SITELINES

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects

WINTER

In Memoriam • Survey • Trees: Transmission Lines - Trends - SODS • Garden Reads

February 2008

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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WINTER is one of the perfect times of the year for curling up by a fire in an easy chair and reading a book, even if the fire is only a DVD on a nearby laptop monitor. (I select the crackling sound effect option when I warm up beside my version.) In this issue, we introduce three books that may interest our readers, and I am particularly pleased to include retired landscape architect Elspeth Bradbury's latest, as I have fond memories of her previous books from my pre-landscape architecture days. Her lovely botanical drawings grace her article, and star on the cover of this issue. Another book explores the observations of ecologist Don Gayton in his garden, and Roy Jonsson's book shares his wealth of garden knowledge and is reviewed by BCSLA member Paul Whitehead. In addition we include several articles to do with trees in our urban environment, including the constraints and opportunities of open space beneath transmission lines, latest tree trends and a SODs update. MBCSLA Chris Sterry, who spearheaded the Workplace Survey with the assistance of BCSLA director Carolyn Kennedy and which is now available on line at the BCSLA website, gives an overview of the results of the survey.

But to begin with, we pay tribute to one of our own, the late Dan Matsushita, and remember some of his many contributions as a landscape architect and long time member of the BCSLA.

BY JANE GREEN

Big Leaf Maple, drawing by Elspeth Bradbury

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rainwater CAFÉ

Complete Rainwater Management Seminar

Many landscape architects in British Columbia have been promoting related best management practices for stormwater management for sustainable communities. Now, wetter winters and drier summers will increase the focus on water conservation, water reuse and rainwater capture.

The combination of stormwater management and water conservation falls under the scope of **'Complete Rainwater Management'**.

JOIN US ON MARCH 8, 2008 FOR THREE TOPICAL SESSIONS:

- Current problems and solutions around the world in rainwater management.
- Adding science and calculations to rainwater management using the Water Balance Model powered by Qualhymo.
- Practical Implementation of Rainwater Management in local projects.

The Rainwater Café will be provided by three of Lanarc Consultants key staff:

David Reid, FCSLA, is co-author of Metro Vancouver's Stormwater Source Control Design Guidelines 2005, as well as the Provincial Stormwater Guidebook. He has been instrumental in many integrated stormwater management plans and has integrated BMPs into municipal engineering manuals and practical installations.

Don Crockett, BCSLA, designs and supervises installation of stormwater BMPs for Lanarc, and will provide practical design guidance using examples of absorbent landscape, infiltration swales, rain gardens, pervious paving and other stormwater practices.

Brett Korteling, Environmental Planner, combines extensive experience with the Island Trust as well as recent research with Lanarc Consultants into both stormwater management planning and water conservation strategies. He will demonstrate the current upgraded release of the Water Balance Model, which provides a web-based integration of stormwater source control design and the Qualhymo modelling program.

Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the science, calculation, art and implementation of rainwater management, integrating 'elegant' design with the pragmatic aspects.

Saturday, March 8, 2008 — 9:00 am - 3:15 pm

Pacific Palisades Hotel, Mambo Ballroom - Mezzanine - 1277 Robson Street, Vancouver BC

Cost: (including GST, morning refreshment breaks and lunch)

BCSLA Members and their guests: To Feb. 29, 2008 - **$68.25** After Feb. 29, 2008 - **$78.75**

Non-members: **$78.75** Students: **$31.50**

Refreshments: 9:00 am. Presentation: 9:30-10:45, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:45 pm- 3:15 pm.

British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects

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For more information please call (604) 682-5610

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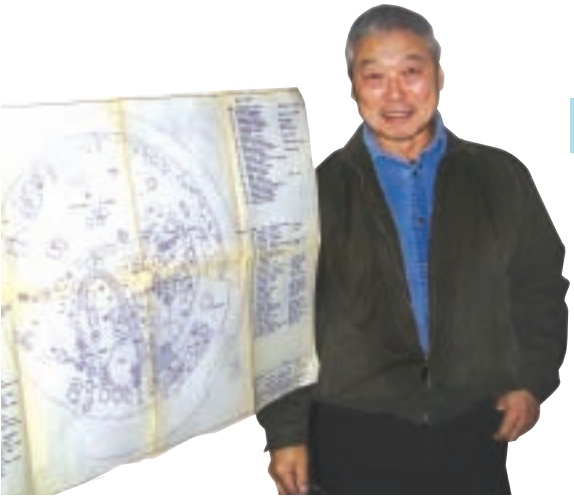

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL MATSUSHITA

1938-2007

BY CLIVE L. JUSTICE, PHD FCSLA, LMBCSLA,
WITH ADDITIONS BY PAT CAMPBELL MBCSLA PRINCIPAL DMG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Dan with his landscape plan of the Bloedel Conservatory
Photo provided by Tara Culham

The untimely death of Daniel (Danny) Matsushita, Landscape Architect and Park Planner, marks the end of an era that has seen the establishment of the profession and the licensing of landscape practitioners on a provincial wide basis. A native of Vancouver, Dan was born at home at 4th Avenue and Pine (Danny's parents owned a corner store there). Danny told me he was thirteen years old in 1941 when he and his family and other Japanese who lived in Vancouver, Steveston, Prince Rupert, on the Gulf and Vancouver Islands on the Pacific Coast, were shipped off into the interior to such places as New Denver in the Kootenays to sit out the war years. Dan's family was interned at Popoff, in the Slocan Valley. All possessions were seized by the crown and sold off. After the war they were told they couldn't go back to their homes in Vancouver or the other places on this Coast but could only go east of the Rocky Mountains or to Japan.

