

The Kingfisher



Issue 16 Winter 2008 \$5.00—members free
The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

In this issue:

SURVIVOR: Birds in North America

YOU CAN HELP
Conserve Watersheds
& Lakeshores

Green Value Approaches
to Development:
Oxymoron or Opportunity?



Spreading the news about conserving B.C.'s natural and cultural diversity.

The Kingfisher
Volume 16, January 2008

Published by The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia.

We are dedicated to the stewardship and conservation of BC's natural and cultural heritage. We provide education, research, communication and financial services which support land trusts, conservancies and others.

Published in August and January, deadlines for ads and articles are July 15th and Dec 15th. Articles are provided by the authors; reproduction should be requested through the publisher.

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Message from the Co-Chair

LTABC ended 2007 with the release of some public service announcements that are now playing on commercial TV stations, Shaw Cable and several dozen radio stations. I was amazed both by how much information and visuals could be packed into 30 seconds, and by how fast 30 seconds goes by when you are trying to get a message across. The PSA's encourage people to go to www.mybclegacy.ca for more information; from there a special page on the LTABC website appears that delivers key information and links to BC Land Trusts and ways to get involved through gifts of land or much-needed cash.

We started 2008 in full forward motion. Behind the scenes, Sara Wilson and Richard Hebda were finishing the much-anticipated and well-received report on "Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Through the Conservation of Nature" (downloadable from the website). Staff, board members and several key reviewers were helping edit and comment. The media response to the report has been great – from a "talk radio" show to the Globe & Mail; BC land trusts are in the centre of the land conservation map, and LTABC is now part of the climate change discussions going on amongst the larger environmental community in the province.

Back in 2004 some LTABC members had a chance to attend the BC Land Summit at UBC. A few of us wondered whether there was a role for LTABC if the Summit ever happened again. Last year, the organizing bodies invited LTABC to be a partner in the next Land Summit, to be held at Whistler from May 19-23, 2009. We are now very hard at work on the program, making sure the land conservation and stewardship message is front and centre. The call for papers will happen this summer, and I encourage everyone to get involved. As with all the other professional organizations we are working with, the 2009 LTABC AGM will be part of the 2009 Land Summit. This is a fantastic opportunity for land trusts to promote their great successes and opportunities to protect natural and cultural diversity, as well as to learn from planners, landscape architects, agrologists, land appraisers, and the real estate institute and industry.

This year LTABC will hold its annual general meeting, information-packed Seminar Series, and networking opportunities from April 11-13 in historic, probably snowy, Manning Provincial Park. We would love to see you there.

Finally, if you have some time, and would like to get more involved in the BC land trust movement, we have a couple positions opening on Council. Contact Bill Wagner or myself for more information.

Kathy Dunster, Co-Chair



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SUPPORT FOR THIS ISSUE PROVIDED BY



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Communities in transition
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FRASER VALLEY ECOGIFT ADDS VALUE TO LAND AND PRESERVES GREEN SPACE IN ABBOTSFORD

Written by Christine Toth, *Abbotsford Times*

Birdsong greets visitors who find their way into a wooded ravine off Simpson Road. Winter wrens, chickadees and other songbirds scold unseen in the autumnal underbrush of the 12.5-hectare Simpson Park.

Toadstools pop up in rows around Western Red Cedar trunks from under a carpet of ruddy and yellowed Big Leaf Maple leaves, slugs creep undisturbed and overhead a pair of black crows chuckle to themselves. Lower Fishtrap Creek burbles below. In the quiet of these wild woods, these creatures are oblivious to the bustle of Abbotsford's manufacturing district just a few metres away in every direction. Amazingly, the oasis has recently grown, thanks to an ecological gift from a neighbour, South Fraser Way Developments, to the Fraser Valley Conservancy. The gift of roughly one hectare [2.5 acres] is the conservancy's first full title acquisition.

"Definitely it was a jubilant day. We're landowners now and it feels great," said Lisa Fox, the executive director of the FVC [formerly the Abbotsford Land Trust.] The land and adjoining park represents significant habitat for several Species at Risk including the Oregon Forestsnail, Pacific Sideband snail and we're hoping to confirm Red-legged Frogs in the spring. The property also contains the blue-listed species Pacific Waterleaf.

As an ecological gift, the donation has netted the donor company a sizeable tax credit, equal to the independently assessed market value of the developable land that was donated.

The land is in a City of Abbotsford non-disturbance zone, as it lies close to the creek and steep ravine, and could not be used by the owner for commercial purposes.

"To the property owner this has no value, but for us it has a different kind of value," said FVC board member John Vissers. "It really is a win-win-win, for the critters, for the property owner and for the conservancy." Engineering consultant Dave Krahn of Krahn Engineering approached the



ENDANGERED OREGON FORESTSNAIL,
ALLOGONA TOWNSENDIANA,
Photo by Ryan Durand

Conservancy after hearing about the opportunity to make an ecological donation from

former Abbotsford city biologist Darren Brown. The eco-gift was a way for the owners to add value to a piece of land they could not use, and to do something good for the environment and the community.

"I'd say to developers 'look at this because there could be great financial benefit to you.'"

His clients went the extra mile to restore the land, spending \$150,000 in clearing out debris, setting down soil and native plants and installing fencing. Krahn estimates the process took 18 months, from making restoration plans, having them approved, doing the work, then evaluating and subdividing the land for donation.

The donors themselves were so pleased with the outcome, he said they are considering donating another strip of land attached to a Cyril Street property, said Krahn.

"The conservancy has been extremely helpful and great to work with," said Krahn. "I'd say to developers 'look at this because there could be great financial benefit to you.'"

Originally printed in the Abbotsford-Mission Times, Monday, November 05, 2007

SQUITTY BAY PARK ON LASQUETI ISLAND INCREASED FOUR-FOLD

The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy and the Islands Trust Fund reached their goal of raising \$250,000 in a whirlwind 2007 summer campaign to protect the Iversen/Tyler property next to Squitty Bay Provincial Park on Lasqueti Island. With our contribution, the Ministry of Environment was able to purchase this beautiful 38.46 (95 acre) oceanfront property from Terry Tyler and Ingrid Iversen for \$1,340,000, a price well below market value. The property owners provided a significant donation through Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program because they had a vision of the property being protected as a park.

This property is a Gulf Island treasure. The protection of this property will result in a four-fold increase in the size of Squitty Bay Provincial Park from 13 hectares to more than 51 hectares. The property features almost a kilometre of coastline with sheltered bays and beaches, older forests, a heritage orchard, a salmon-bearing creek, and windswept coastal bluffs. The property is also a fine example of the endangered Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem, which is in urgent need of protection as it is under extreme pressure from agricultural and urban development.

The Lasqueti community and Islands Trust Fund donors, including the Nature Trust of BC and the Marine Parks Forever Society, pulled together to protect this special place by contributing over \$143,000 in donations. The BC Trust for Public Lands provided \$107,000 resulting in the community reaching its \$250,000 goal.



Photo: Clare Frater, Cove at Squitty Bay

In celebration of the success, the former owners of the land sent this joyous note to all involved:

November 15, 2007

Congratulations on your new park. Enjoy it, love it, take care of it, let the salmon run and run. Let the kiddies play on the beaches. Let the forest thrive. Somebody get together a pruning party for the orchard and distribute the apples, pears and plums far and wide. Let the flowers bloom on the headlands and the sheep roam everywhere else.

It's a place where a lot of very important and magical things happened to us, and I'm sure many others (including, I hear, one birth). Hopefully this place will continue to induce magic in a lot of people for a long time.

Thanks to everybody who helped make this dream, for us, and for a lot of Lasquetians, come true.

Love, Terry Tyler and Ingrid Iversen

The Islands Trust Fund along with the Lasqueti Island Conservancy wish to thank all the conservation-minded individuals and organizations who answered our call for help and gave generously to protect the Iversen/Tyler property.



SKAHA BLUFFS - ACQUIRED!



The Land Conservancy of B.C. announced recently that the purchase of subplot 18 at Skaha was complete. This 304 hectare property, which is southeast of the climbing area, will provide permanent public access to and parking for Skaha. It will also protect the area's high recreation and conservation values. The entire area, including subplot 18, is to be managed as a Class A provincial park.

Key partners and donors in the \$5.25 million purchase included Mountain Equipment Co-op, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Government of Canada Natural Areas Conservation Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the B.C. Trust for Public Lands, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation Environmental Enhancement Fund, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, a generous donation from the former owner under Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia, the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep - Wyoming Chapter, and others.

"We are energized by this partnership with the BC Government, Mountain Equipment Co-op and other environmental foundations," says TLC Executive Director, Bill Turner. "It is the strong commitments from all of our partners as well as our donors that have seen this project succeed." To date, donations have come from throughout BC, Canada and the United States and abroad.

"Not only is this purchase important to the climbing community, it is critical to maintaining, protecting and restoring diverse wildlife species and habitats in the Okanagan, which are some of the most endangered in Canada" says Turner.

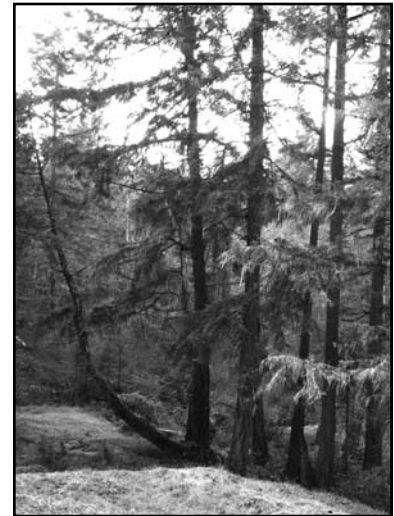
"This property contains critical habitat for endangered species in the area such as California Bighorn Sheep, Pallid Bat, American Badger, Western Harvest Mouse, Screech Owl, Rubber Boa and Lewis's Woodpecker and three species of snake." This purchase is significant to The Land Conservancy's mandate of protecting key properties that represent the diversity of species and habitats.

RICHARDSON COVENANT SALT SPRING ISLAND

Ann Richardson, a Salt Spring Island icon who has spent countless years documenting and defending natural spaces on the island, has protected her own cherished forest through a conservation covenant held jointly by the Islands Trust Fund and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

The conservation covenant is tucked between Beaver Point Provincial Park and Ruckle Provincial Park, contributing to a valuable wildlife corridor between these two natural areas. The structural diversity of the maturing forest on the property provides key habitat for rare species such as the Lewis Woodpecker, the Red-legged frog, and the Dun Skipper butterfly, as well as endangered plant communities.

Richardson, one of the founders of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, lived on this Salt Spring property for over 20 years, observing and recording many species of birds, butterflies and plants. She donated this conservation covenant to ensure her forest will be protected forever.



The Richardson Covenant Lands.
Photo by Kate Emmings

Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program deadline

The Islands Trust Fund is now accepting Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) applications from landowners wishing to start reducing their property taxes in 2009. The deadline for applications is April 1st 2008.

Currently, only island properties in the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the Capital Regional District are eligible. If Gulf Island landowners in other regional districts would like to access the program, they can contact their local trustees for information about possible expansion of the program in 2008.

More information is available by visiting the Islands Trust Fund website at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca>, or by phoning the Islands Trust Fund at (250) 405-5186 (toll free via Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867, (604) 660-2421 in Vancouver or 387-6121 in Victoria).

THE BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

~ A CELEBRATION OF NATURE ~

The Brant Wildlife Festival is a spring Celebration of Nature in Parksville/Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island. The first of its kind, the festival was created to bring public awareness to declining populations of Pacific Black Brant geese in the Strait of Georgia. It became the model for many wildlife festivals in North America. In addition, the festival was instrumental in helping to create the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area within the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve.



Photo: Guy Monty

During their annual migration from California and Mexico to Alaska and the Arctic, Brant stop along the shores of Parksville/Qualicum Beach to rest and feed. This species long evolved into migratory patterns and survival strategies that have allowed them to persevere through fluctuations in food sources and predation on their nesting grounds is declining at an alarming rate. Mortality rates are especially high among juveniles and females.

Festival coordinator Donna Monty noted that, "After 18 years, while the talkative sea goose remains an icon for the festival, activities and events have evolved to encompass a much broader understanding of wildlife species and the web of life that sustains us all."

For 16 years the festival was spearheaded by the Mid Island Wildlife Watch Society (MIWWS). In recent years, the MIWWS had been challenged to secure the financial and human resources to organize and operate the festival. In June 2006 MIWWS members dissolved the society and transferred the assets to The Nature Trust of British Columbia. The Nature Trust had long supported the festival by providing leaders and events that promote the appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitats within the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve, especially in parks and protected areas. The 2008 festival is being coordinated by The Nature Trust in association with the BC Ministry of Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund through the Wildlife Viewing Network.

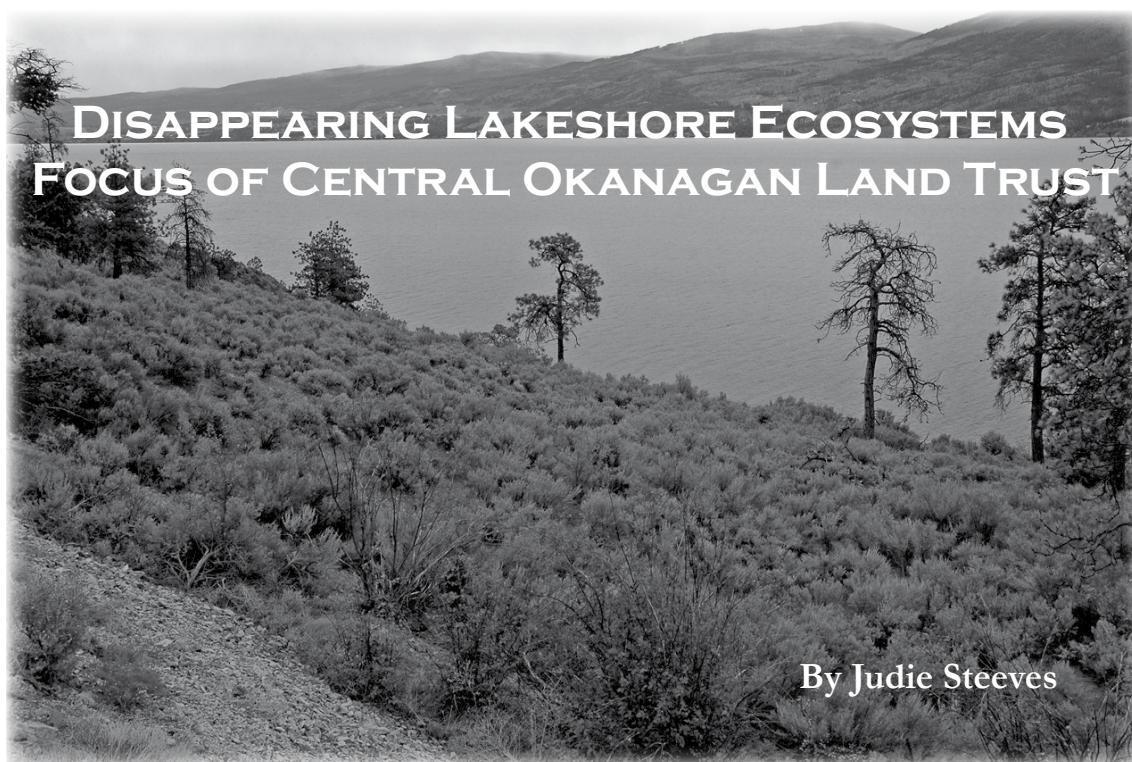
"The Brant Wildlife Festival offers many community events which focus on the importance of sustaining our spectacular natural surroundings," said Doug Walker, CEO of The Nature Trust. "Our goal at The Nature Trust is to ensure Vancouver Island retains much of its natural wonder and diversity. Our quality of life depends on it--our drinking water, the air we breathe, our economy and our recreation depend on it. We're confident that this can be done but it will require a higher level of stewardship from all of us. The first step is getting to know our wild neighbours."

The Pacific Herring which is central to the survival of many species that occur along the coast have been struggling to survive under many of the same stresses as the Brant. Few species of fish are of greater ecological importance than the herring. In March, when the herring spawn, releasing billions of eggs and sperm into our coastal waters, migrating seabirds, salmon, sea lions, seals, gulls, whales, Brant and fishermen vie for position and access to this incredible food source.

Herring eggs adhere to the seaweed, eel-grass and cobbles in tidal shallows, which are being damaged in a way that may collapse species throughout the entire ecosystem. These shallows are where flocks of up to 3,000 Brant can be found close to shore feeding on the herring eggs. The billions of eggs available to the Brant and other migrants are an important source of protein so the birds can survive the journey to their breeding grounds.

It is during this spectacular spring phenomena the waters of Georgia Strait are the most tropical shade of turquoise green. The Brant Wildlife Festival kicks off with a community gathering at the Old Train Station in Qualicum Beach, closely followed by the Herring Spawn Tour. Events in 2008 will include a Town Square Proclamation Party, Nordic Nature Walks, a Sustainable Garden Show, Nature Photography, a Learn to Fish program, a Big Day Birding Competition, a very special Voices of Nature concert put on by area students and much more. Come join us for the fun and be amazed by the spectacular spring migration and the beauty of the natural world.

Visit www.brantfestival.bc.ca for more details. For information or registration, call Robin Rivers at 1-866-288-7878 or 604-924-9771 ext. 226.



Sage Brush slopes; Goat's Peak, Westbank, B.C. Photo: Hugh Westeausser

With natural Okanagan lakeshore property becoming a thing of the past anywhere near rapidly-growing urban areas, groups like the Central Okanagan Land Trust are focussing on conservation of ecosystems such as Goat's Peak in the newly-incorporated District of Westside.

