

WINGSPAN

WILD BIRD TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DOUBLE ISSUE 2017



**COAST SALISH PLANTS
SOCIAL MEDIA BIRDS
KINGFISHER NATURE KIDS
IOCONGRESS2018 REVIEW**

**HABITAT & CULTURAL-
USE PLANNING
MAPLEWOOD FLATS
MAP & SCHEDULE**



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Photo credit for page 1: Golden-crowned Kinglet, photographed by Rob Alexander.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Largest-ever bird gathering held in Vancouver	6
Invitation to International Ornithological Congress 2018	8
Birding Around the World	9
Out on the Flats	
Reflections of a Purple Martin volunteer	12
Report on Habitat & Cultural-Use Management Planning 2017-2018	13
Maplewood North & Maplewood Community Plan	16
Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Plan	16
The Future of Burrard Inlet	18
Mayor's Message on the Trans Mountain Expansion 19	
Habitat and Cultural Use Management Planning Workshop Series	20
Burrard Inlet Action Plan: A Tsleil-Waututh Perspective & Update	21
Maplewood Nursery Business Plan	23
Maplewood Flats: A Self-Guided Tour	24
Kingfisher Children's Camps launched at Maplewood Flats	26
A bit about bird song	29
Birding and Naturalist Apps for your Smartphone 30	
Maplewood Flats has social media!	32
A Heron in My Lap	33
Freeze Frames	34
Coast Salish Cultural Heritage Program	37
Common Coast Salish Plants at Maplewood Flats	39
Planned Giving	43
Bench Program in the Conservation Area at Maple-wood Flats	43
Volunteer at Maplewood Flats	44
Committee Updates	44
Honouring Elders	47

It is with great happiness that we invite you to this BIG ISSUE of Wingspan. In these pages we shed a spotlight on an exciting 24th year as the Wild Bird Trust, and showcase our efforts improving the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.

During 2017 we trained four summer students, hosted many public walks, an open house, a festival, launched committees and launched our *Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Plan!* A busy year indeed and lots of pictures inside to share with you.

As we get set for our 25th year we are pleased to announce the theme of our anniversary year is 'education.' We preview our Kingfisher children's education program inside Wingspan on page 26.

Next summer we will host birders from around the world attending the International Ornithological Congress, August 19-26, 2018. This international celebration puts the spotlight on birds and coincides with our own 25th anniversary. Read about that on page 6.

Following the retirement of Patricia Banning-Lover, our longstanding President, the WBT Board took the year to transition to a different management style and shifted the coordinating work from Patricia to many people sharing the workload with a participatory democratic model. Committees have been struck, new Board members recruited with special skills, and we are moving ahead with important restoration and education work. As we made the transition, vacancies on the board arose which we filled with respected members of our conservation community who were committed to cooperative working styles. We are invit-

ing our membership to give this entire unified board a mandate through 2018. See page 47.

The Board embarked on an 18-month long Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Plan and is inviting contributions from natural and social science researchers. This management planning exercise will provide the Board and our stakeholders with a clear vision and policy handbook for the next decade ahead. We invite you to "citizen science" sessions taking place this Fall and Winter, with details on pages 16. (No previous experience required!)

With the 2014 Truth & Reconciliation Commission recommendations already acted upon by local governments, the Wild Bird Trust has expressed its recognition that Maplewood Flats is situated in the traditional lands and waters of the Tsleil-Waututh and Coast Salish Peoples. Our Coast Salish Cultural Heritage Project, received word from MLA Jane Thornthwaite of our successful funding application to the BC Government and the BC Museums Assoc. The funding will enable us to work with Coast Salish artists to introduce more public art to the Maplewood Flats. Read about it on page 37.

We would be remiss to not mention that Donna Clark, our Fundraising Committee Chair, invites members and readers to make a contribution to our vital work on the shores of Burrard Inlet. We require your assistance to develop our new children's education programs at the recently-completed Corrigan Nature House, as well as do research and further habitat restoration in the Conservation Area. Please make a charitable donation to this work and we will mail you a

2017 tax receipt. Also if you have not already, join and renew your membership (new low-income and student membership rate starts at \$15), consider converting to a lifetime membership, or make it a family membership.

We know from research that 90% of bird conservationists get hooked as a child or teenager. Please support our work with a donation so we can affect more young people. Make a donation of money or time and let's make the next 25 years of this continued journey just as successful as the first!

Of final note, we both look forward to seeing old and new members at a special gathering "Honouring The Elders" and our AGM on November 18, 2017 at the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Centre. (See back cover)

Warmly,
Jude Grass, Vice-President
Irwin Oostindie, President



Meeting of the Maplewood Flats Steering Committee to discuss our respective responsibilities for the Conservation Area, between Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Environment Canada, District of North Vancouver and Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia. L>R Jude Grass (WBT Vice-president), Graham Van Aggelen (EC), Janine Ryder (DNV), Irwin Oostindie (WBT President). Scarlett Chen (VFPA) absent from photo.

WINGSPAN

YOUR GUIDE TO
MAPLEWOOD FLATS
2017 DOUBLE ISSUE

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**WBT WILD BIRD TRUST OF
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Dedicated to the protection of wild
birds and their habitats,
on the principle that all wildlife must
benefit.

THE CONSERVATION AREA
AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS
2649 Dollarton Highway,
North Vancouver, BC, V7H 1B1
(2 km. east of Second Narrows Bridge)

PHONE: 604 903 4471

INSTAGRAM & TWITTER:

@MaplewoodFlats

www.wildbirdtrust.org

PRODUCED BY THE
Communications Committee

DESIGN BY

Honey Mae
about.me/honeymae

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SALES:
joinwbt.eventbrite.ca

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES:
membership@wildbirdtrust.org

VOLUNTEERING:
volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org

CORRIGAN NATURE

HOUSE RENTALS:
rentals@wildbirdtrust.org
ELSIE WEBB, Administrator,
admin@wildbirdtrust.org

604-929-2379
ERNIE KENNEDY, Conservation Area
Mgr., sitemanager@wildbirdtrust.org
778-881-5300

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British
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YEAR IN PICTURES

This page from the top clockwise: Iggy & Dee George present 'Duck Tales' at our Spring 2017 Open House; Attendees at our May 26th Lunch; Huge turnout for a bird walk with Al Grass; Luke Ridgway receives donation cheque from Helena Begg, Univar Canada;

Opposite page from the top: Chloe Hartley presents to members on her summer field research; Summer student Monica Cheema shoots a video documenting PUMA box program (l>r) Monica, Sharon Carey, Mark Habdas, Ernie Kennedy, Mike Montl; T'uy'tanat Cease Wyss shares her Ethnobotany knowledge; Flowers of recognition for our Volunteer Program leaders (l>r) Elsie, Carol, Irwin, Patricia, Ernie, Luke;.

LARGEST-EVER BIRD GATHERING HELD IN VANCOUVER

The 27th International Ornithological Congress
Vancouver, August 19-26, 2018

The excitement in the voice and eyes of Robert Elner is palpable as he describes the incredible sights and sounds that will greet 2000 delegates at next summer's International Ornithological Congress. Not looking like he is consumed with stress, or jetlag from his recent globetrotting spreading the word, instead Rob shares his inspired message about opportunities for the local birding community and organisations.

Elner is the Convenor of the 27th International Ornithological Congress 2018 is well-known in the birding community and is Scientist Emeritus, Environment Canada and an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University.

In August, Elner sat down with WBT President Irwin Oostindie to share updates for WBT members and *Wingspan* readers. He updated and fleshed out opportunities for WBT and Maplewood Flats as we host some of the 2000+ delegates and some of the 30,000 Vancouver International Bird Festival (VIBF) participants.

Ornithologists from around the world will attend the August 2018 gathering of the International Ornithologists' Union at this 27th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress2018)!

Having assembled a diverse group of supporters, the partnerships reflects the vision that "wild birds are ambassadors for environmental health, and sustaining our bird heritage depends on all governments working in concert with Aboriginal Peoples, academia, artists, the interested public and non-government organizations."

"The event host is the "IOCongress2018 Organizing Society", a registered non-profit, with many of the same members who made the 5th North

American Ornithological Conference (NAOC-V, Vancouver, 2012) the biggest and most financially successful bird meeting staged in North America to-date." Rob and his team is appropriately excited about doing even better in 2018, with a once-in-a-lifetime scientific gathering of a scope and scale hitherto never attempted.

Vancouver International Bird Festival (VIBF) coincides with the International Ornithological Congress from 19 to 26 August. The VIBF is also planning an exciting week of all-things-birds for people from around the world. The Festival is run by members of the City of Vancouver's ad hoc Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee made up of individuals and community groups with an interest in birds. It is led by Dr. Rob Butler, who local birders will be very familiar with.

The WBT and other local groups will be participating with both the Festival and the Congress. For international guests, pre- and post-Congress tours are being arranged to birding hot spots like the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver, the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Delta, BC, as well as other regional bird-watching opportunities via Sewell's Marina, British Columbia Field Ornithologists, Squamish's Sea to Sky Gondola for alpine hikes, and a boat cruise to Indian Arm with Nature Vancouver. Rob anticipates one-third to one-half of delegates taking daytrips and this can be a revenue sharing opportunity for participating groups. Friday August 24 will be the big day for delegates to go out on field trips.

The Congress and Bird Festival celebrations kick off with a public parade near Coal Harbour on August 20. Artists for Conservation (based in North



IO Congress is thrilled to announce that Margaret Atwood will participate in "Canada Night" at on 21 August, 2018! (L>R) David Bradley, Margaret Atwood, Robert Elner.

Vancouver) will host a 120' mural at the Convention Centre, open to the public, featuring 700 listed birds. The title of the mural will be 'Silent Skies,' and after the Congress it will travel to China and to the Smithsonian Institution.

At the recent August planning meeting, Rob Elner and Irwin Oostindie discussed WBT participating at the Congress site with a display at the Vancouver Convention Centre, as well as supporting the Congress and Festival as much as possible. They also expressed their mutual interest in seeing WBT partnering with the Tsleil-Waututh Nations' Takaya Tours (takayatours.com) who are developing a Coast Salish birding walk on Burrard Inlet connecting the area's natural sciences and cultural heritage thru story and songs. For years, Takaya Tours has operated nature walks and tours at nearby Whey-

ah-Wichen/Cates Park as well as from their second base at Belcarra Regional Park. Takaya Tours can bring IO Congress delegates out in ocean-going canoes with birding guides from WBT and Tsleil-Waututh. Elner stated his desire to see a program develop arising from a relationship connecting the Congress, Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC, Takaya Tours, and Wild Bird Trust.

Fuelled in part by Rob Elner's excitement, as well as the energy from the Vancouver International Bird Festivals team of Rob Butler and crew, the WBT will do its share to help Vancouver host this historic event, as well as build a legacy for Maplewood Flats. Maplewood Flats will host a daily program (for the general public and Congress delegates) consisting of educational displays, bird walks, food service, and fundraising merchandise sales. ✂

Invitation to International Ornithological Congress 2018

Vancouver is delighted to welcome ornithologists from around the world on behalf of the International Ornithologists' Union to the 27th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress2018)! Considered the oldest and most prestigious of meetings for bird scientists, the Congress occurs every four years since first being held in Vienna, Austria, in 1884.

The Congress has broad national endorsement, including from the City of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, Environment Canada, Simon Fraser University, Artists for Conservation, Tourism Vancouver plus an array of scientific societies and conservation organizations including the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, Bird Studies Canada, the country's leading science-based bird conservation organization is Co-Host.

In honor of the occasion, the City's annual Bird Week will coincide with the Congress in 2018, showcasing Vancouver to the world as a green, bird-friendly city. With this mounting enthusiasm, coupled with the spectacular venue (West Wing of the Vancouver Convention Centre), our aim is to make this Congress the most successful and important bird meeting yet. We believe that the prospect of over 2,000 scientists from ~100 countries flocking to Vancouver in combination with public events and exhibitions in celebration of all-things-birds will represent a game-changer for ornithological conferences.

Join us in fostering an international legacy and heralding a new era in ornithology.

Robert Elner Ph.D.
Convener, 27th International Ornithological Congress 2018; Scientist Emeritus, Environment Canada; Adjunct Professor, Simon Fraser University

SPECIAL FEATURE...CONTINUED

It is anticipated that as many as 1500 delegates, tourists, and locals will visit Maplewood Flats during the week. Plans are underway to manage these numbers at the popular conservation area on Burrard Inlet. The Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Management Plan (written up in this issue of Wingspan) is helping assess public assembly and event stressors on Maplewood Flats. Hosting this many people may require new entrance points, tour bus parking, festival-style tents near Dollarton Highway, printing of educational materials and procurement of fundraising merchandise.

Helping Wild Bird Trust coordinate the hosting the IOCongress which coincides with our 25th anniversary, is Dan Straker, new WBT Board member. Dan is a former staffer at Stanley Park Ecology Society, who served as Coordinator of last summer's Vancouver Bird Week. Dan is joined by Angela Hansen, a former WBT Board member who has recently moved to Tasmania for PhD research work. Angela will return for the IOCongress and WBT's 25th Anniversary.

The Board of Directors sat down to discuss how WBT can best support these important events. Dan will meet with WBT members and keep the Board up-to-date as planning gets underway. WBT is currently fundraising for next year's celebration of 25 years of conservation work at Maplewood Flats which will be showcased during IOCongress.



To get involved in planning our 25th Anniversary celebrations and IO Congress activities at Maplewood Flats attend an upcoming Information Session at Corrigan Nature House or email volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org.