Danny went with his family to the Niagara Peninsula. There he completed high school and went on to receive a Diploma in Horticulture from the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph. His passion for landscape motivated him to article with J. Austin Floyd, a pioneer professional landscape firm doing residential garden design and town planning. The school of Landscape Architecture at Guelph under Albertan Victor Chanasyk was not initiated until 1964. There were no other universities or colleges in Canada with a full Landscape Architecture program at the time. Later in life, Dan completed a Bachelor of Arts from UBC in Urban Geography.

After his graduation from Guelph Dan jumped into his MGB and returned to Vancouver. In 1963, as manager of Muirhead and Justice Landscape Architects, I hired Danny, taking him on as draughtsman and on an informal apprenticeship system. That enabled Danny, in 1965, to qualify under the 8 part exam system the BCSLA had developed to become a full member of the BCSLA. There were many to follow from our office and others in Vancouver. Danny went on to become Assistant to Vancouver Park's Superintendent William (Bill) Livingston. He was the first BCSLA member to be hired by the Vancouver Board of Recreation and Parks.

Soon after his return to Vancouver, Dan married his wife of 43 years, Jean. Dan and Jean had two children, first a daughter, Dana and then a son, Jeff. Dan and Jean took pride in raising their children and renovating their lovely home and garden. Dan and Jean loved to travel. They took the opportunity often and participated in many of the Post Convention Tours with IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects). Dan had a life long passion for playing golf and travel. His favorite holiday destination was Hawaii.

In 1972 Dan started his own firm, Dan Matsushita & Associates. Dan's firm went into partnership with David Mitchell and Barry Elliott to form the DM Group in 1984. The firm continues now as DMG Landscape Architects. The firm rose from the recession of the mid 80's to be documented as the largest grossing firm in the Vancouver market in the 1990's. Dan continued his work on park projects, designing Vancouver's Barclay Heritage Square, and Devonian Harbour Park as well as parks in Richmond, Nanaimo and North Vancouver. He had a knack for forging great business relationships with many successful architects and developers during this busy period of development in Vancouver. He worked with Cressey, Intrawest, Polygon and many others. Dan's Langara Estates at 49th and Cambie earned the firm CSLA Design recognition. Other notable projects include Grace and Royal Columbian Hospitals, the dramatic landscape at the BC Telephone Building, and the CSLA Award recognized Taxation Data Centre. Dan was always very supportive of the profession and served on the Board of the BCSLA for two terms as Director. Through the years he generously mentored many of his staff, including Kate Davis-Johnson, Patricia Campbell and Mary Chan Yip as well as two pre-deceased staff, Ken VandenBosch and Cathy Blood. Dan retired from the firm in 1990 to spend more time traveling and playing golf. He continued working as a consultant for the region's parks with the GVRD. Then, in semi retirement, Dan served as a Volunteer with CESO/SACO with assignments in Manchuria, Armenia, India and Russia.

Continued on Page 7

The 2007 BCSLA Workplace Survey

CHRIS STERRY BA, DIP LA, BCSLA PRINCIPAL PWL PARTNERSHIP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
CAROLYN KENNEDY BA, MLA, BCSLA ASSOCIATE PERRY + ASSOCIATES

The BCSLA 2007 Workplace Survey provides much new data about the profession in BC and may reveal some interesting trends in the profession:

How did the membership respond to the survey? Very well!

185 members responded to the survey in a one month period representing a response rate of 45% of the overall population. Registered Landscape Architects and Land-scape Interns make up the bulk of the membership. We received responses from 44% of all Registered Landscape Architects and 48% of all Interns. Results should therefore equally reflect both categories of membership.

Which Sectors do we work in?

74% of respondents work in the Private Sector with 22% being Sole Practitioners while 19% of respondents work in the Public Sector and 7% of respondents work in the Education Sector. 50% of Registered Landscape Architect respondents hold the position of principal, which indicates the large percentage of small firms or single practitioners currently operating in BC. Only 6 respondents reported working as educators providing too small a group for detailed analysis.

We have a healthy age distribution amongst members.

Respondents are very evenly spread throughout the 26 - 55 age groups with between 13 to 18% of the respondents in each 5-year age increment with just over 90% of the membership in this age range.

Is the public sector facing a retirement crisis?

The age distribution for local government sector respondents between the ages of 20-45 is very similar to the overall population (of respondents) but with a marked concentration of respondents between 46-55 years old (42% of the sector). When we consider the early retirement age in this sector, (there were no respondents over 55 years old!), does this suggest an impending large-scale loss of members in the next ten years?

By comparison the 46-55 year olds in the Partnership and Corporation Sector represent only 32% of that sector and more members continue to work after 55 years old with over 7% of the sector in that age group.

In the Sole Practitioners Sector there are over 41% of the population in the 46-55 year old age group but there are also 15% of the sector working between 55 and 70 suggesting a significant but perhaps more gradual loss of members.

Will women dominate the profession in BC?

Women represented 51% of respondents to the survey overall. When we consider that 57.4% of female respondents are less than 40 years of age compared to 33.7% of male respondents it could suggest a future in landscape architecture dominated by women. In addition only 2.2% of female respondents are over 55 years old compared to 13.5% of males. With increases in young female members and greater potential losses of older male members to retirement this might represent a substantial shift in the gender balance.

Is there a surge in young females members? Is this a real phenomenon or does the male / female balance get eroded by differing attrition rates? If we continue to survey the membership on a regular basis we will gain an increasing understanding of these changing demographics.

When we look at BCSLA Intern respondents 67.2% are women whereas only 38.7% of Registered Landscape Architect respondents are women. This may simply reflect a younger age distribution for women or may indicate other factors impeding women from becoming registered. Do we have a glass ceiling in the field of landscape architecture?