This relatively pristine property is currently being considered for development of a housing subdivision with accompanying roads, utilities and other amenities. The property rises sharply from the shores of Okanagan Lake along much of its shoreline, then levels off in a typical bunchgrass, sagebrush and antelope brush landscape which has so far escaped infestation by such invasive alien weeds as knapweed.

In places, there are rocky beaches which are ideal spawning grounds for the lake's shore spawning kokanee, which were on the brink of extinction a decade ago, are now beginning to come back.

Majestic ponderosa pines and Douglas fir dot the headland in an open forest that's carpeted with the brassy arrow-leaved balsamroot in spring, flowering cactus and mariposa lily under the hot summer sun and red-leaved sumac in fall.

The Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club and Gellatly Bay Trails and Park Society have worked tirelessly to convince the

regional district and community groups of the importance of protecting this piece of spectacular view property.

Since Goat's Peak is the destination for animals using the wildlife corridor underneath busy Highway 97 near where the Okanagan Connector of the Coquihalla Highway funnels traffic down into the valley, preserving it in its natural state will provide a vital connection from the lake to mountain top for wildlife.

It is also home to rattlesnake hibernaculum. Historic First Nations pictographs adorn the rocky, rugged cliff face, providing another compelling reason to ensure the site is protected.

Regional trails carry hikers to both sides of this private property, so it would be logical to provide an opportunity for the public to have a glimpse at what this type of natural Okanagan ecosystem looked like, while there is still a sliver of it left.

Currently, the property's owners are in the process of a development plan for the 400-plus acres in the area, so if preservation of it for parkland is to occur, it must be now.

COLT has made representation to the province, along with other partners, to ask for help in preserving this important piece of valuable wildlife habitat, which could soon be an island in a sea of human development.



Red-winged Blackbird at Thomson Marsh, Kelowna,

COLT is currently steward of a number of other natural areas in the region, including Thomson Marsh, which was once just a marshy field along Thomson Brook and part of the Thomson family farm, which was settled in the 1890s by the Kelowna pioneer family.

A century later, as Kelowna grew up and enveloped the farm, the city decided to construct an arena and other sports facilities on the flat land on busy Gordon Drive and purchased property from the Thomsons for construction. However, in order to have it removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve, the commission required that surrounding lands be drained, in order to make them productive farmland in return for that loss.

Brenda Thomson, a passionate naturalist, explains, "I was the president of the naturalist club in the early 1990s when the city was developing quickly and everybody was getting nervous about the disappearing valley-bottom wildlife habitat. Our inspiration was to donate a part of my husband's and his brother's farm, so that it would become a wildlife sanctuary in the Mission Creek flood plain, and hopefully set a pattern."

The Thomsons turned to COLT to ensure their wishes were carried out, although the land itself was donated to the city—and Thomson Marsh was born. That two hectares today acts as a buffer between their working farm and the new sports facility, alongside Thomson Brook, as a wetland into which the surrounding lands can drain.

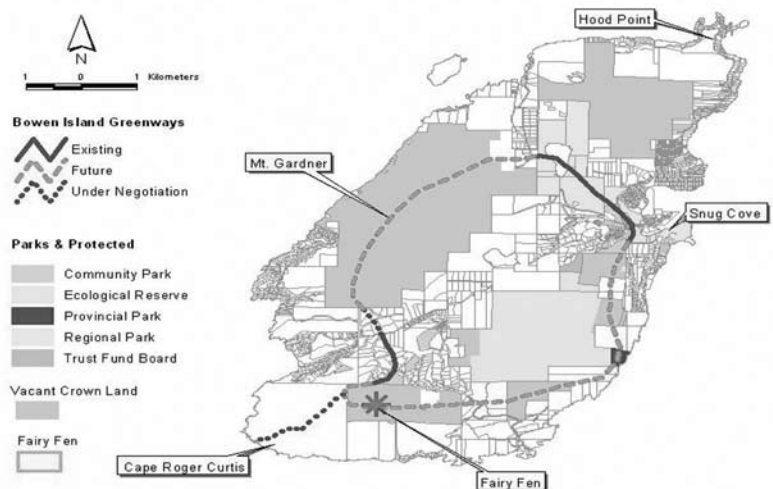
The conditions, though, were that the land would be restored as a natural wetland, and then preserved that way. It was a project that took a number of years to complete, and it's still evolving, but it's doing so in a natural way, thanks to the vigilance of the volunteer members of the COLT. They help to ensure the sporting activities are kept separated from the natural marsh along one corner of the property.

COLT accepted a covenant on the property from the city, arranged a baseline inventory, and is committed to conducting an annual inspection as part of its regular round of inspections on properties it is responsible for. That includes the Benvoulin Woods along the popular Mission Creek Greenway, Robert Lake Bird Sanctuary and Cedar Mountain Regional Park.

MYSTERY MARSH ON BOWEN ISLAND

The Trust Fund Board and the Bowen Island Conservancy have been fundraising to create a nature reserve for an important wetland on Bowen Island known locally as Fairy Fen or Mystery Marsh. The wetland contains endangered plant communities and other provincially significant ecological values. The 18-hectare property has been appraised at \$787,350, the value of which is sponsored by the Ministry of Community Services under the Free Crown Grant program.

On May 30, 2007, in response to an Islands Trust Fund application, the Crown made an offer to grant the property to the Islands Trust Fund subject to a number of terms and conditions, including the completion of a Land Act survey. As the management costs of this project are beyond the scope of the Islands Trust Fund's regular budget, the Islands Trust Fund is working with the Bowen Island Conservancy on a fundraising campaign to cover the costs of the survey, a management plan, and future property management costs such as signage, barricades and/or gates, and trail modifications such as a boardwalk.



The Bowen Island Conservancy aims to increase awareness and a sense of ownership of the new nature reserve among Bowen Island residents. To achieve this, the Conservancy plans to train community volunteers and school students in restoration and environmental protection methods through the construction of boardwalks, and installation of barriers and interpretive signage. They also plan to sponsor guided visits to Fairy Fen, led by a local expert.

The Bowen Island Conservancy, with support from Islands Trust Fund, has submitted a number of funding applications for this project. The Vancity EnviroFund which is supported by Vancity enviroFund VISA cardholders, has generously committed \$20,000 to the project.

SALT SPRING ISLAND'S CREEKSIDE RAINFOREST

by Maureen Moore

Coastal temperate rainforest, one of the rarest ecosystems on Earth, surrounds a productive salmon creek on Salt Spring Island. This lush green valley and the stream within it are the focus of a campaign to buy, covenant and protect this apx. 20 acre parcel. This biodiverse and beautiful area is last piece of mature rainforest on the island. It has been a source of wonder for people who've walked on paths beneath its towering trees. As well as being rare, the area is an important wildlife corridor, a riparian zone, green classroom, watershed, defense against global warming, and a protector of wild salmon.

Salt Spring, like other gulf islands, is in a rain shadow, so the wet, fertile, mossy land along Cusheon Creek comes as surprise. Step into the rainforest and there's a sudden hush, then susurrations of creek water, spongy earth, large trees (Western Red Cedar, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir, Large Leaf Maple primarily) supporting moss-draped branches, slopes of sword ferns, green upon green. The land lies near the bottom of a chain of three lakes, Roberts at the top, then Blackburn, followed by Cusheon, a drinking water lake. Cusheon itself flows into the sea by means of the salmon creek. This watery part of Salt Spring lies within a cleft at the centre of the island and is a key wildlife corridor, home to many and a source of life for 80 percent of creatures that do not live there but are dependent upon this area for their survival.

The blue-listed Red-legged frog lives here along with many other species including Rough-backed newts, Long-toed salamanders, Pacific tree frogs, Faithful snails, owls, woodpeckers, sapsuckers, flickers, eagles, hawks, ravens, herons, kingfishers, multitudes of songbirds, bats, red squirrels, river otters, voles, shrews, deer, the list goes on. If you are silent in the forest you may see and hear these creatures. Large birds such as owls fly and hunt beneath the high canopy. Nearby, the Cusheon Creek delta is a shallow clam beach that is marine habitat for wintering birds and other creatures as well as a registered archeological site (midden.) Mature trees including some old growth Douglas fir bear scars and contain cavities that offer nesting places for birds and small mammals along the creek.



Creekside Rainforest, Photos Andrea Collins

Spongy with mosses, our maples are one of the richest habitat trees in the forest. Lichen on mature trees provides indigenous winter food for deer. Beneath the leaf-littered surface, microscopic life also goes on abundantly, interacting with the forest we see above. As a watershed its surface and subsurface streams filter runoff and feed the year-round creek.

That's a brief sketch, another part of the story is the way the salmon forest and creek are dependent on each other and therefore cannot exist apart from each other. The forest's roots hold the steep land together with a force beyond rebar and prevent silt from reaching the stream's clear waters. There is no human

engineering that can replace the power and subtle efficiency of trees in protecting water quality. The overhanging boughs and stout tree trunks shade the water, keeping it at the cool temperature required by Coho salmon. But the interaction doesn't stop there. During spawning season, animals, mostly birds on Salt Spring, feed upon the bright salmon, dragging bits of fish carcasses into the forest. Nitrogen provided by the decomposing salmon is crucial to the health and existence of the rainforest. Oceanic nutrients have been found in the growth rings of rainforest trees, offering scientific proof of the integration between salmon streams and salmon forest. The creek that is a nursery for young salmon could never survive without the dark shade of the rainforest and as well, the great trees of the forest, some that are capable of living for over a thousand years, like cedar, cannot survive without salmon. Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society has spent decades working on the preservation of Cusheon Creek and has used the area as a "green classroom" for children.

Temperate rainforest is also important in staving off the impacts of global warming. Its trees absorb and store carbon, keeping it out of the atmosphere – as long as they live. Trees, as the largest plants in the world, are considered nature's most effective "carbon sinks." Temperate rainforests sequester more carbon than tropical rainforests (due to different decomposition rates in each).

In contrast, loss of trees (deforestation) contributes to global warming by releasing carbon back into the atmosphere. According to an article by Daniel Howden in *The Independent* (U.K. May 14 2007) entitled, "Deforestation: The hidden cause of global warming," "...Carbon emissions from deforestation far outstrip damage caused by planes and automobiles and factories.... Scientists say one day's deforestation [at current world rates] is equivalent to the carbon footprint of eight million people flying to New York." Howden quotes the Oxford-based Global Canopy Programme, pooling the expertise of many scientists, to say: "If we lose forests, we lose the fight against climate change."

Save Salt Spring Rainforest Appeal is in a million dollar race to save this precious area before the land is legally subdivided into three lots and developed. Presently owned by a numbered company, subdivision process on this lot has nearly been completed but is on hold, awaiting the outcome of fundraising. We can only protect this land by buying it.

The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) has negotiated an agreement for sale, and Bill Turner, its executive director, has managed to get a recent 11th hour extension until the end of February to buy Salt Spring's creekside rainforest for a total of \$975,000 dollars plus GST. Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) has already pledged \$25,000. Additional supporters are Friends of Salt Spring Parks, Salt Spring Island Water Council, and Island Stream & Salmon Enhancement Society.

Pledges may be made on line at www.savesaltspringrainforest.com or, for dial up, www.savesaltspringrainforest.net. As well, paper pledges may be obtained on Salt Spring at Patterson's

Market, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, and Salt Spring Books. When pledges are called in, charitable tax receipts will be issued by TLC (at that time people who pay US taxes can obtain a special receipt if requested).

To experience the rainforest for yourself, you're invited to take one of the popular guided walks held on weekends. Imagine how beautiful and full of life the rainforest will be in 100 years if we save it now.

LARRY TALARICO MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR SOOKE HILLS

The Land Conservancy (TLC) has the final fundraising push on as it works to the closing date of the Larry Talarico Memorial Campaign for Sooke Hills. TLC is asking individuals and corporations to make a donation to honour the life of Larry Talarico and to help purchase a new piece of regional parkland in the Sooke Hills.



Larry Talarico was a well-respected dentist, a member of the Juan de Fuca search and rescue team, and an avid hiker. TLC would like to put forward a challenge to all dental offices, search and rescue teams, and hiking groups on Vancouver Island to support the campaign.

"The timeframe was tight from the beginning but that's what we had to work with," says TLC's Geoff Reader. "What we need right now are a couple of angels (substantial donors) and as many small donations as possible. We are optimistic the community will step up."

The goal of the Larry Talarico Memorial Campaign is to raise \$750,000. TLC's contribution of \$500,000 will go to the overall purchase price of the new regional parkland located east of Sooke Potholes Regional Park. The remaining funds will be utilized to help continue TLC's work in protecting lands in the region. Together with the Capital Regional District (CRD), TLC plans to purchase 932 hectares from TimberWest Forest Corporation.

Once protected, the area of the Sooke Hills in which Larry had been hiking when he passed away will become part of the regional vision for a Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt. The belt will create a continuous protected area from Salt Spring Island to the Sooke Basin; providing habitat for wildlife (like black bear, cougar and elk), and an incredible network of lands for recreational pursuits like hiking and horseback riding.

When announcing her donation a month ago, Alison Talarico, Larry's wife, relayed a story to TLC that when Larry was once asked if he wanted to buy some property in the Sooke Hills, he responded: "It's not for private ownership. It needs to be for the public." Please help TLC ensure Larry's vision comes true by donating at 1-877-485-2422 or online www.conservancy.bc.ca.



Survivor: Birds in Decline, a reality show



"Survivor, North America". Find a mate and raise a brood on a limited food supply in a degraded habitat, migrate 4000 km risking life and feather to cats, pesticides, buildings, towers and electrical lines. Arrive at your wintering grounds only to discover that your prime habitat has been converted to a monoculture plantation devoid of insects or native shrubs. Grand Prize? Survival!

From our oceans and coastal rainforests to interior grasslands, alpine tundra and wetlands, the diversity of habitats in British Columbia is reflected in its abundant and varied wildlife, especially in its bird diversity. British Columbia encompasses 95 million hectares of land and freshwater. Only 30 countries are larger than our province. More than 310 species of birds breed or have bred in British Columbia (Fenneman 2007).

Managing and conserving for this diversity of birds across such an array of habitats is a formidable challenge. The taxonomic diversity of landbirds alone requires a wider range of resources compared with the other bird groups. Despite this, current funding levels for bird (especially landbird) conservation are not adequate to meet the challenge. Limited funding is focussed on species at risk, a legitimate priority, but ultimately prevention is much cheaper than recovery. In addition, many bird species have a high proportion of their North American population in BC, underscoring our global responsibility for conservation of these species.

Thirty-one of BC's bird species have been federally assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern (COSEWIC 2007). Ninety-one species are provincially listed as Endangered or Threatened (BC Ministry of Environment 2007). Many species at risk are particularly sensitive to the impacts of habitat loss or ecosystem fragmentation, often because they have specific habitat requirements. However, when our more common bird species also experience significant population declines, as is the case now, this should be cause for even greater concern.

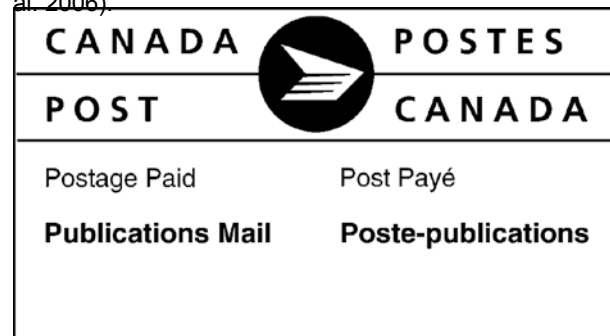
North American breeding bird population status and trend data come mainly from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a standardized road-based survey. Over 2300 routes are run annually during the breeding season in the USA and Canada. Approximately 75 routes are run annually in BC, sampling a total of about 236,500 hectares. Therefore, our bird popula-

written by Tanya Luszcz, Partners in Flight
BC/Yukon Great Basin Program Coordinator
Photos by Bob McKay

tion trend information comes from sampling only 1/500th of BC's landbase, with a bias towards the more populated southern portion of the province.

BBS population trend estimates reveal that several bird species are experiencing serious population declines across North America. Combining data over the past 26 years (1980-2006), 32% of the 424 species of birds regularly detected by the survey are showing significant population declines (Sauer et al. 2007). Certain groups of birds are suffering greater declines than others. For example, 50% of grassland breeding bird species and 40% of urban breeding bird species (such as House Sparrows, Robins and House Finches) detected by the survey are experiencing significant population declines across North America.

Figure 1. Summary of wintering locations in Mexico, Central and South America for 61 of BC's breeding bird species of high conservation importance. This map provides a starting point for targeting action through partnerships and mechanisms that would help further conservation action outside their borders (Blancher et al. 2006).





Killdeer (above) populations in BC are declining (-5.5% per year over the last 20 years). This shorebird commonly nests on open ground in human-modified habitats, making them especially vulnerable to poisoning and collisions with cars and buildings. Far left: baby Long Eared owl, Photos B. McKay

Population trends for BC birds are no exception. BBS in BC reports on 174 species, of which 49 have experienced mean annual population declines over the last 20 years (Downes and Collins 2007). By contrast, only five species are showing increases. Many of our more common species are also experiencing population declines, and may soon be at risk (Table 1).

