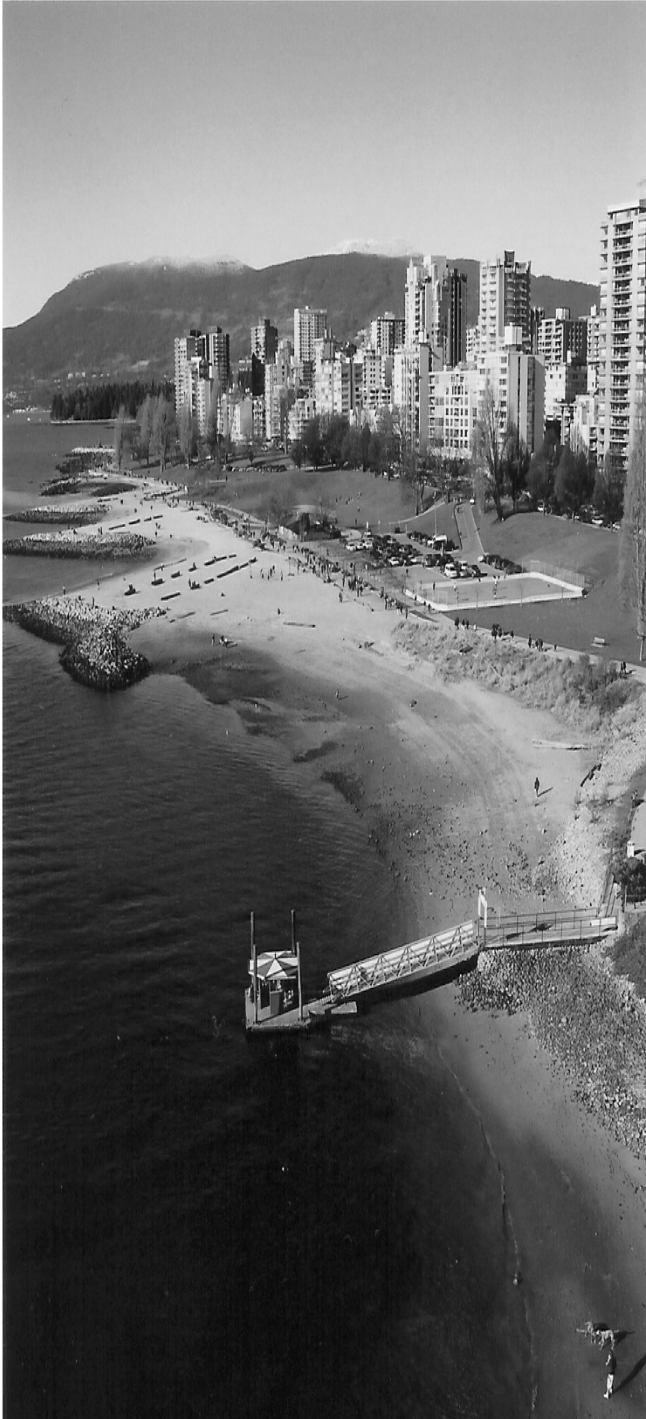


healthy cities are our future



**SOCIETY
PROMOTING
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

**2003
Annual Report**

www.spec.bc.ca



2003 SPEC Board of Directors

2003 Board of Directors

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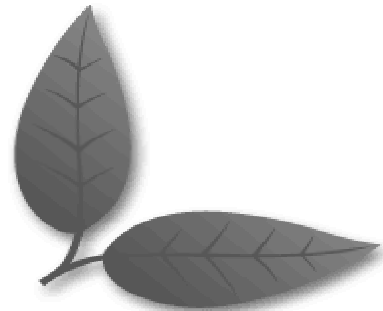
Deming Smith
Alan Herbert
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Kyla Tienhaara
Joanna Robinson
Genevieve Bucher
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Projects Coordinator
Researcher
Administrative and Membership Coordinator
Outreach Coordinator
On leave
Communications Coordinator

***Text:** Joanna Robinson, Ivan Bulic*
***Edit and Design:** Joanna Robinson*
***Front Cover photo:** Dan Zuberi*
***Inside photos:** Ivan Bulic, Kyla Tienhaara,*
Genevieve Bucher, Dan Zuberi, and the
Vancouver Courier



Looking ahead...A message from the President

In 2003, SPEC made many exciting changes that **renewed our sense of purpose** and strengthened our **commitment** to creating healthy cities.

We recently launched our newly designed **SPEC website** and, with the support of the **Vancouver Foundation**, completed a **major renovation** of the building at 2150 Maple Street, making it a more inviting place for the community. A new **pesticides information display** and a **battery-recycling depot** have proved popular with our members and the public.

Administrative and membership coordinator **Joanna Robinson** developed a **membership plan** to diversify our fundraising and grow our member base. In November, she coordinated a **Membership Drive** that raised over \$7,000 in individual donations and signed up many new members.

