



Open Space for Blind Children

by Pawel Gradowski

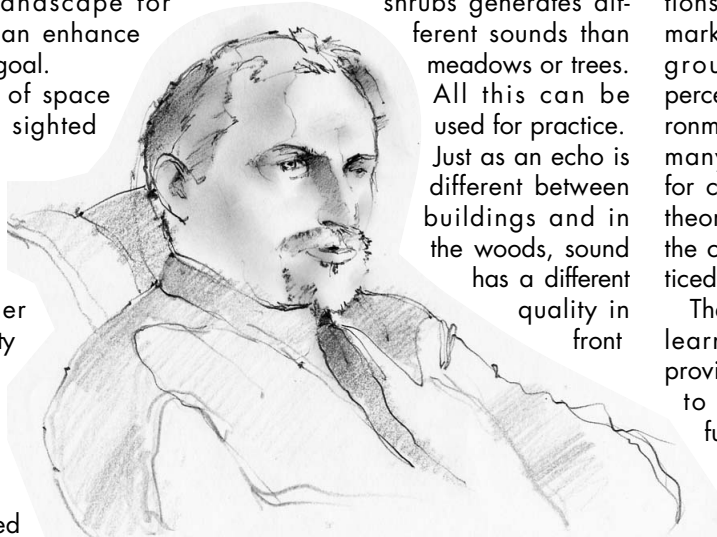
A child's full understanding of the world is the key goal of a school for the blind. Beyond the classroom, a landscape for blind children can enhance this educational goal.

A conception of space varies between sighted people who base it upon visual experience and blind people who rely upon other senses. The mobility skills of blind people depend upon this understanding of spatial orientation.

Partially sighted children can distinguish large objects or objects with bright colour. Play elements should be comprised of large colourful elements, rather than customary steel bars. Children with little vision have to rely on other senses in spatial orientation. Tactile perception, sound, smell and temperature perception are all used to classify the surrounding environment.

To develop better hearing abilities in blind children, the school yard can be equipped with various sound generating objects that will allow training in localizing these objects. Wind generates different

sound qualities on different objects. Large deciduous trees sound different from conifer trees. The wind in shrubs generates different sounds than meadows or trees. All this can be used for practice. Just as an echo is different between buildings and in the woods, sound has a different quality in front



Pawel Gradowski
Drawing by Cameron Murray

of different objects. Sound can also play a major role in wayfinding if the surfaces of paths and landscapes are finished with different materials. The sound of gravel is different than the sound of sand, grass or paving. Tactile perception can assist with local orientation. For children who are deaf blind, this is the main source of understanding the world.

Landscape Architects can provide exceptional learning environments

by providing a diversity of materials for students to recognize. Scents can help children determine locations and fragrant plantings can mark various areas of the school grounds. Temperature can be perceived in sunny and shady environments. A school yard can have many different sensory elements for children to discover. This way, theory that is being taught inside the classroom can be quickly practiced in reality.

The landscape in which children learn independent mobility can provide a variety of settings similar to those to be found in their future environment. A carefully designed set will create opportunities to help and encourage a child to build up a mental map of surrounding spaces.

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b c s l a

BCSLA

sitelines

BCSLA
#110-355 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8
Tel: 604-682-5610
Fax: 604-681-3394
Email: bcsla@direct.ca or
admin@bcsla.org
Website: www.bcsla.org

President:	Will McKenna	604-530-4983
President Elect:	Thomas Llewellyn	604-822-0479
Past President:	Peter Kreuk	604-684-4611
Registrar:	Ian Wasson	604-294-7216
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Directors:	Jeff Culter	604-646-4110
	Joe Fry	604-738-1378
	Pawel Gradowski	604-684-4611
	Yolanda Leung	604-533-6014
	David Rose	604-904-9803
	Bev Windjack	250-598-0105
CSLA Rep:	Adrienne Brown	604-986-9058
Intern Rep:	Blair Guppy	604-736-5160
UBC Rep:	Douglas Paterson	604-822-3786
Student Rep:	Steve Beebe	604-261-1992
Exec. Administrator:	Tara Culham	604-682-5610

Graphic Design and Page Layout by Susan Fisher at Archetype Print Ltd. • #514 - 409 Granville St., Vanc., B.C.
Ph: 604.602.0282 Fax: 604.602.0283

Sitelines is published 6 times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December, by the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and is mailed to all BCSLA members; registered landscape architects, associates and affiliates.