The main reason for these observed population declines is habitat loss or degradation, whether on the breeding grounds, migratory stopover habitats, wintering grounds, or a combination of the three. Urban development and intensive agricultural and energy development are the main contributors to habitat loss and degradation. Barriers to migration (buildings, towers and windfarms) also take their toll. Brightly lit towers attract birds especially on nights with low cloud cover, and they kill between four and forty million birds per year. Building windows are estimated to kill between 97 and 976 million birds per year (US Fish and Wildlife Service 2002).

Climate change and its consequences are already affecting birds and their habitat in a multitude of ways. Habitat shifts of up to 100 km per decade for some tree species have been predicted (Hamann and Wang 2006), which will benefit some species but not others. Some bird species are extending their breeding range northwards (Hitch and Leberg 2007). Gray Jay populations at the southern edge of their range suffered when winter food hoards rotted due to unseasonably warm weather (Waite and Strickland 2006). An unusual weather event in the California Current System in 2005 led to unprecedented breeding failures among Cassin's Auklets, as well as unprecedented levels of adult mortality (Sydeman et al. 2006).

Table 1. Mean annual population trends for some BC birds and their potential population decline in 20 years, at current rate of decline (Downes and Collins 2007).

Species	Mean annual population decline over the last 20 years (1986 – 2006)	If trends continue, the population will decline by this percentage in the next 20 years:
	All significant at $P < 0.05$	
Barn Swallow ²	-10.30%	89%
Violet-green Swallow	-3.20%	48%
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	-6.40%	73%
American Kestrel	-7.60%	79%
Common Nighthawk ¹	-6.10%	72%
Olive-sided Flycatcher ¹	-5.20%	66%
Western Meadowlark	-4.50%	60%
Willow Flycatcher	-2.90%	44%
Yellow Warbler	-1.90%	32%
Bewick's Wren	-12.90%	94%
Common Merganser	-5.40%	67%
Cinnamon Teal	-13.70%	95%
Killdeer	-5.50%	67%
¹ COSEWIC-listed species, ² Red or Blue listed Provincially in BC		

Invasive species, predators and pesticides also take their toll. There are three times as many pet cats in the USA as there are people in Canada. Add in 60 to 100 million stray and feral cats (Winter and Wallace 2006), and it is understandable how hundreds of millions of birds are killed annually by cats in the USA alone. For your information, British cats with bells caught more animals on average than cats without bells (Woods et al. 2003). The effects of pollution and pesticides are more difficult to detect, but it is estimated that pesticides kill 67 million birds per year in the USA (Deinlein 2007). The indirect effects of reduced insect prey availability may be much greater. Many of the birds in BC experiencing significant population declines are aerial insectivores (swallows, flycatchers, Common Nighthawk).

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) is the over-arching conservation partnership for all birds in all habitats. In 1999, Canada, the USA and Mexico confirmed their commitment to bird conservation under NABCI on this continent through a tri-national declaration of intent. Across North America, NABCI is implemented regionally through all-bird, all-habitat joint ventures, of which two exist in BC: the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (CIJV). Partners in Flight functions as the landbird component of the CIJV. Under these partnerships,

a multitude of initiatives, local, regional and international in scope, exist to monitor and conserve birds and their habitat.

Effective migratory bird conservation demands our involvement in conservation beyond our political borders. Conservation action is necessary on the wintering grounds for birds that breed in BC but winter in Mexico, Central and South America (Blancher et al. 2006). Winter links have been established for 61 priority migratory landbird species of conservation importance in British Columbia to help us to identify regions beyond our borders that should be targeted for conservation attention (Figure 1; Blancher et al. 2006). Visit <http://www.partnersinflight.org/contactus.cfm> and <http://www.latangara.org/> to connect with some already established partnerships.

The key to successful conservation is coordinated and effective partnerships. We need to conserve all birds across all habitats across the working landscape. This goes beyond acquiring and protecting areas. To help birds survive, we need environmentally-minded municipal and regional planning, smart-growth development, effective stewardship, habitat restoration, pesticide alternatives, management of cats by their owners, and mitigation of existing threats like migration barriers,.. In our professional and personal lives, we all need to take responsibility and shared stewardship, and it needs to occur on all levels, from grassroots to policy, from the individual right up to the highest organization. If we aren't directly involved, we can help increase their chances of survival depending on our area of interest, passion, expertise and responsibility.

Even the Western Meadowlark is experiencing a population decline of 4.5% per year in BC. If these trends continue, populations of this common grassland species will decline by 60% in the next 20 years.



Engage in partnerships that work together in the same strategic direction:

- Connect with Partners in Flight and BC's joint venture partners so that we can work together to integrate bird needs into your planning, management and conservation

Get involved in bird monitoring, as it is an important step to knowing which species are most at risk:

- Volunteer on bird monitoring programs (e.g. BBS, Nocturnal Owl Survey, Project FeederWatch, Christmas Bird Count, BC Bird Atlas 2008)

- Report your bird sightings (www.ebird.ca)

Become active and influence land use planning process at all levels:

- Encourage decision makers to address climate change issues
- Help protect local habitat
- Promote sound agricultural policy
- Support sustainable forestry
- Save wetlands
- Combat invasive species
- Support international conservation, especially in bird stopover and wintering habitats

Take individual action

- Change your own lifestyle to reduce energy use (e.g. drive less)
- Buy products responsibly (e.g. bird-friendly, shade grown organic coffee)
- Keep cats indoors (especially during breeding season and migration)
- Stop using pesticides in your yard and switch to greener alternatives

Everyone loves birds. We love to watch them, feed them, paint them, dedicate festivals to their names, and even fly to exotic locales to tick them off our lists. Billions of dollars are spent annually in North America by bird watchers and photographers. Not only do we appreciate their presence in song, but we value them for the services they provide: pollination, seed dispersal, insect consumption, and invasive species seed consumption. The declines we are observing are a warning call. Prevention is much cheaper than species at risk recovery. Even individual action is important. It is our shared responsibility to reverse these declines and conserve BC's birds because their survival is in our hands.

Tanya Luszcz, Partners in Flight BC/Yukon Great Basin Program Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
www.pifbcyukon.org



The Yellow Warbler nests in dense deciduous riparian vegetation, especially willow, across BC. This species is experiencing population declines in BC thought to be related to habitat loss.

GREEN VALUE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT: OXYMORON OR OPPORTUNITY?

by hans peter meyer

Is a greening of land and real estate development taking place in BC? The Real Estate Foundation believes that such change is afoot, particularly on Vancouver Island. In several regions of the Island, advocates for a green value approach to development and land uses include local government planners, administrators and elected folks. Land owners and developers also find the cache and promising economics of green value strategies appealing. The Foundation suggests that the work of the growing stewardship and conservation sector (S&C) has helped engender this market-based interest.

When decisions about the land are at stake, the market and stewardship/conservation sector often seem to be at opposite sides of a coin. However, there is an inseparable connection between the ecology and man's settlement activities on the landscape. Both sectors have an interest in a healthy ecology. Recognizing this, the Foundation has, in the words of Tim Pringle, Executive Director, committed to a "multi-year strategy to persuade local governments to adopt a green value approach to considering development permit applications." The underutilized resource in this context, however, is local S&C organizations that have long been building their base of knowledge and support. Perhaps at no other time has the S&C sector been in a better position to help local government, land owners and developers move towards more sustainable policies and practices.

The current context has been building since at least the early 1990s. Awareness of the "downstream" impact of settlement choices, and of the limitations of conventional efforts to mitigate the impact of these choices on ecological systems has grown significantly. At a workshop sponsored by the Foundation in Nanaimo, Chris Jensen of the Ministry of Community Services put it succinctly, "conventional engineered solutions produce predictable results --even as little as 10% impervious surfaces in a development will have *significant impact* on neighbouring streams.

Perhaps nowhere is "significant impact" more threatening than on the southern half of Vancouver Island and the Okanagan. Tremendous development pressures are coming to bear on these regions. Settlement choices made have the potential to severely undermine the capacity of local



This bio-swale in Nanaimo has ecological, aesthetic, and economic benefits. Photo: hans peter meyer)

ecological systems to support the very qualities of life that are the magnet for growth and development. The need to support green values approaches is critical. This is the motivation behind the Board of Governors deciding to make a green values strategy a high priority for the Real Estate Foundation. The goal, says Pringle, "is to support communities to examine how they might achieve more benefits than liabilities when accommodating burgeoning demands for real estate development."

Typically, the Foundation pursues its objectives by investing in local knowledge and regional collaborations. For example, in the Okanagan-Similkameen area, the Foundation supports the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) comprised of partners involved in conservation and stewardship issues. These organizations represent a wealth of science-based information on regional eco-systems. Recently SOSCP has provided expert input to help Summerland incorporate ecological values (from a legal, planning and technical perspective) into its Official Community Plan. SOSCP partners similarly have influenced the Official Community Plan in Osoyoos to include environmentally sensitive land designations in the revised OCP.

On Vancouver Island, leadership on the part of the BC Water & Waste Association has evolved into Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI). Like SOSCP, CAVI is a coordinating body. In CAVI's case, the emphasis is on

stimulating a practically-oriented conversation about green values and settlement choices with local government and in the development community. Sharing information on projects as diverse as the Inland Kenworth project in Nanaimo and the ambitious Westhills project in Langford is helping other Island communities adopt (sometimes very quickly) green values approaches.

There is, according to Tim Pringle, “a growing appetite among developers and local governments to accommodate green value approaches to development proposals.” In policy it is evident in the sensitivity to habitat and ecological niches represented in the revised Osoyoos OCP. In practice it is tangible in the way some Nanaimo-area developers are designing with nature in mind. At the level of civic leadership it is showing up in the way Mayors and Councils in places as different as the City of Langford and the Village of Ucluelet are learning from their neighbours, then preparing for and shaping the kind of settlement they want to see in their boundaries.

“There seems to be increasing interest among communities to clarify the statement of values that will direct future accommodation of settlement change,” Pringle observes. “They are adopting strategies that indicate what will be done to achieve the values objectives. These policies make their way into official planning documents – OCPs and Regional Growth Strategies.” They are also showing up in internal directives, as for example, both Langford and the City of Nanaimo are embracing green values in an increasing number of civic practices.

Motivations for change at the local government level are myriad. When asked, some officials have referenced Al Gore, calling it the “Inconvenient Truth Effect.” Among practitioners on Vancouver Island, there is growing awareness that conventional solutions fail to sustain community values, be they social, financial or environmental. “Previous generations, basically because they didn’t know better, have damaged the planet,” says Dean Mousseau Manager of Development Engineering with the City of Nanaimo. “I want to take every opportunity to mitigate this.” Existing policies often are a source of frustration for civic staff because they encourage engineered efficiency over outside-the-box engineering that creatively integrates with

natural systems. “But the mindset is changing,” Mousseau says. “We are able to have frank and open discussions about alternative approaches.” In the Nanaimo area, one of the consequences of these “frank and open discussions” is the rapid growth of a body of knowledge amongst some developers and their consultancy teams about how to get green value projects moving within a reasonable time frame and within the constraints of the marketplace. This body of knowledge is now starting to spill over into neighbouring communities.

Within the private sector on the Island, Victoria’s Dockside Green and Westhills in Langford represent the high-profile

green value residential projects targeting an as-yet untested “green” home-buying market. Below the radar, several developments up island are proving that “going green” makes financial sense. In some cases, like the Inland Kenworth project in Nanaimo and the side-by-side Mazda and Toyota dealership projects in the Comox Valley, it was simply less expensive to use natural systems than employ conventional solutions. Green value content is now proving to be an added bonus.



Stewards on the Englishman River: Supporting ecological values now and in the future. Photo: Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society)

“I’m always learning,” says developer Greg Constable referring to his interactions with his consultants and civic staff on these types of projects. As he learns more about the benefits of ‘green values’ approaches, he is becoming more willing to sell green to clients. For their part, Constable says his clients are increasingly receptive to green values technologies and approaches, to the point of paying up to a 5% premium over conventional approaches, a significant amount of money when projects are costed in millions of dollars.

All of this bodes well for the S&C sector, in terms of a general interest in sustaining ecological values and in terms of raising the sector’s influence and impact on long term community sustainability and quality of life. As Pringle has said, the current context presents an opportunity to encourage settlement choices that tip the balance in favour of ecological system health. These systems have been compromised by our historical choices of where and how to live on, for example, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, particularly our preference for “rural sprawl” - large lot

subdivision incurring extensive infrastructure and environmental costs. The convergence of local government and private sector interests in green values indicates a ripening situation where new developments actually help play a role in restoring damaged natural systems. Or, in Pringle's words, we are in a position to support settlement solutions that "achieve more benefits than liabilities." By helping to address this need, S&C organizations have an opportunity to be leaders in education and expertise.

"Fortunately, an increasing number of S&C organizations are active in the stakeholder processes of adopting community values and implementation strategies" says Pringle. "I encourage S&C organizations to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the ecological policy and related land use designations in their OCPs and Regional Plans. Elected folks seek allies to help them be champions for neglected green value objectives."

In the writer's hometown of Courtenay an innovative infill project was built by a local builder. He anticipated a number of neighbourhood concerns about density, design, and height yet was still met with a "Not-In-My-Backyard" response. Ironically, a decade later, the project is cited by other neighbours as "Wanted-In-My-Backyard" (WIMBY) when faced with conventional sprawl-type developments. Strategic support from some S&C leaders could have helped residents see what is so clear in hindsight: the neighbourhood and the community has benefited from increased density in the downtown, more pedestrian opportunities, and a lighter footprint on the region's resources. I am not sure if local S&C organizations have capacity to become involved in such situations, but likely they would be positive interveners. This particular builder has become risk averse and appears unwilling to do any new developments in the area.

Clearly, the S&C sector in BC has built considerable capacity in recent years. A number of organizations continue to deliver traditional stewardship and conservation services, including large scale projects by senior players such as the Nature Trust of BC, the Land Conservancy and Nature Conservancy of Canada. Recently, a number of umbrella organizations have been added to the pool of S&C expertise and services. Examples are the Land Trust Alliance of



Orchard Gate faced NIMBY in Courtenay. Photo: hans peter meyer

BC, the Grasslands Conservation Council, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, the East Kootenay Environmental Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council. The Real Estate Foundation helps to fund several of these collaboratives.

The Foundation provides support because these organizations are addressing ecological concerns intractably part of decisions made by local governments to deal with demand for land use. These organizations have and continue to build capacity to work across sectors - local and other levels of government, professional associations, industry organizations, land owners and developers. As S&C organizations build their research, consultative and educational services, they will be increasingly valuable resources for communities accommodating settlement change.

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MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

by Sara J. Wilson and Richard J. Hebda

Executive Summary

It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change.

Charles Darwin (1835)

Climate change will have wide-ranging impacts on natural, managed and human systems. These impacts pose challenges and opportunities for human settlement and resource use as well as the conservation, management and stewardship of lands. The combination of climate change and human conversion and the degradation of natural landscapes threatens ecosystems and the services they provide.

Current and future climate change will impact forests, wetlands, rivers, and coastal areas, as well as the human communities that depend upon them. International studies have reported that northern forests and the Arctic region are the most affected by the changing climate. Climate in northern areas, including British Columbia is warming, and will likely continue to warm, more rapidly than the global average.

This report provides an overview of:

- the role that natural ecosystems play to mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- the projected impacts of climate change on ecosystems in British Columbia; and,
- strategies to reduce impacts, focusing on conservation and ecosystem protection.

Valuing Nature in an Era of Climate Change

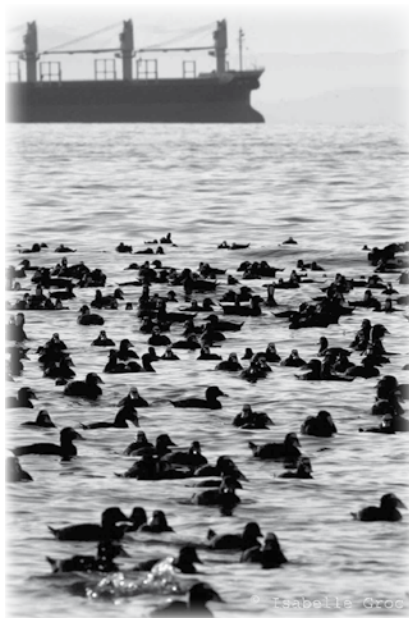
Biomass and soils, the living carbon of ecosystems, remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere naturally. Adapting to and reducing the degree of climate warming demands more than reducing or replacing the use of ancient carbon, namely fossil fuels, for energy. One of the essential life support services provided by ecosystems is the protection of the climate through carbon cycling. We suggest that

“Carbon Stewardship” is an important concept that needs to be incorporated into policies and planning for climate change. This includes protecting the carbon stored in natural and semi-natural ecosystems.

Natural ecosystems provide an enormous range of goods and services that sustain our health and well-being including food, materials, clean air, clean water, nutrient cycling, as well as recreation, education and spiritual uplift. A recent global assessment of human impacts on the world's ecosystems found that 60 percent of ecosystem services including fresh water, air and water purification, and the regulation of climate are in decline. The loss of natural habitat worldwide due to human impact has resulted in an estimated loss of \$250 billion per year. Climate change will exacerbate the degradation of ecosystems and the loss of ecosystem services.

Natural ecosystems provide key services related to climate change notably carbon dioxide absorption and carbon storage. For example, global ocean and land ecosystems typically remove about 50-60 percent of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions. Intact natural ecosystems are the most resilient to change, therefore they provide the best opportunities for adaptation as the climate changes through the provision of corridors for migrating wildlife, water storage, and flood protection. Intact natural systems also store the most carbon.

