



The Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

Annual Report 2011



September 1 2010 to September 1 2011

Healthy Cities Are Our Future

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Message from the President

I am unreservedly, unrepentantly, and unconditionally optimistic for what SPEC will achieve in 2012. I am confident because of our rich history as Canada's oldest environmental organization, and I am hopeful because of the present opportunity to help lead Vancouver to become the greenest city in the world. But most of all, I am optimistic because of who we are.

This optimism stems from a deep appreciation for the outstanding directors, staff, and volunteers that we are blessed with. The passion, creativity, technical expertise, and personal integrity of each and every member of our community has astounded me from my very first day at SPEC. As a community, we are indeed our own greatest resource. As I think of the outstanding people I will be working beside, I cannot help but be filled with enthusiasm and excitement for what we will achieve!



One of my favourite authors and activists Paul Hawken often remarks:

"If you look at the science about what is happening on Earth and you aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this Earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse."

In the company of such outstanding colleagues and within such a strong community, I cannot help but feel optimistic and I sincerely hope that you will join me!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michiah Prull'. The script is fluid and cursive.

Michiah Prull
President

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.
~Author Unknown

Message from the Vice Presidents

Tara Moreau & Carole Christopher

This has been a year of significant change for SPEC. We packed our bags and left 2150 Maple Street, our home for over thirty years. The decision to leave the SPEC Sustainability Demonstration Centre was difficult but in the end we recognized that we were spending valuable time dealing with the building rather than addressing local environmental issues. We relinquished our lease back to the City, moved our office and set forth to re-vision how we can best serve our community through on-the-ground environmental action. With change comes an opportunity to evaluate past successes and failures and to envision new futures. A spring 2011 strategic planning process revealed that our 2011 purpose, mission and core values are very similar to those laid out in 1969 and we were gratified to discover that forty two years later we still remain close to the founding vision of SPEC.

Despite all the changes occurring at SPEC we have had a very productive year. With each year, more children learn about starting seeds, organic agriculture, biodiversity, insects, soil and urban ecology through our ongoing **SPEC School Gardens Project**. We also continued our **Cambie Square Communal Gardens** (started in 2007) where we teach volunteers and neighbours about square foot gardening, companion planting, succession and year round gardening, and pollinator friendly-gardening. The 4-year-old **SPEC Rooftop Container Garden** found a new home at the YWCA Rooftop Garden where we collaborated with the “Y” in bringing 1,540 pounds of fresh food to the Crabtree Women Shelter in the Downtown Eastside. New this year, SPEC jointly sponsored the **Westside Pocket Market** with the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House. This weekly farmers market regularly drew over 400 people per market and enabled small-scale urban growers, farmers and artisans to sell their products to residents in Kitsilano. With staff funding provided by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, SPEC is developing its Organic Agriculture Workshop series into the **Urban Farmer Field School**. The program, expected to launch in 2012, is a train-the-trainer program that prepares graduates to educate others about best management practices in urban agriculture and the interconnections between our food system and our changing climate. SPEC was chosen as the 2011 non-profit partner with Whole Foods in hosting the “**Living Naturally Fair**,” an annual event in which the Whole Foods stores in Vancouver helped raise funds for a worthy organization. The event featured vendors, local music, live demos and speakers, and many food treats. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase SPEC’s work to a wider audience. With the move from the SPEC building, (which has been the focus point of the **Energy Committee’s** work), the committee is looking for a new home for the three solar systems on the building which will enable us to continue to host educational energy tours for the public. Our newly re-formed **Waste Committee** took on new projects to education our communities and help local businesses reduce their waste.

None of our successes this past year would be possible without the dedication and vision of our staff, board and volunteers. Many thanks to our wonderful staff members, Ilse Sarady, Marnie Newell, Catriona Gordon, Barry Warren and Lis Thomas who handle the day-to-day operations of the programs and organization. We are also excited to welcome Michiah Prull as SPEC's new president and bid a fond farewell to dedicated board members Joanna Robinson, Dan Rogers, Gerry Thorne, and Patrick McGuiness. And finally, thanks to SPEC's members and donors whose steadfast support allows us to continue our work building healthy cities. As we begin our 43nd year of environmental advocacy, we know that with your support, we will continue to make a difference within our community.



