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Connecting People with Nature

September 16, 2003

Vancouver Park Board Commissioners:

The Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) is committed to a partnership with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation in the construction of a Cob Demonstration shelter in Stanley Park.

The shelter will replace the existing concession stand in the Children's Miniature Railway Plaza, moving it to the main entrance of the train area, and will provide a memorable example of sustainable architecture to park visitors.

SPES exists to encourage stewardship of our natural world through environmental education and action. The Cob Demonstration Project (CDP) will further the mission of the SPES in several ways.

Stewardship - The CDP will be a highly visible signifier of our shared commitment to creating environmental solutions for the local community. It will encourage stewardship by exposing millions of people to their first example of sustainable architecture. It is our intention that the beauty, efficiency and simplicity of the shelter will inspire many to explore 'green' shelter options for their homes, businesses and communities.

Education - The proposed location of this shelter will ensure that large numbers of people enter into the first stage of learning about sustainable architecture: awareness. The involvement of youth in the construction and community outreach components of the project increases the likelihood that the project will be replicated in other communities. SPES will use the shelter as a centerpiece for on-going programming to raise public awareness levels of the environmental impact of traditional building methods and the 'green' alternatives.

Action - The heart of the project will be the involvement of the local community in the construction phase of the project. Community action fosters community pride and creates a legion of 'ambassadors' of the project and for 'green' building methods.

Sustainability - The new shelter will result in a superior facility and a higher profile for our revenue generating operation known currently as "The Popcorn Stand". We anticipate that this will result in increased profits which will contribute to the sustainability of SPES and stewardship activities in the park.

We are committed to seeking matching funds and in-kind donations of material in the amount of \$20,000.00. Full funding must be acquired before beginning the construction stage of the project.

Sincerely,

Judith MacPherson
President
Board of Directors