British Columbia ecosystems play an important role in carbon cycling and storage. Forest ecosystems in particular are huge reservoirs of carbon, storing it in living plants, soil and peat. Globally, forest ecosystems contain more than half of all terrestrial carbon and account for about 80 percent of the exchange of carbon between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere. British Columbia forests have some of the highest carbon stores in Canada averaging 311 tonnes per hectare with some coastal forests holding 600 to 1,300 tonnes per hectare. Based on the average estimates, the total



Photos by Isabelle Groc

carbon stored by BC's forests amounts to 88 times Canada's annual greenhouse gas emissions. (989 times BC's GHG annual emissions). This stored carbon is worth an estimated total of \$774 billion, or \$62 billion per year (\$1,072 per hectare). In addition, British Columbia's peatlands hold 6.8 billion tonnes of carbon and remove a further 1.5 million tonnes per year.

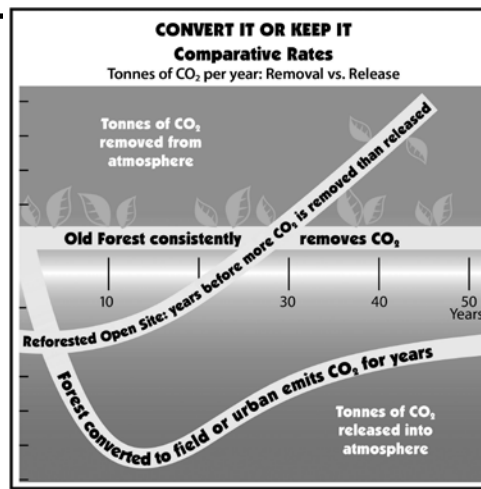
Conversion of forests to non-forest land use rapidly releases stored carbon as carbon dioxide impacting the atmosphere and climate for centuries. The conversion of a coastal old-growth forest to a younger plantation forest reduces carbon storage by 305 tonnes of carbon per hectare over a 60-year rotation, and total carbon storage is reduced for at least 250 years. For example the past century's conversion of five million hectares of old-growth forests to younger plantations in Oregon and Washington released 1.5 to 1.8 billion tonnes of carbon to the atmosphere. As a result, the conservation of British Columbia's natural ecosystems can have a strong impact on the avoidance of carbon emissions. In comparison, the planting of trees on an unforested site has no net carbon dioxide benefits over the first 10-20 years, and thereafter the benefits are much less than the avoided emissions from a protected forest of equal area.

Nature Under Threat from Climate Change

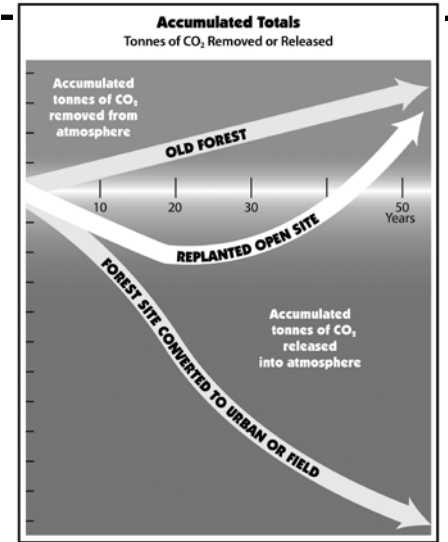
British Columbia's ecosystems and the services they provide are at high risk to the impacts of climate change. Average annual temperature and precipitation have changed significantly in British Columbia consistent with the projections from climate change models. Climate change impacts such as earlier snowmelt, the mountain pine beetle outbreak, and declining health in western redcedar are already evident in British Columbia.

Studies of fossil records demonstrate that the projected changes in British Columbia's climate will result in a different pattern of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems than exists today and will force widespread species migrations.

Climate impact models project several changes across our landscapes including an overall shift of southern ecosystem types towards northern BC. Dry forest and grassland ecosystems, and lowland conifer forests will spread upslope along the coast and in the interior. A major decline in spruce forests and alpine ecosystems will occur. A wide range of changes in wetlands and aquatic ecosystems such as the drowning of estuaries and erosion of shorelines are predicted as sea level rises. In addition, increased damage from storms, flooding, erosion, droughts, and pest outbreaks are expected.



concept design Richard Hebda
graphics Patricia Walker



Strategies to Reduce Impacts

Carbon Offsets

Offsets are intended to counteract greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere at a specific source by sequestering them elsewhere. Carbon offsets are purchased by individuals and companies to offset their own carbon emissions. The voluntary market for carbon offsets by corporations and individuals is growing very rapidly. In 2006, it was worth an estimated \$100 million.

The major concerns regarding the validity of voluntary carbon offsets are the verification of the quality of offsets, the long term accountability of projects, and the lack of a universal standard. Some offset providers have a certification process, but it is difficult to verify the validity of many projects. The key issues are whether the offset is in addition (i.e. additionality) to what would occur as a normal matter of course (i.e. business as usual), and whether or not a project results in increased GHG emissions elsewhere (i.e. leakage).

There is, however, much support for carbon offsets because they prompt people and communities to factor in the cost of their carbon footprint when making decisions. Carbon offsets also result in a price on carbon, a value that begins to filter into people's thinking and business operations.

Carbon offsets for the protection of stored carbon (i.e. avoided emissions from ecosystem degradation and conversion), are not currently available in carbon markets, although reliable institutions such as the Chicago Climate Exchange provide offsets from managed lands including agricultural, forest and range lands. There are also other mechanisms for land trust and conservation agencies to directly facilitate financial contributions towards the protection of forests and peatlands as a gift or to reduce a business or individual's carbon footprint.

British Columbia's Climate Change Initiatives

The BC government has mandated the reduction of GHG emissions by at least 33 percent below 2007 levels by 2020, and that government agencies become carbon neutral by 2010. For every tonne of GHGs emitted by government travel, the province will invest \$25 in a new BC Carbon Trust to ensure that taxes are invested in valid offset projects in BC. Also a new carbon-trading registry will allow BC residents to offset their personal carbon footprint beginning in 2008.

BC's local governments also have committed to be carbon neutral by 2012. The Union of BC Municipalities and the BC government will establish a joint Green Communities committee and Working Groups to develop actions to address climate change and meet the 2012 target. These initiatives may provide opportunities for land trusts and other conservation agencies to form partnerships on land-use planning, land stewardship projects, and stewardship or management agreements on natural areas for building resiliency to climate change.

Conservation Strategies: Adaptation and Mitigation

The protection of land offers multiple values in addition to fostering biodiversity. The protection of healthy, functioning and diverse ecosystems provides resilience for natural areas and nearby human communities and reduces the risk of rapid changes and loss of ecosystem values and services. In the last ten years, British Columbia land trusts have protected more than a quarter million hectares of land in trust for public benefits. Land trusts will benefit by expanding their partnerships with local, provincial and federal agencies and protected area strategies to ensure that the areas and ecosystems will continue to provide benefits to society.

It is now imperative that land use planning including conservation initiatives anticipate climate change impacts and integrate appropriate strategies to avoid risks and optimize opportunities. Local, regional and national agencies will need to review their objectives in the context of climate change. For example, conservation planning for relatively large areas and a wide range of values are at less risk to climate change than those focused on small areas for specific values such as single species conservation. In addition, it will be even more important for conservation objectives to be linked to other land management decision-making.

Decisions concerning land acquisition or conservation strategies need to consider the potential impacts of climate change, links and corridors to other natural lands for species migra-

tion, and in setting the priority for multiple ecosystem values rather than a single specific value. Providing the greatest options for the changing character of habitats ahead will be critical.

Decision Support for a Responsive Climate Change Strategy

We ranked BC's ecosystems according to their sensitivity to climate change, carbon storage capability, biodiversity habitat, and the degree of human impacts. Accordingly, for BC ecosystems:

1. The Coastal Douglas-fir zone is of very high importance.
2. The Interior Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine zones, Garry Oak and related ecosystems and wetlands are of high to very high importance.
3. Coastal Western Hemlock, Bunchgrass, and Interior Cedar Hemlock zones are of medium importance.
4. Mountain Hemlock, Sub-Boreal Spruce, Sub-boreal Pine Spruce, Boreal White and Black Spruce, Spruce Willow Birch, Montane Spruce and Engelmann Spruce- Sub-alpine Fir and the aggregate Alpine Tundra zones are of low to medium importance.



shorebirds, photo by Isabelle Groc

Conclusions

The immense stores of carbon in existing ecosystems are of great importance for both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, especially compared to the potential of removing atmospheric carbon by planting new forests. Carbon storage in young forests takes a long time especially in terms of replacing lost carbon. Second, because there is so little time to slow global warming, the priority should be on preventing carbon losses and conserving the carbon stores that exist. Third, by protecting existing ecosystems there will be a wide range of habitat to provide connecting corridors for plant and animal migration as the climate warms. Fourth, the protection of intact ecosystems provides resiliency for ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them.

This report clearly demonstrates that conserving land with healthy natural ecosystems is a cost effective and important strategy to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. The report concludes that the conservation of intact ecosystems for the numerous values and services they bring humans, in addition to providing habitats for wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and the health of communities needs to be a significant part of any climate change strategy for both mitigation and adaptation to changing climates.

ADDRESSING ATV TRESPASS ON CONSERVATION LANDS

by Tasha Sargeant

BC has some of the most beautiful, pristine tracts of land in the country, where recreationists can all go to enjoy the splendor that our province has to offer. Some of these lands are so incredible that they've been set aside for conservation, away from development, abusive recreation and degradation. So nothing is worse than realizing someone has trespassed onto those lands and caused damage to the very values that are being protected.

This damage can come in all forms – hikers cutting trails or leaving litter, mountain bikers building stunts or cutting down trees to widen a path. The most conspicuous of damage usually comes from motorized off road vehicles (ORVs), mainly because of the power, the tires and the ability to go further, faster.

Often, those who do the damage are doing it unwittingly – either they do not know the land is set aside for conservation, or they don't realize the long-lasting impacts the damage created from their ORV can cause. Sometimes, however, the damage is intentional, and often quite severe.

There are many methods one can take to prevent trespass by ORVs – you can spend thousands of dollars on fencing or gates, which often fall victim to vandals, you can send the police or conservation officers to the site under section 46 of the Forest and Range Practices Act—an amendment that allows for fines of up to \$100,000 and a year in jail for damage to sensitive ecosystems—though with no legislation for licensing or registering ORVs in BC, there is little chance of ever identifying the perpetrator.

The best approach, therefore, is education and collaboration. For those riders that are causing unintentional damage, providing education materials like the Grassland Conservation Council of BC's "Best Management Practices for Motorized Recreation on BC's Grasslands", a small pocketbook designed in collaboration with riding groups to teach ORV users how to ride with care on grasslands, are invaluable. Developed with input from over 40 stakeholders, including several ORV organizations, it is designed to provide information to riders in such a way that it is coming from not only conservationists, but their peers. The Quad Riders Association of BC (ATV/BC) has also developed several materials aimed at educating riders about their environmental impacts.

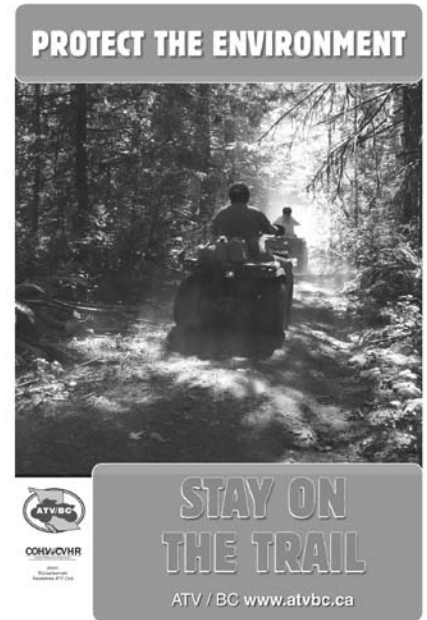
Collaboration with riding groups to get the message out is crucial. Many riders will change their behaviours when they realize their impacts, and that it is supported by their own riding community. Many will also spread the message to their fellow riders, and many, including those who intentionally inflict damage

or trespass on conservation lands, will listen to their peers and stop their damaging behaviour.

Signage that shows this collaboration can go a long way to deterring riders from knowingly trespassing on conservation lands. A simple sign that shows the message, coming from a rider organization, can show that their peers care about the lands and the reputation of the riding community as well. Ultimately, the sustainability of the support depends on the actions of the riders, and playing responsibly means they have more freedom to enjoy their ORVs.

The best success story is the collaboration behind the Off Road Vehicle Coalition. Where would you ever think you could see eNGOs, government and ORV clubs come together and reach consensus? They did – 47 recommendations for government on the legislation of ORVs, including measures for conservation. Working together collaboratively can have tremendous payoffs, and far more acceptance from other riders when it comes to preventing damage to sensitive lands.

So if your organization is having problems with trespass by ORVs on your conservation lands, go to your local rider groups and ask for their help. Bring some solutions and be willing to work together – most rider groups don't want a negative reputation and would likely be willing to work with you to address the problem if approached in a collaborative, positive manner. Showcase your partnership – that way everyone is a winner, especially the precious environment you are trying to conserve.



Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR SERIES 2008

Friday, April 11, 2008

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm - Half day – pre-sessions:

- a. **Pine Beetle Management and Restoration Projects:** Field tour of pine beetle affected areas. *Judy Millar, Mountain Pine Beetle Specialist, BC Ministry of Environment.*
- b. **Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices:** How to's, costs, and feasibility for BC's land trusts (with particular focus on 6G, 6F, 11A, 12A). *Kathleen Sheppard (TLC)*

4:00 – 5:30 pm - Registration for Seminar Series

5:30 – 7:00 pm - Opening Plenaries & Banquet

Special Guests: First Nation welcome

BC Government welcome - TBA

Banquet & Informal mixing & tour of conservation displays

7:00 – 9:00 pm – Evening Entertainment

Ian McAllister – The Last Wild Wolves – (TBC)

Hugh Westheuser: Polar Bears – Nanuk to the Inuit – Ursus Maritimes

Saturday, April 12, 2008

7:00 – 8:00 am - Breakfast

7:30 – 9:00 am – Registration for Seminar Series

8:00 – 9:00 am - Morning Plenaries

Sara Wilson – Natural Capital Research and Consulting - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature

Tim Kittel – Research Associate, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado - Conservation Planning and Climate Change with the NCC

9:30 – 11:00 am – Session 1:

- a. **Facilitating Acquisitions** – Including information on life estates. *Bill Turner (TLC)*
- b. **Invasive Species Management** – Managing highly invasive non-native plants. *Crystal Khym (CIPC)*
- c. **Landowner Contact Programs** - Successes and lessons from the field/coast. *Zoey Slater (SCCP/FVC), Todd Carnahan (HAT)*

11:30 – 1:00 pm – Session 2:

- a. **Developing Stewardship Successes through Partnerships** - Lessons from the Okanagan. *Bryn White (SOSCP), Alyson Skinner and Paula Rodriguez de la Vega (TLC)*
- b. **Climate Change and Conservation Planning** – Strategies for land trusts in the face of global climate change. *Sara Wilson, Tim Kittel, Dirk Brinkman*
- c. **Local Governments and Stewardship** – Green Bylaws Toolkit, Species at Risk and Local Government, Wildlife Reports for Local Government. *Deborah Curran, Michael Pearson, Lisa Fox (FVC)*

1:00 – 2:00 pm – Lunch Break

APRIL 11-13, 2008 MANNING PARK RESORT

2:00 – 3:30 pm – Session 3:

- a. **Funding forum** – Panel on funding priorities, tips for success, building relationships, and reporting. *VanCity, Real Estate Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Mountain Equipment Co-op (TBC), NCC National Fund*
- b. **Protecting Watersheds and Water** - Review and discussion of water licences for conservation and watershed protection. *Deborah Curran, Kindy Gosal (CBT)*
- c. **Conservation Covenants** - Covenant clauses that withstand time. *Bill Turner (TLC), Barbara Pryce (NCC)*

4:00 – 5:30 pm –LTABC Annual General Meeting and election of Councillors.

6:00 – 7:00 pm – Dinner and Conservation Volunteer Award 2008

7:30 – 9:30 pm – Evening Entertainment

Fireside chat with Don Gayton - The Perfect Interior Storm - Pine beetle, invasive plants, forest in-growth and climate change.

Chris Harris – Spirit in the Grass – A collection of stunning images, cultural history and descriptive poetry of and about the Cariboo-Chilcotin's forgotten landscape.

Sunday, April 13, 2008

7:00 – 8:00 am – Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00 am – Session 4:

- a. **Fundraising Successes** – Facilitated panel discussion with Lorna Visser. *Tim Maloney (TLC), Ken Millard (GCA), Sheila Harrington (LTABC)*
- b. **Monitoring & Enforcement of Covenants.** *Kathryn Martell and Christina Waddle (TLC)*
- c. **Species at Risk** - Strategies for Recovery. *Lucy Reiss (CWS), GOERT, Robin Annschild (SSIC)*

10:30 – 12:00pm – Session 5:

- a. **Targeting and Prioritizing Lands for Conservation.** *Kate Emmings (ITF), Barbara Pryce (NCC), Robin Annschild (SSIC)*
- b. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge** - Partnerships with Local Conservationists in the Southern Okanagan territory. *Lillian Gottfriedson and Jeannette Armstrong*

12:00 lunch

Acronyms:			
CBT	Columbia Basin Trust	CIPC	Coastal Invasive Plant Committee
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service	FVC	Fraser Valley Conservancy
GCA	Galiano Conservation Association	GOERT	Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team
HAT	Habitat Acquisition Trust	ITF	Islands Trust Fund
LTABC	Land Trust Alliance of BC	NCC	Nature Conservancy of Canada
SCCP	South Coast Conservation Program	SOSCP	South Okanagan-Similkameen
SSIC	Salt Spring Island Conservancy		Conservation Program
TLC	The Land Conservancy of BC	TBC	To Be Confirmed

With many thanks for financial support from:
The Vancouver Foundation, The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia,
The Bullitt Foundation, Islands Trust Fund

For more information and to register:
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca christine@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

250-538-0112 fax 250-538-0172

WATER CONSERVATION THROUGH WATER LICENCING IN B.C.

by Deborah Curran

In many areas of B.C. we still take water for granted. Water flows, and conservation efforts are focused on rehabilitating degraded riparian areas or protecting ecologically sensitive habitat from development. Tales from the Pacific Northwest of streams drying up and fish dying are not common in this province. What is becoming more usual are low summer flow levels that threaten fish and habitat for other species.