Only 30.4% of female respondents hold the position of principal or associate compared to 48.8% of men. The median salary for female respondents is $31 compared to $40 for men.

How experienced are we? Not very!

23.35% of respondents started full time work in Landscape Architecture in the 5-year period between 2000 and 2004 and another 10.78% in the two-year period between 2005 and 2007. That just over 34% starting since 2000! At that rate by 2009, 43% of members would have less than 10 years experience assuming there is no attrition by older members.

Between 1990 and 2000 approximately 13% of respondents started work in each 5 year period with a spike of 18% between 1985 to 1989 (Expo?) and in the 5 year periods prior to this, 11% (1980-84), 7% (1975-79), 2.5% (1970-74), 0.6% (1965-69).

Can you make a good living as a Landscape Architect? Yes!

When asked your current income in dollars per hour responses ranged from $15.00 to $100 per hour. Approx 34% of respondents reported earning less than $30 per hour, 39% earn between $30-$50 per hour and 27% earn more than $50 per hour.

In Memory of Daniel Matsushita

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One of Danny's Vancouver Parks legacies, and there are many, is his planting plan and walkabout layout of the Queen Elizabeth Park Bloedel Conservatory. The geodesic dome has mixed trees, shrubs and ground-covers from different subtropical environments selected for ornamental, artistic garden display qualities of colour, texture and form, not a tropical jungle or desert ecology but a garden art ecology. Our recent BCSLA Directors' Christmas Party for the membership was held in the QE Conservatory which was decorated for the season with masses of poinsettias in the now myriad bract colours of red, white, cream, orange, and salmon of these Christmastime plants. It was a visual feast to see a work of art by a master Landscape Architect and plantsman. Little did most of us that were present know that it would become his memorial. Danny had died the night before, December 7th 2007. He was 79 and a Life Member of the BCSLA.

It was Dan's request that there be no funeral service. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring at his beloved University Golf Club. Donations to the B.C. Cancer Society would be appreciated.

The 2007 BCSLA Workplace Survey *– Continued from page 6*

Sole Practitioners reported earning from $15 per hour to $100 per hour. The range and distribution was so erratic in this group it almost defies any generalization. 17.6% of Sole practitioners claimed income earnings of $96-$100 per hour. This would equate to a salary of $187,000 to $195,000 a year. While this may be possible there may be confusion between personal income with charge-out rates (which typically cover overhead). Future surveys will need to clarify these issues.

Respondents working in the Partnerships and Corporations Sector reported incomes from $18 to $100 per hour. Just over 14% earned between $18 and $23 per hour, 33% between $24 and $29 per hour and 37% between $30 and $50 per hour. That's 70% between $24 and $50 an hour representing a healthy salary range for many members. 15% of respondents reported incomes over $50 per hour.

In the Public Sector the salary range was much tighter starting from $27 up to $80 per hour.

About 10% of respondents make between $27 and $29 per hour. Almost 60% of respondents earn between $30 and $40 per hour. A further 23% make between $41 and $55 per hour with the remaining percentage earning higher rates.

How much do Interns make?

Interns reported salaries from $18 to $55 per hour with around 84% earning between $18 and $32 per hour. 30% earned between $24 and $26 dollars.

Is it worth being Registered?

Registered Landscape Architect respondents earned between $18 and $100 per hour. Only 7% earned less than $26 per hour, 15% between $27 and $32, 25% between $33 and $40, 17% between $41 and $50 and 12% between $51 and $60. The remainder reported salaries between $61 and $100.

Do we work hard?

Overtime is worked by 68.7% of the respondents with 25.2% working between 0-4 hours OT per week, 21.7% working 5-8 hours and 21.8 % work between 9 and 22.5 hours OT per week. 24% of respondents typically work no overtime.

Compensation for overtime hours ranges from time off in lieu of pay, hourly pay, enhanced hourly pay or no reward at all. Currently 30% of respondents reported that they are not rewarded for the overtime they work!

Where did we graduate?

42% of respondents graduated at the University of British Columbia, with the next most prevalent university being the University of Guelph, ON (17.39%). 79.74% of the respondents studied in Canada, 12.55% in the USA and 7.71% in other countries.

Landscape Architects

There are only 5 Landscape Architects members (non registered) in the Society. However seven respondents claimed this membership through the survey, which may indicate a misunderstanding of this membership category. There are insufficient members in this group to enable accurate generalizations about the data collected.

Feedback

If you have any thoughts or comments you would like to share regarding the survey and results, please feel free to share them with a letter to the editor. Similarly if you know of possible topics for future research please feel free to email the BCSLA office. The full survey results can be reviewed on line at the BCSLA website at, http://www.bcsla.org.

On behalf of the BCSLA, thank you for your contributions towards this research.

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT NEAR TRANSMISSION LINES

BY GARY HOLISKO, MCIP

Gary Holisko, with the assistance of two graduates of Dalhousie's School of Planning (Farhad Mawani, City of Vancouver and Josh Bassett, District of West Vancouver), has drafted guidelines for development adjacent to BC Transmission Corporation's transmission corridors.

BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC) is creating guidelines for development adjacent to its transmission corridors. The guidelines will assist landowners, designers, planners, developers and communities who are working within or beside power lines and transmission towers to minimize their impact and promote a quality environment.

BCTC was established in 2003 as a provincial Crown corporation to focus on building and maintaining a safe, reliable and cost-effective power grid. BCTC is responsible for operating, planning and maintaining the province's publicly owned high-voltage electric transmission grid, while BC Hydro retains ownership of the physical assets and the legal tenure for the rights-of-way.

