



Volunteers In Parks

Feature:
CRD's 50th Anniversary

VIP Profile:
Randy Cunningham

Staff Profile:
Todd Shannon

Volunteer & Park Updates



Celebrating 50 Years of the Capital Regional District

By Laurie Sthamann

The CRD's 50th anniversary activities are underway, showcasing and celebrating how the CRD has helped make our region sustainable, livable and vibrant.

Back in 1966, the provincial government created a "mini-metro government" named the Regional District of the Capital of British Columbia. It was designed to provide services through region-wide or shared delivery models. It had responsibility for sewage, parks - and fireworks! 50 years have passed. It's now known simply as the Capital Regional District, and it provides over 200 services to residents in the region. It encompasses the Southern Gulf Islands, Salt Spring Island, 13 municipalities and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area on Vancouver Island.

Celebrations for the 50th anniversary are taking place throughout 2016 for this important milestone. Information is on our website www.crd.bc.ca/anniversary. >>

50th Anniversary Activities

- Trivia Quiz – test your knowledge at CRD outreach booths at community events to enter in for prizes.
- Social Media – weekly trivia is posted through the CRD twitter account @crd_bc.
- Submit your photos for our regional photo storytelling activity – details at www.crd.bc.ca/anniversary.
- Geocaching Parks Activities - go on an interactive treasure hunt in our parks using your smart phone - see our website for details.
- Centennial Square Event: September 23 from 12 - 2 pm. Swing by for cake in the Square and guest presenters.





Greater Victoria Water Supply Area circa 1966



Greater Victoria Water Supply Area today

Are you CRD savvy?

Here's an opportunity to show off what you know about the regional district. Follow us on Twitter @crd_bc and Facebook @ CapitalRegionalDistrict for Q & A's and other fun facts about the region. Tweet or post a response using the hashtag #crd50 to show us that you are CRD savvy. Answers are posted on our social media channels every Friday afternoon. There will also be opportunities to play and win prizes at CRD booths located at a variety of community events throughout the year. Test your trivia knowledge with this sampling:

1. **Where did the name of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail come from?**
 - a. From the name of a passenger train
 - b. From the farm geese that are always on the trail
 - c. From the name of a popular children's toy
2. **If you live in Greater Victoria, where does your municipal tap water come from?**
 - a. Sooke Lake Reservoir
 - b. Strait of Juan de Fuca
 - c. Elk/Beaver Lake
3. **Which of the following is not accepted in a kitchen scraps collection program:**
 - a. Chicken bones
 - b. Dairy products
 - c. Compostable cutlery and packaging
 - d. Soiled paper napkins
4. **The CRD logo is an example of what type of word art?**
 - a. Ambigram
 - b. Pentagram
 - c. Palindrome

See answers on page 4.

If Trees Could Talk, What Would They Say?

Have you ever geocached? If not, you might enjoy trying your hand at this extremely popular activity. Geocaching is an interactive treasure hunt played using a smart phone. If you already geocache, you know it's a great way to spend quality time in nature, especially with kids who are loathe to be separated from their mobile devices. It's a nice combination of green time and screen time. CRD staff have created a series of geocache events under the theme "If Trees Could Talk, What Would They Say?" We hope you have as much fun finding each geocache as we did creating them. Find the details on www.crd.bc.ca/anniversary. If you are new to geocaching, you can quickly pick up the basics through a short video or how-to guide at www.geocaching.com.



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Photos and Storytelling

Have you captured a web-worthy picture at one of our parks or other favorite places in the CRD? We want your memorable stories and photos of our region, past and present. Photos are featured on the CRD's website gallery. You can submit them online through www.crd.bc.ca/anniversary.

Laurie Sthamann is the Communications Coordinator with CRD Regional Parks.



Randy Cunningham is a volunteer naturalist and beekeeper at Francis/King Regional Park. He has been a parks volunteer for 16 years. "It doesn't seem like that long because it's been fun and a great learning experience!"

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I enjoy meeting new people and talking about the natural and cultural heritage of our area. Also, the peace of mind that can be found in the area's parks is priceless. The Japanese call it forest bathing - it just feels good to take it all in.

What is your favourite Regional Park and why?

I love all the parks, but my favourite has to be our linear park, the Galloping Goose & Lochside Regional Trails. Cycling is my major form of fun and exercise. I've biked to the majority of my park shifts for sixteen years.

What is your favourite volunteer experience or memory?

