

VBGA **CLIPPINGS**



The Mission of the VBGA is "to inspire understanding of the vital importance of plants to all life." Each issue of CLIPPINGS offers you fresh insight into how we carry out that Mission, and deliver benefits to our members and the community.

INSIDE:

Remembering Roy:
Founding Curator &
Director

850 trees and \$700,000

Festival of Lights: Start
planning!

Docents pass the 17,000
visitor test

The VBGA would like to acknowledge that VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory are located on the occupied, unceded, shared lands of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílweta? (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Don Zarowny, President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the VBGA, I am pleased to provide a summary of your Board's activities since the AGM in the spring.

We have identified chairpersons for both standing and special committees, who will be reviewing and establishing work plans through the end of the business year.

For the municipal elections, the Board approved an Election Readiness and Engagement strategy, and hosted an all candidates briefing in August, where the mission and objectives of the VBGA were presented. Candidates running for the Park Board were also invited to speak at the Forum held at VanDusen in October.

The Board has begun working toward a new Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the Park Board. First, we will conduct a strategic business review together. The process will be at least ten months. The review is led by our Executive Director Stephen Shapiro while being advised by the JOA Committee (chaired by former President Richard Hankin).

Lastly, we were saddened to learn of the death of Henry Hawthorn, a Board member with a long history of service to both the Garden and Conservatory. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.



Vancouver Archives 01a Granville St. Forest near 37th ca. 1895

A LOOK BACK:

FROM THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES by Marina Princz, Librarian

Unsurprisingly, the site that VanDusen Botanical Garden occupies has seen many changes that reflect Vancouver's history and development.

The Garden exists upon the occupied, unceded, shared lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. For thousands of years prior to colonization, First Nations people flourished using the resources the land provided for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. European settlement, which began in the 19th century, brought many radical changes.

In 1886 the Garden property centered on an extensive 6,000-acre land grant given by the Province of British Columbia to the Canadian Pacific Railway for extending the country's transcontinental railway line. The original old growth forest was logged around the mid-19th century. By 1895, Granville Street was a dirt path surrounded by thin second growth forest, and was used as the main thoroughfare for farmers along the Fraser River to bring their produce to markets in the city. With further urban expansion came gentrification, and in 1912, the 109-acre Shaughnessy Heights Golf Course was inaugurated. It would remain a golf course until 1960. In 1975, VanDusen Botanical Garden was opened on a 55-acre portion of the original golf course.

For more information on the history of the site and Garden, visit the Yosef Wosk Library & Resource Centre and at vandusengarden.org/learn/library.



Photos: Angela Stearns, Volunteer Photographer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by Stephen Shapiro, VBGA Executive Director

It is my pleasure to be contributing to the fall issue of Clippings. Since my introduction in the spring issue, I continue to work with committees such as our long-standing Plant Sale, and am always impressed by the dedication and passion shown by our volunteers in all aspects of both the Garden and the Conservatory. I also want to thank all our members and donors for their continued contributions to the organization. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and look forward to building these relationships in the coming seasons.

As the municipal elections wrapped up, we concluded our first ever election strategy. Through educating candidates about the important work of the VBGA and hosting a public open forum with all Park Board candidates, we ensured the voices of the Association and our members were heard. We will continue to work with the Park Board and newly elected commissioners as work begins on a new Joint Operating Agreement in 2019.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BLOEDEL DOCENTS

by Penny Williams, Volunteer Writer

Remember the titan arum at the Bloedel Conservatory? The epic 10 days in July when the plant stunned 17,000 visitors with its beautiful bloom and dreadful smell? Not only did the *Amorphophallus titanum* show what it can do, so did the Bloedel Volunteer Docent Program.

Docents at Bloedel act as ambassadors to the Conservatory and enhance visitors' knowledge of plants and birds that live within the Conservatory through interactive, engaging experiences.

If you were there — if you received guidance, information, a reviving drink of water, or had your picture taken with the plant — then you experienced first-hand the volunteers' depth of knowledge and cheerful dedication. "It was exhilarating," says Docent Rosemary Dupuis, one of many who worked long hours to ensure satisfied visitors despite



the crowds and heat. "It's made me even more enthusiastic about my role here."

Initiated in 2014, Bloedel now has 35 Docents representing the Conservatory daily. "I love welcoming people and sharing information with them," says keen birdwatcher Mary Landell, who joined the team in 2015.

Gardener and parrot enthusiast Sandi Quattrociocchi, a Docent since 2016, nods agreement. "I love what we do. We help people connect with the plants and the birds." The Docents play an important role in the same connection the VBGA strives for through our mission and values each day.



Artwork by Jenn Cooper

Interested in volunteering? Visit vandusengarden.org/get-involved/volunteer for more information.

EDUCATION AT THE VBGA

Exciting news: Since 2016, the VBGA has doubled participation in our field trip programs, and we're looking forward to increasing that further. Thanks to the support of VBGA donors, we were able to add a Community Outreach Coordinator to the Education team to help meet the increased demand from groups wishing to visit the Garden or Conservatory, or for us to visit them. Hiring a Community Outreach Coordinator means we can spend more time engaging audiences not reachable before. This includes our largest Pollinator Days event yet! We subsidized transportation costs for classes otherwise unable to attend, and hosted almost 600 people. One bursary recipient called the day a "really fantastic educational experience" as her students explored our living classroom.