Transmission voltage power is delivered through an interconnected system of more than 18,000 kilometers of transmission lines to substations which in turn step down the voltage for distribution. BCTC manages 20,500 steel towers, 75,000 wood poles, and 287 substations.

Lands under power lines and transmission towers, though primarily owned by private landowners, are subject to specific rights contained in the statutory right of way agreements and called Rights of Way (ROW). The agreements restrict owners' rights to activities that do not impact public safety, interfere with the operation of the lines, cause a hazard, or interfere with the rights granted. They also generally allow for the construction and maintenance of the existing facilities, including tree cutting, and their replacement with future lines.

Designing Around Power Lines: the Draft Guidelines

Landowners and developers often see proximity to power lines and ROWs as a factor that may affect property values. However, with effective planning and design, transmission corridors can provide benefits to landowners and create better, more aesthetically pleasing communities. A ROW on private property can create opportunities for individual property owners to enjoy larger lot sizes with the potential for large gardens and outdoor spaces, while the use of public ROW corridors for public amenities such as walking trails, playing fields, and bicycle paths contributes to attractive communities which in turn serves to enhance neighbourhood appeal and residents' property values.

The Design Elements:

Topography

Where towers are set in an elevated position and are viewed from lower ground, the scale and visual impact of the towers is emphasized. Conversely, where towers are viewed from an elevated position the visual impact is reduced. Towers set across the brow of a hill will be silhouetted against the sky and will appear more prominent than towers set in a similarly elevated position but with rising land or built development behind them.

Density

By placing buildings with higher heights closest to the overhead power line, views of the line can be screened from public areas. Higher densities close to power lines, particularly in residential areas, can have a negative perception. It is important to create a harmony between density, alignment, orientation and landscaping, as discussed below, in order to create an aesthetically appealing community. *Continued on page 10*

Guidelines for Development near Transmission Lines

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Alignment and Orientation

Buildings should be oriented to minimize direct views of towers. Some developments may face towards the overhead power lines, rather than towers, as part of a variety of design responses to the transmission route. Development blocks adjacent to overhead power lines can also be left open ended, with the resultant space being used to create public gardens, squares or parking courts. The use of buildings oriented perpendicular to the lines, offers the opportunity to minimize direct views towards the route, significantly reducing the visual impact from streets, buildings and gardens. This orientation is best suited for high and medium density developments usually in the form of high rise condominiums, apartments and town homes. The alignment of streets and paths can reduce the number of direct views of towers, minimizing their impact and reducing the impression of a linear corridor.

The orientation of homes parallel to the ROW does little to minimize the visual impact of the lines from inside the homes. Locate cul-de-sacs on the edges of the ROW and between towers. Curving streets and paths, even by relatively small degrees, can significantly reduce the visual impact of towers. Views towards towers may occur at some distance from the tower, and can also be framed by new street scenes and public open spaces at some distance from the towers, particularly where there may be changes in topography.

The arrangement of buildings, boundaries, fences, paths and planting in parallel with the transmission route over long distances will tend to highlight the presence of overhead power lines and the linear nature of the route and will make them more obtrusive. However, where one or more of these elements is varied and is not parallel, the linearity of the transmission route and its overall prominence can be diminished.

Distance

Varying the distance of development from transmission facilities is an important design tool. Buildings are not permitted within the ROW. Auxiliary buildings should be kept, as a minimum, at the edge of the ROW or set back to allow uses not otherwise permitted to take place within the ROW (e.g. in-ground swimming pools, greenhouses, garages, etc). In commercial and multi-residential settings, the area of the lot within the ROW can be used for parking and other amenities.

Landscaping and Screening

Landscaping provides one of the most effective methods of diffusing the effects of power lines as well as using the space within and adjacent to the ROW in a manner which is aesthetically pleasing and an amenity to homeowners. Screening can enhance the quality and intimacy of the immediate setting by creating the perception that towers have receded into the distance. The effectiveness of any screening depends on the distance of the viewer from the overhead power line and from the screening.

Within the ROW, trees and shrubs generally cannot exceed 3 meters in height at maturity. Appropriately low growing vegetation can be located within the ROW, while larger species can be planted near the edge of the ROW, thereby reducing the visual impact of the lines and enhancing the overall environment.

Outside of the ROW, strategic screening can enhance the quality and intimacy of the area, giving the impression that towers and lines are further away. Mature trees planted along streets can effectively screen views and enhance the residential environment. Layers of planting create a series of silhouettes into the distance, creating a depth in the field of vision that helps to reduce the visual impact of overhead power lines. In this way views of towers can be effectively screened without the need for continuous belts of planting. Where the branches of mature trees arch over the street, views of towers can be obscured for much of the year. Consideration should be given to the use of screening in layers with varying heights to match site circumstances.

Community Amenities within the ROW

Most public amenity uses are on municipal lands. While use of the ROW has some restrictions, the presence of long corridors of clear, open, space provides the opportunity to develop significant private and community amenities. In order to best use this space, it is worth considering design ideas such as:

- Breaking the transmission route into cells using roads, bridges, etc.
- Creating places with a variety of uses such as garden squares and parking lots
- Creating meandering paths and varied planting
- Providing a mix of activities beneath and adjacent to overhead power lines

The process BCTC uses to review and approve compatible ROW uses is outlined in a separate document "*Partners in Use, Guidelines for Compatible Uses for Transmission Lines*". Consent of the owner and the local government as well as BCTC will be required for any public use of a ROW.

The following are examples of compatible uses within the ROW, subject to maintaining safety clearances

Public Open Space and Playing Fields: active recreational uses may take place close to overhead lines subject to the nature of the activity, the layout of playing fields and the level of supervision. The location and type of lighting used for playing fields within rights of way need to be reviewed by BCTC where high voltage overhead lines are present.

