

# Artists brush-up at a day in the park

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Artists from Oak Bay are taking over Bowker Creek Park this Sunday, promising conversation as colourful as the artwork for everyone who comes to see.

The third annual Bowker Creek Brush-Up will have 32 artists set up along the grass, with opportunities to browse or buy the artwork and chat with others as Bowker Creek babbles its way through the park.

"The best part is the conversations," says event co-ordinator Flo-Elle Watson.

One of the featured artists at the Brush-Up agrees.

"I like talking to people more than anything," said Pat Martin Bates, who will set up in a shady part of the park.

"People love to talk to artists and artists love to talk to people."

Joining Martin Bates as a guest artist at the event is Ted Harrison.

They, along with the 30 other artists, will be at work with their medium of choice whether its acrylic, oil, water-colour, glass or porcelain. A couple of the artists, like Chelsea Laughlin, are still in high school. "Emerging artists," said Watson, smiling happily.

Guests will also get to brush up on

their environmental knowledge of the area, as Bowker Creek environmentalist Ian Greame will be there to answer questions, along with Tanis Douglas, a biologist who works with the Capital Regional District to protect the 8-kilometre long waterway.

The event starts at 11 a.m. and runs until 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 12, and artists can be seen the length of the park from Hampshire Road to Oak Bay High.

About 3,000 came out to the Brush-Up last year, with many guests also taking part in the car show on Oak Bay Avenue, which happens the same day as the Brush-Up each year, said Watson.