



The Kingfisher

Volume 20 Winter/Spring 2010, The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



In This Issue:
Connecting Land and Sea
Burning - A Management Strategy
Three Recent Conservation Success Stories



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 July and December. Deadlines for advertisements and articles are May 31 and Oct 31. Articles are provided by the authors; reproduction should be requested through the publisher.

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Cover Printed on FSC certified recycled paper
Insides printed on FSC certified 100% PCW

This issue heralds three stories of “conservation success,” a term I’ve used to describe what is often alternatively labelled securement, acquisition, or setting aside of natural areas. These terms all seem to imply that people are separate from nature—that we are somehow in competition with the very element that births us and brings us sustenance until the day we die.

As some very generous donors featured in this issue show, it is really people who protect these places, and they do it as much for themselves as for all the other reasons we care for and protect nature. Many people do connect with and protect nature for what it gives us personally: beauty, mystery, insight, recreation, spirit, culture, history. We also protect nature for others—for those majestic bighorn sheep, rattlesnakes, birds, fish and other species that are a marvel to naturalists and which we utilize. We consume natural resources in the form of these very animals and plants, minerals, wood, oil, and manufacture products from these resources expanding our human economy. People don’t often recognize but use “ecosystem services,” which the International Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has stated are now less than 60% stable. If we pass on the books reviewed in this issue, perhaps others will be inspired to do something about it. Personally we can reduce our use of energy, and donate or get involved in conservation campaigns. In our communities, all local governments are required to change their Official Community Plans and Regional Growth Strategies to adapt to these threats next year. One very important way we can meet and exceed GHG Climate Change emissions targets is by including increased conservation of natural areas, the living carbon of existing ecosystems.

How do we “balance” our impacts on the very natural systems that support us? Our Management and Restoration section features a story on using fire to manage invasive species. Using this natural ecosystem process as a management strategy sets the stage for resetting our levels of humility and confidence. Our Science and New Findings section features a story on inventory of the often hidden, but extremely important marine environment. How do we “manage” our impacts on other species and natural processes we have yet to identify, let alone understand their interconnection to our own lives? Patricia Nelson, a director of the Center of the American West, University of Colorado, suggests a forthright reason for our disconnect from nature and from taking responsibility for our own actions.

“Over the past two centuries, in every aspect of the human relationship to nature, a trend of enormous consequence has been the disconnecting of choices from consequences. The cognitive misadventure summed up in the phrase “out of sight, out of mind” is the short-term joy of our lives and the long-term bane of our existence. In every feature of our lives, we rely on sources of supply that we cannot see and do not want to see. We see the lights go on in our homes, but we do not see the equipment that mines the coal... or the transmission lines that move the electricity to our homes. If we could see all this, we would know the consequences of our choices, a knowledge that is the prerequisite for a life of responsibility and foresight.” (Fire Alarm, Page 46, Forest History Today, Fall 2008)

The consequences of our choices are becoming very apparent this past year, with drought, floods, and extreme winds affecting all of us here in BC and elsewhere. The more we learn about nature, the more we conserve what we can, in our communities and across broad estuaries and landscapes, the more of a chance the next generation will have to enjoy and benefit from a natural heritage that gives us so much beauty, sustenance and inspiration.



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RATTLESNAKE BLUFF

A Generous Gift for Nature

by Lesley Neilson



Ord Road cuts a sharp line between the culture of the City of Kamloops and the nature of the Thompson-Nicola Valley. On the one side spreads an ever-expanding collection of shops, houses, playing fields, public buildings, parking lots and industry; on the other, rocky cliffs rise up to the open grassland that defines this region, the air sweet with the smell of sagebrush.

The narrow, winding ribbon of Ord Road is known for being dangerous, which means people tend to use it sparingly. Unless, of course, you are a naturalist with an eye for cliff-dwelling birds and nimble-footed bighorn sheep.

Life-long nature lovers Phil and Arlene Thiemer have had their eyes trained on the cliffs for four decades. As owners of an Ord Road auto parts shop, the Thiemers have relished their front row view to the wildlife that inhabits the rocky outcrop across the street.

“Every season different wildlife enjoys the safety and protection that the cliffs provide,” says Phil. “To say that we love this site is a real understatement.”

Named Rattlesnake Bluff for the blue-listed (provincially-rare) snake that finds refuge in the cracks and crevices of the cliffs, the area also is frequented by bighorn sheep, yellow-bellied marmot and a colourful collection of birds and bats.

Just around the corner from Rattlesnake Bluff along Ord Road, the view suddenly opens up. Where once there was cliff, now there is the open pit of a rock quarry. Whatever snake dens, marmot holes and bat caves were once there are now long gone.

The idea of a similar fate coming to the Thiemers’ beloved cliffs was not something they were willing to chance, so when the 4-hectare property across the road came up for sale, the couple snapped it up with the sole intention of seeing it protected.

The Thiemers then approached the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to see if the conservation organization would be interested in receiving the property as a donation. The year before, NCC had announced their conservation partnership with the Frolek Cattle Company, which saw the protection and conservation of over 3,000 hectares of grassland habitat around Kamloops. A third of the Frolek conservation lands are located within or adjacent to the Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, which is northwest of Kamloops and just a short distance from Rattlesnake Bluff.

It didn’t take much to convince NCC that Rattlesnake Bluff was an important piece of habitat, despite its small footprint.

“Rattlesnake Bluff is a small but strategic conservation property,” said Barb Pryce, NCC’s Okanagan Program Manager. “It’s strategic because of its proximity to Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, and it offers a valuable step in enlarging the expanse of protected land for wide-ranging animals like bighorn sheep.”

The property has long been noted for its natural importance. A 1991 report from the Endangered Spaces Project entitled “*Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area*” identified the property as having “significant wildlife values,” a view with which the local naturalist club agrees.

“Every season different wildlife enjoys the safety and protection that the cliffs provide,” says Phil. “To say that we love this site is a real understatement.”

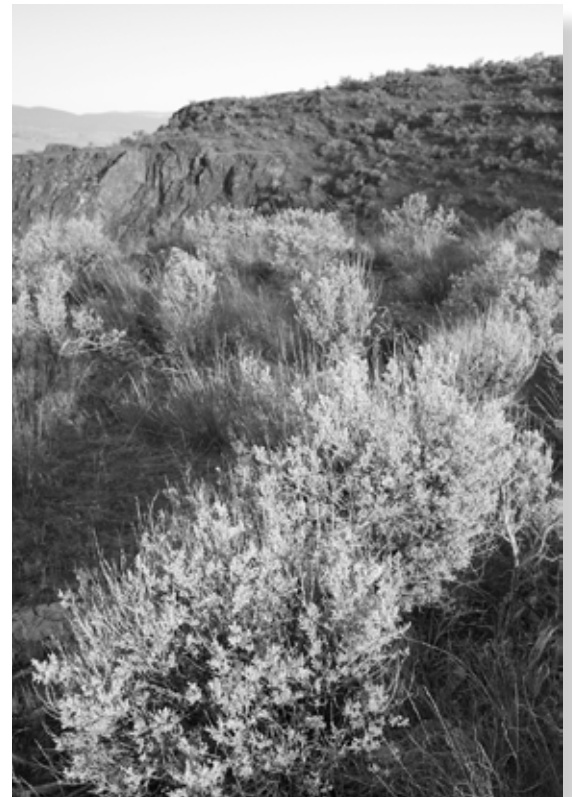
“Rattlesnake Bluff has a tremendous value for local naturalists,” said Dr. Thomas E. Dickinson, President of the Kamloops Naturalist Club. “It provides important habitat for species such as swifts and bats that require some of the special features provided by the cliffs, and is readily accessible for wildlife viewing.”

A path winds its way through sagebrush and prickly pear cactus at the bottom of Rattlesnake Bluff, following the curve of Ord Road. With traffic close at your back, it’s possible to gaze up at the rocky face and search out the features and creatures that make Rattlesnake Bluff a naturalist’s dream. Looking through binoculars, you can start to pick out dun-coloured globes attached to the rock, which become easier to find once you associate them with the white streaks painting the rock face underneath. These are the mud huts of cliff swallow. Elsewhere appear the grass and feather nests of white-throated swift and the cupped grass nests of Say’s Phoebe.

In one of the larger crevices about half way up the cliff, a tangle of sticks becomes distinguishable. Occasionally a small dark flurry erupts from the nest, and it’s possible to hear the high pitched squawk of juvenile ravens. And even though your attention might be cast upwards to the wall of rock, it’s important also to watch where you step. Rattlesnake Bluff is no misnomer.

In the coming months, Phil and Arlene Thiemer are hoping to see once again the bighorn sheep that pass along Rattlesnake Bluff in search of winter forage. With its proximity to Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, this new conservation area enlarges the expanse of protected lands for the sheep and other wide-ranging animals.

“We applaud the Thiemers for their foresight and generosity in purchasing this valuable wildlife area for conservation,” said Pryce. “Rattlesnake Bluff is a fantastic addition to the important grassland conservation work occurring in and around Kamloops.”



NCC is grateful for the generous support of our partners in protecting Rattlesnake Bluff: Kamloops Naturalist Club, the Government of Canada (through the Natural Areas Conservation Program); British Columbia Conservation Foundation, the Province of BC - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Highland Valley Enhancement Fund (as administered by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation) and Phil and Arlene Thiemer.

The buzzing rattle of the Western Rattlesnake may be one of the more chilling sounds a hiker might hear while passing through these grasslands, but this shy snake’s dangerous reputation is largely undeserved. Unless chased or cornered, Rattlesnakes would rather hide than strike, and by sounding their rattle as warning these creatures offer passersby the chance to give them wide berth.

British Columbia supports Canada’s only Western Rattlesnakes, which are found in the dry valleys of the Southern Interior. For much of the year, Rattlesnakes bask on sunny rock ledges and use shrubs and crevices for shade and protection in extreme heat. They spend the winter hibernating in communal dens, called hibernacula, some of which harbour upwards of 250 snakes.

In the past, Rattlesnakes were at times systematically persecuted, with hundreds killed annually. Rattlesnakes are now protected from indiscriminate killing under the Wildlife Act, but even today misconceptions about their dangerous nature has fueled needless killing. Habitat destruction and fragmentation, and frequent deaths on the highways, are the major threats to this species.



Left: Rattlesnake Bluff next to Ord Road & edge of Kamloops

Above: sagebrush and bluff
Photos Richard Doucette

Right: rams near Rattlesnake Bluff Photo Ralph Ritchey

CANADA'S ECOLOGICAL GIFTS PROGRAM *Reaches 100th Gift Milestone in BC*

By David Cunnington, photos and research by Ailish Murphy and Brian Clifford

The Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts program passed a major milestone earlier this year, when the 100th gift in British Columbia was donated under the program. The 100th gift is a property adjacent to Francis Point Provincial Park, near Sechelt, on the Sunshine Coast.

Ms. Barbara DeMott donated this property to the Province of BC, so that it could be added into Francis Point Park. The property has valuable riparian areas and Coastal Western Hemlock forest, and it provides habitat connectivity between the park and a nearby pond in a regional park. Barbara knew that if she sold the property, it would be developed for housing. She has a spiritual attachment to this property and its trees, and feels that "the land is larger than yourself." So she decided to "give back to the land," by protecting it as an Ecological Gift. Barbara was kind enough to say the following about the program: "My experience with the Ecological Gifts Program has been great. I can still enjoy my property, and it is now protected in perpetuity."

The Ecological Gifts program (a.k.a. "Ecogifting") is a federal program which provides tax incentives to citizens wishing to make donations of ecologically sensitive lands to recipients (usually charities), who manage the lands for conservation. The program was established in recognition of the fact that habitat loss and degradation are currently



the greatest threats to biodiversity in Canada. Given that many key habitats are found on private property, and that landowners play a vital role in their conservation, the Ecological Gifts Program was established to offer incentives for donations of ecologically sensitive land. An increasing number of conservation-minded Canadian landowners, including private individuals and corporations, take part in the Ecological Gifts Program each year. Some donors provide outright ('fee-simple') gifts of land, others opt to donate covenants on their land. These covenants generally restrict certain land uses in order to ensure that conservation values on the land are protected in perpetuity, and they are often set up so that the

landowner can continue to use the land in ways that don't impact conservation values.

