



Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society
P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N3
www.cypresspark.ca

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration & membership renewals

CAPILANO LIBRARY (Potlatch Room)

3045 Highland Blvd., North Vancouver, BC

Underground parking available but closes promptly at 9:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

Presentation by Bev Ramey, Coordinator,

Vancouver Natural History Society Centenary Celebrations

Professor John Davidson and the Vancouver Natural History Society

Nature Appreciation and Conservation

Adoption of Minutes of April 18, 2017 AGM

Directors & Treasurer's Reports for 2017

Plans for 2018

Election of Directors for 2018

Adjournment

Our meeting will begin with a presentation by Bev Ramey, Coordinator of the VNHS Centenary Celebrations. Bev will speak on Professor John Davidson and the Vancouver Natural History Society: Nature Appreciation and Conservation. John Davidson was BC's first provincial botanist and founded the Vancouver Natural History Society (now Nature Vancouver) in 1918, serving as its president from 1918 to 1937. Cypress was an early exploration area for Davidson and botanists. He arrived in Vancouver from Scotland in spring 1911. In July 1912 Davidson made a botanical exploration of Black Mountain and Hollyburn Ridge, discovering that Hollyburn was not part of Black Mountain as previously believed, but was separated from it by Cypress Creek. He gave

Hollyburn Mountain its name during this 1912 exploration. Bev's presentation will also describe historical activities of Nature Vancouver, with focus on its summer camps, promotion of nature appreciation, conservation work to establish parks and wildlife areas, and its members forming several new specialized volunteer organizations, including Friends of Cypress Provincial Park.

Bev is well known in the natural history and conservation community for her volunteer work over three decades. She is a Past President of BC Nature and is currently a Board Member of both BC Nature and Nature Vancouver. She worked for several years as a planner for Greater Vancouver (now Metro Vancouver) Regional Parks, coordinating public consultation, park establishment, vegetation surveys and trail layouts.

A Tribute to Dave Barrett 1930-2018

We regret to report that Former Premier Dave Barrett passed away on February 2, 2018 following several years of poor health. A few years ago a plaque was placed at Hi-View Lookout by BC Parks, honouring Barrett for his role in the establishment of Cypress Provincial Park. The plaque is mounted on the low wall overlooking the city and the ocean.

Dave Barrett – Premier of British Columbia - 1972-1975

Throughout the 1960s, the future of Cypress Bowl was hotly debated. In 1964, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) by the name of Dave Barrett pressed the Minister of Forests to honour a commitment to preserve forest lands in Cypress Bowl. What followed was an eight year effort by MLA Barrett to save Cypress Bowl from chainsaws and residential development. Elected British Columbia's Premier in 1972, his dream was finally realized when his government established Cypress Park as a "Class A" Provincial Park in 1975.

Dave Barrett was elected to serve as an MLA in British Columbia from 1960 to 1975, and from 1976 to 1983. He was elected as a Federal Member of Parliament serving from 1988 to 1993. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 2005.

Winter 2017/2018 Report - BAC Improvements & Brown Bag Room

Backcountry Access Corridor (BAC) signage was improved after feedback from local groups and this appears to be working well. Limitations on early passage through the Alpine Ski Area were removed after an intensive consultation process, and the trails beyond are now accessible from 7am during the winter ski season. The Brown Bag Room (aka Trip Registration Room) is still the source of complaints. Discussions are underway with a view to upgrading both the Brown Bag Room & washrooms in Black Mountain Lodge – which are used by ski area paying customers, not just hikers! Cypress Mountain Resort is required to maintain these facilities under its Park Use Permit.

Vancouver Area BC Parks Staff 2018

In late January, BC Parks Vancouver Area Supervisor Larry Syroishko retired after 35 years of service. FCPP Directors have worked with him ever since our group was founded 28 years ago. We will miss his cheerfulness and his extensive knowledge of BC Parks matters. David

Whiteside is currently serving as Acting Vancouver Area Supervisor. Senior Rangers Scott Donker and Erin Rutherford are also on staff and two auxiliary rangers will be hired for the summer. Unfortunately, they have nine other Vancouver Area parks to look after. We do not yet have official confirmation on an increase in BC Parks' 2018 Operating Budget.