In January, SPEC hired researcher **Kyla Tienhaara**, a talented and dedicated environmentalist, to raise awareness of the harm of pesticides and to encourage people to use environmentally friendly alternatives. Her work was instrumental in the decision by **Vancouver** and **Port Moody City Councils** to introduce by-laws controlling non-essential cosmetic pesticides.

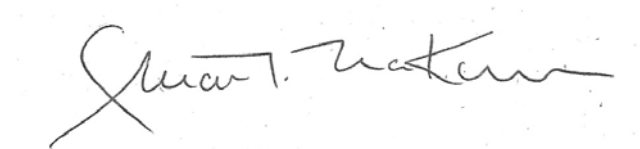
SPEC received the **VanCity EnviroFund** grant for \$25,000 in support of our **Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP)** project. In the summer of 2004, we will bring **pesticide reduction workshops** to the communities of the Lower Mainland. We will also work with retailers and consumers to encourage **safe pesticide disposal**.

SPEC had many successes on other fronts thanks to the hard work of projects coordinator **Ivan Bulic**. We participated in the **City of Vancouver's Climate Change Task Force** and supported the **Oil Free Coast Alliance** in maintaining the moratorium on offshore oil exploration. SPEC also worked with community groups to *create a new park* on South Vancouver's **Eburne Lands** and to *protect parkspace* at **Kitsilano Beach**.

This year marked the loss of two leading Canadian environmentalists. We were saddened by the deaths of pioneer SPEC activist **Gary Gallon** and environmental educator and mountaineer **John Clarke**. John's presentations were key to our 1999 campaign to stop logging in the North Shore watersheds.

Thanks to SPEC **volunteers, directors and staff** for their dedication and hard work. We also thank all our **individual members and donors** as well as **Tides Canada Foundation, Endswell Foundation, the Bullitt Foundation, the VanCity EnviroFund, the BC Gaming Direct Access Program** and the **Vancouver Foundation** for their generous support.

We are proud of the *new direction* that SPEC has taken and look forward to building on these improvements in the coming year. We hope you share our enthusiasm about the exciting changes and **new projects at SPEC** and continue to help us to build **healthy, sustainable cities**.



SPEC President

THE SPEC WEBSITE

In 2003 we redesigned the **SPEC website** with **Squeegee Media**. Launched in October, the new site has user-friendly features to make it easier for people to keep informed about **vital environmental issues** and **campaigns**.

The website has new sections on **green community resources, events** and **employment opportunities**. On the site, **SPEC's major projects** are now organized into three general categories: **Air, Land** and **Water**. It also features a **secure on-line donation form** where members can *donate* securely, quickly and easily.

Check it out at [**www.spec.bc.ca!**](http://www.spec.bc.ca!)

A NEW LOOK FOR SPEC

In the spring and summer, SPEC staff and volunteers worked hard to *renovate* and *upgrade* **the building** with generous financial support from the **Vancouver Foundation**.

We *redesigned* the **Vancouver Environmental Information Centre** to make it a more relaxing and inviting place for the community to learn about **urban environmental issues**. We also added a **public computer!**

A new **Pesticides Information Display**, a **Battery Recycling Depot** and an updated environmental resource centre have proved popular with hundreds of members of the public. We also created a permanent **SPEC display** showcasing our past achievements and **core projects**, and will have a **rotating temporary display** that will highlight pressing environmental issues.

The building's **walls** have been *painted*, the **floors** *refinished*, **roof** *repaired*, and new **windows** *installed* – all in an

environmentally friendly manner. This summer, we even began an **organic rooftop garden**.

The meeting rooms have been *refurnished* and now have a **wireless hub** that provides **Internet access** to those community groups renting the



Volunteer Brandon paints the Meeting Room

meeting space. Now the non-profit community can rent both **affordable** and **high quality meeting space** right in the heart of Kitsilano!

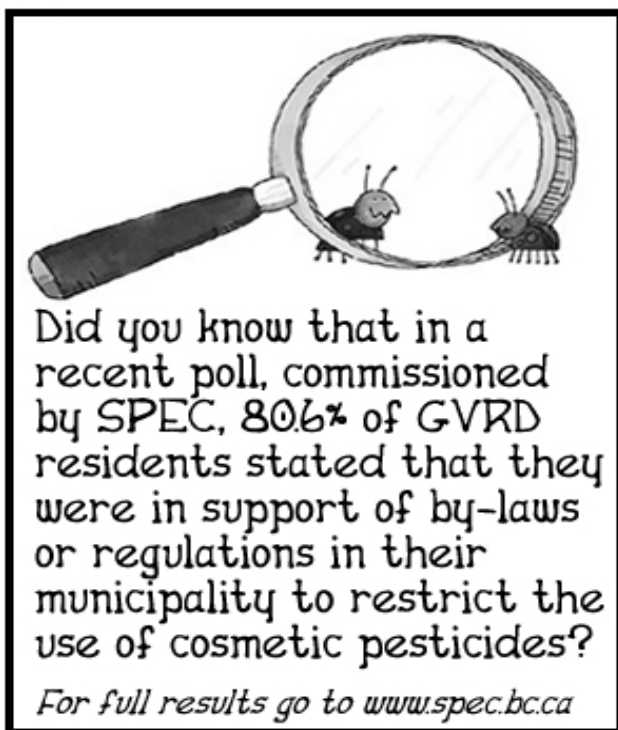
The **basement office space** has also been completely *renovated* and we are happy to announce that **EarthSave Canada** and the **BC Council on International Cooperation** have moved in.