Landowners, land trusts and other conservation organizations are turning their attention to the need for instream flows, sometimes called environmental flows, or the base water flow in streams that sustain ecological processes. If flow regimes are altered and water used beyond critical limits, the ecological integrity and self-sustaining productivity of the aquatic ecosystem become severely compromised. An area of particular concern is in the South Okanagan where 235 out of 300 streams are “fully recorded,” meaning there is no additional water available for new water licences. The Ministry now restricts water licensing (prohibits or restricts the issuance of new licences because sufficient water is no longer available for human use) on more than 25 percent of water sources in BC, with the South Okanagan and East coast of Vancouver Island most heavily restricted.

Some organizations are looking to hold water licences for conservation purposes as a way to redress these water shortages. The Land Trust Alliance will soon release a report explaining the structure of this water regime and the pitfalls and potential of using water licences to conserve instream flows. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the report and discuss instream water conservation under the current water management regime in B.C.

Water Use Regulation

Provincial government ownership of both surface and groundwater is subject to aboriginal rights and title claims. It is important to note that the vast majority of aboriginal rights and title claims to water in B.C. have not been finalized and are not factored into the water licensing regime and ecological needs for instream flows.

The province does not regulate the use of groundwater, and there is no comprehensive understanding of the cumulative effects of groundwater use on surface water hydrology.

A water user must obtain a licence under the Water Act from the Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division. Licences may be held for a variety of purposes, including domestic, agricultural, industrial and conservation. There are over 43,000 licences on more than 17,000 water sources in B.C.

Water licences establish a hierarchy for water use and are conditional in many ways. Rights held under licences are subject to the rules in the Water Act and regulations, the terms of the licence, orders made under the Water Act, and the seniority of older licences.

Principles of Water Licensing

Water licensing is based on several principles:

Prior allocation is how the seniority or priority of a water licence is determined. Irrespective of the use, priority is based on the date of the water licence with older licences taking precedence over more recent licences when there is not enough water in a stream to satisfy all licences. For example, an older industrial or irrigation use has priority over a more recent conservation use, and the Ministry can limit water use based on priority of licence.

Appurtenance means that licences must be attached to a specific parcel of land. Those entitled to apply for a water licence include an owner of land (person entitled to possession or with a substantial interest in the land), a mine, the Crown, a utility, and a local government. On the sale or transfer of land the water rights pass to the new owner with the approval of the Ministry. Conservation organizations cannot apply for water licences for conservation purposes on land that they do not own unless they have an interest in the land that allows them to use the land, for example a lease (but not a conservation covenant). Others cannot apply for a water licence on land owned by a conservation organization. Land trusts have developed many creative arrangements to deal with the appurtenance requirement, such as the Ministry holding water rights but a conservation organization using the water.

Purpose means that a water licence may be held for a variety of purposes, including conservation. The conservation purpose means the use and storage of water or the construction of works in and about streams for the purpose of conserving fish or wildlife. “Storage” means collecting, impounding or

conserving water. Provincial government agencies also hold extensive water licences for conservation purposes.

Associated works are a requirement of each licence. There must be some activity or change in the stream associated with the licence. The water cannot simply flow through the system untouched. "Works" include anything to divert, store, confine, conserve, or use water, and changes in and about a stream. "Changes in and about a stream" means any modification to the nature of a stream including the land, vegetation, natural environment or flow of water within a stream, or any activity or construction within the stream channel that has an impact on a stream. Works associated with licences held for conservation purposes include water use infrastructure (such as pipes), ponds, and structures to support seasonal wetlands and fish habitat. These works can be costly to maintain and in some cases become ineffective as the local hydrological regime changes.

Use it or lose it requires that a licence holder use the water allocated under the licence. If the water is not beneficially used for the purpose set out in the licence for three consecutive years, the Ministry may cancel the licence. To date the Ministry has rarely used this provision.

Pay for use means that the licence holder must pay an annual water rent charge based on the volume of the licence. For licences held for conservation purposes that fee will decrease dramatically in the next year from \$0.008 to \$0.001 per 1000 cubic metres (compared with water rents for irrigation that are increasing from \$0.50 to \$0.60). While there are some rental remissions in place, meaning licence holders such as the government, First Nations using water on reserve, and licence holders that give up some rights for a public purpose do not pay the annual rent; there are no blanket exemptions for specific uses like conservation.

If a conservation organization or landowner purchases property that has a water licence attached they may abandon the water licence to avoid paying the annual rent. However, unless the Ministry has placed a water allocation restriction or water reservation on the stream, the water under that licence will become available for reallocation. This is also the case if a conservation organization wanted to donate the water it held under a licence to the Ministry to increase instream flows,

unless a government agency desired to use and maintain the water licence and works.

Water Management

Overall, the water licencing regime in B.C. focuses on reacting to individual water licence applications, not planning for long term ecosystem health. There are no express requirements under the Water Act to account for instream uses or water quality, and no mechanism to require licencees to meet new standards for water conservation as instream flows change.

In practice the Ministry takes into account base flows when issuing licences and they make orders limiting use under licence when flows are inadequate. However, they have no ability to claw back licence allocations on a stream when hydrology changes such that

long term instream flows are inadequate.

The Ministry can decrease the amount of water in a licence only through the Water Management Plan process. A Water Management Plan can deal with conflicts between users and instream flow requirements, and place restrictions on well drilling. There are currently no Water Management Plans in the province, but the Ministry is completing two multi-year water planning processes in the Fraser Valley (Langley) and the Okanagan. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans can also limit water rights where water use threatens fish habitat to an extent that the use becomes a harmful alteration of fish habitat.

B.C. is long overdue for legislative change that addresses conflicts between water users and ensures adequate instream flows for ecological processes. In the mean time, land trusts may strategically acquire water licences for conservation purposes and work with other landowners and licencees to protect adequate flows.

The full report will be available by early February through info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Deborah Curran is a lawyer and Senior Instructor in the Faculty of Law and Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria. She will be joining the Columbia Basin Trust at the April 12th Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series to discuss the report and gain input into possible submission to the province on the conservation of water for biodiversity.



Lehman's Springs Conservation Area,
owned by TLC the Land Conservancy of BC

DFO REVIEW MAY IMPACT COMMUNITY FISHERIES STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Written by Kathy Reimer
Photo by Isabelle Groc

In the fall of 2007 Fisheries and Oceans initiated a review of the Community Involvement Program (CIP), including the role of the 18 Community Advisors who are stationed in BC and the Yukon.

Over the years these fisheries experts have been the main DFO contacts for the many community stewardship groups up and down the coast and in the BC Interior. They have been helping with countless projects such as funding, habitat restoration, salmon enhancement and stock assessments, community education, liaison with other agencies and watershed planning.

As fish stocks dwindle and habitat issues increase, the marine environment becomes even more important. These advisors have to work harder than ever. Community watershed plans such as the Cowichan River Management Plan can take up most of their time, leaving many other Fisheries issues unaddressed. A government review at this time could well result in further program cuts that make the situation even worse.

On Southern Vancouver Island Tom Rutherford has been our Fisheries community advisor for over 10 years. He has worked extremely gracefully with local stewardship groups, including both freshwater and marine issues. For example, with long time volunteer Nikki Wright and her non profit project SeaChange, this Community Advisor (CA) has recently assisted them with a site visit for a wetland restoration project in the Tod Creek watershed, helped them with a funding proposal for environmental education, given moral support in times of great funding stress, written endless letters of support for eelgrass restoration, marine conservation initiatives and environmental education, participated in important meetings about local watershed issues and spoken eloquently and heartfully about the invaluable contributions of the stewardship/conservation sector in times when these volunteers felt very invisible.

"Our CA has always understood the living connections between the marine and freshwaters of the province. He knew early on that the survival of the salmon included the estuaries and the deeper waters, and supported SeaChange and others in their attempts to make a difference in those areas that may benefit from their restoration efforts. Tom Rutherford has also been the grounding for DFO policy and regulations in



the Southern Vancouver Island area. Not only has he translated policy for what is best for the salmon, he also has been an excellent mediator in water quality and quantity issues within the human community, an invaluable role as the impacts of climate change make deeper impressions on our sense of rights and responsibilities about our waterways," states Nikki.

On many streams on the Gulf Islands and South Vancouver Island Tom has taken a lead role in fisheries habitat restoration projects. On Saturna Island he supervised the recent habitat improvement work on Lyall Creek. On Salt Spring Island he did the on site supervision at the Burgoyne Bay restoration site, working from dawn to dusk manning pumps and supervising the excavation and rock work. He also helps obtain permits for working near streams thereby saving a lot of time for the volunteer groups. He often hauls hundreds of native trees and shrubs to various restoration sites and helps students, their teachers, and parents plant and care for them all.

Tom helps with political problems by contacting provincial agencies when habitat issues arise and the local stewardship groups cannot seem to get their phone calls returned. He is extremely adept at sorting out feuds between various parties who may have conflicting interests. This is extremely important now in times of climate change when water quantity is an issue. Tom helped sort out water allocation for the new weir on Duck Creek and is presently spending most of his time on the fisheries recovery program for the Cowichan River Watershed. It is an amazing list of accomplishments for one human being, and it would hard to imagine a future without our Community Advisor.

The situation is much the same for the other CAs, and there has been a survey completed by SEAHAB- the Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory board. This can be found at their website (sehab.org). "Making a Difference: The Role of the Modern Community Advisor" A Consultation with Volunteer Stewards: Fall of 2007 "Without CA's bringing it all together, there would not be a program" If you cannot find the reports, please contact ikki at seachange@shaw.ca or Kathy thesalmonladies@saltspring.com and we will forward them to you. continued on next page

First Nations Land Trust

The First Nations Land Trust (FNLT) had a very successful first year of operation. A large part was involved in analyzing, through a CWS project grant, the beginnings of protecting some very valuable Indian Reserve lands in the South Okanagan and Similkameen areas. Basic agreements for potential protection mechanisms are ongoing and negotiations to protect certain parcels of land are in the works.

These lands, mostly undeveloped, contain vast amounts of indigenous flora and fauna that has been protected by virtue of the ironic lack of capacity to develop in conventional means. This is a very beneficial thing for all, as the further protection of these lands will enable a microcosm of protected land embedded with mostly indigenous animals, plants, birds and insects. Negotiations are ongoing to protect these lands and find a way to enable the protection past the conventional terms allowed for in the Indian Act, RSC, C I-5. Discussions are taking place with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to enable these precedent setting agreements to be included in future protection of Indian Reserve lands across Canada.

In this light, communications are ongoing with Revenue Canada Agency towards successful application of the charitable organization number for the FNLT. This would enable the further development of the protection vehicle to provide for comprehensive seeking of funds to allow preservation of these valuable lands, as funding to develop land protection capacity as well as creating the unique staffing requirements for the FNLT will be further enabled. Along with this, the FNLT plans on a comprehensive education program to enable understanding of Indigenous values and impart how important it is to work with the lands through protecting them or at the least working with the land in such a way as to enable sustainable development while leaving meaningful passages for Indigenous habitants and transitory entities.

All of this takes time, and we are certain the progress of 2007 will enable greater achievements in 2008. We thank all those who have supported us towards achievement of our ultimate goal of protecting lands so valuable to all Canadians.

There is still a chance for input in from the stewardship community. As well as contacting SEHAB, anyone that is concerned about the continuation of the Community Involvement Program should write letters to their Member of Parliament who may not even be aware of the issues out here on the west coast. The public consultation process will be winding down by February of 2008 so you still have time to pass your concerns on to SEHAB.

The Salmon Enhancement Program has suffered from many funding cuts over the years and now during times of climate change and dwindling fish stocks the work of the community stewardship groups is more important than ever. We have all donated years of effort into the protection of our watersheds, streams and estuaries and it will be an enormous wasted effort if the community involvement program is changed and our fisheries advisors are no longer available.

Environmental Films In Naramata

This year's environmental film series presented by the Naramata Conservation Society has taken filmgoers to the suburbs of Calgary, the massive manufacturing plants of China, the Arctic tundra and the bountiful farms of the Okanagan.

In November, the series screened *Manufactured Landscapes*, which won Best Canadian Film at the Toronto Film Festival and Best Documentary at the Genie Awards. The film features Edward Burtynsky, an internationally acclaimed photographer of nature transformed by industry. Burtynsky travels to China and captures the effects of the country's massive industrial revolution, both environmentally and socially. The evening also featured a short documentary called *The Water Detectives*. The inspiring film chronicles how the children of Matamoros, Mexico were recruited to police the overuse of local water. The city realized a water savings of almost 20% after kids from nine to fourteen patrolled the streets and advised the adults about water conservation.

Also in November, the film series showed *Radiant City*, a Canadian documentary that is lively and provocative, humorous and philosophical, as it examines the post World War II move to a suburban culture in North America. Following the film, Don Gayton, a Summerland-based writer and ecologist, lead a group discussion.

In January, the film series will show the highly acclaimed documentary *Being Caribou*, which follows a herd of caribou across the rugged Arctic tundra to raise awareness of threats to the animal's survival.

All of the films noted above are courtesy of the National Film Board, which provides DVDs and permits public showings to community groups at no charge. Naramata Conservation accepts donations at the door, and will put the funds into local environmental projects.

In February, there will be a screening of the film *Tableland*, a culinary expedition to promote the principles of eating locally and seasonally. Partly filmed in Naramata, *Tableland* showcases small scale, sustainable food producers. *Tableland* is not a NFB sponsored event. It is produced by Vancouver filmmaker Craig Noble.

CAPE ROGER CURTIS TRUST SOCIETY LAUNCHES WILD COAST PLAN TWO

By Peter Drake and Asha Rehnberg

Two years ago Kingfisher reported on efforts to preserve the unique Cape Roger Curtis property, often referred to as “the jewel of Bowen Island.” Since then, the Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society, the Bowen community, and several nature-related organizations have continued to advocate strenuously for preservation of this magnificent 631-acre coastal wilderness.

Located at the southwest corner of Bowen, the Cape lands comprise 3.7 km of pristine coastline; coniferous and deciduous forests; coastal bluffs with a mosaic of *Arbutus*, Rocky Mountain Juniper and wildflower meadows; riparian areas; and mussel and eel grass beds offshore. Although only 20 km from downtown Vancouver, it is home to plant communities which are rare in BC, and supports a variety of threatened, endangered and locally rare species. It remains, for the moment, the only undeveloped ocean-side property of this size and splendour so near the metropolitan area.

Most recently, the Cape’s owners and Bowen Municipality have been engaged in an informal, voluntary comprehensive rezoning process. If this process produces a result acceptable to all and the Islands Trust, the outcome may be both a clustered residential development and a very large park at the Cape.

The owners’ planners (Ekistics) have expounded their preliminary Concept Plan at a series of public meetings. Although an official proposal has not yet been submitted for municipal action, Ekistics’ Plan includes:

- donation of up to 60% of the land (including 100% of the shoreline) to be set aside as a park and/or nature reserve; and
- clusters of development to include single family homes, multifamily condominiums, affordable housing, an inn, a store, a school, a playing field and a seniors’ age-in-place home.

This Plan appears at first to have many attractive elements, however, the huge problem facing Bowen is the high price it would have to pay. The owners contend that to provide these amenities, they need to profit from 1,000 units for full build-out over the next 25 years. Contrast this with the fact that only 58 10-acre lots would be permitted under current zoning, and that Bowen’s Official Community Plan envisions a maximum possible build-out density for this property of no more than 224 units!



Cape Roder Curtis Lighthouse Photo: B Steele

Although preferring a 100% conservation solution, the Trust Society’s “Wild Coast Plan 2” campaign is an effort to secure as much protection for the Cape’s most fragile ecosystems as possible if development should occur. This plan suggests that the development could be much better adjusted to the Cape’s ecological values and meet Bowen’s needs and public interest if the parks and greenways aspect of the plan were further expanded. The map shown here is the Trust Society’s latest Wild Coast Plan, created by superimposing its alternative proposal over Ekistics’ preliminary Concept Plan (for purposes of comparison only).

With Crown Parcel 6 (including the Fairy Fen wetlands – see related article in this issue) immediately to the east of the Cape parcel, it should be possible to leverage creation of an even larger contiguous area than that offered by the Cape’s owners – or, more precisely, a waterfront recreational park with inland greenway/trails and a large provincial eco-reserve. This outcome could permanently protect almost the entire watershed of the Fairy Fen wetlands. Many on Bowen would also like to see a marine conservation area surrounding the Cape to protect marine ecology and therefore the over-wintering waterfowl and their food supply.

The Trust Society is urgently seeking technical and financial assistance from other NGO’s and agencies to achieve the Wild Coast Plan 2. This irreplaceable natural heritage will be gone forever unless we act. Like Stanley Park in Vancouver, Cape Roger Curtis should be considered a regional treasure. While many in the community consider it unrealistic, the declared intention of the owner/developers is to achieve formal rezoning of the Cape by March 2008, so decisions made in the next few months will be crucial to the success, or failure, of its conservation.

