



News and Views

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Economy hits non-profits hard

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When the economy took a downturn in September 2008 all non-profits and charities looked on with concern knowing full well how this event would play out in our little niche of the world.

A year has past and many non-profits have had to close their doors forever because funding support has decreased or ceased to exist.

Changes in the Provincial Government's Gaming Direct Access rules has also hit many non-profits and charities hard. NWPS relied heavily on this funding support and when our application was declined we were very concerned about our

ability to continue with our environmental education programs.

NWPS has worked hard to refocus our efforts and work with new sponsors to ensure that our environmental education programs continue to provide school aged children and adults with important information about our environment.

NWPS is exceedingly grateful to the Estate of Ms. V. Sproule who came through with significant funding support this year.

Thanks to Ms. Sproule's Planned Gift Giving donation NWPS can continue to provide environmental education programs for years to come.



Students participating in an environmental education program funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Please think about Planned Gift Giving when you consider estate planning. The gift you provide to a non-profit or charity keeps your memory alive.

Coming Events:

- Christmas Fundraiser – supports environmental education programs for students throughout BC
- Manley Farm Barn Renovations— fundraiser to generate support for barn restorations

From the Desk of the Executive Director

2009 has been an interesting year for everyone at NWPS. We have put more focus on partnering with like minded groups to increase our delivery of programs.

The Green Team of Metro-polis Metrotown have been in-

strumental in raising awareness of our environmental education program through their editorials supported through Vancouver Sun and Province and newsletters they produce and distribute through Metro-town Centre. Pacific North-west Raptors Ltd. continues to

work with NWPS on our Manley Farm project helping us with the design of our bird sanctuary. We are grateful to both of these groups for their support and dedication to the environment.

Youth Estuaries Stewardship Project - 2009



Woody debris clean up

Thanks to the funding support of Chevron, TeeKay Shipping and VanCity NWPS was able to provide a Vancouver Inner City School with a Youth Estuary Stewardship program.

The program is an in depth study of estuaries and their importance. NWPS provides 6 in-class sessions and two field study days. Students, teachers and volunteers learned how to identify wildlife, record their

observations, test water quality and are engaged in a range of activities that gage the health and vibrancy of the estuary system.

This year's participants set a record for the most woody debris removed from the area. Over 8,400 lbs was removed from the area and responsibly reprocessed as wood chips!

This debris clean up helps promote the growth of native es-

tuarine vegetation as well as providing wildlife habitat for the many species that depend on this biologically productive ecosystem.

The stewardship project is also a team building exercise that helps everyone understand the importance of working together to protect natural environments. Students also leave that individually they can a real positive impact too.

Lending a Big Hand to Coastal Wildlife

In September 2009, NWPS participated in the annual TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup which attracted hundreds of participants from around the Lower Mainland.

With the help of several enthusiastic volunteers from Big Brothers and Big Sisters, NWPS was able to thoroughly clean a large section of shore-

line at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver .

Volunteers combed the entire waterfront picking up hundreds of pounds of garbage and waste material. Contests were held to find the most unusual debris and a number of strange items were found on the beach.

NWPS would like to thank Vancouver Courier for their support at this events. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who helped out and made the effort to clean up a large beach area so that humans and wildlife can continue to appreciate the space.

Check out the Events Calendar on our website for information on walks and presentations



Our Youngest Donor

NWPS staff were thrilled to receive a donation from a kindergarten student this year. Little Apryl, who turned 6 this spring, had a birthday party and decided to share her gifts by making a donation to Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society.

Apryl's class had recently participated in a Wildlife in the Schools presentation from NWPS which prompted her generosity.

Apryl is a bright, engaging young girl and her special interest in wildlife shines through.

She shared her stories about all the wonderful wildlife that visits her home and community parks with staff.

NWPS staff and volunteers are inspired by Apryl's generosity, and thank her greatly for her gift.

Creature Feature: A Titan Among Us

Grizzly bear, the very name conjures up fear and images of destruction. Many people fear the Grizzly because of this image but the Grizzly bear is actually a reclusive, shy animal that does its best to stay away from human contact. The Grizzly left undisturbed and un-harassed is a peaceful creature. The unfair reputation the Grizzly bear's have has been developed from misrepresentation in movies and media. This animal is of little threat to humans when their space is respected.

