



**BURNS BOG**  
**CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
www.burnsbog.org 604-572-0373

**WELCOME**

**To our 2025 Autumn Newsletter**

**In this edition:**



**Member**

**News**

With  
Updates  
on



**Delta Nature Reserve**

Benches, Boardwalks, Greenway

**Campaigns**

Bee Friendly Seeds, T shirts at WBU

**Education and Outreach Events**

Public presentations, tours and displays

**Bog Developments**

MK Delta Lands Industrial Park

**Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

With the reminder to catch the next one in 2026!

Dear Members and future members,

BBCS has membership in BC Nature beginning in 2025 which will provide numerous benefits and advantages to the Society. As a BC Nature group, the Society now has affordable insurance



for the Board and Society members engaged in Society activities. Also, members of BBCS may now attend other BC Nature group activities as an insured member, and the Society continues to be eligible to attend public events with the insurance coverage typically required for participation.

BC Nature also offers support to its member clubs by posting messages, providing links to websites and hosting a page for each member club. This will increase BBCS' visibility and will provide opportunities for collaboration with other BC Nature groups keen "to know nature and keep nature worth knowing". BC Nature produces a very informative e-magazine and paper copy for members of BC Nature groups.

The 2024 AGM for BBCS did transpire in April 2025 and the Board of Directors list is found below. We continue to operate remotely without the brick and mortar office in Delta. Each of our directors possess a portfolio pertinent to their expertise. Board meetings are held regularly either in person or via zoom and we recently decided that a membership fee increase was necessary. The new fees for 2026 are, Seniors/youth \$16; Individual adult \$20 and family \$40. Questions, comments or to volunteer you can contact us directly via phone at 604-572-0373 or via email at [communications@burnsbog.org](mailto:communications@burnsbog.org).

The Society's focus is also to partner with relevant agencies, stakeholders and join associations, advocating for nature to expand habitat restoration for re-establishing species diversity and resiliency in Burns Bog. Public support is necessary for us to accomplish this. We thank you for your membership through the Society's recent transition and hope you will enjoy increasing benefits with your membership to BBCS. We look forward to increasing membership and our voice.

With gratitude,

BBCS Board of Directors

**President**

Liz Walker

**Treasurer**

Evelyn Wedley

**Director**

Laurie Haliburton

**Director**

Beverley Bly

**Vice President**

Pixie Hobby

**Secretary**

Nancy McLeod

**Director**

Lukas Miller

## **Updates on a treasured piece of Burns Bog, the Delta Nature Reserve**

An important part of the Society's mission is education and we had many requests from educators for field trips with their students. Unfortunately, we had to explain that the situation in the Delta Nature Reserve for the Spring was currently "up in the air".



We did manage to offer a few field trips with some alteration to our usual content. With the upcoming plans for boardwalk replacement and the Delta South Surrey Regional Greenway extension through the Delta Nature Reserve, we are inquiring about possible educational opportunities during construction and considering the need to provide some new, interim programming.

**Boardwalk replacement:** The project has received approval from the water sustainability act and is the final design stage, with construction expected to begin in Spring 2026.

Metro Vancouver has provided an update regarding the Delta South Surrey Greenway (the roadway into the Delta Nature Reserve) "Work on the trail upgrades is progressing steadily but has focused to date on gathering background information to inform the design process. This has included hydrological, geotechnical, and archaeological assessments to better understand existing site conditions and constraints. Metro Vancouver will soon begin the next phase of work, which will focus on confirming the conceptual alignment of the proposed greenway trail." For further updates visit:

[DeltaNatureReserveandGreenway@metrovancover.org](mailto:DeltaNatureReserveandGreenway@metrovancover.org)

# Burns Bog Conservation Society

## Bee Friendly Seed Campaign

*Seed packets generously donated by West Coast Seeds*



Say the word "bees" and most people think of honeybees. Did you know that European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are not native to Canada and can be considered an agricultural animal kept for honey production? BC is home to about 600 species of native wild bees, including bumble bees, sweat bees, mining bees, hairy-belly bees, and mason bees.

Unlike honeybees, most native bees are solitary. There are some pollinator groups of bees, like bumble bees, that are highly social and have 'queens' in their colonies. This social structure is one that most people are familiar with because this is how honeybees live. However, other pollinator groups like sweat bees, mining bees and hairy-belly bees are solitary bees, or in the case of sweat bees, may be semi-social depending on circumstances. Sweat bees, mining bees and sometimes hairy-belly bees will nest in the ground rather than in hives or colonies.

