



# Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Newsletter Fall 2020

## Please come out to join in or watch our Fall Planting: Saturday November 21st, 10am-noon

Meet at 148th Street and Rotary Way (22nd Avenue). The City of Surrey will provide gloves, tools, and native shrubs for us to plant. Social distancing measures will be in place. Rain or shine!

### **Farewell to a Founder**

The Directors of Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society regret to advise the passing of past president Roy M. Strang, Ph.D. R.P.F. (Ret'd) on Sept 13, 2020.

Roy taught in the Department of Forestry and Plant Sciences at UBC and later at BCIT. He was an active member of the local Community having joined "Save our Sunnyside" (SOS) in 1986, a Community initiative to preserve Sunnyside Acres in South Surrey, BC.

Following his retirement, Roy served on the Surrey Environmental Committee and Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society when SOS disbanded following the successful referendum in 1988.

He will be missed but remembered.

### **Fall is a great time to see Fungi**

What we see is their fruiting bodies—in the form of conks on dead trees or groups of mushrooms close to rotting logs—and these indicate that it's time to spread their spores in the moist air currents.

Below the fruiting bodies there's a widespread network of roots called a mycelium. A fungus can't make its own food—it has no chlorophyll—but it has chemicals in its mycelium that can digest the tissues of other plants. There's data from forests in Oregon and Washington that a fungus can be quite humongous and is the largest natural organism in the world—up to 600 hectares – that's four times the size of Sunnyside Acres! Look at the fungi as the tip of a huge iceberg of feeding tissue that helps recycle plants into new soil for future forest growth.

You won't find edible mushrooms in Sunnyside Acres so please take photos and leave them for the next walker to see.