



Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society

P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N3

www.Cypresspark.ca

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2021

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration and membership renewal

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

885 22ND STREET, WEST VANCOUVER

Ample parking is available in parking lot of the church and in adjacent streets.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes of A
3. Director's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. 2021/22 Projects and Reports
6. Election of Directors for 2021-22
7. Adjournment

Proposed Directors for 2021-22

President: Alex Wallace

Vice-President: Anne George

Secretary: Anne Leathem

Treasurer: Sandra Booth

Directors-at-Large: Marshall Bauman, Lyn Grants, Bill Kinkaid, Eva Nagy

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Nominees must have been FCPP members in good standing for 6 months prior to election.

BC Parks News

A new face at the Seymour Parks Office

Jennifer Kardynal is working as the Community Liaison Officer for BC Parks in the South Coast Region. She is in the position as a maternity leave coverage for Elyse Roberts until the end of 2021.

Jennifer submitted the following: “In the past few years I have worked for BC Parks in the Sea to Sky and I've had the privilege to work with various Indigenous partners including the Squamish Nation and the Aya7Ayulh Chet (Cultural Journeys School Program). We have worked together over the past few years on multiple projects that bring Indigenous learning and teaching onto the land. One of those projects was the installation of a Story Trail at Alice Lake Provincial Park.

I'm looking forward to working on projects throughout the South Coast region and getting to know more of our partners and stakeholders and hopefully to facilitate more interpretation in the parks in the South Coast region”.

FCPP Trail Project Funding 2021

Currently, as of August 31st, we have been in effect on hold with trail upgrade funding due to BC Parks staff changes and other factors beyond our control.

The Howe Sound Crest Trail upgrade is now designated as a BC Parks Capital Project, and we have been informed on several occasions that no further funding from Friends of Cypress is necessary. The same Rare Earth trail crew managed by Jeremy Power has been at work this year on the steep, rooty and eroded section out towards St Marks Summit building boxed steps, working 10-hour days from Monday to Thursday, in order to avoid the inexorable and ever-increasing flow of hikers back and forth on Fridays and Weekends. There has also been consultation on the alignment of the trail out towards St Marks, as the trail is severely eroded and possibly rerouting it higher up toward the height of land would work better overall. The last 1.2km of the trail upgrade to St Marks Summit Viewpoint is therefore under way, but it once again may take several seasons to complete. The trail beyond this point to The Lions is now also quite rough, but due to the steep terrain it is still the intent that the hiking trail upgrade will end at St Marks Summit, as this is literally the end point for 99% of the hikers on this trail.

The other trail project that we were keen to continue was the upgrade of the popular, and often busy trails up on the Black Mountain plateau out to Eagle Bluffs. This has hit a snag, as BC parks is not satisfied with the documentation for this project in the form of a Scope of Work, and it has recently been proposed to us that, instead, we as a group should take it over and hire the contractor ourselves under a Partnership arrangement. This is under discussion, however it is a disappointment, as we have materials on site in the form of two large stacks of massive yellow cedar boards from last November, unused - as it snowed the day after they were hauled up the mountain. Hopefully these boards will survive until we get the current delay resolved. Meanwhile we have again hiked the area with BC Parks and have gone over the need for accurate trail directions signs on Black Mountain, i.e., replacing several of the current confusing ones, but BC Parks' stated position is that this

has to be done in a comprehensive way, replacing all of the incorrect signs, rather than possibly four or five at a time to get the process started (ditching the more misleading ones) as we suggested. The example given was from Golden Ears Provincial Park, where all 320 directional signs were replaced at once.

One of the other Trail-related projects where we hope to have input is to upgrade the ropes and posts on the Yew Lake trail, where we do already have some of the materials, However, the replacement design used by the Park Facility Operator a few years ago, of using steel pins to anchor the new posts has proven to be unworkable, as the heavy snow load in winter pulls down the hemp ropes and many of the pins then either fall out of the posts, or actually became bent, despite being made from rebar! In the interim, trail volunteers have been propping the posts up when they fall over - which is a regular occurrence.