Nature and Conservation: the retention or creation of nature conservation areas may be particularly suitable where public access to the area is restricted or prevented.

Circulation Paths: active recreation paths, roads, cycle paths and walkways can be successfully accommodated beneath high voltage overhead lines.

Allotments and Community Orchards: using ROWs for allotments and community orchards

Parking: accommodating ancillary parking beneath high voltage overhead lines.

Private Gardens: using ROWs for gardens and planting.

Power Line Safety and Maintenance

Contact, or near contact, with high voltage equipment is extremely dangerous and must be avoided. Objects that approach overhead electricity conductors too closely can cause fatal or severe shocks and burns. In order to prevent such incidents minimum safety clearances for all overhead power lines are prescribed, which must be maintained between conductors and the ground, trees, buildings and any other structures, such as street lighting.

Care must be taken in unloading, stacking or moving material underneath conductors and in the construction of buildings or other structures in the vicinity of an overhead power line. Generally, buildings located outside of the ROW are safe from any of these concerns.

1. Induced currents

Induction is the transfer of electric current or charge to an object that is not directly in contact with power lines. Induction can be an issue with buildings that are taller than two storeys or long buildings parallel and located adjacent to high voltage (generally 230 kV and higher) lines and ROWs because, as the height of a building increases, it comes into closer proximity to the high voltage wires with greater exposure to induced currents. While there is no direct public safety risk, it does significantly increase nuisance or micro-shocks. Developers should retain a professional consultant with expertise in calculating electric and magnetic fields, mitigation strategies, and safety issues during construction and after occupancy if they plan to build in close proximity to high voltage transmission lines.

2. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Power frequency (also referred to as extremely low frequency or ELF) electric and magnetic fields are present everywhere that electricity flows. All electric wires, and the lighting, appliances and other electrical devices they supply, are sources of electric and magnetic fields. Scientists have been researching EMF and possible health effects for more than 30 years and this extensive research has not established a link between health risks and EMF. Health Canada and the BC Centre for Disease Control say there is no reason to be concerned about exposure levels in typical Canadian homes and workplaces, regardless of the proximity to power lines.

3. Changes to ground level

Changes to the ground level are not permitted without approval, as there must be a minimum distance between the lowest point of the transmission line and the ground. When ambient temperature is high and transmission lines are operating at maximum capacity, the lines will sag.

Concluding thoughts:

Transmission towers and lines are part of our built environment. They are a necessary part of the infrastructure to provide electricity to our homes and businesses. Many transmission lines built in what were formerly rural areas are being "encroached" upon by development. It is hoped this article, and the guide it is based upon, provide some guidance on how to take the transmission lines into consideration in developing lands within and nearby. By doing so, there will be benefits to the owner, developer and community.

This is an updated version of the article that was first published in Planning West magazine, September 2007 edition. Reprinted with permission, Planning Institute of British Columbia.

Photos on pages 8 and 11: Gary Holisko, BC Transmission Corporation

2008 Tree Trends

BY WALT PINDER
PROJECT MANAGER
SPECIMEN TREES WHOLESALE NURSERIES

With all the different influences that create trends in our world it takes a lot longer to create tree trends than creating the next new "in" colour that changes from year to year. The environment in general, seems to be on all our minds today with global warming, global cooling, global politics and global change. Tree trends can be unique to a location or as general as the world. A tree trend that starts in California may not be feasible here in our Zone area of 2 to 7. Tree trends are influenced by the wants and needs of the end user, the creative decisions of the Landscape Designer and by the availability of tree selection at the nursery. If a nursery wants to affect certain tree trends then it has to be able to read our ever changing world and anticipate the wants and needs of our local urban environment. If a trend suddenly changes, a nursery cannot turn on a dime. Once our trees are planted it takes 5 to 6 years to start to move a particular variety through the sales process. With proper education of our customers, be they Landscape Architects, Landscape Designers, Cities, Municipalities, Landscapers or Garden Centers, we can influence some of the choices that are being made in the urban landscape today. Following are some of the trees that we feel fit the current and up coming trends of 2008.

Let's start with the "Has and Does Everything" tree; that multi-functional tree for the city dwelling, double income family with 2 kids in 10 different sports, looking to spend their free time at a yoga/Pilates class or out on the green enjoying a good game of golf. This tree has and does everything – small in stature, good leaf colour, good fall colour, flowers, attractive decorative bark and is low maintenance. Our choice here is Parrotia persica 'Inge's Ruby Vase'™ , a selection of Persian Ironwood developed by Specimen Trees Wholesale Nurseries Ltd. with strong upright vase-shaped branching. The tree has medium green leaves with the occasional strong ox-blood leaf colour during the summer giving way to vibrant fall colour. Exfoliating bark makes for interesting trunk patterns to look at during the winter, and late February brings on a profusion of red, witch-hazel like flowers.

Now let's look at the "Small in stature, Low Maintenance" tree, perfect for that small urban yard or fitting under power lines on the street. Catalpa bignonoides 'Nana' is a beautiful globe shaped tree that has a 6m diameter head on a very tall standard (2.5m minimum). This large leafed tree turns golden yellow in the fall. Another globe shaped tree which does well in the city is Carpinus betulus 'Globosum' (6m high by 5m wide). Both these trees have a lollipop shape requiring little to no pruning, are disease and pest resistant, drought tolerant and can take the pollution of the city. Our third pick in this category is Acer platanoides 'Globosum'. This variety does well in height restricted areas with a 5m high by 6m wide symmetrical head with good yellow fall colour.