Handwritten signature of Tara Moreau in black ink.

Tara Moreau
Vice President

Handwritten signature of Carole & Christopher in black ink.

Carole Christopher
Vice President

The SPEC Building

After thirty years, the SPEC Building, also called the Energy Demonstration Centre, at 2150 Maple Street had to close its doors. The building had been closed for several months in the early spring of 2010 to assess structural and envelope issues. The assessments indicated that there was a need for extensive repairs, and potentially a full reconstruction of the 70-year old facility. After evaluating various options with the City, who owns the building, it became clear that SPEC would have to move.

Moving has meant that SPEC no longer can count on room rental revenue to support campaigns and staff. It has also affected community groups who have had to seek other alternatives to find affordable meeting and activity space.

Today, it is still not clear what will happen to the old SPEC building. The City is considering various options for the building and the neighboring lots. Although the building has been a central role in both campaign work and to SPEC's identity, the move could not have come at a better time as SPEC is going through a strategic process which has allowed the organization to envision campaign work in a new way.

SPEC staff is currently working out of Lighthouse Sustainability Centre, at 2060 Pine Street, only three blocks east of the old location.

Places SPEC used to call home...

Throughout the history of SPEC the organization has resided at many different locations:

- 1969: SPEC opens an office and information centre at 4857 Kingsway in Burnaby
- 1972: SPEC moves to 1095 West 7th Ave in Fairview Slops
- 1973: SPEC moves to 2007 West 4th Ave
- 1976: SPEC moves to 1603 West 4th Ave, under Granville Bridge
- 1979: SPEC moves to 3253 Heather Street
- 1980: SPEC moves to 2150 Maple Street
- 2011: SPEC moves to 2060 Pine Street

Food Committee Update

1. Roof Top Demonstration Garden

After packing up the rooftop garden on Maple Street, SPEC moved its planters and gardening energy to downtown Vancouver to join forces with the YWCA Rooftop Garden at 535 Hornby Street.



Once an ornamental garden, the YWCA rooftop was converted into an intensive production urban farm in 2006 with the help of Facilities Manager Ted Cathart and a team of dedicated volunteers. All produce harvested from the garden is donated to local women's lunch programs and shelters.

Proof that you can grow literally anything in containers, the YWCA rooftop garden features creatively designed beds that hold kiwis, blueberries, raspberry bushes, fruit trees, and a constantly rotating roster of lush seasonal vegetables. In 2010, over 700kg of produce were donated to struggling women and their families. With careful management and innovative horticultural techniques, the harvest is increasing each year.

The garden is an important part of the SPEC Food Campaign's plans for the upcoming year. It will serve as a dynamic living classroom for the Urban Farmer Field School due to launch in March 2012. Students of the field school will gain experience by helping to expand the rooftop garden program and coordinate the weekly produce donations. The YWCA has also generously donated space for all of SPEC's summer workshops.

In addition, SPEC staff has been working to build an edible container garden in front of our new office in the Lighthouse building at 2060 Pine Street. We expect lush growth and a harvest next summer.

Come by and see us! The garden is open to the public during YWCA business hours, and volunteers are welcome on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. To get involved, contact



YWCA rooftop garden volunteer celebration

Lis Thomas at elisabethchere@gmail.com.

2. The School Garden Project

The SPEC School Gardens Project keeps on growing year by year! This past year we expanded the program to reach additional classes, teachers and students at our six partner schools: Queen Elizabeth, Kitsilano Secondary, General Brock, Bayview, Ecole Bilingue and Sir Wilfred Grenfell Elementary.

With the help from devoted school staff, volunteers, parents, students and SPEC staff we have added a fruit orchard to the Queen Elizabeth School. The orchard includes apple and plum trees, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, kiwi, and grapes. The orchard has provided students, staff and families, quite literally, with the fruits of their labour and it has become a gathering place for students during recess and lunch. Thanks to the parent volunteers and students, the orchard also boasts a large, homemade driftwood bench and a decorative hand-painted salmon mural.

