



## 'Tis the season



*It always seems that time passes more quickly as the end of the year draws near. Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to clean out nest boxes, remove invasive species and plant native species. We always enjoy getting out to community events and having our pop up displays in the park. It is a great opportunity to meet park users and share what we do as well as answer questions about Burnaby Lake Regional Park and its birds, wildlife and plants. Even with the weather change, it is always a great time to take a Nature Break - especially as the busy holiday season is upon us. We're seeing the tail end of the Fall Migration and the birds who winter here will be arriving soon. Speaking of birds, remember to register your budding birder for the Christmas Bird Count for Kids and mark your calendars for our Open House on December 1! Wishing you and yours a happy healthy holiday season. - Irene Lau, Chair - BLPA Board of Directors*

## Get to Know the BLPA's Community

Since 2019 is [International Year of the Salmon](#), we would like to introduce to you to a key member of the Burnaby Lake Community who have advocated for our ecosystem which includes the Brunette River, beginning at Cariboo Dam. The Brunette faced major pollution from increasing industrialisation from the 1920's, making it uninhabitable for salmon and other species. Members of another like-minded group, the [Sapperton Fish and Game Club](#) (formed 1962) began the Brunette River Restoration Project with a goal to return it to the good fishing days of their memories. Since 1969 until the present, this work has included physical cleanup of river, improving water quality, building fish ways, and releasing salmon fry into the river from the Club's own hatchery which they built and have operated since 1997. Their reward came in October 1984 as the first Coho Salmon swirled and jumped in the restored river system after a 30 year absence. To see a brief video which shows the history of the cleanup, visit [burnabylakepark.ca/about/history](http://burnabylakepark.ca/about/history).



*Elmer Rudolph, President, Sapperton Fish & Game Club at Cariboo Dam. New Westminster Record, January 12, 2012.*



*The Sun, December 13, 1984.*

# Stewardship Progress

The Weedbusters program started in 2004 which makes it one of the original Invasive Species Removal programs in Metro Vancouver! In fact, there are 5 of the original group that are still involved weedbusting or with the BLPA in some way. This year, the BLPA held 12 Weedbuster work parties from April to September.

- Outside of special groups, there were 36 people who joined us for the first time.
- On June 29, we hosted Catching the Spirit Youth Society (CTS). It is a program for youth aged 12- 18 focused on leadership, social responsibility and environmental stewardship. It's led by youth for youth - visit [CatchingTheSpirit.com](http://CatchingTheSpirit.com) to learn more.
- We also hosted employees from [Norland Limited](http://Norland Limited) at the end of September for a corporate event. This great group helped us do final site preparation at Lenson Field for the EcoBlitz-TD Tree Days event on October 20.

		STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS 2019			
WORK PARTY DATE	WORK LOCATION	# OF VOLTS	VOL. HRS	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVED (kg)*	
1 April 28	Glencarin (South Shore Trail, Deer Lake Brook)	21	63	425	
2 May 26	Avalon	26	80	305	
3 June 9	Lenson	37	85		
4 June 11	Lenson (combined weight with 9th)	5	15	140	
5 June 29*	Lenson (CTS)	16	42	80	
6 June 30	Glencarin	16	52	190	
7 July 7	Glencarin	10	32	110	
8 July 9	Lenson	10	20	140	
9 July 14	Lenson	9	42	190	
10 July 16	Avalon	10	30	50	
11 Sept. 8	Nature House/Piper Spit	20	58	165	
12 Sept. 28*	Lenson	13	39	115	
* Catching the Spirit Youth Society Invited Group		193	143	1910	
		* Estimated Weight			
July 28*	Sapperton Landing	21	63	115	
* Special Request by Metro Vancouver Regional Park		214	621	2025	

If you are interested in bringing your group, whether it's a community, youth or company or family to a Weedbusters work party, please contact our coordinator Ann at [info@burnabylakepark.ca](mailto:info@burnabylakepark.ca) to find discuss.



Photo: Ann Green



Photo: Ann Green



The BLPA's forebears, the *Burnaby Outdoor Education Association* (and later the *Burnaby Lake Advisory Association*) and the intrepid "Group of Ten" led by Bob Gardner, who planned, fundraised and managed the building of the trail system around Burnaby Lake, from **1973 to 1995** - that's 22 years!

# EcoBlitz - TD Tree Days 2019

On October 20th, the BLPA held its 6th Annual EcoBlitz and 2nd **TD Trees Day Event** and we did our part to mitigate the effects of climate change. In spite of soggy conditions, the event was a resounding success!

