



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

## NEWSLETTER

### VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

#### VISION

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*“We, the Musqueam, will work together to take care of our territory so the following generations will know how to be self-reliant. We will remember our own history and as well, use our traditional teachings to take care of everyone and everything on this earth”.*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings everyone!

2020 has been a whirlwind of a year. As we have adapted to COVID-19 and the changes it has brought to our lives, it is important to remember that we are all in this together and that the sense of community is more significant now than ever. As we continue to navigate this new normal, we will continue to strive for environmental health for our communities and families. Take care of each other and remember to stay safe, practice social distancing and get out in nature!

Take care,

**Yeganeh Asadian, M.Sc., P.Ag.**, Environmental Stewardship Department Manager

## VANCOUVER GREENEST CITY 2020 UPDATE



This is the year for Vancouver to hit its targets for the Vancouver Greenest City 2020 Action Plan. The Greenest City Action Plan is a strategy for staying on track and guiding the city towards urban sustainability. In 2011, then mayor Gregor Robertson implemented the Greenest City Action Plan with the intent of minimizing the city's contributions to climate change. It outlined measurable targets like reducing waste, producing food locally and cutting down on car trips. The plan involves working with Council, residents, businesses, other organizations, and all levels of government to implement this plan.

The plan is specifically targeting the following green goals:

- Climate and Renewables
- Green Buildings
- Green Transportation
- Zero Waste

- Access to Nature
- Clean Water
- Local Food
- Clean Air
- Green Economy
- Lighter Footprint
- Green Operations

There is a lot of work to be done to meet the targets for the 2020 Action Plan. Overall the targets in the plan have improved from baseline conditions except for clean air, which showed 3 instances of not meeting air quality standards for ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide from the Kits and Downtown stations.

Progress highlights for the plan from 2019 – 2020 include the following:

- 54% trips made by walking, cycling, or transit
- 23% decrease in total water consumption since 2006
- 32 hectares of natural area restored or enhanced
- 32% decrease in solid waste sent to landfill and incinerator since 2008
- 64% of residents commuting to work through sustainable modes
- 51% increase in neighbourhood food assets since 2010
- 34% decrease in water use in city operations since 2006
- 139,000 new trees planted since 2010

Additionally, two million dollars have been funded to community-led projects to support green sustainability in Vancouver. A comprehensive document outlining the goals and targets met within the plan, with future steps and initiatives, should be available as we reach the end of the 2020 year.

**GREENEST CITY ACTION PLAN:**  
3 Themes & 10 Goal Areas & 15 Targets



## SPECIES OF CONCERN: SPOTTED OWL



The spotted owl is a species of true owl. The spotted owl typically resides in old-growth forests in western North America. Within these forests, the spotted owl will nest bird of prey nests, rock crevices and tree hollows. in tree hollows, old bird of prey nests, or rock crevices. This type of owl is nocturnal, and feeds on small mammals and birds. Due to the continued logging of old-growth forests, the spotted owl is facing impacts to their habitat, due to the destruction of these forests. Consequently, the spotted owl's conservation status is listed as **near-threatened**.

In B.C., clear cut logging approvals by the ministry continue to diminish critical habitat for highly endangered northern spotted owls. One area of example is the Fraser Canyon, where field ecologists have sighted the last three spotted owls known to exist in Canadian wilderness. Specifically, over 300 logging approvals (totaling close to 2,000 hectares) in the spotted owl's habitat range. Maps generated from these approvals indicate major logging activity to take place near Nahatlatch Provincial Park, which is home to one of the last intact unprotected regions for the spotted owl habitat in B.C., contributing to the species' endangerment.

On a positive note, a special breeding facility in Langley is housing 25 spotted owls. Within the facility laboratory, owl eggs are incubated with nature sounds playing during the hatching process. This is one initiative to combat the decline in the spotted owl population. Additionally, the B.C. government has funded the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program – another effort to serve the conservation of the spotted owl.

The Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program is largely funded by the B.C. government but also relies on donations. If you wish to contribute to spotted owl conservation, you can donate here: <https://www.nsobreedingprogram.com/donate-today>



Northern spotted owl chicks at the breeding facility in Langley, B.C.

## GREEN TRANSPORTATION



Green or sustainable transportation is the concept of any means of transportation that is ‘green’ and has the least amount of impact on the environment compared to other forms of transportation. Green transportation is also about understanding our current and future sustainability needs. Examples of green transportation include taking public transit, carpooling, cycling, walking, car sharing and green (electric) vehicles.