Throughout the year, students at all schools, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 9 took part in hands-on learning about food security, organic gardening, pollination, seed-saving, composting, soil nutrition, plant life cycles and many more topics! A school wide composting program was also started in some schools with the help of the Sir Charles Tupper wood-working teacher, Russ Evans and his Grade 12 Tech students. Tupper students collaborated with partner schools to build three-bin composter systems with grade 5 and 6 students. Elementary students learned hands-on wood-working skills, from grade 12 student-mentors.

"Reflection on a summer with SPEC"

The faint murmur of water percolating into the thirsty earth is barely audible over the squeals of amusement coming from the adjacent playing field. I am watering and weeding a garden in Kitsilano. This is my summer job; I could not imagine one more spiritually nourishing.

When I began my summer with SPEC I could barely tell romaine from rutabaga. I understood none of the intricacies of gardening and was thoroughly intimidated by any vegetable that I couldn't immediately recognize. Two months later and I am still a fledgling gardener, but I now have the toolbox to experiment on my own -a toolbox, which includes confidence, curiosity, and good mentors.

Far more than just vegetables are produced in our school gardens. We grow knowledge, build friendships, and cultivate community. Although I can't understate how much I enjoyed having access to a constant supply of delicious organic food, the greatest rewards were those immeasurable things. Things like stories shared by experienced SPEC members or long conversations with strangers, struck up simply because I was carrying a watering can.

I look forward to the day when there is vegetable garden in every school in this city; when farmers are offered the same respect as teachers and doctors; when producing food in classrooms is viewed not just as another activity scheduled on a lesson plan but instead a holistic endeavour encompassing all aspects of the curriculum. I believe that day is not far off, if we all just keep on working for it.

Many thanks to all the SPECers and gardeners who helped me out this summer. Much love to Marnie, Ilse, Tara, Lis, Caitlin, Carole, and Vicky, who have made me feel like part of a family instead of an employee.

Man was it ever a gas. I wish I could do that every summer.

Barry Warren, SPEC Summer Intern

Harvest celebrations took place in June, and brought students, staff and families together, to feast on school grown produce: eight varieties of potatoes, roasted garlic, salads and homemade bread. It was delightful to see small kindergarten students lined up asking for “more Russian blues (potatoes), and mizuna, please”. Parents commented that since their children have started growing their own produce, they are much more adventurous in trying new vegetables and fruits, and many have started their own vegetable gardens at home.

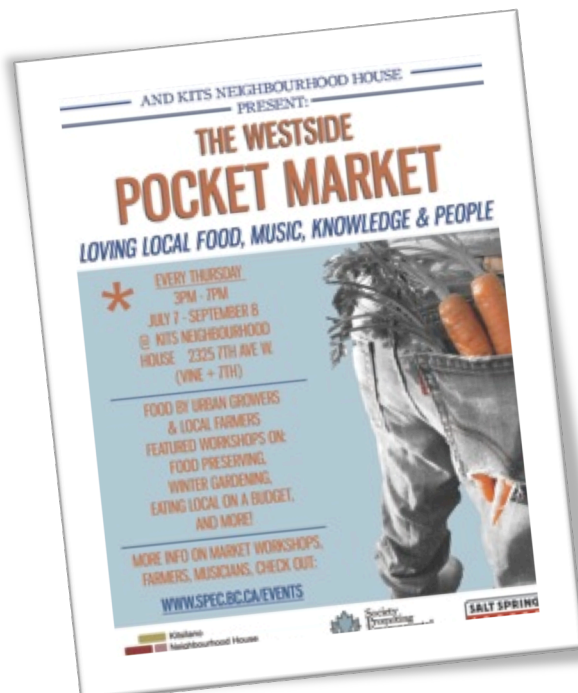
During the summer months the school gardens continued to thrive, thanks to the hard work of Barry Warren, who oversaw summer maintenance. Summer watering, planting and harvesting took place at all our school gardens with the help of Kitsilano Community Centre Daycamps, onsite daycares, Community churches, and families.