We also are putting forward two methods for replacing or rebuilding the 'missing' ledge on Hollyburn Peak, where hikers, (including seniors and families with little kids), are faced with the completely eroded ledge that crosses, or used to cross, a rock face just below the peak. Some hikers now scramble across below where the ledge used to be. This would be an awkward place to take a tumble, as there is a 10m. drop, and of course it is a long way to hike out with someone on a stretcher, i.e., if it's cloud or rainy weather- and a helicopter can't get up



there for several days. This ledge has been in a poor state since 1992, and the previous attempt to rebuild it failed when the wooden beams delivered in November by helicopter were found next summer to have been cracked by the 4m. snowpack over the winter, rendering them useless. Since then, we have worked with BC Parks Rangers to find a safe alternate route, and it is only recently that one has been located nearby, albeit in rough shape. The proposal would be to either rebuild the "missing" ledge in its former location, or to build sturdy steps up the alternate pitch nearby, just a few metres away. Part of the problem at this elevation is that the force generated by snow creep tends to pull any built feature down over the six or seven months when there is a heavy snow load on these steep slopes - so the ledge rebuild or rerouting has to be carefully thought through. This has been put to BC Parks in a preliminary form in 2019 and again in 2021, and it is under discussion as to whether a contractor should be hired, or whether this perhaps would be a good training exercise for newer BC Parks rangers. In any event it has been a hazard

for some three decades, and as the erosion makes the situation worse each year, it would be a good idea to fix it before someone has an unfortunate (but avoidable) serious injury. This would be a good trail project for us to fund, as Halvor Lunden himself had ideas as to how it could be fixed, back years ago (mostly involving a huge rock drill), and perhaps that is how a new ledge could be secured- although nowadays battery-powered electric drills are available for this kind of work. We again will be bringing this up to BC Parks for their consideration and approval this Fall.

We are also hoping to fund trail work and the replacement of the table at Blue Gentian Lake, and, as a tribute to Paul Berlinguette for his hours of tireless advocacy and trail work, a seat with his name at Lost Lake.

Archives

Thanks to Board members, FCPP has maintained extensive records since its inception. These include a judicial review and Olympic Games negotiations, trail work and other projects, news clippings, maps, lobbying and political protests, Board minutes, FCPP newsletters, and correspondence to policy-makers and others. In particular Katherine Steig had been vigilant in keeping these records which have now been deposited at the West Vancouver Archives. To view these items, go to archives.westvancouver.ca and search "*friends of cypress provincial park*".

You are also welcome to view hard copies of any items at the West Vancouver Archives at 6890 17th St, West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T2. Access is limited during COVID-19 restrictions. For more information phone 604 925 7298.

Our appreciation goes to Katharine Steig for her perseverance in preserving these records which attest to FCPP's role in ensuring that Cypress Provincial Park remains a Class A Provincial park available for everyone to enjoy.

Anne George

Walks and Hikes in Association with Nature Vancouver

All leaders are both FCPP and Nature Vancouver members. While most of the hikes offered are within the park, some are in surrounding areas where natural features are similar in some instance, and in others quite different-leading to interesting observations and discussions. All of the hikes listed are offered to Friends of Cypress members and to members of Nature Vancouver. Exercising caution in this time of COVID, Nature Vancouver is limiting the numbers of people on any one hike to 10.

To ensure you have a place on the hike you wish to join, please notify the hike leader as soon as possible before she/he puts it on the Nature Vancouver message board. Otherwise you may not secure a place.

Difficulty ratings can be found on the following Nature Vancouver link: www.naturevancouver.ca/events/field_trips.

Information about additional hikes that may be scheduled for October will be sent to our members by mail and will be posted on the Nature Vancouver message board.

.Tuesday September 14

Leader Anne Leathem

Meet at Whyte Lake Parking Lot 9:30 am. Parking Lot can be crowded so carpool if possible. Approx. 6 km, 300 m elevation gain.

Moderate, some steep sections.

