

Friends of Uplands Park

Creating opportunities for stewardship, education and inspiration.

Annual Report for 2012

Context: This Annual Report has been prepared by the Friends of Uplands Park (FOUP) as part of the annual funding application to the Municipality of Oak Bay.

Submission Date: March 21, 2013.

Friends of Uplands Park (FOUP) Web Site:

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com>

The FOUP web site presents the Friends of Uplands Park Mission Statement and Mandate under the “About” tab. The website identifies the members of our Steering Committee, provides a record of our community activities and initiatives, and offers links to resources and news articles featuring the Friends of Uplands Park.

Friends of Uplands Park (FOUP) Facebook Page: Consistent with one of our stated objectives, namely to engage the Oak Bay Community in Uplands Park and to invite their participation in FOUP hosted activities and stewardship activities, the Friends of Uplands Park also has a Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Uplands-Park/136045339829856>

Friends of Uplands Park (FOUP) Steering Committee Members:

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/contact-us/>

Dave Blundon

Ron Carter

Ben Clinton-Baker

John Dick

Christina Ross (Treasurer)

Chris Garrett

Elizabeth Garrett

Margaret Lidkea (Co-Chair)

Kathleen Matthews (Co-Chair)

Christina Ross (Treasurer)

Matt Fairbarns (Ex Officio)

Chris Hyde-Lay (Ex Officio)

Abee Abed (Ex Officio)

Helen Johnson (Ex Officio)

Ralph Archibald (Ex Officio)

John Henigman (Ex Officio)

Friends of Uplands Park “FOUP Membership”:

There are no Friends of Uplands Park membership fees. At every FOUP event, we invite participants to sign up and to provide an email address. We maintain an email distribution list and regularly communicate with “members” via email to announce events and to invite opportunities to participate in various initiatives and projects.

Friends of Uplands Park Mission Statement:

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/about/>

To create opportunities for stewardship, education and inspiration.

Friends of Uplands Park Mandate:

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/about/>

- a. Support initiatives for protecting the ecosystems of Uplands Park.
- b. Educate our community on the natural and cultural history of Uplands Park.
- c. Celebrate the creativity inspired by Uplands Park.
- d. Facilitate research/documentation focusing on Uplands Park
- e. Seek out local knowledge about Uplands Park.

Friends of Uplands Park: Activities, Events, & Initiatives – 2012

All FOUP activities are carefully selected and designed to support the Mission Statement and the Mandate of the Friends of Uplands Park. FOUP activities and events have been well attended and appreciated through 2011 and are as follows:

FOUP Public Meetings - 2012:

Educate our community on the natural and cultural history of Uplands Park.

- **March 8, 2012, Grant Keddie, Curator, Archaeology Royal BC Museum** presented an informative and visual overview of the local changing human and natural landscape from the Ice Age to Fort Victoria. ***The Changing Landscape, Mega Fauna & Humans – the last 22,000 Years***
<http://friendsofuplandspark.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/2012-march-8-poster1.pdf> [Poster]
- **Forthcoming: April 16, 2013**, a panel of 5 experts will present on the topic of The Hertigae of Uplands Park. This is a joint event with Heritage Oak Bay. *Planning started in the Fall of 2012.*
<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2013/01/18/uplands-park-heritage-panel-april-16-2013/>

FOUP Annual Celebrations and Community Outreach - 2012:
Celebrate the creativity inspired by Uplands Park.

- **April 22, 2012** - FOUP and CAOB collaborated to host the **second annual Oak Bay Earth Day Celebration**, and the event was held at Uplands Park. <http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2012/04/18/429/>



- **April 21, 2012** - FOUP participated in the *Creatively United Earth Day* Event.



- **May 12 2012** - The Friends of Uplands Park participated in the 3rd **Annual International Migratory Bird Day at Elk Lake** (May 12, 2012). The Co-Chairs had fun making blue birds and owls with the younger set and chatting about our monthly birding event and the blooming Garry Oak Meadow flowers.
<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2012/05/12/foup-at-3rd-annual-international-migratory-bird-day-may-12-2012/>



FOUP Ecological Stewardship Activities – 2012

Support initiatives for protecting the ecosystems of Uplands Park

- **October 20-21, 2012 – Annual Uplands Park Broom Bash.** 107 PEOPLE CUT DOWN BROOM, IVY, DAPHNE AND INVASIVE EUROPEAN ASH! Included were over 50 Girl Guides and families with 107.5 volunteer hours, 4 groups of UVic students and many concerned community members. Total volunteer hours is 225.5. See photos from Oct 2012 Broom Bash [here](#). More details at <http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2012/11/12/update-many-volunteers-contributed-many-hours-to-stewardship-in-uplands-park-oct-nov-2012/>



- **November 4, 2012 - Oak Bay Tree Appreciation Day** - Friends of Uplands Park members participated in the annual Tree Appreciation Day organized by Oak Bay Parks .

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/category/tree-appreciation-day/>



- **Chatham District (Oak Bay) Girl Guides** planted the largest Garry Oak tree to honour Girl Guides learning about and restoring Uplands Park since 1993. Articles were printed in the local Lamplighter magazine for Girl Guides and also in the provincial Lamplighter magazine, with the photograph below of the 28th Girl Guide unit from Oak Bay. This article will also be in the national Guiding Magazine in Fall 2013. The girls also planted native wildflowers at the base of the tree and several of the other native shrubs in the area which had invasive European elm removed.



- **Fall-Winter 2012 - Monterey Ecokeepers Collaboration.** Friends of Uplands Park Co-Chair, Margaret Lidkea works with Monterey school students to remove Gorse from Anderson hill experimentally.