The editorial deadline is the 8th and advertising deadline is the 16th day of the intervening months. Advertising rate information is available on request.

Inquiries regarding editorial, advertising or other issues should be addressed to the Sitelines Editor, c/o The BCSLA at the above address.

Sitelines Group

Editors	Laura-Jean Kelly	604-730-4867
	Cameron Murray	604-730-8256
	Will McKenna	604-530-4983

Advertising Editor	Tara Culham	Ph: 604-682-5610
		Fax: 604-681-3394

The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the BCSLA.

Moreover playing with other children will help to develop social skills as well as physical fitness. There should be several points of interest within a park to which students would like to go, and will have to find their way. Surfaces, paths and curbs can provide a variety of difficulties in wayfinding to allow for a gradual improvement of skills. A park that is easily accessible for both the visually impaired and sighted people allows users to meet each other. Contact between a society of visually impaired and sighted society will help to reduce the stigma on both sides.

The therapeutic character of nature can help people dealing with stress. Streams, waterfalls or fountains generate sounds which can attract the mind of a blind person and reduce stress. Wind, bird song, and crickets can be included with appropriate ecological conditions. Flowering plants, berries and fruit trees all invite birds. Bird baths will help the students know where the birds can more likely be found. Involvement in the gardening process can also have a positive influence on students.

A collection of plants can help a teacher to explain several lessons in biology class. Students can distinguish coniferous from decidu-

ous trees. They collect fruit to analyze shape and content. Mathematics can be taught with a placement of objects such as stones, chairs or shrubs placed in groups to illustrate basic concepts. A stage can be included within a park design to allow for music or theatrical performance; while a sculpture garden allows for an appreciation of line and form.

An open lawn can accommodate a wide number of games such as dance, gymnastics and tag. The lawn edges can be marked with a different surface texture. A game of volleyball can be played with a beach ball that has a small bell inside. Sound generating soccer balls may also be used for many purposes in sport.

Winter sports provide stimulating play opportunities. Tobogganing on a well prepared track provides fun social interaction. Cross country skiing can also successfully be performed by blind students along with a guide who can help with spatial orientation.

The landscape around a school is an inseparable element of the school. The goals and objectives of the school curriculum can become the goals and objectives of school landscape architecture. ☒



R E S E A R C H

2004 BC Land Summit

Plans are well underway for a joint conference in 2004.

BCSLA is looking for volunteers to help organize this exciting event.

In addition to BCSLA confirmed partners include the:

Planning Institute of BC, BC Association of the Appraisal Institute of Canada, Real Estate Institute of BC and the BC Institute of Agrologists.

Call the provincial office for more details.

Tea Swamp Park

Emily Carr Design Workshop

by Cameron Murray

Labrador Tea once flourished in Mount Pleasant. Traditional herbal uses of *Ledum groenlandicum* included brewing a soothing tea and preparing a relaxing smoking mixture. As Vancouver's streets extended, the little wetland was surveyed and divided into building lots. A dip in the topography of Sophia Street and the name 'Tea Swamp Park' are all that remain of this ancient landscape.

Healing aspects of Labrador Tea have been emulated in the Wellness Walkway Project initiated by Alan Duncan, of Vancouver Planning. A triangle of streets, bounded by 12th, 16th, Main and Kingsway have been designated as a special accessible neighbourhood, conjoining several health care facilities. The city is now implementing design guidelines presented in the Wellness Walkways Report, prepared by professors Patrick Mooney and Don Luymes of UBC.