Thanks to our amazing 120 volunteers who planted 550 native species in the Lenson Field restoration site at

the east end of Burnaby Lake. It was great to see Mayor Hurley and Councilors Dhaliwal and Wang come out to show their support. Since 2018, the BLPA with support from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff, has held 12 work parties here with over 280 volunteers from Burnaby and neighbouring communities. These hard working volunteers have put in over 760 hours removing over 1600 kilograms (3500 pounds) of invasive species. We are grateful to TD 's The Ready Commitment, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Operations staff as well as our Coordinator Ann for getting us organized, our board and team leaders. **Great job!**



Photo: T. Bassett



Photo: E. Wong



Photo: J. Lau

## BLPA History

To commemorate Burnaby's 125th anniversary in 2017, the City of Burnaby Community Heritage Commission conducted research projects which included the [preservation of Burnaby Lake](#) by community activists (us!) who worked to clean up and preserve its aquatic environment and biodiversity. This information was presented at the Burnaby Public Library in October 2017, our AGM in April 2018 and this sign was installed at Piper Spit this Autumn.



### PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

## Saving Burnaby Lake

**EARLY HISTORY**  
Burnaby Lake was first seen as a transportation route and for logging in the 1840s. It was used for 100 years by First Nations people. The water levels of the lake were nearly cut off from the ocean to access the lake and the islands from the 1850s until the 1920s when the lake was opened to the ocean.

**HUMAN INTERVENTION**  
By the early 1900s, logging operations had reduced the old growth forest surrounding the lake. Natural vegetation in some areas replaced with the forest to the north and along the shore. A dam built on the Burnaby River in 1912 to regulate water levels caused the flow of water, and by the 1930s the lake was filling with all size aquatic plants.

**RESTORATION AND ADVOCACY**  
Early restoration of the lake recognized the lake's recreational value. In response, the municipality began parkland and rearing work in a single park in the 1920s. However, by the late 1960s the lake was heavily polluted and unsuitable for the public. A coalition of parkland and advocates began working to improve the lake's health. The Burnaby Lake Advisory Association set a system of trails around the lake in the 1970s. Public support for the lake grew leading to the creation of Burnaby Lake Regional Park in 1976.

**KEEPING IT NATURAL**  
Burnaby Lake is valued for its wetlands and riparian habitat. Natural cultural heritage, the lake will gradually restore the natural habitat. Strategies to slow the natural settling process to maintain open water for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

**PEOPLE**

Human concern culminated for the preservation of Burnaby Lake for over 20 years, however.

HERITAGE BURNABY - Burnaby Heritage Commission

1840s - Burnaby Lake was first seen as a transportation route and for logging in the 1840s.

1912 - A dam was built on the Burnaby River to regulate water levels.

1920s - The lake was used for recreation and as a source of water for the city.

1970s - The lake was used for recreation and as a source of water for the city.

1976 - Burnaby Lake Regional Park was established.

1980s - Burnaby Lake Regional Park was established.

1990s - Burnaby Lake Regional Park was established.

# Holiday Traditions



CHRISTMAS  
BIRD COUNT  
FOR KIDS 2019

Save **Sunday, December 1** in your calendar for some fun at the Burnaby Lake Nature House!

Do you know an aspiring birder? Sign them up for the annual [Christmas Bird Count for Kids](#).

**TIME:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM      **AGES:** 8-14 years      **COST:** Free

This is a fun way to introduce kids to the wonders of birding. Learn basic birding skills like how to use binoculars and a field guide to identify as well as reporting findings during this winter bird count. Enjoy the BLPA Open House afterwards. Presented in conjunction with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Interpreters. **Space is limited and registration is required.** Two easy ways to register: Online at [www.metrovancouveronline.org](http://www.metrovancouveronline.org) (use barcode **7860**) or call **604.432.6359**.

Join the BLPA for our [Annual Open House](#)!

**TIME:** 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM      **AGES:** All      **COST:** Free

Drop by the **Nature House** to enjoy crafts and complimentary refreshments or join a guided nature walk. A schedule of events will be posted on our website and social media closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you!



## Mark Your Calendars!



### NOVEMBER:

- **20:** 7-9 pm, [BLPA Board Meeting](#) (CAO)
- **21:** 6-9 pm, [GardenWorks Open House](#)
- **23:** 2:30-5:30 pm, [Edmonds Festival of Lights Holiday Fair](#)

### DECEMBER:

- **1:** (Burnaby Lake Nature House) 9 am-12 pm, [Christmas Bird Count for Kids](#) (ages 8-14 years, free but registration required)
- 11 am-2 pm, [Christmas Open House](#)

As soon as we have details confirmed, we will have our 2020 event dates on our website event calendar early in the new year.

Keep an eye on our website or social media for event updates, or send volunteer inquiries to: [info@burnabylakepark.ca](mailto:info@burnabylakepark.ca). Event details and meeting locations as well as other outreach and event listings with our community partners can be found at: [burnabylakepark.ca/events](http://burnabylakepark.ca/events). If you are reading this online or on your computer, any text that appears [like this](#) is will link you to another location on the internet for more information.



Preserve · Restore · Protect

**Contact us:** 9146 Avalon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V3N 4G8  
Email: [info@burnabylakepark.ca](mailto:info@burnabylakepark.ca)      Tel.: 604.520.6442  
Newsletter: [irene@burnabylakepark.ca](mailto:irene@burnabylakepark.ca)  
[www.BurnabyLakePark.ca](http://www.BurnabyLakePark.ca)

Join us on Social Media: @BurnabyLakePark