Nature Vancouver rating B Strenuous

This interesting hike begins by a switch back section up a rocky bluff to a wonderful viewpoint in an *Arbutus menziesii* and *Arctostaphylos columbiana* grove. We'll climb further in *Arbutus* woods along rocky bluffs, then up to the trail going east along a powerline to reach an old helipad. Then we proceed into mixed forest near seasonal ponds and up a highpoint for lunch. A narrow rocky trail leads us down to an old road that takes us to Whyte Lake. We'll walk along a boardwalk by the lake for a rest and maybe a swim for some. The hike back is along the well-established Whyte Lake trail along Whyte and Nelson Creeks back to the parking lot.

Contact Anne at anneleathem07@gmail.com

. Saturday, September 18 Hollyburn Peak

Leaders: Lyn Grants & Diane Fast

Meet at Nordic area BC Parks Kiosk 9:30 am

8k return; 430 m elevation gain.

Nature Vancouver rating C5

The pace will be leisurely, with the opportunity to stop and look at the changing colours of the vegetation and, of course, with time to enjoy the views at the peak. Good hiking boots and poles.

Contact Lyn at lmgrants@gmail.com

.Tuesday September 21 Yew Lake Botany Walk

Leader: Gail Ross

Meet at Black Mtn. Lodge 9:30 am

This will be an interpretive walk along the beautiful Yew Lake Trail and around the Old-Growth loop. The trail is mostly flat; the distance 2.5 km.

Contact Gail at gailross@telus.net

.Thursday, September 23 Baden Powell Trail East-From Cypress Bowl Ski Alpine Area to Cross Country Ski Area

Leaders: Marshall Bauman, Smita Patel

Meet at Black Mtn.Lodge 10:30 am

4k return, minimal elevation gain, moderate terrain with some rough, rooty sections.

Nature Vancouver rating B3

Contact Marshall at foxhole@telus.net

.Monday, September 27 Yew Lake to Bowen Lookout

Leaders: Carol Ensor, Lyn Grants

Meet at Black Mtn Lodge 9:30

4.3k return; 110 m elevation gain, moderate terrain.

Nature Vancouver rating C 3

Contact Lyn at lmgrants@gmail.com

Sad News to Report

Ken Farquharson, esteemed and active environmentalist, died of a heart attack on August 8, 2021. He was 86.

His first role as an outspoken environmental activist was connected to what we now know as Cypress Provincial park, when he co-founded the Save the Cypress Bowl campaign which successfully stopped illegal logging and resulted in the creation of Cypress Provincial Park.

In addition to playing a key role in the protection of Cypress Bowl, Ken was also instrumental in the protection of the Skagit Valley, Nitinat Triangle, Stein Valley, Kakwa and many other parks of today. He co-founded the Sierra Club of B.C., the Run Out Skagit Spoilers (ROSS) Committee and organized and served as the first Chair of the Outdoor Recreation Council.

Up until his death he was working on the Skagit Donut Hole puzzle to complete the preservation of the Skagit River watershed in British Columbia. That work will now be carried on without him.

FCPP sends sincere condolences to his wife and family and to all those who worked with Ken.

Feature Articles

We failed to send out a Summer Newsletter and so we have a backlog of feature articles. We decided to include them all. One is in reserve for the next Newsletter. Take your time. Enjoy the reading.

Yellow Cypress Gail Ross

Most people when they visit a provincial park, look up at the mountains, across at the views or down the trail ahead of them. They don't crane their necks and look up, way up... and look at the trees, which is where, in Cypress Provincial Park, you find the park's namesake, the yellow-cypress, or more commonly referred to as the yellow-cedar.

During the time of Alfred the Great and when the first Norse settlers arrived in Iceland, some of these now majestic silver sentinels of today's forests began as tiny seedlings on the forest floor.

Today, some of the oldest recorded yellow-cedar trees in BC are found in Cypress Provincial Park's old-growth forests. Core samples indicate that larger diameter yellow-cedars, particularly those with damaged tops, are typically 1100-1200 years old. The largest yellow-cypress in the Park, the Hollyburn Giant, has a diameter of 3.2 m or 10.5 feet.





Unfortunately, the top of the tree has been broken off from the heavy wet snows over the centuries.

Another one of the largest yellow-cedars in the Park is located at km 12.9 along the road where it is easy to stop and have a good look beside the roadside pull-off. This 39.6m tall yellow-cedar was determined by increment borer to be around 1200 years old.