Teacher at Queen Elisabeth

3. The Westside Pocket Market

This summer SPEC teamed up with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (KNH) to deliver ten Pocket Markets over the course of the summer. For those who wonder what a Pocket Market is, we can tell you that it is very much like a small farmers market with a particular focus. The goal of the Westside Pocket Market was to build community and support the local food movement by providing an opportunity for urban growers to connect with local food eaters. Our vendors consisted of a mix of urban farmers, backyard growers, small local farmers and artisans who produced jam, bread and chocolates at home. In addition to satisfy the demand for local food, the market offered an excellent educational opportunity for both market visitors and vendors.



Reason for <u>purchasing</u> produce at the Westside Pocket Market?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
For environmental reasons (e.g. trying to live more sustainable)	58.8%	140
To support local agriculture	75.2%	179
To support local urban agriculture (backyard growers, etc.)	65.5%	156
For health/taste reasons	65.5%	156
To meet and connect with local farmers, growers and other vendors	41.6%	99
To support my community	63.9%	152
It's convenient (e.g. close to where I live)	44.1%	105
It's good value (e.g. the market offers a good price for what I am looking for)	29.0%	69
Other	10.5%	25
Answered question		238
Skipped question		8

For example, vendors collected customer feedback on the spot and also educated visitors about various types of local produce and how to prepare and cook them.

The market also served as a vehicle for discussions around environmental issues related to today's food system, and visitors could partake in workshop and ask experts about anything related to food and the environment. All in all, the market received amazing feedback from both vendors and market visitors, and many requested that next time, the market should extend for the full calendar year. Here are a few of the 100 positive comments collected in the pocket market surveys:

"I love the freshness of the food and the farmers". "It's nice to talk with farmers, bakers and beekeepers".

"Very positive experience. Everyone is willing to share thoughts, ideas, food, and I feel a very strong sense of community. Thanks".

"Love bringing my toddler. Trust the health of the food for my child".

"It's the most important thing for connecting to community and the earth".

"Wonderful! You get to find out first hand where your food comes from and you can tell people put love into making their products".

To truly understand the community impact of the market, we surveyed both vendors and visitors. The vendor survey helped to create



an understanding of how, and if, the market had been valuable for them as local food producers. It also shed light as to how they thought that the market might have impacted buyers and made a difference to the local food movement. Here is an example of a vendor survey question and answers:

Question: “In your experience, interacting with customers, do you believe that the Pocket Market has been effective in educating people about local food and contributing to changes in eating habits?”

Answers:

- ✓ “Customers come back for particular produce which indicated that they have healthy eating habits. They learn new ideas for food preparation [at the market] and they are inspired to be more creative with healthy food”
- ✓ “How can it not? If vendors only talk about their product –and they do-they are educating [people]. Also, many people asked for advice on growing food themselves. Hurray!”
- ✓ “[The market provided] time to talk about food.
- ✓ “This [contributing to change] could be improved but we did the best we could. I tried to introduce people to new food and [I] was fairly successful at that. Lots of people returned for things like dandelion, squash and eggplant”
- ✓ “Many people had not heard about the Vancouver Fruit Tree Project. We had a chance to educate about food recovery and food security”
- ✓ “This is the most humble way to go towards incorporating self-decisions and individual values.”
- ✓ “Not sure. It seemed to me that most of the buyers were already conscientious eaters and all for local food”.

In total, the ten pocket markets generated \$20,000 in sales for vendors. If you wish to read more about the Pocket Markets outcomes you can assess the full Pocket Market Report on SPEC’s website <http://www.spec.bc.ca/westside-pocket-market>

4. Cambie Square Communal Garden

This is the sixth season of the Cambie Square Communal Garden. Our fifteen volunteers this year helped to grow over 50 varieties of vegetables and fruits as well as various herbs and flowers, including several more perennials than previous years. We were also able to grow many of our own seedlings from seeds saved last year.