Success of the program

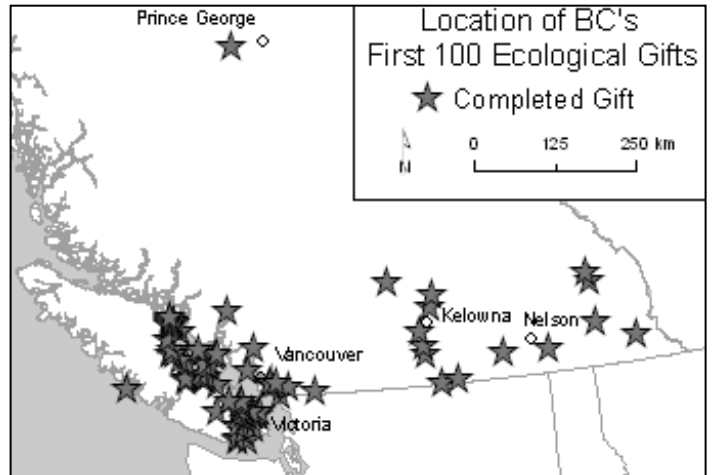
The program was launched in 1995, and over the past 14 years it has been involved in many significant conservation victories in British Columbia, often acting as a "silent partner" to respect the privacy of the donor's financial details. To provide a few examples, the Ecogifts program contributed to a number of large or noteworthy conservation acquisitions, including the largest private land acquisition for conservation in Canadian history, when the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the 55,000

hectare “Darkwoods” property in the Selkirk Mountains. The Ecogifts program was also involved in The Land Conservancy’s and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice’s recent acquisition of the “Valhalla Mile,” a 63 hectare lake-front property that will eventually be added to Valhalla Provincial Park. And the Ecogifts program played a part in The Nature Trust’s protection of 141 hectares of spectacular old growth forest beside MacMillan Provincial Park (Cathedral Grove) on Vancouver Island. This donation almost doubled the size of MacMillan Park.

Many of the larger donations have come from corporate donors, such as forestry or mining companies. Nonetheless, the majority of donations come from private individuals, such as retirees, farmers, and teachers. These private donations have protected some very important habitat in BC. For example, a private Ecological Gift near Bridesville, in the Southern Interior, protected 24 hectares of prime larch habitat for two endangered species, Williamson’s Sapsucker and the White-headed Woodpecker. And there have been a number of private donations of Garry Oak Ecosystem habitat on Vancouver Island, which are notable not only for the rarity of this habitat type, but also for the donors’ generosity in resisting the financial pressure to develop.

How it works

Ecological gifts allow landowners to create a legacy, protect nature, and at the same time to receive income tax benefits that can be significant. The program works by providing a non-refundable tax credit or deduction that is applied against the donor’s federal income tax. In addition, any capital gain realized on the disposition of the property is not taxed. The process begins by the donor and an eligible recipient (such as a land trust) coming to an agreement on what the donor would like to donate, and for what purposes. The donation is frequently simply the “fee simple” land, but it could also be a conservation covenant, or even more innovative arrangements such as life estates (e.g., the donor retains the right to live on the land for life). Next, Environment Canada examines the ecological character of the land, to determine if it could be certified as ecologically sensitive under the program. Then the monetary value of the land needs to be determined. This is done by a property appraisal, which is reviewed by an independent appraisal review panel. Finally, a Statement of Fair Market Value, Certificate for Donation of Ecologically Sensitive Land, and a donation receipt are provided to the donor, who includes these documents with their tax return. This process can be completed in less than six months if the gift is relatively straightforward, although many of the



complicated land transactions reviewed by the program take a year or longer to complete.

Benefits to donors

The donor benefits financially by receiving a tax credit which can be used in the year of donation, and any unused credit can be carried forward for up to five years. Depending on the particulars of the value of the land and the donor’s income, this can result in reducing the federal tax owed to zero for a number of years. The “Donation and Income Tax Scenarios” document available on the program website (see next page) can help interested landowners predict the financial effects of a donation. The real benefit and motivation for most donors, however, is to leave a legacy, and see that the land they care about is protected in a natural state in perpetuity.

Benefits to the environment

The purpose of the program is ultimately to benefit the environment, and Ecogifting has helped land trusts, BC Parks, and municipalities achieve their conservation goals. Ecological gift properties are protecting populations of many species at risk, including Western Screech Owls, Mountain Caribou, Western Painted Turtles, Tiger Salamanders, Pacific Water Shrews, and Sharp-Tailed Snakes. Ecological gifts help protect freshwater habitat:

Facts about the first 100 Ecological Gifts in BC

- The total area of BC’s first 100 Ecological gifts is 63,867 hectares
- The vast majority of the properties are located in south-western BC
- The typical (median) property size is 12 hectares
- 64% of the donations are fee-simple, and 36% are covenants
- Habitat types protected include –
- Forests 69%; Wetlands (fens, bogs, swamps, shallow waters, marshes) 12%; Grasslands 9%; Sparse Vegetation (cliffs, rocky outcroppings, gravel) 6%; Shrubland 3%; Sand Dunes <1%

approximately 12% (7,700 ha) of the area of gifts to-date protects wetlands and riparian areas. In addition to providing habitat for fish and wildlife, these areas also help ensure a clean water supply for people. Ecological Gifts contribute towards completing BC's protected areas network, as a high percentage of the gifts in BC have extended the boundaries of previously existing parks.

Thanks to our partners

The Ecological Gifts Program works to develop and build partnerships so that communities, businesses, and individual Canadians can get involved in conserving and protecting Canada's natural heritage. We are particularly lucky to work in partnership with BC's land trust community. Over 77% of the first 100 BC Ecogifts were received by land trusts, and land trusts have contributed towards many of the other donations that eventually were received by municipalities or the province. Land trusts are essential for creating relationships with landowners, negotiating agreements to protect properties, and managing the properties after they have been donated, and we would like to thank BC's land trust community for their part in the success of the program so far.



If you are interested in finding out more about Canada's Ecological Gifts program, including reading our handbook or the Income Tax Scenarios, please visit our website at www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/egp-pde/. Promotional material, such as brochures and post cards, are also available by contacting the Canadian Wildlife Service at 604-940-4700.



Photo above and previous page: Donor Barbara DeMott by a giant cedar she helped protect

Photo left: The unfurling fronds of a young fern on the site of BC's 100th Ecological Gift

Photos by Ailish Murphy

CHEMAINUS JEWEL PROTECTED

With its mix of freshwater lakes and coastal habitat, Vancouver Island's east coast is internationally recognized for its importance to wildlife and migratory waterfowl. However, industrial and residential development have led to the loss of some of the best wetland habitat, leaving few areas where wildlife needs take precedent in land-use decisions.



written by Wendy Thatcher

Noted for its undisturbed habitat, Chemainus Estuary, north of Duncan, had long been a prime target for acquisition by conservationists. After 20 years of on-and-off discussions and negotiations, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) purchased the property for \$3.2 million from Catalyst Paper Corporation. DUC, community partners and supporters celebrated the acquisition of 210.5 ha (520 ac) of forest, agricultural lands and floodplain habitat at an event held at the estuary in early June.

Michelle Vessey, Catalyst's Manager of Environment attended the event and had represented the company's interests during negotiations with DUC.

"Having been with Catalyst and having lived in the local area for many years, I know this is an amazing area," said Vessey. "This is a huge wetland area that was surplus to our needs. Our company is always looking for opportunities to partner with stakeholders and this deal made perfect sense."

Once DUC learned that Catalyst had plans to sell, every available resource was directed at claiming this long-sought prize.

"Chemainus is truly a hidden gem," said Les Bogdan, DUC's provincial manager, who led efforts to acquire the estuary. "Backed by the best available scientific research, we know how important the mudflats and foreshore are to the migratory waterfowl that rest or overwinter here."

Estuaries are among the most highly productive ecosystems due to the biodiversity that flourishes in their brackish waters. For dabbling and diving ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds, estuaries satisfy their dietary needs, providing the energy required for nesting and brood rearing in the spring and the birds' lengthy journeys during migration.

Chemainus Estuary on the east coast of Vancouver Island looking eastward toward the Strait of Georgia.

A 2007 report ranking B.C.'s 440 coastal estuaries further supported Chemainus' acquisition. Co-authored by Environment Canada and DUC, and supported by partners of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and the Georgia Basin Action Plan, the report assessed several physical and biological attributes of each estuary - including size, habitat rarity, species rarity, waterbird density, and herring spawn - and ranked them for their biological value. Collectively, these criteria led to Chemainus Estuary earning a top-five ranking for the whole province.

"Securing Chemainus Estuary from further industrial or residential development marks a huge step for Ducks Unlimited," commented Dan Buffett, DUC's regional biologist, who was one of the report's six authors.

"Estuaries consist of several different habitats - intertidal flats, marshes, rivers, and islands. Intertidal flats, the largest component, are also most preferred by waterfowl and shorebirds. The vast size of the tidal flats at Chemainus and their relatively undisturbed state contributed to its high ranking."

"The estuary report has become a key tool of conservation partners for determining British Columbia's most critical coastal habitats and charting a course for conservation planning," said Buffett. "This information is allowing conservation groups and land-use planners to evaluate and compare the biological importance of estuaries for waterbirds on an estuary by estuary basis."

Now that the estuary has been protected, work continues for those closest to the effort.

continued on page 12

Business, Municipality, Land Trust and Community Celebrate

HEADWATERS PARK BOWEN ISLAND

It took a bit of time and some sweat but Bowen Island has a brand new park. The 15 acre Headwaters Park is the product of the efforts of a local developer assisted by the Bowen Island Conservancy and Municipality and is now part of Bowen Island's municipal park system. The central core of the park is a fen wetland, ringed by young conifer and mixed forest. A perimeter trail and a boardwalk over a portion of the fen provide easy access and a wealth of opportunity to observe and appreciate the area's interesting habitats.



The name Headwaters Park is an apt description as the water drains in two directions. One – north, under Cowan Point Road into Quarry Park and then under the causeway down through Bowen Brook, under Adams Road, and into Terminal Creek. Two – south, down an unnamed tributary of Bowen Brook which joins under Adams Road and then into Terminal Creek.

The park was originally part of Cowan Point lands. George H. Cowan (1858 – 1935), a lawyer and Federal Member of Parliament for Vancouver at one time, owned over 1,000 acres comprising almost the entire southeastern portion of Bowen Island

Wolfgang Duntz and John Reid acquired 120 acres circa 2000. The original intention was to include an 18-hole golf course. A further subdivision of the parcel occurred when John Reid acquired 30 acres and Wolfgang Duntz retained 90 acres.

When John Reid was visiting Kelowna, he happened upon a “greenway.” He was so taken with the idea that he incorporated it in his development plans, setting aside 15 acres - half the property - for a park/greenway surrounding the wetlands. These wetlands and the land surrounding them have become Phase 1 of Headwaters Park, which is an important component in the creation of an island-wide trail and greenbelt system.

Thus the wetlands filter into Terminal Creek and become one of the sources of water for the Cove Bay Water District.

Mr. Reid constructed a trail around the wetlands and a boardwalk on the west side across to an island in the middle of the wetlands. This year, a trail was cleared on the island and a second boardwalk was built from the island to the eastern part of the trail, providing an attractive loop through the surrounding wetlands. The wetland's rich biodiversity shines through the colours of many sphagnum moss species, while both western white and shore pine trees grace the trail.

This final link in the trail system was funded through a joint venture of the following groups: The Maggie Cumming Legacy Fund—administered by the Bowen Island Community Foundation (the late Maggie Cumming was a grand daughter of George Cowan); the Bowen Island Conservancy; the Bowen Island Municipality

The east side boardwalk was built by local Andy Rainsley of Bowenshire Landscaping with design by Wil Hilsen of the Bowen Island Municipality and Josephine Riley representing the Greenways Advisory Committee and the Bowen Island Conservancy.

continued on page 12



by Janet Alred

PRESERVING OUR COASTAL HERITAGE



Photo above: clam shell lagoon currently under conservation covenant held by The Land Conservancy of BC
Photo right: storm over Powell River as ferry approaches



Back in the spring of 2008 a small group gathered to discuss creating a land conservancy for the upper Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. By the summer, they had created the Malaspina Land Conservancy Society (MLCS), a non-profit society which would be operating as a local land trust.

“When we first got together, we realized we were all going to be learning a huge amount about what a land conservancy is and how to begin one. None of us had worked for a conservancy before and so it was (and still is) a very steep learning curve,” says Janet Alred, President of the society.

The Conservancy’s home base, Powel River is on the mainland; yet it is quite isolated. Driving there involves catching a ferry or two, and the only other alternative is to fly in. This limited access has created a strong sense of community, and many are very proud to live in a place held together by the strength of volunteerism and community spirit.

As such, there is also a strong sense of “local.” Knowing that there are provincial land conservancies is fine, but a local land conservancy can speak more to and from the local community, and that was the reasoning behind creating MLCS.

“When we were looking at other land conservancies, we saw that purposes differed greatly. Some are very specific and have a small focus, while others have a broad purpose” explains Janet. “We chose to use a broad purpose and

mirrored that of The Land Conservancy (TLC). This way, we would hopefully interest a large proportion of the community.”

It was also important to select the right people to be the First Directors, and that meant choosing people who shared a common vision. There are many special interest groups in Powell River looking to preserve specific areas, but to create a strong foundation, the First Directors needed to embrace the broad purposes of the Constitution. The incorporation papers list seven First Directors. Each one has a different skill set; together they made a strong and determined team.

Quite early on, the group was contacted by property owners and discussions have ensued about their land and ideas for preservation and conservation. In the summer, MLCS took a trip to view one of the parcels of land TLC currently holds through a Conservation Covenant.

“This was a great opportunity for members to see first hand the way that features or areas of land can be protected, and also to watch as Tamsin Baker of TLC completed her assessment. It was a beautiful coastal day out for our group, and very generous of the land owner to allow us access.”