The Field Glass Ceiling

By Brooke McDonald. Reprinted from American Birding Association

Most birders are women. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2007 report, "Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis," 54% of birders are women. At the Space Coast Birding Festival in 2011, 69% of attendees were women; at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in 2010, 60-65% of attendees were women; and at The Biggest Week in American Birding, around 60% of attendees have been women. Tropical Birding estimates that two-thirds of their American clients are women, VENT estimates that 60% of their clients are women, and another leading tour company said that 54.6% of their clients booked for upcoming trips are women.

- However, by any measure, women are poorly represented in the upper ranks of birding.
- Women have 11.2% of the top ten Bird state lists for each U.S. state.
- Women are 9.3% of all state bird records committee members—a number that drops to 7.8% if the committee secretaries are excluded.
- There are eight women out of the American Birding Association's top 100 ABA-area listers.
- Women are 3.6% of California county big day record holders.

- Finally, there has been only one woman out of the 35 current and former members of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee.

This disparity was explored in a paper by Caren Cooper and Jennifer Smith titled "Gender Patterns in Bird-related Recreation in the USA and UK" published in 2010 in Ecology and Society. Cooper and Smith classified birding into four categories of increasing difficulty: Supportive, Participatory, Competitive, and Authoritative. They found that women's participation decreased at each successive level. For example, membership in the National Audubon Society, a Supportive activity, was 63% female; Project FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Count, Participatory activities, were, respectively, 66% and 37% female; inclusion in the ABA Big Day and ABA List Report, a Competitive activity, was 20% female; and service as an eBird state editor, an Authoritative activity, was 7% female.

Unlike the challenge of bringing people of different races and ethnicities into the birding community, this is not an issue that can be resolved by simply introducing more women to birding. Women are already here, but they are not attaining high status in the community.

Authority in the birding community is a function not only of one's skills but of confidence in one's skills. According to Cooper and Smith, men are more likely to be overconfident in rating their own birding skills while women are more likely to be under confident. But what factors

BIRDING AROUND THE WORLD

are responsible for this difference in confidence levels?

Read more of the article at <http://blog.aba.org/2013/06/open-mic-the-field-glass-ceiling-women-mcdonald.html>

Bird watching becoming more popular than golf in the USA

by Mike Marut

Ashland, Oregon - On Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017, the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) held its annual international migratory bird celebration, this time with one of the most renowned birders in the world: Noah Strycker.

Strycker became the first person to see half the world's bird species in a single year and has written a book, *Birding Without Borders*. John Alexander, KBO executive director says the book partners perfectly with this year's theme to celebrate migratory birds who, obviously, migrate with no regard to country borders.

"This year's theme is helping birds along the way," Alexander said. "A lot of our birds are migratory and they don't recognize borders in their migration. They breed here in the pacific northwest and then migrate to Mexico or southern Mexico."

Alexander emphasized that with 46.7 million birders in the United States, the hobby has become more popular than golfing - plus that group spends about \$13 billion annually as a whole.



Photos by Mark Habdas, September 27, 2017

MAPLEWOOD'S PURPLE MARTINS

By J.M. Ryder, WBT Purple Martin Monitoring Coordinator

Enjoy photographs of this month's collection of Purple Martin nests from September 27, 2017 after a successful season. Back on April 16, 2017 was the Purple Martin arrival date at Maplewood. By the end of summer, on September 27, we examined the boxes and again, we saw chicks in boxes that contained very little nesting material. But there is evidence that, in general, some PUMA "nests" may consist of very little material. For example, we found eggs and a (dead) chick in boxes that were virtually empty, and "Birds of North America Online" (the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's comprehensive compilation of bird data) indicates that PUMA nests may consist of minimal materials—so eggs may be laid on the bare boards of the nest box—possibly by inexperienced 1 yr-old birds. So all thing considered, we have 50 "nests", and 17 "possible nests", giving an overall total (best) estimate for nesting pairs of 59.

Project MartinWatch of the Purple Martin Conservation Association has shared preliminary reports of its overall 2017 North American data coverage area of 6215 eggs, 5083 hatchlings, and 3859 fledglings counted.

You can read the comprehensive 2017 report coming in the next issue of Wingspan. As we wait to read the analysis of 2017 data from Maplewood Flats, we now look back at the full 2016 year.

In 2016 we set out the nest-boxes on March 25 – about 10 days earlier than usual because the weather had been sunny and relatively warm. And the birds did arrive earlier, the first one being recorded by Derek Killby on April 7. That is more than a week earlier than the first sighting in 2015, which was April 16, by John Lowman.

Fortunately, the sea was suitably calm on the day when the nest-boxes were set out. Many thanks to Mike and Ernie for staffing the small boat and installing the boxes onto the nails in the dolphins (clusters of pilings). Each box is numbered and has a designated location on a particular dolphin; sorting

the boxes and lifting them high in the restricted space of a small boat is no easy task.

Older birds (i.e., individuals in their second summer or older) are the first arrivals, then others straggle in, with younger birds the latest to arrive. It takes some time — several weeks — for the pairs to establish ownership of a specific box and settle down to the serious business of building a nest and laying eggs, so there is a pause before we start monitoring the breeding activity around the nest-boxes.

We commenced the field (i.e., mudflats) surveys on June 6, and completed the last one on August 29, having carried out 17 surveys totaling 51 hours of

observation time. Each survey is carried out by two observers (occasionally three if one participant is a trainee). Early in the season we observe and record breeding behaviour such as birds entering or leaving nest-boxes and nest-building activities (birds carrying nesting material). Later on, we make note of adults carrying food to their nests, removing fecal sacs (which indicates the presence of hatchlings), and then, the most engaging sightings – the chicks themselves.

The floor-space in a nest box is much larger than the actual nest, which is typically a shallow cup about 8 cm across tucked away in the back corner of the box furthest from the entrance. When the chicks are about two weeks old, they tend to leave the nest and wait near the box entrance for the next adult to arrive with food. At this stage, and from then on, we can actually see them and confirm nesting success. This year, the first nestlings (two, from two nests) were seen on July 30, 12 were seen 4 days later, and a maximum of 44 on August 17. Of course, there is no space for all the chicks in a nest (typically 4) to sit next to the entrance, so we cannot count the total number of chicks in the colony.

To provide further information about the numbers of nesting martins, we also examine the contents of the nest-boxes when they are brought in for the winter. This year, the boxes were taken down and brought in for winter storage on September 22 — the last martins having departed for fall migration on September 13. Nest box contents range from well-formed nests to bare boards. Boxes with partly constructed nests or unhatched eggs were likely abandoned by the nesting pair – possibly inexperienced first-time nesters. Some boxes contain dead chicks, most often tiny hatchlings that likely starved during a spell of cold, rainy weather when adults were unable to find sufficient food (mostly dragonflies and other aquatic insects). Some boxes contain only a few droppings, and may have been used as roosts, while others are completely empty. When nest-box contents are compared to field observations there are sometimes puzzling results, such as boxes where chicks were seen but that actually contain very little in the way of nesting material. This suggests that either the chicks were raised on the bare boards ("minimalist" nests are possible) or we misinterpreted a field observation. Perhaps an adult female resting near a box entrance was mistaken for a large chick? (We are aware of this possibility and try avoid such misinterpretations. So survey results are not always exact, but are the best we can do using hands-off (no nest disturbance) methods.

Finally, data from field surveys and nest-box contents are linked and assessed to provide an overall estimate of the number of nesting pairs of Purple Martins. In 2016 we found clear evidence for 52 nesting pairs (i.e., active nests), and evidence for 15 "possible" nests/nesting pairs. Assuming that half of the "possibles" (8) were identified correctly, then our best estimate for 2016 is $52 + 8 = 60$ nesting pairs. We also observed Tree Swallow nesting activity at two nest-boxes, but both are old immovable boxes so we have no information about box contents or possible nest success.

If you would like to find out where Maplewood's Purple Martins are right now, go to <https://www.purplemartin.org/research> and click on 'Scout Arrival Study' (lower right). This page shows a map of North America with the locations of recently reported martin sightings (at nesting sites). The 'scouts' are the older birds that lead the way. Check this map frequently to follow the northward and southward migration. We check often to ensure that we will have the nest boxes ready and waiting for our returning martins when they arrive, although arrival times are usually fairly predictable. During 2006 - 2015, all of our first sightings were between April 21 and 24, although some of the early birds may have been only passing through en route to other colonies.

The estimated number of nesting pairs in 2016 is relatively low compared to the preceding three years, but the reason(s) for this, and the apparent 2014-2016 decline is not clear.

The next issue of Wingspan will feature an update on our WBT Purple Martin Monitoring Program and data from 2017. ✂

For information on Purple Martin surveys and volunteering at Maplewood Flats contact: volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org

Connect with Purple Martin landlords and enthusiasts from all over North America!

Facebook
[facebook.com/
PurpleMartinConservationAssociation](https://facebook.com/PurpleMartinConservationAssociation)

Twitter
twitter.com/pmcaerie



Photos by Mark Habdas, September 27, 2017

Out on the Flats: Reflections of a Purple Martin volunteer

By Angela Hansen

I step off the path, over the barrier, and carefully pick my way down the embankment, and am surprised by what I find on the Maplewood mudflats as a Purple Martin survey volunteer. With every step my boots sink a little into the sandy mud, and come out with a squish and a slurp as I twist and flex my feet in a fight to keep my boots on, and the mudflats try to keep them. We head towards the base of the pilings where the nest boxes are carefully hung each spring, with our binoculars, scopes, and notepads ready. Once we were about 100 metres from the shore a layer of barnacled rocks on the surface of the mud makes it easier to walk, as long as you are careful when stepping on the slippery bright green sea-lettuce patches. With every step hundreds of shore crabs run for cover, and I try not to step on them. A near impossible task. As a marine biologist I can't help gazing down in fascination at the rich ecosystem beneath my feet, and as an avid birder I am overjoyed when the Purple Martins start flying over to us to check us out, almost like a greeting.

I met Wildbird Trust members Colin Clasen and Derek Killby at the beginning of last summer, 2016. They had just finished a bird count in the Maplewood Conservation Area and I stopped to check the recent sightings posted and ask them about warblers, as I was anxious to find a couple new birds for my life-list. I was not yet then a member of Wildbird Trust, just a local North

Shore resident birder. We got to talking and they invited me to volunteer for the Purple Martin volunteer survey team. I readily accepted!

Volunteers are trained and have special permission to be out on the mudflats while doing Purple Martin surveys because the mudflats can be dangerous and the habitat and wildlife is very sensitive to disturbance. The surveys are done in teams of 2 or 3, and are carefully timed with the tides and time of day. Signs are posted at mudflat lookouts along the trails when surveys are underway to inform other visitors about what we are doing out on the flats.

Every survey I conducted last summer, with Colin, was different and enjoyable. I loved watching the Purple Martins build and maintain their nests, provision chicks, and interact with one another. We also saw many other birds utilizing this important habitat: Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Barn Swallows, Gulls, and numerous Shorebirds. A real treat was the closer views of the nesting Osprey. The mudflats are peaceful and an oasis of bird and inter-tidal life, and ongoing monitoring is vital to protecting this vital and one-of-a-kind habitat in Burrard Inlet.

If you are interested in supporting Purple Martins, or in becoming a Purple Martin survey volunteer, email volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org.

Angela Hansen is a PhD Candidate at the University of Tasmania, and former WBT Board member. ✍️



Burrard Inlet in the 1940's

REPORT ON HABITAT & CULTURAL-USE MANAGEMENT PLANNING 2017-2018

Goal: Research and develop policy frameworks and site management strategies to advance ecological restoration and sustainability of the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.

By/For: WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, operators of The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats.
Questions & Information: habitat@wildbirdtrust.org.

TIMELINE
May 2017 thru January 2018: Site Assessment – Phases 1–4

January 2018 thru July 2018: Establishing Restoration Goals & Objectives – Phases 5–9

BACKGROUND ON PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- WBT hosted two Fall 2016 symposia: Managing Invasives

& Coast Salish History of the Flats. These both enabled WBT members and the Board of Directors to discuss topical issues leading to development of policy. (Fall 2016)

- Change of Board of Directors and AGM (Nov 2017)
- Terry Hood, Richard Beard, Kevin Bell and Irwin Oostindie meet and recommend bringing

Invasives symposium dialogue forward into a management planning process. (Winter 2017)

- Habitat & Site Maintenance Committee approved request to WBT Board of Directors to support plan development (Feb 5, 2017)
- Board approves development of inventories as the initial step in development of plan; approved

- placement of Chloe Hartley (SFU/BCIT MA researcher) to assist as an active participant in plan development. (Feb 13, 2017)
- Presentation of draft plan proposal for members at CNH Open House (May 8, 2017)
 - This proposal for plan (which you are reading) approved by Board (May 2017)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Bring forward existing and new research including: birds, plants, small rodents, soil, marsh, trees, and more.
- Examine prospects for habitat restoration (including land, foreshore, waterways restoration).
- Surrounding area mudflats de-industrialization
- Policy and management practices for species introduced “post-contact.”
- Assess cumulative development pressures in surrounding areas, including Maplewood North.
- Explore Tsleil-Waututh cultural use (crab harvesting, cultural practices, etc)
- Generate excitement to support funding future restoration.

ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS:

- WBT members (650) contacts (1250)
- Regional birding and conservation community
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Maplewood Flats is within the Traditional Territory of Tsleil-Waututh & Coast Salish Peoples.
- Crown / government stakeholders including District of North Vancouver, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, Environment Canada. (WBT holding lease to 2041)
- Neighbours – residents of Maplewood and Dollarton

Neighbours – industry

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH APPROACH:

- The Plan development brings the best of two worlds together with the best of natural and social sciences research methods
- The work includes WBT members and academic researchers through participant-based research techniques.
- The work respects Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- The Plan recognizes balance of social-ecological systems
- Focus groups (WBT members, stakeholders, Tsleil-Waututh, public)
- Interviews & surveys (site visitors, Tsleil-Waututh, natural scientists)
- Survey of existing data; conduct follow-up research
- Communications
- Throughout each of the nine phases of the plan’s development:
- Report out to stakeholders with communication/consultation/engagement.
- Use pedagogical approach with popular education, development of WBT policy, training for members, staff, and Board
- Use applied research and engagement strategy; treat research and communications as coexisting; educate/manage stakeholders
- Produce print materials ie: surveys, articles, posters, print in Wingspan
- Social media strategy: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook
- Use e-newsletters for updates

DETAILED PHASES OF WORK

PHASE 1: BASELINE HISTORIC CONDITIONS + CHANGES

- Develop baseline picture of Maplewood Flats: Pre-contact; Post-contact settler development
- Gathering background research data from stakeholders
- Identify what is missing from baseline
- Identify past major restorative projects (formal/informal)

PHASE 2: DEVELOP GOALS

- Aspirational ideas for the site. Overarching management vision.
- Identify “desired future conditions” and examine reference ecosystems for defining objectives.
- Establish preliminary goals and objectives: May-June 2017
- Recognize opportunities for Plan’s use as demonstration project for International Ornithological Congress, Aug 2018

PHASE 3: CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Baseline data and Inventory of biota: May - November 2017
- Description of topography, hydrology, soils, aerial photos, property boundaries, etc....
- Inventory of plant, bird, small mammals, amphibians...
- GIS mapping of ecological communities (wetlands, forest, meadow, water’s edge) and introduced species coverage.
- Identifying gaps and areas needing new research
- Collaborate with Tsleil-Waututh Treaty, Lands & Resources
- Department concerning their overarching research and plans.
- Schedule contractor meeting for gathering the gaps in the information / engaging colleges in getting the work done (SFU REM, Capilano University, BCIT/SFU Ecological Restoration Mngt).

PHASE 4: IDENTIFYING STRESSORS



Photo: Mélinda Mena-Robinson

- Conduct seminars to examine stressors - Nov 2017 to Jan 2018
- Introduced species (including fields taken over)
- Maplewood North (DNV Maplewood Plan); Darwin development
- Increased public use; managing traffic; impact on site from stakeholder policies; Seymour connector trailhead at Maplewood Flats
- External connections/watershed connection/community connections
- Lack of connection with historic land stewards
- Increased tanker traffic Trans Mountain Pipeline/Westridge Terminal
- Litter being washed up
- Global warming, rising sea levels, loss of marshland

PHASE 5: REVISE GOALS

- Review aspirational ideas and vision for the site

- Review and revise Goals and Objectives: January-February 2018

PHASE 6: STEPS TO MEET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Steps to meet goals. (SMART: Specific, measurable, attainable, results oriented and time-specific)
- Establishing Goals and Objectives: January-February 2018

PHASE 7: TREATMENTS

- Action plans to achieve objectives
- Establishing Monitoring/Treatments/Adaptive management plan – March 2018

PHASE 8: MONITORING PLAN AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- Used to assess if/how objectives are being met
- Results guide revisions of goals/objectives
- Monitoring/Treatments/Adaptive management plan – March 2018

PHASE 9: 5 AND 10 YEAR PLAN

- Rank objectives, set plan for implementation
- Maintenance plan (different from monitoring) to keep treatments on trajectory
- Plan to document changes to site and restoration treatments
- Currently raising funds to support the Plan Development
- \$10,000 – support from volunteers, student & community researchers (including summer student funding)
- \$20,000 - Supplementary research contractors (wetlands, forest, meadow, foreshore)
- \$10,000 Communications & Engagement (printing, open houses)

FUNDING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Funding levels to be determined based on Phases 7 + 9, recommended treatment options and consideration of duration (5 – 10 years).
- Amount may range from \$250,000 to \$3,000,000 ☞



Maplewood North & Maplewood Community Plan

The District of North Vancouver (DNV) and Wild Bird Trust (WBT) met in May 2017 to investigate the possibility of creating or enhancing the freshwater supply to Park Street Marsh at the west side of the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. The DNV had engaged McElhanney, engineering consultants, to examine the feasibility. The consultants looked at the feasibility of combining the freshwater spring identified in earlier biophysical assessments with other potential water sources and bringing this water into the Park Street marsh.

The DNV is also interested in the possibility that the source of freshwater could be configured into a new fish bearing stream. The consultant team toured the

Park Street marsh area with WBT and had a follow-up meeting.

Additionally, WBT has engaged SFU/BCIT students to assess impacts and options for these potential improvements.

At a larger level, development of Maplewood North is also being captured by a DNV Official Maplewood Community Plan and WBT has provided feedback and direction on the draft plan. A workshop session took place connecting WBT members at the Osprey Festsival with the DNV Team of Karen Rendek, Planner, and Richard Boase, Environmental Protection Officer.

The session at WBT's Corri-gan Nature House in July 2017 was an opportunity for a couple of dozen members to listen and respond and help shape the plan for Maplewood's future. To review background materials and see Phases 1 and 2 of the planning process, visit webpage www.dnv.org/maplewood

Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Plan

Project Focus: Stream Creation at Maplewood Flats Conservation Area

In Partnership with BCIT SFU Ecological Restoration Graduate Program

STUDY SITE

The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats is comprised of several habitat types including seasonal ponds, salt marshes and mudflats that are subject to tidal influences. Due to a range of land use and management throughout its history, Maplewood Flats hosts a variety of both exotic and native plant species. There are approximately 250 species of birds that have been spotted in this area and there are 3km of hiking trails for visitors. Maplewood Flats is recognized as

a Globally Significant Bird Area by the IBA "Important Bird Areas Canada."

HISTORY BACKGROUND

The mudflats were contiguous across the North Shore for millennia and stewarded by Coast Salish Peoples since the last ice age 13,000+ year ago. Archeological remains in the immediate are date back thousands of years, and have been researched by the surrounding Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Post settler contact, Maplewood Flats has a complex history of land use beginning with the deposition of excavated land material from urban development. After being used as an industrial site the land area was eventually established as the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats in 1992

as part of an agreement by the District of North Vancouver, the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority and the WBT Wild Bird Trust of BC. While this area has remained protected, development continues in surrounding areas, adding to cumulative stressors on the area and the biodiversity it supports.

The latest development pressures being considered are for the area immediately north of the Conservation Area, where residential and light industry will replace a currently forested area. As part of this development, the District of North Vancouver has proposed a stream development in partnership with the Wild Bird Trust, which aims to facilitate an influx of water through the conservation site to use as a future fresh water creek, with consideration of supporting fish.

PROPOSAL OBJECTIVES

With the residential light industrial development happening on the northern side of Dollarton Highway, the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats to the south will be in the immediate vicinity of this disturbance. In order to manage the hydrology of the development, the District of North Vancouver has proposed to reroute much of the water flow under Dollarton Highway and through the western edge of the Conservation Area. The addition of this annual flow of water presents the District of North Vancouver and the Wild Bird Trust of BC a unique opportunity to create a stream from the proposed development area through to Burrard Inlet.

The purpose of this research is to complete an assessment of the potential impacts and benefits of



the addition of a stream in the conservation area. Additionally, this proposal aims to advise the Maplewood Flats community on potential options for stream creation that are consistent with the mission of the Wild Bird Trust of BC to protect wild birds and their habitat in Burrard Inlet. This assessment and proposal, to be completed by a group of BCIT SFU Ecological Restoration Masters candidates, will be completed in partnership with the WBT community. This partnership ensures that proper consultation is completed and objectives of the WBT community are met.

Two potential routes will be investigated in the Conservation Area as potential future stream habitat with the aim to maintain the ecological integrity of existing critical bird habitat. One potential route “Potential route 1” Figure 1 currently exhibits a small forested area, a small pond that experience seasonal drying, and a significant intertidal salt marsh. The second route “Potential route 2, Figure 1

aims to direct the water along the North edge of the conservation area and into the historic barge channel.

To manage this influx of water” both routes would require assessment of current habitats. If necessary” proposed modifications may be recommended in order to build and maintain the stream channel and riparian zone. These changes will support a stream that flows all year round” along with the geomorphological features and riparian habitat associated with salmon spawning. The addition of this perennial stream ecosystem will contribute to increased plant and animal diversity in the Conservation Area, while potentially even providing critical habitat for salmon or other species that depend on the riparian and intertidal stream zone. Promoting salmon habitat could also support several shoreline birds which are threatened by habitat loss and food insecurity.

RELEVANCE

As development encroaches on the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats the need to offset any loss to biodiversity becomes crucial to avoid a species threshold scenario. By implementing a salmon-bearing stream for example, the goal becomes mediating the impact of development while dealing with excess water output that would normally have been gradually introduced to the system via the forest. Additionally, the creation of a restoration plan for the fish-bearing stream in Maplewood Flats will help maximize the environmental integrity of the development to “Maplewood North” by setting specific environmental targets known to support spawning and rearing of salmon.

For more information on this research, attend upcoming Habitat & Cultural Use Management Planning sessions. Or email habitat@wildbirdtrust.org. ✍

THE FUTURE OF BURRARD INLET

Habitat & Cultural Use Management Plan Workshop

Members Only - Wild Bird Trust of BC
Thursday, November 9, 7–9pm
Corrigan Nature House
Presentations by: Kinder Morgan Engagement Specialist and from Tsleil-Waututh Nation.
Learn about some of the external stressors that face Maplewood Flats and the Burrard Inlet in general and share your thoughts. Topics will include water quality, Westridge Terminal expansion and tanker traffic, mudflats restoration, sea level rise and the adjacent fish weir. Guest presentations from Kinder Morgan engagement specialist, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s Burrard Inlet Action Plan. All members welcome.



MAYOR’S MESSAGE ON THE TRANS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION

By Mayor Richard Walton, District of North Vancouver

One of the defining characteristics that we North Shore residents share is passion for the environment.

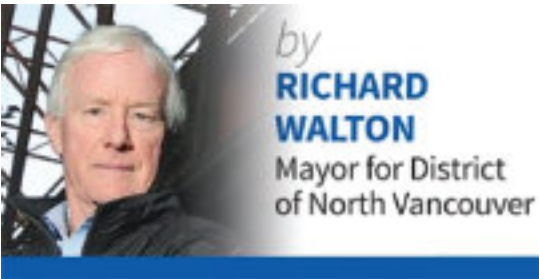
We highly value and strongly identify with our natural assets and expect them to be protected and managed with a view to the very long-term future. One of my First Nation’s friends reminded me recently of their (...) presence in the Inlet. This stewardship responsibility was top of mind for me when I recently appeared before the National Energy Board Review Panel on behalf of the district to explain our opposition to Trans Mountain’s application for the Burrard Inlet Westridge terminal expansion.

I presented after the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. My comments focused primarily on the threat that Trans Mountain’s pipeline and terminal expansion poses to our sensitive ecological waterfront areas and the impact an oil spill would have given that the district’s shoreline lies only a kilometre across the water from the terminal.

Trans Mountain’s application focused on what it deems to be the low likelihood of an oil spill, but failed to adequately balance this risk against the very high environmental consequences of any size of spill.

In our view Trans Mountain’s application doesn’t provide for adequate and effective protection or cleanup of the district’s complex shoreline, particularly along the uniquely sensitive Maplewood Flats Conservation Area.

It doesn’t provide for environmental monitoring of the varied and long-term effects of a spill on biological communities; it doesn’t provide for protection of the district’s community ecological investments; and it doesn’t address knowledge gaps regarding the behaviour and treatment of diluted bitumen in the marine environment. I would say those are some pretty significant gaps by even the most generous of assessments. And it appears the risk that has always



been there is not mitigated significantly within the proposal.

The application proposes an increase from five to 34 tankers a month and, given the increased size of these vessels, the project would dramatically increase the amount of oil transported through the inner harbour.

One can certainly argue that improved technology reflected in improved hull structure and navigational systems reduces risk. However our position, borne out by recent experience with human error causing two oil spills in Burrard Inlet, is that the increased risk is unacceptable. In advance of applying for intervenor status in the hearings, the district took the time to listen to and learn from not only our residents but also the scientific community. We did not prejudge the process or its validity, or the integrity of Kinder Morgan.

Our experience is that there has been no significant consultation with the communities along the Inlet to determine what their acceptable levels of risk are with respect to the Trans Mountain project and the increased risk of oil spills that it brings to the region.

In 2005 the Blueridge escarpment collapsed during a heavy rain event and thousands of tonnes of mud, rock and trees came down the hillside. Many properties were damaged but, most tragically, a district resident died. Our council took a good hard

look at how we deal with risk and, as a result, adopted a new approach to managing those risks that are particularly associated with natural hazards. This approach establishes criteria for the degree of risk that is acceptable to the community that is faced with the actual risk.

Here is the most important point: decisions regarding risk management should take into account the wider context of the risk, and include consideration of the tolerance for those risks that will be borne by parties other than the organization that will benefit from the risk. This principle is both a Canadian and international standard for risk management, and yet it is not being used in this process.

What happens if we do have a spill in Burrard Inlet? Current spill response methods are slow, laborious, very expensive and, in certain circumstances, ineffective. Clean up of the mud flats, in the end, may simply not be possible, and this would be devastating to life forms in this important ecological area, especially if it were to happen during a seasonal period with high wildlife population levels.

Trans Mountain’s own application notes that cleaning oil from mudflats is a virtual impossibility. No matter how good the spill response program is, from the district’s perspective, it will inevitably be a clean-up operation. No matter how fast the response, the damage will have been done. This is why the district’s assessment of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project is that the environmental, economic, public health and safety risks posed by this project clearly and undeniably outweigh any public benefit.