If you look up at the top of yellow-cedar trees you may notice that some have a candelabra-like appearance, resulting from the death of the top leader, as well as sometimes of the side branches that try to take over. The reason for this is not really understood, but it may be a lack of nutrients caused by growing in wet, acidic soils, or perhaps drought stress caused by a shortage of oxygen to the roots which makes it difficult for the tree to take up water.

Yellow-cypress are found at higher elevations on the westward side of the Coast Mountains. In these areas where annual precipitation exceeds 150cm, and where temperatures are seldom below -18C, winter snowfalls accumulate to great depths. This depth of snow helps insulate the roots from freezing and allows the needed supply of sap to continue to flow through the winter months. At Cypress Provincial Park the annual average snowfall is 6.5 m – which provides both a lot of

insulation to the roots as well as a lot of weight to be carried on tree boughs and limbs. However the trees have adapted well to the heavy snows by growing flexible limbs that sweep out and down with fern-like fronds which shed the snows and help minimize damage to the tree.

From a distance, yellow-cypress can be identified by its buttressed trunk with



dirty white to greyish brown bark, flattened branches that hang limply downward and leaders that droop similarly to that of western hemlock and western redcedar. Young yellow-cypress trees are shabby and warped but gradually straighten as they grow taller.

Unlike most trees, the cones of the yellow-cypress mature at the end of the second season. Beginning as round, knobby, light-green 1 cm long “berries” covered with a white waxy powder, they ripen to brownish round cones 6 – 12 cm in diameter with 4 – 6 woody scales. Mature cones cling to the sprays long after they have shed their small winged seeds. As you walk the trails can you find a yellow-cedar “berry” and cone?

Yellow-cedar bark is fairly smooth and reddish on young trees, but becomes light gray with age. The mature bark is shaggy and hangs in loose rough pieces. Unlike western redcedar bark, it does not peel off in long strips. And if you find a piece of bark on the trail lift it up and take a whiff - it smells like raw potatoes.

The yellow in the tree’s name comes from the colour of the wood. In the botanical name, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, *Chamaecyparis* means “false cypress” in Greek because the cones resemble those of the cypresses. *Nootkatensis* refers to Nootka Sound on the west side of Vancouver Island where it was first identified by botanists. In the United States, the tree is more commonly called Alaska-cedar.

Yellow-cypress are able to resist decay from the natural fungicides in the wood that ward off the many species of fungi and insects that can attack the tree. The wood is light in weight, relatively strong and stiffened does not swell or shrink much when soaked and dried.

Due to the qualities found in both yellow-cedar and western redcedar, these trees were an integral part of coastal Indigenous culture – and their lives, providing everything from shelter to transportation to clothing to utensils. Indigenous peoples used the tough, straight-grained yellow-cedar wood to make carving implements. Bows, paddles, masks, dishes and chests were also made from the wood. The inner bark was prepared and used for weaving clothing and blankets.

There is one remaining mystery in the Park about the name “Cypress”. Of course it is the name of one of the trees and the name of the park, but the Mountain? Where is Cypress Mountain? Certainly not in the park. The name remains as a legacy of the 2010 Winter Olympics when the name was chosen for the official freestyle skiing and snowboard venue!



Montizambert Creek and the Yew Lake Wetlands- the mystery of the 'disappearing' creek and the Loggers Shack.

Alex Wallace

Prior to the 2010 Olympics, we were presented with plans that included a huge reservoir or artificial lake on the road between the Pumphouse and the current bridge leading to Bowen Lookout. This would have been excavated into the wetlands and boggy area uphill from the road, and the massive soil heap resulting from this dig would have formed the south bank of the reservoir and a large earth dam to retain the water. We raised several concerns at a fairly packed meeting on this proposal, that included the wetlands, the excavation, and the clear possibility that the whole thing would be destabilised by the long-predicted major earthquake that would conceivably happen during the lifetime of the dam - resulting in a gigantic debris torrent racing straight down towards Sunset Marina and Howe Sound. The 1983 debris torrent that caused several fatalities in Lions Bay in 1983 was the result of a similar situation with a dam at high elevation built on layers of sediment, and we saw a similar landslide near Strachan meadows in 1999/2000, that saw 2 acres of mountainside, including a section of the Howe Sound Crest trail, simply collapse downhill when the record 10m. deep snowpack melted.

