

# Volunteers In Parks

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25 year recipient David Buchanan and Regional Parks Senior Manager Mike Walton

## Recognizing Our Dedicated Volunteers

By Colleen Long

Each year CRD Regional Parks recognizes its long-term volunteers at a recognition event. It is an opportunity to show appreciation for our volunteers and your many contributions.

The volunteer recognition event took place last November at the Olympic View Golf Club in Metchosin. The golf club put on a splendid buffet lunch which was followed by a keynote presentation by Bob Peart, Founding Chair of the Child and Nature Alliance of Canada. Mike Walton, the new Senior Manager of Regional Parks, introduced himself to the volunteers and thanked everyone for their role in helping to protect regional parks and serve the residents of the region. *Continued...*



Volunteers and staff at the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Event



Tony Aish



Kathy Atherton



Jim Trick



Kaylin Henry



Richard Waterfield, Diane Knight, Gordon Tolman, Colleen Long

Regional Parks Committee Chair, Susan Brice, gave an address noting the contributions that volunteers play in helping to connect children and families with nature and the outdoors and thanked everyone on behalf of the CRD and residents of the region. Also attending the event were Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer of the CRD and Alastair Bryson, CRD Board Chair.

The awards ceremony recognized 28 volunteers who had contributed one to 25 years of service. David Buchanan, Volunteer Warden at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park, celebrated 25 years of volunteering with Regional Parks. What an incredible accomplishment! David recently resigned from his role as he has moved into town and no longer lives near the park.

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the event. It was great to see so many of you there and to meet your family and friends. Until next year, we will see you in the parks and on the trails.

### 2013 Award Recipients

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Award Recipients:

- Alex Bonare – Warden Horth Hill
- Amanda Munsell – Naturalist Witty’s Lagoon
- Andrea Morrison – Warden Thetis Lake
- Brandon Kirklevy – Gatekeeper Mill Hill
- Christopher Causton – Warden Gonzales Hill
- Claire Buchanan – Naturalist Witty’s Lagoon
- Darrin Day/Kevin Pockett – Warden Galloping Goose
- David Hamilton – Gatekeeper Mill Hill
- Elizabeth Johnson – Warden Galloping Goose
- Eshu Martin – Warden Roche Cove
- Jeff Dicken – Warden Lone Tree Hill and Mt. Parke
- Jim Trick – Warden Thetis Lake
- Kathy Atherton – Warden Galloping Goose
- Kaylin Henry – Naturalist Francis/King
- Kristina Coleman – Naturalist Francis/King
- Landon Benson – Warden Mill Hill
- Sandra Pappas - Restoration Volunteer
- Steve Yaron – Gatekeeper Mill Hill

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Year Award Recipients:

- Bobby and Mischa Arbess – Naturalists Francis/King
- Diane Knight – Warden Mill Hill
- Gordon Tolman – Warden Mill Hill
- Lisa Maria Schlosser – Naturalist Francis/King

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Year Award Recipients:

- David Leigh – Warden Galloping Goose
- Else Holzken - Naturalist Witty’s Lagoon

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Year Award Recipient:

- Tony Aish - Naturalist Witty’s Lagoon

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Year Recipient:

- David Buchanan – Warden Elk/Beaver Lake



## VIP Profile

**E**rie Pentland is a volunteer naturalist at the Francis/King Nature House and began volunteering there in October 2010.

### **What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

I enjoy a combination of things. I have always really liked the Nature House itself as it is small, intimate and very hands on. I think my favourite visitors are the children as they engage in all the different activities and especially their response to the live bee hive and the newts in the aquarium. I could do without the rats that frequent the bird feeder however.

### **What is your favourite volunteer experience or memory?**

I wouldn't classify this as my favourite experience however it is certainly the one I remember the most vividly. It was my very first day. I was already a bit nervous especially about deactivating the alarm. I must have looked at the code 5 to 6 times on the day of my first shift. Yes you guessed it I set the alarm off! But did I panic? Of course! I can't even remember how I turned it off. All I can remember was punching in the code over and over. Finally it was quiet.