Tea Swamp Park is the principal open space within the Wellness Walkway neighbourhood. Vancouver Parks have just completed an addition to Tea Swamp Park, as designed by Ken Moore with Kate Davis-Johnson. This new portion of the Park contributes sidewalk seating, passive play opportunities, community gardens, and

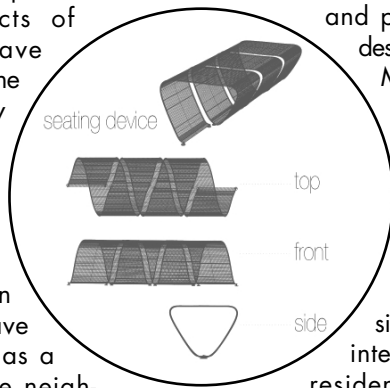
Public Art works in progress. Old Tea Swamp, meanwhile also requires a restoration to create an accessible natural area for residents of the neighbourhood care facilities.

To explore new ideas in accessible furniture design, Alan contacted Roman Izdebski of the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. The emphasis of the third year Industrial Design workshop is to prepare conceptual designs with a community focus and in collaboration with design practitioners. Earlier workshop semesters have considered street furniture in Yaletown and prepared exhibition designs for the Maritime Museum.

With Tea Swamp Park, students were challenged to create an open air meeting place within a community of care facilities. The site research involved interviews with facility residents and neighbourhood explorations by wheelchair. The Design phase considered tangible

and intangible aspects of creating a family of furniture elements within a Park setting.

Beyond the tactile 1:1 scale of furniture design, students were required to also consider the wider environmental context and to absorb the design principles of landscape architecture. Guest lecturers, LJ Kelly and Cameron Murray introduced students to land-forming processes and ecological systems in their quest for design inspiration. Four design teams prepared imaginative solutions and



Furniture Design by Sara Blair and Andre Arnold

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made presentations to a delegation of City Planners, Landscape Architects and Industrial Designers.

Tea Party

The Tea Party group of Sara Blair and Andre Arnold began with a restoration of the wetland habitat, with the return of Labrador Tea, the namesake of the Park. Landforms included curved sitting walls to provide varying seating for children and grownups. Wrapping the landscape, ribbon forms ravelled and unravelled to create social sitting spaces.

Mushroom Park

The Mushroom Park group of Liberty Harrington and Robert Kolic drew design inspiration from the round forms and clusters of mushrooms. To complement this scale change, metal lighting elements took the shape of oversize grass blades.

Boardwalk

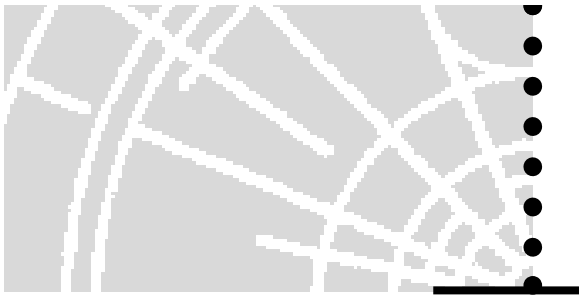
The Boardwalk group of Paula Violi and Jonathan Baker created a stretch boardwalk that alternated from promenade into furniture forms as it traversed the Park. Leaning posts emerged from the landscape as abandoned piers.

Stone Garden

The Stone Garden group of Aaron Rosensweet and Scott Bryan created stone groupings for play and seating and designed modular table forms that accommodate wheelchairs from several directions.

