

Haultain restoration

Sod turning kicks-off park construction

A historic provincial resource and one of Calgary's oldest parks is getting a facelift. On May 26, the Haultain Park Restoration Project officially launched construction.

A sod turning event at Haultain Park celebrated the project's commencement and was attended by special guests including Deputy Mayor and Ward Alderman Madeleine King.

"The commencement of the park restoration has been awhile in the making," said Tanya Kahanoff, acting executive director, Parks Foundation Calgary. "Three years ago it was just a dream. Now we are ready to start construction."

Without the necessary funding, the Haultain Park Restoration Project and the future of the Beltline Community would not be where it is today. A large number of donors, partners, volunteers and staff dedicated the vital resources required to bring this project to fruition.

- Debra Klippenstein, PFC's Fund Development Manager, Bill Selby and the Fund Development Committee volunteers
- Tanya Kahanoff, PFC's Project Manager and Acting Executive Director
- Gerry Kalyniuk and Haultain Management Committee volunteers
- Union Square
- J.C. Anderson
- Marigold Foundation
- Alberta 2005 Centennial Legacies Grant Program
- Alberta Gaming—Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP)
- Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
- City of Calgary Corporate Properties & Buildings, Calgary Heritage Authority, Community Standards Fund and City of Calgary Parks and Urban Forestry
- Allan Markin
- Treherne Resources Ltd.
- Kathleen M. Gallagher
- Enbridge Pipelines Inc.



Wayne Logan, PFC Chairperson & Madeleine King, Deputy Mayor and Ward Alderman officially launch the Haultain Park restoration

Completion of the park restoration is expected late 2007. Residents and the community can look forward to an attractive, accessible park space.

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James Short Park



Valley View Regional Park



Jim Fish Ridge



Shaw Millennium Park



Elliston Park

Our quest. Your quest? Bequest.

Greening a Great City

The beauty of a city lies not just within its breathtaking skylines but also within the greenery that enlivens its streets, which creates sanctuaries where we can enjoy it. Enrichment and expansion of that greenspace allows communities to grow. The Greening a Great City Legacy Campaign is aimed at creating long-term funding stability ensuring Parks Foundation Calgary can continue to support such projects.

There are many tangible benefits to having local parkland available. It's been demonstrated to decrease community crime, improve physical and emotional health, and strengthen family relationships. Parks are available to everyone and have a positive impact on the environment.

Bequests can be of any size, made by anyone of any age. Your bequest may designate a particular item or amount of money, or consist of part or all of your estate.

There are many ways you can leave a legacy. A bequest is one way to help us ensure Calgary's green future, without affecting your estate now. Bequests can augment tax benefits, and many people enjoy the emotional benefits that come from helping others.

The kinds of spaces we love, the parks and playgrounds that hold adventures for children, the breathtaking allure of summer sunsets and the frozen beauty of winter frost in trees, from the benches we pause to watch the world for awhile can be created, restored or expanded with your support.

A bequest shapes the future by cultivating spaces for communities and impacting generations.

We recommend that you discuss your plans with your family and advisors when considering which giving option is right for you.

Bequests are only one of the many ways you can leave a legacy. We thank you for your interest in supporting Parks Foundation Calgary.

If you have any further questions regarding bequests or other options in planned giving, please contact Norm Harburn at nharburn@parksfdn.com.

"One generation plants the trees...another gets the shade." —Chinese Proverb

"PFC has in the past and will continue in the future to have a significant impact on the quality of life in our city.

I am proud to help support the cause by sitting on the volunteer Board of Directors, as well as by financial donations both in the present, and more significantly from my estate in the future."

***—Mike Stanford,
PFC, Board Member***

Weeds—Invasive species

A campaign to identify native and non-native species is underway

For most people, a walk through Nose Hill Park is a chance to relax and enjoy a taste of nature in the middle of the city. For Andrew Stiles, it's like surveying a battlefield where innocent residents are constantly under attack by stronger and better-equipped armies of alien invaders.