To learn more, or if you or your organization can offer any assistance, please visit www.caperogercurtis.org today.

STANDARDS AND PRACTICES: ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

In 2005, the newly formed Canadian Land Trust Alliance released the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. These revised and updated Standards and Practices were largely based on the 2004 Standards and Practices from the US Land Trust Alliance. Prior to the release of the 2005 Standards and Practices only two provinces in Canada, British Columbia and Ontario, had Standards and Practices in place for their members.

The Standards and Practices are intended to be the guiding principles for Canadian Land Trusts. Everyone in the land trust community is aware of the responsibility that comes with protecting land in perpetuity. Land trusts come into being with the understanding that their responsibilities are forever. This is an inherent principle in the operation of a land trust, whether it owns land or covenants, the responsibility of caring for the land is perpetual.

All land trusts strive to ensure that their responsibilities in caring for the lands in their care are undertaken at the highest ethical level and the Standards and Practices are intended to help land trusts fulfill that mission, both when it comes to the specifics of dealing with lands, but also in the day-to-day activities that build strong, perpetual organizations that can take on and look after land on a perpetual basis.

The Standards and Practices are intended to create excellence within the land trust community. Although the Standards and Practices, along with the accompanying Background document are comprehensive, they are not intended to be prescriptive, rather the Practices are guidelines that are intended to help land trusts meet or exceed the spirit of the Standards. There are many ways for land trusts to implement the Standards and Practices within their organization and most of these methods cannot be completed overnight. Land trusts should be prepared to embrace the spirit of the Standards, while acknowledging that implementing the Practices will be an ongoing goal throughout the life of their organization.

The Canadian Standards and Practices are guided by four over-arching Guiding Principles: integrity, perpetual responsibility, excellence and good governance. Land trusts should embrace the spirit of these Guiding Principles in their approach to the Standards and Practices. Above all, land trusts know that the public perception of a single land trust's successes or failures affects the public's perception of all our

successes or failures. The Standards and Practices can help us all build a framework that will showcase land trusts in a successful, professional light.

Adopting the Standards and Practices

When the Land Trust Alliance of BC first developed its own Standards and Practices in 1998, there was a strong desire on the behalf of LTABC that land trusts would be encouraged, but not required, to adopt the Standards and Practices. Under that premise, some land trusts adopted the Standards and Practices immediately, while others are still reviewing their ability to make that commitment. When the Canadian Land Trust Alliance released the 2005 Standards and Practices, they made a decision that all members of the CLTA would be required to adopt the Standards and Practices as guidelines for their operations.

The sample resolution that CLTA is requiring its members to adopt is:

"WHEREAS, the [organization] has reviewed *Land Trust Standards and Practices* published by the Canadian Land Trust Alliance in 2005; and,

WHEREAS, the [organization] agrees that *Land Trust Standards and Practices* are the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the [organization], hereby adopts *Land Trust Standards and Practices* as guidelines for the organization's operations and commits to making continual progress toward implementation of these standards and practices."

The language of this resolution was chosen very carefully by CLTA. By adopting the resolution, land trusts are making a commitment to the spirit and the intent of the Standards and Practices; they are vowing to hold themselves to a standard of excellence in their operations. Most importantly, however, by making this resolution, land trusts are promising to "make continual progress toward implementation of the standards and practices."

It is important to note that the resolution does not require land trusts to fully meet or be able to immediately implement the Standards and Practices. Rather, the resolution is about

committing to review and accept the Standards and Practices and to believe in and strive for excellence.

Implementing the Standards and Practices

Implementing the Standards and Practices will not be a simple process for any land trust, regardless of their size. All land trusts should view the implementation of the Standards and Practices as a “work in progress” that allows land trusts to strive towards excellence. Rather, land trusts should see the Standards and Practices as an opportunity to identify their strengths and also to identify areas where they need to build their organization.

Compliance

Monitoring progress on implementing the Standards and Practices is strictly an internal process. Adopting the Standards and Practices is now required for membership in the CLTA and will soon be a requirement from Environment Canada for any new organizations who wish to hold lands under the Ecological Gifts Program. Land trusts should be aware, however, of new directions from the Land Trust Alliance (US) towards an accreditation program for land trusts. This program will monitor compliance on a subset of the Standards and Practices and will certify land trusts who achieve a certain level of compliance. This program does not exist in Canada at this time, but it may be in a land trust’s best interest to assume that it will exist in Canada at some point and strive towards compliance in those areas.

Overview of the Standards and Practices

The Standards and Practices are broken into two sections. Part I deals with Organizational Strength, guiding land trusts on ways to build successful organizations that will exist in the long term. Part II deals with Land Transactions, helping land trusts to secure and protect land in ways that meet their ethical, legal and financial commitments.

Part I: Organizational Strength

Standard 1: Mission

Articulating a mission is given priority as the first Standard because without a mission or a reason to come together, a land trust would likely not exist. Many land trusts develop a mission as an initial step while others refine or articulate their mission after having achieved successes or having worked on an initial project. Inherent in this Standard is the need for a land trust to plan its activities, to inform and be involved in its community and to hold itself to the highest possible ethical standards.

Standard 2: Compliance with Laws

It may seem obvious to some that a land trust (or any non-profit organization) should comply with all applicable laws. However, it is important that land trusts have an understanding of those areas of legislation that directly affect their operation, including laws related to the Societies Act and charitable status. Because legislation does change with some frequency, it is also important that land trusts remain familiar with changes and updates to relevant legislation.

Standard 3: Board Accountability

Whether a land trust is large or small, ultimately it is the Board who bears the legal and ethical responsibility for the organization. A board should be aware of the need to prevent minority rule, to have a board that is of the appropriate size and diversity and that understands its responsibilities.

Standard 4: Conflicts of Interest

Actual or perceived conflicts of interest can be devastating to a land trust’s ability to operate with the public’s trust. A written conflict of interest policy can provide guidance to land trusts and may help avoid conflict of interest problems before they arise. Most land trusts are aware that negative publicity for one land trust can have an effect on the entire land trust community.

Standard 5: Philanthropy and Fundraising

Very few land trusts can survive without philanthropic support or active fundraising. Because this is such a key aspect of a land trust’s activities, it is important that land trusts who engage in fundraising do so in an ethical manner that provides full accountability to donors.

Standard 6: Financial and Asset Management

Because land trusts rely on public support and act in the public interest, it is important that we manage our finances and assets with the highest integrity. This includes setting an annual budget and keeping accurate financial records. Ultimately, the Board is responsible for ensuring that the land trust adheres to sound fiscal management principles.

Standard 7: Volunteers, Staff and Consultants

Land trusts, regardless of their size, deal with significant assets; lands that are often worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Therefore, it is critical that land trusts have both the capacity to manage these assets, but also trained, professional staff and/or volunteers to look after these interests. It is to the benefit of both the land trust and its staff and volunteers to clearly articulate roles, policy and compensation. Land trusts that are clear about their expectations for their staff

and volunteers are more likely to retain personnel over the long term, resulting in a stronger organization.

Part II: Land Transactions

Standard 8: Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects

It can be very easy for a land trust to select projects based on threat and availability, without taking the time to decide what their priorities are or should be. Priority setting can be a valuable exercise for a land trust, allowing the board, staff and volunteers the opportunity to refine their vision of the long-term impact of their work. Land trusts can set priorities based on a variety of criteria, whether they be ecological, geographic or based on land uses.

Standard 9: Ensuring Sound Transactions

Protecting land and property in perpetuity sounds simple in theory, but is complex in practice. Purchasing land has legal, financial and tax implications for land trusts and landowners. Therefore, it is critical that land trusts conduct their transactions in a legally and ethically transparent manner, following all appropriate procedures and working within the law. Setting practices and procedures into policy may assist land trusts in navigating this complex world.

Standard 10: Tax Consequences

Land trusts should be aware of the potential tax options and consequences that may arise from purchasing or accepting donations of land or covenants. While land trusts should not provide advice to landowners, an awareness of tax implications and options can provide a helpful framework when land trusts are negotiating land transactions.

Standard 11: Conservation Agreement Stewardship

Once a land trust has signed a conservation covenant with a landowner their responsibilities have just begun. Entering into a perpetual agreement creates perpetual responsibilities, defaulting on those responsibilities may put the protective elements of the conservation covenant in jeopardy. Conservation covenants must be monitored on a regular basis and all land trusts face a challenge of funding this obligation in perpetuity.

Standard 12: Land Stewardship

Many land trusts own properties in addition to holding conservation covenants. Although owning land may come with fewer legal obligations than holding covenants, land trusts must still be aware of the management required when owning land. Here again, funding this management in perpetuity is an issue that land trusts will need to consider and strategize for.

Tools for Implementing the Standards and Practices

Several tools are available for land trusts who are working towards implementation. One of the best places to start is the “Background to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices” which was produced simultaneously with the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices and provides a broader perspective on the justification and potential implementation for each practice.

Following from those documents, the CLTA has produced a document called “Assessing Your Organization” which is a comprehensive workbook that will take your land trust through a detailed review of each standard and practice. This document is available for free at www.clta.ca.

In early 2008, LTABC will be releasing its revised “Best Practices for Land Trusts” on CD and the internet (LTABC member access only). This revised version will organize templates and example documents according to the Standards and Practices to aid organizations in finding templates or examples that can assist them in implementation. Further, in 2008 the LTABC will be developing a BC version of an Assessment Kit. If you would like to work with us on piloting this, please contact us ASAP. We are currently seeking funding for land trusts associated with testing the BC Assessment Kit.

For those who want access to more in depth resources, the Land Trust Alliance (US) has produced an extensive number of materials to assist land trusts in implementing the Standards and Practices (on their website at www.lta.org). Canadian land trusts should be aware of some significant differences in the US and Canadian Standards and Practices.

Finally, as a member of the LTABC Council and as one of the authors of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices, I am happy to help answer questions from any LTABC member about the Standards and Practices. A full 2.5 hr workshop is also planned for LTABC’s 2008 Seminar Series in April.

Kathleen Sheppard is the Deputy Executive Director for The Land Conservancy of BC, a member of Council for LTABC and one of the authors of the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices. She can be reached at ksheppard@conservancy.bc.ca or (250) 479-8053.



Research

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Through the Conservation of Nature

This has been an epic job of research and reporting by all involved over the last year. Sara J. Wilson and Richard J. Hebda both put in an extraordinary amount of time on the research and writing of the report. Both are accomplished in their fields of ecological economics (valuing nature) and the impacts of climate change. We also benefited from the professional review of many, listed within the report, particularly from Dan Buffet and Jan Kirkby. Additional volunteer help came from Val Huff and Dan von Stolk. The result is we have a fabulous report that is now available for all as a source of credible rationale on the values of and impacts to nature from climate change, especially for mitigation and adaptation purposes. However for conservation organizations, its key value is in the third section, **Strategies to Reduce our Impacts** which includes a Decision Support Tool for Conservation considering the likely impacts from climate change and the context of conservation in BC. The full report is on our website and printed versions can be ordered from Christine. We had some great media in response to the report. We hired Pace Communications to help disseminate the report. The Victoria Times Colonist did a story, and CKNW hosted an hour call in show. "I have had several people email me saying that they heard Dr. Hebda on the show – frankly I've never heard of Bill Good engaging with someone for almost a full hour, so you have much to be proud of!"

On January 16, the LTA, represented by Michael Dunn, presented the case for nature conservation as a significant greenhouse gas mitigation strategy to a group of over 30 individuals from the energy, environment and social justice organizations in BC. The purpose of this meeting and the presentation was to provide a package of recommendations for members of the Premier's Climate Action Team (CAT). Peter Robinson, new Executive Director of the David Suzuki Foundation was the key member for making our case. Most notable was the fact that the contributions of our forests and other ecosystems to climate mitigation and adaptation were not part of the discussions that the CAT was undertaking. Most of the mitigative options related to energy. Based on the LTA presentation and the priority setting process, there was strong consensus by the participants that efforts need to be made to maintain the current carbon storage capacity of our terrestrial and marine ecosystems. As a follow-up, LTABC worked with (David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Forest Ethics as well as, key individuals) to provide a Terrestrial Conservation Recommendation, including a set of policy initiatives, as part of a much larger set of recommendations from the ENGO sector to the CAT.

Water Licencing for Conservation

See this issue for the Executive Summary. The full report will be available soon, with opportunities for discussion on how to move forward based on the current water licencing and conservation regime offered during a Seminar at the upcoming Seminar Series. We hope to have opportunities to impact the new BC Water Stewardship Action Plan policies and legislation including dialogue with the BC Ministry of Environment.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 08

Get ready, set, register now! This year's Seminar Series is looking fabulous! That's direct from the emails of several members. (See page 20-21 for the program). Our focus is on Conservation and Climate Change, with guest speakers Sara J. Wilson and Timothy Kittel. Sara was co-author of our report, and Tim is a research ecologist at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder. He has studied the dynamics of climate change and its impacts on ecological systems for over twenty-five years. Dr. Kittel is a contributing author on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports and was a team leader for the U.S. National Climate Change Assessment. His most recent focus is on developing ways to deal with the uncertainties of climate change in conservation action. Pursuing this, he currently leads a Climate Working Group for the Nature Conservancy of Canada BC Office. Sara Wilson is an ecological economist who has worked as an environmental policy specialist and researcher for ten years. She specializes in the socio-economic analysis of environmental data – notably ecosystem valuation and full cost accounting techniques, public policy development, ecological fiscal reform, and environmental management. Sara has co-authored two national reports on the market and non-market values of the boreal region's natural capital, namely Counting Canada's Natural Capital: Assessing the Real Value of Canada's Boreal Ecosystems, and The Real Wealth of the Mackenzie Region: Assessing the Natural Capital Value of a Northern Ecosystem. There's a full slate of fabulous speakers, topics and opportunities to network, learn and share strategies with others in the field.

Financial Support to Members

The board agreed to award a small grant to the Fraser Valley Conservancy for a baseline inventory on their 2 acre snail covenant. We also awarded a small grant to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy to hire a facilitator to assist with their Strategic Planning retreat, prior to hiring a new Executive Director. We have applied for new funding in 2008 to continue to provide subsidies to our members for baselines, strategic planning, and to re-instate our Legal and Appraisal Support program.

Best Practices Update

Our update of the Best Practices and Template Documents' Collection is still underway. Our volunteer committee from council reviewed each of the three sections in the original collection: Karen Hudson, Kathleen Sheppard, Bill Wagner, Kate Emmings, and Hugh Westhueser on our council, have all done an extensive review of the 2004/5 collection, winnowing down some of the documents and updating it with new or revised ones. Our Executive Assistant and contractor Ryan Durand are working on the overall coordination of the revision including having it available on-line for members, with the search function, ordered with the Land Trust Standards and Practices as a basis. We have now acquired 200 new resources, as per the requests of this committee and including updates from previous documents. This project we hope will be completed by our April AGM and Seminar Series.

Strategic Planning LTABC

In the fall we developed a full member survey which we sent to our members to prepare us for our own Strategic Planning in November. We had 21 responses, (out of 50 organizations) which is an excellent return rate. We used this at our two-day retreat to determine any changes to our priorities for 2008. Our Strategic Plan 2007-2010 was only modified slightly. In addition to some planning for our Seminar Series for 2008, they confirmed the benefits of our partnership with the Land Summit in 2009, and continuing development of programs started in 2007. The board confirmed the process and plans for hiring an additional outreach contractor (on an initial pilot basis) for 2008. We are pleased to announce that Michael Dunn is now working with us in 2008 to build a stronger presence and outreach with government and professional associations over the year, and to help us improve our programs.

Professional Outreach

In November we participated in a Continuing Education credit course through Lorman.com, in North Vancouver. This one-day seminar on covenants and easements was designed for engineers, architects, land surveyors, developers, property managers, project managers, construction managers, principals, presidents and vice presidents, right of way agents, public works directors, lawyers, legal staff, appraisers and public officials. In December we submitted a précis of a proposed article for "Bartalk" a legal journal. We are now making arrangements for a seminar to lawyers in the spring. In early January an article we wrote was published in the Planning Institute of BC's *Planning West* magazine. Based on our People Protecting Places Case Studies, it included the four primary messages on polls and conservation options, with specific details on Conservation Covenants related to planners.

The LTABC is also a full partner on the 2009 BC Land Summit. This will be a provincial conference including a large spectrum of land use professionals, as Kathy mentions in the editorial. So that conservation can be a key topic, we encourage you to submit when the call for Proposals for seminars comes out in the early summer. The conference title will be: "A Better Future: Adapting to Change" with subthemes including: Movement, Transportation & Travel, Growth & Globalization, Natural & Cultural Diversity, and Communities in Transition. In addition there will be for tours which we hope will include a conservation site visit, and roundtable discussions. If you'd like to help submit a collaborative conservation roundtable, please contact MDunn@gulfislands.net.

Environmental and Conservation Organization Outreach

In the fall the LTABC joined the Okanagan Conservation Partners (OCCP) as a full partner, resulting from our meetings last year with our Okanagan members. We printed an article on this new Partnership in our last Kingfisher 15, along with several other Okanagan related articles on development there. We also joined the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Partners (SOSCP). As a result, we have now confirmed that they will give two presentations at our Seminar Series '08, one on Stewardship successes, and the other on Targeting and Prioritizing Lands for Conservation.