Drop by **2150 Maple Street** to say hello and see the changes we've made!

PESTICIDES

SPEC's *Pesticide Reduction* campaign is going strong. We aim to *reduce* the **use of toxic pesticides** in the region through **education, outreach** and **action**.

In January 2003 SPEC hired researcher **Kyla Tienhaara** to raise awareness of the **harmful effects** of pesticides and to promote **environmentally friendly**



alternatives with the public and municipalities in the Lower Mainland.

Kyla worked with community groups, such as the **Georgia Strait Alliance**, the **Council of Canadians** and **West Coast Environmental Law Association** to stop the spraying of **herbicides** along railroads in the Lower Mainland.

Pesticides on the Railway

In March 2003, **Kyla** and legal counsel **Louise Kenworthy** appeared before the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) to

appeal the Canadian National Railway (CNR) permit to spray **toxic herbicides** along **rail lines** in Surrey, New Westminster, Richmond, Vancouver and the North Shore.

SPEC argued that there is **environmental harm** associated with the use of herbicides, that local communities are *opposed* to pesticide spraying and that CNR had not considered using **non-chemical alternatives**.

Although the EAB decided in favour of CNR, SPEC raised awareness of this issue with concerned citizens and received important media attention. We will continue to work with **community groups** to monitor the spraying of **rail lines** in the Lower Mainland.

West Nile Virus: Don't Let it Bug You!

In the spring 2003, SPEC launched an information campaign on **West Nile Virus** and environmentally friendly approaches to **mosquito management**. In May, we joined with groups and concerned citizens from Coast to Coast to form the **Canadian Coalition for Health and Environment (CCHE)**. The coalition called for a nation-wide **restraint** on the use of pesticides to control mosquitoes that may carry the West Nile Virus. Kyla's presentation to Vancouver City Council was **instrumental** in their decision not to use **toxic pesticides** on potential West Nile Virus carrying mosquitoes.

Working With the Community to Adopt a By-law

In October 2003, SPEC commissioned the well-respected **Mustel Group** to conduct a GVRD wide **poll on pesticide use**. The results showed that over **80 percent** of GVRD



residents *support* municipal **bylaws** to restrict the use of pesticides.

In January 2004, SPEC president **Stuart Mackinnon**, along with a coalition of community groups and concerned citizens, was successful in encouraging Vancouver City Council to adopt a **by-law restricting the use of cosmetic pesticides**, that will come into effect in 2006.

We will continue to work with the City of Vancouver, community groups and environmental organizations to *promote* a **pesticide reduction strategy** for the region that includes information on **environmentally friendly alternatives** to pesticides and **safe pesticide disposal**.

Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP)

SPEC is the recipient of the \$25,000 **2003 VanCity EnviroFund** grant! We are excited to use the grant for the **Real Environmental Alternatives to Pesticides (REAP)** project. **REAP** is a community education and outreach project that will *diversify* SPEC's outreach and bring **Pesticide Reduction Workshops** to the **communities** of the Lower Mainland. Our first **Pesticide Reduction Fact Sheet** has already been translated into **Chinese**.

We recently launched an on-line **Pesticides Information Centre** to provide easy access to **information on pesticides** and their **alternatives** and to reach out to the community. Check out the website at www.spec.bc.ca for more information on pesticides and the **REAP** project!

We invite you to participate in this important initiative to *promote* safe, environmentally friendly **alternatives to pesticides**. We are organizing a **Pesticides Forum** as part of our

Environment Now speaker series and will work with the City of Vancouver and retailers to *encourage* the **safe disposal of pesticides**.



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

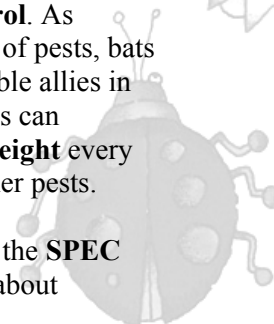
Summer Outreach

In the summer, SPEC hired outreach coordinator, **Genevieve Bucher**, to organize educational outreach projects to bring to the public. As part of the Summer Outreach Program, SPEC had **information booths** and **hosted workshops** at community events across the Lower Mainland about **environmentally friendly mosquito management** and the **safe disposal of toxic pesticides**.

Bats are Phat!

Genevieve also hosted an exciting and informative **bat box building workshop** to encourage **non-toxic** methods of **mosquito control**. As consumers of vast numbers of pests, bats rank among our most valuable allies in controlling mosquitoes. Bats can consume up to **half their weight** every night in mosquitoes and other pests.