At the moment, the MLCS are still awaiting confirmation of Charitable Status. “Going *continued on page 12*

Malaspina Conservancy Formed - from Page 11

into the first AGM, I had really hoped we'd be Charitable," says Janet. This stage has been more difficult than I anticipated, but it is a challenge that has made us stronger as a group."

At the first AGM, held late October, the official Board of Directors was voted in, including two new board members. "We have been well received by the community of Powell River and look forward to a very strong future. We continue to learn new information about land conservancies, and having the Land Trust Alliance of BC as such a good resource has been very comforting."

The Malaspina Land Conservancy Society purpose is to preserve, protect and conserve land that is of agricultural, scenic, scientific, historical, cultural or compatible outdoor recreational value. We cover the upper Sunshine Coast but are not limited to that geographical area.

MLCS can be contacted by calling 604 483-3683 or sending an email to info@malaspinaland.ca. For more information and a list of our Board of Directors please visit our website malaspinaland.ca.

Headwater's Park - From Page 10

A substantial amount of the materials used were milled on Bowen by Bowen Forest Products from blowdown cedar and the decking used was offcuts from a research project by FPInnovations – the forest industry research facility at UBC.

The entry-way, across-island trail, and east side entry trail were all completed with volunteer helpers. The construction of the boardwalk was monitored on behalf of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the B.C. Ministry of Environment by Whitehead Environmental Consultants Ltd.

The park is a fine example of a number of community groups and businesses working together to create a lasting legacy for Bowen Island.

Chemainus Estuary Protected - from Page 9

"While we are overjoyed to have secured Chemainus, there is still much work ahead," said Bogdan. "We need to develop a management plan to maintain the ecological value and integrate the interests of user groups, especially focusing on the ability of agriculture and wildlife to work together."

"We need to keep the shine on this wetland jewel. It is still relatively undisturbed. With a smart and collaborative management plan in place, we can keep it that way."

Protection of Chemainus Estuary was made possible by contributions from the multi-agency partnership of the B.C. Trust for Public Lands; Catalyst Paper Corporation; international partnerships under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and the tireless efforts of DUC's volunteers and supporters across B.C. and Canada.

Ducks Unlimited Canada welcomes comments and opinions from all those interested in helping determine future use and management of Chemainus Estuary. Contact Dan Buffett at the Surrey office – du_surrey@ducks.ca or 604-592-0987.

Land Trust and Stewardship



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CONNECTING LAND AND SEA

Nearshore Stewardship and Conservation

By Leanna Boyer and Michael Dunn

The interface between land and sea is highly diverse, where large populations of wild-life, plants and people make their home. People build their homes on estuaries and along shorelines, often unaware of how their presence interrupts ecological processes. This interface can also be a politically charged place because private ownership and local, provincial and federal jurisdictions overlap. Humans draw lines to delineate space, but the sea and land perceive no boundary between each other, they are in continuous motion.

In December 2009, the Mayne Island Conservancy Society embarked on a nearshore ecosystem conservation and stewardship program that falls under the citizen science and biodiversity/ecosystem diversity and function section of the Mayne Island Conservation and Sustainability Plan. Part of my goal, as the coordinator of eelgrass and sand lance conservation and stewardship, was to dissolve the perceived boundary between land and sea.

Like other areas, the marine ecosystems of Mayne Island have not received the same level of attention as terrestrial ecosystems—until recently. The nearshore ecosystem conservation program includes Active Pass Important Bird Area caretaking, eelgrass mapping, monitoring, Pacific sand lance spawning habitat surveys, and stewardship. The primary purpose of the program is to involve the community in

documenting and monitoring critical nearshore habitats and species and encourage stewardship.

Community Mapping

Mayne Island is located in British Columbia's Southern Gulf Islands, nestled between Saturna and Galiano Island. It is a small island, 2,334 hectares (23.34km²) with a population of around 1,200. The summer population doubles as people from off-island stay in their summer homes. During July and August we conducted a community mapping process at the Saturday Market in efforts to engage the community. Individuals were instantly drawn to the aerial photograph with cadastral overlay. They were enticed to share stories about eelgrass—its whereabouts, past memories of its extent and their relationship to it. Sometimes people were just interested in locating their property from this bird's eye view, but most had seen eelgrass and remember swimming in it as children. A crab fisherman remembered there being more eelgrass in one bay, and a shoreline resident noticed an increase in his bay.

Community mapping has been an invaluable tool for finding atypical locations of eelgrass and engaging the public in conservation. It is a fun way to share knowledge about the nearshore both for the organizer, who isn't just a talking head and the participants. We are looking for inventive

ways to attract members of the community who normally are not interested in the subject or have limited access.

Pacific sand lance: the cornerstone

The transition zone between land and sea is called the marine riparian and is characterized by plants, shrubs and trees. This is an area of ecology that is largely understudied. As a consequence, zones of protection (setbacks) are not clearly established, making stewardship and education critical. The marine riparian provides important input of insects for surface feeding fish (i.e. juvenile salmon), prevents erosion, acts as a filter preventing toxins and excess nutrients from entering the sea, and provides shade for eggs that have been laid by shore spawning fish.

Below this transition zone, Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) spawn on sandy beaches depositing tiny (1mm) eggs in the upper intertidal zone, just below the log line. Sand lance is a cornerstone species, connecting the foundation of the food web—plankton—with higher trophic levels—salmon, birds, mammals. The sand lance’s spawning habitat is particularly vulnerable to shoreline modifications that interrupt natural sediment building and eroding processes. The instillation of rigid material, such as retaining walls, increases the wave energy hitting the shore, ultimately leading to hardening of the beach (turning a sandy beach into a cobble beach) and increasing erosion upstream.

The first step in any marine protection plan, is to determine if the fish actually spawn there. In January 2009, Pam Thuringer conducted a workshop, training Mayne Islanders on Pacific sand lance surveys. The workshop was well attended, and a handful of volunteers toughed out the cold weather to sample seven beaches. These beaches were chosen and sampled based on a science-based methodology. A litre of sand is collected from each beach and filtered through three screen sizes. The egg searching happens in the comfort of home with simple tools: a gold pan, tweezers, magnifying glass, good light and a good pair of eyes. It is tedious searching for 1mm diameter eggs, but once an egg is found the excitement of the search grows.

Unfortunately, no eggs were found. During the upcoming season (mid-Nov. to mid-Feb.) six beaches will be sampled three times to increase the likelihood of finding eggs. The chances are high as several spawning beaches have been found in the San Juan Islands.



Photo above: searching for sand lance by Cate McEwen; heron and kayaker/diver photos by Leanna Boyer; Photo right: eelgrass by Sharon Jeffery.



Eelgrass: the nursery

Further down the intertidal zone, eelgrass reaches its upper limit - extending its rhizomes through sand and mud substrate. Native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) grows throughout the B.C. coast, creating a nursery in intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and bays. This nursery is one of the most diverse and productive (underwater) habitats in our coastal waters, as it provides critical habitat for many species of juvenile fish, migrating waterfowl,

resident forage fish (Pacific sand lance), invertebrates and wading birds. It has been estimated that over 80% of commercially valuable fish and shellfish spend part of their life in eelgrass beds.

Eelgrass and other seagrass species have been identified as indicators of nearshore health around the world. Prior to this project, there has been only coarse scale mapping (1:20,000) of eelgrass on Mayne Island. Between May and September of this year all known eelgrass beds were mapped (delineated) at a fine scale with the help of volunteers. The summer weather was good to us, resulting in the participation of 30 volunteers over 30 mapping days, totalling 230 volunteer hours. The goal of mapping the entire island using GPS could not have happened without the wonderful work of these volunteers.

The highlight of the mapping season was the involvement of the Vancouver Apneist Freediving Club. For three weekends a group of 6-7 divers, along with local kayakers,

initiated the mapping and monitoring of three bays. One team of 2 divers and 1 kayaker delineated a bed while two other diver/kayaker teams set the transect line subtidally and counted and measured eelgrass shoots. One diver recorded 102 dives over 2 hours! The intertidal extent of the beds was monitored by local volunteers on the shore during a low tide. The remaining beds on the island were mapped by people walking the shore, paddling in kayaks, and using an underwater camera.

Active Pass: An Important Bird Area (IBA)

Waterbirds rely on the nearshore for foraging and nesting. Active Pass, the turbulent waters between Mayne and Galiano Island, was designated an IBA because it supports significant numbers of two species of waterbirds over winter (Pacific Loon and Brandt's Cormorant) and supports populations of a third species during fall and spring migration (Bonaparte's Gull). As well, up to ten pairs of Bald Eagles nest along the shores of the IBA, and upwards of 100 eagles occasionally forage here in the winter months. In all, there are about 40 species of marine and marine associated birds that regularly use Active Pass at some time in their annual life cycle.

The rich tidal waters of Active Pass not only support a great diversity of bird species but also provide key habitat for marine mammals and both migratory and resident fish species. For thousands of years, indigenous peoples have used these waters for shellfish gathering, reef fishing and waterfowl netting. Today the IBA provides recreational opportunities such as fishing, beachcombing, scuba diving, kayaking and nature watching.

The Mayne Island Conservancy Society and the Galiano Conservancy Association are joint caretakers of the Active Pass IBA.

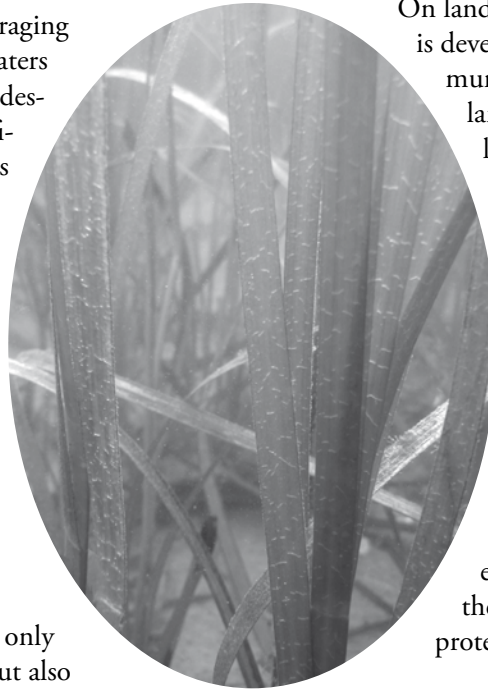
Sponsored by BC Nature, the caretakers provide community stewardship opportunities, undertake monitoring and reporting on the health of the IBA, provide public education, and with other IBA caretakers, advocate conservation of the IBA sites. For Active Pass, a shoreline property owners stewardship program, a logo and key signs developed for the National Park, and Provincial Park sites on the Galiano and Mayne sides of the Pass have been developed and implemented.

Land Use Planning

On land local governments regulate how land is developed as outlined by an Official Community Plan (OCP). The eelgrass and sand lance maps will be used to encourage the local Island Trustees to incorporate them into the next round of OCP reviews. In addition, the maps will be used by the Islands Trust Fund for their Regional Conservation Plan, a living document designed to assist planners and trustees with land use decisions that consider ecology. The Conservancy will continue to monitor eelgrass and sand lance spawning habitat and the health of the IBA. Ultimately, education and stewardship are likely the most effective tools for raising awareness about the connectivity between land and sea and protecting nearshore ecosystems.

Funding for this project was generously provided by: Vancity EnviroFund and The Real Estate Foundation. A big thank you to our volunteers and partners

(Galiano Conservancy Association, SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, Mayne and Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commissions, BC Nature, Seagrass Conservation Working Group). For information about the project contact Leanna Boyer at 250-539-5937 or lboyer@shaw.ca



About the Cover Photo by Michael Harvey:

The Red Irish Lord, Sculpin family, have a remarkable ability to change colours to match the background. They can be bright yellow when resting on a large sponge, dark red against a kelp. This camouflage gives them confidence; they usually remain still, giving a photographer good opportunities



THE IRIS GRIFFITH CENTRE *Ruby Lake Nature Lagoon Society*

BC's Sunshine Coast is recognized for its remarkable natural treasures. Towering mountains, old growth forests, sparkling salmon streams, verdant wetlands and spectacular Pacific coastline support a rich diversity of wildlife habitats, flora and fauna, and rare species in addition to priceless ecosystem services for local residents. Unfortunately, these precious ecosystems are threatened by rapid growth and development. Ours is the third fastest growing region in BC (population jumped 8.4% from 2001-2006.) Meanwhile, only a tiny portion of land (less than 3%) is protected as parkland. Now is the critical window of opportunity to take action to conserve the natural heritage of the Sunshine Coast.

At the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society, a dedicated team of scientists, educators and conservationists is working hard to protect, restore and enhance habitat on the Sunshine Coast through community engagement and on-the-ground stewardship activities. Founded in 2002, our Society built and operates the Iris Griffith Field Studies and Interpretive Centre, a 2,500-square foot educational facility and model green building designed to help all ages explore and appreciate the natural wonders of the Sunshine Coast. The motto of the Centre is "come take a closer look at nature." Visitors enjoy a panorama of interpretive displays, exhibits and nature-themed art installations, an aquarium gallery and kid's area. Outdoor highlights include nature trails, a bird hide and a floating wetland platform.