<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2012/12/19/stewardship-of-anderson-hills-garry-oak-ecosystem-featured-in-oak-bay-news/>

- **Fall-Winter 2012 – Glenlyon-Norfolk Stewardship Project at Cattle Point.** Friends of Uplands Park Co-Chair, Margaret Lidkea worked with Glenlyon-Norfolk on their project to remove English ivy and Daphne from the stunted "forest" on the right side of the road to Cattle Point.

FOUP Community Educational Activities – 2012

Seek out local knowledge about Uplands Park.

- **Monthly Bird Walks:** The *Friends of Uplands Park* has hosted monthly bird walks from Cattle Point through Uplands Park on the Last Sunday of the month. Bird lists are posted on the FOUP web site. Bird Walks early in 2012 were conducted by Ralph Archibald. Later in the year they were led by Geoffrey Newell, age 17, and his father David Newell.

<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/category/birding-at-uplands-park/>



- **Forthcoming: Spring Nature Walks:** The Spring Oak Bay Parks & Recreation Calendar will offer 4 Nature Walks, hosted by FOUP.
 - Sunday April 28-2013 Blooming Fawn Lilies
 - Sunday May 12-2013 The Sea of Camas
 - Sunday May 26-2013 Vernal Pools not Mud Puddles
 - Sunday June 9-2013 Tidal Pools and Sea Birds

FOUP Special Projects – 2012

Support initiatives for protecting the ecosystems of Uplands Park.

- **Uplands Park Signage Project** – On April 22, 2012, FOUP and Oak Bay Parks celebrated the new sign at the entrance to Uplands Park on Beach Drive <http://www.saanichnews.com/news/147802775.html>



- **Uplands Park – New Bicycle Racks Installed** – November 2012. Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Oak Bay, 2 bicycle racks were installed: across from the Uplands Park sign on Beach Drive and at the Dorset entrance to Uplands Park.



- **Forthcoming - Uplands Park Kiosk** – A great deal of work has been accomplished through 2012, towards the development of a new educational kiosk for Uplands Park. Approvals have been received from both the Uplands Advisory Design Panel and Oak Bay Council. Some funding has been provisionally secured from the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and other funding granted from the Federal HSP. The Friends of Uplands Park Kiosk Project Team met in Dec 2012 for a visioning session to propose a kiosk structure and to outline the information to be presented on the kiosk. Partnerships are in place with GOERT (as members of the Kiosk Project Team), Oak Bay Parks (for installation of the kiosk) , and Briony Penn Associates (for the art work and content design).

FOUP Steering Committee Meetings – 2012

- **Steering Committee Meetings (FOUP-SOUP Events)**, take place via email and at the home of one of our Co-Chairs. Agendas and Action Notes are prepared for each meeting.
- **FOUP website & Facebook page** – Actively maintained with our events and accomplishments and photos (photo rambles: documenting the recovery of the August burn, vernal pools, impacts of dogs and bikes, aging and wind damaged oaks, birds, meadow flowers, etc...) Link to our monthly 2012 website postings here:
<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2012/12/>
 - [December 2012](#) (5)
 - [November 2012](#) (6)
 - [October 2012](#) (13)
 - [September 2012](#) (6)
 - [August 2012](#) (6)
 - [July 2012](#) (1)
 - [June 2012](#) (2)
 - [May 2012](#) (6)
 - [April 2012](#) (3)
 - [March 2012](#) (8)
 - [January 2012](#) (3)
- Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Uplands-Park/136045339829856>

FOUP Community Involvement - Statistics for 2012

- Attached in Appendix A

FRIENDS OF UPLANDS PARK – Appendix A

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – STATISTICS FOR 2012

MEMBERSHIP based on number of emails (2011-146) 210
some of which have more than 1 person

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

March 2012 Speaker Grant Keddie, RBCM Archaeology 60
October 2012 GOM Training

EVENTS:

April 22, 2012 **Earth Day Celebration** 200 (estimate)
*family picnic, band, educational displays & activities
*Girl Guide unit: camp skills, kids' activities 12
*bird watching 10
*2 nature walks (Fred Hook, Matt Fairbarns) 20
*invasive plant removal (see below)
*park cleanup
Participation in Creatively United for the Planet gave us promotional value with 100's of participants over the 2-day event.

EDUCATION

April 2012 UVic Restoration Conference Field Trip 7
led by M Lidkea
April 2012 Victoria School for Ideal Education 12
Nature walk (1st Nations focus) led by M Lidkea
May 2012 Chatham Pathfinders (1st Nations focus) 18
Led by M.Lidkea
July 20, August 3 & 17 FUN Camps 47
Monthly Bird Walks led by R Archibald/Geoffrey Newell 60
Fall 2012 GOERT Best Practices Workshop (Oak Bay Parks & FOUP attended)

ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

April 2012 Earth Day 24 (58 hours)
April & May Glenlyon Norfolk Grade 7's ivy removal 60 (90 hours)
May 2012 Girl Guides Broom Removal 18 (36 hours)
July 20, August 3 & 17 **FUN Camps** invasive removal 47 (30 hours)
Oct 3 Glenlyon Norfolk Grade 12's – 2 groups 44 (88 hours)
Oct 20 & 21 Broom Bash Girl Guides 50 (102 hours)
Community including 16 UVic students 57 (124 hours)
Anderson Hill Monterey Middle School 25 (150 hours)
Nov 4 OB Parks Tree Appreciation Day – planting natives 35 (70 hours)
TOTAL 310 518 hours