

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Amaris Richard
Mahon Park Steward



The Mahon Park Stewards would like to welcome our youngest member, Aramis Richard, son of long-time stewards Michelle and Frederic Richard.

He was born November 30, and although not yet a year, he has already been to at least four ivy pulls! A real outdoors boy, Aramis enjoys the wind blowing his hair and watching the trees rustle in the breeze. He also loves to play with leaves, be they fresh on the branch or the fallen kind that crackle in his hands.

This spring, our dedicated volunteer received a piece of one-of-a-kind Mahon Park fashion. Volunteer extraordinaire Ronnie Wahl knitted the little guy a beautiful sweater with the signature fern and the initials M.P.S. for Mahon Park Stewards. He is officially one of the gang!

It is always a huge treat to see him out at the ivy pull events. We look forward to watching him grow into a stellar steward. Named after one of The Three Musketeers, Aramis is sure to put up a good battle against the dreaded ivy.

PROJECT FUNDERS



Media Sponsor



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Mahon Park

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008

Wildlife in the Park

Wildlife continues to thrive in Mahon Park, reminding us what an important habitat this area provides. For the second year in a row, two significant birds have been spotted nesting in the park: the famous eagle's nest sits atop a very tall Douglas fir behind the horse-shoe club; the flicker's nest is hidden behind the water park. These sites continue to be great spectacles for visitors. Birders looking for a challenge take note: An owl has also been glimpsed in the park, but its nest has yet to be found.

Closer to the ground, a salamander gives our park a healthy thumbs up. This spring, Evergreen volunteer Ronnie Wahl found a Northwest Redback Salamander near the creek in the northern section of Mahon Park. This is noteworthy because salamanders are an "indicator" species. With their very sensitive skin that absorbs whatever touches it, they are quick to respond to toxins. That means their health reflects the health of their ecosystem. The fact that these salamanders are here means the surrounding air and water is relatively free of pollutants—a pretty amazing feat for a park in the middle of the city.



THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

For the past four years, Mahon Park has served as an outdoor classroom for diverse groups. Because of its inspiring scenery, rich ecology and proximity to downtown Vancouver, Mahon Park is the perfect place to learn about wildlife, invasive plants, public art, stormwater management and, for some members of the North Shore Multicultural Society, a whole new vocabulary.

Here is a sampling of some the groups who have visited the park over the years:

- Bodwell High School students**
- Burnaby Youth Custody Centre**
- Capilano College Environmental Science and Management Post-Graduate Program**
- Carson Graham Secondary School Roots and Shoots Club**
- Cascadia Publishing House**
- École Dorothy Lynas Elementary**
- ESL and International Programs for North Vancouver**
- Gordon Home Youth Search**
- Lonsdale Elementary School**
- Lynmore Child Care**
- Montessori**
- North Shore Army Cadet Corps**
- North Shore Multicultural Society**
- North Shore Neighbourhood House**
- St. Thomas Aquinas High School**
- UBC Biogeography Class**
- West Vancouver Secondary School**
- Environmental Protection Network**
- Youth groups from the Child and Adolescent Program of North Vancouver**

Evergreen and the City of North Vancouver salute all Mahon Park Stewards for their dedication and hard work



GOATS AND GUMBOOTS



On May 10, the Mahon Park Stewards welcomed some honorary members to help remove invasive plants. Inspired by a story of goats helping with invasive plant management in Washington, we thought it would be a good idea to have small trial of our own, and the Goats and Gumboots Community Fair was born. Maplewood Farms generously allowed Arwen, Galadriel, Frida and Ella to graze on an invasive blackberry patch on the edge of the Mahon Park meadow. In no time, these friendly—and hungry—goats were devouring the new shoots.

As the goats enjoyed their meal, visitors of all ages stopped by to say hello. Dinner music was provided by Lola and the Randy Bluegrass Boys, while partygoers coloured, played games, ate cake and competed in the funkiest gumboot contest. All around the meadow, stewards worked to restore native plants and pull ivy. By the end of the day, almost half of the 400-sq-ft blackberry patch was gone, and four very full goats were sitting back, relaxing and chewing their cud after a hard day's work.

A huge thanks goes out to all those who attended, supported and helped out with the event: April of Maplewood Farms graciously donated her time, transportation and goats. Modu-Loc Fence Rentals generously donated the fence to keep the goats from escaping, and Save on Foods provided the cake for the cake-cutting. Kudos also goes to Katimavik; Ronnie Wahl; Vic Balon; Jim Beswick; Roxane Spratt; Dania Holy; Andrew Appleton; David Halse and staff of the City of North Vancouver; Janice Bailey and staff from Parks and Recreation Commission who helped with the event from setup to dog-watching to putting up signs. Finally, special thanks go out to the community groups who offered their time and resources to educate the public about the many exciting initiatives that are going on in the North Shore: the Streamkeepers; the North Shore Recycling Program; and the Roots and Shoots Club from Carson Graham Secondary School.

**To bring your group on a tour of the park,
contact us, 604-689-0766**