Centre programs include courses, presentations, children's programs, guided field trips, cultural programs and special events, including the annual BioBlitz. Our 'Greening Your Home' and other workshop series have enabled residents to take concrete action to conserve water and energy and minimize environmental impacts. Our popular Nature School Program enables teachers to move their classrooms to the Centre for an entire week of hands-on



written by Michelle Evelyn
photos by Michael Jackson



exploration. Our goal is to educate about local ecology and conservation issues, promote respect for nature, and encourage environmental sustainability.

We are also actively involved in environmental planning and habitat enhancement. Since 2005, we have worked to restore a 10-acre wetland within our nature reserve to enhance habitat for breeding waterfowl and other species. In 2006, our Sunshine Coast Water Summit brought together stakeholders, scientists and water management professionals to share our understanding of local water issues. In 2007, our scientists discovered a new stickleback species pair on Nelson Island. Three years ago we launched the

Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project which seeks to identify, protect and enhance habitat for local fauna. By conducting surveys of bats, amphibians and reptiles, assessing and mapping local wetlands, and working with government, community groups and private landowners, we are helping to protect and restore habitat for our precious wildlife species, including the spectacular federally endangered Western Painted Turtle and other species-at-risk.

The Lagoon Society is run by a volunteer, hands-on working board of directors and enjoys strong partnership with many academic, community, government, and conservation organizations. We are enormously grateful to the contributions of our many corporate, government, foundation and private donors. We warmly invite you to visit the Iris Griffith Centre and encourage you to explore our website www.lagoonsociety.com to learn more and become involved in our organization.

Cowichan Land Trust Creates COMMUNITY GREEN MAP

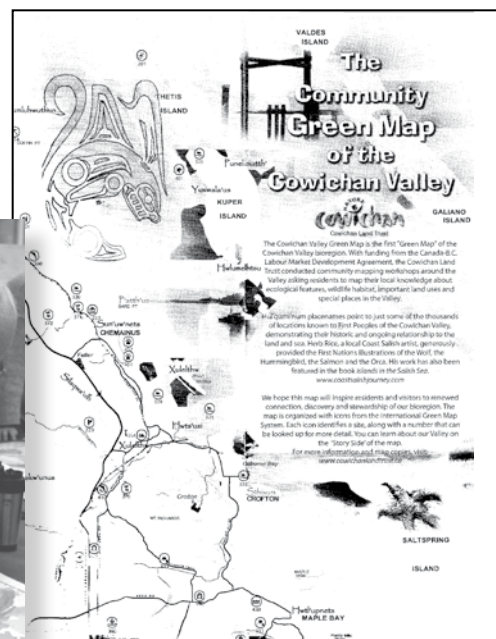
Community mapping is a growing international grassroots movement where mapping starts with asking people what they value about where they live. A community green map becomes a map of a community's home, showing the connections between where we live, the food we grow and eat, the things we do, and the land we live on. What becomes clear is that everything is vitally interconnected. Nature doesn't start at the city limits. It is under people's feet, weaving through backyards, school grounds, farmer's fields, into the hills and the sky overhead.

Over the past year, with funding from the Canada-B.C. Labour Market Development Agreement, the Cowichan Land Trust has conducted community green mapping workshops. People were invited to show and tell their stories about what is precious and valuable, what is 'green,' and what is 'not-so-green' in the Cowichan Valley. The result is a colourful map mosaic of important places of cultural, ecological and food security significance. The map was presented to the public September 27th, at the Providence Farm Harvest Festival.

With images, stories and shared values from so many people, a compelling message comes forth. We are all connected to this land, the people and the food, and as we care for this land ... it cares for us.

This mapping project brought people together around our shared land and our shared values. We hope this map gives knowledge, inspiration and ultimately, that it will lead to greater care of our shared land. The land trust also hopes to grow partnerships that lead to better care of the land.

Over the remaining project period, staff are presenting and distributing the green map to community groups and conducting workshops based on needs identified by mapping participants and Valley residents: stewardship skills and map creation—such as graphics, GPS and GIS skills. The Cowichan Valley Community Green Map information will be put on the interactive provincial Community Mapping Network and the map resources will be accessible through the Cowichan Land Trust website.



The Cowichan Valley Community Green Map suggests practical ways to live responsibly and respectfully with the land and the ecology of the Cowichan Valley:

Property owners: Learn more about the natural values of your land and find out how to steward and if practical - protect key features, such as with a conservation covenant.

Developers: Consider project designs that are creative and flexible enough to protect and enhance ecological systems. Trees in neighbourhoods add to the value and liveability of the area.

Planners and decision-makers: Ensure that conservation is given as high a priority as other planning objectives. Support plans and programs that help protect sensitive ecosystems and use planning tools such as development permit areas, tree protection by-laws, and conservation covenants.

Advocacy groups: Ratepayers' groups, service organizations, naturalist clubs, land trusts, and conservancies can act on local community issues. Group members can promote active stewardship and can advocate local governments for the protection of local values.

Professionals such as educators, biologists and consultants: Use your expertise to help identify relevant conservation issues and projects and get people outdoors.

Contact the Cowichan Land Trust office for further info:
maps.cowichanlandtrust.ca.

Margaret Paridaen, Project Manager, Cowichan Valley Community Green Mapping Project Cowichan Land Trust

Ecological Goods and Services

FARMERS HELPING TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

by Wanda Gorsuch and Ramona Scott

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” Aldo Leopold

Farmers, ranchers, conservationists, planners, scientists, economists and others across British Columbia and North America are talking about ecosystem benefits to society provided from farm and ranch lands. The benefits people derive from nature, called ecosystem goods & services (EG & S) are critical for human well-being.¹ Given BC’s environmental, social and agricultural diversity as well as the inherent complexity of ecosystems, it is a significant challenge to understand how best to manage land to maximize these benefits. Solutions will likely need to be found on a region by region basis.

Many land trusts in North America focus on protecting natural habitat. Some, such as The Land Conservancy of BC, protect farmland for both habitat and sustainable food production. Areas with wildlife habitat and agricultural lands often intersect, and both are increasingly threatened by land-use change through urban development. The favourable climate, fertile soils and accessible water sources of BC’s valley bottoms and benchlands attract many species of plants and animals. These same regions are also the most suitable for agriculture and urban development.² As a result, habitat protection and agriculture compete with development, especially in the lower Fraser Valley, southeast Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, and Okanagan Valley. For instance, 86% of BC residents live in the areas responsible for 82% of BC’s farm revenues – Okanagan, South Coast and Vancouver Island.³

As an ecosystem user, agriculture influences the flow of ecological goods and services. Some of these goods and services required by society such as food, are recognized in our market system. Other goods and services highly valued by the public, such as wildlife habitat, flood control and water purification are not. For example, a municipality may rely on farmland for flood control. However as wetlands are drained and land developed, flooding adjacent farms, the

land may become too wet to be farmed. In this scenario, private land is providing a public service (flood control) but the farmer can no longer use their private land for their business. In other areas of BC, the public may expect rangeland to protect fragile grassland habitats, but also demand low cost beef that does not reflect the cost of the management necessary to meet their ecological expectations.

As ecosystems and their processes become fragmented and degraded, it is becoming increasingly important that they are given a voice. Creating a market is one means of giving ecosystems a voice in BC. Various tools can be used to create a market for these goods and services. Some of these tools include marketing through eco-labelling, tax credits, reverse auctions, and one time or on-going payments.⁴ By creating a market for EG&S, farmers and ranchers will have business opportunities to provide selected ecological goods and services for community benefit.

Economic Value

One of the big challenges of creating a market for ecological goods and services is being able to give them an economic value. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment brought international recognition to the economic values of ecological goods and services including from agricultural land in 2005 (Ecological Accounting). Since that time, numerous independent studies have taken place around the world. As these studies use a variety of valuation techniques and focus on different sets of farmland benefits, it is difficult to directly compare studies.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands estimated that the value of public ecological services and amenity benefits provided by farmland in Abbotsford is \$72,869 per hectare (\$29,490/acre). Specific ecological services and amenity benefits included in this study were: riparian habitat; groundwater recharge; wildlife habitat; local food production; access to farm-based recreation; and scenic views.⁶ A recent report by Sara J. Wilson, one of

Ven’Amour Organic Farm and Mariposa Farm are Certified Organic and TLC Conservation Partners.⁵ Both farms are located on the banks of the Similkameen River in Cawston, BC, just north of TLC’s Similkameen River Pines property and adjacent to the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area.

Kim and Steve of Ven'Amour have conserved over 40 acres of sage brush, native grasses and plants as part of their fruit orchard. Karl and Sarah of Mariposa have protected about 10 acres of the same habitat as part of their vegetable operation. This native shrub-grassland habitat is one of Canada's most endangered natural ecosystems. It provides essential habitat for mariposa lilies, the rare Nuttall's cottontail, Brewer's sparrow, several species of snake, and many other wildlife species.



Canada's leading Ecological Economists, valued the eco-services provided by Ontario Greenbelt's farmland at \$329 million per year or \$1,079 per hectare including non-market cropland, idle land, hedgerows, and orchards. Key values include pollination from idle land and hedgerows, the storage of carbon in soils, and the cultural value of farmlands.⁷

Why don't farmers always manage for ecosystem health?

Farm management decisions are influenced by a complex network of regulations, financial resources, socio-cultural preferences, environmental conditions and technology. Without a market for ecological goods and services, farmers cannot integrate them into their business planning beyond what contributes directly to their business and to meet regulatory requirements. For example, it costs a farmer to cultivate around a wetland or stand of trees. From a business perspective, it may make more immediate economic sense to the farmer to clear the trees and plant a crop.

Government support programs artificially lower food costs. Taxation systems send conflicting messages to farmers. When government income support is linked to production, farmers are encouraged to use as much land as possible, including environmentally sensitive lands. In Canada, farm income support programs (AgriStability and AgriInvest) do not require farmers to meet a standard level of environmental practice. Artificially low costs on inputs

such as water do not encourage conservation of resources. In addition, BC's Farm Classification (property tax classification) does not recognize the value of natural areas to farming or society⁸. Natural areas may be taxed at the residential rate—significantly higher than the farm rate.

On the other hand, the BC Environmental Farm Plan and other programs provide support to farmers for mitigating the negative impacts of agriculture on ecosystems. For example, partial funding is available for activities like improving waste management, controlling invasive species, improving pest management, and fencing riparian areas.⁹

Overall, our systems do not strongly support farmers in using their land to protect ecosystems, although measures are in place to help mitigate negative impacts. There are a number of programs becoming established across Canada, as well as international examples, of markets being created for ecological goods and services.

EG&S policies and programs: Canada

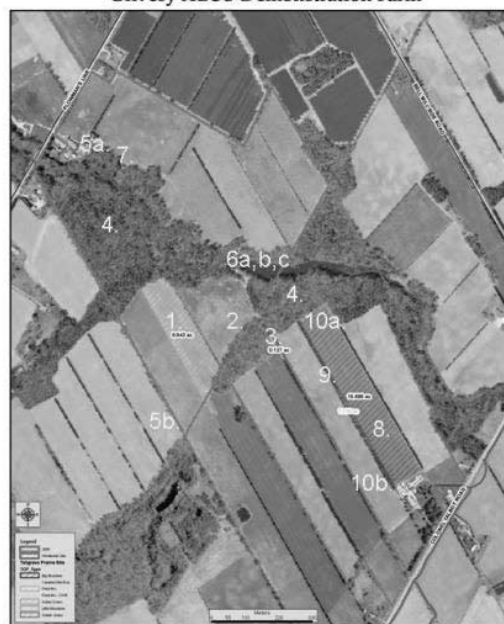
There are several not-for-profit and provincial initiatives across Canada to help farmers incorporate the costs and benefits of selected ecological goods and services into their decision making. But in BC we have yet to really explore and start to implement a regional approach to managing ecological goods and services from farm and ranch land.

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) was first piloted in the Rural Municipality of Blanshard, Manitoba.¹⁰ ALUS is

YU Ranch, Tillsonburg, Ontario

YU Ranch is an ALUS demonstration site.¹² They are a community leader in sustainable agriculture and the development of natural systems to improve the environment. The ranch specializes in beef production and the creation of wildlife habitat. A windbreak hedgerow was planted, along with a Tallgrass Prairie pasture. This project also included the creation of a bluebird trail, the establishment of a pollinator hedgerow and the reforestation of the farm's kiln yard with native Carolinian species. Texas Longhorn Cattle, North America's only "native" breed, roam freely under natural range conditions. The cattle calve independent of human interference with an eye to preserving their unique genetic qualities forged through survival of the fittest on the open range. YU Ranch beef is LFP Certified¹³ and sold within a 100 mile radius of Tillsonburg, Ontario.

