

## Newsletter March 2017

### The Derby Rag

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#### The Viewing Platform at Houston Trails Now Officially Open



### **The Viewing Platform at Houston Trails Now Officially Open**

It was almost three years ago that Anne Gosse, long-time Board member, had an amazing idea: build a viewing platform on the west side of the Houston Trail. An avid birder, Anne believed that people would enjoy viewing the over seventy bird species that call the Langley Bog their seasonal or year-round home.

Surveying and metal pilings were completed by the end of 2015, and in spring 2016, the real construction began. We want to give a big thanks to Roger Bean, as he was so central to the realization of this project. Roger and I, along with many other volunteers, spent many hours working in all kinds of weather to see this project through to completion. And we don't want to forget Joan and Anne, who always brought us fresh baking to keep our energy and spirits high. The final piece of the project, the wheelchair-accessible ramp, was completed in early 2017 by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff. Site cleanup was just completed and some of the "scrap" lumber is being repurposed by a local furniture builder.

The viewing platform is now open, with an official grand opening planned for later this spring. The Board is grateful to all those groups and individuals who made donations of time and money to help us see this project through from its initial inspiration to its completion.

We would like to thank our donors: Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, Pacific Parklands Foundation, Langley Rotary Club, Techno Metal Post, and an anonymous donor."

Joakim Nilsson, newly-elected Chair, Board of Directors, DRBIPA

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Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association

# Mushroom Foray

with Willoughby Arevalo

April 8, 2017

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Houston Trail Heritage Area, 10716 Allard Crescent, Langley

Walking the Mycelial Web: An Ecologically-Focused Mushroom Foray



Core Skills for Mushroom Identification, Mushroom Names and Meanings, Fungal Ecology, Culinary and Medicinal Applications, Ethical Harvesting Practices, Traditional & Contemporary Uses and Cultivation and Mycoremediation Potential

Participants will come to understand the roles that fungi play in symbiosis, succession and regeneration, and how we can ally with fungi to increase resilience in our living systems and communities.

Register by sending an email to:

[outreach@drbipa.org](mailto:outreach@drbipa.org)

There is no cost to attend but you must register



## Whattle Wall Installation

On a sunny spring morning in early March, a dozen volunteers from Derby Reach Brae Island Park Association, Langley Environmental Partners Society, and Metro Vancouver regional Parks gathered to plant a live wattle wall along Bedford Channel. Constructed out of native willow and red-osier dogwood cuttings, the experimental retention wall offers a bioengineering solution to bank erosion at Brae Island Regional Park. This restoration technique has been tried at other locations with success, and it's our hope that it'll prove equally effective at stabilizing the sandy banks here at the park. If all goes well, the cuttings will not only protect the river bank, but grow to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.



Despite the hard physical work involved, the volunteers took on the task with gusto - enthusiastically hammering, digging, and staking. The end result is a beautiful six-tiered wall that everyone is proud to have lend a hand in building.

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## Bird Count 2017



The annual DRBIPA bird count took place on Saturday February 18th.

We obtained a total count of 1168 birds and 51 different species.

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## AGM 2017 Results

Derby Reach Brae Island Parks Association had a very successful AGM on February 23, 2017 and elected three board members, Joan Martin, Tom Mackie, and Teresa Easton.

The Apple Bake Off was a great success with nine entries of the different types of tasty Apple dishes. The first prize winners were presented with a gift-wrapped basket of environmental items and the second prize was a book of Old Fort Langley.

Professor Rolf Mathewes of Simon Fraser University went on to give an excellent slide presentation called "Bogs and Other Wetlands – Environmental Treasures" giving some very fascinating facts and information about bogs.



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## Celebrating 50 years of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks!

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks is 50! To mark this milestone, there will be 18 commemorative events across the regional parks system throughout 2017.

In celebration of 50 years, Metro Vancouver has also created a Regional Parks Passport. Collect a different stamp for each regional park you visit throughout the year to earn stickers, crests, and pins, and to enter a draw for other prizes. In addition to the hard copy passport, you can download a free smartphone app.



For more information about the 50th anniversary celebrations and the Passport Program, and to find out where to get a passport, go to [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org) and type "50th anniversary" in the search engine.

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## Become a Member of DRBIPA

Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association (DRBIPA) invites you to become a member. We promote education, conservation, and recreation that is compatible with conservation.

Your Park Association is a busy group! We work closely with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks to promote and protect the finest regional parks system on our continent. Become involved!

Membership is \$ 10 per family.

Please see the membership form here: [DRBIPA MEMBERSHIP](#)

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