

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE VBGA

As I complete my first year as VBGA President, I reflect on the tremendous strides our organization took in 2018, as all volunteers, whether they be Seed Collectors, Visitor Services, Guides or Board Directors, have contributed tremendous effort and commitment to both VanDusen and Bloedel Conservatory. Over its 41-year history, the Plant Sale has become a Vancouver 'must-do' event for all master and home gardeners with an eye for quality plant material and ideas.

Our Education programs continue to grow and excel with youth summer camps, adult courses and pre-schooler classes taking place in the library. Enrolment in these offerings has been ground-breaking and a testament to the department's belief in our mission:

To engage people of all ages and walks of life in the importance of biodiversity to our lives, and to foster a lifelong love of plants and gardens by virtue of their participation in our programs and services.

Development, membership and volunteer engagement have also experienced growth reflecting successful programs and initiatives pursued and implemented by our dedicated staff being steered by our Executive Director, Stephen Shapiro.

Moving forward into my second year, the Board of Directors will continue to seek a new partnership with the Park Board and contribute to a stronger relationship through a shared water conservation vision and facility improvement in both the Garden and Conservatory.

Our future is bright, and we can all take pride in the VBGA's success.

Don Zarowny,

**President, Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association** 



#### INTRODUCTION

The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association is the joint operating partner of VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory, in collaboration with the City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

In our 40+ year collaboration, our respective responsibilities have largely stayed the same. Park Board is responsible for the maintenance and management of the facilities and collections at both sites, special events, rentals and marketing; and the VBGA is responsible for educational programming, volunteer services, running the library and resource centre at the Garden, the website (vandusengarden.org) and select social media channels, and the membership program.

We also have a common vision: We want the Garden and the Conservatory to be cherished locally and renowned internationally.

#### **OUR MISSION**

To engage people of all ages and walks of life in the importance of biodiversity to our lives, and to foster a lifelong love of plants and gardens by virtue of their participation in our programs and services.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN

To be effective stewards of the trust and commitment we receive from all the donors, volunteers, partners, supporters and staff, the VBGA Board of Directors launched a three year strategic plan in 2015, one that we review annually to ensure that it continues to be appropriate and that we are staying on track. To that end, we have continued our work towards three ambitious objectives in a multi-year plan:

- Increase our engagement numbers (e.g. education enrollment; volunteer enrollment; library attendance, etc.).
- Second, increase our expenditures in the Garden and the Conservatory.
- And third, to be ready to launch a new capital project in VanDusen Botanical Garden or at Bloedel Conservatory.
- All of our efforts are focused on making the above a reality.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

The VBGA is led by a volunteer board of up to 20 directors. The board meets monthly. Every director must sit on at least one committee.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2018-2019)

#### **OFFICERS**

Don Zarowny President

Janet Rhodes Vice President

Christine McCaffrey Treasurer

Paul Kluckner Secretary

#### **DIRECTORS**

Terri Clark

Ann-Marie Copping

Vicky Earle

Pamela Fayerman

Edgar Hahn

Rich Hankin

Leslie Ann Ingram

Norene Kimberlev

Catherine Kinahan

Michael Murgatroyd

Rachel Von Sturmer

Angela White

Francis Wong

### **VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT**

Our volunteer force plays a pivotal role in expanding the VBGA's, Garden and Conservatory's impact on the community. Each of our volunteers helps bring our mission to life, connecting people to plants. 900 volunteers have contributed almost 45,000 hours during 2018 with a value of \$1.2 million.







value of

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale: Past and Present Chairs Celebrate





for an Educational



Working with kids challenged my mind to think to resolve an identified issue. that nature is the fascination and my family the most joy.

- Volunteer



creatively and objectively Most importantly, though, I'd like to thank VanDusen camps for reminding me to tap back into my "inner child", which believes that brings me, my friends

THROUGH VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- The VBGA's 40<sup>th</sup> annual Plant Sale raised \$55,000 and attracted 6,700 visitors to the Garden, which helped green our city through their love of plants. The Sale is volunteer lead by a passionate and dedicated team of leaders who take care of all logistics and coordinate over 400 volunteers! It was a pleasure to have chairs from the past 40 years join us for a special celebration and walk down memory lane.
- Docents shared their passion and knowledge of birds and plants with 17,952 Conservatory visitors. They also played a key role supporting visitors at Bloedel Conservatory during the Titan Arum or Corpse Flower bloom.
- Library volunteers ensured Western Canada's largest public access botanical and horticultural library was open extended hours and support library programming.
- Seed Collectors spread our collection around the globe as visitors brought home a piece of VanDusen through purchasing our seeds.
- The Today in the Garden volunteers created a display which inspires guests with what's in bloom now.
- Visitor services volunteers provided support to 21,441 individuals, enhancing their visit.
- School program leaders, summer camp volunteers, and pre-school storytime volunteers educated and instilled a sense of wonder for the natural world in our youth. Volunteers supported and inspired 6,861 children and youth in our programs.
- Guides shared the wonders of the Garden through walking and cart tours with 15,754 guests.