Elyse Curley has been hired as a Community Liaison Officer. This is a new position first proposed in the previous government's *BC Parks Future Strategy* to encourage more public participation and volunteerism in local area parks. We look forward to Elyse's assistance with our work at Cypress.

The South Coast Region contains 60% of BC's population and Cypress has the highest park attendance in BC with 929,982 visits in 2015/16 [*BC Parks Statistics Report 2015/16*]. Golden Ears Park was the 2nd busiest with 899,255 visitors; Mt. Seymour was the 3rd busiest with 899,057 visitors. Figures for Golden Ears and Seymour include campers. Cypress is 3012 hectares. Golden Ears is 20 times larger at 62,540 ha. Seymour is 3509 ha. While the high visitor numbers at Cypress and Seymour are to a great extent the result of these parks' ski operations, the number of hikers has been increasing significantly in recent years, with parking lots often crowded in summer.

Planning 2018 Trail Work

On March 1 Lyn Grants, Alex Wallace and other FCPP Directors met with BC Parks staff David Whiteside, Scott Donker and Erin Rutherford to begin planning for this summer's trail improvements. FCPP Directors expressed their frustration to BC Parks (as reported in our Fall/Winter 2017 Newsletter) about lack of trail work progress during the summer, especially in regard to BC Parks being unable to secure a trail crew for Black Mountain trail work, using the \$40,000 that FCPP had placed in the Park Enhancement Fund for that purpose. Part of last year's problem was a significant changeover in ranger staff related to Senior Ranger Andrew Simpson moving to Nelson. Although there will be a late start to the summer season due to this winter's 4 meter snow pack, trail work plans have been confirmed, and the environmental assessment has already been done by Ranger Scott Donker. BC Parks is confident that a crew can be hired by early August when the snow is gone, preceded by a hike where FCPP and BC Parks will review the site in detail and agree on methods. The first upgrades to be tackled are the slippery rock slabs on the trail to Eagle Bluff, followed by other improvements in Fall 2018. BC Parks staff are enthusiastic about this and other trail work, and of course we are happy that we will have potentially four Rangers and a trail crew working at Cypress in 2018.

Trail maintenance and improvements

If you would like to be on our list for specific Ranger-supervised trail projects this summer, including bog bridge installation on Black Mountain, minor trail re-routing, brush clearing, culvert cleaning, etc., please contact Alex Wallace (awallaceATtelus.net).

Trail Watch program

FCPP has maintained a “Trail Watch” program since 2007 to assist BC Parks by checking “authorized” park trails at the start of the hiking season, undertaking minor trail work, reporting to BC Parks on major work that needs to be done (e.g. downed trees), and picking up garbage, etc. throughout the season. Trail Watchers attend a training session with BC Parks in late spring and are assigned specific trails to look after. Thanks to the 16 Trail Watchers who provided help in 2017. Please contact Anne Leathem (anneleathem07ATgmail.com or 604-988-9390) if you would like to be involved in 2018.

Summer guided walks and hikes co-sponsored with Nature Vancouver

We are planning to offer guided walks and hikes in the park again this summer to increase appreciation of the park’s natural environment. Please contact Lyn Grants (lmgrantsATgmail.com or 604-980-9050) if you are interested in helping.

Cypress Invasive Plant Management Strategy

Conservation Specialist Joanna Hirner expects to be able to distribute the final draft of the Invasive Plant Management Strategy soon for review by stakeholders and is planning a stakeholders’ meeting in mid-May to receive feedback on the Strategy and get input on implementation priorities and the implementation plan for 2018. We will provide further information, including the meeting date as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing BC Parks’ plans for managing invasive plants at Cypress and the role of Parks staff, Cypress Resort staff and volunteers in invasive plants control, especially Reed Canary Grass. (It’s worth remembering that Joanna has 100 parks to look after.) See link on Reed Canary Grass. <http://www.shim.bc.ca/invasivespecies/private/ReedCanary.htm>

Special Report on Pikas – Look for Them This Summer

In early October 2017, we received an email from a hiker who had seen a pika while hiking on Black Mountain in late September. The pika was near the Upper Forks ski run “at the 90 degree turn, right on the Baden-Powell Trail.” In the past, pikas have been seen in this area and also at the top of Hutch ski run on Mt. Strachan and on the rock slide area below Eagle Bluff, but none have been reported for several years. FCPP Director and biologist David Cook has now provided a special report on pikas to increase our understanding of them. Please watch for them this summer and report any sightings to infoATcypresspark.ca or David Cook (cookeco2ATyahoo.com; 604-924-0147).

