

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Active in Oak Bay since 2010, the **Friends of Uplands Park** provides excellent service to the community and District of Oak Bay, upholding our Mission to provide opportunities for stewardship, education and inspiration.

Friends of Uplands Park on current **email list: 543**

Public Participation and Education Events:

This year we had **150 Events** including:

- 102 school program events
- 1 Pro D Day for Willows Teachers
- 10 birding walks
- 27 public restoration events (removing invasives and planting native species)
- 1 community group invasive removal event
- 2 evening public meetings (Eelgrass and Uplands Park Restoration)
- 6 large public events (150 Bioblitz, Camas & Wildflowers, Fort Rodd Bioblitz & Migratory Bird Display, Cattle Point Rocks!, Royal BCM In-Seine Willows Beach, Tree Appreciation)
- 1 private talk (Carleton House).

Event Participants: 45 Public events above: 633 people

Public Restoration: 28 days 211 people

Individual Restoration: 8 for 160 hours

School events: 103 (Uplands and Trafalgar)

Events such as *Cattle Point Rocks*, *the Royal BC Museum programs* and *Tree Appreciation Day* attract many people from the community. A large number of the participants are children coming with their families or youth organizations such as Scouts and Guides. Not only do they learn about the plants and animals, but they also become active caretakers of the Park and contribute to our **Naturehood**.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Work:

Volunteer Restoration hours: 446 hours at 28 Public events and 160 individual hours = 606 hours

(This does not include school program restoration)

Willows School and others in Uplands Park	495.7 hours; 632 student days
Margaret Jenkins in Trafalgar Park	2195 hours; 1110 student days
Monterey in Anderson Hill	60 hours; 96 student days

This extensive volunteer restoration work, removing invasive plants and restoring natural habitat, is an essential complement and support to the work carried out by Oak Bay Parks Services staff and contractors under federal funding from the **Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) of Environment Canada**. Oak Bay has received this federal grant for several years. In 2016, the District of Oak Bay signed a **three-year contribution agreement** under this program to fund continuing ecological restoration work in Uplands Park.

An important contributing factor to the success of the HSP application was the high level of community support, coordinated by *FOUP* (Margaret Lidkea), in the form of volunteer hours to remove invasive plants and deliver outreach programs directed at increasing awareness of the park's rare ecosystems and endangered species.

Other Activities of Friends of Uplands Park:

Besides the extensive volunteer habitat restoration work and public education programs described above, *Friends of Upland Park* have also devoted expertise and energy to:

- Documentation of rare or at-risk plant species in the Park (now 24 species);
- Collaboration with other organizations (e.g. Habitat Acquisition Trust; Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Victoria Natural History Society) working to protect the Garry Oak ecosystem and associated species-at-risk;
- Research into potential use of limited, prescribed burning as a restoration tool;
- Completion and installation by Oak Bay Parks staff of the Marine Environment Information Kiosk at Cattle Point;
- Working with Sea Change Conservation Society to map eelgrass beds in Oak Bay waters and to promote public awareness of the marine environment;
- Working with the Cenotaph Committee to plan renovation of the cenotaph landscape to integrate with the natural ecosystem of Uplands Park surrounding it;
- Support for Oak Bay's public consultation toward development of an Urban Forest Strategy and management plans for natural areas; and

- Leading regular birding walks (with some 200 participants during the year) to educate the public about the extensive variety of bird-life in the Park and its adjacent marine environment, as well as promoting signage to protect nesting birds in season.
- Development, evaluation and improvement of school and public programs.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The activities of Friends of Uplands Park are guided by a **Steering Committee**, composed of dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate members who contribute greatly to the restoration of Uplands Park and the education of the community. They aim to protect and promote the inspirational beauty of this natural area Park with its globally endangered Garry Oak Ecosystem and its rocky marine foreshore. It is an honour to be part of this team and to have the support of Oak Bay Council and continuing partnership with Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Steering Committee members:

Margaret Lidkea, Chair, School Programs

Chris Hyde-Lay, Manager of Oak Bay Parks Services, ex-officio liaison

Cathy Savage, Treasurer

Elizabeth Garrett, Assistant Treasurer

Anna Graham, Secretary and Programs

Wylie Thomas, Restoration Specialist, HSP Manager

Matt Fairbarns, Biologist and Restoration Specialist, Trafalgar PK School Porgms

John Dick, Restoration Specialist

Ron Carter, Arborist and Urban Forest Specialist

Chris Garrett, Marine Environment Specialist

Rick Marshall, Community Association of Oak Bay Liaison

Emily Roston, University of Victoria Environment Studies, U Vic contact

Jacques Sirois (FRGSC), Naturalist and Marine Bird Specialist

Other Organizers:

Kathleen Matthews, Photographer & Social Media Manager

Geoffrey Newell, FOUP Birder

David Newell, Assistant Birder

FOUP Summary Volunteer Hours and Events 2017

Margaret's Program Development & Labour

Total admin hours:	318	[valued at \$300/8hr day]
<u>Total labour hours:</u>	<u>61</u>	[valued at \$100/8hr day]
Total value:	\$12,687.50	

Wylie's Admin & Botany

Total admin hours:	35	[valued at \$100/8hr day]
<u>Total botany hours:</u>	<u>353</u>	[valued at \$300/8hr day]
Total value:	\$13,675.00	

Volunteer Work Parties

Total# events:	90	
<u>Total hours weeding / planting:</u>	<u>2829.5</u>	[valued at \$100/8hr day]
Total value volunteer labour:	\$35,368.75	

Outreach Education Events

Total # outreach events:	110	
Total hours educators' time:	341.5	[valued at \$100/8hr day]
Total hours outreach:	169.25	
<u>Total Individuals attending:</u>	<u>2932</u>	
Total value educators time:	\$4,268.75	

Friends of Uplands Park Steering Committee Meetings

Total # meetings:	5	
<u>Total hours SC members' time:</u>	<u>60.5</u>	[valued at \$300/8hr day]
Total value educators time:	\$2,268.75	

Total all volunteer contributions: \$68,268.75

Education Events should have "teachers/educators" valued at \$50 an hour, which makes the value \$17,075 instead of \$4,268.75.

Total Volunteer Contributions would then be **\$81,075.**

There is still volunteer time that has not been counted.

2017 FOUP EVENTS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Website: friendsofuplandspark.org is managed by Kathleen Matthews along with Facebook. We currently have 195 people that follow Facebook, and most “share” our information with others. Kathleen has volunteered **52 hours**.

BIRDING in Uplands Park with Geoffrey Newell – last Saturday of each month. About 180 species of birds including migrating Lapland longspurs, Snow buntings, Horned larks in the Cattle Point corrals. Rare birds were American white pelican, Eastern kingbird, Least flycatcher, Clark’s nutcracker, Nashville warbler, Common redpoll, White-winged crossbill, Rock sandpiper and Snow bunting.

10 walks with 200 participants

February 11 7 to 9pm **OAK BAY EELGRASS BEDS and FORESHORE**
Partnering with the **Community Association of Oak Bay**. Presented by Nikki Wright and the **Sea Change Marine Conservation Society**, and Island Trust protection of shoreline ecosystems.

50 participants

April 22 9 to 12:45 **CANADA 150 BIOBLITZ**
Bioblitzes were held across the country to celebrate its 150 years and to connect Canadians with their natural world through “citizen science”. Ours was the first. Organized by GOERT, University of Victoria and FOUP, they were held at UVic, Beacon Hill Park and Uplands Park. Experts took photos and listed species on iNaturalist.ca and the public participated by finding as many species in an area as they could. Many volunteers, with 6 experts creating lists, and **50 participants**.