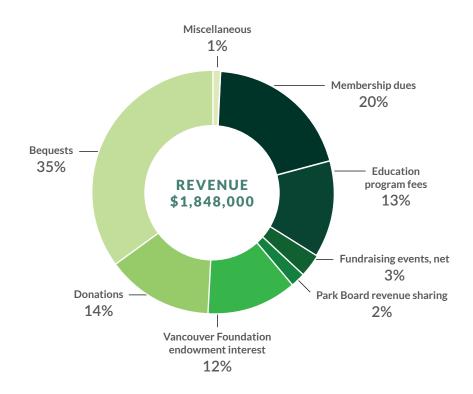
In 2018 the volunteer engagement department focused on strengthening our volunteer program through administration, communications, recognition, and culture.

The VBGA launched a new volunteer database which allows for more effective administration and communication with our volunteers. Volunteer Buzz e-newsletter and an increased presence on social media allow us to stay connected, highlighting volunteer stories, special events, and volunteer opportunities.

Enhancing volunteer recognition and strengthening our culture were approached through all volunteer socials, educational sessions and tours, and sharing volunteer stories.

Thank you to the time and efforts of all our volunteers, your support creates a meaningful and lasting impact on our visitors and the community.

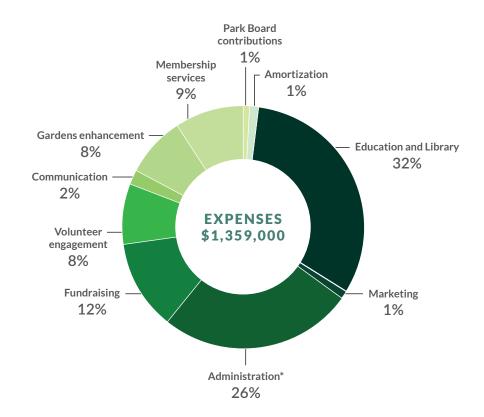
## FINANCIAL RESULTS



Thanks to the support of donors, volunteers, members, course and camp participants, and the Parks Board, the VBGA has completed its fiscal year with a surplus of \$489,000. Our financial statements are audited by BDO Canada LLP, and a copy of our full audited financial statements is available upon request.

Fundraising events consist of the annual plant sale and semi-annual soil, manure and compost sales.

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# GARDEN ENHANCEMENTS AND PROJECTS INCLUDED

- A dedicated Youth Education Coordinator
- Co-sponsoring the Plant Collection Symposium Juncheon
- Providing plant material to repair and grow the collections
- Providing labelling and interpretation supplies
- Addition of various species of exotic birds to the Bloedel Conservatory's population of free-flying birds
- Maintaining and repairing our tour carts to ensure those with mobility issues can continue to enjoy the VanDusen Botanical Garden

<sup>\*</sup>The administration costs shown are not allocated to specific program areas and are centralized support services.

# **VBGA EDUCATION**



**12,529**PEOPLE ENGAGED IN 2018

Recent years have shown consistent growth in VBGA education programs and demonstrated the community's appetite for more. During this time, extensive surveys, research and communication with our existing audiences informed us of their priority interests in programming. By examining local and industry trends in environmental education, population demographics of Metro Vancouver, and BC educational curriculum, the VBGA was well equipped to offer new programs with broad appeal to new audiences. With new programs for school students and day campers, professional development for K-12 teachers, continuing adult education, and participation in events throughout the Vancouver community, we effectively met our mission to engage people in the importance of biodiversity to our lives, and to foster a lifelong love of plants and gardens.

Creating a lifelong relationship with the natural world starts with meaningful outdoor experiences and learning opportunities that immerse participants in the splendour and complexity of our environment while making critical connections to nature. Through the VBGA education programs, we enhance community awareness and appreciation for horticulture and ecology, increase understanding of their role in the urban ecosystem, and empower participants to act as positive stewards of their environment.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**

- **137 workshops offered** in Botany, Art, Gardening, Wellness, and more
- 1,493 adult participants from the community

The VBGA's Adult Education program provided a range of classes, workshops and walks in ecology, horticulture, garden design, ethnobotany, botanical arts, and health. Exemplary learning experiences provided opportunities for hands-on learning, garden exploration, community-building, interactive experience, and applied knowledge for all learners.