Without a doubt, when people think about the great Canadian wilderness they think of this iconic animal. With 14 centimetre claws and weighing over 320 kilograms, Grizzlies are formidable animals.

Grizzly bears are omnivores. They require thousands of calories daily to survive. Their natural sources of food are grasses, sedges, tubers, grubs, larvae, shellfish, berries, bird

eggs, fish and mammals. The Grizzly requires a large range to be able to support its food requirements. They have suffered greatly from the reduction of wild spaces and their population is on the decline. Grizzlies are now extirpated from much of their former range in northern Mexico, throughout most of the continental United States and the Canadian prairies. Extensive habitat loss, over-hunting and poaching are some of the reasons for the decline.

What can you do to help this magnificent of creatures? Becoming aware of the truth about Grizzly bears is a start. They are not the dangerous, destructive, blood thirsty animals that Hollywood and media has made them out to be. Humans need to respect these animals critical place in a healthy ecosystem and provide a space in the world for these creatures. Understanding and respecting the Grizzly's habitat needs and ensuring that suffi-

cient wild spaces are left for these gentle giants to roam for food and shelter is critical to their survival.

Write to government agencies asking to protect large wilderness areas for grizzlies and other wildlife and restrict these areas from hunting. Support environmental groups that provide balanced environmental education information on the value and importance of wildlife and wildlife habitat. If we want to have Grizzlies for generations to come (and we need to), then we must act with the same strength and perseverance as the Grizzly because a world without this great bear would be a worse place.

"As surely as the sun rises tomorrow morning, grizzly country is wilderness country, and he can't live without it. Humankind has chosen to fight the wilderness, but the Grizzly can show us something of what it means to live in harmony with nature." Andy Rus-



Check out NWPS' Bear presentation for more information about Bears in BC

Green Ribbon Campaign

Thanks for the support of IGA, IGA MarketPlace and BC Liquor Distribution Board the 2009 Green Ribbon Campaign was the biggest campaign since inception.

We distributed 700+ Green Ribbon donation boxes

throughout the Lower Mainland during the months of April, May and June raising over \$5,500 in support of our Environmental Education programs. This equates to over 30 funded programs for Inner City Schools that would otherwise not be able to participate

in our Wildlife in the School programs and Nature Walks and Workshops.

Thank you to everyone who donated and wore their Green Ribbons to show their support of the Environment.



Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society

203-5066 Kingsway Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5H 2E7

Phone: 604-568-9160

Fax: 604-568-6152

E-mail: info@northwestwildlife.com

Please visit our website:
www.northwestwildlife.com

Preservation Through Education



*Thank you to all the Corporate and Individual Supporters of
NWPS' environmental education programs:*

BC Hydro

BC Liquor Distribution Board

Chevron

IGA/IGA MarketPlace

Metropolis Metrotown

Royal Bank Foundation

S.C. Johnson & Sons

TeeKay Shipping

Telus

TD Friends of the Environment

Twin Berry Farms

VanCity Foundation

Manley Farm- Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island



Aerial photo of Manley Farm

The Board of Directors continue to work with the Estate of C.P. Granfield to complete the title transfer for the Manley Farm to NWPS.

NWPS has been working with the Estate for the past number of years to ensure that the wishes of Mrs. Granfield are met under the terms of her will.

To the greatest extent possible, NWPS will be creating a bird and wildlife sanctuary on the 240 acre property, one of the last wild spaces left in the Cobble Hill area.

NWPS is in the process of

developing a Land Use Plan which will provide the foundation to the strategic planning process required to fulfill our goals of creating the bird and wildlife sanctuary. NWPS will be actively engaging the surrounding communities and gathering information and feedback from interested stakeholders.

The property currently faces a number of funding challenges which need to be addressed. NWPS needs to resolve a number of maintenance issues that require attention as well as generate funding to support a Wildlife Educator to run envi-

ronmental education programs on and around the property.

With NWPS headquartered in Burnaby, we are looking to set up a satellite office on the property in the distant future to allow us to properly manage the farm and our environmental program.

We welcome any support and look forward to increased community engagement in 2010.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to donate funds for our work on the property or volunteer time to help with various projects that will be happening in 2010.