One of my favourite memories is when Bill Spriggs and I thought the observation hive at Francis/King had swarmed. We found the queen bee just below the hive entrance. She couldn't fly and had just fallen from the hive's front door.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My wife and I are retired and live in Saanich. We enjoy exploring all of the CRD parks from Horth Hill to Sandcut Beach. Staycations are our specialty, especially in Victoria.



Todd Shannon joined CRD Regional Parks in January 2016 as the Operations Supervisor for the Regional Trails and Gulf Islands.

Where have you worked previously?

Prior to joining the CRD, I worked for Parks Canada at the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and was responsible for managing the visitor facilities. I joined the Gulf Islands National Parks team in 2003 and was integral with the early establishment of this new National Park Reserve. Prior to my transfer to Parks Canada, I worked for BC Parks as the Area Supervisor for the Southern Gulf Islands and before that as an Area Supervisor and Senior Ranger at various locations in the Okanagan. Before entering my career in park management I worked as a Marine Mammal Specialist at the Vancouver Aquarium, a Game Keeper at the Greater Vancouver Zoo and in Environmental Consulting in North Vancouver. I completed my Bachelor of Science Degree in biology, with a marine focus, at the University of Victoria.

What is your favourite Regional Park and why?

Mount Work Regional Park because I am an avid mountain biker, but I also love the Coast Trail at East Sooke Regional Park (it's an amazing coastal hike).

Where were you born and where have you lived?

I was born in Toronto. I grew up in southern Alberta, completed University in Victoria, lived in Vancouver, Kelowna and then moved back to Victoria in 2000.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I love the outdoors and nature and enjoy running, mountain biking, hiking, climbing and skiing. I am very excited about joining CRD Regional Parks and looking forward to exploring and helping protect the many amazing parklands that the CRD protects.

Volunteer & Park Updates

Volunteer Naturalists

Returning and New Volunteer Naturalists at Elk/Beaver Lake Nature Centre

The Nature Centre at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park re-opens from June 25-Sept. 5 as we embark on the busy summer season. We have several new and returning volunteers at the Nature Centre who welcome, engage and help build awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural environment at the park.

Andrea Rangel – returning *Anissa Catamejer – new*
Dennis Hall – returning *Eleni Gibson - new*
Larissa Mann – new *Paula Johanson – returning*

New Volunteers Welcomed at Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre

We have also recruited a couple of new volunteers for Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre.

Connie Mahoney *Nansi Blenkiron*

Welcome to our new volunteers and welcome back to our returning volunteers! We are still in need of a few more volunteer naturalists at Witty's Lagoon. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering at the Nature Centre please send them my contact information: clong@crd.bc.ca or 250.360.3329.

50th Anniversary Trivia Answers

(Continued from page 2)

1. A: The name of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail came from the gas-powered Galloping Goose train passenger car, which was gawky and noisy. It ran for nine years, starting in 1922, carrying mail and passengers twice a day from Victoria to Sooke. In 1987, the railway line was converted into the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.
2. A: The primary source of water for residents of Greater Victoria is the Sooke Lake Reservoir. Elk/Beaver Lake was once the source of Victoria's drinking water; however, it was deemed unable to meet Victoria's needs in the early 1900s. In 2002, the CRD raised the Sooke Dam so that the Sooke Reservoir can now hold 20.4 billion imperial gallons of water.
3. C: The CRD does not accept compostable cutlery and packaging in the kitchen scraps program, a program that began with a pilot project in 2007 and helps conserve space in our landfill. In 2015 alone, the program diverted over 10,000 tonnes of kitchen scraps from the landfill.
4. A: The CRD logo is an example of an ambigram. An ambigram is a type of word art whose elements retain meaning when viewed or interpreted from a different direction. If you turn the CRD logo upside down, it still says CRD! It was created in 1976 by Vara Wilson, a CRD employee, in response to a logo contest.



Elk/Beaver Lake was one of five parks that made up the newly established Capital Regional District parks system in 1966. Before taking on its park status, Elk/Beaver Lake was the water supply for Victoria from 1879-1913. People complained of fish and tadpoles flowing from their taps so, in 1896, a filtration system known as the Filter Beds was built. After it was abandoned as city's water source it became known as "The Freshwater Playground of Victoria". Today, it is one of the most highly visited regional parks with 1.5 million visits annually. Photo left: Water works and filter beds construction at Beaver Lake June 1898. Photo right: Rowing on the lake circa 1929. Photos courtesy Saanich Archives.