"

These courses put you closer in touch with the natural world. - Workshop Participant, Natural Dyes and Pigments for Textiles

"

#### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- In 2018, we doubled the number of workshops offered and saw a **75% increase in teacher participation**
- We hosted three teacher candidates from UBC's Faculty of Education for their Community Field Experience
- 100% workshop fill rate

Professional development opportunities helped K-12 teachers to develop gardening skills, ecology knowledge, and the ability to teach students in nature-based learning. New workshops in 2018 included Indigenous Perspectives and Natural History of BC, The Garden Classroom Series, and Experiential Education - In and Out of the Classroom. In addition to workshops, we offer teachers individualized support for teachers through subsidized courses sponsored by Vancouver Master Gardeners as well as partnering with UBC in preparing the next generation of environmental educators.

"

This workshop gave me so many great outdoor ideas to use with my class. - Participant, Garden Classroom Series

"

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

- 133 schools brought 6,018 participants for field trips
- **43 community groups** brought **1,524 participants** for field trips

In 2018 the number of school participants attending guided programs grew by 25% while the number of community group participants ballooned by over 200%.

We offered a variety of field trips that immerse students in discovery at both VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory. Ranging from self-guided programs utilizing our customized online resources to 90 or 45 minute guided programs led by engaging interpreters, our curriculum - aligned programs encourage students to connect with the natural world.

To accommodate demand during the busy spring season, we introduced a new 45-minute format - and the response was incredible! In its inaugural year, the Glimpse of the Garden program hosted nearly 900 participants.

With help from the Canucks Autism Network, we've developed visual supports for our guided programs to help all students - especially students with autism or ADD / ADHD prepare for more engaged learning in the Garden.

"

We would like to say a huge thank you for hosting such a fabulous field trip. Despite the rain, everyone had a great time and learned so much! We can't wait for next year!
- Teacher

#### **POLLINATOR DAYS**

- 30 classes and groups brought 676 participants in 2018
- New partnerships and expanded availability increased participation by 65%

Pollinator Days is our annual field trip festival with a focus on science, art, and experiential learning to explore the relationships between plants and pollinators, and ways to engage in conservation through stewardship, knowledge, and citizen science contributions. In 2018 we welcomed more participants through new partnerships with groups like Border Free Bees, Environmental Youth Alliance, UBC Farm, and the Honeybee Centre.

#### **BURSARIES**

We are committed to expanding our reach and valuing diversity and inclusion. The long-standing Nature Express bursary covered the cost of bus transportation for students from under-served schools. Teachers often remark that these immersive educational experiences would not be possible without the help of our bursaries. In its second year, our Connecting Urban Youth to Nature bursary continued to provide access to the outdoors for youth from under-served communities by providing transportation reimbursement, Garden admission, and self-guided curriculum. New community partners in 2018 included the YWCA Crabtree Corner Community Resource Centre, KidSafe, and Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS). The SWIS program from Burnaby School District visited us twice in 2018, totalling 57 newcomers from China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Svria, India, and Japan.

You can't imagine how grateful and appreciative the new immigrant and refugee families were. They all want to come back! - SWIS Trip Coordinator

#### **CAMPS**

- 643 participants in Summer, Spring, and Pro-D camps
- 16 camp bursaries offered to families requiring financial assistance

The VBGA offers a variety of nature-based camps for children 5-12 years old throughout the year, including Spring Break, Pro-D day, and Summer Camps. Children explore nature by getting their hands dirty, discovering garden secrets, and observing the little details that make plants and animals so exciting.

In 2018, we offered more days of camps and developed exciting new camp themes such as Dirt to Dinner, where children could harvest and create a meal together, and Nature's Architects, where children learned about nature-inspired technology and biomimicry.

With funding obtained from Young Canada Works, we introduced a Canadian Heritage Educator into our programming. He facilitated First Nations focused workshops for over 350 summer campers, which included storytelling, games, and art.





"

Thank you for allowing my daughter to microscope her way through the world of plants, birds, and bugs. Thank you for fostering her connection to nature and for setting her up for biology, natural curiosities, and exploration. I recommend this camp to other families often.