Schedule 'A'
Gilvesy ALUS Demonstration Farm



Environmental Services

1. 8 acre prairie grass pasture
2. Fencing to protect adjacent woodlands
3. 400' switchgrass hedge
4. 100 acre Carolinian woodland
- 5 a – b bluebird nesting box trail (32x)
- 6 a solar pump alternative livestock watering
- 6 b waterfowl nesting structures (2x henhouses)
- 6 c bottom draw conversion of on stream dam for coldwater outflow
7. Gully erosion control
8. 16 acre prairie grass pasture
9. 2000' pollinator hedgerow
- 10 a – b bluebird nesting box trail (12x)

a voluntary program where farmers receive annual payments for management practices that provide environmental services. It's a new concept in Canadian on-farm environmental stewardship for healthy ecosystems. There are currently six ALUS demonstration farms in Norfolk County, Ontario.¹¹

Prince Edward Island (PEI) took their ALUS pilot project one step further and turned it into a provincial program. The PEI program focuses on reducing soil erosion and stream siltation, improving water quality, and increasing wildlife habitat.¹⁴ Farmers are paid \$185/ha/year to establish and maintain permanent grassed headlands, and plant and leave tree buffers between farmland and streams/wetlands. These activities are beyond regulatory requirements. They can also sign up for retiring high-sloped land that is in annual crop production (\$100/ha/year). If the farmer's application is accepted, they enter into a 5 year contract with the PEI government to undertake the targeted activities.

In BC, the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust (DWFT) runs a "Partners for Stewardship" program. Under the Grassland Set-aside component, DWFT shares the costs with farmers of managing fields sown with a mix of grass and clover for up to four years. These set-asides have been shown to support high densities of Townsend's vole and provide habitat for many grassland bird species. These types of set-asides also assist farmers in transitioning to organic production by spanning the required three-year pesticide and chemical fertilizer free certification period.¹⁵ Funding

for DWFT comes from the Vancouver airport expansion endowment and donations.

Federally, Canada does not yet have policies or associated programs specifically focused on creating a market for EG&S from farmland. However, there are national efforts exploring options for the provision of ecological goods and services from farmland. For example, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada recently hosted a Technical Meeting that featured the results of Canadian research, pilot projects and provincial programs that address ecological goods and services concepts and options for agri-environmental policy.¹⁶

EG&S policies and programs: International

The United Kingdom, European Union, United States¹⁷, and Australia have implemented a variety of national policies and programs that create markets for ecological goods and services. Programs vary in focus and delivery. The United Kingdom's Environmental Stewardship scheme requires farmers to meet a minimum level of environmental performance before they are eligible for payments for targeted goods and services. This is a three-tiered scheme with payments for over 50 management options.¹⁸ The Australian government purchases environmental services from farmers through an auction system for carrying out agreed-upon actions beyond their regulated environmental responsibilities. Currently Australia is focusing on nationally endangered or vulnerable species and ecological communities, migratory species, wetlands and natural values associated with world and national heritage places.¹⁹

Conclusion

Farm and ranch lands can play a critical role in maintaining important BC ecosystems for community health and well-being. We propose that a market for ecological goods and services from farm and ranch land be developed, on a region by region basis, so that farmers and ranchers can deliver these benefits beyond what their business and regulations require. Other developed countries have been using EG&S markets for several years. Direct payments, tax credits, auctions and recognition programs are market tools that can be applied.

Although there are tough questions to be answered, innovative solutions will come from collaboration between diverse interest groups (e.g. conservation, health, agriculture, government and consumers). Land trusts have an important role to play in these partnerships through communication, education and complementary land protection tools.

Ramona Scott is the Manager of TLC's Agricultural Programs, Wanda Gorsuch is a private contractor who works on sustainable agriculture projects.

Endnotes

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9 Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan. 2006. *Beneficial Management Practices*.

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11 Norfolk ALUS. Retrieved June 1, 2009 from <http://www.norfolkalus.com/> Currently, 53 farmers participate in Norfolk ALUS, providing 438 acres for environmental service. Farmers are paid \$150/acre annually for this service.



Madrona Farm, Saanich Peninsula, a farm TLC is currently raising funds to protect

Tough Questions

From Proceedings of the Ecological Goods and Services Technical Meeting, Ottawa, Canada (2009)

1. How to measure and place value on public demand for EG&S in the absence of environmental markets, a comprehensive set of natural capital accounts, and satisfactory information about ecosystem conditions and functions?
2. When does polluter pay stop and provider get begin?
3. How to ensure results are accountable to the market place?
4. How to avoid perverse side effects?

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13 Local Food Plus (LFP) is a local, sustainable food certification organisation. Certification includes environmental protection, wildlife enhancement, energy efficiency, labour standards and humane livestock treatment. LFP certifies farmers and food processors and links them with local purchasers. For more information: www.localfoodplus.ca

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TORCHING THE GRASS

The Nature Conservancy of Canada sets the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve on fire

Story and Photos by Tim Ennis, Director of Stewardship, NCC

This September, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) took a great step forward in the restoration and management of Garry Oak Ecosystems in Canada by successfully completing the first non-research, intentionally set, prescribed burn at the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve. This was in all likelihood one of the first such burns in this area since the time of contact.

NCC has been conducting small-scale research burns or “selective flaming” spot treatments at the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve for the past decade. But we have been increasingly interested in applying what we had learned in our research to our ongoing restoration and stewardship of the preserve.

It’s not easy to convince the powers that be to let you set your property on fire. But eventually the District of North Cowichan and the BC Forest Service approved our burn plan and we were ready to go.

In total, three plots were burned, each spanning approximately 100 square metres. Although still modest in size, this constitutes an important step forward from the one to five square metre, enclosed or semi-enclosed research burns we had done before.

One of the three plots was in an old hayfield dominated by camas, meadow foxtail and re-sprouting elm stumps. The other two were in an area of mature Garry Oak woodland.

On hand to manage the burn were three NCC staff and two volunteers, plus a firefighter from the Maple Bay fire department.

A two metre wide fire-guard perimeter was mowed around each plot, which we then pre-wetted using a series of hoses attached to a forest fire pump that drew water from Quamichan Lake, onto which the preserve fronts. This set up also constituted our “suppression equipment” should anything go awry.

The plots were further prepared by clearing leaves and thatch away from the base of any trees (to one metre) and then carefully soaking the area, including the lower mosses on the trunk, from a backpack sprayer.

With the preparation complete, we ignited a roofing torch and set the first plot ablaze. The fire took hold fairly quickly, but still it was evident that the rain that had fallen



the week before was making the fire have to work a little bit harder to really grab hold of the grasses.

Wind became a useful tool in the burns. For each plot we used the wind direction to help push the fire uphill. And while burning the plot in the hayfield, the wind changed direction by 180 degrees halfway through, which allowed us to set a back fire on the other side. The two burning areas converged on each other like clockwork, snuffing each other out when they met.

In each case, the fire stopped exactly on the wetted margins without issue. When thinking of all that could

go wrong when setting a field on fire, the day was quite uneventful.

Unfortunately we were unable to receive permission to burn earlier than September 15th. Two weeks earlier the preserve had been tinder dry—perfect for a deep and thorough burn of the invasive grasses and shrubs. But before our approval came through, the sky erupted with the first real downpour in months. This rain was enough to get the invasive orchard grass greening up, and consequently many of the newly greening leaves did not burn in one of the plots. Surprisingly, in some cases, scotch broom sprouts did not burn either. Regardless, all of the thatch was combusted.

All in all the burn was a great success. We feel that this will go a long way in reducing light competition for emerging native wildflowers and add a pulse of nutrients as well.

A huge thanks must go out to many people and agencies involved in making this historic event possible: NCC staff and volunteers who organized, participated and mopped up afterward; the Maple Bay Fire Department, District of North Cowichan, BC Forest Service; and of course Habitat Stewardship Program (Environment Canada) for their exceptionally robust and durable commitment to the stewardship activities of NCC in the Garry oak habitats of the Cowichan Valley.

We are also indebted to Andrew MacDougall in particular, and other researchers as well, who have studied the effect of fire on the property, and have been such ardent supporters of the re-introduction of this critical ecosystem process.



Managing Conservation Lands to keep Nature's Pulse Beating

By G. Gary Runka, Land Sense Ltd.

Abridged version of Opening Comments delivered to Best Management Practices for Conservation Lands Workshop, BC Trust for Public Lands, Sidney, B.C., September 24, 2009

Goal three of the Vision for Biodiversity in BC in the year 2010, as contained in the 2008 document, *Taking Nature's Pulse: the Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia* is: "to provide tools and incentives to enable governments (including First Nations), industry, conservation organizations and citizens to improve conservation of British Columbia's biodiversity."

This is a laudable but challenging goal. In my over 40 years working in the field of inventory, land and water use planning and natural resource management, I have witnessed many attempts to bring stewardship and appropriate management to conservation of key ecological values.

Most of these attempts were sincere, but eventually withered away with changing inventory knowledge, economics and/or government philosophies. Some, however, became significant benchmarks and provide the context to where we are today.

Along the continuum of approaches, the 1960s-70s Canada Land Inventory program brought into being standardized, national mapping of land capability for key resource uses, including agriculture, forestry, wildlife, waterfowl and recreation.

Using the CLI information, the 1973 BC Land Commission Act mandated a provincial zone to protect those lands with the biophysical capability to grow food. The original version of this legislation also included the ability to purchase—and subsequently zone as 'Greenbelt'—lands of special ecological and/or recreational significance, a precursor to the expanded tools we have today to achieve protection of conservation lands.

During the 1990's, the evolution of Crown land planning that culminated in negotiated, multi-interest Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) not only added significantly to our inventory of conservation lands, but also specified management directions and initiated the inclusion of First Nations' traditional use and co-management interests.

The concept of 'conservation lands' has also changed over the decades.

Our system of Parks and Protected Areas focused on putting hard lines around those lands considered of key conservation or recreational value and, in specifying what activities could or could not occur within these areas, made an early contribution to BMPs for Crown conservation lands.

However, the 1990's thrust to double the area of Parks from 6% to 12% of BC's land area brought focus to other critical questions. What about the other 88% of the land base? What about key biodiversity values of regional or local significance on private lands? And, quite apart from the percentage of land area protected, what about representative ecosystem components essential to maintaining biodiversity?

The lesson here, I believe, is that BMPs for conservation lands need to be adaptable in the face of changing knowledge and ever-evolving societal priorities of what natural processes, species or components are valued and where.

A third aspect of the continuum is 'the tool kit'—all those mechanisms with which we have experimented over the decades in attempts to rationalize human economic activity with the needs of other species and overall ecosystem well-being.

'Planning' has been fundamental to most land and water use management efforts in BC. Traditionally, the closely related tool of 'zoning' has mostly been associated with local governments, manifesting itself in Official Community or Regional Plans and, as an outgrowth of the provincial ALR, Agriculture Area Plans.

While predominantly focused on guiding private land development, zoning has also been used to identify Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Green Zones; associated local bylaws governing permitted uses within these zones have contributed to the evolution of BMPs.

Having regulatory tools available and having the ability (staff expertise, budget and political will) to use those tools to achieve desired objectives are two different things, however. We need to remain mindful of the extreme difficulties that all governments (and all NGOs and private land trusts, as well) will continue to face in implementing BMPs 'on-the-ground'.

The use of private agreements with receptive landowners—whether through direct acquisition, donations or incentive/compensation agreements—is another tool that has impacted the evolution of BMPs for conservation lands.

The Pacific Coast Joint Venture estuary program provided a momentum enhancement to the use of the acquisition tool. While this program was focused on protecting habitat

critical to migrating waterfowl, since that time, national/provincial and local land trusts have purchased many more 1000s of hectares for conservation purposes, either in response to imminent development threats or to enhance representative ecosystem protection—or both.

In addition, through the creative use of incentive/compensation tools, such as best management practices agreements, conservation covenants, federal tax incentives and provincial Crown land use licensing and permitting agreements, NGOs and land trusts have been able to influence conservation/management for biodiversity and related objectives and greatly enhance the inventory of BMPs that we have today.

In summary, all this experience in BC and elsewhere begs for standardized, consensus-derived BMPs. Some are almost there; many others, however, remained mired in contradiction and impracticality.

The complexities and uncertainties around standardizing BMPs are not only external (including broad issues, such as climate change) but also internal.

For example, we need to be clear about the intended priority focus for BMPs. Is the goal, BMPs that are results-based for biodiversity objectives? Or, is the goal, BMPs that will limit the impact of human activities upon biodiversity objectives?

The safe answer is both. But, that answer will likely not achieve the Vision set out in *Taking Nature's Pulse*. As someone who has witnessed and often participated in literally dozens of these exercises over the decades, my advice is: be focused and be pragmatic.

Many of our best intentions to standardize best management practices for conservation lands have been great on paper—but never quite made it on-the-ground.

And, if BMPs are not implemented effectively on the ground, they cannot play the critical role they need to play in 'keeping nature's pulse beating'.

The BC Trust for Public Lands will be releasing a Collection of *Environmental Best Management Practices for Conservation Lands*, and *Management Plans on Conservation Lands in BC*, a document that provides information from some provincial conservation organizations on their current processes for the preparation of management plans. The two collections will be accompanied by a Guiding Framework. The collections will be linked to the Land Trust Alliance of BC website and hosted on the Stewardship Centre website.



