

Hasting Park Conservancy
ParkWatch in Hastings Park
July 2009

ParkWatch in Hastings Park



The PNE: Caretakers of Green Spaces And Treasured Sites in our Community

The Trans Canada Trail as it goes through east Vancouver,
parking lot #10, managed and maintained by the PNE,
allowed to be used as a garbage dump and graffiti canvas.

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| Date & Time | Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm |
| ParkWatch Observers | Armin Strohschein & Georgina Nicholson |
| Weather Condition | Overcast, some sun |

Area
Observation / Remarks



The entrance to Hastings Park.
Why no mention of the proper geographic name: Hastings Park. "The Fair at the PNE" ~ what is this??? The PNE is only a 17 day fair and a for-profit administration team, not a location.
The PNE is not so fondly referred to in the community as the "Pay 'NEnter".

Wonderful statue celebrating the Miracle Mile of Roger Bannister and John Landy obscured by joint PNE - Pattison commercialization at entrance of Hastings Park. Does the Park Board allow car dealerships to advertise in Stanley Park or QE Park in this intrusive manner?



Below, boulevard on east side of Renfrew Street is very unattractive. Old blacktop needs to be removed and something far more environmentally acceptable and esthetically pleasing needs to be installed.



Area
Observation / Remarks

Commemorative plaque in Momiji Garden needs to have green algae removed. All a matter of careful and consistent maintenance.



Morning glory, the symbolic plant of the PNE, is doing well in Momiji Gardens as usual.

Bench in Momiji Garden need repair.



Area
Observation / Remarks

The granite cow in the Italian Gardens has finally had the ears replaced. Unfortunately the ground beneath the cow is not properly leveled and the cow does not look like it is sitting in a field. Note traces of green graffiti.



Some garden beds recently weeded and new bedding material planted in the central garden bed looks good. No reason why the rest of the Italian Gardens could not be maintained in a similar state.

In the background, trees have finally been planted to replace those that have been dead and removed for years. Still one tree at north-west end of the allee that has not been replaced.



Area
Observation / Remarks



Above right, trees planted to cover concrete wall frequently covered in graffiti.

Above left, walk way pavers in need of maintenance.

Left, trip hazard on walk way, immediately in front of stairs in Italian Gardens, Opera Walk.

Even though there has been more weeding and maintenance in the Italian Gardens than usual, there is still a lot more to do. The recent flurry of maintenance probably had more to do with the Bollywood Wedding event in the Italian Gardens than anything else.



Would you send your child or your mom into one of these?

The Community Legacy Fund grant application to have bathroom facilities with running water and flushing toilets close to the Playground denied.

The PNE Administration building has a sign on the locked door: "No Public Washrooms". You can bet that the PNE CEO & administrative staff do not have to use bathroom facilities like these!

Area
Observation / Remarks

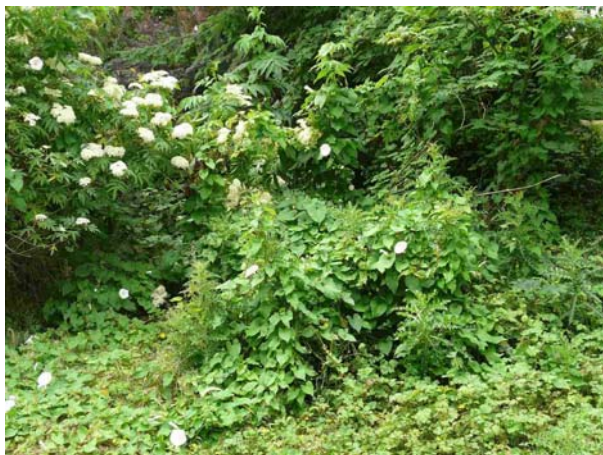
Water level in the south and north Sanctuary ponds is low as usual, particularly the north pond which is all but empty. Promises by the PNE that the pond would be filled obviously not kept. Original design called for a water proof plastic liner. The problem must be corrected to ensure water levels stay high year round. This certainly is never a problem in lakes and ponds in Stanley Park.



Garbage on ground at boat launch in Sanctuary. Lack of strategically located garbage cans around Sanctuary results in garbage frequently being thrown everywhere and anywhere.

Area
Observation / Remarks

Poorly removed graffiti on concrete columns at boat launch and east bridge. Better graffiti removal needs to be done on these structures.



Morning glory everywhere, even one park visitor buried alive in morning glory!
Time for ParkPartners or Gorilla Gardeners to help the PNE with park maintenance!



More graffiti that needs to be thoroughly removed.

Area
Observation / Remarks

The Kiwanis cabin (and covered announcement board) at the north-east end of the Sanctuary used by the PNE only during the 17 day fair. These structures would be a perfect as a nature house and announcement board for educational purposes but the PNE is neither into supporting nor sharing with the community.



Replacement plaques are not weathering well and do not appear to be the same quality as the originals that were stolen.

New astilbe planted at the north end of the Sanctuary at the steps.



Granite boulders thrown into the bush on east side of the Sanctuary pond surely could be used for some landscaping project. What a waste! Recent Bench Mark community project at Hastings & Kamloops Streets used recycled granite blocks from the Bell Funeral Home.

Area
Observation / Remarks

A number of posts on the fence at the west side of Sanctuary pond need replacement.



Hot water tank in the only open men's washroom is an invitation to vandalism.



PNE needs to do a much better job of removing garbage on site. Bleachers garbage-free, filthy beneath the bleachers.



Area between Empire Bowl and Playland continues to be garbage dump.

Area
Observation / Remarks

Many dry days preceded this photograph. Pool of water at south end of Empire Bowl possible indication of a water leak in the area?



Above, more garbage at the north end and east side of Empire Bowl as well as graffiti on concrete surfaces. A better job of weeding, garbage & graffiti removal is needed.

Area
Observation / Remarks



Above, yet more garbage at the north end of the Racetrack horsemen's parking lot. This parking lot was strewn with garbage.

New, temporary(?) stable at south end of racetrack. Much better than the old, decrepit and leaking barns that are currently in use.

Similarly designed metal structure noticed north of Hastings between Playland and the Sanctuary ~ What is it?



Leeside Skateboard Tunnel colourfully decorated, clean and free of garbage. If skate boarders can keep their recreation area clean, why can't the horsemen keep their parking lot clean?

Area
Observation / Remarks



Above are the trees butchered by the PNE and Pattison sign company in November 2007 to give better sight lines to Pattison signs installed in a public park. To the right are beautiful, maturing trees on the south side of Hastings Street planted around the same time as the butchered trees. The comparison between the two is sickening. Although the Park Board promised that remedial action would be taken, more than 2 years later, nothing has yet happened.



And as this ParkWatch started, so it ends. The Trans Canada trail that runs through the PNE-maintained parking lot #10 is a disgrace. It is continually used as a garbage dump for building material, old couches and bags of who knows what.



Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore gave the PNE \$1.4 million towards the fair's \$6 million entertainment budget from the federal government's Marquee Tourism Event Fund. Perhaps some of the hard earned public tax dollars need to be used more carefully, like for a thorough clean-up of Hastings Park.