

'24

OUR YEARBOOK

*It's been
a great
year!*

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



FRASER VALLEY
CONSERVANCY

What's in this yearbook:

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COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

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A job well done!

CONGRATULATIONS VOLUNTEERS OF 2024

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible contributions each of you has made to the Fraser Valley Conservancy. From the youngest, just 6 years old, to those in their 80s, you have brought a diversity of energy, experience, and passion to our efforts.

You've come to us not only from the Fraser Valley but from cities as far as Langley, Surrey, and Vancouver. Among you are biologists, teachers, city staff, parents, grandparents, students, and professionals from countless other walks of life. Together, you represent a vibrant tapestry of backgrounds, united by a shared love for nature and a commitment to restoring it.

This year, we had the joy of welcoming over 90 new faces to our volunteer events! It was amazing to see so many individuals joining our mission, eager to contribute and make a difference.

With your help, we:

- Removed truckloads of invasive species, making space for native plants to thrive.
- Planted 1,500 native plants, providing vital habitat for local wildlife.
- Built and monitored a toad fence in record time during the summer heat, protecting vulnerable species.
- Welcomed five new board members, who will guide us forward with wisdom and care.

And beyond the tasks accomplished, you've gifted us unforgettable moments: the sight of a great blue heron swooping down and perching nearby at Lane Creek, as if to offer thanks; the sense of connection and teamwork shared while planting native species at McKee Park, with the mayor himself stopping by to express gratitude.

It has been inspiring to see familiar faces returning to events, friendships forming, and natural leaders stepping up to share their knowledge of bugs, plants, and ecosystems. You've shown not only a commitment to conservation but also a genuine eagerness to learn and connect with others.

Volunteers like you are the backbone of the Fraser Valley Conservancy. Your kindness and dedication have had a ripple effect—uplifting our staff, inspiring the community, and healing the habitats we all cherish. Together, we are making a tangible difference for the environment and for future generations.

Thank you for getting your boots and hands dirty with us and for the heart you bring to our mission. We are so grateful to have you as part of our FVC family. Here's to another year of teamwork, learning, and growth!

With deepest gratitude,

PATRICIA FANTILLO
COORDINATOR
OF VOLUNTEERS



What an amazing year!

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR
VALUED STAFF MEMBERS



As I think back on all the successes of 2024 the one that stands out most in my mind is the combined effort and enthusiasm of all our amazing volunteers. It is so inspiring to see members of our community spending time out of their busy lives to ensure our work is successful.

The dedication of our volunteers is truly impressive. You come out rain or shine (no matter how foreboding the weather forecast is) to help support and protect nature in the Fraser Valley.

The staff love sharing their knowledge with you and learning new things from you as well. Each one of you is making a difference: whether you are participating behind the scenes - helping with fundraisers, committees, and events; you are getting dirty enhancing habitat by removing tenacious invasive and replacing them with native plants; or, you are supporting our staff monitoring wildlife and our conservation properties.

Thank you so much - we couldn't do it without you!



**JOANNE NIELSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



I love sharing my knowledge and learning from other people who have the same dedication to the natural world. Even when its pouring rain and muddy people come to our events and amaze me by how much they can accomplish working together. Volunteers truly make the hard but important work we do look easy.

**JON BLAIS
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
COORDINAOR**

We are a small team, and we rely heavily on our wonderful volunteers to get the amount of work we do in a year done. We have many events and projects that support wildlife throughout the valley, which simply would not happen without the interest, dedication, and support we see from our volunteers. From coming out to plant native plants or remove invasive ones, to learning about small pond enhancements and taking techniques back to their own backyards, our volunteers are making a difference well beyond what we can accomplish on our own. To everyone who supports our work and programs, thank you for your time and effort!

JENNIFER BARDEN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Thank you so much to all the volunteers that came out with me checking barn owl nest sites. You were all very dedicated and happy to work late, even though many of you had already finished a full workday before coming out owling. This project would not be possible without your help and commitment.

SOFI HINDMARCH
CONTRACTOR,
PROJECT BIOLOGIST



Our volunteers make me hopeful for the future of the Fraser Valley. I feel so grateful and inspired by the dedication, energy, and passion they bring to every project. They make a real difference in protecting and enhancing our beautiful local environment. The change we need truly starts with them.

**LOVEPREET SMAGH
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR**



Everyone that volunteers with the FVC has brought with them such positivity and enthusiasm. Even when the weather is a challenge, and the task ahead is daunting, these dedicated folks never fail to impress us. We could not do what we do without the efforts of all of you, so on the behalf of the FVC, we say Thank You. You are helping make the Fraser Valley and your communities a better place.

**SPENCER PETERS
CONSERVATION TECHNIION**











McKee Park Planting Abbotsford

Saturday, November 2

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who came out to help plant over 1,000 trees and shrubs at McKee Park. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to the City of Abbotsford, Mayor Ross Siemens and his wife Kelly, Councillor Patricia Ross, Councillor Mark Warkentin, and Councillor Simon Gibson for coming to show their appreciation for the work that we do and to all of the volunteers.



Lane Creek Planting Mission

Saturday, November 9

Thank you to each volunteer who stomped through the mud and rain with us at Lane Creek on Saturday, November 9th. This amazing team planted 120 potted native plants and over 300 dogwood stakes! We can't wait to see how Lane Creek will flourish in the springtime!

Special thanks to the City of Mission, Mayor Paul Horn, and the City Council Members for their unconditional support. We are look forward to making more spaces in Mission beautiful.



FRASER VALLEY
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Until Next Year!

FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