Where a casual visitor sees a sea of grass dotted with flowering shrubs and stands of trees, Stiles, a local naturalist, sees a riot of weeds that are crowding native plant species out of their homes and eliminating the habitat of insects, birds and other animals that rely on them to survive. And if Calgarians don't fight back, Stiles says it won't be long before their prized natural areas are destroyed forever.

"Invasive species are the single biggest problem facing our parks today," said Stiles, an Adopt-A-Park volunteer who is leading the war on weeds for the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. "It's an enormous issue that we need to tackle sooner than later because it's destroying our ecosystem in a way most people don't even realize."

Replacement of native species by heartier foreign breeds is second only to human development when it comes to causes of ecological destruction around the world, and it's a problem that's hitting home in the city's natural grasslands and river valleys.

Plants like the ornamental Carregana and Ketone Aster bushes, Goat's Beard, Creeping Thistle and Smooth Brome Grass are rapidly pushing out the diverse array of native plants, which impacts the entire ecology of a natural area.

"There are places where Carregana has choked out everything and has changed the soil chemistry so that

nothing else can live there," Stiles said.

Combatting the problem requires a two-pronged attack of pulling up invasive plants before they have a chance to take over and educating residents about what does and doesn't belong in Calgary's green spaces.

As a result, Stiles and other volunteers have started a "getting to know your neighbours" campaign to teach local school kids how to identify native and non-native species and lead weed-pulling excursions in parks like Nose Hill.

"I think the City needs a full-time coordinator to really raise awareness



Local Naturalist, Andrew Stiles

of this issue and organize a special weed round-up day," said Stiles.

"There's only a handful of years left before we can't do anything about it. Now's the time to take action."



Volunteer Profile

Patsy Cross

One year

It's been suggested that as a human race, we should volunteer—not so we can build our resume, but so we can build ourselves. Patsy Cross agrees and reiterates the endless benefits of volunteerism, from giving back to the community to genuinely caring about the environment to just keeping busy, active and productive.

Calling Calgary home since 1977, Patsy has a vested interest in our local community and environment. A volunteer on the River Valleys Committee for the past year, Patsy is an established entrepreneur and environmental consultant specializing in water quality initiatives. Nearing retirement, Patsy has found that volunteering with Parks Foundation Calgary has been beneficial in transitioning from career mode.

When asked if there was one thing that Patsy could ask each Calgarian to do to make a 'green' difference in the community, she thoughtfully replied, "Recycle as much as you can—waste, garbage, compost, everything! If you can sell your stuff at a yard sale instead of throwing it in the garbage, then do so." Well-earned advice from an experienced advocate, supporters like Patsy make the Parks Foundation Calgary's goal of greening a great city more attainable.

Is your rain barrel harvesting?

I bought my first rain barrel four years ago. It spent the first two years sitting beside my garage, not connected. Then I 'got around to it' and I haven't looked back.

I love my rain barrel. More specifically, my garden and trees love my rain barrel. My neighbours thank me for the show of spring and summer flowers in my front garden and I haven't used fertilizer, except bone meal and compost or much tap water for two years. Rain water is great for flowers—warmer than tap water and chlorine-free.

Rain barrels are a good start to rainwater harvesting — part of a new wave of ways to live with Calgary's dry climate. Rain barrels will save a bit of money on your water bills, especially in the spring and fall, when you can deep-water your trees and shrubs, even while it's raining lightly. Mainly, you get the satisfaction of knowing that the rain is not running down the storm sewers, contributing to artificially high flow in the rivers.

Tips to optimize your rain barrel:

- ✓ Set it up so the spill-over drains away from the foundation of your house.
- ✓ Clean out your rain gutters, and then use a screen to reduce debris
- ✓ Save time and effort by connecting a hose to a slightly raised barrel. It will get to most of your yard, and can be left turned on occasionally, even when you are away for the day.
- ✓ Keep the lid on—either a screen or a hard lid, to discourage mosquitoes, and prevent drowned squirrels.
- ✓ Eliminate mosquitoes' larvae with a drop of dish detergent, keeping the barrel cool in the shade, or periodically stirring the water surface. (The larvae of mosquitoes that carry West Nile disease depend on unbroken surface tension in warm water.)