As residents of the inlet, we are a part of a much longer continuum of responsibility for the region’s ecological health. ☺

Habitat and Cultural Use Management Planning Workshop Series

Get involved in the future of Maplewood Flats this winter (November - February) with a series of events examining the current state of habitat and cultural use at Maplewood Flats, and share your thoughts on opportunities to make it better.

In order to better steward the Flats, we are undertaking a multi-phase Habitat Restoration and Cultural Use Management Planning process.

The plan aims to:

- bring forward existing and new research in state of habitat and species diversity
- examine opportunities for restoration
- Cumulative effects and development
- Traditional Tsleil-Waututh cultural use

This workshop series relates particularly to the following phases of the of the Habitat and Cultural Use Management plan:

- Phase 3 (Current Conditions),
- Phase 4 (Identifying Stressors) and
- Phase 5 (Revise Goals and Objectives)?

NOVEMBER 9TH (7-9 PM) - THE FUTURE OF BURRARD INLET.

Learn about some of the external stressors that face Maplewood Flats and the Burrard Inlet in general. Topics will include water quality, westridge terminal expansion and tanker traffic, mudflats restoration, sea level rise and the adjacent fish weir. Guest presentations from Kinder Morgan engagement specialist, and Tsleil-Waututh’s Burrard Inlet Action Plan. This evening relates primarily to external stressors to Maplewood Flats as part of Phase 4 of the Habitat Restoration and Cultural Use Management Plan.

DECEMBER 3RD (10 AM -2 PM) - MAPLEWOOD FLATS NOW - CURRENT CONDITIONS (PHASE 3)

This session will dive into the health of Maplewood flats as we know it now with current research being done. There will be presentations on an overall assessment of the site for species diversity (Ecological Restoration graduate student Chloe Hartley), bird surveys (Rob Lysk), and Purple Martin counts (June Ryder). This session will help inform a better on the ground understanding of the habitat issues and opportunities within the Maplewood Flats boundaries are.

JANUARY 6TH AND 20TH (12 - 3 PM) - WORKING UNDER PRESSURE (PHASE 4 + 5)

This two part session will showcase a handful of the stressors that have been identified that put Maplewood Flats most at risk. After detailing the issues we will open up discussion with members to hear your feedback on how best to proceed with revising our goals to better steward the flats. Issues may include - Park Street Marsh, increased public use, global warming and sea level rise, Maplewood North development, species diversity, and water quality. ☺

BURRARD INLET ACTION PLAN: A TSLEIL-WAUTUTH PERSPECTIVE & UPDATE

By WBT Director Donna Clark

The Burrard Inlet Action Plan (2017): A Tsleil-Waututh Perspective is a founding guidance document for a new science-based, First Nations-led initiative to improve the health of Burrard Inlet by 2025.

After reading The Burrard Inlet Action Plan, as well as listening to presentations on its progress by Patrick Lilley and Anu Rao (Water Quality focus), I am pleased to share a summary and highlights.

As a Wild Bird Trust Board member with an interest and passion for Burrard Inlet, and specifically Maplewood Flats, I am eager to know about it’s health. Further, I grew up near the Flats and am honoured to be reconnected back here with my work on the Board this year. Reading and listening to the assessment and progress of the socio-cultural and environmental issues facing Burrard Inlet and Maplewood Flats is fascinating and inspiring, although daunting. It brings to mind and heart my own connection to the water and land that has come to be my home, as a third-generation settler.

As a Board Member entrusted with the management of the Maplewood Flats, I am grateful to the work being done by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to protect and restore the mudflats and Burrard Inlet



PHOTO: David Suzuki provided a keynote address at the Pinnacle Hotel on Tuesday, October 24, attended by WBT Director Donna Clark.

more generally. The Action Plan dovetails very much with our Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Management Plan, so understanding it is vital to improve our own work.

The Updated Burrard Inlet Action Plan is available on the Tsleil-Waututh Sacred Trust Initiative website: www.twnsacredtrust.ca. I encourage you to read it, and to understand what is at stake for us here on the Maplewood Flats, in the context of Bur-

rard Inlet.

Here’s the 5 goals of The Plan which includes 16 strategies and 66 actions:

THE PURPOSE OF THE ACTION PLAN IS TO:

1. Summarize available scientific knowledge about Burrard Inlet and assess status and trends in the ecosystem for key topics of interest;
2. Identify priority issues that continue to contribute to degradation or limit recovery;
3. Identify important knowledge gaps and research needs;
4. Foster development of a shared vision for environmental stewardship; and
5. Identify strategic near-term actions that could be taken to improve the health and integrity of Burrard Inlet by 2025.”

As well, there are videos from the most recent updates as, reported out publically at The Burrard Inlet Science Symposium, at the Pinnacle Hotel on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. WBT Board member Dan Straker and I attended the event to represent WBT. The Conference was filmed and all speakers are available to watch on the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Sacred Trust Facebook page.

Here are some highlight which I captured from what Patrick Lilley, (Biologist with Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Consulting Engineers), had to say specifically about the Maplewood Flats

“One of the six Priority Near-term Actions is to ‘Conserve Critical Nearshore Habitat Complexes’ with a potential focus on Maplewood Flats as a pilot project because this is an area of significance to Tsleil-Waututh and also has some management issues that need addressing.”

I transcribed remarks by Anu Rao (MSc in Biology), Project Manager and Water Quality Specialist, from her update at the Symposium:

“Why do the water quality objectives need to be updated? There are water quality objectives for Burrard Inlet. They are now 27 years old. They do not take into account a number of the sensitive uses of the water particularly for First Nations. They don’t contain all the current contaminants that are of concern and don’t reflect the biological capacity to monitor for certain types of contaminants. Burrard Inlet is a very complex body of water. We are starting with finding out and protecting the most sensitive uses that we would like to maintain and restore in the Inlet: one of those is human consumption of shellfish.

We want to prioritize work on those parameters that are of key importance to enable those human consumption uses, including parameters for which we have the most available data. What we are doing at the moment is compiling and reviewing data from existing monitoring activities and also looking at existing and more recent guidelines from BC and other jurisdictions to inform us on objectives.

It is a multiyear process. We have been working on setting up the process overall by engaging some of the key players and collecting existing data from monitoring activities that are already in place. Compiling existing guidelines. What we will see what gaps are in the data and fill those.

We will start to recommend updated water quality objectives to the BC Ministry of the Environment, as part of that one of the requirements to propose an updated monitoring program.

As I have said, it is a very complex water body, and one of the reasons for the complexity is the number of sectors, stakeholders and organizations that have either an influence on the Inlet or information about the Inlet. Many of them also collect water quality information. Their participation and collaboration on this Project is an essential first step to be able to let us understand what water quality is in the Inlet and then work on it.

One of the first tasks was to create a water-quality roundtable with representatives from a number of different sectors: First Nations, Provincial government, local governments, permittees, federal government, industries, health authorities, scientists, recreational users, and nongovernmental organizations. Ultimately, the recommendations will go to the BC Ministry of the Environment.

There’s a lot of monitoring that is going on and has been going on over time. We are trying to gather as much of the information as possible from all these monitoring sites and people. Wouldn’t it be great if everyone collected all the information in the same way and organized it in the same way and could just send it to us? Then we could simply put it together and spit out some beautiful graphs. No. There’s some spread sheets, there’s electronic reports, and there’s boxes with actual paper in them. So it’s a really big and complex task. Hopefully next year we will be able to tell you how we were able to adapt. To date we have just submitted requests to data holders.

It’s a huge task and we can’t analyze everything about everything all at once. So what we have to do is prioritize and to start by remembering why we are doing this work in the first place: to protect or restore the uses of the Inlet that are most sensitive.

The 1990 Water Quality Objective identified the following, as areas of priority:

- Marine aquatic life (including reproduction)
- Wildlife (including reproduction)
- Recreation and aesthetics
- Industrial water supplies

Currently, the draft proposed as the updated objectives at the working group level:

- Shellfish consumption
- Finfish consumption

Cultural practices (activities that include physical contact with the water)

The most sensitive use that we are proposing is to prioritize human consumption of shellfish. We are prioritizing looking at information that is of most relevance to that use. It also coincides with what we have the most readily available data for which is bacteria, metals, PCBs and PCHs.”

MAPLEWOOD NURSERY BUSINESS PLAN

Prepared by WBT 2017 Summer Students: Sophia Merritt and Luke Ridgway

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wild Bird Trust (WBT) nursery is an underutilized resource that can become a significant source of income for WBT. This report provides the WBT Board of Directors with a survey of opportunities and gaps in the program, while identifying future areas for growth. It is recommended that a better clarity of the educational mandate and revenue objectives for the nursery be established by the WBT Board.

Considering possible educational programs, as well as reconciliation and consciousness around Coast Salish traditional lands and waters, it is recommended that an important aspect of the nursery address these opportunities. By emphasizing selling Coast Salish plants, WBT can combine an income earning instance with an educational opportunity by hosting plant walk events on weekend plant sale days in springtime. In addition, information sheets can be given with each plant.

For the first year of operation, plants sold should be local and indigenous, with focus on species that are of importance to Coast Salish culture or ecosystem function (i.e. plants that provide food or habitat for wildlife). Plants purchased in 2017 provide a good base of species to build upon. In the Appendix, Image 1 provides a list of species purchased in 2017 and a suggested list of species to incorporate into the 2018 buy.

After the first season of operation, steps can be taken towards the cultivation of the nurseries own plants. Given the existing plant material mix includes introduced species, it is not required that the nursery be an exclusively native plant nursery, however it is recommended it emphasize native plants.

To build a supply of local plants, a selection can be purchased from a number of local wholesalers. These plants will provide a base on which to expand

and begin cultivation of seedlings. While emphasizing and promoting Coast Salish plants, it is not required that all plants be so-called native, although the bulk of plant material could be. Spending on non-local plants should be avoided altogether.

To enable event advertising, consistent hours must be designated for plant sales and associated walks and other educational and social activities. Consideration of weekday evening and a full-run of spring weekend mornings should be designated to capture attendance by locals. Volunteers can support plant sale hours, and Coast Salish plant walks can coincide.

Improvements to the nursery will need to include signage and some modest adaptation to the configuration of the grounds. Signage is needed at the roadside to attract passersby, in addition to signage to direct customers to the location of the nursery. Plant identification signage is needed for individual plants with corresponding information sheets about ecology and traditional and medicinal uses.

Currently, there is little competition for sale and education of Indigenous plants. A strong connection between educational Indigenous plant identification walks and talks with the plant sales is key. WBT is seen as a credible educational and conservation resource and as such with a coherent program it will do well connecting North Shore residents seeking plants for private homes or institutional landowners, public sector, or First Nations’ clients.

Most marketing can be done through social media at no cost. Additional advertising can be done through North Shore News and by having roadside signage. The major costs arise from the purchase of plants to sell, signage, and potential advertising campaigns. There are several social enterprise and community grants offered that may help to cover these costs.



MAPLEWOOD FLATS

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

For a self-guided tour of Maplewood Flats use the map and descriptions to observe each unique habitat and inhabitants that can be found in the conservation area. The numbers below correspond to the number indication on the map. Please respect the conservation area while enjoying Maplewood Flats, do not leave the trail and do not bring dogs past the bridge.

1. THE HEDGEROW

Fruit of the Himalayan blackberry provides food for House Finches, Song Sparrows, Fox Sparrows and Spotted Towhees.

2. THE MUDFLATS

Wooden pilings dotted with nest boxes are homes designed to attract the purple martin. The birds have returned to raise young in even greater numbers each year.

3. OCEAN VIEW (BURRARD INLET)

Cormorants are often seen perched on piling with their wings spread out drying their feathers in the ocean breezes.

4. OSPREY POINT

Look for Osprey perched on a piling.

5. RIPARIAN ZONE (BARGE CHANNEL)

Standing on the Westcoast Bridge gaze down into the water, can you spot the sea stars, sea urchin or crabs scuttling and fish darting about?

6. THE EAST POND

Cattail and bulrushes were grown from seed in the nursery and carefully transplanted to create this aquatic habitat.

7. THE WEST POND

The conservation area's largest pond is visited by a variety of bird species.

8. THE POCKET MARSH

Virginia and sora rails have nested in this habitat. The Virginia rail may be recognized by its distinctive rusty-coloured

plumage.

9. THE SALT MARSH AND FRESHWATER MARSH

Marshes are an important habitat not only for resident birds, but also migratory species. White pelicans were found resting here on their way to interior BC breeding grounds.

10. OLD FIELD MEADOW

The Western meadowlark, a rare species on the North shore, finds safe and suitable winter home in Maplewood's meadows. Watch for deer browsing in the meadow or the forest edge.

11. THE FOREST

In summer, warblers, vireos and tanager feed on abundant insect life in the upper canopy. The red-eyed vireo or 'preacher bird' repeats its melodious robin-like song over and over again, thousands of times a day.

COMING SOON!

REVISED 'SELF GUIDED TOUR BROCHURE'

By Patricia Banning-Lover, Immediate Past President/WBT Co-Founder

We have been at work to re-issue the Self-Guided Tour brochure, as well as install a major main entrance signage board. For this task I have been joined by Vice-President Jude Grass and new Director Luke Ridgway. Our new President, Irwin Oost-

indie, has been kept informed of our progress.

We met recently to review text, tweaks and images. For the re-issue, we have focused more on the all-season aspect of the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats rather than lead visitors to think it is only a "summer place". In part we have accomplished this by including some winter images and we are very pleased with our work.

We have replaced the West Pond scene on the front panel with a stunning soaring Bald Eagle – it is nothing short of a WOW image – and is very quintessentially Maplewood since we see them there all year long – and as Jude commented links to the cultural heritage of the area.

