

BLOOMS, BUILDERS AND BIRD BOXES

Cries of “chickadee-dee-dee” (the call of the black-capped chickadee) mingled with the banging of hammers as grade three students from McBride Annex Elementary school built homes for their feathered friends -the black-capped chickadee.

In total, 233 bird boxes have been built since November by students in the Blooming Boulevards area. Blooming Boulevards is a pilot project, with the City of Vancouver, which uses resident-maintained boulevard gardens to make Windsor Street a beautiful and safe place for community members. These bird boxes will certainly help to make the area more friendly for nesting birds! *-Julie Scott-Ashe, Editor*

COMMUNITY GREENING STARTS WITH A HOME

The Capitol Hill Community Greening project is now underway in Burnaby! Sponsored by the VanCity Community Grant program, the project will create more green space and wildlife habitat in the neighbourhood through a series of community workshops and plantings.

On November 26, 2003, our first workshop, a bird box workshop, took place at the Confederation Recreation Centre for Seniors. Fuelled by Christmas baking and enthusiasm, the participants built their own bird boxes after watching a slideshow on birds of the Lower Mainland. Each bird box will make an ideal nesting location for Burnaby’s native chickadees and tree swallows this spring.



Grade 3 students from McBride Annex Elementary School in Vancouver proudly display their completed bird box



Working together to construct a home for black-capped chickadees in Burnaby

The next two workshops in the series, which took place in January, were also a great success. Participants at each workshop learnt about healing gardens and investment gardens through entertaining slideshows and fun activities. The series concludes with our final workshop on February 19, which will give an overview of how to garden for wildlife - for example, learning to turn your backyard into a haven for butterflies and hummingbirds. Call us at (604)527-5522 to pre-register for this workshop, which will be at the Confederation Centre on Albert Street in Burnaby. The Capitol Hill Community Greening Project also includes several upcoming plantings, a community mapping event and an open house on March 19, 2004. See the back of this newsletter or contact us to get involved.

-Caroline Jackson, Eco-Education Coordinator

THE GREEN LINK

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REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION BUILDS ON SUCCESS WITH DOUGLAS COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF URBAN ECOLOGY

The Douglas College Institute of Urban Ecology (IUE) plants its 50,000th seedling this year - and a new \$150,000 donation from the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. will help ensure the work continues.



Students from David Brankin Elementary School planting the 25,000th seedling in 2000 as part of the Green Links project.

The latest donation builds on 10 years of support from the Real Estate Foundation, which has donated \$400,000 to the IUE since 1994. The total doubles to \$800,000, as Douglas College commits to finding matching funds from other sources for each donation. The Real Estate Foundation's backing plays a major role in maintaining the institute's day-to-day operations, says IUE Executive Director Dr. Valentin Schaefer.

"This new donation from the Real Estate Foundation provides important core funding that enables us to continue to be active in environmental and land-use projects around the Lower Mainland," says Schaefer. "Having funding for day-to-day operations allows us to secure special-project funding from other sources for the work we do. Once we match the latest donation, total funding for the institute from all sources will reach \$3 million." Douglas College faculty and students volunteered on many environmental projects through the 1980s, leading to the formation of the Institute of Urban Ecology in 1994. It's been a busy decade. The Institute has involved over 7,000 volunteers in plantings and watershed cleanups, and presented educational programs to almost 20,000 students and community members. The IUE also develops major environmental-enhancement projects such as Green Links and works in environmental planning and data gathering with governments, development companies and community agencies.

Real Estate Foundation Chair Ken Hen-

derson says the institute's record of accomplishments and community teamwork was a deciding factor in the latest donation.

"We were persuaded to offer the endowment funding because of the institute's on-going success involving many community partners in a range of stewardship projects that deliver education and restoration," says Henderson. "In particular, we are pleased that the institute has effective working and funding relationships with industries operating in the region."

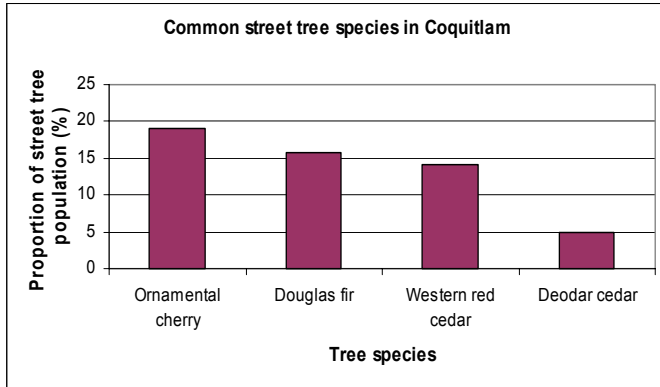
Looking ahead, the institute plans to remain active in major new residential developments in the Tri-Cities. "We are planning to work with developers. The objective is to find ways to maintain natural habitat beyond the minimum legal requirements," says Schaefer. For more information about the projects and community resources of the IUE visit www.douglas.bc.ca/iue or call (604)527-5522.-Walter Melnyk



A Cliff Drive Elementary School student gets her hands dirty for the environment.