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design

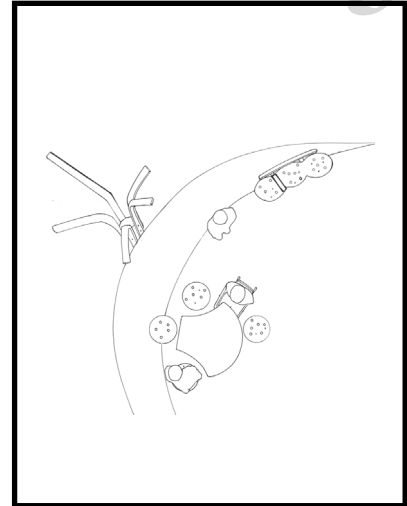
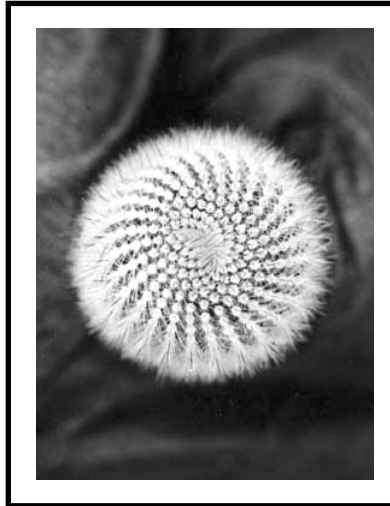


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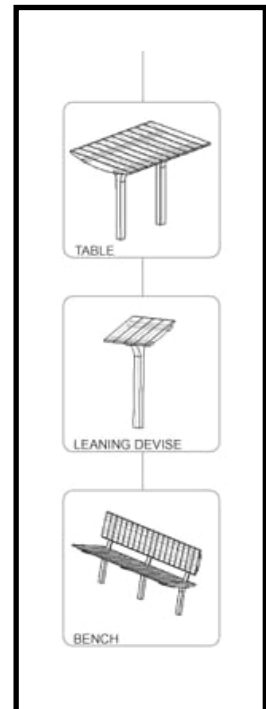
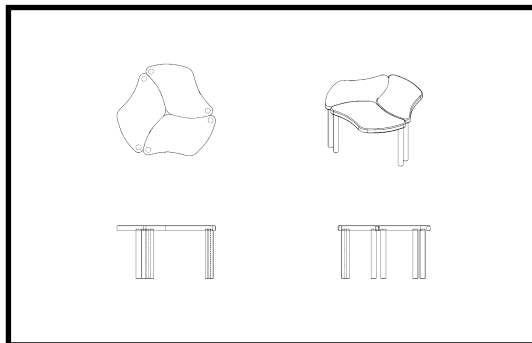
Tea Swamp Park ... continued from page 3

In each case the students managed to create original solutions at the furniture scale, as well as suggesting new ways to enliven the experience of Tea Swamp Park. Small scale decisions echoed in the wider landscape, and new landforms enwrapped social spaces. The designs were particular to Tea Swamp Park, arising from local conditions.

The Emily Carr Design Workshop provided a great opportunity for students to engage in current community design challenges. For the Planners and Landscape Architects involved, the work of the students was inspiring for its originality, and in its sensitivity to the Spirit of Place. ☒



Designs by Liberty Harrington & Robert Kolic (above left and right)



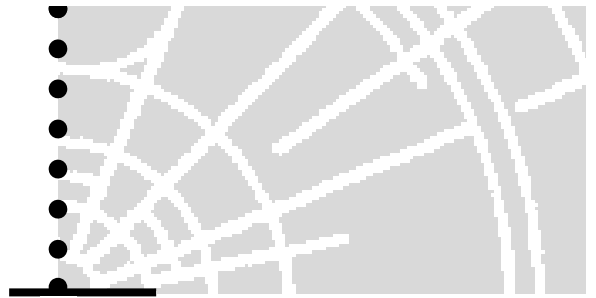
Designs by Aaron Rosensweet & Scott Bryan (top left and bottom left)

Design by Paula Violi & Jonthan Baker (right)

June 2003 LARE Candidates

Please note that due to scheduled construction at the MacMillan Building on the UBC campus **the venue for the exams has changed to the UBC Forest Science Centre, 2424 Main Mall, Room 1613.** The room is on the south side of the building. Please remember to bring your CLARB Candidate ID#, Social Insurance Number, scales, pencils and tracing paper with you.