No room at the top? Or not

David Cook - March 2018

There are 30 species of pika worldwide, mostly in Asia and eastern Europe. There are two species in North America. Our local species is the American pika (*Ochotona princeps*). Collectively, pikas are known as rockrabbits, boulder bunnies, whistling hares or coney and are about 20 cm long with round ears and no visible tail. The term pika derives from an eastern Siberian word. They are related to rabbits and hares and are not rodents as is commonly thought. They are a true alpine mammal with a lower elevational limit of 800 metres because they cannot tolerate temperatures above 26° C for more than 6 hours. In the wild they live for a maximum of 6 or 7 years, but their average life span is 3 to 4 years. The habitat for the North American species are rock piles usually at the base of cliffs and chutes known as talus. They do not hibernate and spend their summers carrying mouthfuls of grass and wildflowers from mountain meadows to "haypiles" which they dry in the sun and then cache away from the elements within their rock-pile habitat. The classic image of a pika is one hopping from rock to rock with a little 'bouquet' of wildflowers in its mouth.



Photo Credit: Ann Schonlau

Former known habitats that have become vacant have been used as an argument for climate change. The theory goes that as global warming proceeds, so the pika must move up higher and higher in elevation until it runs out of habitat. This is a very depressing scenario and does not bode well for the species. This scenario and the disappearance of pikas from areas where they were previously observed has been used as an argument for their extirpation and eventual extinction due to global warming.

However their sudden absence and reappearance, sometimes years later in the same area, had been somewhat puzzling and prompted research by various workers, most notably in the Cougar Peak area of Idaho and the mining ghost town of Bodie, California. This work provided an alternative explanation to a climate change scenario as follows.

Pikas are very territorial and each year the parents drive their young away. Also, because of their short life span, a particular territory can become vacant for some time until it is reoccupied by a rejected young pika from a nearby territory. Using this argument, vacant pika territories are natural and to be expected, and have nothing to do with climate change.

Recently, vocalizations and sightings of pikas have been reported in both Cypress Provincial Park and Seymour Provincial Park after years of no such sightings. These reports can therefore be best explained by population dynamics rather than climate change.

Nominations for 2018 FCPP Board of Directors

FCPP is required to have at least five Directors on our Board. There are currently eight Directors (see below). Marshall Bauman and Katharine Steig are stepping down. Lyn Grants is willing to stand for election. If you are interested in serving on the Board or know someone who might be, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Katharine Steig

(katharineATsteig.com or 604-922-7949). Nominees must have been FCPP members in good standing for at least six months prior to election. We look forward to hearing from you.

FCPP DIRECTORS for 2017-2018

President: Lyn Grants; Vice-President: Anne Leathem

Secretary: Anne George; Treasurer: Irene Miller

**Directors-at-Large: Marshall Bauman, Eva Nagy,
Katharine Steig, Alex Wallace**

Contact us at infoATcypresspark.ca, 604-980-9050 or 604-922-7949

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Your \$10 FCPP membership is for a one year period. If you wish to check your membership status for renewal, please contact Treasurer Irene Miller (ivm3924ATshaw.ca or 604-224-7768) or Katharine Steig (katharineATsteig.com or 604-922-7949)

Please clip and mail the membership form below or print out the "Join Us" form on www.cypresspark.ca Or you can renew directly at the AGM.

FCPP Directors greatly appreciate your support of the work our Society does to protect and enhance Cypress Provincial Park. **THANK YOU!**

For membership in Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, please mail to:

Treasurer, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society
P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N3

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City & Postal Code _____ Tel _____

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 # 89249 2372 RR0001)

Thank you for your support.

