

## LOOK WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN FOR BURNABY

Fall has arrived in the Lower Mainland and with it comes a new project for the Institute. We recently received a VanCity Community Project Grant for a greening project in Burnaby's Capitol Hill area. Focusing on the area around Confederation Park, the Nature's Services Cranberry Commons Project includes several community plantings, a series of community workshops, and a community mapping exercise. Our first community planting will create additional habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates. We will be planting species such as Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) and Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) that have fragrant, brightly coloured flowers. The planting date will be announced soon — check out our website at [www.douglas.bc.ca/iue](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/iue) for more details. The workshop series will start with a bird box building event at Confederation Seniors Recreation Centre on November 26th. All of these workshops are open to the public and we'd love to have you join us. The project will be continuing through February 2004 so watch for an update on it in the next issue of the Green Link. If you are interested in getting involved with this community greening project or attending a workshop, contact us at 527-5522 or [iue@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:iue@douglas.bc.ca). —Nadine Pinnell, Office Manager

*All of these workshops are open to the public and we'd love to have you join us*

## YOUNG GARDENERS IN DELTA



On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Institute of Urban Ecology was in Tsawwassen organizing native plant demonstration gardens at two elementary schools. IUE staff members Chris Mehuys and Leah Eford arrived early that morning at English Bluff Elementary School to organize the plants and tools for the school's students. By 9:30, the first class of enthusiastic young planters had arrived, eager to get started on what would become their very own garden. Working in

*Energy levels were high and by lunchtime 101 plants were in the ground, completing the school's garden*

teams, the students began to plant starting with ground covers such as Kinnikinnick and Bunchberry. Energy levels were high and by lunchtime 101 plants were in the ground completing the school's native plant garden. Heading down the road, the IUE team arrived at Pebble Hill Elementary to do it all over again. The afternoon was just as much fun

as the morning, with IUE staff overseeing class after class of eager little planters and future gardeners. By the end of the day 205 students ranging in grades K-6 had taken part in the day's project adding a total of 175 beautiful native plants to Tsawwassen's school grounds. IUE staff will oversee three more school plantings this fall in Delta, sponsored by the Corporation of Delta and Lehigh Cement.

—Chris Mehuys, Planting Coordinator

## THE GREEN LINK

### LAYOUT/EDITING:

- Caroline Jackson

### PHOTOGRAPHS:

- Institute of Urban Ecology, Keith Ross, Peter Wohlwend

### CONTRIBUTORS:

- Leah Efford
- Caroline Jackson
- Chris Mehuys
- Nadine Pinnell
- Keith Ross (BEST)

**THE GREEN LINK** is a quarterly publication of the Douglas College Institute of Urban Ecology. The IUE is a non-profit organization working to increase biodiversity in the Lower Mainland. For more information about the Institute, to subscribe to The Green Link, or to comment on the newsletter, please contact us at:

Institute of Urban Ecology  
PO Box 2503  
New Westminster, BC  
V3L 5B2

Tel : 604-527-5522  
Fax: 604-527-5095  
E-mail: iue@douglas.bc.ca

Web: [www.douglas.bc.ca/iue](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/iue)

We are always trying to reduce our paper consumption--let us know if we can send you your copy of **THE GREEN LINK** by e-mail.

## THE CENTRAL VALLEY GREENWAY

The idea of a Greenway has been discussed in Greater Vancouver for many years by individuals concerned with the social and environmental health of the region. In 2001, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)

received a \$1 million grant from VanCity to create a Greenway in the Central Fraser Valley.

The Central Valley Greenway will extend 22 km eastward from False Creek

in Vancouver to New Westminster Quay. Some areas of the

Greenway already exist as the Brunette-Fraser Greenway and the BC Parkway, and plans are in place to create large sections through Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster. The proposed Greenway generally follows the waterways associated with the Brunette River Drainage Basin and the Fraser River. It passes through many ecologically important areas, and will likely play a crucial role in strengthening natural linkages and adding to existing habitat. The Institute of Urban Ecology has recently joined this project as a partner. We will be assisting by identifying Greenway planting sites and working with the community to create wildlife habitat while beautifying the pathway. The IUE will also conduct environmental education programs in nearby schools and at community events taking place along the Greenway corridor. Look for an upcoming display on the Greenway at the Fraser River Discovery Centre. It is exciting to see the Greenway being implemented in a way that will benefit both people and wildlife. For more information call Keith Ross, BEST's Greenway project coordinator at (604) 669-2869 or visit [www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca) .

