

Volunteers In Parks



Feature:
Annual Volunteer
Recognition Event

VIP Profile:
Bill Spriggs

Staff Profile:
Beatrice Frank

**Volunteer &
Park Updates**



Making a difference...together

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Highlights of the 2015 Regional Parks Volunteer Recognition Event

By Colleen Long

The annual Volunteer Recognition event is an opportunity for Regional Parks staff and elected representatives to show their appreciation and acknowledge the many contributions that volunteers make to Regional Parks.

The 2015 recognition event took place on October 17 at the Olympic View Golf Club in Metchosin. The event started off with a wonderful breakfast buffet put on by the golf club and was followed by addresses to the volunteers from both the 2015 CRD Board Chair, Nils Jensen, and CRD Regional Parks Committee Chair, Susan Brice.

The keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Eric Higgs, Professor in the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, gave a provocative talk titled, "Meeting the Challenges of Rapidly Changing Ecosystems."

Dr. Higg's talk was followed by our awards ceremony in which 36 volunteers were recognized for their years of service, ranging from one to 25 years. Of special note, there were three volunteers recognized for more than 20 years of service. Roxana Argast, Park Steward on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail near the Sooke Basin received her 20th year award. Two volunteers received their 25th year service award: Bill Spriggs, Volunteer Beekeeper, and Ray Creasser, Volunteer Park Steward along the Galloping Goose Regional Trail and Witty's Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin. Such length of service and commitment to an organization are rarely seen.

As always, the highlight of the event for me is having the opportunity to connect with all of you and to meet your friends and family members. If you weren't able to make the event, we hope that you can join us this year. Thank you again for all that you do on our behalf for Regional Parks and the residents of the region.

2015 Award Recipients

1 Year Award Recipients

- Alison Harle – Park Steward
- Beverley Hall – Restoration
- Chantelle Clark – Park Steward
- Dorothy Elias – Restoration
- Dylan Sayer – Park Steward
- James Benson – Park Steward
- James Chapman – Restoration
- Jeni Luther – Park Steward
- Jerry Ezekiel – Park Steward
- Julie Thomson – Park Steward
- Lara Wear – Park Steward
- Larry Hall – Park Steward
- Lotus Cooper – Naturalist & Park Steward
- Margaret How – Restoration
- Michael Ray – Park Steward
- Michelle Kramer – Naturalist
- Robin Kilstoff – Park Steward
- Sean Rangel – Naturalist
- Steven Leclerc – Park Steward
- Susan Hitchcock – Naturalist
- Tabitha Jones – Naturalist
- Terri Carelius – Park Steward
- William Bates – Park Steward

5 Year Award Recipients

- Erie Pentland – Naturalist
- Fred Burgess – Naturalist
- Hans Roemer – Restoration
- Katelyn Musto – Naturalist
- Paula Johanson – Naturalist

10 Year Award Recipients

- David Gellately – Park Steward
- Kaye Leicester – Park Steward
- Kem Luther – Park Steward

15 Year Award Recipients

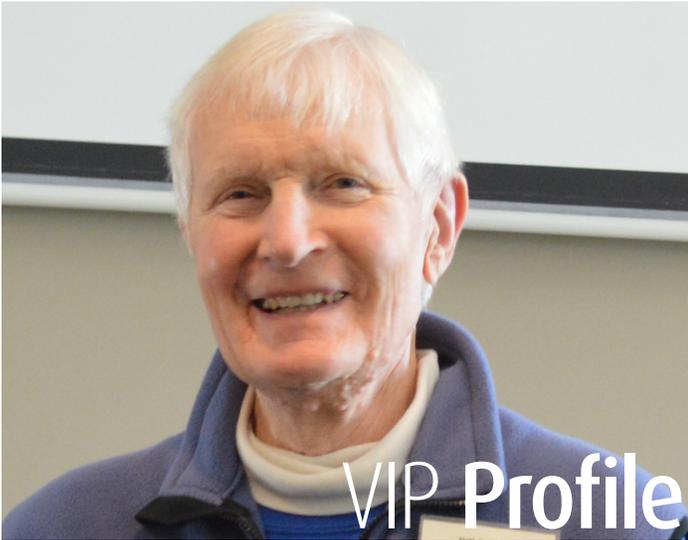
- Moralea Milne – Restoration
- Randy Cunningham – Naturalist & Beekeeper

20 Year Award Recipient

- Roxana Argast – Park Steward

25 Year Award Recipient

- Bill Spriggs – Beekeeper
- Ray Creasser – Park Steward



VIP Profile

Bill Spriggs is a volunteer beekeeper at Francis/King. He has been volunteering with parks for 25 years.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

The most enjoyment I have with my volunteer work is to talk to visitors about bees and explain what we are doing when we are dealing with the observation beehive.