Even though most seasonal staff have moved on, we want to sincerely thank them for their hard work. Our Summer Camp Leaders reflected on their season in the Garden. "I loved watching the children learn about nature while being immersed in it, rather than sitting in the classroom," said Alanna. Blakely added, "I am so grateful to have had the chance to walk around the outdoors, talking with kids about nature and call it work."

We are thrilled to be expanding into a new space for programming, camps, and workshops as the Teaching Garden is developed in 2019. Make sure to sign up at our website for our monthly Education E-News updates to hear more. Want to get in touch directly? Email us at learn@vandusen.org.

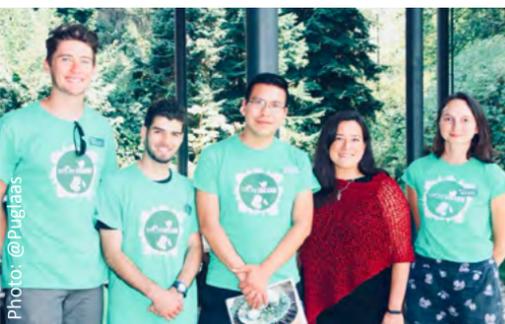


COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

by Penny Williams, Volunteer Writer

The VBGA exists to connect people with nature. Community outreach is one of the ways we strengthen those connections.

The work of our Canadian Heritage Educator is an example. This position was created as teachers consistently ask for indigenous-focused content. With federal funding from the Young Canada Works program, we hired Geronimo Alec, of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, to bring it to life. He began with summer camp tours and workshops — "I love teaching children, they soak it up like sponges" — and by early fall was contributing to adult programming as well. "I'm training Volunteer



The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, MP, visits our Education team during Summer Camp.

Guides, so they can integrate aboriginal knowledge into their existing tours, and I'm also creating a new Aboriginal Heritage Tour."

Yet sometimes outreach isn't about adding content, it's about removing obstacles. Our Bursary program offers free transportation and on-site resources to community and school groups that otherwise couldn't afford a visit, and it is constantly in demand. Devon Deckant, Field Trip Coordinator, quotes feedback from a leader on one of these trips: "Some [participants] have never been to such a place. One little girl stood next to me at the lake and said, 'This is the happiest day of my life'."

When we meet community needs, we enrich the organization as a whole, and we all benefit.

Photo: Raymond Chan



MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Janene Preston, Director of Membership Services

Over the past months, our members and their family and friends have enjoyed walks, talks, tours, exhibits, education courses, summer camps, and unique events such as the viewing of the titan arum (Uncle Fester) blooming at Bloedel Conservatory. Many members enjoyed respite from the heat within VanDusen Garden and attended the August Social Sunday VSO events! Member Mornings continue to be well attended from April to September. We are delighted with the support of our members, both returning and new, to our Association and look forward to engaging and informing our members through the coming seasons.

Gift Certificates for Membership:

Share the beauty of the Gardens! Gift of Membership is a great idea for special occasions. Purchase at VanDusen Garden 10am-3pm daily or over the phone 604-257-8675.

Monthly Member News & Education Updates:

Discover something new every month and season! Are you receiving our monthly electronic newsletters? If not, please contact the Membership Office 604-257-8675 or membership@vandusen.org.

Benefits:

For all discounts and benefits, a valid photo membership card must be presented.

- NEW! 10% off at Coquille Fine Seafood and L'Abattoir restaurants. Effective until Dec 2018
- Unlimited free entry to both VanDusen Garden and Bloedel Conservatory (special events excluded)
- Discounted admission to special events such as Sakura Days and Festival of Lights
- Bi-annual newsletter VBGA Clippings and monthly emailed Member News and Education Updates
- 10% off VBGA Adult Education programs
- 10% off and priority registration for kids camps
- Volunteer opportunities
- Borrowing privileges from VanDusen's Library
- Annual Members' Only Sale at VanDusen Garden Shop
- Discounts at participating nurseries, gardens, and "Vancouver's Must See Attractions".
- 10% off at Shaughnessy Restaurant

View all benefits at vandusengarden.org/get-involved/membership

EVENTS

Bird Walks

Saturdays: Nov 10th, Dec 8th, Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Mar 9th, 10am in Visitor Centre. Free for members, open to all

Speaker Series

Beatrix Potter: Illustrations of this World
Sat. Nov 10th, 2pm. Visitor Centre – Volunteer Lounge

VanDusen Members Only Sale at the Garden Gift Shop

Wed. Nov 14th & Thurs. Nov 15th, 10am - 7pm

Festival of Lights

Sat. Dec 1st to Sun. Jan 6th, nightly
www.vandusenfestivaloflights.ca

Medicine Wheel Ceremony

Sun. Dec 23rd, 12pm-3pm. Free for members, open to all

VanDusen 41st Annual Plant Sale

Sun. April 28th, 2019. 10am-4pm

Festival of Lights - Member Discount

Discounted tickets are purchased:

Online: As of Nov. 1st, purchase tickets for specific dates at www.vandusenfestivaloflights.ca. Select Member rates (service fees apply). Upon arrival, enter the Advance Ticket/Member Line, show tickets with valid photo VBGA membership card with current expiry sticker.