Drop by the building to see the **SPEC bat box** and find out more about *building* your own!





A ladybug, a bat and a dragonfly flee the pesticide man!

SPEC's Fall Membership Drive raised over \$7,000 in individual donations. Thanks to all of you who support our work!

Fall Membership Drive

As part of our efforts to **diversify our support base**, SPEC worked hard last year to provide **outreach** to our members and grow our membership.



SPEC Director lets his hair down!

In November, membership coordinator **Joanna Robinson** organized a highly successful **membership drive** that raised over **\$7,000** in donations and

signed up many new members. Thanks to all of you who supported SPEC!

SPEC recently re-launched the **SPECTRUM newsletter** electronically to allow members to learn more about our **projects** and become even more **engaged** in the work we do. On our new website, you can sign up to receive **SPECTRUM for free!**

Outreach Events

SPEC hosted many **outreach events** in 2003 that raised awareness of important environmental issues with the public.

In May SPEC partnered with the **BC Environmental Network** and **Global Public Media** to host **The Party's Over**, a panel discussion on oil, war and the fate of industrial societies, with journalist, educator and lecturer **Richard Heinberg**.

In October, SPEC hosted a **Halloween Spectacular** to showcase the **renovations** to the building. The party

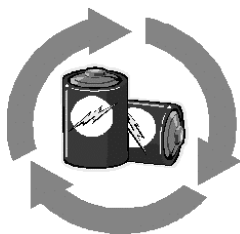
would not have been complete without the **hall of horrors, witches' brew, haunted graveyard** and of course the many people who came in costume to celebrate Halloween at SPEC!

In November, projects coordinator **Ivan Bulic** organized a **Book Sale** to raise funds for our day-to-day operations. We collected hundreds of books donated by the public and *raised* over **\$600**.

In the fall, **Ivan** gave talks at several Vancouver area schools on **battery recycling** to encourage **waste reduction**. SPEC will continue this outreach program to help students and teachers begin **recycling programs** in their schools.

Educational Displays

SPEC staff created a **permanent in-house outreach display** to *highlight* our current outreach projects. In October, as part of **waste reduction awareness** week, SPEC began *collecting* used **batteries** at the building. This initiative has been highly successful; we have collected thousands of batteries and informed hundreds of people about the **environmental hazards** of batteries in landfills.



We will continue to *display* educational materials on **pesticide reduction** and

safe disposal, energy conservation and **battery recycling** in the coming year.

PROTECTING URBAN GREENSPACE

Urban greenspace is critical to building **healthy communities** in the Lower Mainland. With local neighbourhood



SPEC is working to create waterfront greenspace on the Eburne Lands

groups, SPEC is working to *create* **greenways** and *expand* **park space** on the **Eburne Lands** by the Fraser River and **Hastings Park** on Vancouver's Eastside.

In November, SPEC joined with several community groups to form the **Eburne Lands Coordinating Group**.

The group called for the *creation* of a public **waterfront greenspace** as part of the **Eburne Lands** development. This is one of the best ways to *protect* sensitive fish habitat on **Eburne Slough** and adjacent parts of **Richmond Island**.

In January 2004, project developers **North Fraser Port Authority** and **TransLink** abandoned plans for a

riverfront park. Although disappointed by the decision, SPEC will continue to work with the **ELCG** protect threatened habitat on the Eburne Lands.

SPEC is also *developing* a vision for the **Arbutus Corridor** that includes **cycling**

and **pedestrian paths, community gardens** and an **historic streetcar**. In 2003, SPEC supported the **West End Residents Association** and the **Stanley Park Ecology Society** in establishing a new **Community Flower Garden** in **Stanley Park**.

In the coming months, SPEC will also *develop* a vision for more **greenspace** on Vancouver's Eastside, including the greening of **Hastings Park**.



inventory, which records air pollution trends up to 2000.

The **AirCare** program is a major factor in the decline of emissions from **cars** and **light duty trucks**. Getting older, more polluting cars off the road is vital to *ensuring* **better air quality** as **63 percent of emissions** are from cars and light duty trucks.

The bad news is that **sulphur oxide (SOx) emissions** show a steady *upward trend*. Fully **33 percent** of all of SOx in the region comes from **marine sources** such as deep-sea freighters, cruise ships, tugs, pleasure craft and other vessels.

In 2003 SPEC met with **BC and Washington State environmental groups** that are tackling the issue of **regulating emissions** from international flag vessels. Regulation requires the cooperation of **multi-jurisdictional regimes**. Regional bodies such as the **GVRD** have little power to control emissions from shipping. And when a polluter is nailed, federal fines are miniscule.

SPEC will continue to work with other **concerned groups** to *curb* this alarming trend.