Both wild bees and honeybees are responsible for pollinating 30 per cent of the world's crops and 90 per cent of our wildflowers, bringing most of our fruits and vegetables, nuts, beans and grains to our tables. Unfortunately, many native bee species are in decline. The biggest threats to these pollinators are habitat loss, pesticides, disease, climate change and the presence of invasive species. We can help native bees and other pollinators by planting pollinator-friendly gardens while we protect natural areas.

Pollinator-friendly gardens will have flowers blooming for an extended period, will include flowers of different colours, shapes and sizes (bees have excellent colour vision), and never use pesticides. To increase the populations of bees and other pollinators, the Burns Bog Conservation Society, in collaboration with West Coast Seeds, is offering a Bee Garden blend of premium seeds so you can create your own Bee Garden for both honeybees and wild native bees. Seed packets, generously donated by West Coast Seeds, are available by donation at Wild Birds Unlimited at their new address: Unit 1, 3033 King George Blvd, Surrey BC.



**BURNS BOG  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

www.burnsbog.org 604-572-0373

Mailing address: 13481 66A Ave Surrey BC V3W 2B5

Charitable Tax# 129166682R0001

Yes, I want to support education and stewardship projects with a:

Monthly gift  One time gift

Here is my tax deductible gift of:

\$100  \$75  \$50

\$25  \$15  \$10

My choice: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



I wish to pay by:

Visa  Cheque Payable to Burns Bog Conservation Society

Mastercard  E transfer contact accounting@burnsbog.org

PROTECTING - RESTORING - EDUCATING



This information is required for Tax purposes:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

CW \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !



## Announcement

Our 11th annual Burns Bog Conservation Society Charity Golf Tournament will take place on July 18th, Saturday at Delta Golf Course. Mark your calendars. Registration will open in February 2026 with all details. If you wish to donate a silent auction prize or become a sponsor, kindly contact [bev@burnsbog.org](mailto:bev@burnsbog.org)

We hope to see you on the links  
And look forward to your support

Some of the happy participants this past summer....





*Burns Bog, 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament  
July 12, 2025, Delta Golf Club, Delta*

*Thank you to the golfers, sponsors volunteers and Directors at Large for your time, contributions and participation in making this a successful golf fundraiser in helping protect Burns Bog for generations to come*



Unit 1, 3033 King George Blvd, just south of 148th (32nd Ave diversion) intersection Elgin Centre

A BIG THANK YOU to Wild Birds Unlimited for their support to BCS. They have provided a place for patrons to find our T-shirts for sale and access to other fundraising materials like our Bee Friendly campaign packages.



Our Spring 2025 season began with attending the **Delta Watershed Park Salmon Send off, 12 April.**



Salmon fry in Cougar Creek

Also, in Delta we were excited to attend **Metro Vancouver's Flashlight Mysteries**, introducing visitors to Delta nightlife in Deas Island Regional park...think owls, lepidoptera at night and bats as our nighttime pollinators, and birds that migrate in the dark...all are found in Burns Bog and the Fraser delta...



Flashlight Mysteries at Deas Island Park 4 October...what a **hoot!**

We received invitations to events in Vancouver, New Westminster and in the valley that, like Surrey's Environmental Extravaganza, allowed us to reach beyond Delta to inform the public on Burns Bog.

### **Vancouver's Van Dusen Gardens Pollinator Days Field Trip Festival, 28 & 29 April**

We featured "Bugs in the Bog" for this festival and were happy to report that there were many children, teachers and parents that came by to learn of the many invertebrates, mammals and birds that contribute to pollination of Bog flora.



Many packages from our Bee Friendly Seed Campaign were distributed to visitors attending this event and to visitors at other public events where we had our display. Many thanks to West Coast Seeds for their generous gift of high quality organic pollinator seed mixes.

### **Green Living in Mission, 26 April**

The event was held at Fraser River Heritage Park with tremendous views of the Fraser valley. We introduced their many visitors to Burns Bog and its significance to the Fraser River ecosystem...we also gained current information on Sturgeon as the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society was next to us.



## Celebrating BC and World Rivers Day RiverFest 2025, 29 September



On the boardwalk next to the Fraser River Discovery Centre, we enjoyed the ambience of the Fraser River flowing past and the view towards the Alex Fraser Bridge where we could actually point people towards the Bog.

For this day we featured, “A Bog is Born of the Fraser River” ... explaining how the Fraser River, carrying sediments that settled eventually gave rise to the delta of which Burns Bog is situated.

It proved to be an event where we engaged many people interested in our display featuring Don’s rendering of a spongy Bog and solutions to keep it wet. Think “moat”...well, actually ways to bring tidal river water up around the edges of the bog, as happened before we encircled it with dykes, industrial developments and roadways.