Article and photo by Susan Ryan

- ✓ Reduce algae growth by keeping the barrel in the shade, buying a dark rain barrel or painting the food-grade barrels with a few coats of paint made for plastic outdoor furniture. Use a layer of dark paint to keep out the sunlight, then get creative with colour or simply match your siding

- ✓ In the Fall, empty the water onto your thirsty trees and shrubs then empty the debris that may have collected over the summer. Keep the rain barrel ice-free over the winter. No need to scrub it out. That coating of slime is a good biological water purifier.

Clean Calgary sold 1,142 rain barrels in two hours on April 29 of this year. If you have not connected yours yet, you're letting that June rain run away.

The City of Calgary website has more information including a long list of distributors and details about their products. Go to www.calgary.ca and search for rain barrels. The distributors include:

Clean Calgary Association
809 4 Ave SW
Phone: 403-230-1440

Garden Retreat
201 60 Ave SW
Phone: 403-255-7097

Lee Valley Tools
7261 11 St SE
Phone: 403-253-2066

Calgary Plastic Container Supply
1000 55 Ave NE
Phone: 403-273-0170

Bench Dedication Program



The Bench Dedication Program allows Calgarians to create a dedication or memorial by adopting a permanent public bench throughout the city's numerous recreation areas and inter-connected pathways. Placed on the bench is an engraved bronze plaque that features a personalized message from the donors.



WWW.PARKSFDN.COM

For further program information please call:

(403) 974-0751 or email:

benches@parksfdn.com

Learning from June 2005 floods

The River Valleys Committee (RVC) was privileged to host Living with Our Rivers—a public forum at the University of Calgary on May 4, 2006. Over 100 citizens listened to current researchers and industry experts talk about some of the lessons learned from Southern Alberta’s June 2005 floods.

Topics of discussion included river hydrology, effects on fisheries ecology, water quality changes, residential flood damage, public perceptions of risk, riparian impacts, jurisdictional authority and emerging issues, as well as the history and activities of the RVC itself. Outside the theatre, we invited some of our major partners to set up visual displays to promote their own organizations and activities, for attendees to explore over dinner.

The purpose of Living with Our Rivers was essentially to raise awareness among the public and our key stakeholders, but also to attract new volunteers to the RVC and Parks Foundation Calgary. The response from people who attended the event was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. We are now preparing a compendium of information and considering potential follow-up activities.

The RVC is sincerely grateful for the kind participation of our volunteer speakers:

- *University of Calgary Environmental Science students:*
 - Ryan Wilson
 - Jenn Migda
 - Kelly Carter
 - Karen Harris
 - Sandro Roome-Sandrin
- Cathy Ryan, Faculty of Science, U of Calgary
- Dave Evans, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- John Sealy, City of Calgary Water Resources
- Chris Manderson, City of Calgary Parks
- Mac Hickley, Susan Ryan, Steve Meadows & Bernie Amell; RVC
- Arlene Kwasiak, Faculty of Law, U of Calgary
- Wayne Meikle, Fish Creek Provincial Park

For more information on the forum or any other aspect of the River Valleys Committee, please contact Mac Hickley at 403-974-0747 or email: mhickley@parksfdn.com.



June 2005: Flooded regional pathway



June 2005: A river ran through it



June 2005: Stormwater outfall

RVC Volunteer Perspective...

Ancients neatly divided the world into *cultura* and *natura* –the man-made and the untouched. Although much that is man-made in our city may not appear *cultural*, much that we call *natural* has already been re-designed by humans. Until modern times, we had to constantly protect ourselves from the fearsomeness of the wild; today, we need to protect the wilderness from ourselves.

Along these lines, cities have made compromises by cultivating select wild areas into parks for our enjoyment. As nature’s bloodlines, rivers can still continue to thrive when development is kept at bay by park boundaries. The River Valleys Committee is a vanguard of dedicated individuals protecting Calgary’s rivers, streams, ravines and water sources

by Sebastian Gault, PhD, RVC Volunteer

against inappropriate urban encroachment. Unpaid and unsung, they are truly the rivers’ champions.