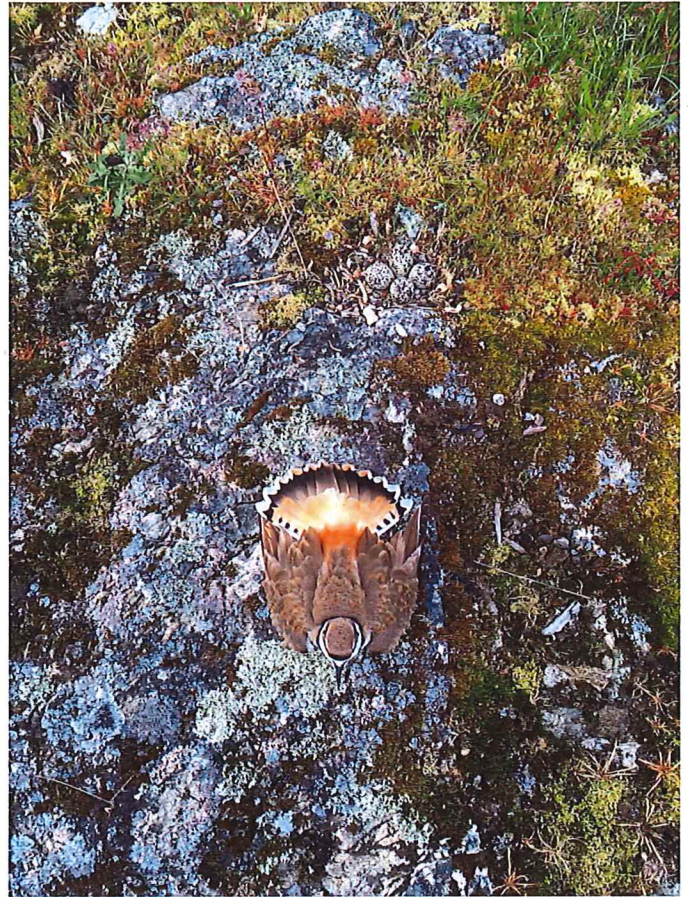


Friends of Uplands Park

May 13 at 8:35pm · 🌐



Wylie Thomas, Friends of Uplands Park Steering Committee, was at Uplands Park doing some rare plant counting for Oak Bay Parks, when he noticed this Killdeer protecting a clutch of eggs. A fabulous photo emphasizing the importance of keeping dogs on leash in all areas of Uplands Park, and, at Cattle Point too, at this time of year when birds are ground nesting.



810 people reached

Boost Post

April 22 2:15 to 2:45
**Carleton House bus
tour** at Cattle Point – Margaret
gave a general history and
ecological presentation.
16 participants



April 30 12 to 4 pm **CELEBRATE CAMAS and the WILDFLOWERS**
Our annual event had displays, activities, harp music and wildflower walks
20 participants

May 13 9 to 4pm **FORT RODD HILL BIOBLITZ and Migratory Bird Day -
FOUP DISPLAY**
80 people at display

May 14 2 to 4pm **CATTLE POINT ROCKS!** 4 Geologists from Geological
Survey, BC Ministry of Energy and Mines, presented programs at 3 sites. Participants
rotated. Excellent response again this year.
91 participants

June 25 9:30 to
11:30 **IN-SEINE
SAILFINS, SHRIMPS
AND SEA SLUGS!**
**Willows Beach Seine
Net** event partnering
with the **Royal BC
Museum** research staff
and their Fieldtrippers
series. Experts and
participants collected
specimens, identified
and released them.
90 participants



OCTOBER 5 Wylie's excellent presentation on **Invasive Management of Uplands Park**, the HSP Grant and challenges. Followed by 3/4 hour of public input about the challenges they see and possible solutions. Challenges included trails, dogs, human use and signage.

36 participants



RESTORATION in UPLANDS PARK

Thursday Oct 5, 2017

7 to 9pm

Windsor Park Pavilion, Oak Bay

Wylie Thomas presents the current Management Plan for Uplands Park, what has been done and what will be happening.

Learn about some of the challenges of protecting the globally endangered Garry Oak Ecosystem in the park, and 24 rare plants, while still considering the use of the park by the community.



Participate. The second half of the program will be open for comments from you and others about these challenges, some possible solutions and compromises.

Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm for a healthy discussion about trails, dogs, human use, invasive removal and other ideas.

Refreshments served.

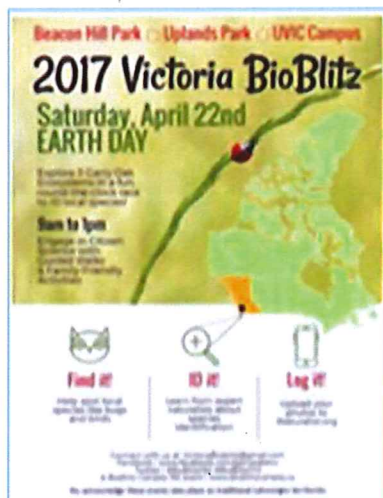
Donations to *Friends of Uplands Park* are very welcome.

Contact: Margaret Lidkea 250-595-8084; FOUP partners with Oak Bay Parks friendsofuplandspark.org and Facebook

November 5 10 to 12 **TREE APPRECIATION DAY** Midland Road
 Displays, 6 Garry oak trees and shrubs were planted, the Hiroshima ginkgo seedling were repotted, and activities like tree “climbing” with Louis involved about **50 participants** with **25 helping to plant**.



It takes a whole community to create a healthy Naturehood.