–Keith Ross



*The Greenway passes through many ecologically important areas, and will likely play a crucial role in strengthening natural linkages*



---

## A GREENER GOLF COURSE

The Institute, in partnership with the Westwood Plateau Golf and Country Club of Coquitlam, is offering a series of fun and informative workshops to schools in the Westwood Plateau area. Westwood is currently pursuing certification as a cooperative wildlife sanctuary through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada. In order to qualify, golf courses must plan, implement, and document projects in environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, integrated pest management, outreach and education, water conservation, and water quality management. In October, students from Kindergarten to Grade Three at Panorama Elementary participated in our “Night Wings - Creatures of the Night” bat workshops. Students were introduced to some amazing bats in B.C. and around the world with a slideshow and a trivia game. We concluded the workshops with the ever-popular “echolocation game”, where a student is blindfolded and must find his/her food by calling out, much as a bat would do. In April, in celebration of Earth Day, we will be building bat boxes with students from Hampton Park Elementary School. Some of the bird boxes will be installed on the golf course to provide homes for the birds living in the vicinity of the “green” greens. We look forward to many more workshops with students in the Westwood area! – *Caroline Jackson, Education Coordinator*



## WORKSHOPS FOR THE 65+

You're never too young to learn more about nature! The Institute is pleased to introduce a new slideshow program for seniors. Developed this past summer by staff member Carolyn Strand, the Native Plants and Birds workshop focuses on birds of the Lower Mainland and associated native plant species that provide food, shelter, and nesting material. The workshop also touches on aspects of Ethnobotany, or use of plants by people for food or medicine. Complete with colourful and captivating slides of local birds and native plants, the program has been successful both in seniors' recreation centres and in long-term care homes. In many cases the seniors do the educating, joining in the discussion with their own anecdotes and experiences. To find out more or to request a workshop, phone or email the IUE office! – *Caroline Jackson, Education Coordinator*

*In many cases the seniors do the talking, joining in the discussion with their own anecdotes and experiences*

## BLOOMING BOULEVARDS AND BIRDBOXES!



*The process of making the gardens a reality has brought members of the community together*

The Institute is lending its support to an exciting new project in Vancouver. Over the past few years, the residents of Windsor Street and the City of Vancouver have been working together to create over 35 boulevard gardens between the curb and the sidewalk along Windsor Street. These gardens beautify the street while providing habitat for wildlife. The process of making the gardens a reality has brought members of the community together. As part of the Blooming Boulevards project, the Institute is offering bird and bat box workshops to members of the community. On November 3 and 4, 188 children from Charles Dickens Elementary School participated in bird box building workshops. A workshop for the community at large is planned for February 3, 2004 at the nearby Kensington Recreation Centre. Contact us to learn more.– *Nadine Pinnell*

---

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CONTEST WINNERS

The Institute's annual reception and awards night was held the evening of September 10, 2003. This marked the closing of the Greenlinks 2003: Changing Places exhibit at the Amelia Douglas Art Gallery. This year's exhibit featured the art and nature journals of Kirsty Robbins, and showcased the winning entries from this year's art contest. After a reception where everyone had an opportunity to mingle and to peruse the artwork, we enjoyed an interesting presentation about the Institute's work over the past year by IUE Director Dr. Val Schaefer. Next, we were taken on a virtual tour of the entries in this year's Nature's Havens Challenge, and the winners of the "What Green Spaces in the City Mean to You" writing contest and the "What is the Face of your Favourite Green Space" art contest were recognized. For a complete list of this year's contest winners, check out our website at [www.douglas.bc.ca/iue](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/iue). Finally, we were able to thank and honour our invaluable volunteers. It was a fun night for all concerned. *—Leah Efford, Event Coordinator*

*This year's exhibit featured the art and nature journals of Kirsty Robbins, and showcased the winning entries from this year's art contest*

### Volunteers Needed!

If you have a wood shop and would like to cut out wood for bird box and bat box kits for us, we want you! We're also looking for volunteers to help with our plantings and workshops. Contact Nadine Pinnell at (604) 527-5522 to learn more.

### 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!