Every member has a unique reason for involvement. What particularly draws me to the committee’s cause, however, is my love of the river environment as a place of tranquility, beauty and spiritual refreshment. I make regular trips to its pathways and always when I return home, the river’s peaceful, but powerful memory lingers on. The furious pace of current urban growth threatens these healthy river ecologies and it’s a relief to know one can join a group of people dedicated to their preservation...

Wetlands—Calgary's hidden resource

Healthy wetlands are an integral part of the natural infrastructure that makes Calgary such a great place to live. It's a matter of balance; a robust and growing city should acknowledge that wetlands require our care too as urban development is now extending into areas of significant wetland complexes. Draining or destroying the city's wetlands negates the wonderful benefits derived from these bodies of water: flood and soil erosion protection, surface and ground water filtration and recharge, essential wildlife habitat and corridors, education and scientific research opportunities, community open space, and more.

Think of a wetland as a giant sponge! Wetlands receive water from a variety of sources: groundwater, rain, runoff from spring melts, and streams, rivers and lakes. Water is absorbed during wet periods and released slowly into surrounding areas during dry spells. Wetlands are nature's water filters. Water passes from adjacent uplands into the riparian and aquatic areas of a wetland where it is cleansed of harmful pollutants before reaching water treatment facilities and the pipes that carry it to your home. The plants and soils in and around wetlands absorb chemicals, excess nutrients, sediments and other impurities from the water.



Many mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates rely on wetlands as habitat for food, water, breeding and nesting grounds, migration resting areas and shelter.

Wetlands are some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the prairies. There is a tremendous diversity of wetland

It is estimated that 90 per cent of Calgary's wetlands and 64 per cent of Alberta's wetlands are already lost to urban development and other human impacts.

types in and around Calgary, ranging from ephemeral wetlands that only hold water in the spring, to a wide variety of seasonal and permanent marshes and saline sloughs, as well as engineered storm-water wetlands.

It is estimated that 90 per cent of Calgary's wetlands and 64 per cent of Alberta's wetlands are already lost to urban development and other human impacts. However, with increased awareness of the roles wetlands play in the long-term health of our community, we are taking steps to ensure the preservation of as many healthy wetlands as possible.

Protection of wetlands is a key objective of both the Alberta Water for Life Strategy and the City of Calgary's Wetland Conservation Plan. In addition, Alberta Environment has a review function prior to the alteration of significant wetlands in Calgary. Anybody who wishes to alter or develop a wetland must apply for and obtain approval under the Water Act from Alberta Environment before engaging in any activity that may impact a wetland.

The City of Calgary can protect seasonal, permanent, and saline ponds within their wetland inventory enabling them to contribute to long-term local water quality and quantity. Ephemeral ponds contribute to numerous ecological functions including groundwater recharge but their protection is discretionary under existing legislation.

For close to five years, the Parks Foundation Calgary Wetlands Committee has facilitated an ongoing dialogue between a number of concerned and committed government and non-profit organizations to help address the challenges associated with balancing the benefits of wetland conservation and development within our urban environment.



The Wetlands Committee implemented a number of successful initiatives such as: a prominent display at Calgary's international airport, a popular brochure, and an extremely successful Wetlands Wonderlands video documentary for key stakeholders and schools across the province.

Because of their natural beauty and abundant wildlife, wetlands are great places to learn about biology and the environment. Experience the wonders of a wetland soon—visit one in your community.

Watch for further information from the Parks Foundation Calgary Wetland Committee. In the meantime, please visit the following resources:

www.parksfdn.com and *Ducks Unlimited Canada* at www.ducks.ca

www.calgary.ca (To view *The City of Calgary's Wetland Conservation Plan*)

For general water information visit:

[//www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/index.html](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/index.html)

Photos courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada

Mud between my toes

A new education initiative was launched on May 10 at the Elbow Valley Constructed Wetland. Mud Between My Toes is a program that celebrates Calgary's urban wetlands and provides educational opportunities for grade five students.

ConocoPhillips in partnership with The City of Calgary Parks and Ducks Unlimited Canada spearheaded the program and sponsored the official launch. A local grade five class participated in the launch by touring the wetland, releasing tadpoles, and searching for wildlife that utilize the wetland.