John Lowman has generously worked on our request for some of his spectacular images. The final revised draft will be printed soon, with funding courtesy the North Shore Community Foundation.

I am absolutely delighted to work with Luke Ridgway who has also joined the WBT Board of Directors – and he has done the very important gps mapping of the trails which we will need to superimpose on the original.

Enjoy this Wingspan centre-spread until we have our new brochure ready! ☺



GUIDELINES FOR TRAIL USE

All visitors to Maplewood Flats must follow the posted rules and regulations, including but not limited to:

- Have fun and tag @MaplewoodFlats in your Instagram, Twitter and Facebook uploads.
- Washrooms are available during volunteer hours at both greeter hut and nature house.
- All visitors must stay on the trails. Failure to do so can cause

serious damage to the ecosystems and their inhabitants.

- There are no bikes allowed in Maplewood Flats. There is a bike rack located adjacent to greeter hut near the trail entrance.
- There are no dogs allowed in Maplewood Flats past the bridge. Even on a leash, they disturb sensitive wildlife.
- When taking a photo or making an observation, do not touch or

disturb the wildlife which you are observing (this includes no staging photographs).

- Please do not go on the beach or mudflats. These areas are particularly sensitive to disturbance.
- Report any emergencies to the police at 911.
- Keep coming back and consider joining the Wild Bird Trust online at joinwbt.eventbrite.ca ☺



Louis

Kolton (7), Kai (9), and Sho (3) with Jude and Al Grass.

KINGFISHER CHILDREN'S CAMPS LAUNCHED AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS

By Sophia Merritt

Following a test summer camp in August 2017, a business planning report was researched and written and presented to the WBT Board. The WBT Board has agreed with its recommendation to develop and deliver 2018 Spring and Summer Kingfisher Camps. With the WBT's 25th anniversary year theme of 'education' educating the next generations coming up seems like an important priority!

This Author delivered the test camp in August 2017 which explored some initial models for WBT children's camps. The Camp was a successful exploration of some themes, including integrating Coast Salish educational themes, with feedback received and submitted to the Board.

The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats provides a natural outdoor area that can encourage nature, science and outdoor education. Due to the Conservation Area status, a balance must be struck to facilitate both learning and conservation management. Therefore, structuring limited windows of time for selective daycamp programs will enable Maplewood Flats to serve the local community as a place for fun, outdoor education while still facilitating the needs of it's current use as a bird and wildlife viewing and conservation area.

Maplewood Flats boasts a variety of natural areas and habitats for outdoor education, an outdoor picnic and craft area and a large indoor space for rainy day activities. Programming includes outdoor activi-

ties with nature based educational aspects. A robust and growing social media presence is effective to reach young families.

The Board welcomes feedback from WBT member feedback and is soliciting educators and partnerships. The camps will be managed as a social-enterprise activity with revenues subsidizing low-income access, as well as covering operating and programming costs.

Maplewood Flats has much to offer as a location for day camps in North Vancouver. Through partnerships with local organizations, the potential of the conservation area may also be realized through the hosting of partners camps at Maplewood Flats. It is an excellent opportunity to facilitate outdoor, nature education to children of the community and pass on an appreciation for nature, the environment and Maplewood Flats.

With partner opportunities like Evergreen Canada, Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, Tsileil-Waututh Daycare & Summer Camps, Parkgate Rec Centre, Raycam CC, Hastings CC, and the new Kingfisher NatureKids Club at Maplewood room to grow through collaborations is exciting. By building bridges with other organisations we will attract more registrants for children's education camp delivery, and future partners will continue to emerge.

The quiet, secluded Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats is a hidden gem in the community of

North Vancouver that has potential for increased community involvement. The business plan includes 13 preliminary activities outlined, all which are aimed at having a low impact to the Conservation Area. Programming partners or daytrip campers can be organized for a brief spring camp program. Later on, a senior summer student (such as a summer 'Naturalist') can be hired in May to build the summer program. The naturalist will have a two month window in May and June of each year to book with partner organizations and to finalize activities and supplies for July and August camp hosting. The Maplewood Flats Naturalist position will need a qualified staff member who has experience with children, planning day camps and teaching nature and science content.

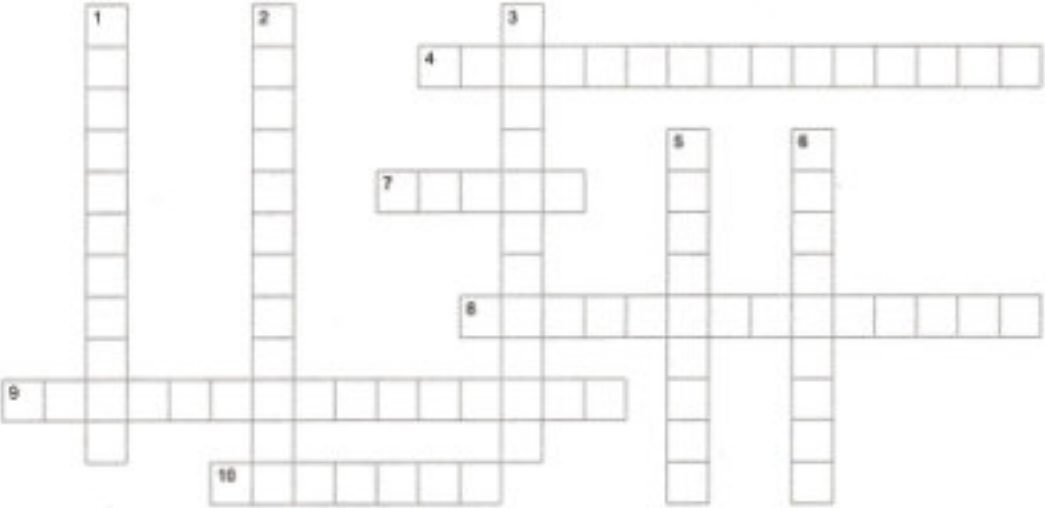
Maplewood Flats has many facilities in place to make it an ideal location to host day camps. The Corrigan Nature House, equipped with washrooms, a kitchen and a large open floor plan, makes a great base for the kids and end excellent rainy day facility. The covered benches outside are an ideal location for lunch breaks and arts and crafts on nice days. The Conservation Area itself has multiple habitats and a trail network conducive to many possibilities for outdoor nature education opportunities. ✂

Aurora Whitebear (Tsileil-Waututh)

Sunny day visitors

Finn (3) and Callum (6) Petherick





ACROSS

- 4. One of the fastest birds
- 7. Birds build these in trees, on cliffs or on the ground
- 8. Grow in the wings and the tail
- 9. Birds bear their young in these
- 10. Fastest running bird, but cannot fly

DOWN

- 1. This bird’s heart beats 1,000 times a minute
- 2. Grow close to the skin to keep birds from getting too cold or too hot
- 3. Scientific study of birds
- 5. Longest living bird - up to 60 years
- 6. Periodic passage of birds from one region to another for feeding or breeding

ornithology	flight feathers	peregrine falcon
migration	down feathers	albatross
hard-shelled eggs	ostrich	hummingbird
nests		

Kingfisher Children’s Camps

CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN accessing the 2018 programs. Email donate@wildbirdtrust.org to support Kingfisher Camp programs in this pre-tax year-end window. We need the support of members and the public with charitable donations to build life-changing children’s education programs at Maplewood Flats. We must educate the next generation of conservationists. To donate, contact: donate@wildbirdtrust.org; Inquiries: kingfisherkids@wildbirdtrust.org.



Chick-a-hummer” by Al Grass

A BIT ABOUT BIRD SONG

by Al Green

Bird songs are everywhere, like the “cheerily, cheer-up” of the robin in parks and gardens. It’s fun to learn how to identify birds by their sounds.

Did you know birds not only sing, but they also call! There are important differences between the two. For birds, it’s serious business!

Songs are used to find a mate and establish a territory — the singers are telling other birds: “this is my area — keep out!”

Calls are used for a variety of other important purposes, such as to warn of danger and to keep in touch with a mate or other members of a flock.

A good example is the Black-capped Chickadee. “Chickadee-dee-dee” is one of its calls. It’s a “name sayer”, while “hey sweetie” (or is it “cheeseburger”?) is its song. The more and faster

the number of “dees” the greater the danger! When you hear a little band of chickadees excitedly making lots of “dees” you know that something is up — it could be a nearby owl or hawk!

Other sounds made by birds include those made by wind rushing through feathers — check out nighthawk and snipe as examples.

A good way to learn bird songs is to follow the sound and find the singer. This way you’ll also fix the bird you’ve discovered into its habitat. A good APP will help you.

You can remember songs and calls by turning them into words or phrases.

Some birds like the chickadee and towhee say their names!

Other birds sing repeated phrases to which you can fit words. For example, the Song Sparrow says “Maids, maids,

hang up your tea-kettles!” (Well, not really, but it’s one way of remembering.)

Spring creeps in slowly as days get longer, and birds sing the “Dawn Chorus” to greet the rising sun.

THINGS TO DO:

- Why do birds do so much do much of their singing in the early morning? Why not at noon?
- How many “name sayers” – birds that say their own names can you find? Remember the chickadees and the Spotted Towhee.
- Name two bird species that are good mimics (can imitate the calls of other birds). Why would one bird want to mimic the sounds of another?

Enjoy the music of birds.
Cheers! —Al

BIRDING AND NATURALIST APPS FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

Helping Newcomers Connect with Maplewood Flats

By Luke Ridgway

With upwards of 40,000 people visiting Maplewood Flats each year, birding experience levels range from experts to beginners. For anyone just starting, identifying a bird can be a real challenge when you do not have the prior knowledge or resources of long time birders. Thankfully, there are options for getting help with a tricky bird ID, regardless of skill level. Using your smartphone, you can download a free digital birding coach from the app store that can lend a hand while you are out observing birds here at Maplewood Flats.

The Merlin Bird ID app, created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, draws from a database of thousands of observations that have been compiled through their widely popular eBird online checklist. By asking you a few simple questions about a bird's appearance and behavior, Merlin can compare your observation to millions of others in order to narrow down the potential candidates for your bird ID. Additionally,

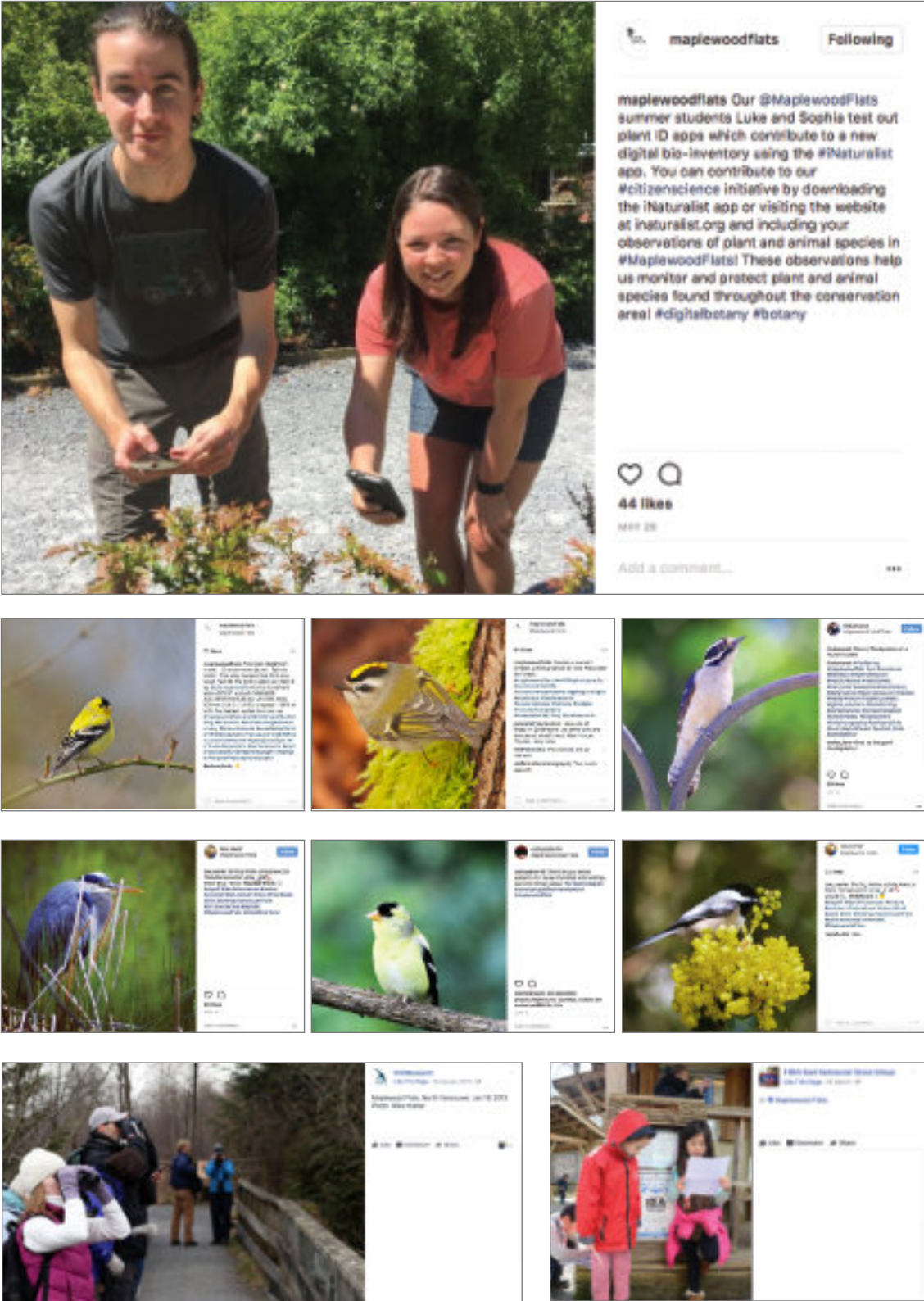
if you have a camera, Merlin can identify your observation using a photo by comparing the physical traits of the bird to the many observations posted by other users of Merlin and eBird. With detailed photos, audio recordings of calls, and colourful range maps, you can easily get a precise ID out of the hundreds of bird species that call the West Coast home.