Weekly meetings were informal and enjoyable, with gardeners sharing their knowledge and expertise to make collective decisions about the garden. Each week, the harvest is divided among those that were at the garden. Over the year, we also hosted a number of potlucks at members’ houses, sharing food and garden stories.

A major highlight of the year is our new partnership with the Northwest Culinary Academy, through which we are composting the majority of their organic waste. This not only helps divert waste from the landfill, but also provides the garden with nutrient-rich soil that has already shown an increased yield in production.



Unfortunately, we have experienced a rise in the amount of theft from the garden –mostly of spaghetti squashes and tomatoes. Theft is discouraging for the gardeners and also makes tracking productivity difficult. Despite this, we have had some amazing tasting vegetables and experienced some great yields!

Next year's focus will be on seed saving and extending the season of some of the beds through the use cold frames.

5. The Living Natural Fair

On September 10th and 11th hundreds of people visited the Whole Foods Market Robson location to take in some great speakers, cooking demos, music and more. The event was a fundraiser to benefit SPEC. Due to the generosity and efforts of Whole Foods staff and SPEC volunteers the Living Naturally Fair raised over \$46,000.00 toward our organization.

This fundraising success will help us fill some of the financial gap left from the cancellation of the Government Gaming Grant for Environmental Organization. The funds raised will help us continue our existing projects as well as kick start new projects. It would not have been possible without our amazing



Photo by SPEC volunteer Jennifer Strang

volunteers who put in long hours to help run the event and represent our organization.

View photos of these events on the [SPEC flickr account](#).

6. UPCOMING –The Urban Farmer Field School

This year SPEC received funding from Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) to support the planning process of an urban agriculture field school. Loosely modeled on the farmer field schools created by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the SPEC urban agriculture field school will provide intensive, season-long instruction in small-scale agriculture with special emphasis on climate change solutions and community organizing. The program will run yearly from March – September, and is due to launch in March 2012.

The SPEC Urban Agriculture Field School will provide dynamic educational experience in which students are prepared not only to be urban farmers, but also leaders, teachers and community organizers. Students will gain horticultural experience by completing coursework and a hands-on practicum at community gardens and at the YWCA Rooftop Garden. The urban agriculture field school program is different from a traditional horticulture program in its ‘train-the-trainer’ approach, which incorporates facilitation and community organizing training. Graduates of the program may become workshop instructors for school programs and public events, ensuring continued engagement with SPEC’s campaigns as well as a source of revenue for graduates.

SPEC hopes to increase its reach and influence throughout Vancouver by training environmental stewards with diverse backgrounds and strong commitments to community education around food, agriculture, and climate change. Many hands-on components of the field school will be taught in urban farms or community gardens, strengthening SPEC’s ties to Vancouver’s garden and farm community.

In July, Lis Thomas joined the SPEC team as a PICS intern to coordinate the planning of the farm school. Lis worked for several years for the community outreach department of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and has been closely involved with the formation of both the Brooklyn Urban Gardener Program and the Just Food NYC Farm School. She is a current MSc. candidate in the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems, where she is doing research on heavy metals in soil.

Waste Committee

SPEC's Waste Reduction Committee worked hard on several projects over the past year. We continued to promote battery recycling and reduction through events and more, promoting the Call 2 Recycle's new provincial program. New volunteers, under the direction of Patrick McGuinness, partnered with a local café

to work on waste reduction in a commercial setting. In partnership with the Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) we've also begun working on getting [RCBC's Recyclepedia](#) to go mobile. The Recyclepedia allows you to look up recycling locations for any material across BC. The idea behind this project is to make it possible for the public to find recycling locations on the go using an iPhone. Lastly the committee started work on a free workshop entitled Going Zero Waste in partnership with the Mount Pleasant Community Centre and the initial steps toward a new project for 2012.

Energy Committee

The Energy campaign continued to help educate residents of Metro Vancouver on techniques for reducing their energy consumption. We offered workshops on Winterizing Your Home and Reducing Household Air Leakage last fall.