### **What is your favourite park?**

There are so many great parks in the area. Francis/King is one of my favourites because it is a hidden gem. Often people at the Nature House say it is their first time in the park even though they have lived in Victoria for many years. They are surprised at its size and diversity being so close to the city.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I moved to Victoria in 1991 because of the easy access to the outdoors. I enjoy hiking, kayaking/canoeing camping and travelling. My husband and I try to do these as often as possible. When I am not volunteering I work as an occupational therapist with special needs children in the Sooke School District.



## Staff Profile

**A**dam Hancock is the Team Lead/ Carpenter in Park Operations. He started at Regional Parks in April 2013.

### **Where have you worked previously?**

I previously worked in residential construction, primarily building custom homes. In 2010 work led me to commercial construction with the carpenters union. I had a great time working with the local companies and developing a new skill set.

### **What is your favourite park?**

My favorite park is probably Mill Hill because I grew up so close. Riding our bikes through the mud by the stream, hiking and climbing the rocks. Always enjoyed the view of Victoria. But what I like most is being able to stand on top and look at my home town. I've always been proud to be from Langford.

### **Where were you born?**

I was born and raised in Langford. I grew up on what is now Veterans Parkway.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I graduated from Belmont Sr Secondary. I went to work on a construction site that summer and never looked back. In 2002 I finished my carpenters apprenticeship at Camosen College. Trade school was an awesome experience. I met some great people and made some great friends. I live about ten minutes from work, if I walk, so I have the best commute I've ever had. My wife and I have two little girls and we are very happy to raise our family in the community we both grew up in. Thanks for the opportunity to share a bit about myself.

# Volunteer & Park Updates

## New Volunteers Welcomed

Welcome to our new Volunteer Naturalists.

Francis/King Regional Park:

- Emily van der Sande
- Renee Cenerini
- Sue Schaefer

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park:

- Adriana Saavedra
- Anna Fodchuk
- Hannah Flagg



## Volunteer Warden Program Name Change & Recruitment

The Volunteer Warden program has had a name change to Park Steward to more adequately reflect the role. It was the result of a review of the Volunteer Warden program. The role of Park Stewards is to foster positive relationships with regional park and trail visitors through information, education and professional role modelling. They monitor regional parks, trails and facilities and report observed problems, issues and trends.

Recruitment for Park Stewards is underway. They are needed at Albert Head Lagoon, Bear Hill, Devonian, East Sooke, Elk/Beaver Lake, Horth Hill, Island View Beach, Mount Wells, Mount Work, Thetis Lake, Witty's Lagoon, and the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Park Steward, please have them contact Colleen Long: [clong@crd.bc.ca](mailto:clong@crd.bc.ca) or 250-360.3329. A job description is posted on the website at [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).



## Canada Geese Overpopulation

Did you know that the Capital Regional District is experiencing an overabundance of Canada geese? It is estimated that we have more than 5000 resident Canada geese in the region. This large non-migratory population is having a negative impact on farmers' crops, regional water quality and sports and school playfields. Since 2010 the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy has been working to better understand and manage resident geese in our region. A working group, comprised of land owners, local and provincial government staff and others, is working with Environment Canada to develop a sustainable approach to managing resident geese in the region. What can you do to help? Help others understand the issue by visiting our webpage at [crd.bc.ca/regionalgoosestrategy](http://crd.bc.ca/regionalgoosestrategy).



## Salt Spring Island Biking and Walking Trail Feasibility Study

The Capital Regional District is gathering public input from Salt Spring Island residents on a feasibility study to potentially develop a cycling and pedestrian trail along a 1-kilometre section of the south approach to Ganges Village on Fulford/Ganges Road. The CRD supports cycling and pedestrian roadside walkways on Salt Spring Island. Regional Parks funded and coordinated this study as part of our interest in establishing a regional trail for cycling and walking between Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius Bay ferry terminals through Ganges village.