Here at Maplewood flats we host birders and naturalists alike, and your observations matter to us! By helping our team of staff and volunteers try to keep track of plant and animal observations, you help us make effective decisions regarding the management of Maplewood Flats. Recently, predatory Osprey have been observed nesting in the mudflats, and the endangered Purple Martin have re-established populations thanks to the efforts made by the community here at the Wild Bird Trust. If you make an observation, let one of the staff or volunteers know, or add it to our ongoing Maplewood Flats Conservation Area Bio-Inventory using the iNaturalist app. You are contributing to the future of Maplewood Flats!

Whether you're interested in birds, plants, insects or any other wildlife, you can help us keep track of the flora and fauna of Maplewood Flats using the iNaturalist app or website. Enter your own observations and help others identify their sightings with this free, community-based app that highlights the amazing biodiversity of Maplewood Flats Conservation Area.

If you need help identifying plants, there are other apps available that can help you. Pl@ntNet can compare the key identification features in your plant pictures to thousands of others to help identify a particular species, and community members can verify your observations. With enough participation, we can begin to see distribution and diversity of plant and animal communities through the collective observations added to the Maplewood Flats online. *✍*

THESE ARE SOME POSTS FROM USERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT MENTION @MAPLEWOODFLATS.



Maplewood Flats has social media!

Social media is a great way for us to share photos and events, attract guests, recruit volunteers and get the word out about Maplewood Flats.

Are you a new user to social media and want to learn how to share your photos with us? In a few easy steps you can share with us and the social media world your unique photos from your Maplewood Flats experience! Firstly, download the Facebook, Instagram or Twitter app on your smartphone and create an account. Take a photo of scenery, wildlife or you enjoying Maplewood Flats.

FACEBOOK:

You can upload photos directly to our page:

- **Navigate to our Facebook page by typing in fb.me/MaplewoodFlats or type in [@maplewoodflats](#) in the search bar.**
- **Click the “Photo” link above the “Write Something” box and upload your photo by browsing to the location of your photo and pressing “Open”.**
- **Click the “Share” button to upload the photo to our page.**
- **Type [@MaplewoodFlats](#) to tag us!**

INSTAGRAM:



To upload a photo or take a new one:

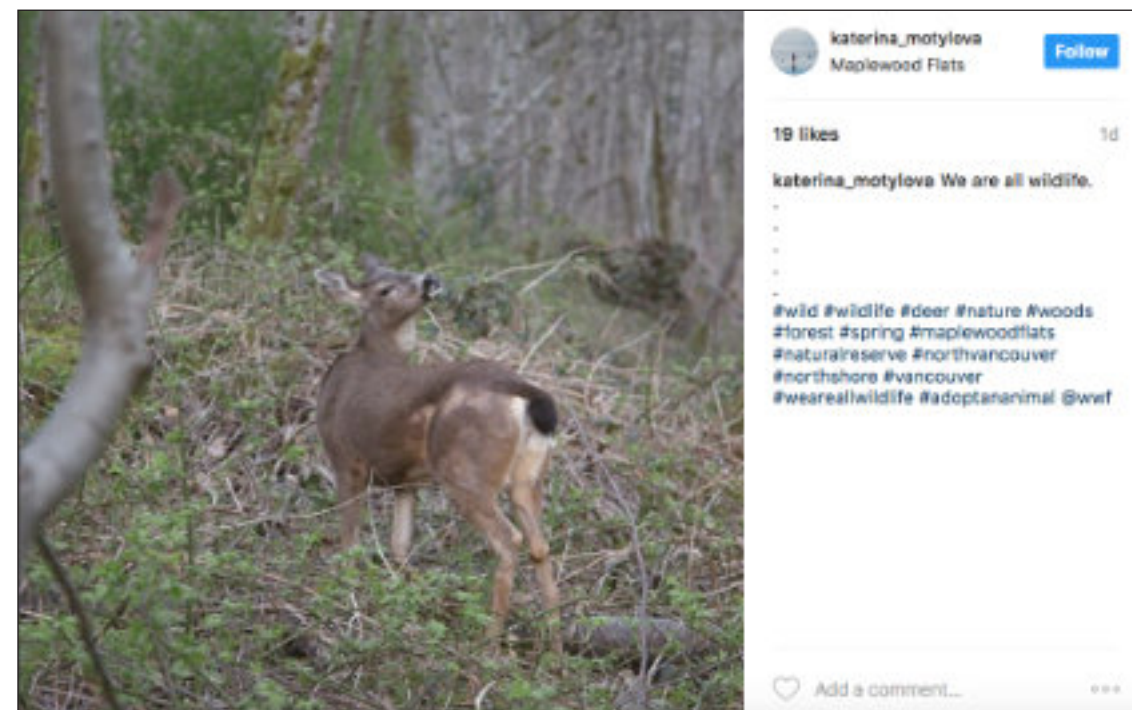
- Tap (+) at the bottom of the screen.
- Select “Library” or “Photo” to choose an existing photo or take a new one.
- You can then add a caption with #MaplewoodFlats and @MaplewoodFlats to tag us in your photo.

TWITTER:

Tap the tweet icon in the top right corner then tap the photo icon on the left above the keyboard.

- Click **Photo** or **Video** to capture a new image or video or choose an existing one from your library.
- In the description, add **#MaplewoodFlats** and **@MaplewoodFlats** to share your photo with us.

Remember to share you photos with us by posting to our Facebook page or tagging us with @maplewoodflats or #maplewood flats in Instagram or Twitter. Happy sharing!



A HERON IN MY LAP

By Patricia Mason

As George Clulow drove along a road in Delta thinking about the water bird survey just completed at Roberts Bank with Rob Lyske, Larry Dea and Kevin Bell, he spotted a strange sight at the edge of the road. At first he couldn't believe what he was seeing. He'd seen many herons but none like this. The ubiquitous bird was usually seen near water, standing still and alert; this heron was upright but its long neck had collapsed on to the frozen ground.

It was February 2014 and after a morning spent standing about in freezing weather the four birdwatchers were looking forward to returning home for some warmth and relaxation, but the heron, which always appeared so self-sufficient and independent, obviously needed their help.

George lifted the limp body into the car and onto Kevin's lap.

As Kevin stroked the long grey neck folded against the bird's body he felt stirrings of pity. He had an affinity for the Great Blue Heron, which seemed in many ways to reflect some of the qualities present in birdwatchers; patience, inquisitiveness and a quiet determination to wait patiently in all weathers for a sighting.

He remembered hearing that in the culture and history of North American First Nations, animals symbolized human traits, personality and values. He knew the Heron represented grace, purity, patience and long life, and was especially valued for its inquisitiveness, determination and excellent judgement skills as a fisher and hunter. If a heron was seen before a fishing trip it was considered an omen of success. And its close association with water represented the quality of going with the flow, working with the elements of Mother Nature rather than struggling against her.

Turning their grey heads towards the large bird, George, Larry and Rob were mesmerized by its close proximity. During their surveys they often saw herons standing near the shores of open water and in wetlands, patient observers like themselves.

Official water bird surveys for Bird Studies Canada have been conducted every month, September through May, at Roberts Bank for over twenty years. Results of each survey are collated then assembled into reports which are posted on the Bird Studies Canada website, providing valuable information about decline and improvement in various bird species.

Heron is a blue listed bird, considered vulnerable because their characteristics make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events. They are also particularly susceptible to starvation in winter when food is hard to find.

Most of the human population of British Columbia lives in the Great Blue Heron's natural habitat - the coast and the Southern Interior where development has destroyed valuable nesting and foraging areas. As one of these areas, Vancouver is fortunate to have one of the largest urban great blue heron colonies in North America, home to about 100 active nests which produced 138 fledgling herons in 2016. The birds have been nesting at their current location behind Parks Board offices in Stanley Park since 2001, and at various other locations in the park since 1921. The Stanley Park Ecology Society monitors the heronry and works with the Vancouver Park Board and the Canadian Wildlife Service to support the herons. They are easily seen in the park and can also be viewed on a 'Heron Cam' online.

Experts say survival of herons depends on protecting natural habitat within 300 metres of nesting colonies and the preservation of forests near water to provide future nest sites. Their nests and eggs are protected under the British Columbia Wildlife Act.

The MCA provides the kind of undisturbed habitat favoured by herons and they have used the area for breeding on a regular basis. So far only one nesting pair has been spotted this year, but in previous years there have been as many as five pairs.

The herons build nests lined with twigs, rushes, bark and evergreen boughs in trees 20-50 metres above the ground. After pair bonding from mid-February to early April, three to five eggs are laid and hatch in about four weeks.

This year's resident Maplewood herons hatched two or three young in March and are now using their unique personalities and special skills to help the fledglings survive their first year when infant mortality is high.

Footnote: After the four birdwatchers took the ailing heron to the Wildlife Rescue Association in Burnaby George called to inquire about its condition. He was told the bird had died from extreme starvation - a sad but salutary ending for the silent grey observer and its human counterparts. ♂



Larry Dea, longtime active WBT member"



Photo Feature by Rob Alexander: (Page 35) Late Autumn Osprey Juvenile; Hermit Thrush. (Page 36, clockwise) Glaucous-winged Gull gliding by; Savannah Sparrow bathing; Tree Swallow adult feeding nestling; American Robin nestlings, just 20 feet from the meet and greet; Anna's Hummingbird female feeding from Snowberry flower.

BIRD SIGHTINGS AT MAPLEWOOD

FREEZE FRAMES

by Rob Lyske

Living on the west coast offers some of the mildest winters in Canada. The birding possibilities day to day are filled with opportunities across the lower mainland to find quite a high diversity of species. Perhaps this winter wasn't something to boast about to our eastern counterparts though.

While the ski slopes enjoyed fantastic conditions, only the hardy (or foolhardy) birders trudged along the icy pathways and snow covered terrain to spend a bit of leisure time looking for birds in the bracing breeze. It would seem as though locally at the Maplewood Con-

servation area, the birds felt the same way.

Most notably it was a sparse winter for finches, with the exception of American Goldfinch. Still, a Pine Grosbeak graced the nursery area for a few days in mid-February. What little fruit was left to pick at around the sanctuary was covered in snow for a few months, so I suppose there was reason for the birds to look elsewhere.

Shorebirds were also far and few between as far as numbers go, but Maplewood always seem to harbor a Spotted Sandpiper, a few Greater Yellowlegs and Killdeer. Black Oystercatcher

and a lone Dunlin were also good additions to the winter list.

The seemingly never-ending cold snap reluctantly gave way to spring, at least as far as the calendar is concerned. Migrants were better than usual in March and early April starting off with an invasion of Say's Phoebe. It is the norm to get one or two in spring migration across greater Vancouver, last year there were no reports at all. This year however, they were turning up all over, and at least two spent time on the salt marshes at the eastern and western boundary of the MCA. While searching for Phoebe's, Dave Huggard found a

Western Meadowlark, a bird we still seem to get annually, although in smaller numbers over recent years. An American Tree Sparrow also turned up the same day in the third week of March.

A few days in late March a Northern Shrike was seen, at times flushing large flocks of American Robins in a panicked frenzy of chattered alarm calls. Another treat in late March was the spectacle of migrating Gulls. Day upon day of unsettled weather produced a morning occurrence of California Gulls, in some cases over 200 in a flock. Scanning through the usual resident Mew and Glaucous-Winged Gulls produced the odd Ring-

billed Gull and even a few Herring Gull, a very difficult bird to find any time on our mudflats. The advances in digital photography have very much helped document unusual sightings and event like these.

The first week of April never disappoints and the yearly checklist tends to climb every day. The forest is full of song, that of wrens, finches, kinglets and robin's. On April 5th a breeding plumaged Rusty Blackbird was photographed by Simon Bernard. Several birders scoured the grounds in search of the skulky icterid, and Quentin Brown was the last lucky observer. During the excitement a female Mountain

Bluebird made a brief appearance but disappeared in a flash rain shower. A break in the weather washout allowed an Osprey to show up April 7th, surely to start working on their nest again.

The winter, now fading in memory, is replaced with the beauty, excitement and colour of spring migration. The forest understory, flattened and flooded over the past few month is bursting with emerging buds and flower's. It shouldn't be long before the chortle of Purple Martins and the delightful song of Warblers warms our hearts until summers glow can take over again. You can almost picture it. ☺



COAST SALISH CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM



In April 2017 MLA Jane Thornthwaite (North Vancouver – Seymour) sent the Wild Bird Trust her congratulations for our new initiative to recognize the cultural heritage of the Maplewood Flats. Titled the ‘Coast Salish Cultural Heritage Project’ the project received \$20,000 from the BC Museums Association-administered fund: ‘British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities and their Contributions to Canada.’

Maplewood Flats is already home to public art, and with this new initiative WBT is expanding its public utility as a space for enjoyment of public art as an outdoor education, conservation and museum space. Vancouver-based artist Ken Lum’s critical and engaging work ‘from shangri-la to shangri-la, (2010) site-specific installation in the Barge Channel at Maplewood depicts the squatter huts that were erected on the Maplewood mudflats during the second half of the twentieth century. At the July 2017 Board meeting we enjoyed a special guest John Stuart, who expressed his wishes that WBT would recognize the industrial heritage assets still remaining on the site. What has been missing, however, is the 99% of the history of the site, and that is the Coast Salish Indigenous history which dates back much longer than our almost 25 years of existence,



“Ocean Hyland (Tsleil-Waututh)
a participating artist.

or the forty-five years since the squats were burned down by the District of North Vancouver. But the 14,000+ years of continued use by First Peoples.