design



Vancouver's Tree Heritage

by Clive Justice

It is indeed a sad day for Vancouver's heritage when a proposal for rapid transit calmly, as if it were a matter of course, proposes to destroy part of a declared heritage landscape: the Cambie Heritage Boulevard, by tearing off the Southern twenty-five blocks of it. If it were a proposal to chop off half of a heritage building, like the 1912 Federal building on Main Street there would be such an outcry, even Ottawa would hear about it. No one would dare to suggest tearing a strip from a work of visual art like an Emily Carr or a Hughes painting. Why then destroy half of a unique living work of art?

Wide boulevard streets or continuous urban landscapes were a feature concept in Vancouver's town plan proposed by Harland Bartholomew in 1929 and carried over when he revised the plan in the 1940s. Trees along streets and landscaped front gardens were not something imposed upon the city by the Bartholomew plan. Trees and gardens were already a part of the heritage of the city. People like Raoul Robillard planted trees and made gardens around homes in the West End just before and during World War I. Today there are several West End heritage houses but not one garden designated heritage.

Following Robillard there was UBC campus landscape architect and professor of horticulture Frank Buck. Along with architect George Sharp, Buck formed the Point Grey Advisory Town Planning Commission. One of their chief

aims was to beautify Point Grey's residential development by the planting of trees along the municipality's streets. Some of this Frank Buck-George Sharp tree legacy remains to this day. There are Maples and Oaks the CPR was persuaded to plant on each side of the Arbutus tracks. A single row of Maples on the East side of the tracks between 45th and 49th, and an avenue of Oaks and Maples on both sides of the tracks from 41st to 45th, where the tracks run between Arbutus street and East Boulevard, are but two examples. In 1924 the Point Grey Municipal Hall, now the Kerrisdale Community Center, fronted on this avenue of trees along the CPR Right of Way. The Hall is long gone but the trees are still there.

A third example of pre-Bartholomew trees is the magnificent avenue of Liriodendrons (Tulip Trees) that give way to majestic Catalpas, with their clusters of orchid like flowers, lining 10th Avenue from Dunbar street to Kitsilano High School. There are others: the pre WWI forest grove in Clark Park off Commercial drive, the City's first park, and the Thornton Park trees on Main Street. It is a shameful oversight that none of these grove and boulevard legacies have achieved heritage landscape recognition or status with Vancouver's Heritage Commission.

After the Bartholomew plan, Vancouver was fortunate to have a Scottish landscape architect, trained in the English garden tradition that is the prevailing cultural tradition of Vancouver's first settlers. Beginning in 1938, William (Bill) Livingston was responsible for creating, building and managing the physical park system in the city.

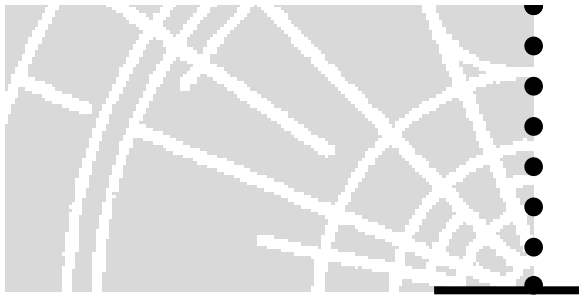
He oversaw the development of more than thirty of Vancouver's parks, beaches, playing fields, display gardens and treed boulevards. He carried on the tradition of the treed wide median and tree-lined residential street concepts of the Bartholomew plan. Bill Livingston died in 1990 leaving us in Vancouver one of the greatest legacies of park landscapes and treed streets of any city in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. He is hardly remembered and little honoured by his fellow Landscape Architects and almost forgotten by the Parks Board and city he served for over forty years.