Parks Foundation Calgary and the River Valleys Committee officially opened The Elbow Valley Constructed Wetlands in 1999. Located north of the Elbow River off Highway 8, the constructed wetland provides valuable storm water treatment research and numerous environmental education opportunities to schools that use the wetland as an outdoor science classroom.



Bow River Weir Project

Harvie Passage

A public unveiling of the new and improved Bow River weir is being planned for this fall, as design and detailed planning of the Parks Foundation Calgary-led project wraps up this summer.

Called Harvie Passage in honour of Calgary philanthropist Don Harvie, the \$6.4 million project will see the hazardous weir structure in Inglewood reconstructed with a series of pools and rapids that will be safer for people and improve natural movement of fish along the river.

Two scale models of the passage were built in Edmonton to simulate the flow of water over the proposed structures, which provided invaluable information to guide the design and construction of the features.

"The up-front costs associated with building the models will now save us a great deal of time and money, which would otherwise be spent fine-tuning it after it's built," said Mac Hickley, manager, River Valleys Committee.

"The designer of the in-river features has done weir remodeling projects around the world and our scale models have convinced him that doing physical modeling beforehand makes a lot of sense," Hickley said. "They recently removed many wheelbarrows of sand and gravel from the models, which translates into many tonnes of rocks and other material that won't be needed for the real thing."

Assessments of the project's impacts on the waterway and shorelines are underway and a public presentation of the conceptual designs and engineering plans will likely be held in the autumn. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is providing project management services for the project, with all funds being administered by Parks Foundation Calgary.



Proposed river features (1:50 scale model)



Toy watercraft float across a proposed feature (1:15 scale model)



Boxing Club receives grant for upgrade

The Amateur Sport Grant Program develops and enhances sport participation for Calgarians of all ages through a joint community partnership with the Calgary Flames Hockey Club, the

Saddledome Foundation, and Parks Foundation Calgary.

In keeping with the goal of this program to sustain competitive amateur sport by financially supporting qualified sport organizations with their capital projects including buildings, equipment and facilities the Calgary Boxing Club recently upgraded their building. As a result of a \$20,000 grant from Parks Foundation Calgary, the club now has the capacity to have 50 more students in each class.

A number of heavy bags have been added, new showers, bathrooms, painting as well as a boxing ring in a central location with exercise machines surrounding it.

“Now it looks like a boxing gym,” said Ginnie Brown, Coach, Calgary Boxing Club. “Before it looked like a room just to put stuff in.”

Some of their young up-and-comers are thriving and winning local boxing awards. Calgary Boxing Club says their facility is coming along good now that everything is in place.

Farewell to Fund Development Manager

Debra Klippenstein



A vibrant employee of over three years with Parks Foundation Calgary, Debra Klippenstein is leaving her position to pursue further endeavours.

Debra Klippenstein She’s groomed the Fund Development Manager role from the ground up since she began as the first full-time fundraiser in Parks Foundation Calgary history.

Debra played an integral role in Parks Foundation Calgary’s growth and ongoing success, most recently with raising over \$2 million for Haultain Park Restoration Project. Acting Executive Director, Tanya Kahanoff said, “the project would not have been possible without her.”

Her spirit with PFC volunteers will certainly be missed, including her infamous martini parties for them.

When asked one-word to describe Debra, staff said:

- * *Enthusiastic*
- * *Charming*
- * *Spirited*
- * *Dedicated, unique*
- * *Always HOT, dead of Winter... complaining of heat (he he)*

Debra is Greening a Great City too! You will be missed.

Parks Foundation, Calgary is Greening a Great City

Enhancing the quality of life for all Calgarians through:

Development of parks
Preservation of river valleys
Support of amateur sport

There has never been a better time for you to get involved!

- Volunteer for one of our committees or projects.
- Donate to one of our projects.
- Create a new park or playground in your community.

Celebrating over 20 years in the Calgary community

Pathways is published bi-annually by Parks Foundation Calgary.

You can contact us at our home in the historic Haultain School (ca.1894):

225 - 13 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 1N8 Canada

General Enquiries
Phone: (403) 974-0751
Fax: (403) 974-0758
Email: info@parksfdn.com

www.parksfdn.com

