

AUTUMN 2022 Newsletter

“And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves.”

– Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT RIVERVIEW

- The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society (RHCS) has one more tree tour this year, starting from the upper parking lot of the Henry Esson Young (HEY) Building on Sunday, October 2 at 1:00. We have had a **challenge** with this tour because BC Housing (BCH) informed us they are limiting the waiving of fees for the BCH-mandated liaison (BCH staff person paid to walk on the tree tour with us) and administrative costs to five tree tours per year. Therefore, **RHCS is required by BCH to pay 850.00 dollars to cover the BCH-mandated liaison and administrative fees for the sixth tour on October 2nd.**
- A meeting with BCH and Kwikwetlem First Nation (KFN) is pending to discuss their unexpected decision to reduce the number of funded tree walks to five. Except for the last two years, RHCS has led 10 to 12 tree walks per year. October 2nd is our sixth and final tree tour, and we are requesting that BCH honour their funding of this tour on səmiq̓wəʔelə/Riverview, **public lands funded by taxpayer dollars.**
- RHCS is also requesting that we receive a full breakdown of the cost per tour which BCH has indicated “totals over \$4100.00” for five tours and which “reflects actual costs incurred by BCH due to the weekend timing of such tours and minimum call out fees for staff.” **These costs are not sustainable for a small not-for-profit group such as RHCS offering free public tree walks.**
- We have also pointed out to BCH that the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society has successfully advocated for protection of the healthy, mature trees on the səmiq̓wəʔelə/Riverview Lands for over 30 years. **Our group is entirely volunteer-run and we do not operate for profit or for our own interests as do other groups who use the site. We disagree with BCH’s position that “in a spirit of fairness to all other groups who currently pay fees and in recognition of the increasing costs associated with maintaining the site, we would require that the associated costs of additional events be covered by RHCS through fundraising, grants or other means.” Our Tree Walks are well-attended and provide a free service to the public that allows them to experience all the benefits of walking among the trees.**



Attendees at the September 11th/2022 Tree Walk



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 30th Year of RHCS

We held our 2022 AGM on September 13th, 2022.

President's Report by Marilyne Anderson. Some highlights:

- It was a year of change with the completion of the watering system, improved communication, the sorting of 30 years of historical RHCS materials, and much perseverance as we continued to organize tree tours for the public with all the conditions BCH imposes: licensing, first aid attendant, walking restrictions, liaison, and now the threat of fees. Finally, after two years we were able to give a tree tour for Minister Eby. We worked in Serenity Garden in spite of a broken water pipe and the requirement for volunteers to take the archaeology course every year. We continue to soldier on and fight for the trees of s̄amiq̄w̄əʔel̄ə/Riverview and support mental health.
- A founding member of RHCS, Sue Haberberger made a statement in the June 2009 Newsletter which still applies today:

"Like all volunteers working on long term community projects, I sometimes feel discouraged and wonder, 'Why I am doing this?' We negotiate with bureaucrats who are being paid to obstruct us, we listen to politicians at election time paying lip service to the importance of the Riverview Lands, and we spend long hours working on documents that never seem to get past the 'vision' stage. Of course, it is encouraging when I think back on 15 years of work and see the major change in public opinion, or when I make a presentation to people who were not previously aware of the issue and hear them gasp when they see the beautiful images of the site, or when membership forms are returned with personal notes and donations. But by far, the best way to cure a bout of discouragement is to walk about the Riverview Lands..."

Reports

- Membership Director, Mick Short, reported that numbers increased to 246 members. Family and friends are encouraged to join.
- Treasurer, Linda Asgeirsson, gave a thorough accounting report.
- Tree Tour Coordinator, Nancy Furness, reviewed the spectacular tree tours and each of our special tree tour leaders (arborists/horticulturalists) accompanied by great photos.
- Newsletter Representative, Ivanka Cotic, mentioned that the team (Marilyne, Julia, and Ivanka) produced four newsletters with input from board members.

Elections of Board Members

- We welcomed Patricia Turner and Allison Luke onto our board. We also thank Anna Tremere and Laura Dupont for their help and support over the years. They have moved on to other endeavors.

Prize Draw

- Diane Thorne, Eurilda Larsen, and Jennifer Owen won prizes.

Thank you to all who attended our 2022 AGM on Zoom. Next year we hope to meet in person.



Attendees at the September 11th/2022 Tree Walk



SEPTEMBER 11TH TREE TOUR

We had another great turnout despite the smoky sky. James Bobick, our tree tour leader, started our tree tour by reminding us of the many ways in which trees are beneficial to our health.

We are doing a special feature on our wonderful four-legged friends who participated. Each agreed to be in a photo and to provide a brief comment.



Tour leader James Bobick



CHICO with Cole and Michelle:
"I am enjoying all the dry grass."



ROSIE with Alison and Ed:
"I prefer the people to the trees, but I am enjoying the shade of the trees."



TACO with Trudy:
"I quite enjoy each time we venture to another tree and the talk from the arborist so I can sit and get water and a treat and shade from the immense branches."



ABBY with Diane:
"I love the trees! They are my saviour on a hot day."



PANDA with Lizzie, Sandra, and Sean:
"I love the sticks!"



ACER: MAPLES

'Acer' is Latin for 'sharp.' In the past, maple wood was used to make spears. Worldwide, there are 150 species of maples; 13 are indigenous to North America, 10 to Canada.

The maple family is diverse in characteristics and native habitat. All species, however, produce fruits called samaras, which are winged seed cases. Maples usually produce clusters of samaras, each with two seed cases attached to a single stalk. Samaras from different species differ in size, colours, and angle of attachment of the wings to the stalk.

Maples have male and female flowers. Some produce nectar and require insect pollination; some use wind pollination; some use a combination of both.

Maples often display outstanding fall colour. In eastern Canada, the fall show consists of rich reds, warm oranges, and hot yellows, but colour in the Lower Mainland is sporadic and not as brilliant. This could be attributed to the West Coast's wet, warm autumns. (From: *The Riverview Lands: Western Canada's First Botanical Garden*. Edited by Val Adolph and Brenda Guild Gillespie)

Enjoy the Autumn colours by taking a stroll through səmiq̓wəʔelə/Riverview in person or virtually through Jamie Mcquarrie's video:

<https://youtu.be/NfeEnBo0CwQ>



Coliseum maples on the Riverview Grounds, both roughly 70 years old





MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the friends of the RHCS for renewing your annual membership for the year 2022/2023. There is still time to renew, and we encourage you to do so.

The membership form is available on our website rhcs.org

MEMBER FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear from you. Please send questions or comments to riverviewRHCS@outlook.com or 604.290.9910

The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

RHCS invites you to join us in supporting our efforts to keep the site of BC's first botanical garden, the Riverview Hospital Lands, intact.

SUPPORTER APPLICATION

RENEW or JOIN NOW!!

DATE: _____ / _____ / 202__
month day year

Supporter: \$

You are invited to make a DONATION: \$

TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$

Please make cheques payable to: Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

TAX RECEIPTS:

- RHCS is a registered charitable organization
- Donations of \$20 or more will be automatically receipted.

We Value your Continued Support & Appreciate all the help

Yearly membership is due on April 1st

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Please Mail to: **e-mail:** _____

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604-290-9910 trees@rhcs.org www.rhcs.org

Membership form, available on our website rhcs.org