Cambie Heritage Boulevard and Queen Elizabeth Garden and Arboretum were among Bill Livingston's special creations. Instead of destroying the south half of the Cambie Heritage Boulevard's treed landscape with the graffiti of rapid transit, the Heritage Commission should include the Queen Elizabeth Park Arboretum and the Quarry display garden with Cambie Boulevard to create Vancouver's and Canada's first heritage urban forest landscape. Groves of trees in this heritage landscape should be named for people such as Bill Livingston and other artists, plantsmen and women who have contributed to the creation of natural beauty within our city. Newly planted and replacement trees throughout the parks and open spaces throughout the city could be named to honour Vancouver pioneers. There is no

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ADVOCACY



**Vancouver's Tree Heritage
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need for plaques as they could be recorded on a brochure from the Parks Board computer listing of all trees in Vancouver. This could be jointly produced by Parks Board and the BCSLA.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s a small group of landscape architects, just beginning our practices in and around Vancouver formed the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects. We met monthly in a Kerrisdale Restaurant on West Boulevard. Our main objective was to gain provincial registration and licensing of our profession. We also looked to ways that we could provide some service to the city related to our profession. Our first secretary and registrar, the late Inar Ibsen Broderon was insistent that our first project for Canada's Centennial, in 1967, would be the cataloguing of the oldest and largest trees in parks, gardens and streets throughout the city. We all knew our favourite tree in the city; but we lacked the time and resources to proceed, even though we had one of the Pacific Northwest's foremost authorities on ornamental trees, the late Professor John Neill as a BCSLA member.

We persisted with the idea of a heritage tree inventory for Vancouver, but it was not to be until 15 years later, through a student summer employment program by the British Columbia Heritage

Trust. This grant enabled BCSLA firms to hire UBC landscape architecture students Clarence Sihoe in 1982 and Elisabeth Whitelaw in 1983 to undertake a selective tree inventory for twenty neighbourhoods, UBC and Stanley Park. Trees were identified with scientific and common names, photographed with spread and height determined, with aspects of horticultural history noted. Some trees had stories commemorating births and marriages. We had advertised for stories about trees planted in Vancouver and these are recorded in the Inventory. A copy is held in the Vancouver Public Library, another at the Vandusen Garden Library and a third is with the City's heritage officer in the Planning Department.

Vancouver is now fortunate to have compiled a computerized tree inventory that locates and identifies every tree on every street along with those planted as ornamentals in the city parks. It was developed primarily as a tool to track the management and continuing maintenance of this half billion dollar city resource that contributes beauty and helps provide a healthy environment for living in the city.

There now is an opportunity to extend this heritage designation to additional trees such as the large Elm on the corner of Arbutus and York Avenue, as well as including a Heritage Boulevard designation along King Edward Avenue. Golden Cypress and Birch were planted from Burrard to Arbutus in 1911. Along 16th Avenue, East of Arbutus is a special row of Lawson's Cypress. There are many more examples of the beauty and quality of Vancouver's tree heritage.

Throughout Vancouver there are streets, groves and individual trees that are examples of natural beauty found nowhere else. Several Soulange Magnolias are overwhelming in their beauty as are the many blocks of Oriental Cherries. At least seven of the most beautiful groups of Pink Perfection, and Shirotae Cherries will be completely destroyed on the Cambie Heritage Boulevard, should the Airport Translink sink to the surface before Marine Drive. There are two blocks of Liquidamber trees in Marpole that have fall leaf colour so intense as to out do the fabled maples of the Gatineau Hills. These and many other example of the art of nature could be identified and included in Vancouver's Public Art Programme. Every neighbourhood could participate in selecting streets, groves and individual trees as examples of seasonal and year round beauty in their neighbourhood. These could be noted in a booklet similar to the one on Vancouver Public Art in the Downtown. Here the BCSLA and Park Board arboriculturists can help with the photography and to record descriptions for the captions. The beauty of every season within the city displayed in brochure and on a CD for our visitors will also serve as a reminder to those of us who call Vancouver our home that we are the stewards of one of the greatest treasuries of living art. ☒



Intern Landscape Architects

Welcome to Cara MacDonald
and Siu Ki Woo
who recently became Intern
Landscape Architect Members.