We also had several meetings and developed good relationships with several environmental organizations last year. Further to our meetings with Smart Growth and the West Coast Environmental Law in the spring, in the fall we made connections with Canadian Parks and Wilderness (CPAWS) and the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF). We have been working with both of these groups to impact the province on both mitigation and adaptation strategies for the Climate Action Team and other adaptation conferences and collaborations. These, of course, included two funds for conservation, one for acquisitions and the other for support to conservation organizations.

Government Outreach

We gave a seminar at the Union of BC Municipalities annual conference in September to approximately 30 municipal councilors. We gave many examples of land trusts who had worked with local governments, in addition to providing the case that conservation of nature was hugely significant as a climate change strategy. We also met with Ben Finklestein, director of the Conservation Corps. This is a program directed to graduating students (similar to the old E-team program); however the applicant must be a government agency – but they can apply in partnership with an organization. We hope that you check into this option for next year!

Public Outreach

Land Trust Public Outreach Campaign: Based on our People Protecting Places case studies and 2 minute web videos, The Element Agency has designed some wonderful 30 second PSA's, in radio, print, blog and tv format. The radio PSA's currently are confirmed to be playing 64 times a day on 26 stations. 15 stations have also confirmed the will play the PSA but can't specify how many times. 3 stations are reading out the PSA. Television stations reporting that they are playing our two 30 second psa's include: Shaw Cable X8, Shaw TV, BC CTV, CKPG, CFTK. These psa's are now on our website. Please let us know if you hear or see them. At the beginning of our campaign in the fall, we asked Element to do some research on conservation donors in BC. They sent us a report which formed the basis for targetting the campaign. Please contact us if you wish to receive a copy of this report.

BC Lands in Trust Registry and Protected Lands Catalogue (PLC) program

Our PLC (database) program is being redesigned to complement a new Conservation Database on-line program. We are working with the BC Trust for Public Lands and specifically Ducks Unlimited Canada and The Nature Trust to redesign our system so that all conservation groups can still register their protected properties whether you are on dial up or high-speed. The new collective program will transfer between both, and the LTABC Registry will still be the public viewable side; whereas the CMN will carry a passcode protected conservation layer that can be searched and used in the context of other mapping layers. Stay tuned....

Calling for Nominations

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008

send us a one page description of
someone your organization has
worked with who you feel deserves
special recognition - plus a little
thank you
for all the wonderful help
Deadline: April 1st 2008

Spirit in the Grass:

The Cariboo-Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape

By Chris Harris

If a picture is worth a thousand words, Chris Harris' newly published *Spirit in the Grass: The Cariboo-Chilcotin's Forgotten Landscape* is invaluable. From its mesmerizing grassland vistas to its microscopic examination of notable plants and life-forms, the book is a treasure for photography lovers, grassland enthusiasts and environmentally minded individuals.

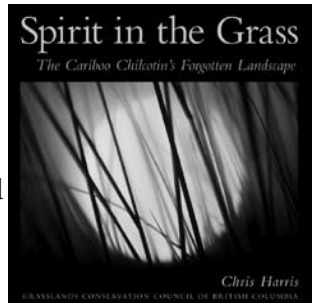
Spirit in the Grass is a compelling visual journey into the stunning scenery and fragile beauty of the interior's grassland regions. Harris has incorporated his passion for grassland wildlife, flora and fauna and dramatic landforms into an unforgettable grassland odyssey. The book's photographs convey the beauty and value of the grasslands in a way that words cannot. Each image shows the ecological, historical and social importance of these spaces to all British Columbians—and suggests the devastating loss that would accompany their destruction.

Harris worked in partnership with the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC to create his book. As a result, the book is filled with information about the cultural and environmental history of the Cariboo's grasslands—as well as many sections discussing the present day threats that exist to these places.

Harris has scattered grassland poetry throughout the work. The end result is a book that begins to address the need for a coherent grassland culture in the Cariboo and beyond.

Harris is a noted natural photographer with many other published works to his name. In his latest effort, his love and respect for natural spaces have been turned into a work of art that is at times an epic adventure and an impassioned plea for the people of BC to protect these precious spaces while they still can.

We will feature a presentation of Chris' images at the Conservation and Stewardship Seminar Series.



Why Business Thinking is Not the Answer

Good to Great and the Social Sectors A Monograph to Accompany Good to Great, By Jim Collins 2005

reviewed by Tim Maloney
Director of Advancement
The Land Conservancy of BC

Today, more than ever, those of us in the social sector are being examined, questioned and challenged as to the true nature and value of our work. While under this increased security we are being asked to describe our organization in business terms to justify our existence and by implication our funding. This pressure I am convinced can be a good thing... even a great thing; for it is forcing us to look for enhanced ways to describe the value of our work; while we seek out ways and means to transcend our current limitations.

A full third of the response and inquiries Jim Collins received after publishing Good to Great came from non-business social sector. These comments and questions inspired him to deeper examine the validity of principles he described through the lens viewing the Social Sector. Beyond the science of his research, Jim Collins has “come to see that it is simply not good enough to focus solely on having a great business sector. If we only have great companies, we will merely have a prosperous society, not a great one. Economic growth and power are the means, not the definition of a great nation.”

I have always believed that the non-profit sector needed to act more business like. Not from a bottom-line dollars and cents model but business like in that we examine why and how we do what we do with the bottom-line represented by how our missions have affected our communities. Now, after more than 25 years in this sector, perhaps even more now than ever before, I still am seeking ways to improve the organizations that I work with both as a staff member and volunteer. Collins tells us it is not about being more business like it is about being great. We need to be focused on the language of greatness.

The Good to Great principles I believe provides a fantastic opportunity for the leaders of the Social Sector (including land trusts), to examine how we do our business. By working through the ideas Collins presents we question what principles and values we adhere to and what actions can take us to the next level in our quest for mission driven bottom-lines.

Collins describes that building great organizations proceeds through four basic stages and that within each stage there are two fundamental principles:

Stage 1: Disciplined People -

Level 5 Leadership,
First Who...Then What

Stage 2: Disciplined Thought - Confront the Brutal Facts

– The Stockdale Paradox, - The Hedgehog Concept

Stage 3: Disciplined Action - Culture of Discipline,

- The Flywheel

Stage 4: Building Greatness to Last - Clock Building, Not

Time Telling - Preserve the Core and Stimulate Progress



Years ago at school, my fellow students and I where challenged by our schools founder with idea that “No human life is significant unless you yourself make it great!” I think organizations are just like people and that those of us who make up an organization determine if it can indeed become great. When we see greatness we know it. I believe that we can learn from Jim Collins the language of greatness. A language whose words will lead our actions to reflect the greatness that we know lies within each of our organizations. If we follow the stages and principles this monograph endows us with, we will, when examined be able to truly demonstrate that we are indeed great.

Besides Social Sector leaders this monograph should also be read by funders because Collins work has identified that by using a pure business lens to evaluate a charity they miss the point. He states that looking at the bottom line is not the way to evaluate a charity. For a Social Sector organization to be great it really doesn't matter what the cost in terms of ratios to dollars received. What does count is the results obtained (defined by mission) and how those results are evaluated. This is a very important distinction one that many funders and individuals do not understand; by having them read this monograph we can give them a new definition for judging our work and how they should fund it.

It is my hope that you will seek out *Good to Great and the Social Sectors* A Monograph to Accompany Good to Great by Jim Collins continuing your organization's journey to greatness and share what you are learning with the funders of your work.

The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook: Nurturing Native Plant Habitat in Garry Oak Communities

The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) is pleased to announce the arrival of their long-awaited book, *The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook*, a resource for people who have remnants of Garry oak habitat on their property, for community groups and schools undertaking restoration projects on public land, and for volunteers or professionals working with landowners.

In addition to being a useful resource for people who are already devoted to restoring Garry oak habitat, it's hoped that the book will serve as an attractive door opener for landowner contact. GOERT's Species at Risk Outreach Specialist, Chris Junck, is currently contacting landowners who have species at risk associated with Garry oak ecosystems on their land, to promote stewardship, conservation and covenants. If your organization is undertaking landowner contact within the range of Garry oak ecosystems, please be in touch with Chris to collaborate with him and to avoid duplication of effort (250-383-3445; chris.junck@goert.ca). To request copies of the handbook for landowner contact and other purposes, please contact GOERT at 250-383-3427 or info@goert.ca. The book can be viewed and downloaded from the new website as well at www.goert.ca under 'at home and in your community'.

As mentioned at last year's LTABC Seminar Series, GOERT is collaborating with land trusts and conservancies to expand the database of high priority Garry oak ecosystem sites that are in need of protection. If you know of such sites in your community, please get in touch with Shyanne Smith at 250-383-5449 or shyanne.smith@goert.ca. GOERT members look forward to working with many of you in the coming year to protect and restore Garry oak ecosystems and their associated species at risk. To find the resources listed below, please go to www.goert.ca or contact the Victoria office at 250-383-3427 or info@goert.ca.

***New GOERT website:** For background information on Garry oak ecosystems and GOERT, including recovery strategies, historical maps and all our publications

***Web Forum:** To facilitate discussion and information sharing among people engaged in invasive plant management, restoration, native plant gardening, research and more. Go to www.goert.ca and click on 'public forum' at top of page. Register and join in!

Resources from GOERT

****The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook*:** To encourage use of native plants in Garry oak communities; to use as a door opener for landowner contact.

****Protecting Garry Oak Areas During Land Development*:** A series of information sheets for land developers, local governments and land use professionals highlighting success stories and best practices for protecting Garry oak habitat during development. Available at www.goert.ca or in print form through our office.

***Garry Oak Ecosystems Protection Fund*:** Funds available to help land trusts and conservancies hire biologists to carry out species at risk surveys; also for restoration work related to species at risk. Request applications through Deanna Mathewson, GOERT's new Program Coordinator: 250-383-3224 or deanna.mathewson@goert.ca.

***GOERT Species at Risk Outreach Specialist and HAT landowner contact database*:** Helping to coordinate landowner contact efforts among partner organizations to avoid duplication of effort. Contact Chris Junck and/or Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT).

***GIS database for high priority Garry oak sites*:** To gather information about Garry oak sites in need of protection and share the information with others; making use of the BC Lands in Trust Registry. Contact Shyanne Smith at GOERT

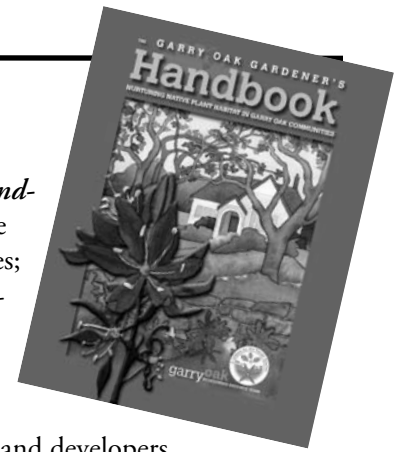
****New and improved Decision Support Tool*** for invasive species management: For people engaged in invasive plant management. Includes best management practices for blackberry, ivy, broom, daphne and orchard grass.

****Species at risk field manual*:** To increase field recognition of rare species in Garry oak habitat and provide guidance for their protection. New species are added as resources allow.

****Invasive species field manual*:** To increase field recognition of rare species in Garry oak habitat and provide guidance for their protection. New species are added as resources allow.

Image library (in progress), plus libraries at UVic and the GOERT office: A quick and easy way to source photos of Garry oak landscapes, plants and animals for your presentations and publications. Also, literature on restoration and research, plus there will soon be references available via a searchable database.

***'Stay on Track' Posters*:** Customized posters to display in protected areas, encouraging visitors to stay on designated trails in sensitive habitat.



Conservation and Environment News

National

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts: Effective December 4, 2007, U.S. residents may make cash donations to AFoCLT. The donor may make a recommendation of a grant toward the Canadian land trust or government entity of their choice. www.nsnt.ca/ourwork/campaigns/afocl

Aw, Canada!: Canadians' top New Year's resolution for the coming year is "protecting the environment," according to the Victoria Times-Colonist. Full story: <http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=d862b932-258d-4ce1-9e0e-5299c82913c5>

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program's Future Confirmed: The Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Baird, has approved the continuation of the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Program and the relationship with WHC. Discussions will begin with EC immediately to work out the details of the future stamp contribution agreement/program arrangements.

Largest Land Withdrawal for Protection Ever in Canada: Over 10 million hectares of pristine wilderness in the Mackenzie River Basin have been protected from industrial development. This withdrawal of land and water from industrial activity, announced by the Government of Canada, was made at the request of local First Nations. This interim protection, for a period of four to five years, will allow local people to plan areas for permanent protection around Great Slave Lake and along a northern stretch of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories (NWT). This announcement is a great example of how the Conservation First Principle should be applied in the Mackenzie River Basin, creating a network of protected areas before development occurs. Full story: <http://www.wwf.ca/AboutWWF/WhatWeDo/ConservationPrograms/MackenzieValley/Akaitcho.asp>

FSC's 'Green' Label for Wood Products Gets Growing Pains: The environmental group that runs a widely recognized labeling system to identify "green" wood and paper products has acknowledged that some companies using its label are destroying pristine forests. Full story: http://www.fsc-watch.org/archives/2007/10/30/Wall_Street_Journal

The Six Sins of Greenwashing: Buyers beware - that so-called "green" product is likely stretching the eco-truth according to the Six Sins of Greenwashing study released

today by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing. "The Six Sins of Greenwashing will equip consumers with tools to help figure out the truth about enviro-friendly products." For more information:

<http://www.terrachoice.com/Home/Six%20Sins%20of%20Greenwashing/The%20Six%20Sins>

British Columbia

Respected Educator, Conservationist Bert Brink has Died. Larry Pynn: One of B.C.'s most respected educators, researchers, and conservationists, Vernon Cuthbert (Bert) Brink, has died in Vancouver at age 95. Full story: <http://www.canada.com/vancouvernews/news/story.html?id=bb7a1157-0ac0-4433-a625-e6b249765bac&k=11224>

B.C.'s Directive to Scientists Under Fire: Teams writing recovery strategies for endangered species told not to identify critical habitat, groups learn. Two environmental groups are calling for a federal investigation after obtaining documents that show the B.C. government is telling science teams that are writing recovery strategies for endangered species not to identify critical habitat. Full story: <http://www.ecojustice.ca/media-centre/press-clips/b-c-s-directive-to-scientists-under-fire>

Give us a New National Park Preserve: Currently, Canadians are being presented with one of the most exceptional conservation opportunities in our history. The BC and federal governments have agreed to undertake a Feasibility Study for a potential national park reserve to protect the desert, grasslands, and Ponderosa pine ecosystems of the South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys in southern British Columbia. For more information <http://www.okanaganpetition.org/>

Nominations are open for Celebrating Women & the Spirit of the Cranes: Contact the Burns Bog Conservation Society office for a brochure. Celebrating Women & the Spirit of the Cranes Gala, March 8, 2008 www.spiritofthecranes.org

Massive Gravel Plan Draws Concern: Robert Freeman: A single mammoth gravel removal operation proposed in the Fraser River near Herrling Island approaches the 500,000-cubic metre maximum allowed for the year under a federal/provincial agreement. Full story http://www.bclocalnews.com/fraser_valley/theprogress/news/12509846.html

Power Plants to Dot BC's Great Bear Rainforest: Massive commercial power developments are being considered for existing and planned conservancy areas on the B.C. coast, raising doubts about a landmark multi-stakeholder agreement

designed to bring peace and economic certainty to an area known as the Great Bear Rainforest. Full story: <http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=b77b4b7d-6149-4852-aa09-d5f168b2531a>

The Test of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement: will be the conservation effect that changes to logging practices and new economic development initiatives have on the ground. http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006ENV0028-000477-Attachment1.htm. The legal changes and a map that shows the portion of the Great Bear Rainforest where these changes will become effective can be found here: <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/cencoast/objectives/index.html>

Pay Dirt: Restoration Economies Uncover Gold (and Green): Increasingly, elected leaders are recognizing the economic opportunity of promoting a “Restoration Economy,” the development of economic activities, such as jobs and increased tourist revenues, that stems directly from restoring damaged natural resources. Full story: <http://www.progressivestates.org/blog/722/pay-dirt-restoration-economies-uncover-gold-and-green>

Species and Biodiversity Reports

Okanagan Lake Kokanee Numbers Are Promising: *South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program.* Kokanee are having an excellent year in Okanagan Lake. The highest shore-spawner returns in 30 years showed up around the lake in late October. Creek spawners did not have a big jump but also continue to demonstrate an increasing trend since the late 90s. The many initiatives on Okanagan Lake involve habitat protection and enhancement, water level management and enforcement/compliance issues. There is still a ways to go to “recover” the population, but you can all give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done as we are headed in the right direction.

