The purpose of this poster is to raise awareness about the importance and life diversity of ‘nursery logs’ on the campus of Vancouver Island University.

Nurse logs are often an overlooked aspect of an ecosystem. When a mature tree is felled from natural or human causes and left intact it then becomes host to a variety of living organisms. Decomposition by bacteria, slime molds and fungi begin providing nutrients for organisms to sustain life through the decaying tissues of the ‘nursery log’, and in time contribute to further decomposition. To this effect it is important to remember the first law of thermodynamics which states: that energy can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only be changed from one form of energy to another.

The next time you are out walking around the campus you may find yourself noticing a nursery log or two.

In the end, decomposition and decay may appear to be an unpleasant processes from our societies perspective, yet are vital in terms of the functioning of a balanced ecosystems. Just like compost in a garden, they provide essential nutrients for the growth and establishment of new organisms, and are a key aspect of the cyclical processes that maintain all life form on Earth...and the VIU campus. The next time you are out walking around the campus you may find yourself noticing a nursery log or two.

References