REGIONAL CONSERVATION FUND

*East Kootenay Conservation Program
works with
Local Government to fund conservation*

By Nancy Newhouse

“How can we make the funding pie bigger?”

This is the question that members of the East Kootenay Conservation Program Steering Committee (EKCP) asked themselves in 2004. The answer was “create a local conservation fund” and five years later, the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund was established. Sounds simple, eh? Well, there were a few steps along the way, helped by some good planning and some good luck.

The EKCP is a partnership of 49 conservation, government and industry organizations dedicated to conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities. Our mandate is to coordinate and facilitate conservation efforts on private land, and to generate the support and resources needed to maintain this effort. We know that biological richness is concentrated in the valley bottoms of our mountain landscapes, a significant portion of which is privately owned. Natural lands provide many benefits to communities including open space, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and clean water. But land conversion and loss associated with unprecedented rates of residential and recreational growth put these systems at risk.

To maintain a naturally functioning ecosystem, action is needed. Funding support for getting conservation projects on the ground has been identified as one of the biggest challenges for continued success. Funding support was already coming from private, federal and provincial sources, but a gap was identified at the regional government level.

EKCP partners looked to our neighbours to the south and found that conservation bond initiatives were becoming a key tool in the United States. In July 2005, then Program Manager Darrell Smith attended an intensive bond training session in Minneapolis hosted by The Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy.

At the training, Darrell learned how US conservation bonds were established and began to think about how we might take these examples and apply them to a Canadian context. One of the first recommended steps was to conduct a public opinion poll in order to determine local priorities and willingness to participate in conservation fund

development. In September 2005, EKCP hired Cameron Strategies to conduct a poll of the East and West Kootenays. The poll was completed in January 2006. Some of the highlights of the poll were that:

- residents agreed that it is important to “protect natural ecosystems for quality of life” (96%)
- 89% of residents supported the idea of creating a dedicated conservation fund
- 51% supported a mandatory levy; 45% opposed it

First, we decided to propose a referendum rather than starting with alternative approval. Our second shift was to propose a parcel tax, rather than a tax based on assessed value.

In July of 2007, EKCP hired Cameron Strategy to develop a communication strategy with the goal of getting a referendum on the Fund, and achieving a successful vote. We recognized a need at that time to “brand” EKCP. In the past, the partnership had kept a relatively low profile, but in order to succeed with this proposal, it was important that both the public and decision makers understood who we were and what we did.

Our proposal identified three main themes for the Fund: conservation of watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. These were based on the results of the polling research.

In November of 2007, EKCP hosted its annual workshop titled *Picture It: Planning Tools to Protect our Quality of Life*. We had excellent participation from across a broad spectrum of the community including realtors, elected officials, planners, biologists and agriculturalists.

Following several initiatives (as discussed in the full paper available on the LTABC website) we found that most people did not understand the Local Conservation Fund referendum question. So, eventually we greatly simplified our communications and simply focused on the message “vote yes” to conservation. We developed colorful rack cards that were distributed to each household and spent time connecting with community members at local

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LAND TRUSTS AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS: *A Natural Fit*

“The endowment fund enabled us to recognize a family member and provide annual income to support the work of the Trust that we believe in.” -from Central Okanagan Land Trust brochure and Central Okanagan Foundation website

by Barbara McMillan

The people and the places we care about can be a powerful force in creating enduring legacies in our communities. And legacies, a long-term view and strong identification with place are characteristics common to people involved with both local land trusts and with community foundations. In fact, several BC community foundations and land trusts

share common origins - initiated by the same group of passionate citizens and growing out of their foresight and their vision for a healthy sustainable community. Although these organizations have different mandates and missions, they share many similar values and goals – stewardship of community assets, appreciation of natural and cultural heritage, and enabling donors to leave a legacy that will benefit the community for generations to come.

The complementary work of land trusts and community foundations make for a natural fit - land trust organizations, with their expertise in stewardship and conservation, and local base are skilled at attracting gifts of land or mounting campaigns to acquire and steward environmentally or culturally significant lands. Community foundations, with their broad community knowledge and networks, flexible fund structures, investment expertise, and diversity of donors' interests and granting programs, are skilled at attracting and stewarding assets for the long-term, and educating and engaging citizens and donors on priority issues in the community.

With the significant growth in recent years of both land trusts and community foundations, there has been an increasing recognition that by working together, each can be more efficient and effective - expanding their networks and relationships and deepening the impact of their efforts. A recent informal survey in BC revealed that, although many land trusts hold funds with or have



received grants from community foundations, there is limited understanding and awareness of the potential to engage in more intentional and strategic partnerships. Conversely, informal community foundation survey revealed that there is a growing desire to develop new relationships between the two types of organizations.

BC's 47 community foundations are part of a national network of 168 community foundations which

help Canadians invest in building strong and resilient places to live, work, and play. Collectively, they are one of the largest supporters of Canadian communities, providing \$169 million in support of local priorities and organizations in 2008. Community foundations work with a broad variety of donors and grant across a range of fields of interest, and their relationships and community knowledge situate them as a valuable resource for non-profits in their community. Their national membership organization, Community Foundations of Canada, has a well-developed Environment Program aimed at building the capacity of community foundations to support environmental initiatives in ways consistent with their core functions of granting, endowment-building, and community leadership. It has included local, regional and national projects that help community foundations work in partnership to tackle key environmental challenges.

As more community foundations engage in environmental work, there is increasing interest and opportunity to engage in partnerships with land trust organizations to further mutual objectives. Recently, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and Community Foundations of Canada launched 'Care for the Land You Love,' a province-wide campaign to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing stewardship of preserved lands in Ontario. Through this two year collaboration, twenty pairs of community foundations and land trusts will be working

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together to identify potential donors to contribute to new local Land Stewardship Funds. The endowment funds, established and held by the local community foundation, will create a permanent source of revenue for local stewardship activities.

Funds for stewardship activities are typically “designated funds,” where the income generated by the initiating capital and subsequent gifts is directed to a specific organization. Such funds may be established by the land trust itself as an agency endowment, or by a donor who has an interest in the organization. Either way, the fund can be added to at any time, and earnings from the fund become a permanent source of income for the land trust. If the land trust ceases to exist, the fund can be redirected so that it continues to address the original charitable intent.

The growth of community foundations, increased concern for the environment, advantageous tax conditions, and the emerging inter-generational transfer of wealth may be the right combination of factors at the right time to generate significant new funds for the ongoing maintenance and care of conservation lands.

To attract large planned gifts of wealth and land, charities must have three key ingredients in place: 1) a passionate cause donors choose to support 2) believable longevity and 3) demonstrated financial prudence. By partnering with community foundations, land trusts can increase public confidence in their financial prudence, and reach more than their usual donors. Endowed stewardship funds will help raise the profile of the importance of stewardship funding, and increase public confidence in the capacity of land trusts to steward lands in perpetuity.

By working together, the power of community foundations and land trusts to exert influence, increase impact and sustainability, and create transformation increases significantly. The more we work together, the more we can attract donors to invest in a greener future for the conservation and long-term stewardship of nature—definitely a case of the whole being much greater than the sum of the parts!

In early 2000, the Abbotsford Community Foundation established an endowment fund for the Fraser Valley Conservancy. Our “Fraser Valley Conservancy Endowment Fund” is considered a capital fund which, as of 2009, held about \$134,000. It provides an interest income of at least 3.5% annually. I say at least since the 3.5% interest income is a baseline minimum guarantee of interest even in bear market years. The Abbotsford Community Foundation is able to guarantee this interest income because of its Capital

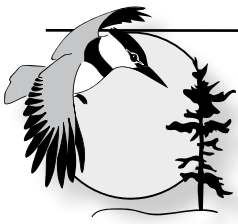
East Kootenay Conservation Fund - from Page 25

businesses including the hardware and grocery stores. This gave us a great opportunity for one-on-one communications with people and an ability to answer questions and dispel myths. We will never know for sure which of the many approaches we used made the difference, but combined, we were successful. On November 15, 2008, 54% of voters in the Columbia Valley voted yes to the Local Conservation Fund (1300 in favor, 1098 opposed).

Once the vote was passed, EKCP took a lead role in working with RDEK to develop Terms of Reference for the Fund. These included Fund administration, conservation themes and goals, guiding principles, timelines, governance and fund design. The document was adopted by RDEK in July and is available on-line at www.ekcp.ca. We plan to see excellent conservation projects starting in the Columbia Valley in the spring of 2010—stay tuned!

Stabilization Reserve Fund (CSRF), instituted in 2004 for all its capital funds. During the bull market years of 2004, 2005 and 2006, we paid into the CSRF to compensate for market instability; consequently, our interest income was lower than what other’s Endowment Funds may have been paying out during this time, but it was consistent. When the bear returned to the market in 2007, Fraser Valley Conservancy received 5.4% interest income even though the endowment fund market return was only 1.35%. The significant difference between FVC’s return and market return is attributed to the previous pay in, and resulted in a value high enough to sustain the 5.4% even in a bear market. The continued bear market in 2008 put the Abbotsford Community Foundation’s CSRF to the test when the market returned in the red at -7.52%. The result was, it worked: earlier this year, we received the 3.5% interest income guarantee for 2008 from the ‘stored’ interest earnings in the CSRF.

It may appear that overall Fraser Valley Conservancy broke even over the past five years in terms of interest income from our Endowment, but the knowledge that a guaranteed income is there is very heart warming. The Abbotsford Community Foundation deserves recognition for their forethought and fortitude to institute and then apply the principals of the Capital Stabilization Reserve Fund. It is my hope that by talking about this program, other Foundations will institute similar funds for their capital endowment fund holders. Lisa Fox, Executive Director, Fraser Valley Conservancy



There is a growing recognition of the urgency to engage all sectors of society in land conservation to counter climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation.

Conservationists, land trusts, government land managers, First Nations, foresters, farmers, private landowners, municipalities, land-based businesses, utilities and the public at large all have a vital obligation and opportunity to get involved in creating solutions to climate change.

The Convention on Biological Diversity identifies four benefits of living carbon stewardship: sequestering carbon, avoiding emissions, protecting the ecosystem services that nature provides for humans and other species, and protecting biodiversity (the diversity of life that provides the resilience to adapt to changing conditions.) Improved management of carbon stocks and ecological restoration are mandatory to avoid crossing the threshold of 2 degrees C warming in the global mean surface temperature. In addition to increasing the amount of carbon sequestered by plants, ecosystem carbon sinks must be maintained and enhanced, especially in light of their declining capacity to absorb CO₂ emissions at the rate they are being emitted.

One of the important new tools identified in the recent international climate talks to increase the conservation of natural areas (and avoid emissions from land conversion) are conservation offsets or REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) projects. At present, the valuation of carbon in these natural areas is new, experimental and often daunting in its complexity. The need to engage all conservation organizations, land trusts and land planners and managers in this important task is critical; not only to prevent more emissions from going into the atmosphere from deforestation or degradation of natural areas, but also to take advantage of this opportunity to help finance the work that must be done to protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services that keep us alive.

British Columbia is currently evaluating its protocols and methodologies for offsets through the Pacific Carbon Trust, and there is an increasing recognition that conservation offsets should be made available. This creates a whole new opportunity for conservation organizations to “set the standards” and play a critical role in ensuring conservation of natural areas is the highest priority now for carbon offsets in a climate action plan. Land trusts and other conservation

organizations have a long history of permanently protecting land for ecosystem services. BC requires demonstration prototypes to lead the sector. At this time to qualify projects for compliance market standards requires significant investment in expertise to obtain data, develop models and establish credible business offset projects.

The integration of business mechanisms with the conservation of ecological services provides an opportunity to raise support for conservation initiatives as never before. The number of opportunities will grow rapidly especially for carbon offsets as the impacts of climate change intensify. Projects within the voluntary market or the compliance market will have pros and cons both ways.

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 carbon stored by BC's forests amounts to 88 times Canada's annual greenhouse gas emissions.¹

Currently, the analysis and project development for the voluntary market is much less onerous than for the compliance market; however, compliance market standards result in offsets with greater potential investment value (from the monetary perspective) and will likely appear more attractive to investors.

Current LTABC Initiatives

Since the last report in *The Kingfisher* Vol. 19, Summer 2009, Briony Penn and her growing team of investors, advisors, and the LTABC staff and council have been working on several fronts, as recommended in our report, *Credible Conservation Offsets for Natural areas in B.C.*

Firstly, with 13 other ENGO's Penn and Brinkman have been invited to contribute to the Pacific Carbon Trust's Forestry Protocols, which as submitted, include reforestation, ecological restoration and conservation as approved eligible offset projects in B.C. The protocol development has taken much of September to compile into an accepted format, which is currently before Cabinet.

Secondly, we have been able to attract several initial investors, who are hoping to secure a pre-sale agreement on resulting offsets, to help us cover the costs of the initial pilot project, including the measurement and valuation of the pilots, the project coordination, and set up of an arm of LTABC which will become a broker for legally protected conservation projects on private lands.

