

Friends of Uplands Park

To create opportunities for stewardship, education and inspiration.

Annual Report for 2011

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 12, 2012.

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/>

Abeer Abed
Ralph Archibald
Dave Blundon
Ron Carter
John Henigman
Helen Johnson
Norman Mogensen
Christina Ross (Treasurer)

Friends of Uplands Park (FOUP) Co-Chairs/Founders:

Margaret Lidkea mlidkea @ shaw.ca
Kathleen Matthews kathleenmatt @ gmail.com

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 – 2011

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 - 2011:

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

- **February 2011**, Darcy Mathews, a professional archaeologist and UVic PHD candidate (Anthropology) spoke about the First Nations Burial Cairns in Uplands Park. Oak Bay News Write up: <http://www.oakbaynews.com/community/115601274.html>
- **September 2011**, a panel of 8 experts, including members from the Oak Bay Parks Department, spoke about [Uplands Park Now & in the Future](#). Details at <http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2011/09/12/poster-friends-of-uplands-park-public-meeting-september-29-2011/>

FOUP Annual Events - 2011:

Celebrate the creativity inspired by Uplands Park.

- In April 2011, FOUP and CAOB collaborated to host the *(first ever) Oak Bay Earth Day Celebration*, and the event was held at Uplands Park. Please see the announcement for this event in the March 2011 edition of the Oak Bay Connector at <http://oakbaycommunityassociation.org/news-and-calendar/latest-news-and-information-2/>

Acknowledgements: For our annual Oak Bay Earth Day Celebration, FOUP continues to enjoy a successful collaboration with the Community Association of Oak Bay. The June 2010 edition of *The Oak Bay Connector* features a write up of the *2010 Uplands Park Celebration*, the event that launched the Friends of Uplands Park and inspired the 2011 FOUP-CAOB Earth Day Event/Celebration that was held at Uplands Park on April 22, 2011.

FOUP Ecological Stewardship Activities – 2011

Support initiatives for protecting the ecosystems of Uplands Park

- **October 2011 – Annual Uplands Park Broom Bash.** Details at <http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2011/10/13/uplands-park-2011-broom-bash-poster/>
- **November 2011 - Margaret Lidkea Trains Six Team Leaders for Invasive Plant Removal in Uplands Park.** Details at <http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/2011/11/22/margaret-lidkea-trains-six-team-leaders-for-invasive-plant-removal-in-uplands-park/>
- **Local School Based ecological Stewardship Initiatives**
Public and Private Schools were notified of our events and the educational opportunities for learning about the endangered Garry Oak Ecosystems, for invasive plant removal and community involvement. Nature walks were given to Camosun Environmental students in David Blundon's class, and Oak and Orca School.
Invasive Removal and Restoration opportunities involved participation by Camosun Environmental students, UVic Wellness students, Glenlyon-Norfolk School students, and St. Michael's University School students in Uplands Park and Monterey Middle School students on Anderson Hill.

FOUP Community Educational Activities – 2011

Seek out local knowledge about Uplands Park.

- **Monthly Bird Walks:** Ralph Archibald of the *Friends of Uplands Park* has hosted monthly bird walks from Cattle Point through Uplands Park. Last Sunday of the month.
<http://friendsofuplandspark.wordpress.com/category/birding-at-uplands-park/>

FOUP Special Projects – 2011

Support initiatives for protecting the ecosystems of Uplands Park. Educate our community on the natural and cultural history of Uplands Park.

- **Uplands Park Signage Project** – Members of the FOUP Steering Committee have been meeting with Oak Bay Parks to research and plan an improved signage system for Uplands Park and to explore the opportunity to relocate and enhance the Uplands Park information KIOSK. It is hoped that some new signage might be in place by the 2011 earth Day Celebration.

FOUP Steering Committee Meetings – 2011

- **Steering Committee Meetings**, 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** – launched in August 2011.

FOUP Financial Report and Budget – 2011

- Attached in Appendix A

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – STATISTICS FOR 2011

MEMBERSHIP based on number of emails some of which have more than 1 person	146	
PUBLIC MEETINGS:		
February 2011 Speaker Darcy Matthews	12	(snow)
September 2011 Parks Panel	40	
EVENTS:		
April 2011 Earth Day Celebration	300	(estimate)
*family picnic, band, educational displays & activities		
*bird watching		
*4 nature walks		
*invasive plant removal		
*park cleanup		
EDUCATION		
March 2011 Camosun College Environmental Students: walk led by M Lidkea	26	
May 2011 Oak and Orca School Nature walk led by M Lidkea	12	
Monthly Bird Walks led by R Archibald	60	
ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP		
April 2011 Earth Day	35	(70 hours)
Oct 2011 Annual Broom Bash total participants	133	(265 hours)
43 Girl Guides		
8 UVic students in Wellness Course		
4 Glenlyon Norfolk School students		
4 St. Michael's School Sports Teams		
FOUP and general community members		
November 2011 Training of Invasive Team Leaders	6	
November 2011 Scouts & FOUP	17	(23 hours)
November 2011 Homeschoolers & FOUP	16	(24 hours)
October to December 2011 Anderson Hill Monterey School 8 week Enrichment program	29	(150 hours)