What is your favourite volunteer experience or memory?

There are many good memories about our work with the bees but there is always great satisfaction when Randy and I have done a particular job successfully and put the observation hive back together with the queen bee inside. Though we have never lost a queen it is always a concern that this could happen.

What is your favourite park?

All the regional parks are special to me but one that stands out is Sooke Potholes because I have spent so many hours picnicking and swimming there with my children long before it was a regional park. As a scout leader in those days I have also taken my scouts there camping many times.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in a little town about 20 miles from Montreal called Baie d'Urfe in 1930. My childhood was close to idyllic in that lovely rural neighbourhood where there was lots of vacant land, not many people and friends to explore all the possibilities that life presented us. Eventually I went to the nearby college and earned a degree in Agriculture specializing in horticulture. A short while later, I went to Fredericton, New Brunswick, and graduated as a forester. I came to BC and began working with BC Parks, a dream job for a fellow who loved the outdoors, and stayed there until I retired in 1988. I was very fortunate in having Cicely Meek as my partner for 35 years, who shared my interests and traveling in our Westfalia camper. I also have two daughters, two grandsons and a great granddaughter.



Staff Profile

Beatrice Frank is the new social science specialist. She conducts surveys to understand public opinions, values and expectations toward regional parks and trails.

She also engages citizens in planning and management by developing response forms and organizing public meetings and workshops.

Where have you worked previously?

During my undergraduate studies in Biology and graduate research in Conservation Biology I have carried out extensive biophysical research on wildlife management and conservation. From my PhD in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Management, I have engaged the public through interviews, focus groups and other engagement tools on human-nature interactions. Before coming to Victoria, I was in Oklahoma working as researcher on engaging the public in climate change discourses, with a special emphasis on resilience, vulnerability, human security and environmental justice.

What is your favourite park?

I recently moved to Victoria and to be honest, it is difficult to decide which park I love the most. I guess, East Sooke has impressed me the most among the Regional Parks. I had never seen a Northern Pluvial Forest before. My hope is to explore more parks and trails in the coming years and fall in love with many other unique landscapes of this gorgeous eco-region.

Where were you born?

I was born and grew up in Rome, Italy. Thanks to my academic career, I lived in St. John's, Newfoundland and Oklahoma, and worked across North America and Europe.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am passionate about nature, hiking and wildlife watching. I love working on nature conservation issues, thinking about enhancing coexistence between people and wildlife, and contributing to the protection of the natural landscape.

Volunteer & Park Updates



CRD is Celebrating 50 years!

On February 1, 1966, the Capital Regional District (CRD) was created as part of the provincial government's initiative to establish the regional district concept of local government throughout BC.

The CRD is marking this milestone with a variety of activities. There will be geocaching adventures (see May 1 in the brochure for an introduction to this exciting outdoor recreational activity), a summer celebration and a coffee table book commemorating regional milestones throughout the last 50 years.

Those who are on Twitter can connect with us by using the hashtag #CRD50. We have a new web page where we'll be posting details as they become available. We'll post it on Facebook as well.

Visit these sites for opportunities to share your regional history, and for information on a variety of celebrations that will take place throughout the year.

Connect with us 

 Capital Regional District

 @crd_bc | #crd50

 CRDVictoria

www.crd.bc.ca/anniversary

New Volunteers Welcomed!

Welcome to our new Volunteer Naturalists.
Francis/King Regional Park:

- Valerie Hawkins
- Shandy White
- Jade Steel



Service Plan 2016-2019

Guided by the CRD Board's strategic priorities, parks staff developed a multi-year service plan for 2016-19. The service plan outlines core service information, including key service drivers such as trends, service levels, workforce considerations, and performance measures. This plan highlights initiatives and implications for the overall work program and budget. See the dashboard on page 5 for a snapshot of the park priorities for 2016.