The closure of the Maple Street office meant big changes for our energy campaign. For over 20 years this facility served as an Energy Demonstration Centre. We are hoping to salvage some of the equipment from the centre and are currently looking for a new temporary home for these demonstration systems that will enable us to continue our unique educational energy tours. Even without the building we have still been able to demonstrate the benefits of renewable energy using portable systems. At the Whole Foods Healthy Living Fair we had working models of both solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy.



Energy Committee Chair Rob Baxter

Events & Workshops

In addition to the ten Pocket Markets, SPEC hosted several workshops and events on topics ranging from food preserving to energy conservation for renters and homeowners.

SPEC Workshops for the General Public

- 06 Aug 2011 Canning and Preserving
- 26 Jul 2011 Pest and Disease Management
- 26 Jun 2011 Climate Change and Year-Round Gardening
- 28 May 2011 Fundraiser Yard Sale

05 May 2011 Gardening Workshop with SVNH
11 Dec 2010 Winterize Your Home
10 Dec 2010 Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party
23 Oct 2010 Canning And Preserving Workshop
30 Sep 2010 Reducing Household Air Leakage Workshop
18 Sep 2010 Building and Solar Technology Tour
18 Sep 2010 SPEC Social - What We're All About!

Special Workshops and Events

SPEC also attended several other special events targeted towards specific groups.

Aug 2010 Event at Kits
July 2011 Livable Laneways Event
July 2011 TAECS Summer Institute
Jan 2011 SFU Dialogue with Will Allen
Nov 2010 Earthwise Society
Nov 2010 Building tour with EYA
Oct 2010 UBC Land and Learning
Oct 2010 Movie Night at Central Library "Hijacked Future"
Sep 2010 FarmAde
Sep 2010 Visit to ANSO class at UBC "Consumers and Consumption"
Sep 2010 Living Natural Fair (featuring the EYA)

Volunteers

We have marveled over it before and said it many times as well: the amazing people who come and volunteer for us blow us away! The truth is, SPEC would be nothing without its volunteers! Every year, board members (who are also volunteers), and staff meet and work with wonderful people through our many volunteer positions. We are forever grateful for the support and skills these people bring the organization. A big thank you goes to:

Doug Horn, David McKee, Cindy Yee, Steven Lim, Mohsen Molavi, Tracy Scallion-Moore, Joann Melman, Mary-Ann Simpson, Heather Cowtan, Mark Grimsrud, Thomas Campagne, Syd Kjellander, Donald Adams, Kevin Tan, Claire Cameron, Jason Fast, Jodi Mayne, Cecile Helten, David Heaton, Vicky Baker, Tina Dam, Selene Yi Shen, Grace O'Shea, Alexia de Harumbe, Gillian Atheron, Zlatko Stevanovic, Ana Stevanovic, Teomi Avila, Kiana Avila, Sandra Kelly, Beng Khoo, Denise Salmon, Ana Nic Lochlainn, Alida Bishop, Dorothy Bootle, Kailey LeDrew, Dan Rogers, Caitlin Dorward, Carole Christopher, Dorothy Bootle, PeiPei Wang, Fleur Choy, Nadia Slakov, Michiah Prull, Rick Pollay, Rob Baxter, Patrick McGuinness, Vivianna Flores, Jennifer Strang, Leane de Laigue, Cynthia Mollison, Brookes, Melissa Chaun, Candace Herr, Catriona Gordon,

Mohsen Molavi, Siena Ezekiel, Sara Carncross, Jimmy Yargeau, Lisa Lopez and many more!



If you would like to make a difference for your community - join us as a volunteer! To find out more go to www.spec.bc.ca/volunteer-opportunities to sign up for our volunteer news and to check out current posted positions.

Board of directors

We would like to again, thank our fantastic Board of Directors who volunteer endless amounts of time and energy to push campaigns and the organization forward!

A Fond Farewell

A big thank you goes to Joanna Robinson, Dan Rogers, Gerry Thorne and Patrick McGuinness who are stepping down to peruse other adventures. We are very grateful for their dedication and hard work over the past several years and we wish them the best for the future!