Ribbon of Green

by Donna Rodman

Universal access includes a barrier-free approach with designs for all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of movement, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. Social responsibility and an equality of access are hallmarks of universal design. Landscape architects are challenged to introduce accessibility into park landscapes; while responding to a mandate of ecological responsibility.

Equality of access to natural environments can be ensured if design measures are taken in three categories. The first is to design recreational activities in which everyone can participate. The second includes educational activities, such as bird watching and wildlife research. And the third activity is experiential. This last category is not often appreciated until we are stressed and require an escape to enjoy sun, wind, colour, texture, fragrance and the tranquility which nature provides.

Integral to universal access is a flexibility of use. This may be accomplished by providing various routes with different levels of accessibility and trail standards. Information can be conveyed with signage to illustrate trail difficulty ratings. Signs can communicate risks by explaining local topography. Visitors may then select a trail that gives an appropriate degree of challenge.

We can classify trails based on a level of difficulty, much as we classify ski trails. Using qualitative measures such as easy, moderate and difficult for varying activities helps to classify trails. Detailed information can also be provided at trailheads. A good example of trailhead guidance is found at Yew Lake Trail in Cypress Park.

A trail rating system developed by Beneficial Designs with the U.S. Forest Service and National Parks Service has merit. The key is to provide accurate information on trail characteristics by way of signage or maps. The advantage of using the universal design symbols




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Access

instead of the international symbol for accessibility is the explicit manner in which the level of accessibility for each trail can be conveyed.

Design and management of public pathway sites can include universal accessibility, matching expectations with experiences, to offer a full range of recreational, educational and experiential opportunities to as many as possible. At the same time, access can be limited in sensitive ecological areas.

Adaptive technologies change quickly and as people's abilities vary, designers of pathway systems should no longer make assumptions about who will be able to enjoy a particular site. We have an active seniors population to accommodate. Integration, inclusion, dignity and independence are universal design values that landscape architects can include in our palettes. 



Review

In Veronica's Garden

by Margaret Cadwaladr

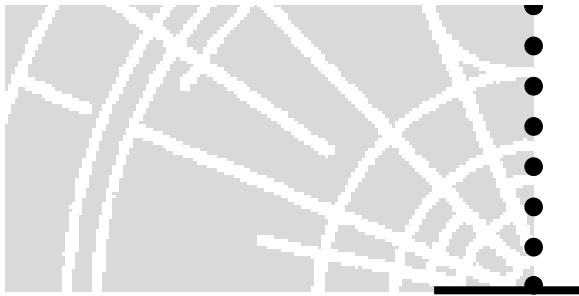
Review by Alexandra Steed

In Veronica's Garden is a biography of the eccentric socialite Veronica Milner, that focuses on her

garden and her life as a gardener. A member of the Edwardian British elite, and relocated to Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island, she maintained a keen sense of her own importance and a willingness to share it with others. Veronica made an impression on everyone she met, including the author. The book traces her life from childhood, to life as a young woman displaced to Ireland with the Knight of Glin, to widowhood and a subsequent marriage to a wealthy Canadian businessman in the 1950s. Veronica transformed Ray

Milner's Qualicum estate with extensive additions of exotic plants and trees. In addition, she preserved the estate's acres of grand westcoast forest, which is a significant contribution that lasts even today alongside the clear-cut, paved subdivisions filling the Qualicum landscape. She loved gardening and seemed to have quite a knack for it. Not unlike Gertrude Jekyll, Veronica considered gardens with a painterly eye, viewing garden design as a high art. The book tells Veronica's story

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**In Veronica's Garden
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through interesting and often-amusing anecdotes about her garden life.