In Person: Available at VanDusen Admission Desk to be used any day of FOL except Dec 21-26 (purchase online for those 6 days). Present valid membership to receive discounted rates. Upon arrival, enter the Advance Ticket/Member Line, show tickets and membership card.

At the Gate: Tickets are available nightly at FOL from 4:30pm until 30 minutes prior to closing. Must present a valid membership for discount. Please note there may be wait times due to large volumes of visitors at the gate.

Important: For member discount, members must present a valid photo membership card with current expiry sticker. Please renew PRIOR to attending FOL; do not wait until the evening of the event. Renew at VanDusen Garden 7 days a week (10am-3pm), online at www.vandusengarden.org/get-involved/membership, or contact the Membership Office: 604-257-8675 or membership@vandusen.org.

Code of Conduct:

Please check out the revised Member Code of Conduct and Garden rules at vandusengarden.org/get-involved/membership

Get in touch with the VBGA:

Our full staff contact list is available at vandusengarden.org/contact-us

ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM THANKS LONG STANDING VOLUNTEERS

by Josh Coward, Director of Development

Since 1985, the Adopt-a-Tree program has raised almost \$700,000, with over 850 trees adopted. Thanks to a dedicated team, donors continue to honour and remember loved ones through the beautiful and often rare trees of VanDusen Botanical Garden.

The volunteers first help families identify the right tree for their circumstance, while working with the Curator and Head Gardener to assess the tree's suitability for adoption. Each adoption lasts 20 years, so picking a tree is no small task!

During the adoption process, a special bond is created among the family, the tree and assisting volunteers. In the case of memorial adoptions, the adoption can bring closure for families. To volunteer and lead this program ties together a unique understanding of the Garden, the trees within, and empathy.

For the last 15 years Jaki De Pape has led Adopt-a-Tree, with the help of Kumi Sutcliffe and Susan Lee. Looking back on this experience, Jaki commented:

"Fifteen years ago, I was approached to join the Adopt-a-Tree team. I wanted to decline as I had recently



Photo: Gustavo Sainz Negrete

experienced loss in my family and was not handling it well. Many tree adoptions involved the loss of a loved one and I could not imagine being effective in the role. I learned that it's OK to explore the circumstances of the tree adoption. I'm happy to say I've experienced personal growth through the experience. Families are happy to share, and match the person who is being honoured to a tree and its surroundings."

Team member Kumi Sutcliff added, "No matter the season, weather, or time of day, VanDusen is inspiring. I enjoy meeting people and learning about their connection to the Garden. Everyone has a story. Helping them find the right tree lets me research and learn about trees I never would have thought about."

The VBGA thanks the volunteers and staff who have been involved in this program over the years. If you are interested in learning more about the Adopt-a-Tree program, please contact us at 604-257-8190 or fundraising@vandusen.org. Thank you.



REMEMBERING VANDUSEN'S FOUNDING CURATOR AND GARDEN DIRECTOR, R. ROY FORSTER, OC

by Cynthia Sayre, Curator of Collections

"The importance of botanical gardens has increased for the simple reason that the world has changed so much, with loss of habitat, and species extinctions. The role of botanical gardens, not only for species, but for humanity as a whole, is to impart an understanding of the interconnected web of nature, of which we are a part as hominids." – Roy Forster, 2016

On September 7, 2018, we lost our dear friend, colleague and visionary, Richard Roy Forster, OC, at the age of 85. Reflecting upon his immense contributions to the Garden, I circle the mulched path around the R. Roy Forster Cypress Pond, dodging low-hanging bald cypress branches, full with this year's growth. The water reflects puzzle pieces of grey sky framed by blurred branches and interrupted by woody cypress 'knees' jutting up through the water. Everything is so dense, green and lush. It was Roy's favourite area of the garden and in 2016 this special place was named in his honour.

Roy envisioned and created 50 botanical collections which, woven seamlessly together, form VanDusen Botanical Garden. A formally trained artist and botanist, Roy used over 7,500 species and varieties of plants as his palette. He described his approach to garden design as "gardenesque" – planting so one collection flows into the next, connected by common elements of geographic origin or related species. Avoiding straight lines, collections are situated in their most suitable ecological niches within the landscape – lessons learned from nature.

Roy recalled, "In 1972, looking at the abandoned golf course (now VanDusen) as a painter, I saw it as a bare canvas ready for paint." For his inspiring living body of work, which will endure for generations, Roy was awarded the Order of Canada in 1999 and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003.

Deeply committed to conservation and environmental stewardship, Roy believed that VanDusen will serve as a centre to inspire future generations to protect the Earth's great diversity of life, which exists in such a precarious state. Perhaps his greatest legacy is that of hope.