33 percent of sulphur dioxide emissions in the Lower Mainland come from marine sources

THE AIR WE BREATHE

ACORP

In 2002 SPEC **directors** and **staff** met with WLAP **Minster Joyce Murray** to urge her to *reinstate* ACORP (AirCare On Road Program).

In June 2003, **TransLink** approved plans for a *renewed* **ACORP heavy-duty diesel emissions testing program** that would be funded by fines and fees on polluting vehicles. The program will be *implemented* in early 2004.

TransLink will now look at *expanding* **ACORP** to include the region's 5,000 **light duty vehicles**, with fines of up to \$425 for polluting vehicles.

Trends

The *good news* in 2003 was that rate of emissions of most **air pollutants** is *declining* in the **Lower Fraser Valley** and **Georgia Basin airshed**, according to the **2003 GVRD air quality**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Cool Vancouver

In the spring of 2003, SPEC joined the **City of Vancouver's Cool Vancouver Task Force on climate change**. The **Task Force** aims to *reduce* the City's corporate **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** by **20 percent** below 1990 levels by 2010. The target for **community emissions** is aimed at **6 percent** below 1990 levels by 2010.

SPEC aims to help **residents of Vancouver** *participate* in the **energy conservation and emissions reduction plan**. Our **Cool Vancouver Project** focuses on small-scale **multiple-unit dwellings** in the Lower Mainland with the aim of providing information on how residents can *reduce* their **ecological footprint** through *affordable, easy-to-implement, energy conservation* measures.

SPEC will bring informative and interactive **workshops** to the community, develop **educational materials** and an on-line **Energy Information Centre** with the aim of helping residents take **concrete** and **measurable** steps to *conserve* energy.

We will also work to *reduce* our own **energy** use by implementing **energy conservation measures** in the **SPEC building**, beginning with the upgrade of our **rooftop solar panels** in the Spring 2004. *Stay tuned* to SPEC for information on how you can help the City of Vancouver implement its **emission reduction plan!**

ENERGY

Saying No to the Duke Point Gas Fired Power Plant

In 2003 **SPEC Vancouver Island activists** worked with a **broad coalition** of local **community, environmental and health groups** to prevent **BC Hydro's** application to build a **265-megawatt gas-fired power plant** at Nanaimo's **Duke Point** industrial park.



Dyane Brown and Director Norman Abbey in front of the proposed test site at Nanoose Bay

SPEC held **intervenor status** at the **BC Utilities Commission Hearings** on the BC Hydro application. SPEC intervenor **Dyane Brown** noted that the plant would have spewed more than **900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases** and other **air pollutants** over central Vancouver Island. As well as adding to **global warming**, these pollutants could seriously *harm* **human health** and the **environment** in the region.

After a lengthy process that included an **environmental assessment**, **community meetings** and **public**

Air pollutants from gas-fired power plants pose serious human health risks and contribute to global warming

hearings in Nanaimo and Vancouver, the **BCUC** denied **BC Hydro** permission to build the plant, citing a *failure* to prove the need for the \$370 million plant.

SPEC director **Norman Abbey** will continue to work with **environmental groups** and Vancouver Island **activists** to *encourage* **renewable energy development** on Vancouver Island and to urge **BC Hydro** to consider *developing* clean energy projects using **solar** or **wind energy**.

Sumas Energy 2

In 2002 SPEC worked with the **Abbotsford Downtown Business Association**, **Abbotsford City Council**, the **David Suzuki Foundation**, the **Sierra Legal Defence Fund** and numerous local **Fraser Valley organizations** to *raise awareness* of the environmental and human health risks from the proposed **Sumas Energy 2** gas-powered plant. If built, **SE2** would *dump* up to **two million tonnes of pollutants** annually into the **Fraser Valley Airshed**.

The **National Energy Board** held hearings on the proposed plant through the spring and summer 2003. According to the NEB, the hearings attracted the **largest number of intervenors** of any NEB process. Hundreds of **Fraser Valley residents**, **environmental**, **health** and **First Nations Groups** as well as the **City of Abbotsford** and the **Government of British Columbia** made submissions *opposing* the 660-megawatt plant.

The NEB is expected to deliver a final decision on the future of SE2 in the spring of 2004.

SPEC will continue to work with **concerned citizens** in **Abbotsford** and

the **Fraser Valley** to protect the fragile airshed.

NUCLEAR

Federal Appeal Court reverses Nanoose Bay decision

In May 2003 a three-member **Federal Court of Appeal** panel *ruled against* SPEC and *reversed* the 2002 Federal Court decision **overturning** Ottawa's **expropriation** of the **Nanoose Bay torpedo test range** near Nanaimo.

For many years, SPEC has worked with the **Nanoose Conversion Campaign** and **peace** and **environmental activists** to stop nuclear-powered and nuclear weapons capable **US warships** from **testing weapons** systems in the **Georgia Strait** off **Nanoose Bay**, just north of Nanaimo.