November 17 13th **GOERT Colloquium New ways of Understanding Garry Oak Ecosystems** – University of Victoria - 15 presenters including Margaret Lidkea on Canada 150 Bioblitz and Citizen Science.
83 participants including 4 members of FOUP Steering Committee

TOTAL PARTICIPATION AT PUBLIC EVENTS 683 people

PUBLIC RESTORATION INVASIVE REMOVAL, PLANTING

January 29 **Scouts** with Clinton Dundas
4 people - 8 hours

NO IVY LEAGUE – each Sunday from 1 to 3 pm

Winter: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

Fall: Sept 10, 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 22, 29, Nov 5, 19, 26
89 people for 173.5 hours on 18 days

February 18 1 to 3 **BRRR BASH** – removal of carpet burweed and bur chervil
5 people - 8.5 hours

Feb 25 1 to 3pm **BRRR BASH** – removal of bur chervil
10 people - 22.5 hours

March 5 9:45 to 1pm **GREATER VICTORIA GREEN TEAM**
18 people for 54 hours

Oct 14 and 15 1 to 4pm **ANNUAL IVY, BROOM BASH**
50 people - 143.5 hours

Nov 5 10 to 12pm **OAK BAY TREE APPRECIATION DAY**
25 people – 25 hours

Dec 3 1 to 3pm **PLANT NATIVE SPECIES**

Native plants were put in the degraded old gorse site, and appropriate 2017 seeds, collected from Uplands Park, were scattered.

10 people for 19 hours

**TOTAL: 8 public event days; 1 group; 19 No Ivy League days = 28 days
211 people for 446 hours +8 individuals for 160 hours = 606 hours**



To: **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission**
From: **Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture**
Subject: **Ride Don't Hide Event Request**
Date: **March 7, 2018**



www.recreation.oakbay.ca

PURPOSE

The organizers of the Ride Don't Hide event have submitted their request for 2018 (see attached). Although this event has taken place in the past, their use of Windsor Park is new and is being brought forward for Commission consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Ride Don't Hide event has taken place for several years, and is a fundraiser for the Canadian Mental Health Association. This year's event is proposed for Sunday, June 24th. Commission direction has been that repeat events can be approved at a staff level if there are no significant changes. In this case, organizers have requested the use of Windsor Park (in particular the rugby pitch) as a start and finish location for the ride. As you will note on the attached site plan, a number of tents and a stage are planned for the site.

ANALYSIS

Staff have no concerns with the proposal, save for the potential for tent pegs to damage underground services. To mitigate this risk, we will require organizers to meet with Parks staff on site in advance to ensure tents are placed appropriately.

Use of the streets in Oak Bay will still require Council approval.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION

The organizers have agreed to provide a letter to residents in the Windsor Park area in advance of the June 24th date to ensure they are aware of the event.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the request to use Windsor Park as part of the event.
2. Deny the request to use Windsor Park as part of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission approves the use of Windsor Park for the Ride Don't Hide event on June 24, 2018 subject to organizers meeting with Parks staff on site prior to the event date.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Herman".

Ray Herman
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

To: **Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission**
From: **Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture**
Subject: **Purchase of Public Art**
Date: **March 7, 2018**



www.recreation.oakbay.ca

PURPOSE

To seek Commission support to purchase the Lunar Transitions art work as requested by the Arts Laureate and the Public Art Committee, and to seek Commission approval for the location of the permanent art in front of the Monterey Recreation Centre.

BACKGROUND

The 2017 ArtsAlive program involved 13 temporary art installations throughout Oak Bay. The public was given the opportunity to vote for their favorite art work. After reviewing the voting results the Public Art Committee has requested that Council purchase the art work known as Lunar Transitions given that it received the most votes.

ANALYSIS

Lunar Transitions is currently installed on Oak Bay Avenue. The Public Art Committee, in consultation with the Manager of Parks Services, recommends it be permanently relocated to the garden in front of the Monterey Recreation Centre. This is a brand new location which would be highly visible to those using the Centre and the Library. Staff support the location proposed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to purchase Lunar Transitions is \$21,060 (including taxes). As per the Public Art Policy, the municipality contributes annually to the Public Art Fund. The 2017 allocation of \$20,000 covers most of the costs of this art work. The artist will also contribute a \$2,000 commission to the municipality which will cover the balance and provide for future maintenance. The relocation costs are estimated at \$300 and would be covered by funds in the Arts and Culture section of the Parks, Recreation & Culture 2018 operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend to Council the approval of the purchase of Lunar Transitions as requested by the Public Art Committee, with funding to come from the Public Art Fund, and
2. THAT the Commission approve the relocation of Lunar Transitions to the garden bed immediately in front of the Monterey Recreation Centre on a permanent basis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Herman".