Dan Rogers –past Treasurer & President

Dan joined the SPEC board in 2003, recruited by Loretta Woodcook who was leaving SPEC to take on a position at the Parks Board. During his eight years on the board Dan was active in many roles and campaigns. In 2004 he became the Vice President and served as the Vice President until becoming President in 2007. Stepping down from his role as President in 2009 Dan took the role as the organization's Treasurer. Dan worked on SPEC's Battery Recycling Campaign

and the Better Transit Not Freeways Campaign. He also served on the now defunct Green Spaces Committee. Although officially having stepped down Dan still lends a hand when we need him!

2011 Board of Directors

Joanna Robinson

President

Tara Moreau

Vice President & Food Committee co-Chair

Carole Christopher

Vice President & Food Committee co-Chair

Ross Moster

Treasurer

Siena Ezekiel

Secretary

Rob Baxter

Director & Energy Committee Chair

Caitlin Dorward

Director

Sara Blenkhorn

Director

Leane de Laigue

Director

Dan Rogers

Director

Gerry Thorne

Director

Michiah Prull

Director

Patrick McGuiness

Director & Waste Committee Chair

Gerry Thorne –past Board of Director & President

Gerry joined SPEC in 2004 to serve as the President and to oversee the re-organization of SPEC and the hiring of SPEC's then Executive Director, Karen Wristen. With a background in law and community planning Gerry offered his wisdom and support to many of SPEC's campaigns. Gerry is stepping down to enjoy retired life and travel.

Joanna Robinson – past SPEC staff member, Vice President & President

Joanna joined the board in 2004 prior to working on staff as the Membership and Outreach Coordinator. During her time as a staff member she developed a successful multicultural community outreach project for pesticide reduction. She also worked on energy conservation and solid waste recycling. Between the years of 2007 and 2009 Joanna served as the Vice President and took on the role as President in 2010. During her time on the Board, Joanna served as an active member on SPEC's Food Committee, building on her long-standing interest in

environmental and social justice issues. Joanna is stepping down from the board to move to Boston where she will be working on her post-doctoral.

Patrick McGuiness –past Waste Committee Chair

Patrick joined the board in 2010 as the chair of the Waste Committee. He came to SPEC after over 10 years of experience in private and municipal waste reduction and recycling efforts as well as several advanced degrees. During his year at SPEC he gathered together a team of volunteers keen on reducing our local waste. He chaired monthly meetings and the project creation process. Before long the committee, under the direction of Patrick, was working with local eatery Rhizome Café, drafting a report to help the business and community space reduce their waste. Patrick was unable to continue due to his commitments as Environmental Specialist with the Vancouver Airport Authority, where he works on waste reduction, hazardous materials management, auditing,

and environmental education. Patrick also contributed to SPEC's communications effort. His work with SPEC is highly appreciated and we look forward to continuing to work with him as a non-board member.

Welcome!

We like to welcome our new board members Barry Warren and Jeff Malmgren.

Barry Warren –Director

Barry joined SPEC as an intern this summer. Pleased with his work and dedication for the organization we decided to invite him to join the board. Barry brings with him a passion for environmental education and building sustainable communities. Barry has a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria and is currently studying Sustainable Resource Management at BCIT.

Jeff Malmgren –Director

Jeff has an ongoing interest in issues that challenge life sustenance, in our community and beyond. He brings an understanding of current policies and processes that address waste in our region now, and a strong desire to see a shift that means more than just different trucks in different directions. Jeff is currently the Director at Fraser RiverBus Society and the Managing Director at Durable Solutions Inc.

Financials

After the Gaming Grant was cut two years ago, organizations, like ours, which relied on this grant to fund a big portion of their activities, took a bit hit. The Provincial Government finally reinstated the Gaming Grant funds this year. For SPEC this meant that our previously denied grant application was accepted and provided \$10,000 towards our fantastic Schools Garden Project and program coordinator Catriona Gordon.