Transportation is accountable for being the largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada. As such, anytime there is a chance to utilize green transportation it can help reduce the detrimental effects caused by vehicle emissions. Transportation accounts for approximately 25% of total emissions, and Environment Canada has estimated that the average vehicle produces 4,720 kg of carbon dioxide, 187 kg of carbon monoxide, 28 kg of volatile organic compounds and 26 kg of nitrogen oxides (per 2,000 litres of fuel consumed).



There are numerous benefits in practicing green transportation. Some of these benefits include:

- Increase in physical activity (personal health)
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Reduced air pollution
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Saving on fuel costs
- Increase in social interaction

Car-share and ride-share businesses offered in Vancouver:

- Evo - <https://evo.ca/>
- Uber - <https://www.uber.com/ca/en/>
- Lyft - <https://www.lyft.com/rider/cities/vancouver-bc>

In accordance with Vancouver's *Greenest City 2020 Plan*, the city plans to meet long-term air quality and emissions targets with direction set out by the *Transportation 2040 Plan*, a strategic plan to help the city shift to renewably powered vehicles that are sustainable, sensible, convenient and safe for all individuals.

## MUSQUEAM EV, RECYCLING & LED STATIONS



The Musqueam Administration is pleased to announce the installation of 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, new recycling stations and LED lighting. The EV stations are located at the front parking lot of the administration building. All residents and staff need to do is download and sign up for the **Flo App**, or purchase a rfid card from Flo's website: <https://www.flo.com/en-CA/drivers/network/>. They will then need to contact Ross McCann in Environmental Stewardship to have their card number registered to the stations.

You can contact Ross at 236.333.4697 or [rmccann@musqueam.bc.ca](mailto:rmccann@musqueam.bc.ca)

\*Please note that free usage is only open to band members and staff members\*

The recycling stations have been placed throughout the administration, community centre and cultural centre interior buildings, along with an exterior compound area for recycling pickup. As well, LED lighting has been installed along all three buildings, providing enhanced brightness and a reduction in energy consumption.

## FALL EVENTS AROUND VANCOUVER

\* Please note that all events are in accordance with BC Health & Safety Guidelines regarding COVID-19\*

### ❖ **Chilliwack Sunflower Festival, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Chilliwack Sunflower Festival was started to compliment another flower festival that occurs in Spring – the Chilliwack Tulip Festival (the first and largest tulip festival in Western Canada, launched back in 2006). The Chilliwack Sunflower Festival was started in 2017, and has since been a summer favourite for locals, tourists and daily visitors.

### ❖ **Main Street Farmer's Market, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Main Street Station Farmers Market has been running in Vancouver since 2010, the year of the Olympics. The Main Street Farmer's Market has been an annual event located by Main Street Skytrain Station since the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Today, the market consists of over 40 vendors that line the street in front of Vancouver's Central Pacific Station and Thornton Park. Vendors include many different local farmers selling fresh fruits and vegetables and organic produce in season.

### ❖ **Vancouver International Film Festival, September 24<sup>th</sup> – October 9<sup>th</sup>**

The Vancouver International Film Festival is an annual festival in Vancouver, and is one of the largest film festivals in North America. The festival generates over 100,000 attendees and features more than 300 films each year. Internationally-acclaimed and award-winning films are showcased, along with small budget and independent movies. The festival serves as a hub for a large collection of Canadian-made productions, as well as the largest selection of Asian-produced films of any festival outside of Asia. The films included in the festival are from over 70 different countries, with various languages and subtitles.

### ❖ **Lost Souls of Gastown, All of October**

The Lost Souls of Gastown Tour is a part of Vancouver's Forbidden Tours (walking tours and special events that celebrate Vancouver history). The tour consists of a 1.5-hour storytelling excursion that's guided by a professional actor / actress through the various side streets and alleyways Vancouver's historic Gastown. The tour begins at Cathedral Square and finished near Maple Tree Square. Places visited along the way include Gaoler's Mews, the Gastown steam clock, the CPR railyards and former locations of the city's first jailhouse. In the summer / fall, the tour runs 4-5 evenings a week and costs \$29 for adults and \$26 for students and seniors.

### ❖ **Eastside Culture Crawl, November 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Eastside Culture Crawl is celebrating its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, and is a free event that takes place each year in mid-November with art and features from the work of numerous local artists. Since beginning in 1997, the event has fostered approximately 500 artists at close to 80 venues in

Vancouver. The festival takes place over four days, usually operating from 5 pm to 10 pm Thursday to Friday and 11 am to 6 pm Saturday to Sunday. The event is a visual art, design and crafts festival that showcases the work of hundreds of local artists at studios on the streets of East Vancouver.

## CONTACT US

For further inquiries regarding the newsletter and our green initiatives, please contact:

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