Luckily (particularly in the aftermath of the Mount Polley earth dam failure) Bobby Swain of CBRL decided to listen to us, and instead excavated the snowmaking reservoir for the 2010 Olympics into solid rock within the ski area. However, this meant that the wetland plants in this second area, where the 1960s logging-era bunkhouse had stood, then had to be transplanted using an excavator some 500m. west out to the new 'protected' site created alongside the Pumphouse Road, which was largely successful. (VANOC then sent dozens of international journalists trudging out to photograph the transplanted material, to show what a great job they were doing in protecting the environment within Cypress Provincial Park.)

One of the suggested 'benefits' of the earth dam proposal was that it would reinstate Montizambert creek to its old course that still partially flows on the North margin of the wetlands, instead of the current and rather odd alignment that we see going straight into the Old-Growth Forest beside the entrance to the Yew Lake trail: the creek would have been directed into the east end of the reservoir or lake, and from there would flow out of a spillway at the far end and down towards the Sunset trail bridge. While this section of the creek at the Pumphouse Road is generally bone-dry in summer, i.e. where most visitors see a large culvert beside the Pumphouse – with no water in it all summer - this South Branch of Montizambert Creek drains most of the south facing slope of Mount Strachan, so there are several weeks when it is a raging torrent, bringing rocks, gravel, and organic material down towards the Yew Lake wetlands. It was not clear how well this seasonal torrent would be contained by the reservoir, as in the past it has destroyed the culvert itself, and the current 'culvert' at the Pumphouse is, in fact, a recycled section of steel lift tower for durability.

Just a few years later, in 2013, it was noted that the alluvial material deposited seasonally in the forest by the creek was now being retained by fallen trees, and this was creating what looked like a baseball diamond in the forest. On further investigation it was found that the construction road to the old 1972 BC Parks dam just to the north was collapsing, with the road building material used some 40 years previously now being carried down the creek. [Note: The BC Parks dam, built of concrete, unfortunately filled completely with rock within two years of its construction, so potable water is nowadays drawn from the creek bed just upstream from the Pumphouse itself.] The result was that this accumulation of sand, rock and gravel was blocking the creek and due to this diverted flow, new channels had already been cut through the forest floor- exposing the roots of many large trees, and gradually moving the alignment of the creek more to the east and heading it towards Yew Lake. This was quite worrying, and in an effort to avoid a seasonal torrent breaking through the nearly flat wetlands and thereby cutting a permanent channel into Yew Lake itself, Ranger Andrew Simpson cut through several of the downed trees that were forming natural barriers, leading to this unexpected buildup of alluvial material. Larry Syroishko of BC Parks agreed that the situation needed to be addressed, and noted that this gravel and rock would be excellent material for trail repairs, if we could haul it back up the mountain: however he revealed that BC Parks had no emergency funding to deal with an unforeseen event like this, i.e. in this instance where the Yew Lake area could be severely and irreversibly affected by a single severe winter or spring freshet event cutting a new creek channel from one watershed over into the other - through a peat bog that would offer little resistance. Friends of Cypress requested help from Bobby Swain, and although he had no machinery that was small enough to go down the trail into the area, he was able to get cooperation from North Construction of West Vancouver (who had built the Olympic Venues) and with a mini-excavator and the operator, the east bank of the creek channel was reinforced with the accumulated rock material from the streambed. BC Parks had notified their hydrologist, but in a short visit to Cypress between projects, he gave his opinion that the creek flow through the forest was a natural feature. [This despite a previous report that we had seen- the "Will Carr report"- stating that it was a diversion of the creek, and the area should be remediated.] We had consulted retired local hydrologist Graham Seagel via director (and retired engineer) Mike Castle. Based on his extensive experience all over BC, Graham Seagel drew up a short report and sketched out a plan for flood control, which was the diagram that we were following on his advice. Over time we lowered the bed of the creek by 1m. through the alluvial material that had been deposited in deep layers over the last 50+ years, which allowed the creek to remain in the alignment that still brought it out on to the wetlands in late winter and spring, but lessened the danger of it flowing out Southeast towards Yew Lake. This still left the remnant 'old' creek flowing Northwest as we think it originally was aligned, plus the flow that constantly is flowing below the surface at the Pumphouse area, but re-emerges from the wetlands some 200m. to the West, heading to Howe Sound. These two creeks join just at the Northwest end of the wetlands, near Halvor's Bridge on the Sunset Trail.