- 2018 Summer Camp Bursary Recipient

#### **LIBRARY**

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- Visitors to the library **increased by 37%** over 2017
- The library offered 10 preschool story time opportunities in 2018, engaging 111 children and 89 adults

The Yosef Wosk Library & Resource Centre provides members and all the general public with quality resources and library services, including art exhibits, preschool storytime, Nature's Stories for Young Children, and a speaker series. In 2018, a new resource was launched for school teachers with curriculum-linked books digitally catalogued and available on the VBGA website.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- **2,104 members** of the community engaged through outreach at VanDusen and community-based events
- 11 bird walks offered with over 300 participants attending

At the VBGA, we reach people both at the Garden and the Conservatory, and outside at special events, schools, conferences, volunteer fairs, and professional development opportunities.

The new Community Outreach Coordinator position helped grow the VBGA's capacity as the year progressed, and through our efforts, the VBGA reached over 2,205 people through outreach alone.



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### **MEMBERSHIP**



11,000<sup>+</sup> 8,000 HOUSEHOLDS



At the heart of the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association are our members, donors and volunteers. As a not-for-profit organization, VBGA's passionate and loyal membership base of over 11,000, representing 7,900 households in 2018, contributed to and supported the Association, and both VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory in so many ways!

Our members enjoyed unlimited general admission to both VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory during 2018 regular open hours, received discounts to special events, and were offered quality member benefits including reduced rates for education courses, children's camps, and many attractions and restaurants within the Vancouver area. Membership revenue has grown over the last 12 months from \$352,745 to \$372,000 by end of 2018!

The monthly electronic Member News and Education News, and the paper VBGA Clippings continue to inform our membership with a broad range of topics and programs, offering a strong connection to both VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

Thank you to our members, donors and volunteers for their strong support, input and knowledge. You have made a difference! We look forward to seeing all new and returning members at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory in 2019!

### **2018 DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

2018 showed an increase in funds donated to the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association. We are thankful for the hard work and support of all you volunteers, donors, members, staff, guests, Park Board staff and our precious gardeners for making Bloedel Conservatory and VanDusen Botanical Garden two landmark locations in Vancouver. We would also like to give a special thanks to Truffles and the Shaughnessy staff for the wonderful job you do in providing great service to all our guests.

The Adopt A Tree program has been in existence for decades, and with over 800 trees adopted, it has raised close to \$1,000,000 to date. While the program has gone through many changes, one constant has been the commitment of VBGA volunteers and the Garden Director, Curator and staff. We would like to thank Jaki De Pape, Kumi Sutcliff, and Susan Lee for their amazing volunteer leadership and support. The essence of the program, as it is today, is built upon their personal effort and sentiment they put into helping match families with trees for special occasions and for occasions when people needed special attention.

At the beginning of the year, the VBGA Executive Director set up the **Sustainability Fund** to help preserve the legacy of VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory as two destination world-class botanical gardens. The Sustainability Fund helps the VBGA participate in emerging projects that support our mission, help build capacity and strengthen our cause.

Following in the footsteps of two great builders and philanthropists in Vancouver, W.J. VanDusen and Prentice Bloedel, who established these two great city treasures decades ago, the VBGA Sustainability Fund will build on this philanthropic tradition and invest in the future, ensuring the gardens will serve generations to come. The VBGA Sustainability Fund is held at CIBC Wood Gundy.

This year the **Alma Society** was established to recognize long-time supporters of the VBGA who have made significant financial contributions over the years. To launch this society, an inaugural event was held at the Shaughnessy Restaurant on November 31 and Alma Society Members were treated to a fantastic meal and special preview of the Festival of Lights.



For Jean Hurst, being a part of VanDusen Botanical Garden as both a volunteer and a donor is not only a logical choice but one that speaks deeply to her on an emotional level. Her respect for the Garden stems from her family's love of nature. When VanDusen became a botanic garden Jean's mother and father visited frequently. Jean was never a gardener, in fact, her father would tease her saying that all she was good for was cutting stuff from the garden and bringing it into the house. After her mother died, Jean's father insisted on living at the Louis Brier Home principally because of its proximity to the Garden. He would visit the Garden two or three times a day often taking Jean there to show her his latest finds. As Jean expressed, "There was a love of nature, almost as part of my genetic nature."

Getting involved with the Garden was also a matter of timing. When Jean's father died in 1994, she found she had time on her hands that she used to spend with her father. The Garden became her solace. So, only two months after she retired in 1996, she took guide training and became a Thursday Cart Guide. Later, she switched to the role of walking guide researching and focusing on specific areas of the Garden. Her aim was to show as much of the Garden as possible to visitors with anecdotal information. In Jean's view "It's the stories that remain with people, not the names of plants."