The author, Margaret Cadwaladr, states that the book is, "a social history of the Milner's garden." Details of Veronica's life in Great Britain, including much about family relations, and experience as Ray Milner's wife in Canada, provide background relating to Veronica's personal history and the development of the Milner Gardens. Notable is a business and personal connection established with Ted and Mary Greig, known especially for their rhododendrons. Many other distinguished personalities appear in the story,

including Princess Diana and Winston Churchill, because Veronica made certain that everyone knew of her important connections. Cadwaladr was allowed access to Veronica's personal photograph collection, scrapbooks, guest book and letters, which provides the book some rather unflattering details of Veronica's stormy personality.

Beautiful images of the Milner Garden accompany the descriptive text and entice one to visit the lovely grounds (as did this reviewer while visiting her retired parents). In many ways, Cadwaladr evokes a sense of the personality of the garden's creator, through descriptions of the garden and Veronica's activity therein. Quirky stories about a run-in with Vancouver's Arthur Erickson, or of Veronica's exotic plant smuggling operations, make for an, at times, entertaining read. However, unlike readers cited on the back of the book,

who, "couldn't put it down," and who found the text "engrossing," this reviewer sometimes struggled to get through the book. It may be that the book contains an excess of trivial details that perhaps Veronica persuaded the author to include, or that it contains ideas that seem fragmented and incomplete.

Ultimately, this book would appeal most to the designer who is also a garden enthusiast especially interested in English garden style and perhaps, the goings-on of the British upper class. The history is at times amusing, and this reviewer found Cadwaladr's wander through the garden an interesting biographical device. Though the book does not necessarily inspire the modern landscape designer, it does a good job of describing a beautiful garden and the importance of the garden environment in the life of an interesting Vancouver Island character. 



Job Opportunity

Sharp & Diamond is a dynamic, team oriented and growing firm with a diverse range of projects including parks, mixed-use urban design and waterfronts.

We urgently require a motivated, skilled Project Landscape Architect with good construction and design knowledge en-route to LARE registration. A minimum of three years work experience and the ability to manage a project are essential. Valued qualities include strong technical aptitude, design creativity and computer competence (PowerCadd preferred). We have a new 'state of the art' office space and a supportive work environment.

Forward resumes to:

Paul Whitehead,
Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture & Planning,
#602-1401 West Broadway,
Vancouver, BC, V6H 1H6

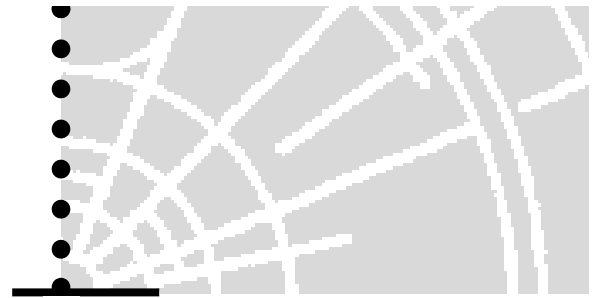
LAP III

As part of the Landscape Architecture Project III process, BCSLA is looking for newspaper articles featuring landscape architects or the profession.

You are encouraged to submit a photocopy of any article that you have saved to the BCSLA office before

June 30, 2003.

Your help is important.



BCSLA 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9 - 11	LARE Candidate Sitting UBC — Vancouver, BC
June 12 - 15	VanDusen Flower & Garden Show, Vancouver, BC
June 24	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
August	June 2003 LARE Results
September	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting Vancouver, BC
September	Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Annual General Meeting
September 15	BCSLA Public Sector Sub-Committee (time and venue to be announced)
September 17 - 18	CanWest Hort Show Vancouver, BC
September 22 - 26	Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meeting Whistler, BC
October	American Society of Landscape Architects Annual General Meeting
October	BCSLA Board of Examiners UBC — Vancouver, BC
October 9	LARE Candidate Orders
November	50th BC Landscape and Nursery Association Annual General Meeting
November 31	CSLA Professional Awards Juror Submissions Deadline
December	BCSLA Festive Season Party
December 8 - 9	LARE Candidate Sitting, UBC — Vancouver, BC
December 31	BCSLA Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Program becomes Mandatory