Quite unexpectedly, the remains of a shack then emerged from the deepening bed of the creek in the middle of the forest, and the artifacts that were gradually scoured up - including a rusty single bed frame, plastic sheeting, plywood, corrugated plastic, a sock, one beer can, and finally the stainless steel clip from a glass carafe made by the Wilbur Curtis Coffee Company [of Los Angeles] - all tended to date this to the mid-1960's when the logging was in full swing. We surmise that some of the loggers didn't like being housed for weeks at a time (?) in the bunkhouse in the middle of an extensive and baking hot clearcut, and so they instead built this recreational cabin in the forest. Some of the plastic had been washed down into the wetlands over the years, and had been seen (or used) when the old route to and from the Sunset Trail was simply by trekking cautiously over the wetlands, but the source of this plastic material was a mystery. There also is a long length of black water pipe embedded in the layers of material alongside the creek, so this was something of a semi-permanent structure and the materials could not have been backpacked up there by hikers, and as there was probably a full truckload. This does tend to confirm that the creek was not in the current alignment heading Southwest towards Yew Lake though the Old Growth Forest back then, fifty years ago, as the site would have been inundated by torrents of water and debris several times a year- not ideal for a recreational cabin. What may have happened is that when the logging operation was finished making a huge and indescribably awful clearcut on Black Mountain, they started to log the forested slopes of Mount Strachan, and in order to extract gravel for roads in the Gravel Mine area* that can be seen just west of the Pumphouse, the creek was diverted into the forest by bulldozing and the "Loggers Shack" was flooded, until over the ensuing decades it gradually became partly buried by rock, and parts of it just disintegrated and were washed away. *[n.b. this is in fact its name]



Currently, what remains of the shack are the cut stumps in the bed of the creek where the floor was installed, some plastic sheeting is still emerging from the bank of the creek, the waterline piping is still largely intact further north along the creek channel, and on several of the surrounding trees it can be seen that the shack builders nailed up wire clothesline to support the plastic sheeting using six-inch nails. So this definitely dates to the mid-1960's, and it is not ancient settlement or just a messy campsite - someone built it with the intent of using it for several years. Looking at all the evidence, it may have been larger than we originally estimated, and possibly was in use for as long as five or six years: the logging in Cypress Bowl lasted roughly a decade up until 1972, when Dave Barrett shut it down and created Cypress Provincial Park, and at that time the big trees on the lower slopes of Mount Strachan were being clear-cut (under the direction of the West Vancouver Forest Ranger: he had been directed by West Vancouver Council to draw up an orderly plan for logging Strachan.)** In a way, the destruction of much of the forest in Cypress Bowl, (which had been declared a Park Reserve in the 1940's), by the dubious logging operation

in the 1960's was the impetus for the creation of the park, in order to save what remained of Cypress Bowl, and the 'Loggers Shack' described above is one of the few remaining artifacts of that era. **Source: West Vancouver Council Minutes.

First There Were Two—Now There Are Three

Carnivorous Plants present in Cypress Provincial Park Lyn Grants

Until recently, as recently as August 9, 2021, **two** carnivorous plants only were known to grow in Cypress Provincial Park. With the confirmation by researchers from UBC (and the University of Wisconsin) that a plant fairly common within the park draws nutrients from fruit flies and other small insects we now have **three**.

The carnivorous plant we are probably most familiar with within the Park is Round-Leaved Sundew or *Drosera rotundifolia*. We find it at Blue Gentian Lake and in a number of other boggy patches in the Park. How does sundew *Drosera Rotundifolia* exercise its carnivorous habits?