1. S. Wilson and R. Hebda, *Adapting and Mitigating to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature in BC, LTABC 2008*

Thirdly, we are gathering a list of potential projects for the pilot, which will become an amalgamated project, in order to enable smaller conservation lands to be eligible for the program. This pilot project will then be valued for its carbon and other biodiversity elements, and hopefully registered with the Pacific Carbon Trust, a Crown corporation established in 2008 to deliver BC-based greenhouse gas offsets to the BC public sector.

Living Carbon Enterprises

1. Purpose: to sell conservation credits (offsets) for conservation lands. We plan to register high-quality conservation offsets that, ideally meet BC requirements for when/if conservation offsets are adopted under BC regulation, but are also designed to qualify under CAR and/or voluntary VCS standards as a fallback.

2. Objectives:

- a) to raise dollars to maintain or acquire conservation lands
- b) to generate revenue to cover LTABC's costs for the program enterprise arm
- c) to charge enough to cover consultants fees for mensuration, legal advice, and program coordination
- d) to raise public awareness and financial support to protect more lands that will be carbon sinks or to improve the carbon sequestration rates
- e) to benefit a wide diversity of land trusts
- f) to cover % LTABC's operating costs

3. Eligibility of projects:

- a) must be associated with a land trust and (become) members of LTABC
- b) must agree to follow the Land Trust Standards & Practices
- c) must register a conservation covenant over the property (permanence)

The Pacific Carbon Trust, as of July 2009, has signed agreements to purchase offsets in 15 projects (mainly fuel switching and energy efficiency projects) that are expected to generate over 300,000 tonnes of offsets over a five-year period starting in June 2009.

By June 30, 2011, Pacific Carbon Trust plans to acquire between 700,000 and one million tonnes of carbon offsets as part of the BC government's commitment under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (GGRTA), which was passed in November 2007 and came into force on January 1, 2008. The GGRTA established targets for reducing GHG emissions in BC 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.

BC Government - Greenhouse Gas Legislation

All local governments, and the public sector generally, are required to consider actions to reduce ghg emissions. The conservation and restoration of natural areas, especially those that can be verified as providing carbon sequestration and storage, in addition to biodiversity benefits, are a prime tool to reduce ghg emissions! This is a great time to increase stewardship actions in communities, and increase the long-term protection of natural areas.

Bill 27, The Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act (2008) - Mandates all local governments to incorporate targets to reduce GHG emissions and to create policies and actions to achieve those targets into their official community plans and regional growth strategies. This Bill expands the authority of local governments to use land use planning to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Bill 44, the GHG Reduction Targets Act (2008): Requires public sector organizations to begin pursuing actions in 2008 in order to reduce GHG emissions and become carbon neutral by 2010.

All emission offsets used in order to comply with this regulation must be acquired from the Pacific Carbon Trust. BC's Ministry of Environment has established an emission offsets regulation that sets out requirements for greenhouse gas reductions and removals from projects or actions to be recognized as GGRTA Offsets (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, Emission Offsets Regulation.)

To be considered, carbon offsets must:

- be generated in BC;
- have begun operation after November 29, 2007; and
- meet the BC Emission Offsets Regulation

Timeline: May 31, 2010 is the deadline for submission to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development for amending their OCP's to include climate change emissions reduction targets and climate change policies.

May 31, 2011 is the deadline for including policies and plans in Regional Growth Strategies.

Bill 10, the Housing Statutes Amendment Act (2008):

Augments jurisdiction for buildings by allowing local governments to enact bylaws regulating buildings for the purposes of addressing energy and water efficiency, and for reducing GHG emissions.

The conservation and restoration of natural areas, especially those that can be verified as providing carbon sequestration and storage, in addition to biodiversity benefits, are a prime tool to reduce GHG emissions!

Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error

Rules for applying the Kyoto Protocol and national cap-and-trade laws contain a major, but fixable, carbon accounting flaw in assessing bioenergy.

“The accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in the Kyoto Protocol and in climate legislation contains a far-reaching but fixable flaw that will severely undermine greenhouse gas reduction goals (1). It does not count CO2 emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when bioenergy is being used, but it also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown. This accounting erroneously treats all bioenergy as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions. For example, the clearing of long-established forests to burn wood or to grow energy crops is counted as a 100% reduction in energy emissions despite causing large releases of carbon.”

For further reading of the article: www.sciencemag.org
SCIENCE VOL 326 23 OCTOBER 2009

A Planning Opportunity for Nature

Climate Wise Islands:

The Islands Trust has developed the Climate Wise Islands program, including a number of recommended planning tools and information packages for local planners. These include recommendations such as clustering mixed residential-commercial uses, increasing densities in appropriate locations and road network connectivity. Green Infrastructure suggestions include maintaining or planting trees over buildings and roads for summer cooling, retention of forest cover, trees and green energy, green roofs, and community green spaces – to reduce building energy use and act as carbon sinks. Zoning Bylaw tools recommended include Density Bonus for energy efficient and green building, alternative energy systems, public walking and bicycle trails, tree preservation and ecosystem restoration; and Density Transfers, which, sensitive to receiving zones, send density to developed areas, and may protect forested and other natural areas.

Comox Plans for Climate Emissions Reductions

- priority on reducing land use change:

An article in *Planning West*, the Planning Institute of BC’s journal, September 2009, includes an article by Elsa Fancello and Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc. for the Comox community. The authors begin their plan by taking inventory of community-wide energy and emissions for the region. Using the BC government’s draft CEEI (Community Energy and Emissions Inventory), which breaks down emissions by buildings, on-road transportation, solid waste and land-use change. The authors noted that “percentage of emissions related to land use change (i.e., forest area converted to either a settlement area or agricultural use) is very big in comparison to other regions. *The indication from these observations is that while the Comox Valley needs to work towards promoting improved building efficiencies and diverting solid waste from landfills, apart from reducing dependence on the automobile, the conversion of forested lands to settlement area is the most significant challenge in terms of GHG emission reductions.*

Help Howe Sound and Gulf Island landowners protect land and save money

The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) offers island landowners in the Capital, Cowichan, Nanaimo and Sunshine Regional Districts up to a 65% exemption on their property taxes.

By co-covenanting with the Islands Trust Fund, your Land Trust can help landowners achieve property tax savings while creating legacies for the future.

For more information
www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm
250.405.5186 (toll free 800.663.7867)
itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca



Islands Trust Fund



Islands Trust



Natural Area Protection
Tax Exemption Program

Helping Gulf Island landowners protect our natural heritage

THE DUBLIN DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

by Bill Turner

On September 13th, 2009 the National Trusts of the world unanimously approved of the Dublin Declaration on Climate Change. It is the first time that land trusts, coordinated by INTO (the International National Trusts Organization) have issued a statement on climate change calling on world governments to take action. The signatories of the Declaration represent a membership of over five million land trust members in nearly 50 countries from all parts of the world. The Dublin Declaration is the result of a year long effort, supported by trust staff and volunteers around the world. TLC Board Member Briony Penn provided input. Climate change experts in Britain, Australia, the US, India, Asia, and Europe all worked to create this declaration. The Declaration has been presented by INTO representatives by hand to many of the world's leaders and will be presented to the world leaders gathering at Copenhagen for the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15).

At the INTO meeting in Dublin we heard from world leaders, but we also heard from Eammon Hayes, a student at St. Mary's Secondary School, Tipperary. Eammon challenged world leaders when he said, "This is your legacy—damaging the world for my generation. It is your duty to put an end to climate change. Your duty to cut carbon. Our country, our world is so negatively affected by pollution of our air and our water that something must be done by this generation to stop it. So I beg of you to heed what I have said. I beg you to care for the environment by the way you live your lives."

Our world faces probably the worst and most destructive threat it has ever faced (at least equal to the potential of destruction of life by an all out nuclear war). Climate change has the potential to destroy whole civilizations, whole cultures, whole countries—but still many politicians fail to take action at a level which has any hope of reversing the deadly forces at work. Politicians will not take the level of action they must take unless they are convinced that their constituencies will support them. This is where land trusts can make a difference. Not only does land conservation directly mitigate the damage being done to our climate, but land trusts also connect members and their community to our heritage at a local level. (*The international definition of heritage includes nature*) By acting globally we can give the peoples of the world an opportunity to understand the gravity of the situation.

How did land trusts come to be in Dublin Ireland? In fact—how did land trusts come to be at all? In March, while at a US National Parks conference, I had a chance to attend a preview of Ken Burns' Public Television Series about National Parks. This wonderful series features some of my favourite places (*The National Parks—America's Best Idea*). The US National Parks are a great idea. But I think that an even better idea also originated in the US.

In 1890 an organization was formed in Massachusetts called the Trustees for Reservations. It was this new organization which provided the seed of the idea which led in 1895 to the creation of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty in London England. From these small beginnings has grown a world wide movement. The members of INTO (International National Trusts Organization) now number over 5 million. (England, Wales and Northern Ireland now count for 3,750,000 members). There are National Trusts in at least 50 countries around the world. In the United States, the Nature Conservancy claims over one million members. There are approximately 1800 land trusts in the US. There are at least 150 land trusts in Canada. All told there are probably 10 million individuals who belong to or support a land trust somewhere around the world. The unique nature of land trusts and conservancies is their grassroots origins and their ability to involve, as members, these many millions of individuals. There is no other movement that has the ability to mobilize the people of the world in such a positive way. Without this great idea called land trusts, the world would be a much different place and many of our special places would be lost forever.

Land trusts have a vital role to play in this issue. We can help to address the problem, and we certainly are and will continue to be affected by its impact. There is probably no non-government network better placed to speak and be heard because of our collective experience, diversity of knowledge and our combined membership. (I urge you to ask your members and your friends to send a message to politicians to act now to protect natural areas which mitigate and adapt to climate change, to get out, learn about and enjoy nature's gifts to humans, and to reduce and change our habits and methods of consumption.) Let's hope that governments now have the courage to take the steps needed to address the issues raised in the Dublin Declaration. <http://www.internationaltrusts.org/?p=1412>



Uncharitable

How restraints on nonprofits undermine their potential

Dan Pallotta, 2008

Tufts University Press

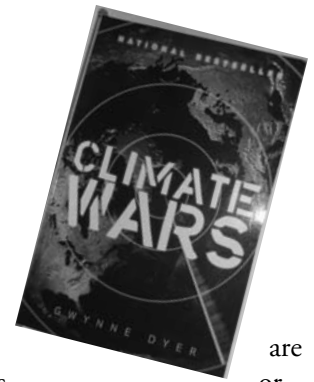
Reviewed by Bill Turner

This is the book that many who work in the charitable world have wanted to read for years. It says things which we have thought but not dared to say. Dan Pallotta looks at the way that our western ideas of charity (and the rules and laws that constrain them) are based on puritan values and the desire to seek atonement for our sins. Although writing specifically about US charitable law, he explains why the definition of Charity is so limited and limiting; why it is difficult for many environmental causes to obtain charitable status.

Dan suggests that charities should operate more like business, with the freedom that doing so would imply. When many people say that charities should act like business, they really mean that they want charities to do more with less resources—that charities should find a way to cut overheads, watch the bottom line. This is not at all what Dan is talking about. Dan questions the relevance of overheads as a measure of success for charities. He believes that charities should be free to make good business decisions in the same way that a business would make those decisions. For example, why should charities not pay incentives to managers and fundraising staff in the same way that any business would? Is it that fundraisers can't be trusted to be honest with donors if there is an incentive for them to do their job of raising funds well? Why should charities use old, cast off computers, which consume more energy, cost more to maintain and are less productive instead of having new, reliable equipment? Why should charities use unsafe, high carbon emitting vehicles when newer safer vehicles are available—just because the public might resent money spent on staff safety?

Society has convinced itself that charities should not 'waste' money providing good working conditions for its volunteers and staff. Why should employees of charities consistently be paid less than employees in industry doing similar work? It seems that society believes that as part of doing charitable work the employees must 'suffer'. If staff do not work for less, they are not committed and are somehow less worthy of donor support. Most of those same donors would not consider working in their job or profession for less just to prove that they were dedicated and worthy of customer support.

Continued Page 33



Climate Wars

Gwynne Dyer, 2009 Vintage Canada.

Reviewed by Bill Turner

If you are at all interested in Climate Change this is a must read. In fact if you care at all about the future we are passing over to future generations, if you are under 80 years, if you care about the world you yourself may have to live it you must read this book.

Gwynne Dyer is a military historian. He holds a Ph.D in war studies from London University. *Climate Wars* was presented on the CBC Radio, "Ideas" program in the spring of 2009.

Gwynne has turned his skills as an analyst and investigative journalist to look at the impacts of Climate Change not only on the physical world but on the world as a number of nations each of which will see their future directly impacted by the run away impacts of Climate Change. He has interviewed politicians, military leaders and scientists. He has developed a balanced understanding of what is in store if humans do not take drastic action to halt carbon emissions and return the carbon level in our atmosphere to the relatively safe level of 350 parts per million (a point we passed in the 1980's). The level is expected to pass 400 parts per million before 2012 and will probably hit 450 parts per million in the 2020s.