With support from the **West Coast Environmental Law Association** lawyer **Andrew Gage** and **David Wright QC**, SPEC *launched* a **three-year legal battle** to reverse the 1999 expropriation. In March 2002 the Federal Court *ruled in favour* of SPEC. An appeal court, however, subsequently *reversed* that decision in March 2003, and the expropriation now stands.

SPEC remains committed to working for a **nuclear free BC**.

SPEC is committed to working for a nuclear Free BC

TOXICS

SPEC has a long history of working to protect the waters of the **Burrard Inlet** from **harmful and toxic industrial pollutants**. In 2003, SPEC volunteer researchers **Sophika Kostyniuk** and **Ling Lin** undertook a review of the **BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) permits** that relate to the **Burrard Inlet** from December 2002 to March 2003.

The report, *A Review of Burrard Inlet Effluent Discharges*, was released in May 2003 and was supported by the **Georgia Strait Alliance** and the **BC Environmental Network's Waste, Health and Toxics Caucus**.

The goal was to assess the levels of **industrial effluent** entering the Burrard Inlet as well as the **effectiveness** of current **MWLAP management plans** for *monitoring* and *controlling* effluent discharges.

Sophika and **Lin** found that the number of **effluent discharge permits** has *increased* from a single permit in 1957, to **25 active permits** in 2002. Currently **769 million cubic meters** of wastewater that carry **industrial effluents** are *discharged* annually into **Burrard Inlet** as compared to 32 million cubic meters in 1957. This is the equivalent of 223,014 Olympic swimming pools.

Another **disturbing trend** was the discovery that there are **no precise figures** currently available from the BC Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection that conclusively determine the actual amounts of **industrial effluent** being discharged. And, in April 2003, the **Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Plan (BIEAP)**, the agency that *oversees* programs regarding **industrial pollution** in the

Burrard Inlet, experienced a **50 percent reduction** in its capacity.

SPEC will continue to *monitor* both the **industrial effluent levels** and the **regulatory bodies** that oversee this matter.

To access *A Review of Burrard Inlet Effluent Discharges* go to our website (www.spec.bc.ca) or contact the SPEC office for a paper copy.

769 million cubic meters of wastewater are discharged annually into Burrard Inlet



TRANSPORTATION

In 2003, SPEC continued to support projects that promote **sustainable transportation** in Greater Vancouver. Directors **Alan Herbert** and **Phil Le Good** participated in regional and community **transportation forums** and **planning groups**.



In the fall, SPEC directors **Deming Smith**, **Alan Herbert**, **Genevieve Bucher** and **Phil Le Good** formed the

Transportation Committee to respond to **key transportation issues** in the Lower Mainland. These include debate over the **Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV) rapid transit line** and **TransLink's 10-year regional transportation plan**.

Members of the committee made a **detailed submission** to the **TransLink Board** on the regional **transportation plan** that included a call for *increasing bus service, improving cycling infrastructure and using existing rail corridors*. Director **John Whistler** also appeared before Vancouver City Council on the RAV project.

SPEC urged the **City of Vancouver** to *develop* an **expanded downtown streetcar system**. It could potentially link **False Creek** to **Marpole** and the **South Fraser Lands** via the **Arbutus Corridor**.

SOLID WASTE

Careful Where You Put those Batteries!

During **Waste Reduction Week** in October 2003, **SPEC** set up a **battery collection depot** to help consumers



Coordinator Ivan Bulic collects batteries at SPEC

learn how they can keep **household batteries** out of the province's **landfills** and **incinerators**. A **display** at the SPEC building provides samples of the estimated **60 million batteries** that are *thrown away* in British Columbia each year.

Disposable batteries are responsible for between **50 to 70 percent** of all **heavy metals** in landfills where they can *leach* into the **environment**.

The batteries are collected by **Nu-Life Industries** where they are shipped to an

industrial facility in Ontario that recovers the metals for industrial re-use.

The ideal solution is a **Canada-wide producer responsibility program** that allows consumers to return all batteries to authorized dealers. SPEC is working with **government** and **industry** to create **producer responsibility** in recycling.



Pesticide Disposal

In the summer of 2003, as part of our **pesticide reduction initiative**, SPEC *launched* an information campaign to encourage the **safe disposal of pesticides**.

There are **industry-funded return centres** located in communities across British Columbia that take back products included under the regulation.

If you have **pesticides** that you no longer want or need check the **Product Care** website (www.productcare.org) for information on what products are accepted and for details on the **return centre** in your area.

If the pesticide products you have are **not accepted** at an industry-funded return centre, *store them* in a **safe place secure from children or pets** until a proper disposal system is in place. Never pour pesticides down the drain or re-use empty containers!

SPEC VOLUNTEERS

Since 1969, volunteers have been at the **heart and soul** of SPEC. We are thankful for the many volunteers whose **dedication** and **hard work** have helped *build* and *strengthen* the organization over the years.

Volunteers from all walks of life supported SPEC in 2003. They *staffed display booths* at outreach events, helped with **building repairs** and **renovations**, *organized* and *updated* the **resource centre**, *facilitated workshops*, *updated* the **SPEC archives**, and *researched environmental issues* for SPEC projects and the website.