Sundews trap prey in sticky hairs on their leaves. Tentacles protrude from their leaves. At the tip of each tentacle is a sticky gland. The gland produces a nectar to which mosquitoes and insects are attracted. (The nectar to us looks just like a dew drop). When an insect adheres to the sticky gland, tentacles on the plant reach out to trap and smother it. (Do we really need Scfi?) The sundew then digests its prey, thereby supplementing the poor mineral nutrition it obtains from the soil or boggy area where it grows. Sundew was well known to Medieval herbalists. It was recommended as a cure for coughs and consumption, as a way to control epilepsy, and to deal with kidney and bladder infections.



Flowers of British Columbia Pojar & Mackinnon for indigenous uses.



The second carnivorous plant recorded within the Park is Common Butterwort or *Pinguicula vulgaris*. The common name Butterwort and the *Pinguicula* warrant a little explanation. The suffix “wort” comes from old English “wert” meaning Plant and the “butter”, according to many sources, from the belief that butterwort encouraged or protected the productivity of milk cows, and that the juice of butterwort could relieve the discomfort of cows suffering from chapped udders. In Ireland in the

past, butterwort leaves were used to curdle milk to form a buttermilk-like fermented milk product.

And what about the Latin *Pinguicula* from “pinguis” meaning fat or greasy? The sixteenth century herbalist, John Gerard, who attached the Latin name, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, thought the leaves of the butterwort looked greasy, like butter. Sure enough, butterworts use sticky, greasy, glandular leaves to lure, trap and digest insects, again, as with sundews, supplementing the mineral nutrition they fail to get from the soil or bog they grow in. And *Vulgaris*, meaning common- frequently seen. Maybe then, but not so now in Cypress Provincial Park. Sadly, Butterwort is not ‘vulgarus’, but “rarus”. Butterwort is now rare within the Park. (Of interest, a new species of Butterwort was discovered in Turkey in 2013. The species name is *habilli*, named after an amateur botanist who discovered it. This new species grows in difficult terrain and is thought to be critically endangered).

And now a research team from UBC has identified a third plant within the Park as carnivorous, *Trianthus Occidentalis*: “the first new carnivorous plant to be identified by botanists in almost 20 years” said Dr. Sean Graham, a professor in the department of Botany at UBC (UBC Science, August 9, 2021). It grows quite abundantly in the Park, in boggy areas where you might expect to see sticky false asphodel. Unlike the two carnivorous plants mentioned above, the *Trianthus Occidentalis* captures very small midges and insects on the glandular sticky hairs on its stems, the first known example of such a plant using its stalk to trap and consume insects.

And, cleverly, the sticky hairs on the stalk are not sticky enough to capture butterflies and bees which the plant needs as pollinators.



So hike with eyes open. Cypress Provincial Park is indeed a botanical wonderland. And we need to keep it so.

A short addendum

At the end of the article in UBC Science August 9 2021, the researchers acknowledged support from Cypress Provincial Park.

I was intrigued. What sort of support was offered? To find out I asked Joanna Hirner, Conservation Specialist for the South Coast Region what form Parks support would take. The first form of support is permission. Quoting Joanna: “Parks gave permission for the research in 2017, including some conditions in the permission limiting the number of visits and specifying the route to access the site, staying on trail as much as possible. A particular site was chosen, because it was out of the public eye which protected the research site from tampering, while also discouraging the public from seeing the researchers and thinking it was okay to hike off into that area as well. The chosen site while off the trail was close enough to the trail to limit the amount of off trail walking. Any work undertaken within the Park needs Park’s permission”.

Renewing Your Membership

Your \$10 FCPP membership is for a one year period. If you wish to check your membership status for renewal, please contact treasurer.

Please clip and mail the membership form below. FCPP Directors greatly appreciate your support of the work our Society does to enhance and protect Cypress Provincial Park.
THANK YOU

For membership in Friends of Cypress Provincial Park mail to:

Treasurer, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society. Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City and Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

Enclosed is \$10 for single/family membership.

\$_____ is added as a tax deductible donation.

Total Enclosed is \$ _____
(Charity BN/Registration #80249 2372 RR0001)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

