



Free the Fern

Dec 2024 Newsletter

Light up the Night in Champlain Heights



- Meet at 6:30pm to join our lantern procession, led by The Carnival Band
- Artist lanterns displayed along Red Alder Trail
- Hot Chocolate & Cookies



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Join us on Sunday, Dec 15 for our 4th annual [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights](#) event. We will be meeting at 6:30pm at the [Douglas Fir Teaching Garden](#) (just east of 3530 Swansacre) for a lantern procession. [The Carnival Band](#) will lead the way on a walk along the Red Alder Trail. There will be artist lanterns displayed along the way. We will then return for hot chocolate and cookies.



We have 10 partner artists helping to create lanterns for our event. On November 13, lead artist, [Joshua Ralph](#), and the artists gathered for an [Artist Collaboration event](#). Together, they learned lantern-making techniques and came up with ideas. The theme this year is “Connected Stories”. Inspired by the many connected stories in nature, artists are busy constructing nature-themed lanterns, such as mushrooms and a Northern spotted owl.



We are also offering two free public lantern making workshops on Sunday, Dec 8, [Globe Lantern](#) making and [Ivy Basket Lanterns](#). Both workshops are currently full, but a waitlist is available.

This year's Light up the Night in Champlain Heights festival is being organized in collaboration with the [Everett Crowley Park Committee](#), with funding provided by [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#) and [Park People](#).

We look forward to seeing you on Dec 15 for Light up the Night in Champlain Heights!

FREE THE FERN
TOP STORIES



Invasive Pull - Sat, Dec 7, 10am-12pm

Join us on [Sat, Dec 7, for an Invasive Pull](#). This will be our last Invasive Pull of the year before the holidays. We will be removing wild chervil and common periwinkle along the Red Alder Trail and then planting a few native plants. Come and join us! All ages and abilities are welcome. Snacks & drinks provided! Sign up on our [event page](#).



Volunteers Needed! - Sun, Dec 15, 3-4pm

We need volunteers to help with lantern set-up for our [Light up the Night in Champlain Heights Festival](#). We will be gathering at the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden at 3pm on Dec 15 to help place lanterns along the Red Alder Trail. All ages welcome! You can sign up to volunteer with us [here](#).



Buds, Branches, and Bark - Sat, Jan 18, 10am-12pm

We are excited to welcome back BCIT Instructor, [Julia Alards-Tomalin](#), for another [Buds, Branches, & Bark](#) walk with us on Sat, January 18, 2025, 10am-12pm. Her walk last year was very popular. Julia is an expert on Winter plant ID. She will help us identify the parts of a branch and then guide us on a winter walk along the Red Alder Trail. Julia won the 2023 Open Pedagogy Award for her beautifully illustrated free online resource, [Buds, Branches, and Bark](#). We look forward to learning from Julia! You can sign-up for the walk on our [event](#) page. Photo by Kevin Jinn.



Native Plant Guide

This year, Free the Fern Executive Director was happy to support the work of SFU students **Zoe Neudorf, Kate Ostby, Chloe Ross, Misho Rusev, Rhea Taylor** for their capstone project, [Biodiversity Blanket: Simple Ways to Help Nature Thrive by Connecting Green Spaces in Vancouver City](#). As part of their research, the students conducted a native plant survey in Champlain Heights, with the support of Grace Nombardo. From this survey the students created [a guide to native plant species](#). They encourage individuals and community projects to use this guide when deciding which native species to plant.



T-Shirt Fundraiser

Last call for our Fern Fundraiser! Our fundraiser will be closing on Dec 25, 2024. The fern design was created by Coast Salish artist, [Andrea Fritz](#) and printed on sustainable cotton at local Burnaby printers, [Pressing Matters](#). At the end of this year, all money raised (minus the cost of printing) will be donated to the [Urban Native Youth Association](#) (UNYA). So far, we have raised **\$926.57** to be donated!

We have sold all our bags, but there are still some shirts (in sizes XS, M, L, XL, 2XL) available (recommended donation of \$30). The shirts are limited edition, and will not be printed again.

They make a great gift in support of local Indigenous youth. You can pay via e-transfer or cash. Send us an email at freethefern@gmail.com to learn more.

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Neighbouring Nature Events

There are many other amazing groups in Metro Vancouver organising events this month. Check out what is happening below.

Thursday, Dec 5, 7:30-9pm - [Planning and Creating a Bird and Wildlife Friendly Garden](#) - Virtual Zoom

Nature Vancouver is pleased to announce that Derek Matthews of the Vancouver Avian Research Centre will be sharing how to support birds and wildlife in our gardens.

Saturday, Dec 7, 1:30-3pm - [A Changing Forest](#) - Stanley Park, Vancouver

Every ecosystem experiences the tumultuous and life-giving cycles of growth, decay, and renewal. Join Stanley Park Ecology Society as they explore the changing forest.

Saturday, Dec 14 - Christmas Bird Count - Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver

Local birder, Chris Ensing, is leading the Christmas bird count at Everett Crowley Park. The Christmas Bird Count helps track long-term trends in bird populations and is part of the Audubon Society's [Community Science Initiative](#). To participate email christine.ensing@gmail.com

Friday, Dec 20, 11-11:30am - [Solstice Stories](#) - Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, North Vancouver

Come on out to the Ecology Centre to celebrate the changing of the seasons. This storytime is all about cozying up during the longest days of the year.

If you know of a local event happening next month, let us know!

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