

10

February 2022 Issue

FREE THE FERN

Community connection through
environmental stewardship

Winter Walk on the Trail

by [Grace Nombrado](#)

After several weeks of heavy rain, followed by heavy snow in Vancouver, I finally got a chance to take a winter walk through the Champlain Heights Trail system.

It was a misty morning, as I set out on my trek. Rising from the fog at the end of Fir Trail, I saw a great black cottonwood. I marvelled at the size of this towering giant.



I noticed green buds already forming at the ends of the Osoberry branches



and, despite the winter chill, logs seemed to glow bright green with moss.



I turned and saw a lush green carpet of dwarf Oregon grape



and spiny wood fern fiddleheads curled up, waiting to rise in spring.



THIS MONTH'S
OTHER STORIES

Successes of 2021



I put together a short [video summarising Free the Fern's Successes of 2021](#). Thank you everyone for giving your time and energy to make our previous year such a success! We look forward to more exciting opportunities for stewardship in 2022.

A New Pathway



Free the Fern was recently contacted by Ben Mulhall of the Vancouver Engineering Department. He wished to notify us that:

“The Parks Board has recently taken over greater responsibility for forest management on the trail properties in Champlain Heights. Although the land is not dedicated as a park, we found it best to have [Free the Fern] activities run through your existing relationship with the parks stewards program, rather than create a new process in Engineering. Dana MacDonald [with the Parks Board] will be your new contact for proposed work in Champlain Heights....all the best with your restoration work!” (Ben Mulhall - Engineering)

This new connection with the Parks Board could open up avenues of support for Free the Fern. Dana MacDonald is well versed in the needs of stewardship groups, as she has worked

closely supporting many of the local stewardship groups throughout the city. This change might also make it possible to secure future funding for native plants from the Parks Board.

We will keep you updated as things develop.

Invasive Removal Pull - February 5, 2022



FEBRUARY 5, 2022 INVASIVE REMOVAL PULL

Come out and Volunteer!

Join the environmental stewardship group, **Free the Fern**, for an **Invasive Removal Pull** on **Sat, Feb 5, 2022, 10am-12pm**. Help remove invasive weeds that are threatening our local trees and plants. We will be focusing on Himalayan blackberry and English ivy along the Red Alder Trail, east of Matheson Heights Co-op.

Please register by emailing Catherine Munn at cmunn6@gmail.com



10am-12pm

Snacks and Refreshments provided

All tools provided

Meet at the basketball court on the Red Alder Trail

Please register at cmunn6@gmail.com

FREE THE FERN

Champlain Heights
www.freethefern.ca

February 5, 2022
10am-12pm

Catherine Munn, of Matheson Heights Co-op, will be hosting our monthly Invasive Removal Pull on Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 10am-12pm. We will be focusing on removing invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. Please contact Catherine at cmunn6@gmail.com to register for the event. Tools and refreshments will be provided.

We will be continuing our monthly Invasive Removal Pulls into the spring. Mark your calendars for the next few sessions:

March 5, 2022 - 10am-12pm - Kinross Creek Co-op - hosted by Grace

April 2, 2022 - 10am- 12pm - Alexander Laidlaw Co-op - hosted by Martin

Further details about registering will be emailed out to volunteers.

Trail Mapping



Damian Assadi & Grace Nombrado have begun the process of mapping stewardship areas of the Red Alder Trail. They are working on marking areas that have undergone invasive removal and native planting in 2021. Their stewardship map could be used as part of grant applications for Free the Fern.

In addition, there are also planning to do a larger scale mapping project of invasive plants on the Red Alder trail at the end of April with BCIT Ecological Restoration students. A call for additional volunteers will be sent out as project details are finalised.

Not-for-Profit Society Registration

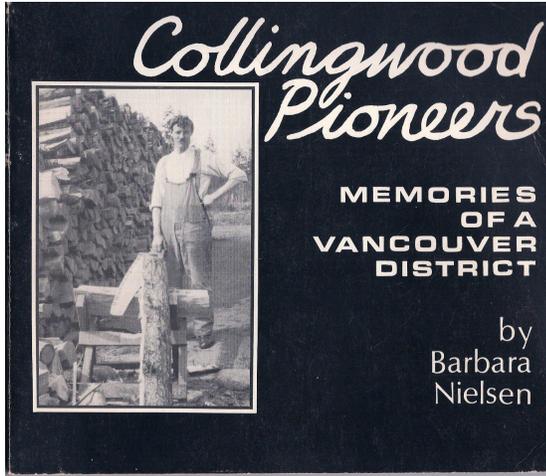
At our last Free the Fern meeting in January, members decided to look further into the idea of registering Free the Fern as a not-for-profit society. Registering could open up grant funding opportunities and ensure an unlimited life expectancy for Free the Fern, independent of individual members. To begin this process, at our next meeting in February, we will be looking at defining what Free the Fern's purpose is in 2-3 sentences. Check out the [BC Government page on Non-Profit Societies for more information.](#)

Volunteer Tracking

Have you recently done any volunteer work (invasive removal or planting) along the Champlain Heights Trail? Don't forget to log your volunteer hours on our [Free the Fern Volunteer Tracker](#). This updated tracker for 2022 allows us to keep a record of the number of volunteer hours, amounts of invasives and native plants removed, and other essential data. Our volunteer tracker can also be easily found on the [main page of our website](#), under the "volunteer" tab.