Jean took an accounting degree which led to a very impressive career with the Federal Government. At the end of her career, she was responsible for the Federal Government's capacity to audit and deploy management consultants to other government departments. She also assisted in government contracts and agreements that they wanted internal resources as opposed to going to the private sector. Jean began her career in Vancouver from 1973 to 1977. After spending fourteen years in Ottawa and nearing the end of her career, she came full circle back to the same office in continue to page 10 >

### **2018 DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Vancouver managing Consulting and Audit Canada. Jean held many other key positions including Head of Finance and Administration at the CRTC and Head of Internal Audit at Secretary of State.

As a VBGA volunteer, Jean has literally spent thousands of hours in many crucial capacities, be it working as a Garden Guide, Guide Captain, or at the Information Desk. In between, she chaired the Flower and Garden Show in its last two years. Jean spent another two years in the role of recruiting the 450 volunteers to put on the Plant Sale as well as serving as its Chair for another couple of years. Jean also excelled as a member of the VBGA Board for twelve and a half years. Her philosophy for volunteering is guided by wanting to serve the local community. Jean also volunteers at the Union Gospel Mission in the kitchen and Aunt Leah's Christmas Tree sale which raises funds for foster kids aging out of the system. Jean volunteers for causes that have an emotional connection and speak to her.

Jean's work in philanthropy is also guided by values instilled by her family. Born in Prague, she came from

a country where arts and culture were funded through an income tax system. Jean stated that "Arts and culture were always a big part of their lives and it was time to give back." Volunteering works well with the tangible act of giving money. In Jean's view, it is important to give both money and time in order to ensure quality of life.

Not only is Jean a Legacy Donor but she gives annual gifts selected with great care ensuring that they are programme related. As always, her choice is guided by what truly speaks to her. She has funded a library book stack dedicated to medicinal plants in honour of her aunt Dr. Anne Hurst. Her generosity paved the way for The Jean Hurst Family Volunteer Lounge, a very beautiful space. You may spot a tree and a bench donated by Jean. As usual, she meticulously selected this gift in honour of her father. It is at the top of the Garden, in a cooler place where her father spent a lot of time. The tree is a Himalayan White Birch. In addition, Jean also funded interpretation.

Jean Hurst has generously given time, money, passion and her talents to VanDusen Botanical Garden and in doing so has enriched us all.

# DONORS

#### LIFETIME CUMULATIVE GIVING (1985 TO PRESENT)

## ALMA SOCIETY (\$15.000 PLUS)

Loretta & Glenn Barr BMO Financial Group

Dick & Val Bradshaw

Alix Brown

**CIBC** 

Brian & Adrienne Clarke John & Patti Cleghorn

David & Dorothy Lam Foundation

Nancy & Bill Dickson

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Estate of John Devereux Fitz-Gerald

Estate of Katherine J. Heller

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Estate of William Henry Dickenson

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VanDusen Garden Guides VanDusen Plant Sale VanDusen Seed Collectors Victoria Foundation Paddy Wales

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Jose & Leila Trinidad Colin & Jane Warner Whole Foods Market

Gill Wills

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#### ANNUAL GIVING (FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 TO FEBRUARY 18, 2019)

**WESTERN REDCEDAR** (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Environmental Careers Org. Federation de la Jeunesse Canadienne Française

J.M. Hurst

Master Gardeners Association of BC

DOUGLAS-FIR (\$2,500-\$4,999) Loretta & Glenn Barr

Canadian Museums Association

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Rolly & Jacqueline Kelly Judy & Hugh Lindsay Dick Mackenzie Jo McDaniel

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#### ANNUAL GIVING (FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 TO FEBRUARY 18, 2019)

Midge & Timothy Oke Penny & John Pearson

Sheila Rogers Tory Ross

Rotary International District 5110

Ian & Jane Strang Gary & Kumi Sutcliffe

James Taylor Don & Angela Zarowny

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Clare Saadien

Clarice Shell

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In Memory of Sylvia Bell

In Memory of Helen Fairley

In Memory of Gladys Fulton

In Memory of Dr. Edgar F. Harden

In Memory of Henry Hawthorn

In Memory of Mieko Kawase

In Memory of Elizabeth (Betty) Prior

In Memory of Anthony Llewellyn Read

In Memory of Harry Sumner

In Memory of Merle Tompsett

#### ADOPT A TREE'S NAMED FOR

Ted Blodgett

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& William M. Tait

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& Nicholas Liu

THANK YOU Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If there are errors or omissions please accept our apologies and contact our Development office at **604.257.8190** so that we are able to make corrections.



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vandusengarden.org

The VBGA is incorporated under the BC Societies Act, and is a registered charity;
Charitable No. 119281301 RR0001