**Surrey’s Environmental Extravaganza** begins in April with the Party for the Planet Earthday celebration that runs into June with various environmentally focused groups providing educational events and activities to the general public during that time. Every group is encouraged to participate with and support each other.

We had the pleasure of participating at events hosted by the Honey Bee Centre (29 April), the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society (31 May) and the Tynehead Fish Hatchery (10 May). These events were well attended and we had many conversations with visitors about Bog conservation.

## Tynehead Fish Hatchery, 10 May



Tynehead Regional Park is at the headwaters of the Serpentine River that empties into Boundary Bay. The salmon fry that are released will make their way to Boundary Bay and into the Fraser River Estuary. Many salmon fry were released by visitors excited to empty their pails of fry into the creek while the Great Blue Heron looked on.

There were also ducks to see on the creek as they floated down racing to the finish line. It appears to be an annual fundraiser for the hatchery that adds a lot of fun and bits of color. We were happy to bring “Burns Bog” to this north Surrey location and share our thoughts on ways the Bog can help our local salmon populations.



**Our contribution to the Environmental Extravaganza**  
BBCS hosted an afternoon in Cougar Creek Park to build awareness of links between Surrey, Cougar Creek and Burns Bog. Our guests included the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists and Cougar Creek Streamkeepers. The ponds in this park would be reminiscent of Scott Lake, although much smaller, to the early families of Surrey and North Delta.

### ***The Surrey Historical Society provided these details:***

*“When Scott Road was completed in 1875, the route detoured around a very large beaver pond. In 1926, the beaver pond known as Scott Lake between 68th and 72nd Avenues was drained and a new 16-foot wide straight section of Scott Road was completed up the hill to 68th Avenue. The pond covered an area where Scottsdale Centre is in North Delta and The Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara is on the Surrey side, as well as the flat land up to 122<sup>nd</sup> Street.”*





## Scott Lake and Cougar Creek

Sometimes during rain events Cougar Creek overflows its banks...is that a problem and what's causing it?

Cougar Creek has a history where water from the watershed (Beaver creek and the lake)

flowed down into Boundary Bay...yes, it flowed south and through the agricultural areas bordering the south edges of Burns Bog.



During heavy rain and high tide the agricultural lands would flood which inspired officials to consider redirecting Cougar Creek northward to the Fraser River. Now it floods the NE corner of Burns Bog. Why is there flooding?

Largely due to changes in the watershed that do not impede the flow of rainwater. Replacing Scott Lake, a major catchment, with hard surfaces and smaller catchment, removal of vegetation for development results in

fast flowing stormwater runoff emptying into local creeks and exceeding their capacity to carry water away without overflowing their banks.

## Delta South Surrey Regional Greenway – Trail upgrades

While extending the Greenway from Boundary Bay, the trail upgrade is also considered as a solution to Cougar Creek flooding into the Delta Nature Reserve the planning for an upgrade to the trail/service road is underway. Hydrological, geotechnical, and archaeological assessments have been done and Metro Vancouver will start on the next phase that will determine the “conceptual alignment” of the proposed greenway trail.





## Did you know about the **Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database**?

From Metro Vancouver’s press release the database...”provides a clearer and more complete picture of — and critical information about — the conservation network across the country. It is used

by a wide range of people and organizations, such as governments, non-government organizations, researchers, land managers, industry, and the public.”

Part of Metro Vancouver’s contribution to the database is the 2,300-hectare Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area and Delta Nature Reserve...

“The inclusion of the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database is a proud milestone for our community, made possible through our strong collaboration with Metro Vancouver,” said City of Delta Mayor George V. Harvie. “This designation supports our collective commitment to protecting this globally unique bog — an ecological treasure that plays a vital role in carbon storage and biodiversity conservation. By formally recognizing Burns Bog, we are making another meaningful contribution to Canada’s goal of conserving 30 per cent of our lands and waters by 2030.”

This work could not have been done without the support of BC Nature, which helps local governments determine which potential sites meet federal criteria for protected areas through the Municipal Protected Areas Project and assists with registering lands in the database.

Editor: I can only say it’s about time and hopefully this will lead to protective measures from further harms and greater efforts for restoration.

**November 16, 2025 from the Boundary Bay Dyke at 90th St.**



**Light pollution in the City of Delta,**  
that causes “skyglow”, known to  
impact the natural behaviours of  
wildlife.



Thank you for your continued support...and  
patience! Work to update and improve the  
BBCS website continues.

As this year comes to an end, we wish you a  
safe, happy and healthy holiday season and  
New Year!

**Coming up on 2 December 2025**

**GIVING**  
  
**TUESDAY**

Join the movement and give,  
whether it's some of your time, a  
donation, or the power of your  
voice in your local community.

<https://www.givingtuesday.org/>