himalayan blackberry along with one patch of Giant Hogweed. We're grateful to those volunteers who rolled up their shirt sleeves to remove Himalayan blackberry along 8th Ave.

Park Interpreters partnered with the Visitor Centre Hosts to offer the very successful Discovery Backpacks, Pond Edition, this summer. The next Discovery Backpack is already in the works so stay tuned for the launch of the Forest Edition next

summer. The Visitor Centre Hosts will have this additional tool kit to lend out as a free resource to families to encourage stewardship and nature appreciation.

Another big highlight from this past year was the Park Interpreter's pilot of the first Operation W.E.B. (Westcoast Exploration of Biodiversity) program targeted to Grade 7 curriculum. Campbell Valley was the first test field trip site at East Area last fall. During the full day field trip, students learned about biodiversity and its importance, conducted plot studies in the forest, caught and released pond critters, and had some quiet time doing nature journaling.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR OTHER REGIONAL PARKS DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK NEWS

We invite you to walk along the campground at Edgewater Bar. Campers are enjoying plantings and extensive improvements such as new fire pits and bear proof waste containers. Extensive planting was undertaken to improve the privacy and aesthetics of the sites and improve wildlife habitat and food sources. Nutrifor, a recycled by product obtained from some of GVRD's waste treatment plants were used to improve the sandy soil of the planting areas. Previous experience has shown that plant growth is significantly enhanced using this fertilization method.

Staff has reinstalled the beaver pond leveler at the pond west of Allard Crescent to reduce flooding risk while still maintaining the pond for wildlife. A second leveler was installed in the creek that runs along the back side of the Heritage Field near Houston Farm. A dam was causing excessive flooding in the field and Black cottonwoods were beginning to take over the old field habitat. The leveler will help reduce the flooding but allow the beaver to continue to live in the same area. After the leveler was installed, the cottonwood saplings were removed, and the field has been leveled in some places and reseeded. Himalayan blackberry encroaching along the fence line was also removed.

If you're walking along the Fort-to-Fort trail and in the fields opposite the Heritage Area, we hope you'll notice the amount of Blackberry and Scotch broom that staff has removed. We're also very appreciative of those volunteers who rolled up their shirt sleeves to pull out these invasive plants at the fall work parties.

Adam Snow, a volunteer and bog expert, has been working in the bog since the summer of 2006. Adam is studying the hydrology, making an inventory of the existing plant species and removing non-native invasive plants. The Langley Bog was also a pilot site for the Catching the Spirit youth who came for a Bog tour and helped remove unwanted birch and blackberry with staff and Park Association members.

Next year's 'Passport to the Past' event is already in the works. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 18 when this popular heritage event will take place. Fort Langley National Historic Site, Langley Centennial Museum and the Langley Heritage Society have confirmed their participation.

BRAE ISLAND REGIONAL PARK NEWS

We're pleased to report that Park approvals have been obtained and construction will begin in early 2007. Thanks go to the Derby Reach/Brae Island Park Association for their support and input through this process. New public day use access and facilities will be provided along the Bedford Channel including a trail to Tavistock Point. The existing campground (Fort Langley Camping) will be extensively renovated with new services and sites. The park is expected to open in early summer and we are looking forward to an opening celebration on Parks Day, July 21, 2007.

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

BIRDS ON THE BAY

Now a Year Round Program
starting in January 2007
For full programs and events
please go to

www.birdsonthebay.ca

Watch for programs at Campbell Valley

CV PARK ASSOCIATION

Board Meetings - 7pm
at East Area Office

February 12 ♦ March 12, ♦ April 16

NATURE NOTE

SPRING COMES TO CAMPBELL VALLEY



Photos: Al and Jude Grass ©

It is Spring! It is Spring!
 On the lea, on the ling!
 The frost is dispersed!
 Like the buds let us burst!

From: **The Selected Verses of Ogden Nash**

Spring in Campbell Valley Regional Park is time when our senses are treated to an amazing array of sounds, smells, and colours. If you listen carefully, you can almost hear nature bursting out from her winter slumber. But, have you ever asked yourself, "When does winter turn into spring...and spring to summer", etc. The truth is that seasons gradually blend into each other. For park visitors, there are wonderful things to be discovered along in the trails, in the water and in the sky.

The winter woods, sometimes called 'bleak' due to a lack of colour actually do have some colourful things for the winter walker to discover. Two of my favourites are the 'turkey tail fungus' which looks like a miniature rainbow with its colour bands of lilac, pink, grey, orange and sometimes green. And then, there are golden fungi that look like blobs of jelly, called 'witches butter'. And don't overlook the weird shapes of 'dead man's fingers', or more properly 'carbon antlers', growing on old alder stumps.

As the days get longer and warmer, buds of shrubs like Red Elderberry and trees like the Red Alder begin to swell. Already, by late winter, the hazelnuts have put out their flowers, with the tiny bright red female buds being especially beautiful.

Spring is full of wonderful smells like the spicy aroma of bursting cottonwood buds and the lovely bouquet of skunk cabbages emerging from the mud.

The parade of spring flowers in the park includes such lovely species as the trillium, ('wake robin'), stream violet, and Indian Plum. New flowers on Salmonberry remind us that the Rufous Hummingbirds should soon be back from their winter quarters.

Along with flowers come the first butterflies of spring like the Satyr Anglewing and the Mourning Cloak, both of which over winter as adults.