An on-going tree trend is the 'Columnar' tree and there are now many good varieties to choose from. Along with the old standbys of Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata', Acer rubrum 'Bowhall', Acer rubrum 'Armstrong' and Populus tremula 'Erecta' we suggest Quercus palustris 'Green Pillar', Quercus robur 'Regal Prince', Quercus robur 'Crimson Spire'. Each of these new columnar oaks are tough as nails and do not have the powdery mildew or heavy aphid infestation like the Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'. Let's not forget that there are also upright growing conifers available, such as Pinus sylvestris 'Fastigiata' and Pinus nigra 'Arnold's Sentinel', each a good alternative to the commonly used Pinus nigra. These pines are fastigiate forms that grow 8m high by 2.25m wide and carry long 10/12 cm bluish-green needles.

For the 'Wild and Unusual' we have Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Leprechaun', a very interesting dwarf tree now reaching saleable size in our nursery. This is a genetic dwarf form of Green Ash and is especially suited for under power lines. It stands 6m high by 5m wide with small green leaves that turn a beautiful yellow colour in the fall.

Who can forget the classic "Small Flowering" trees? Dogwoods are the perfect choice for this trend. The Rutgers University hybrid crosses of Cornus florida and Cornus kousa are excellent improvements over the traditional Cornus florida or Cornus florida rubra. Our picks are Cornus x 'Stellar Pink' (pink flower), Cornus x 'Celestial' (white flower), Cornus x 'Constellation' (white flower), Cornus x 'Ruth Ellen' (white flower) and Cornus x 'Aurora' (white flower). Also from the same University are the Cornus kousa and Cornus nuttallii crosses; Cornus x Venus (white flower) and Cornus x 'Starlight' (white flower). These profusely flowering dogwoods all grow to about 6m high by 4m wide, and all feature improved disease resistance with good winter hardiness and some drought tolerance.

We should also mention the small flowering trees that love shade. As the Urban Landscape continues to fill-in and rise upward, the need for good trees in shady areas are in demand. Cercis canadensis (Redbud) is a good variety for this scenario. More and more varieties are being developed, such as Cercis canadensis 'Alba' (white flower, green leaf), Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' (dark pink flower, red leaf), Cercis canadensis 'Ace of Spades' (dwarf growing, pink flower, overlapping green leaves that grow in a unique formation along and down the stem), Cercis canadensis 'Covey' (also known as Lavender Twist Redbud, has a weeping, twisted form, pink flower, green leaves) and finally Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold' (lavender-purple flower, yellow leaves).

In the maple category we have many new improvements to the more popular varieties. This new group of Acer rubrum has a better overall uniform crown; leaves are smaller with more vibrant fall colour. The tall open crowned Acer rubrum 'Morgan' has been replaced by Acer rubrum 'Sun Valley' or Acer rubrum 'Burgundy Belle'. Other varieties in production are Acer rubrum 'Red Rocket' and Acer rubrum 'Brandywine'. Each of these new varieties grows to about 13m high by 11m wide and possess great fall colour.

Though all the trees that are listed in this article are not widely available we feel they fit the current trends of today. A trend we would like to be responsible for is quality. Sometimes quality is forgotten when shopping for services and products in our industry, whether you are a Landscape Architect/Designer, Landscaper, Garden Center or supplier we all compete for the same dollar. As a supplier of nursery stock, providing the best in quality products and service is our goal. Quality always stands the test of time and your work will be remembered long after the price is forgotten.

SODS Update

BY HEDY DYCK AND SHANE SELA
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT & GROWERS ISSUES
BC LANDSCAPE & NURSERY ASSN.

Phytophthora ramorum is a fungus-type disease that affects a large range of host plants. The most well-known symptom is the sudden death of oak trees, particularly down in California and Oregon, from which the nickname 'Sudden Oak Death' or SOD' has been coined.

P. ramorum is found in the wild in some counties of California and Oregon. P. ramorum is only found in nurseries in BC, from infected plants which have moved through the nursery system from infested sources. P. ramorum does not exist in the wild in BC and there have been only sporadic incidents in the last few years.

Where P. ramorum is found, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency enforces an eradication protocol that includes destruction of infected plants, as well as uninfected plants in the immediate vicinity, and remediation of the site to limit the risk of any disease remaining in the site.

In July 2007, Government of Canada announced that compensation was now available to facilities where P. ramorum was detected, alleviating a potential financial disaster resulting from the destruction of stock and treatment actions.

In the past few years, the science of P. ramorum has become better understood, but there are still many questions. One piece that has been well documented is that P. ramorum moves through water splash. Spores will literally slide off the leaves of plants when they are wet, but will cling tightly when leaves are dry. This knowledge forms one of the tenets of good Best Management Practices for nurseries – both for movement in high risk host plant beds, as well as bio-security and sanitation.

Many nurseries in BC continue to voluntarily participate in the P. ramorum Nursery Certification Program. The program includes Best Management Practices, sampling and testing, surveillance and monitoring as well as an audit to ensure compliance.

BC nurseries participating in the program are listed on the web at: http://64.34.71.228/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=750&SiteNodeID=102&BL_ExpandID=

These nurseries are actively working to limit the introduction or spread of P. ramorum into their nursery through the requirements of the P. ramorum Nursery Certification Program.

The CFIA has announced that there will be changes in the host plant list. In prior years, the CFIA listed host plants based on genus, whereas the US list host plants based on species. Following a scientific review of the incidences of P. ramorum outside of the generally infested areas, the incursion of the pest into new areas has not been stemmed by regulation at the genus level. The US and CFIA have now agreed to regulate host plants in a harmonized manner: Camellias, rhododendrons, kalmia, viburnum and pieris will be regulated based on genus whereas all other host plants will be regulated based on species. This will radically alter the way nurseries organize plants and handle the disease on-site. These changes will occur later in 2008.

