

Green Timbers Heritage Society

July 9, 2015

Surrey Nature Centre at 7 PM

Special Meeting to Discuss Fraser Highway Widening:

Chair: Ellen Edwards.

Started discussion around 7:30pm

Fraser Highway widening discussion:

Media Updates – Newspaper, Radio, TV. (Susan & group, Deanna, Jim). THANK YOU, DIRECTORS!

The directors had a round-table discussion with ideas about how to approach the City's planned road-widening of Fraser Highway.

Thanks to Ellen for printing out the corporate report to council from Engineering and \parks Recreation and Culture

Other business:

Moved Jim, second Don pay Ellen 22.97 for photocopying expenses. Passed.

SNAP Update – Halfway Report – Stephen's New Position – 2015 Leadership
Ellen will send via email. Ellen read Stephen's resignation letter. He's moving to help the Sumas First Nation after three and a half years leading SNAP.

Old Nursery Sign

It's at 192 at 36 Ave. A new road is going through, and so it will be destroyed. It was part of that nursery, not Green Timbers, but is connected by history.

Can GTHS approach Laurie Cavin, manager of parks, recreation and culture to save it? "A no-brainer" said Susan. "A lot of staff was transferred there from here," said Ellen.

Moved Don, seconded Susan, that a representative of GTHS approach Laurie Cavin, manager of parks, recreation and culture, to acquire the nursery sign at 192 and 36 Ave as a historic BC reforestation artifact, part of the history of Green Timbers. Passed.

SNAP 2015 Mid-Summer Progress Report

May-June

Date: July 3, 2015



The Green Timbers Heritage Society



Habitat Restoration



Now at the halfway mark in the summer, the Habitat Restoration team has fully embarked on this summer's mission of restoring and enhancing Surrey's natural areas. Up to this point, the team has been composed of two team leaders: Nathan and Lucas, as well as two team members: Ashlee and Jocelyn. Next week two junior team members: Ravini and Matt will join the team for the remainder of the summer to further support our work in the City's natural areas.

The team has already put in over 600 hours of staff time in the partner parks: Green Timbers, Sunnyside Acres, and Blackie Spit. This has amounted to over 1200 square metres of invasive plant material and litter removed from the natural areas in these parks alone. The Habitat Restoration team has also made a concerted effort to engage with public park users whenever possible, educating them on a wide variety of topics including invasive plants, topical environmental issues and most importantly, the preservation and stewardship of Surrey's natural areas. We have engaged with 63 park users so far this summer and that number continues to rise. Aside from the encroachment of invasive plants, fragmentation of natural areas through the development of unsanctioned trails has also become a growing issue for the partner parks. The closure of unsanctioned trails has been a special focus for the team and we've worked to close 8 trails so far this summer. The diversion of park users away from these trails will be an ongoing battle that will need to be continually tackled throughout the summer by monitoring and re-establishing debris barriers on a regular basis.

The Habitat Restoration team is delighted to have the opportunity to restore and enhance our natural areas through this partnership and build career experience with truly meaningful work. With the ever expansion of development in Surrey and Greater Vancouver, the ecological significance of maintaining our natural areas only grows in importance. This partnership allows the habitat restoration team to lend a hand to these natural areas and deal with some of the issues inhibiting their ability to perform their important ecological functions.



Before...

After!

Environmental Outreach

The environmental outreach team began their summer with Natasha Pekurel as the Outreach Team Leader, and was quickly joined by the outreach team members: Emily Holmes, Jenn Barrett, Brittany Tyson, and Meriam Larbes. With the summer halfway through, the outreach team is successfully empowering budding environmentalists at nature play and events, as well as promoting environmental stewardship throughout the city.

The outreach team has attended 12 different events in Surrey so far, and have connected with over 17,000 people combined at these events. At Nature Play, which focusses on children's engagement in nature and acts as a stepping stone for exploring the outdoors, we have had over 300 kids engaging in our activities. Canvassing for yard waste dumping, and the spread of invasive plants is crucial for the green spaces and parks within the city – and with only 3 canvassing trips we were able to educate and talk with over 400 residents of Surrey. Lastly, the outreach team roves in 8 different Surrey Parks to monitor for certain incidents like dogs-off-leash, and feeding wildlife, as well as



connect with park visitors about the ecological features of the park and the benefits of nature. To date, the team has engaged with over 2,500 park users. The majority of our roving is within the partner parks of Green Timbers, Sunnyside, and Blackie Spit.

Within our team we have university students from the University of British Columbia, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, as well as Capilano University. Each of us bring different knowledge and experiences from past employment, schooling, and personal life that adds breadth to the team. This makes engaging with park users from all walks of life easy and enjoyable.



The outreach team is absolutely joyed to be given the opportunity to work for the Green Timbers Heritage Society, to represent the Sunnyside Heritage Society, the White Rock Surrey Naturalists, as well as the City of Surrey in order to enrich Surrey's Natural areas, and the lives of Surrey Residents. With many ecological challenges facing our

world in the present and into the future, youth empowerment and community engagement is crucial.

The Outreach and Habitat Restoration teams' thank you for this amazing opportunity!