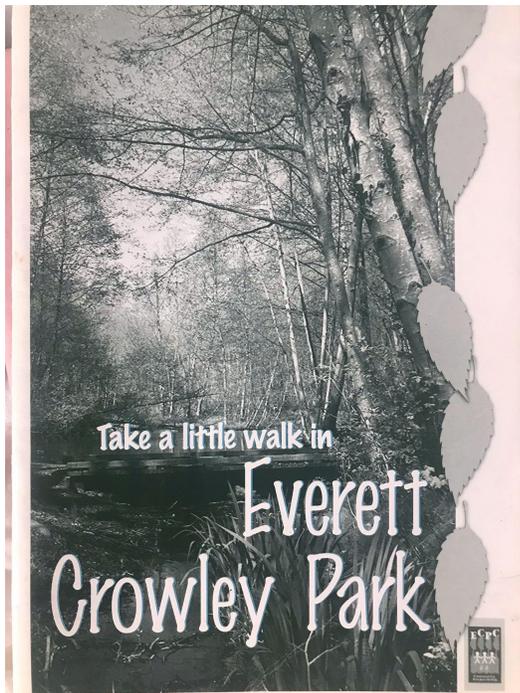
Local History Books

Recently, we have had several rare and out of print local history booklets donated to our [Free the Fern Lending Library](#).



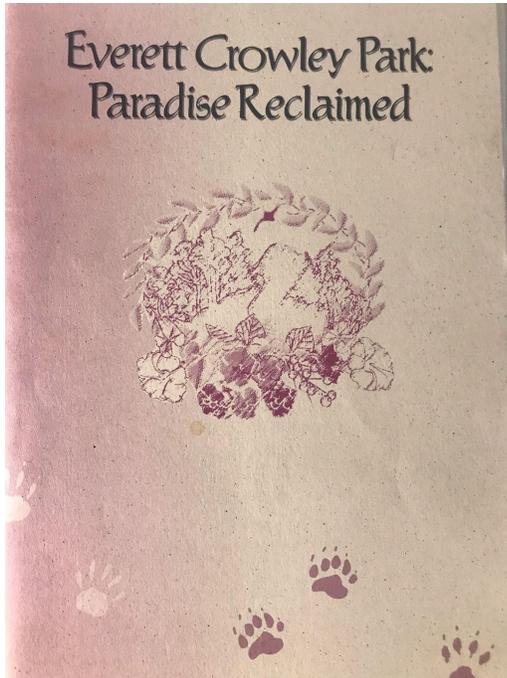
Collingwood Pioneers

by Barbara Nielsen

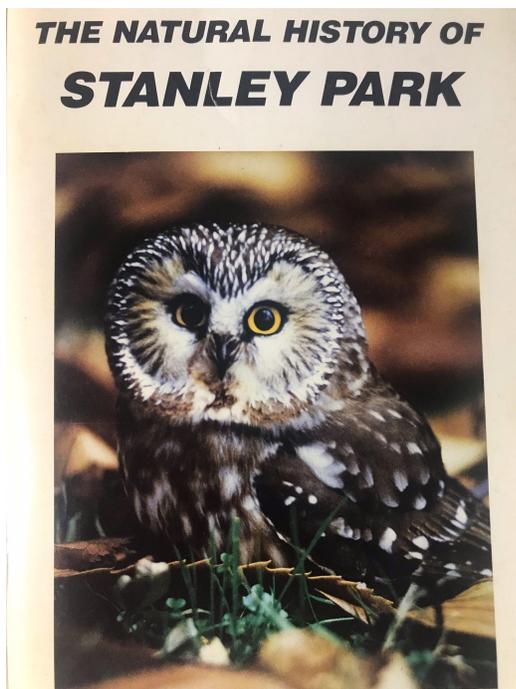


Take a little walk in Everett Crowley Park

by the Everett Crowley Park Committee



Everett Crowley Park: Paradise Reclaimed
by Judy Quan



The Natural History of Stanley Park
by the Vancouver Natural History Society

Please email us at freethefern@gmail.com to request to borrow these or other books in our Free the Fern Lending Library.

2022 Invasive Species Forum



The [Invasive Species Centre](#) is hosting their annual **Invasive Species Forum** online on **February 1-3, 2022**. Registration is free. There will be a range of speakers on a variety of topics, ranging from ecosystem resilience to supporting indigenous communities. Check out their [website to register](#).

Next Meeting



Our next members meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7-8pm.

A reminder and link will be sent out to members closer to the date.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)





Free the Fern.

www.freethefern.ca

freethefern@gmail.com

Insta: free_the_fern