CHANGING PLACES PROJECT GETS RESULTS

Over the past year, Institute of Urban Ecology staff and volunteers have been tracking street trees in the City of Coquitlam. By looking at aerial photos and surveying trees in the field, we have determined that there are over ten thousand street trees in Coquitlam! An average street in the city would have between 5 and 9 trees per block, depending on the length of the block. Since street trees make cities more liveable (see Money Trees Right in Your Front Yard below), this is good news for the residents of Coquitlam.



Common species of street trees in Coquitlam.

red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) trees.

This Coquitlam street tree inventory project was part of the larger Changing Places: Development and Implementation of Green Space Management Plans project, which also included a biophysical inventory project in Surrey and a conference on green space management. The Changing Places project was made possible by the support of the BC Real Estate Foundation, the City of Surrey, and the City of Coquitlam. For more information on the project or to obtain copies of the final reports and conference proceedings, contact us at (604)527-5522 or iue@douglas.bc.ca. -Nadine Pinnell, Changing Places Project Coordinator

MONEY TREES RIGHT IN YOUR FRONT YARD

Who wouldn't like to have a money tree growing in their front yard? Well, look again, because if you have trees along your street or in your yard, you already have a few. Street and yard trees save you and the city you live in money by providing services that otherwise have to be provided by man-made means. For example, trees help regulate the air temperature through shading, transpiration (converting moisture to water vapour), and wind speed reduction. Having trees around makes your neighbourhood cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, which means that you spend less money heating and cooling your home. Other services provided by urban trees include reducing air pollution, improving air quality, absorbing rainwater, and reducing pollution entering nearby waterways.

If urban trees provide these services, this saves the local municipal government, and local residents money that otherwise would have to be spent on providing these services. What's more, the aesthetic and psychological benefits provided by urban trees increase the resale value of local properties. Researchers at the Center for Urban Forest Research in California estimate that even when the costs of planting and maintaining urban trees are taken into account, a large street tree provides \$48 (US) in net benefits to the local municipality and residents every year. In other words, something as simple as having a tree in your yard can save you approximately a thousand dollars (US) over twenty years—a good reason to keep planting trees in the city!

-Nadine Pinnell, Changing Places Project Coordinator



Street and yard trees save you and the city you live in money.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact us at (604)527-5522 or iue@douglas.bc.ca for more information or to get involved with any of the following events.



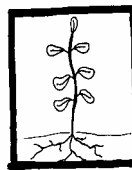
Backyard Habitat Workshop - Attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your yard as you learn about gardening for wildlife. *February 19, 2 pm - Confederation Recreation Centre for Senior's, Burnaby*

Capitol Hill Community Greening Open House - Join us for a celebration of the greening project including a community mapping activity and a native plant display. Get great ideas for your garden from local experts. *March 20, 1-5pm - McGill Library, 4595 Albert St, Burnaby*

Nature's Havens Challenge 2004 starts this spring!
Win prizes by making your garden more environmentally friendly.
Contact us for your free information and registration packages.

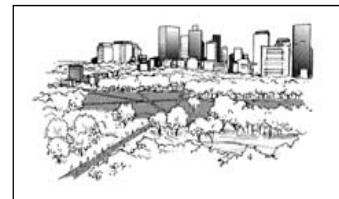
Capitol Hill Community Greening Plantings - Learn about native plants while doing something good for the environment! Come out and help us with a series of plantings to take place in the Capitol Hill area of Burnaby this spring. No prior planting experience is required.

Organic Garden Lecture and Slide-show - Join us to discuss pesticide free gardening. *March 24, 6:30pm - Coquitlam Library, City Centre Branch*



LINKING PEOPLE AND NATURE

Green Links Writing Contest



How do you connect with nature in your city? Explore your nature links through poetry, fiction, or non-fiction for our annual Green Links writing contest.

**Open to grade 5+
Win great prizes**

Contact us for entry forms and more information at (604)527-5522 or iue@douglas.bc.ca.

INSTITUTE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:

Platinum (\$100,000+)

- The Real Estate Foundation of BC
- BC Hydro
- Human Resources Development Canada Job Creation Partnership Program
- Environment Canada- EcoAction 2000
- College and Pit Operators Partnership

Gold (\$50,000+)

- Challenge/Student Summer Works
- Terasen
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Douglas College

Silver (\$10,000+)

- Vancouver Foundation
- Fisheries Renewal BC
- VanCity
- City of Surrey
- Millennium Bureau of Canada
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Public Conservation Assistance Fund
- Douglas College Work Study
- Corporation of Delta

Bronze (\$1,000 - \$10,000)

- Shell Environmental Fund
- Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry
- EJLB Foundation
- BC 21
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Home Depot
- City of Coquitlam
- Coquitlam River Watershed Society
- Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program
- Trans Mountain Pipeline
- Forest Alliance of BC
- Lehigh Cement Ltd.
- Art Knapp Plantland
- University of Victoria

In Kind Donations

- Habitat Restoration Program, Douglas College
- City of New Westminster
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- T. Buck Suzuki Foundation
- Colony Farms Park Association
- Tree Canada Foundation
- City of Burnaby
- Linnaea Native Plant Nursery

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND DONATIONS!