



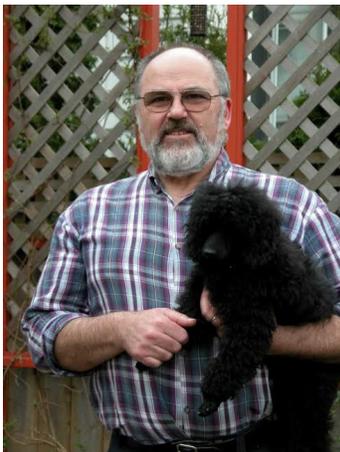
The
Derby
RAG



Included in this issue:

- Founding Board Member Retires: Thank You Tom!
- Save the Date and RSVP: A Members Only Bog Walk & A Guided Spring Bird Walk
- Student Nest Box Project on Brae Island
- Heritage Stories from the Bedford Channel
- Reminder: Annual Membership Dues

Founding Board Member Retires



A founding member of Derby Reach Brae/Island Parks Association is stepping down. Tom Mackie has retired from the DRBIPA Board.

In 1997 DRBIPA was in its infancy. Tom was there at its inception and remained on the board until last month. Early on he witnessed the destruction of the natural environment in a south Surrey Park wrought by off-leash dogs. Determined to protect Derby Reach from a similar plight, Tom headed up a dog focus group to provide input to the 1999 management plan for Derby Reach Park. Back then, off-leash fanciers were very persistent. Today, dogs on all park trails must be on-leash while off-leash dogs are confined to the off-leash parks west of the Edgewater Bar campsite.

Tom's curiosity about how Derby Reach would develop got him initially involved with DRBIPA and continues to this day. Over the last 22 years he has seen the success of DRBIPA, addition of more park associations throughout the Lower Mainland, protection of sensitive habitats, and expansion of the park lands and trail systems.

He plans to stay involved as a volunteer and see DRBIPA take an increasingly active role in bringing the Fort Langley area's history alive.

It's great to still have you aboard, Tom!

Thank you for all your hard work over the years and for inspiring us all to get involved and take action.

Save The Date: Members Only Bog Walk



MEMBER BOG WALK

Join biologist and local expert Jeremy Smith as he guides us on this special DRBIPA members-only nature walk at Derby Reach Regional Park.

Learn about the plants and animals of the bog, important conservation updates, and how you can support the DRBIPA Bog Committee.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 | 10AM - 12PM

Email outreach@drbipa.org to register by April 10th, 2019.

This is an exclusive DRBIPA members-only walk. Annual memberships are \$10. Please note that this is a guided walk; otherwise there is no public access to the Langley Bog.

Save The Date: Spring Bird Walk



SONGS OF SPRING

*A guided bird walk along the Bedford Channel
with local award-winning naturalist Anne Gosse.*

*Join us for a free 2 hour family-friendly nature walk at
Brae Island Regional Park to look and listen for which of
our feathered friends have returned this year.*

*Remember to dress for the weather and bring your
binoculars and a bird book if you have them (optional).*

SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 9AM - 11AM

Email outreach@drbipa.org to register by May 6th, 2019.
Open to the first 25 registrants. reserve your free spot now!

Student Nest Box Project

At the end of February members of the Langley Field Naturalists', DRBIPA, and Metro Van Regional Parks partnered with Fort Langley Outdoor Elementary School at Brae Island Park to provide a fun bird presentation and workshop for the students. Bird expert and naturalist Anthea Farr and Metro Parks Stewardship Technician Roy Teo led the students through experiments, an educational scavenger hunt, and bird box building. They had a great time building twenty nest boxes that will be used as refuge in the park for small birds as needed.



We are so grateful to the organizers, students, presenters, volunteers, and everyone involved for making this project a success!



Heritage Stories from the Bedford Channel

Do you know the history of the Derby Heritage Farms? Here's just a taste!

Now a quiet backwater of Langley, the Derby Reach area was once a lively settlement on the Fraser River. Families at Derby Reach were connected to the commerce of New Westminster and to the social life of other Fraser Valley communities along the river. They were linked to nearby neighbours and to the faraway Interior by the new wagon road that passed by their doors.

Past residents lived through times that B.C. commemorates today—the gold rush, the settlement era, the dawn of the commercial salmon trade—much of their history, including the significant legacies of First Nations, has been overlooked.

History was made at Derby, local families hunted, fished, farmed, and planted large gardens and orchards, with many prospering as they observed and participated in the changing world around them. The area west of what we now call Edgewater Bar was one of the earliest permanent settlements in Langley.

You can always find out more about the unique history of Fort Langley and the Bedford Channel from the [Langley Heritage Society](#).

From the archives! Try one of our [DRBIPA Historic Self-Guided Tours](#).



Picnickers at Edgewater Bar



An original threshing machine (farming equipment) from the 1800s

Become A DRBIPA Member or Donate Today

Membership fees and donations directly support our community-based education, conservation, and recreation programs.

Benefits of Membership

- Voting rights at the AGM
- Access to special members-only guided walks
- Invitation to the DRBIPA picnic after Heritage Apple Day
- Involvement in your community and your local regional parks

Get involved! Membership is \$10 per family per year. If you would like to become a DRBIPA member please email outreach@drbipa.org.

Donations to DRBIPA can also be made through Pacific Parklands Foundation and are eligible for charitable tax receipts - be sure to select DRBIPA from the donation options.

We appreciate you taking time to donate or become a DRBIPA Member, every bit makes a difference in our parks!