Ray Herman
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Programs

Aquatics

- The pool offered a lot of fun activities for families on Family Day, Monday February 12th, including a free Family Day Swim from 6:30-8:30pm. The afternoon Everyone Welcome Swim also offered many activities for all ages.
- Over 70 swimmers are registered in the second set of Tuesday/Thursday lessons that run from 6:30-8:00pm. They began on Tuesday, February 13th and will run twice a week until Thursday, March 15th.
- The school swim teams from Monterey Middle School, Willows Elementary School, GlenLyon - Norfolk Junior and Senior School, and St. Michael's University School will be wrapping up their team swim practices and season by the end of March.

Community Recreation

- Registration for the Fall 2018 after school care program is in progress and Preschool registration begins Tuesday, March 6th.
- Grant money is being used to enhance the afterschool care program. Children are participating in art, rock climbing, gymnastics and dance lessons. The Henderson dance lessons featured a final performance with all of the children choosing to participate in front of an audience of friends and family.
- Kindie Crafts drop in program on Saturdays continues to be a success and a great option for children who are unable to attend Kindergym on Saturdays because the session is full. The \$3 drop in program for children 2-5yrs includes crafts, free play, and circle time. Kindie Crafts ends March 17th, once the weather outside gets warmer, and will return in the Fall.
- Spring Break Camps are very popular this year with most camps currently full. Some spaces are still available in Sportball, Byte, Badminton, and Challenger camps but spaces are filling up quickly and are projected to be full by the start of Spring Break. Spring Break runs March 19th to March 29th, followed by two Pro D Days on April 2nd and 3rd.
- Paddington Daycare theme this month was "Family and Friends". Children have been talked about bullying leading up to anti bullying day that was on February 28th. They ordered Chinese food for Chinese New Year and took a special field trip to the library this month. The children continue to participate in weekly yoga, music and Sportball classes.
- A new contractor for 2018 for children's programs is "Engineering for Kids". A Sunday afternoon class is offered in March with 7 children registered and then next session in April currently has 12 children registered. Interest and registration in the program is growing.

Fitness

- The Take Heart program is going strong with 20 participants registered in 2018. The program provides expanded community based options for people who have had a cardiac event, or those who have heart disease risks. Take Heart is a partnership between Vancouver Island Health Association (VIHA) and Victoria Intermunicipal Recreation Centres. There are 4 courses that run twice a week in the fitness studio at Henderson Centre.

Program, Parks and Physical Plant Report February 2018
Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission Meeting March 2018

- Fitness has updated the Health Programs Referral Guide and started reaching out to community partners at VIHA. After corresponding with Physiotherapists and Health Care providers at the Jubilee Hospital, they have increased the referrals into our Fall Prevention Programs and Seniors Adapted Strength Training classes. Staff are hoping to continue to build on this relationship to ensure patients are directed to the Centre after graduating from primary care facilities.

Monterey Centre

- Monterey Members enjoyed a day trip to Vancouver to see “Motown the Musical” at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on February 10th.
- In the spirit of movie award season, Monterey hosted a “Night on the Red Carpet” event on February 15th. Sixty-two people attended the event and enjoyed the star studded evening and delicious salmon dinner.
- On February 18th members and guests enjoyed a bus trip to Chemainus for the live theatre performance of “Once”, a musical love story.
- The Annual Rummage Sale was held February 24th. The sale was well attended and the \$8,775.00 raised went to the Monterey Recreation Activity Association.
- People Meeting People and Monterey joined forces to host an Anniversary Dinner and Dance on February 25th. Over one hundred patrons attended and enjoyed the roast beef dinner and evening of dancing to live music.
- Members and guests enjoyed a Chinese dinner out trip in celebration of Chinese New Year on February 28th.