The funds for public art and educational displays for the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats, represents a great way to beautify and add interpretive stations throughout the site.

Coast Salish cultural heritage interpretive displays and wood carvings was recognized by the provincial funders as a suitable cross-cultural program marking Canada’s 150th anniversary. Possible ideas being explored include traditional ‘house posts’ designed in the Coast Salish style, images of birds in the landscape, cultural heritage interpretive panels, and traditional plant knowledge.

The funding will enable addition of interpretive ed-

ucational panels to improve the public’s experience in the site; create a process-driven public art project where Wild Bird Trust members and the general public can generate images and information from storytelling, oral history and highlights of the Conservation Area habitat. Look for public and members’ programs leading to carvings and oral history panels to be developed and installed over the winter 2018. ∞



WILD BIRD TRUST STATEMENT ON RECONCILIATION
Motion adopted by the WBT Board of Directors

Whereas the Government of Canada has encouraged Canadians to enact the Truth & Reconciliation Commission recommendations;

Whereas Canada is recognizing 150 years of incorporation during 2017 and is recognizing First Peoples as the original inhabitants;

Whereas the City of Vancouver has formally acknowledged their existence on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations;

Whereas the District of North Vancouver Public Library and North Vancouver School District have both acknowledged their existence on unceded lands, and encouraged North Vancouver residents to become active participants in this work;

Whereas WBT is not the owner of the land, and we have no authority to speak on behalf of the land owners;

Whereas WBT is prohibited by its Constitution from political advocacy but it is not prohibited from stating facts about the land it manages;

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada in various decisions leading up to *Haida Gwaii vs. BC (Minister of Forests)* [2004] 3 SCR 511 have recognized indigenous rights over unceded lands in British Columbia;

BIRT WBT recognizes the traditional and continued use of the lands on and around the Maplewood Flats by Tsleil-Waututh and Coast Salish Peoples;

BIFRT WBT recognize this fact through members' education, and work with our landlords and partners regarding appropriate acknowledgment through public signage.

BIFRT this work be guided by the WBT Board of Directors with regular engagement with membership.

Osprey artwork by Jordan Gallie



Salmon Berries Laid on Cedar Baskets. Photo by Clarissa Rizal.

COMMON COAST SALISH PLANTS AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS

Article by Senaqwila Wyss, Ethnobotanist
and contracted summer student with WBT for 2017.

Common Name: Salmon Berry
Latin: *Rubus spectabilis*

- Perennial Shrub with woody stems that are covered with fine prickles
- Indigenous to North America, west coast of North America from west central Alaska to California, inland as far as Idaho.

Indigenous uses: They are an important food for Indigenous Peoples. Traditionally, the berries were eaten with salmon or mixed with oolichan grease or salmon roe. The family of plants related to this included Raspberry, Blackberry, and are very good for women's health. They are used for treating cramps, strengthening the uterus and are safe and beneficial for pregnancy, labor, and nursing.

Common Name: Red Cedar Tree
Latin: *Thuja Plicata*

- Evergreen Coniferous Tree
- Indigenous to Western North America

Indigenous uses: They are known to the Coast Salish people as the "tree of life". It's uses are so vast, and are used in all stages of life. Can begin with the use of stripping the bark for weaving, carve the tree itself into canoes, house posts, welcome figures, paddles, and much more. It is also used in ceremonies and is very sacred. Similar to the use of Sage in smudging, cedar bows can be used for brushing down to remove bad energy, to bless, or to get rid of grief.

Common name: Dandelion
Latin: *Taraxacum Erythrospermum*
Halkomelem: Qwáyúwél

- Tap-rooted, perennial herbaceous plant
- Indigenous to North America, very common

Bright yellow flowers blooming in the spring, will go to seed

Indigenous uses: Much research has shown that the dandelion root has cancer fighting qualities. It is prepared by being roasted, ground up and drank as a tea, as well as known as "coffee replacement" due to its bitter aroma and flavour. It can be blended with other roots for different flavoring, including beet root, burdock root and chicory root, sometimes people add cinnamon for flavor as well.

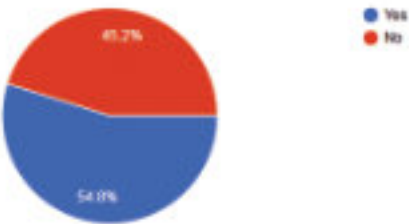
The Communications Committee under the leadership of Robyn Hanson invited our members to complete a survey to better inform the 2017 Board of Directors about the relationship between our members and the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia. Your feedback was solid, with 125 members participating! We gratefully appreciate the feedback, as the survey results help us understand our members expectations, response to our new social media communications, interest in

additional programs and nature education, and our overall connections to you. Thank you! We regret that after joining the WBT Board in November 2016, Robyn became the Global Social Media Community Manager at Destination British Columbia and needed to focus on promoting the entire Province of BC - not just her beloved Maplewood Flats! We were sad to see her leave us in the role of Communications Committee Chair. (True story: Robyn’s partner grew up as a baby in one of the Maplewood Flats squatter

shacks!) We are currently inviting new members to our Communications Committee! If you are interested please say hi to president@wildbirdtrust.org. *JS*

CONGRATULATIONS to NANCY READ, winner of our Spring 2017 contest. Nancy will enjoy a \$50 gift certificate from the Deep Cove Brewing Co. Thank you Nancy and to the 125+ members who participated!

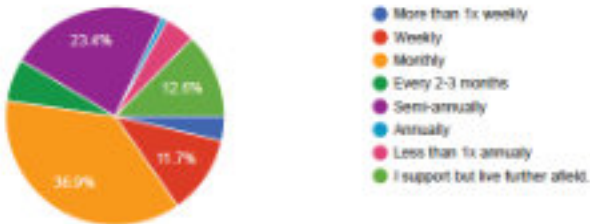
HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE OSPREY FESTIVAL?



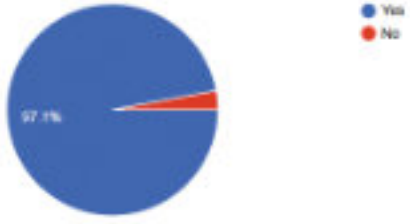
DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN RENT THE CORRIGAN NATURE HOUSE?



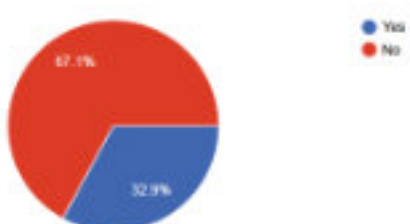
HOW FREQUENTLY DO YOU VISIT THE CONSERVATION AREA AT MAPLEWOOD FLATS?



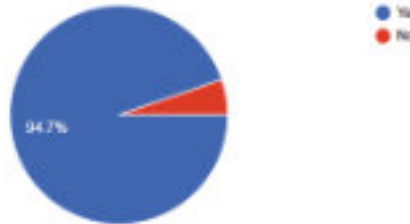
TO DIVERSIFY MEMBERSHIP, WOULD YOU SUPPORT A \$15 YOUTH/SENIOR/LOW-INCOME MEMBERSHIP FEE?



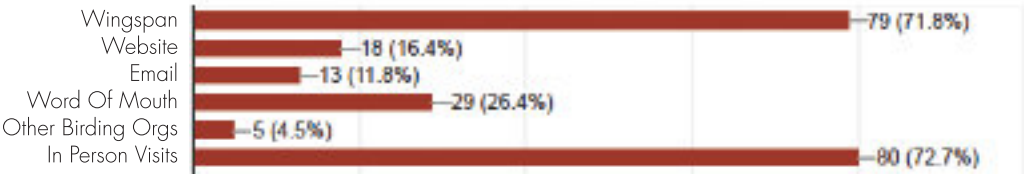
ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE WBT HAS A PRESENCE ON FACEBOOK?



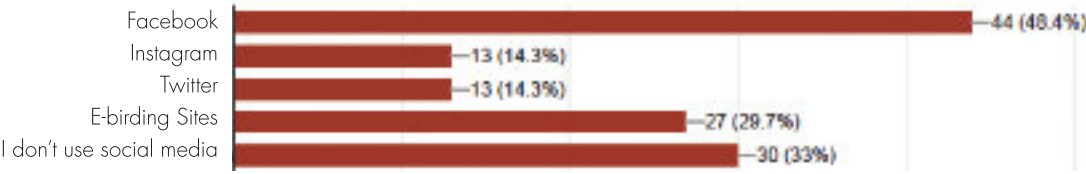
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN THE TSLEIL WAUTUTH AND COAST SALISH CONNECTION TO MAPLEWOOD FLATS?



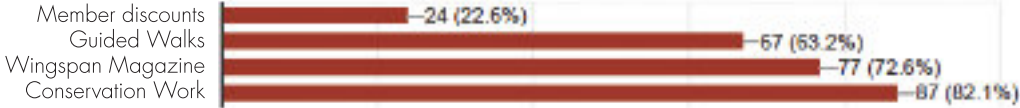
HOW DO YOU LEARN/OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE WILD BIRD TRUST?



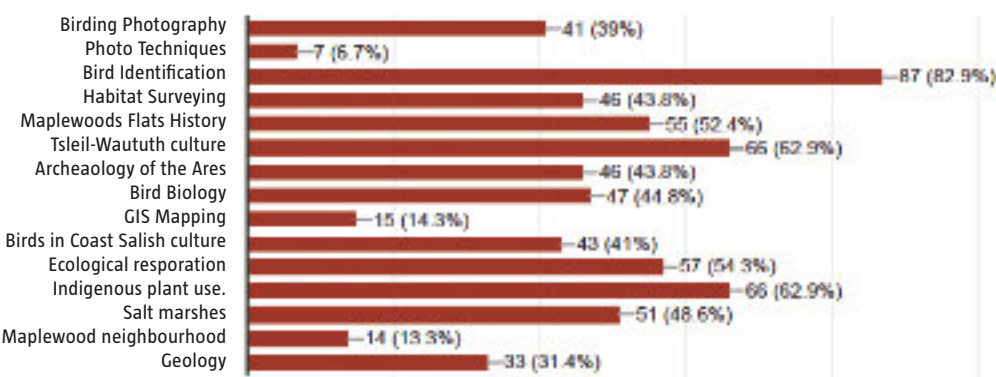
WHAT SOCIAL MEDIA OR DIGITAL PLATFORMS DO YOU USE?



WHAT BENEFITS WOULD YOU SEE WITH YOUR WBT MEMBERSHIP?



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING WORKSHOPS OR GUIDED WALKS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS?



“Wild Bird Trust wishes to acknowledge the ongoing generous sponsorship of our bird feeding program by Wild Birds Unlimited. Thank you!”



Photo: David Mallari davemallari.com

OBITUARY OF WBT MEMBERS

We are sad to report the recent deaths of Wild Bird Trust supporters and birding enthusiasts Audrey Henry,

Dean Cramer, Marion Ward Hall and William Frederick Montgomery. We will miss their presence at Maplewood.

Audrey Henry (December 28, 1920 – March 25, 2017)

Audrey, an avid birder and long-time volunteer at the MCA, passed away at the North Shore Hospice at the age of 96. Audrey loved the outdoors and during her full life, enjoyed many adventures in her motorhome. She was often heard to say, “Get out and get some fresh air.” Condolences to Audrey’s children Kirk (Lorraine), Tannis (Kenny), Lori, and Paul (Leanne) and other members of the family. A Celebration of Life was held May 27 at the Corrigan Nature House. To write a condolence to the family, please visit www.mckenziefuneralservices.com. Audrey Henry with an original pencil drawing of an Osprey by Lex Alfred Hedley, given to her by daughter Lori on the oc-

casion of her 90th birthday in 2010.

Dean Cramer (1948 – 2016)

Dean, a compassionate soul with a quick wit, was always ready for an adventure. He passed away on October 12, 2016 after a long journey with Alzheimer’s. Condolences to Dean’s wife Nancy, daughters Kelsey (Oliver), Lauren (Robert Jan) and Robin (Stuart) and other members of the family. A Celebration of Life for Dean took place on October 29, 2016 at the Corrigan Nature House.

Marion Ward Hall (October 25, 1931 – October 12, 2016)

A devoted wife and mother grandmother, Marion was a bird lover, master gardener, traveller, athlete and lover of the arts.

Condolences to Marion’s husband Gordon Ward Hall and children Michael White (Rose), Matthew

White (Jill) Sarah White (Tamara), Mark (Susan), Brian (Trish), Keith and John and other members of the family.

In lieu of flowers the family have requested that donations be sent to Wild Bird Trust.

William Frederick Montgomery

(June 19, 1950 – August 19, 2017)

A member who walked the trails all of the time. “Now is the honour when frigs and thrushes Praise the world from the woods and rushes.” - E.B. White, Charlotte’s Web. “All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on—in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here... death ends a life, not a relationship.” — Mitch Albom.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a charitable gift that is made in a way that maximizes tax and estate planning benefits. Such gifts generate badly needed dollars for charitable causes and meaningful tax relief for the contributors.

WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia is a registered charity and therefore can participate in and offer the benefits that arise from Planned Giving bequests.