Resident birds like the Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and Red-winged Blackbird lend their music to the murmur of cattails in the spring marsh. And now the chattering songs of Marsh Wrens, the occasional "Kid-dick-a dick" calls of the Virginia Rail add to the excitement. High above the first swallows - Tree and Violet-green, swoop gracefully back and forth scooping up insects in mid air.

Voices of birds not heard since last spring, such as the Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Warbling Vireo are heart-warming sounds in the forest. But not all bird sounds are vocalizations, like the drumming of Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, and the Northern Flicker.

Tiny Bushtits are among the first birds to build their nests, which are amazing structures made of moss, lichens, plant down, and held together with spider webbing.

Listen for the clear sweet "fee-bee" or "tea time" or is it "cheeseburger" song of the Black-capped Chickadee. Chickadees stake out their territories as early as late winter.

A good way to enjoy the sights and sounds of the park is to find a quiet place to sit, and let nature come to you. It is amazing just how good a 'quiet sit' can be.

No matter what the season, or what the weather, there are always many wonderful things to discover along the parks trails.

A bird checklist compiled by Anthea Farr is available for Campbell Valley Regional Park. It lists what has been seen in the park, gives status and seasonal abundance, and is a good way to keep track of what you have seen.

Al Grass

Photos:

Top: Trillium; Left: Skunk Cabbage; Right: Indian Plum



SPOTLIGHT ON A PARTNER CAMPBELL VALLEY EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY (CVES)

CVES is a non-profit organization formed in 1987 to provide a venue for equestrian activities within Campbell Valley Regional Park. Initially, assistance was obtained from many local organizations that supported the construction of the arena and the cross-country course. The society was instrumental in building the existing riding ring which is open to the public and is very well used. CVES built and now maintains many permanent and portable jumps which are used for practice, instruction and competitions. Working in conjunctions with the GVRD and local groups, the Society helps to plan, organize, promote and maintain the equestrian component at the Park. CVES is run by volunteers with all revenues generating being put back into the facilities at the park. We seek to be the voice of Horses and Riders in the Park, support all equestrian interests and hold Dressage, Jumping and Cross country schooling days.

This is one of the very few sites where riders can be introduced to x-country eventing. Our schooling days see over 100 riders coming out to experience the thrill of negotiating natural-type fences and galloping in open fields.

Langley is known as the Horse Capital of the province. Horses are an integral part of our community and we are most fortunate to have this site to use for our recreation. It is a beautiful area with easy access for horse users. The 14 kilometers of trails throughout the Park are such a tremendous boon to equestrians. It is becoming increasing hard to find safe riding trails and riders come from far and wide to enjoy the trails. The trail system is also shared with pedestrians, dog-walkers and, runners.

Campbell Downs is an open area of approximately 32 hectares which is dotted with jumps and other obstacles. There are 4-5 jumps left open at any one time for Park rider's use. The majority of the fences are securely locked and only opened for specific training or schooling days. There is a water- complex and several interesting fences which add to the Park's personality.



Photo: Totem Photographics©

In August we host the largest Horse Trials event in BC which has over 200 entries. Competitors come from all over BC and the US to enjoy the beautiful surrounding and to participate in a challenging and rewarding competition. We enjoy the support and interest of many businesses and community benefactors who support our endeavors. Our volunteer base is very large; over 100 volunteers are needed to run the August event and these people give generously of their time year after year. Spectators are treated to a wonderful time watching the three days of great horsemanship. Eventing is an exciting sport in which horse & rider must safely and successfully complete three different phases of competition. Friday is Dressage day, Saturday is the Cross country Jumping and on Sunday the horses will do a Stadium Jump course. There are several different levels of competition. These levels build upon one another in difficulty, size of jumps and skills required by both horse and rider. We welcome spectators.

There are several other activities organized for local horsemen.

Campbell Valley Equestrian Society also support other improvements which over the years have included the bridge/walkway near the 208th entrance to the trails; we have redone & improved the footing in the main arena and rebuilt part of the surrounding fence and recently built a trail down to the Bowl area which we now use as a site for Stadium Jumping. We are happy to have a good working relationship with GVRD staff that are always helpful and open to our concerns. The horsemen of this area appreciate and treasure the beauty and special opportunities of Campbell Valley Park.

Campbell Valley Equestrian Society

CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ASSOCIATION

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The partners are made up of individuals in the community, as well as groups from in and around 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.

WE ARE:

- Back Country Horsemen's Association
- Campbell Valley Equestrian Society
- Critter Care
- Langley Field Naturalists
- Langley Heritage Society
- Langley Speedway Historical Society
- Little Campbell Watershed Society
- Visitor Centre Hosts
- White Rock and Surrey Naturalists
- Many other community groups
- Local residents

GOALS OF THE PARK PARTNERS

- To assist in implementation of the park management plan.
- To protect and enhance the natural and cultural features of the park.
- To encourage responsible public recreation
- To promote public education and a park use code of ethics.
- To raise revenue for special local park projects.

The partners provide a valuable forum for expressing community ideas and concerns about the park. It also provides a practical framework for working with the GVRD.

YOU can give input and discussion on issues pertaining to the maintenance and use of Campbell Valley Regional Park, its features, facilities and heritage sites.

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

Jude Grass, Editor

Ph: 604-538-8774 or fax: 604-538-8791

judegrass@shaw.ca

CVPA Parks News is published three times a year:
September, January and May.

DON'T DELAY - 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
- Heritage
- Horseback riding
- Marketing/communications
- Nature appreciation
- Walking
- Cycling
- Other _____

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

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Community Development Coordinator

GVRD Parks

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