Moving made a significant difference in our financial picture, as we no longer can rely on room rentals and office space rentals to support campaigns and staff. As this important source of income was cut we had to reduce administrative staff hours and focus efforts on building memberships, which are continuing to climb thanks to the generous support of our community members.

Thanks to the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions SPEC hired project staff Lis Thomas to work on the Urban Farmer Field School.

Last year SPEC was selected as the recipient for a very significant annual funding event by Whole Foods –The Living Natural Fair, which will help support SPEC's projects in 2012.

This year we end the fiscal year with a slight surplus.

Income Statement Sep 2010 - Aug 2011

Income Source	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Government Grants	13,620	16
Foundation Grants	18,250	22
Donations & Memberships	26,959.32	33
Events	4,163	5
Earned Income	14,380.00	18
Miscellaneous Income	4,559.69	6
Total	81,932	

Expenses	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Staff & Contractors	57,033	70
Office Expenses	8,452	10
Facilities	12,027	15
Program (Not Inc. staff)	3,596	5
Total	81,108	
Net Income	\$824	

We would also like to acknowledge Martha G. von Zuben who honored SPEC with a generous legacy gift in her will. Learn about legacy giving under “Want to support a good cause?” or visit our website www.spec.bc.ca/legacy-giving

Funders and Major Donors

CSJ - Canada Summer Jobs
 PICS - The Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions
 CURA - Community-University Research Alliances
 Salt Spring Coffee Company
 Beverly's Spa
 Ethical Deal
 WholeFoods

In kind donation

Future Strategies
 West Coast Seeds
 West Creek Farms
 SB Tree Works
 Sasamatt
 Construction
 How Do You Do

Resources ~ Pictures and Films

Over the years we have become better and better at capturing visual information of the work that we do. For example, throughout the Pocket Market season we collected an abundance of [beautiful photos](#) and also had a [short film](#) made thanks to the fantastic volunteer Mike Millard. If you are interested in taking a peak at what we did, please check out our recent videos and photos!

[PicNShow](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#)

Want to support a good cause? Become a SPEC member!

The need for program funding is big and **You** can make a difference! Support SPEC by becoming a member. SPEC memberships are only \$30 and we at SPEC are very good at making those \$30 count! In addition to supporting many worthy projects your membership will give **You** a charitable tax receipt and membership benefit discounts at partnering local businesses. For example you will receive discounts at local bike stores, plants shops and restaurants -all to help you enjoy your beautiful city in a sustainable way. There are many ways that **You** can become a SPEC member and find out more details on [website](#). Here are a few examples:

- **[Monthly Donor](#)**. The best way to support our projects is to become a monthly donor. As a monthly donor you will provide an important ongoing support. Monthly donations can be as big or small as you like –you decide. Visit [Canada Helps](#) a secure, online portal to set up your monthly donation. If you need help we are of course here to help you! (Note: You automatically become an honorary member when you give more than \$30/year).
- **[Annual Donor/Member](#)**. Some people prefer to give once or twice per year. Give in whatever way that works best for you; online, over the phone (604-736-7732) or send in a cheque in the regular mail. All cheques should be made out to “SPEC” and mailed to 2060 Pine Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 4P8. Online donation and membership forms are available on our [website](#).
- **[Leave a Legacy](#)**. Do you want to keep giving even after you are gone? Honor SPEC’s work in your will. Past SPEC supports have made significant contribution to SPEC this way. Visit our website www.spec.bc.ca for more information on how it works and example of how you can honor SPEC. If you need further help, give us a call at 604-736-7732.



“I included SPEC in my will because of the its leadership over 42 years to environmental campaigning, its support in starting dozens of other organizations, and because of the tremendous loyalty of SPEC staff, board and volunteers. It’s a great organization with great values and a great track record”.

Carole Christopher, Vice President.

Questions?

Whether you have a question or a suggestion, we like to hear from our community. You can always reach us at the SPEC office:

Email: admin@spec.bc.ca

Phone: 604-736-7732

Mail:
SPEC
2060 Pine Street,
Vancouver, BC, V6J 4P8