In addition to making a simple cash gift to a charity, there are additional ways in which a person may make a charitable donation that may generate significant tax savings, either to the donor during his or her lifetime or to the donors estate after death. Such alternate types of Planned Gifts to a charity such as Wild Bird Trust of B.C. could include any of the following:

- Gifts of tangible property, including shares and real estate.
- Gifts of Canadian cultural property and ecologically or environmentally sensitive land qualify for enhanced benefits.
- Bequests made under a will can provide tax relief to the donor’s estate.
- Gifts of a life insurance policy during the donor’s lifetime either of a new policy or an existing policy that the donor no longer needs.
- The gift of the proceeds of a life insurance policy on the donor’s death may provide benefits to the donor during his or her lifetime and to the donor’s estate upon death.
- Gifts of the proceeds of RRSP’s or RRIF’s upon the donor’s death.
- For wealthy donors there are more complex structures available such as annuities, charita-

ble trusts and endowment funds that may provide significant tax benefits.

If you have been thinking about making a charitable gift to Wild Bird Trust of B.C. and any of the above-mentioned items are of interest to you, please contact donate@wildbirdtrust.org or telephone the office at 604-929-2379.

Bench Program in the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats

The Wild Bird Trust of BC provides members with opportunities to mark major life events in a meaningful way which also benefit the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. By purchasing a memorial tree, or memorial bench, residents may honour the memory of a departed friend or family member or celebrate new beginnings such as a birth or marriage. With this contribution from our members valuable conservation and restoration



Illustration by Kaleigh Tran

work is supported. A portion of the contribution is tax deductible.

DEDICATED CONSERVATION-AREA BENCH - \$3,000

The cost is borne by the individual, family or group wishing to dedicate the bench

and covers the acquisition and installation of the metal bench as well as a custom bronze plaque (approximately 4” x 8”).

For a period of 10 years, the bench will be maintained and if necessary, replaced by the Trust.

DEDICATED CONSERVATION-AREA SHARED BENCH OPTIONAL: \$2000 FOR A SHARED BENCH, WITH ONE OTHER PERSON.

The bench sites will be made in consultation with the Conservation Area Manager, with the Manager making the final decision.

DEDICATED, CONSERVATION-AREA ARTIST BENCH - \$5000

\$5000/bench for 10 years, as above. This unique steel bench is custom designed and a sculptural installation fabricated by a local artist

DEDICATED, COAST-SALISH TREE PLANTINGS - \$1500

An individual, family or group may apply to have a dedicated, Coast-Salish tree planted on the Conservation Area. All fees are borne by those wishing to dedicate the tree and will cover the purchase and transport costs of the tree and a custom plaque with raised lettering.

The tree will be selected from the Wild Bird Trust Coast Salish Nursery, onsite at the Conservation Area, in consultation with the Site Manager. The Trust shall prepare the site, plant the dedicated tree and install the memorial plaque. Please request our application form and submit to our Administrator.

Completed applications should be submitted to the Office Manager, Wild Bird Trust of BC, as follows:

Email: admin@wildbirdtrust.org
Post: Wild Bird Trust of BC, 2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver, BC V7H 1B1.

Volunteer at Maplewood Flats

With the retirement in 2016 of our dedicated full-time volunteer Patricia Banning-Lover the Board of Directors has transitioned the organisation using a participatory democracy model. This means the work previously provided by the previous President is now performed with a mix of effort from the current President, Irwin Oostindie, as well as staffers Ernie Kennedy and Elsie Webb, plus Board and regular members who sit on working committees.

Please join a committee for valuable experience, participation in decision-making, social fun and service to the wild birds and human community! Suggested contribution 2-10 hours/month. All ages, all backgrounds, no experience necessary.

Email to join a committee - Now Recruiting!

- Coast Salish Nursery - nursery@wildbirdtrust.org
- Fundraising Committee - donate@wildbirdtrust.org
- Habitat Committee - habitat@wildbirdtrust.org
- Policy Committee - policy@wildbirdtrust.org
- Finance Committee - finance@wildbirdtrust.org
- Education Committee - education@wildbirdtrust.org
- 25th Anniversary Planning Group - admin@wildbirdtrust.org
- Communications Committee - communications@wildbirdtrust.org
- Children’s Programs - kingfisherkids@wildbirdtrust.org
- Rental Inquiries - rentals@wildbirdtrust.org
- WBT President - president@wildbirdtrust.org
- Ernie Kennedy, Manager - sitemanager@wildbirdtrust.org
- Volunteer Inquiries - volunteer@wildbirdtrust.org
- Elsie Webb, WBT Admin - admin@wildbirdtrust.org
- Membership inquiries - membership@wildbirdtrust.org
- Tax-deductible Donations - donate@wildbirdtrust.org
- Nursery Special Orders - nursery@wildbirdtrust.org

Committee Updates

The Fundraising Chair, Donna Clark, would like to welcome members to contribute to the Maplewood Flats through service on the Fundraising Committee. Rental Inquiries - rentals@wildbirdtrust.orgAll members welcome to next meeting at Corrigan Nature House, Next meeting: Sat. November 25th, 2017, 2pm and Saturday, January 13, 2018, 2pm.

Finance Committee Update:

A 2017-18 Budget Planning meeting was held by the Board in September to set goals and plan for the year ahead. A working budget was approved at that Board meeting with includes \$189,361.05 in total revenues. This reflects the Board’s goal to significantly increase educational activities and WBT conservation efforts. Revenue from Social Enterprise Programs is targeted at \$27,000; Donations and Memberships \$44,000; General Revenues \$93,000; Foundations \$25,000. Contributions from our members can make a significant impact on our work to support wild bird conservation.

We are grateful for the hours of WBT financial service shared by Eric Lovis, and more recently to Eric Greenwood for helping to bring the systems up-to-date to a place where new Wild Bird Trust Treasurer, Gayle Robinson, can provide oversight of the financial systems.

While our Administrator, Elsie Webb, manages day-to-day finances, Gayle is also the Chair of the Finance Committee. She invites additional members to join our Finance Ctte. Gayle Robinson has a rich experience in non-profit management and community service. She has worked with the public school system, charities, not-for-profit societies and various for-profit organizations. Gayle earned her Diploma in Business Administration and Accounting from Capilano College while raising her two daughters. Gayle leads a rich and fulfilling life that includes conservation and cultural community service work locally and internationally.

Join Gayle on our Finance Committee by inquiring to finance@wildbirdtrust.org. ✍

JOIN THE WILD BIRD TRUST—PROTECT MAPLEWOOD FLATS!

Dedicated to wild birds and their habitats on the principle all wildlife must benefit. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for membership fees and donations (up to 15% of all donations may be designated for WBT administration).

Single Membership: ☐ \$30 per year

Family Membership: ☐ \$40 per year

Student/Low Income ☐ \$15 per year

LIFE Membership: ☐ \$500

Donation: ☐ \$_____

☐ \$55 for 2 years

☐ \$75 for 2 years

Number in family: _____

TOTAL: \$

VISA card #: _____

Member’s name: _____

Street address: _____

Name on VISA card: _____

Email: _____

Expiry Date: _____

City/Postal code: _____

Would you like to volunteer— we train! • Reception • Habitat Work • Committee work: _____

Please make cheque payable to: WBT WILD BIRD TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2649 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver, BC, V7H 1B1.

RENT THE NATURE HOUSE

With the successful fundraising and construction phases completed, the Nature House complements the Wild Bird Trust’s site restoration efforts from degraded industrial site to “living classroom.”

As well as a location for our programming and meetings, the Nature House is operated as a social enterprise rental facility and is available for corporate or private events. The venue is ideal for a variety of setups from team meetings with our beautiful new kitchen, to intimate family ceremonies of 20-60, all the way to large public meetings with maximum 145 capacity. Proceeds advance the mandate of the Wild Bird Trust at Maplewood Flats. To view or make a booking please contact rentals@wildbirdtrust.org or phone 604-929-2379.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2018

Watch for details in the next issue of Wingspan Magazine and on our social media.

Celebrate WBT’s 25th Anniversary - SATURDAY May 5TH

12th Osprey Festival - SATURDAY JULY 21ST
Maplewood Flats International Birding Festival – AUG 19-26, 2018

MONTHLY GUIDED WALKS BY LEGENDARY NATURALIST AL GRASS. COMMENCE AT 10AM.

NOVEMBER 11th - WOODLAND WONDERS - Maplewood forests live with the help of beetles, woodpeckers and fungi.

DECEMBER 9th - HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - A winter’s day at Maplewood is always full of wonderful surprises.

JANUARY 13th - NOT JUST MUD! - Why are tidal flats critical habitats for wildlife?

FEBRUARY 10th - DUCK TALES - dabblers and divers at their best.

MARCH 10th - WHAT IS FOR DINNER? - Maplewood’s raptors - hawks, owls and eagles.

APRIL 14th - A LONG JOURNEY - the miracle of migration—celebrate the arrival back of our spring birds.

MAY 12th - THE MUSIC OF BIRDS - enjoy the Conservation Area’s birds and their music.

JUNE 9th - OSPREYS AND MARTINS - they are back! - and many other birds too.

JULY 14th - SALT MARSH SECRETS REVEALED The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats boasts the premier example of salt marsh in Burrard Inlet. A rare supervised opportunity to appreciate this important inter-tidal ecosystem.

AUGUST 11th —ALL ABOUT HABITAT - understanding habitat.

SEPTEMBER 8th —AUTUMN - Fall migration and Maplewood’s birds.

OCTOBER 13th —FRESH AND FROSTY - birds begin to prepare for the challenges of winter.

NOVEMBER 10th — WOODLAND WONDERS - Maplewood’s forests live with the help of beetles, woodpeckers, and fungi.

DECEMBER 8th —HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - A winter’s day at Maplewood is always full of wonder!

HABITAT & CULTURAL USE MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Continuing from our Fall 2017 series, we introduce free sessions open to the public.

ADDITIONAL 2018 WALKS
SATURDAY, MAY 26TH meet at 6 am for the ‘Dawn Chorus’ with Al and Jude Grass
Early morning is full of bird songs and calls - an experience that should not be missed. Meet at the double gates just before the main entrance (travelling east) to The Conservation Area at 2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WALKS 1.30-3.30 PM.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND “First Nations cultural and medicinal uses of our local native plants”

SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH “First Nations food uses of our local native plants”

HOLIDAY MONDAY WALKS WITH NATURALIST KEVIN BELL, 1-3PM, LEAVE FROM THE CORRIGAN NATURE HOUSE.

JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 30, MAY 21, JULY 2, AUGUST 6, SEPT 3, OCT 8, NOV 11

SUMMER EVENING WEDNESDAY WALKS 2018 WITH AL AND JUDE GRASS 7-9 PM.

WEDNESDAY, July 11th and WEDNESDAY, July 25th 7 pm– 9 pm.

Two delightful evening opportunities to hear birds singing, observe wildflowers, perhaps see bats and swifts and possibly a mother deer and her fawns.

“MEMBERS’ ONLY” WALKS 2018 WITH ROB LYSKE

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH and SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH 10 am–Noon.

All walks are FREE, unless otherwise specified. Meet at WBT’s Corrigan Nature Centre, at 10 am at 2645 Dollarton Highway, North Vancouver (604 986 8525) — events take place Rain or Shine! Wheelchair accessible trails & Wheelchair accessible washrooms for physically challenged visitors are available by request.

HONOURING ELDERS

WBT WILD BIRD TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 18, 1-4pm
Tsleil-Waututh Cultural & Recreation Centre, 3010 Sleil Waututh Rd, North Vancouver. Arrive at 1pm for lunch service, and presentations.

Join us for a special event that recognizes Elders who have worked to protect wild birds and the Salish Sea. Connect these Elders to wild birds, mudflats, Coast Salish art and heritage, as well as an introduction to the Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Management Planning efforts. The afternoon will also include a brief Annual General Meeting for the Wild Bird Trust and news on the year ahead as we celebrate together stewardship of the Salish Sea.

DIRECTIONS

Drive one km past the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats, enter the Tsleil-Waututh village, after community cemetery on the right, turn left onto Sleil-Waututh Road. Drive north 1.5 blocks, turn

right into parking lot on north side of Centre.

HONOURING ELDERS CEREMONY

Commencing in 2017, the Wild Bird Trust will annually recognize the contributions of Elders to the protection of Maplewood Flats and the surrounding Burrard Inlet and Salish Sea. The 2017 Elders to be recognized are: Patricia Banning-Lover, Kevin Bell, Amy George and Iggy George.

A presentation will be made on the progress of the Maplewood Flats Habitat & Cultural Use Management Plan, and an update on the Coast Salish Cultural Heritage Project.

With regards to the AGM portion of the event and Election of Directors, the following motion was passed by the current Board:

MOTION

- Whereas the Wild Bird Trust Board is currently highly functional and successfully working on priority issues including fundraising, education programs, and habitat management planning;
- Whereas the current Board reflects a diversity of profes-

sional skills, ages, ethnicity, gender, and ornithological and habitat experience;

- Whereas the organization has gone through a transitional year of growth to new models of non-profit governance we would like the opportunity to continue this work as a unified group of WBT members.
- Be it resolved that the Board of Directors nominate as a slate for the 2017 Annual General Meeting as Directors for the 2018 year the following members in good standing: (in alphabetical order) Kevin Bell, Donna Clark, Jude Grass, Paul Hundal, Hillary Hyland, Irwin Oostindie, Luke Ridgway, Gayle Robinson, Dan Straker, Tamiko Suzuki, and Carleen Thomas.
- Be it further resolved that Election of Officer positions to take place from the Directors immediately following the AGM, at the first Board meeting of the Directors. ✍





PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO 40968512
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES
TO CIRCULATION DEPT. 330-123 MAIN STREET,
TORONTO, ON M5W1A1



HONOURING ELDERS

WBT WILD BIRD TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 1-4pm
Tsleil-Waututh Cultural & Recreation Centre,
3010 Sleil Waututh Rd, North Vancouver.
Arrive at 1pm, includes lunch.