

Friends of DeBoville Slough 2007 Year In Review



DeBoville Slough

Photo by David Mounteney

Once again 2007 was a busy year for our small group. Our efforts were focused in three main areas; community education, invasive plant control and habitat restoration.

On the Community Education front we attended numerous community events including the Port Moody Ecological Society's Fingerling Festival, Riverview Treefest, Hoy/Scott Creek Watershed Society's Salmon Come Home and the Hyde Creek Watershed Society's Hyde Creek Salmon Festival. Thanks to the volunteers that helped man the display.

Thanks to Westminster Savings Credit Union we acquired our own display board to take to community events. WSCU helped the Friends of DeBoville Slough with a grant for community education and outreach. We also purchased



New tent, display and folding table, thanks to Westminster Savings Credit Union.

Photo by David Mounteney

a portable tent, folding tables and assorted educational supplies. Wescu also came through with a donation of a large, versatile, easel for displaying posters, maps, signs, etc. Thank You Westminster Savings Credit Union!

The other community education project that we are working on is an informational kiosk on the north side of DeBoville Slough. Working with our partners on this project, the City of Coquitlam, The Burke Mountain Naturalists, we finalized the text, photos and layout of the kiosk. Construction started in February 2008 and we hope to have an official unveiling for the middle of April. One side will be a map and local natural history information while the other side will be for ongoing Friends of DeBoville Slough postings.

Our Invasive Plant Control program continued again in 2007 with our attempt to control Japanese Knotweed. We did three work parties, one each in May, June and July. A fourth work party, in September, was cancelled due to the garbage strike in Vancouver. Unfortunately we were not able to secure a disposal bin or incineration time at the Burnaby Incinerator, to dispose of any knotweed that we cut, due to a backlog related to the strike. Over the three work parties we had over thirty volunteers come out and help. This was the end of a three year trial program. Once again Wesbild did a great job helping with a flatbed truck, front end loader, volunteers, food and beverages. Thank You Wesbild!



*Wesbild volunteer Don Moore loading Japanese Knotweed.
Photo by David Mounteney*

Thanks, also goes to Caresse Selk and the City of Coquitlam for all their help on this project.

Over the winter we discussed continuing the program and decided that we were encouraged enough with our progress to continue. Comparing

the total weight removed from the previous year the totals were down approximately 40%. This is a good result as we covered more total area than the previous year. The growth reduction is most notable on the large stand at the entrance to the slough on the south side. Unfortunately if we don't keep at it the knotweed will come back.

Our first workparty will be in May. Thank You to all of the volunteers from past work parties, hope to see you out again this year.

On the habitat restoration front we started a new Nest Box Program. Thanks to Kiyoshi Takahashi



*Volunteers install nestboxes on the north side of slough.
Photo by Carole Edwards*

and Don Kerr for building the wood duck boxes, Don Gillespie and Ian McArthur for collecting boxes from the Burke Mountain Naturalists. On a sunny morning in October we installed 21 nest boxes on the north side of DeBoville Slough, 10 black-capped chickadee boxes, 8 swallow boxes and 3 wood duck boxes. Now we will wait and see if we have nesting success. There is potential for more nest boxes, including possibly purple martin boxes. Time will tell.

The Friends of DeBoville Slough would like to thank all of the volunteers that made our year a success. We also would like to thank our corporate and civic partners that continue to help us along.