Download the CRD Regional Parks Service Plan, as well as the CRD budget process, CRD Corporate Plan and CRD Annual Report at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/strategic-plan/corporate-planning>



Priorities Dashboard > Regional Parks

Priority	Comments	Action	Timing
ACTIVE & MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION Design and manage regional trails as transportation corridors for users now and in the future.	Completed draft Regional Trails Management Plan; conducting public consultation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Complete public consultation process ▶ Complete plan and begin implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016 ▶ Q3, 2016
BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH Showcase best practices for managing invasive species on CRD lands.	Ongoing management of invasive species on CRD parks and watershed lands on a project-by-project basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enhance awareness of invasive species disposal options and management ▶ Send second staff representative to Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016 ▶ Q1, 2016
BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH Work with partners to open the Sea to Sea Park.	Developing trails and toilet facilities, installing signs and implementing staff patrols in Mt. Manuel Quimper area of Sea-to-Sea parklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pursue an agreement with First Nations to agreed-upon terms of use for the Sea-to-Sea parklands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q2, 2016
BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH Strategically acquire protected areas which contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation goals.	CRD Board approved 2015-2017 Land Acquisition Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Present proposed list of land acquisitions for 2016 to Regional Parks Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016
BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH Determine future CRD role in regional wildlife management (fallow deer, bullfrogs, geese, etc.).	Prepared briefing note on geese management; prepared briefing note bullfrog management; 2015 discussions at committees and commissions indicate support for operational wildlife management but questions remain about need for regional wildlife service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wildlife management continues on an operational level ▶ Governance Committee to consider establishing a working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ongoing ▶ Q3, 2016
CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT Evaluate the use of innovative technologies and corporate support systems for continuous improvement and effective service delivery.	Completed project charter for the Regional Parks' online registration system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Initiate tender process for online registration system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q2, 2016
EDUCATION, OUTREACH & INFORMATION Expand on successful education partnerships and program delivery to include innovative in-person outreach and educational programs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop strategy for uniforms for Regional Parks employees with high public visibility positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q3, 2016
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Undertake monitoring, education and remediation programs to support decision-making and management of natural resources.	Completing preliminary water quality monitoring and analysis for Elk/Beaver Lake and engaging with province as appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Present to Board tendered bids for weed harvester for Elk/Beaver Lake ▶ Create part-time Elk/Beaver Lake watershed coordinator ▶ Begin identification of priority land acquisitions in the Coastal Western Hemlock Ecosystem Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016 ▶ Q2, 2016 ▶ Q2, 2016
FIRST NATIONS Explore feasibility of establishing a First Nations hunting protocol in CRD lands in recognition of the Douglas Treaty	Prepared draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Regional Water Supply Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Finalize MOU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016
REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE Ensure that resources are available for investment in current and future infrastructure, demonstrating efficiency and value for money and meeting regulatory and service requirements.	CRD Board approved 2015-2017 Land Acquisition Strategy; conducting detailed design and engineering for Mayne Island demonstration trail (associated with the Experience the Gulf Islands initiative); allocating new funding for development, planning and construction of Salt Spring Island/Southern Gulf Islands regional trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Present proposed list of land acquisitions for 2016 to Regional Parks Committee ▶ Develop project charter for identifying regional spine and loop trails on Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island (associated with the Experience the Gulf Islands initiative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016 ▶ Q1, 2016
REGIONAL PARKS Prepare and update park management plans.	Completed Island View Beach Management Plan consultation in 2015 and developing draft plan; completed draft Regional Trails Management Plan and conducting public consultation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Present final Island View Beach Management Plan for adoption ▶ Complete Regional Trails Management Plan and begin implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q2, 2016 ▶ Q2, 2016
REGIONAL PARKS Increase access to recreational trails within park boundaries and consider opening new park reserve lands.	\$650,000 grant awarded from Trans Canada Trail organizations to assist with construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Complete detailed planning & engineered design for Trans Canada Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Q1, 2016