In the summer, outreach coordinator **Genevieve Bucher** redeveloped the **volunteer program** at SPEC and brought many **talented** and **enthusiastic volunteers** to the organization. Because of their support we were able bring **outreach projects** to many events and reach a wide range of people across the Lower Mainland.

In 2003, SPEC volunteers included: **Cecile Helten, Jennifer Borden, Anne Ferries, Daisy McColl, Carl Prey, Dave Harlander, Brendan McEwen, Emma Thompson, Sophika Kostyniuk, Ling Lin, Leslie Robinson, Alan Fossen, Tap Leivo, David Beach, David Wright, Tim Howard, Scott Nelson, Josh Dickson, Dan Zuberi,**

In 2003 SPEC volunteers contributed over 1000 hours of support!

Elaine Johnston, Hilda Bechler and Terry Slack.

Thanks to all of you and the many other people who supported SPEC over the years!



Volunteers Dave Harlander and Emma Thompson show off the SPEC bat box at the Under the Volcano festival at Cates Park



SPEC mascot Giro wins the most frequent visitor award!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our strength lies in the **dedicated support** of our members and volunteers. Your donations help us continue to *raise awareness* on important **urban environmental issues** and engage people in *protecting* their communities.

In 2003, the generous support of individual donors allowed us to build on the **pesticide reduction initiative** and continue to respond effectively to issues of **air and water quality, sustainable urban transportation, energy conservation, waste reduction and toxics**.



Monthly donor Stuart Mackinnon

Sustained giving

The **sustaining donor program** is the most *effective* way to **support SPEC**. The regular monthly or quarterly support provides a **steady source of income** that allows us to *plan* for **future activities** and *respond* to **urgent and unexpected issues** as they arise. This year we were able to *organize* support for waterfront greenspace on the **Eburne Lands** as well as stop development plans for **Barnston Island**

because of the **regular financial support** of individual members.

By becoming a **sustaining donor**, you will also help us *reduce* our **administration costs**, use **less paper** and put more of your money directly into supporting **SPEC's core work**.

Your **ongoing support** will help us reach our goal of *creating* a truly **healthy, livable environment!**

Planned Giving

In early 1997, longtime **transportation activist** and member **June Black** remembered SPEC in her will. Over the years, June's **bequest** has *provided seed money* to get new campaigns underway, and helped SPEC leverage other project funds.

The **June Black Fund** is an example of a **planned gift**. Planned charitable giving has significant advantages. Not only will a planned gift **support a cause you believe in**, but it can *reduce the taxes* you pay during your lifetime, and *increase the percentage of assets* you are able to pass on to family and friends by offsetting estate taxes.

Giving a planned gift is best done in consultation with a professional, as such a gift usually requires specific legal documentation. For example, SPEC's full legal name - **Canadian Society Promoting Environmental Conservation** - must be included in a will in order to make a legal bequest.

If you would like to consider making a **planned gift to SPEC**, please feel free to phone us any time at 604-736-7732, or email admin@spec.bc.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

SPEC members and supporters were saddened by the deaths in 2003 of two leading environmentalists, **John Clarke** and **Gary Gallon**.



John Clarke

John Clarke was a leading **conservationist, environmental educator and mountaineer**. He spent 35 years exploring more than 10,000 square kilometres of Coast Range peaks, glaciers and valleys. His **photographs** and **published articles** gained the notice of the **international mountaineering community**.

Following the 1994 death of fellow mountaineer and conservationist **Randy Stoltmann**, John saw the need for **wilderness education** in schools. He co-founded the **Wilderness Education Program** and developed **multi-media presentations, wilderness hikes and curriculum workshops** that introduced thousands of Vancouver school children to their first direct experience of **BC wilderness**.

In 1997 John worked with the **Squamish First Nation** on the **Witness Project** that enabled city dwellers to “*witness*” threatened habitat in the **Stoltmann Wilderness**. The Squamish

Nation gave John the rare honour of a traditional naming ceremony calling him **Xwexwsélken**, or Mountain Goat.

In 1999 John *organized* **presentations** for SPEC’s campaign to **stop logging** in Greater Vancouver’s **North Shore watersheds**. His presentations were crucial in **raising public awareness** that eventually resulted in the GVRD **abandoning commercial logging** in watershed.

In 1999 John received the **BC Minister’s Award for Environmental Education**. In August 2002, he was made a **Member of the Order of Canada**. John died in January after a struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife **Annette** and infant son **Nicholas**.

Gary Gallon was a **leading SPEC activist** of the 1970s.

Gary *worked to stop* plans for a **downtown freeway network** and a **Third Crossing of Burrard Inlet**. In 1973 he backed then BC Liberal MLA David Anderson’s call for a **moratorium on offshore oil exploration**. In 1976 Gary led a team of SPEC volunteers who completed the first **survey of pollution on the Fraser River**.