Arena / Teens / Indoor Sports Field

- The Soccertron program is running strong for winter with all full classes of 26 participants each. Already some of the spring programs that start in April are filling up with 20 plus participants.
- The Family Day skate on February 12th had over 250 people attend the session. The admission was free - sponsored by a BC Government Grant for Family Day activities and skaters paid for rentals if needed.
- Over 40's and Over 50's Drop in Duffer Hockey continues to be well attended. Offered 5 days a week from Monday to Friday, every session fills up within minutes after the online registration opens.
- Valentine's Sweetheart Family and Everyone Welcome skate on February 11th was successful with approximately 200 people attending.
- The first set of the winter season of Learn to Skate lessons is wrapping up and the second set is already seeing very good numbers.
- The Leaders in Training program ran for the first time during the winter season. Nine youth signed up and successfully completed the program. They will now participate as volunteers with Recreation Oak Bay programs and public sessions gaining valuable work experience.
- A table tennis clinic and tournament night was offered this month for youth that utilize the Youth Center on a regular basis. For this month's event, an instructor from the Greater Victoria Table Tennis Association put on a clinic to teach and demonstrate skill and technique. It was a very popular evening event for youth.
- The 11th Annual Young Exceptional Star Awards night has been set for May 3rd. Nomination forms have been sent out to all local schools, youth community groups and local sports associations.

Program, Parks and Physical Plant Report February 2018
Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission Meeting March 2018

Tennis

- Tennis Programs started January 15, 2018 with seventy-one classes running during the week. Sunday Family lessons are still growing in interest. The feedback from parents has been extremely positive and based on their requests we are considering additional days.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 2nd, **WiL**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Friday, March 16th, **Qristina & Quinn Bachand**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Saturday March 17th, **St. Patrick's Day Skate Everyone Welcome GREEN Skate**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre, 7:30-9:15pm
- Friday, March 23rd, **Carolos Del Junco & The Blue Mongrels**, Oak Bay Recreation Centre - Upstairs Lounge. Doors open 6pm, Music 7:30pm.
- Thursday, March 15, **Saint Patrick's Dinner**, Monterey Recreation Centre, 5:30pm.
- Tuesday, March 27th, **Easter Lunch**, Monterey Recreation Centre, 12:30pm

Maintenance

- A new subfloor was installed under the treadmills in the Oak Bay Recreation Centre fitness studio. This specially designed floor system has significantly reduced the noise in the coordinator's offices located below.
- Updates and changes to the emergency procedures are continuing, as well as installing a new emergency dousing shower just outside the entrance to the ammonia plant room. Staff were able to reuse an old alarmed AED cabinet to house the new shower.
- New overhead LED lights were installed in the pool this month. Staff worked the midnight shift to get this work done when the pool was closed.

Parks

- On February 24th the Victoria Green Team was busy helping Christina Dean Johnson and other Oak Bay volunteers remove invasive species from Anderson Hill Park. Considerable progress is being made.
- Margaret Lidkea and Matt Fairbarns continue to lead students from Margaret Jenkins Elementary School in removing invasive species from Trafalgar Park. This work will continue for the months of February, March and April.
- Parks staff are busy readying the golf course for the March 17th opening. A new irrigation zone has been installed at the end of the first fairway to water the rhododendron garden that is being created.
- Parks staff have removed some poor vegetation at the top of Willows Park and cleaned up the rhododendron bed at the entrance. These small changes have made a big difference to the Park's appearance.
- Four new picnic tables donated through our parks furniture program will be installed at Willows Beach.

Tree Report

For the Month of February

Our tree planting crew has planted another 44 trees this month and will be finished Friday March 2nd. There has been a total of 92 trees planted this year since the beginning of January. The arborist crew has been busy with pruning and removals. The last of the invasive elm trees were removed from the Brighton Walkway between St. David and Transit Road. They have also been involved at the Golf course removing a failed willow and a dead Grand fir and some invasive holly trees.

Public Property

A total of 12 trees were removed from public property. These trees were either dead, diseased or dangerous.

Private Property

Seventeen permits were issued under the Tree Protection Bylaw since the last report. 13 removal permits were requested for the removal of trees protected under the Tree Protection Bylaw. Permits were issued for 12 protected trees, two trees were under protected size. These permits were issued because the trees were dead, diseased, dying or structurally unsound or removed for construction. Six of the removals were Garry oaks and four removal permits were issued for construction. Five trees are required to be replanted, four of them are to be native trees. Seven permits were issued for pruning protected trees.

Security Deposit and Enforcement

Three security deposits were received and none were refunded. The bylaw requires security deposits to ensure care of required replacement trees. Deposits are held by the Municipality for 3 years pending satisfactory planting and care of required replacement trees. Forfeited deposits go to the Parks tree purchase account.

Work Orders

This month we received 28 calls for service and completed 33.