Where there is a positive in a nursery, the CFIA will also trace any sales of potentially infected material destroying infected plants in high risk situations, if they test positive for P. ramorum, based on a harmonized eradication protocol developed by CFIA in collaboration with the U.S..

The P. ramorum issue not only includes the nursery industry, it also includes the berry industry as blueberries and raspberries, as well as some forest species are host plants for P. ramorum.

All drawings on opposite page by Elspeth Bradbury

1. *Cover of West Vancouver: A View Through The Trees*
2. *The biggest amabilis fir in the world grows in West Vancouver, BC*
3. *Arbutus*
4. *Red Legged Frog*
5. *Black Bear*

West Vancouver: A View Through The Trees

BY ELSPETH BRADBURY

While most local histories focus on human activities, this new book tells the story of the land itself and of the shifting relationship between people and the forest through 10,000 years.

About nine years ago, when I was serving on the West Vancouver Heritage Advisory Committee, I volunteered to expand an existing landscape inventory of 19 heritage trees and several sites. Few people in the District knew that such a list existed. Some way of publicizing our new inventory would obviously be needed, and I wondered if a book would serve the purpose. Several municipalities in BC had already published books listing their tree species. I felt a list would have much more value if the trees could be put into a historical context. Fellow committee members, including landscape architects Heinz Berger and Don Vaughan, were enthusiastic about the idea, and *West Vancouver: A View Through the Trees* was born.

I soon realized that almost every aspect of BC's forest history was represented in this relatively small community. I also discovered a great deal of unexpected drama: a history of ice and fire; devastation and hope; tragedy and fun; shady dealings and altruistic dedication. The list of significant trees – the original core of the book – was eventually relegated to an appendix.

The scope of the project I'd embarked on was overwhelming. It included geology, climatology, biology, ethnobotany and forestry as well as horticulture and social history. It was, in other words, the perfect job for a landscape architect – but what a job! At the start, for instance, I knew nothing about the history of logging in the area. It was a huge relief to discover that a group connected to the Historical Society (including honorary BCSLA member the late Pem van Heek), had already researched the topic. The research on recreational uses of the forest was equally daunting. An investigative reporter would have struggled to sort out the machinations that led to the creation of Cypress Provincial Park. Luckily for me, many local residents with excellent memories and clear heads were willing to come to my rescue.

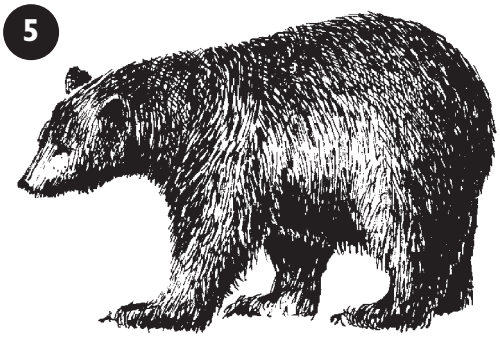
A major demand on forested land in West Vancouver has been, of course, for housing. It was fascinating to follow the evolution of suburban woodland and the motivations – utility, nostalgia, status – that prompted residents to choose different tree species from decade to decade. The English oak, horse-chestnut and copper beech that once offered welcome shade to home owners on recently cleared land were soon shunned as the community became more and more view-conscious. Views – along with above-ground services – soon determined the character of suburban woodland on West Vancouver's slopes.

With expanding settlement came the need for roads and hydro corridors, and more demands for recreational facilities. The forests that had once stretched unbroken from mountains to sea became more and more fragmented. Patches of woodland, isolated in parks, began to lose native species and to gain invasive introductions. During the 1990's it became evident that the forested land was in trouble, and several groups emerged to act on behalf of the environment.

From the start, I wanted drawings, maps and photographs to tell much of the story. This became possible only because many people, including retired landscape architect Clive Justice, donated their images. It took me years to work my way through growing files of information and through thousands of archival and modern photographs. The Heritage Committee had long since disbanded. What a good thing, I thought, that history doesn't go out of date! With the Winter Olympics, however, and the destruction of rare arbutus woodland at Eagleridge Bluffs in 2006, history was threatening to overtake me. It was time to call a halt.

Thanks to generous donations of expertise as well as money, *West Vancouver: A View Through the Trees* is now a reality. The hardcover, full-colour book retails at $45 (tax included) and all proceeds will go to the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society. It is available at Duthie Books and Blackberry Books in Vancouver, Indigo in West Vancouver and 32 Books in North Vancouver as well as West Vancouver District Hall, the Museum and Archives and Gleneagles Community Centre.

Elspeth Bradbury is a retired MBCSLA, long time resident of West Vancouver and author of four books.



INTERWOVEN WILD,
An Ecologist Loose in the Garden

BY DON GAYTON
THISTLEDOWN PRESS, SASKATOON

My latest book, *Interwoven Wild*, had an unusual genesis. I'm an ecologist by trade, and spend a lot of time in natural landscapes. But all along, I've enjoyed working in my yard, doing landscaping and gardening. Like good friends who suddenly discover they are lovers, one day I woke to the fact that my yard, however artificial, was an ecosystem too, containing many of the same delights, fascinations and mysteries of native ecosystems.

Interwoven Wild is the progeny of that belated love affair. Like the ambiguous term "gardening," the "garden" I write about is actually an eclectic mix of ornamentation and vegetables, native plants and wild accessions. As gardeners, I think we all pursue what I call the split Eden; the highly formal rose gardens and artificial flowerbeds, right next to rough and shaggy plantings that either emulate nature or are about to escape into it. Gardens can act as training wheels for ecologists, and nature in turn can tutor the landscaper.