Gary left SPEC in 1977 to work for the **UN in Africa** before settling in Eastern Canada. In the late 1980s he *set up* **Ontario’s blue box recycling and acid rain reduction programs**. In June 2003, Gary received a **Citation of Lifetime Achievement** from Federal Environment Minister **David Anderson**. Gary died of cancer in Montreal in July. He is survived by his wife Janine and children Kalifi and Jenika.



Gary Gallon

A PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

Located in the heart of Kitsilano, the **SPEC building**, at 2150 Maple Street, is adjacent to **beautiful community gardens**. The building is also home to the **Compost Demonstration Garden** and acts as an office for several **non-profit groups**, an **Environmental Information Centre**, and **community meeting space**.



The City Farmer Compost Demonstration Gardens

Shared Accommodation

Upstairs, **SPEC** maintains the **Vancouver Environmental Information Centre** which features displays on a range of **environmental issues** and **educational materials** on issues such as **waste reduction**, **recycling**, **sustainable transportation**, **organic gardening** and **water conservation**. The **VEIC** also *posts* information about upcoming **community events** and *displays* **brochures** and **reports** from **environmental organizations** across British Columbia and Canada. In the summer, **SPEC** added a **public access computer**. Members of the public can use this computer to view **SPEC's website**, search for **green employment** and research environmental topics.

In the basement, the office spaces are shared by The **BC Council on International Cooperation**, **Earth Save Canada**, The **Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights**, The **BC Chapter of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women** and independent researcher **Anthony Arundel**. Shared accommodation remained fixed at 2002 levels and contributed to building maintenance.

The **Compost Demonstration Gardens** and **Compost Hotline** located behind the building are operated by **City Farmer**.

Meeting Space

The **SPEC Building** has a newly renovated **Meeting Room** and **Board Room** available for *booking* by non-profit groups. In 2003, there were over **350 room bookings** and since the renovations the numbers continue to rise.

The **SPEC Building** now has a **wireless internet hub!** Groups renting the meeting and board rooms can *access the internet* from a laptop computer for *free!*

For more information about the **community meeting space** or the **shared office space**, please contact **SPEC** or go to the website www.spec.bc.ca.





Thank you for your support. SPEC looks forward to an exciting year ahead working with the community to protect the environment and promote healthy, livable cities.

2003 Financial Highlights

Income

Foundation Grants	88,000
Government Grants	15,000
Individuals/Members	13,000
Shared Offices	9,000
Casino	6,000
Room Rentals	4,000
Other	2,000

Expenses

Wages	100,000
Subcontractors	29,000
Building Maintenance	6,000
Office Supplies	5,000
Utilities	4,000
Printing	3,000
Other expenses	18,000

Total	137,000	165,000
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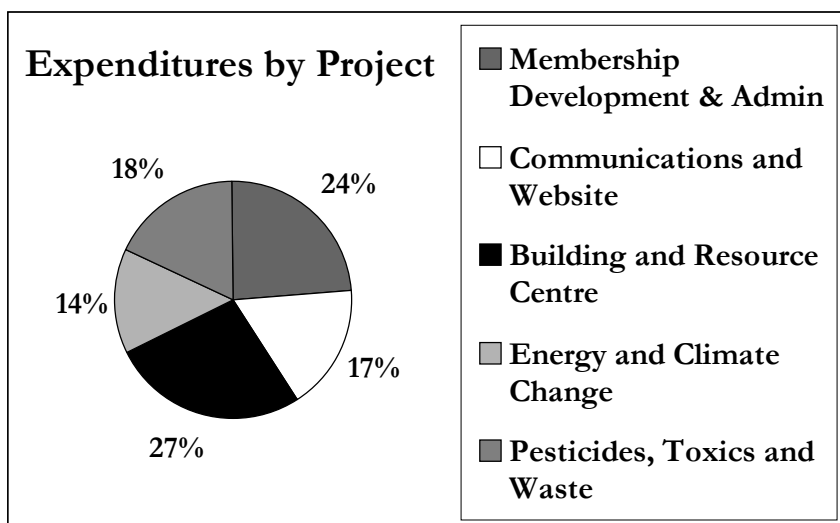
The above figures are SPEC's financial highlights only. SPEC's official 2003 financial statements were prepared by **Mahmoud Virani, CA**. Official financial statements are available upon request.

Major Supporters

SPEC would like to thank the following Foundations and Agencies for their generous support of our work in 2003:

Tides Canada Foundation
Endswell Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
HRDC Youth Employment Program

VanCity EnviroFund
BC Charitable Gaming Funds
CCHREI
Environmental Fund of BC
Environment Canada





SPEC Annual General Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2004 11am

2150 Maple Street, Vancouver

information 604.736.7732

info@spec.bc.ca

*SPEC's mission is to educate, activate and empower citizens
in the Lower Mainland and Georgia Basin to reduce their
ecological footprint and build healthy, sustainable cities*



Society
Promoting
Environmental
Conservation

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