B.C. Wild Salmon in Danger of Extinction: *Stephen Hume:* Five years ago, a senior fisheries biologist in Galway, Ireland, warned what lay ahead for British Columbia’s wild salmon: Infestations of sea lice around fish farms followed by a collapse of wild stocks wherever baby salmon migrated through concentrations of the parasites. “The awful thing is about lessons not learned,” Forde said. “It’s all déjà vu. It’s the most frustrating thing to hear what’s happened here has now happened in B.C.” Full story: <http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/editorial/story.html?id=f8ef35ae-a09d-4738-8c4a-589864473b00>

Fish Farms will Make Local Wild Salmon Extinct in a Decade: Parasitic sea lice found in salmon farms are driving nearby populations of wild salmon toward local extinction, according to a scientific paper published Thursday. Full story: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2007/12/13/tech-salmonfarm-lice.html>

Grizzlies - Worth More Dead or Alive?: David Leach: A cadre of eco-tour entrepreneurs say grizzly watching could be B.C.’s next big tourist bonanza. The province wants to promote bear hunting instead. The argument on both sides hinges on a simple question: What’s a bear worth? Full story: <http://www.financialpost.com/magazine/story.html?id=130065>

Long-term Enhancement of Agricultural Production by Restoration of Biodiversity: The aims of conservationists and farmers can often be in conflict. This study has shown that the recreation of diverse grasslands of conservation value can have a positive impact on hay yield, which benefits the farm business. Because the effect is maintained over time, farm income will be increased in the long term. Full story: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2006.01252.x>

Toxic Grizzlies: - How Environment Canada is Shirking Its Duty to Protect Wildlife (and People): Misty MacDuffee. If you are like most people, you have likely never heard of a chemical called deca Brominated Diphenyl Ether (decaBDE), but right now, Environment Canada is quietly deciding whether or not to continue exposing you and our country’s wildlife to this substance. Full story: <http://www.counterpunch.org/macduffee12142007.html>

New Study Finds Biodiversity Conservation Secures Ecosystem Services for People: Healthy ecosystems that provide people with essential natural goods and services often overlap with regions rich in biological diversity, underscoring that conserving one also protects the other, according to a new study. Titled Global Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the report confirms the value of making biological diversity a priority for conservation efforts. It shows that more than 70 percent of the world’s highest priority areas for biodiversity conservation also contain significant value in ecosystem services such as fresh water, food, carbon storage, storm buffers and other natural resources that sustain human life and support social and economic development. Full story: http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/26680

The Blue Movement: Wallace J. Nichols Fights for Sea Turtles: For at least 150 million years, sea turtles have roamed the Earth's oceans. This makes them at least 858 times older than the first Homo sapiens. Survivors of the mass extinction that wiped dinosaurs out, enduring lengthy travels along the sea and fighting heavy predation, they have managed to stay around. That is, until now. Full story: <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?3987>

For Troubled Fishing Industry, Less Is More: Catch less fish - Make more money. Could this be the solution to the global overfishing crisis? Australian economists writing in the current issue of Science magazine think so. Full story: <http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=DocDe&id=Mjc3Mjk>

Horses Disperse Alien Plants Along Recreational Trails: Plant invasions are rapidly becoming a threat to wildlands. One of the ways these aliens are dispersed is through large mammals that forage and excrete seeds in new locations. A new study has found horses to be a source of dispersal along recreational trails in Colorado. Full story: <http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/rama-60-06-574-577.pdf>

Recovering From a Mass Extinction - The full recovery of ecological systems, following the most devastating extinction event of all time, took at least 30 million years, according to new research from the University of Bristol. About 250 million years ago, at the end of the Permian, a major extinction event killed over 90 per cent of life on earth, including insects, plants, marine animals, amphibians, and reptiles. Ecosystems were destroyed worldwide, communities were restructured and organisms were left struggling to recover. This was the nearest life ever came to being completely wiped out. To download the article: <http://palaeo.gly.bris.ac.uk/Benton/reprints/2008Sahney.pdf>

Climate Change

IPCC Synthesis Report is Available Online: On November 17th, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the final part of its Climate Change 2007 series entitled The AR4 Synthesis Report. This Synthesis Report is based on the assessment carried out by the three Working Groups of the IPCC. It provides an integrated view of climate change as the final part of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report and is a great resource for understanding how climate change will affect the economy and how it could be an opportunity to change our production model. Please visit the [IPCC's website](http://www.ipcc.ch/) to access this resource and many other important documents. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Peatlands are Quick and Cost-Effective Measure to Reduce 10% of Greenhouse Emissions: Clearing, draining and setting fire to peatlands emits more than 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year - equivalent to 10% of global emissions from fossil fuels, according to Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, the first comprehensive global assessment of the link between peatland degradation and climate change. Full story: http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/27042 and http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_72498.shtml

Barrier Reef's Future Clouded: It is probably too late to save the Great Barrier Reef and other coral reefs from global warming, concludes an analysis from leading marine scientists published in the prestigious journal Science. Full story: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22922013-601,00.html>

Overfishing is Creating a Jellyfish Plague: By Debora Mackenzie: Global warming is starting to sting - literally. Last week millions of baby mauve stinger jellyfish, in a swarm 26 square kilometres in area and 10 metres deep, drifted into a salmon farm in the Irish Sea, killing all 100,000 fish. Fisheries scientists have warned for years that we are replacing an ocean full of fish with one full of jellyfish - which few creatures eat - meaning this could even affect the global carbon budget. Full story: <http://environment.newscientist.com/article/mg19626323.700-insight-overfishing-is-creating-a-jellyfish-plague.html>

New Report on Deforestation Reveals Problems of Forest Carbon Payment Schemes: A new study by one of the world's leading forestry research institutes warns that the new push to "reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation," known by the acronym REDD, is imperiled by a routine failure to grasp the root causes of deforestation. Full story: http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/26764

Facing a Threat to Farming and Food Supply: Climate change may be global in its sweep, but not all of the globe's citizens will share equally in its woes. And nowhere is that truth more evident, or more worrisome, than in its projected effects on agriculture. Washington Post. Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/18/AR2007111800501.html>

TREES IN TRUST: a Canadian non-profit is looking to connect with BC land trusts for contributions for conservation. Contact Andrew Lush, Trees In Trust, 3966 Hopedale Road, Hunter River, PEI C0A1N0, (902) 388-1919 www.TreesInTrust.com

Small is Beautiful: The E. F. Schumacher Society has a number of well written and informative pamphlets on social and environmental sustainability available through their website: www.smallisbeautiful.org

Conservation and Biodiversity Banking - A Guide to Setting up and Running Biodiversity Credit Trading Systems: Conservation and Biodiversity Banking is the first comprehensive book on species mitigation banking. It provides practical guidance, tools, case studies, analysis, and insights into endangered species banking in the United States and abroad, and serves a handbook for a broad audience including private landowners, complying industries, regulating agencies, policy makers, bank developers, and interested general public. For more information: http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/media/pdf/conservation_carbon_banking_excerpts.pdf

Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve: now have several new pages of information on their website. The two sections with the most comprehensive updates are the "What's Happening" section which now contains links to the Science Network and Spatial Analysis work. There is also significant new content in the "Learn More" pages. For more information: www.pc.gc.ca/straitofgeorgia

Salmon in the City. Wendy Jackson Hall is a 6-minute educational film commissioned by the Seattle Arts Commission on the occasion of salmon being classified as an endangered species: <http://www.jacksonhall.com/films.html> movie link (6.7 MB)

"The Story of Stuff": Encompassing years of research and advocacy compacted into a concise, 20-minute movie. In her film, Leonard intends to simplify what she calls the "materials economy" - extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal - and convince Americans that although the system seems easy enough to understand, it is full of flaws and globally damaging effects. <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

BC Ministry of Environment Environmental Trends 2007: This is the fourth in a series of Environmental Trends reports from the British Columbia Ministry of Environment. This year's report contains 44 indicators and over 25 supplementary measures divided into seven topics. The indicators provide an update on measurable pressures and conditions in the province. They also show the impact of efforts to address environmental problems and the progress society as a whole is making toward sustainability. To view or download the report: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/et07/index.html>

Conclusions and Recommendations from the 2007 Trondheim Biodiversity Conference: The fifth, and most recent Trondheim conference, in November 2007, focused on the relationship between biodiversity, ecosystem services and people — and in particular on trying to understand the synergies and tradeoffs between conservation and development. Schei, P (2007). The report is available to download from: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/external/external-meetings/trondheim-05-38-chairman-report-en.pdf> <http://www.trondheimconference.org/trondheimskonferansen/>

Tools & Services

Donated Software for Registered Charities: Tech Soup offers donated software from major suppliers for a nominal administration fee. Now available to all registered Canadian charities. www.techsoup.org

Online PDF Converter: Quickly and easily convert documents to .pdf format. https://www.pdfonline.com/convert_pdf.asp

The Green Bylaws Toolkit for Conserving Sensitive Ecosystems and Green Infrastructure: is a comprehensive document designed to provide municipal and regional governments with practical tools for protecting the green infrastructure within their jurisdictions. The Toolkit will be available to municipal and regional districts free of charge, available in hard copy and digital format. The Toolkit will also be available on the Stewardship Centre website. For more information, or to download the Green Bylaws Toolkit: www.greenbylaws.ca For questions about the *Green Bylaws Toolkit*, please contact Jan Kirkby (Environment Canada) at (250) 616-3234, Les Bogdan (Ducks Unlimited Canada) at (604) 592-0987 (Ext.222), or Ted Pobran (BC Ministry of Environment) at (250) 387-9784.

Wild Salmon Supporters - New Program, Now Online: The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) is proud to unveil the Wild Salmon Supporters program this month with the launch of their new website. The program is dedicated to working with chefs, restaurants, and retailers that are making a commitment to being farmed salmon free until the industry shifts to more sustainable production methods. www.SalmonSupporters.com

Resources for Eco-Awareness and Action: While it's not possible for parents to completely tune out the directives to buy, buy, buy, they can make their purchases from companies that share their values. For a list of sites online: <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?3961>

Vancouver Foundation: The purpose of the Environment Advisory Committee is to encourage and assist in the resolution of broad environmental issues arising in British Columbia. Deadline: Letter of inquiry is to be submitted at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to the official deadlines: January 17, 2008/February 28, 2008 www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/

Tree Canada Announces Launch of Green Streets

Canada 2008: In its 15th edition, the urban forest innovation program contributes a minimum of 50/50 funding to municipalities and First Nations through a competitive bidding process. Since its inception in 1994, over \$2M been committed to urban forest projects in 355 communities. Municipalities and First Nations have until Friday, **February 8, 2008 to apply.** Applications and information are available on Tree Canada's website: www.treecanada.ca.

Pacific Salmon Foundation: Community Salmon Program - Projects must support the protection, enhancement, rehabilitation or conservation of Pacific salmonids and their habitat. Deadlines: February 15 and October 15. www.psf.ca

Shell Environment Fund: Spring and Fall, February 28 and September 30 (for applications over \$500 and under \$5000, applications for less than \$500 accepted on ongoing basis). www.shell.ca/home/content/ca-en/society_environment/environment/portect/support/environment_fund/sef_about.html

Partners in Organizational Development (POD) Update:

The Centre for Sustainability delivers technical assistance grant programs for not-for-profit organizations in BC's health and social services, arts and heritage, and environment fields. POD grants assist organizations that would like to work with an experienced consultant to enhance their organizational effectiveness. EnviroPOD applications are due Friday February 22, 2008. www.centreforsustainability.ca/programs/EnviroPOD.html

Columbia Basin Trust's Environmental Initiatives: The Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) provides support to community-initiated and supported environmental projects that aim to reduce the impacts humans have on local and regional ecosystems. The EIP provides funding for aquatic, terrestrial and education projects that lead to a healthier environment for Basin residents. For more information: <http://www.cbt.org/programs/main.asp?ProgramID=271&fl=5>

Imagine Canada The Canadian Directory to Foundations and Corporations – Canada's largest bilingual fundraising database. Listings from more than 3,100 foundation listings, more than 150 corporations and over 90,000 indexed grants. Annual subscriptions start at \$375 per year. For more information: www.imaginecanada.ca

Signs of Health: Positive Trends in Fundraising:

Western environmental groups are getting stronger and better at fundraising. A recent survey of fundraising trends conducted by TREC highlights recent and positive trends that philanthropists, foundations, conservation groups, and nonprofit board members will find useful. For the full report: <http://ent.groundspring.org/>

Events

Dear River Advocates: The Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) is requesting public submissions for BC's Endangered Rivers List. Compilation of the list will commence in early January so please send your candidate rivers to ORC Rivers Chair Mark Angelo, at mangelo@bcit.ca

Vancouver Green Shores Coastal Development Rating System User's Forum:

This interdisciplinary forum will introduce and discuss the Green Shores rating system for new ocean front construction and shore protection projects. There will be an opportunity for a limited number of participants to make a 5 minute presentation about a project of theirs which could fit the Green Shores model or for which a Green Shores approach is desired but there are some implementation issues. February 4, 2008, 9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m, Simon Fraser University Harbour Center, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. For more information: <http://www.greenshores.ca>.

Primary Announcement and Call for Papers - Garry

Oak Ecosystems Research Colloquium: February 22, 2008, 9:00am-4:00pm, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria BC. Purpose is to facilitate exchange of information regarding current and planned research concerning biology, history, variability and classification, threats to (e.g. fragmentation and invasive species), and restoration of Garry oak and associated ecosystems and other related topics; build/strengthen links among workers and agencies; and accelerate research and application to restoration of Garry oak and associated ecosystems. For more information: <http://www.goert.ca/forum/viewtopic.php?t=39>

The Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC) 2008

Forum and AGM: February 27, 2008, 8:30am-4:00pm. Beban Park Recreation Centre. This year the CIPC annual forum will highlight the concept of developing an invasive plant strategy for our region. For more information www.coastalinvasiveplants.com

ABO 2008 Alaska Bird Conference: March 3-7, 2008.

Every two years, 150 to 200 scientists and educators convene at the Alaska Bird Conference to share ideas, information, and research results about Alaska's avifauna. The first Alaska Bird Conference was held in Anchorage in 1982. Twenty-five years and twelve conferences later the Alaska Bird Conference has grown into a partnership bringing together students, professionals, and expert birders from all over Alaska, as well as the Lower 48 and Canadian Provinces. The list of conference sponsors includes agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the business community, and is a testament to the widespread support enjoyed by the Conference. For more information: <http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOAKBirdConferenceHome.html>

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 2008:

April 11-13th, Manning Park, Join us this year as we share in Conservation and Stewardship Tools, Resources, Funding Tips, Best Practices and Conservation Planning. Site visit to Pine Beetle Management sites with special focus on Climate Change and Conservation. info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Alien Invasive Species Management Symposium:

May 22-23rd, The School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. This institute will bring together researchers, scientists, resource managers, resource industries, community leaders, policy makers, and students to learn and share knowledge on innovative techniques, approaches, and theories regarding alien invasive species management. The Steering Committee for the 2008 Restoration Institute is currently inviting submissions of abstracts for oral and poster presentations. For more information: www.uvcs.uvic.ca/eco/

Canadian Society of Association Executives: is holding their 2008 national annual conference in Vancouver October 2-4. This is an opportunity for those who work for NPOs in BC to meet and talk with others who work in the sector from across Canada, and to take advantage of the many great sessions that will be available. For more information: www.csae.com

At the Hollyhock Leadership Institute

The Path of Attainment: Reconciling Ambition, Accomplishment & Integrity

Thomas Atum O'Kane, Feb 14 - 15, Victoria

Join Thomas Atum O'Kane to explore the relationship of inner empowerment and outer accomplishment through stories, teachings and group dialogues. Learn how to choose goals that are true to your values and the principle of right livelihood.

The 2008 Social Change Institute

May 28 - June 1, Cortes Island

Join 100+ social change innovators from across sectors to create new tools for building power, impact and innovation. Designed for non-profit Executive Directors, social mission CEOs and senior strategists, this program offers both skill development, strategic alliance building and time to create new visions. For more information or to register go to www.hollyhockleadership.org

At Gaia College 3-Day Organic Soil Management

Victoria: February 1-3 <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/public/programs/soil/time%20and%20place.php#Victoria>
Cost: \$549 includes comprehensive handouts, 1-year web access Registration: <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/public/programs/soil/registration.php>

1-Day Organic Turf Management

Burnaby: February 9 <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/public/programs/turf/time%20and%20place.php#Burnaby>
Victoria: February 23 <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/public/programs/turf/time%20and%20place.php#Victoria>
Cost \$195 includes comprehensive handouts, 1-year web access registration: <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/public/programs/turf/registration.php>

Light House Guest Expert Speaker Series

Each Saturday from 2:00 -4:00 pm, a different green building professional is invited to the Light House resource centre on Granville Island to speak about his or her area of expertise. These seminars are open to the public. This is a free event but a donation of \$2-\$5 is suggested. For schedule information please visit www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com/summer_fall_events_flyer?size=_original.

CLTA has partnered with the Heritage Canada Foundation

for a conference in Quebec City, September 25-27, 2008. The theme of the conference is "Work That Endures: Power to the People Keeping Places Alive". Since a number of land trusts have goals that bridge both natural and cultural heritage, both organizations have much to share and learn from each other to further our causes of protecting Canada's heritage. The program is currently being developed - go to www.heritagecanada.org for more information. While HCF celebrates its 35th Anniversary this year, Quebec City is celebrating its 400th Anniversary and it is awash in heritage.

**THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA THANKS OUR MANY FINANCIAL AND
IN-KIND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY PROVIDED SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.**

The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia	Opus Framing
Communities in Transition Initiative	Ducks Unlimited Canada
The Bullitt Foundation	TLC The Land Conservancy of Canada
The Vancouver Foundation	Islands Trust and Islands Trust Fund
Tides Canada, Endswell Foundation	Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
The Mountaineers Foundation	Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Parks Canada
The EJLB Foundation	Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative & Action Plan
VanCity	BC Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers
Mountain Equipment Coop	BC Ministry of Environment
Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment Foundation	Stewardship Centre for British Columbia
The EJLB Foundation	Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team
TREC - Training Resources for the Environmental Community	Robert & Brigit Bateman
The Victoria Foundation	Johnathan Grant
The Hamber Foundation	Jacques Whitford Limited
Individual anonymous donors & countless volunteers!	Professional Employee's Union (Victoria)

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		regional/provincial	\$500
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