A few snippets from the book:

My transit of fascination runs along a continuum that starts with the habitat of the house, moves outward to the fabricated ecologies of yard and garden, passes through disturbed ground and vacant lot, dawdles through landscape architecture, parks, agriculture, forests and grasslands, reaches all the way out to embrace classical ecosystems in our remaining shards of actual wilderness, and then cycles back to the yard again. I transplant ideas germinated in garden beds out into nature, to see how they do, and sometimes I bring a fragile wild concept back to my yard. My brand of ecology is occasionally angry, because of our heedless disrespect for nature, but indiscriminate to the point that it accepts a good portion of our humanity.

Much of what I need to know, as an ecologist and as a man, I can learn in the garden. I've lived with scientific ecology, and read many tomes on deep ecology. Now I'm content to work on a canine-friendly, street-level hybrid, which I call shallow ecology.

The yard offers us a pleasant laboratory in which to observe the natural against the artificial--how our human creations mesh or clash with those of nature.

Going out on a metaphorical limb here, I see a kind of genetic rationale for what Frederick Law Olmsted and John Muir proposed, and the logic goes something like this: we humans evolved with nature, in the landscape. As a result, we have ingrained responses to nature that are adaptive and valuable for us as a species. However these organismic reactions are instinctive, lying mostly below the level of consciousness. Explosive technological progress has distanced us from these ancient responses, which are subtle at the best of times. So we need to preserve some remaining shards of nature so we can go back out to them periodically. Once there, in nature, we can engage all our senses to identify those forgotten responses, and to understand the particular configurations of landscape and vegetation that trigger them. To find out why rocks emanate timelessness, why sunflowers code for optimism, and grasslands speak of freedom. Then we need to bring those recovered insights back to the city, and recreate natural configurations in miniature. Most of us don't have the opportunity for daily contact with nature, but we so interact frequently with urban yards, gardens, parks and boulevards. These urban green spaces can be profound proxies that will help us in the crucial challenge of re-weaving nature back into our culture.

Don Gayton is the author of three books of non-fiction (The Wheatgrass Mechanism, Landscapes of the Interior, Kokanee), and numerous technical and popular articles. His writing has won several honours, including the Canadian Science Writer's Award, the Saskatchewan Writers Guild Non-Fiction Award, and the US National Outdoor Book Award. Don has worked as a grassland specialist for both the Saskatchewan and British Columbia governments, and currently works as an ecologist in BC's Okanagan Valley.

GARDEN SENSE,
Secrets of an Experienced Gardener

Review by Paul Whitehead MBCSLA
Principal Greenway Landscape Architecture

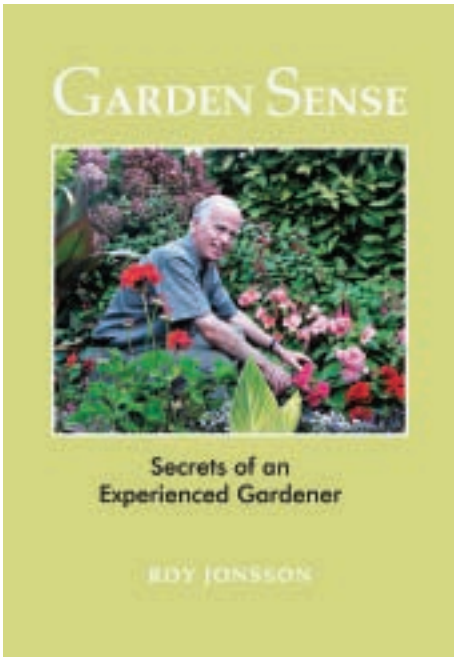
BY ROY JONSSON
SELF PUBLISHED, 2007 (WWW.ROYJONSSON.COM)

There is a common misperception that as landscape architects we have great knowledge of all things garden. Some may, but for the rest of us we would do well to learn more about the myriad aspects of the cultivated landscapes we design. As professionals, people rely upon us to be knowledgeable, or at least sufficiently aware of horticultural issues so as to be useful. All the information needed is available if one is inclined to do the research, but a single source that is both all encompassing, yet readable has been missed. To that end, *Garden Sense* was written to provide "the secrets that every gardener needs to know to create and maintain a great garden".

As Roy mentions, the intent was not to cover everything, but rather to share what he has learned. Each chapter discusses a different horticultural aspect, providing sufficient scientific background, useful plain language descriptions, and anecdotal relevance so that the reader can actually make use of the information. Although easy to read, and often written in almost conversational language, the pertinent information is available to address most any situation. Typically, horticultural issues are multifaceted, so you may encounter problems if you are looking for the specific answer to a specific situation. But if you read through, you will become better informed to answer your own question. If not, at least you will know enough to be able to intelligently ask an expert.

The book is geared towards the home garden, but horticultural knowledge can be applied at any scale, from pots, planters, and commercial landscapes, to the community garden and my own backyard. I had several gardening problems in mind when I started reading, spe-cifically what to do with some struggling Rhododendrons and the pruning of a variety of different plants. Each page either presented new ideas, or refreshed the memory of what I have learned. I now have a better sense as to what is needed in my garden (starting when the rain stops).

With the exception of those who already answer questions, I would recommend that just about everyone would benefit from reading *Garden Sense*. Be they new to landscape architecture, a new home owner, or an old home owner who still asks a lot (sorry, mom). Roy has been answering questions for 27 years, so there are very few new questions to ask. The book is not really full of secrets, but rather a wealth of information that would otherwise require a lot of gardening experience to unearth.



Cover of Garden Sense – Secrets of an Experienced Gardener

Roy Jonsson's garden column appears in the North Shore News. In addition he is a teacher and consultant as well as a member of the BCLNA and served on the Landscape Standard Committee developing standards for green roofs.

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