If Climate Change can not be stopped and our carbon balance restored, Gwynne sees a world where whole nations will disappear (some under water, some as desert), millions of climate refugees will move in unstoppable waves and nations will either fall into chaos or will turn to war to preserve their existence. The scenarios he presents are terrifying, but believable.

If you need a reason to care about Climate Change this books gives you that reason, many times over. *Climate Wars* is a fantastic resource for those of us who have to convince others why we need to take serious measures now.

Regional land trust workshops:

In February staff held a one day workshop with representatives from member land trusts: Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Land Conservancy of BC TLC, Habitat Acquisition Trust, Cowichan Community Land Trust, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, and Fraser Valley Conservancy to review and discuss two topics: the financial state of land trusts in the current economic downturn; Developing a BC Guide and Checklist to the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices. In the morning we reviewed the Standards & Practices and discussed the Assessment Guide project. We asked for three land trusts to review and pilot a BC Guide. In the afternoon, Sara Neely of the Victoria Foundation reviewed the current economic crisis and its impact on foundations generally, and provided some strategies and tools for organizations to successfully adapt to these times.

Land Trust Standards & Practices:

In June, the Executive Director held a half day meeting with the three land trusts who volunteered for the Land Trust Standards & Practices Assessment and Guide project; Habitat Acquisition Trust, Fraser Valley Conservancy and Cowichan Land Trust. (TLC staff and LTABC board member Kathleen Sheppard will provide review of the Guide). We provided a small subsidy to the land trusts for their assistance in developing the project, and a path forward. We are grateful to Ben van Drimmelen who is now voluntarily working on a list of BC and Canadian regulations and laws that are relevant to the responsible operation of BC's land trusts.

Uncharitable - continues from Page 32

Do disbursement quotas actually make any sense? What is so magical about the 20% rule? Does a charity which spends 21% on fundraising and administration (not classed as charitable) really do less good than one which spends 19%? How reliable are these ratios anyway? If there was a charity which could absolutely guarantee an end to cancer, but overhead was 30% would it make sense not to support it?

The point is that we need to evaluate charities by looking at the results they achieve, not on the amount of overhead.

This is a book you should read. You may not agree with all or even part of it, but it will make you stop and think about what really matters.

Funding Updates:

Gaming Commission: The BC Gaming Commission reported that many BC nonprofit organizations, including specifically environmental organizations, would not be funded this year, unless they had a contract from a prior year. We undertook a survey of our members: 15 Land Trusts and Associated Organizations responded (excluding LTABC). Of these, 10 organizations applied for 2009 Gaming funding and all 10 were turned down. Of the 10, 9 had been funded in past years. Two organizations had 3-year contracts in place and did not lose their funding. The LTABC wrote a letter to Minister Rich Coleman, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, who is responsible for the program, stressing the importance of land stewardship and conservation to BC communities. Our letter is available on our website. Further we talked with several journalists about the issue, and a few articles on the topic were printed. We also spoke about this situation with ADM Ralph Archibald at our meeting in November.

Community Foundations of Canada

Further to the article on page 26 of this issue, the LTABC staff and board have been meeting with several foundations to further a commitment and program working with community foundations and possibly other foundations on a matching endowment fund program for land trusts.

Conservation Assistance Fund

We have applications outstanding with two foundations and the Habitat Stewardship Program to re-activate our Conservation Assistance Fund. We hope that in 2010 we will be able to provide this important funding program.

Insurance - The LTABC has always offered its members a great deal on property and liability insurance through its group insurance plan. We are excited to say that great deal just got better...the prices are lower and the coverage is better than ever before! If you are a member, and would like to look into this policy, you can contact our insurance carriers directly: Ralph Libby, Megson FitzPatrick Insurance Services, rlibby@megsonfitzpatrick.com or 250-5595-5212. Or contact Jackie Ballerone at the LTABC office.

BC Lands in Trust Registry & Provincial Conservation Database will begin to collect new data and be integrated early in the New Year. Different aspects will be featured on www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca and the Community Mapping Network www.cmn.ca

Professional Outreach

LTABC articles published in the following over 2009:

☞ *Input*: guest article in Real Estate Institute of BC's Spring 2009 journal focusing on land trusts, climate change and conservation links, ecological goods and services provided by protected areas and green spaces, tools for real estate professionals, and reasons why we are partnering with BC Land Summit Partners.

☞ *Bartalk*: guest article printed in Canadian Bar (BC) Association's April edition: *Legal Tools to Protect Areas of Natural and Cultural Diversity on Private Land in British Columbia*, by Sheila Harrington and Susan Mehinigic

☞ *Bartalk*: guest article printed in BC Bar Association's August edition: *The British Columbia Land Summit*, by Sheila Harrington upon request by editor Deb Carfree

☞ *Scrivener*: guest article in BC Society of Notaries Public Summer 2009 issue: *Benefits and Legal Tools for Protecting Natural Areas on Private Lands*, by Sheila Harrington and Susan Mehinigic

Presentations: Gift Planners, Lawyers & Land Use Consultants:

☞ Victoria Chapter of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners invited LTABC (Sheila Harrington) to give a presentation on Land Donations—On The Ground Benefits for Your Charity/Business and Donors. March 09 at the Union Club

☞ Vancouver Bar (Real Estate) held a workshop in October on Conservation Covenants and Acquisitions - presented by Bill Turner, Council of LTABC and Executive Director of TLC The Land Conservancy of BC.

☞ The BC Land Summit: The LTABC was a full partner with The Real Estate Institute of BC, The Appraisal Institute of BC, The Planning Institute of BC, the BC Institute of Agrologists and the BC Society of Landscape Architects on The BC Land Summit. 785 delegates from this cross sector of land use professionals attended the three days of seminars. Our members reported that the most important result of being involved in the Land Summit was the opportunity to network with other land use professionals. Several members reported developing new relationships and potential partnerships on projects as a result of connecting with local planners and lawyers they met at the event. A full survey was undertaken 30 days after the event; a summary is included the *Bartalk* article noted (and linked) above.

LTABC welcomes the opportunity to provide articles, presentations and workshops to all professional organizations and local governments on the benefits of land conservation and stewardship in partnership with land trusts & others.

Government Outreach

LTABC Executive Director met with government representatives:

☞ Assistant Deputy Minister Environment Ralph Archibald with Bill Turner and Kathy Dunster (board of LTABC). We also met with BC Parks Brian Batwinheimer and Kristine Ciruna and James Quayle, Conservation Framework staff. We reviewed the role, services and programs of LTABC and our members' mandates, and followed up on 2008 series of meetings to secure funding for our programs.

☞ Minister of Community Development Kevin Krueger and Deputy Minister Dale Wahl and Assistant Deputy Ministers. We prepared a package which we spoke to on the connection between Community Sustainability and the Ecological Goods and Services they provide communities through natural area protection. We also discussed the carbon values of natural areas, and the importance of protecting them to mitigate and adapt to climate change in BC communities.

☞ Ministry of Environment, Parks staff Ken Morrison and Brian Batinheimer. We reviewed the continued efforts to secure some funding support to LTABC, the current cut to parks staff of MOE, and how to move forward the protection of existing lands, and securement of new lands. They encouraged LTABC to meet with the Premier's Assistant Deputy Minister Kathy Chopik to secure funding through the BC Trust for Public Lands.

☞ Premier's ADM Kathy Chopik. We met with Kathy to ensure that she and the Premier were aware of the 30+ land trusts in BC, that support to all is essential for the protection of climate (carbon) and ecological goods and services, and that the LTABC is an umbrella for the majority of the provinces' land trusts. We discussed *Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through The Conservation of Nature in BC*, and the importance of protecting natural areas for climate and the economy.

☞ Conservation Framework staff James Quayle. James asked for this informational meeting with two of his staff to review Land Owner Contact programs and connections to private land where the majority of species at risk are located.

☞ ADM Environment, Ralph Archibald with Briony Penn (Carbon & Conservation Coordinator) and Shawn Black, Acting Manager for the Islands Trust Fund. We were encouraged to further our goal of expanding property tax incentives like NAPTEP throughout BC. Briony clearly articulated the need for approval of the Forest Offset Protocols, which would enable conservation lands to be eligible for offsets. We stressed the impacts of the Gaming Commission's turn down of most of our members and LTABC's applications.

LAND TRUST AND STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR SERIES 2010

March 18-20, 2010 - Naramata Centre

*Don't miss this once a year opportunity to get together and share
successful techniques and strategies for the long term
stewardship and conservation of natural and cultural diversity in British Columbia*

March 18th

Full Day workshop: Successful fundraising in a roller coaster economy: Kim Klein
Half Day Site Visits to South Okanagan Conservation & Stewardship Projects

March 19th/ 20th

Plenary Speakers:

Briony Penn & Dirk Brinkman - Living Carbon Enterprises

Harold Baumbrough - Fires, Flowers and Biodiversity plus other special guest speakers

15-16 Sessions (3 per time slot)

Acquisition Assessment Protocols

Conservation Covenants – Advanced

Management on Conservation Lands

Successful Planned Giving Programs - Give Green Canada

Working with Local Governments for the Protection of Natural & Cultural Areas

Land Owner Contact and Engagement with Neighbours

Mapping: making your own maps from scratch and from on-line tools

Farmlands/Working Lands and Conservation

Attracting and Keeping Board members and Volunteers

Communicating Your Campaigns/Projects - from print to video

Funder's Panel – (HSP, EcoAction, HCTF, Vancouver, REF)

Ecogifts & Understanding Capital Gains & Other Taxes

Panels & Round Tables:

Reducing Property Taxes on Conservation Lands

Local Conservation Funds For Your Region

Partnering and Collaborating between province-wide
and local land trusts

Individual Clinics:

Carbon Credits and land conservation – Briony Penn

Capital Gains Taxes – Susan Mehinigic

Ecogifts – Joy Bruno

Full Day Workshop (includes lunch) \$100

Full Series (includes accommodation and meals) \$325 - 475 depending on accommodations

Registration Starts January 3rd, 2010

info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca 250-538-0112

Skaha Bluffs land purchase complete – The BC government, the Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) and Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) have partnered with Mountain Equipment Co-op and others to acquire a 304-hectare property adjacent to the popular Skaha Bluffs recreational rock climbing area in Penticton. This newly acquired land falls within the proposed Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park. The purchase of this property recognizes the importance of providing recreational access and at the same time protecting a vital area for the conservation of wildlife. Read the news release at http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008ENV0006-000048.htm and for more information visit www.bcparks.ca; www.conservancy.bc.ca; www.natureconservancy.ca

TLC celebrates Sooke Potholes “mortgage burning” - On November 17, The Land Conservancy held a ceremonial “burning of the mortgage” at the Sooke Potholes. TLC recently received a significant donation specifically for the Sooke Potholes allowing it to pay off the remaining funds on the “green mortgage” that enabled TLC to secure the site. This celebration came at the end of ten very successful years working with the CRD to help build one of the finest regional parks systems in the region. Read the full story at <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/>

Slocan Island purchased – Columbia Basin Trust and the Nature Trust of BC have announced the successful purchase of Slocan Island, a 142-acre conservation property near Winlaw. The property, which is located in the Slocan River flood plain, has several distinguishable overflow channels intersecting the productive riparian site. It is comprised of cottonwood and conifer forest, wetland plant communities, valuable rainbow trout rearing areas, and is habitat for numerous wildlife species including waterfowl, moose, elk and Townsend’s big-eared bats. Read the news story at http://www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay_rookies/castlegar-news/lifestyles/73087552.html

Endowment created for TLC’s Fort Shepherd conservancy area - Teck Metals Ltd. has donated \$400,000 to create an endowment fund ensuring future management of the 965-hectare Fort Shepherd Conservancy area, which runs along more than 8 km of the Columbia River, south of Trail. This area is one of The Land Conservancy’s model conservation properties and features an abundance of ecological, historical and recreational value. The lands were transferred by Teck Metals to TLC in December 2008. Details can be read at <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca>

New Legislation to encourage land conservation in Nova Scotia - First easement filed under a new province wide conservation property tax exemption program in Nova Scotia could serve as a model for BC. Unlike the NAPTEP program in BC, which is only available to landowners in the Islands Trust Area, this program is available to landowners anywhere in the province of Nova Scotia. BC’s current property tax system is a real barrier to private land conservation, and it forces some landowners to sell, subdivide, or develop lands that they (and the public) would rather see left natural. Read the Nova Scotia government press release at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20081105005>

Alberta opens the door to conservation - For the first time in 10 years, the Alberta government is giving the green light to creating new protected wilderness areas in the province. The announcement affects the Lower Athabasca region, where oils sands developments threaten one of Alberta’s last, and largest wilderness tracts. 20% or more of the region will be protected! This is good news for Alberta’s threatened Boreal woodland caribou. About 3,000 of the caribou live in Alberta, with about 900 in the Lower Athabasca region. <http://www.cpaws.org/news/>

Canada signs polar bear protection treaty - Canada has signed a new agreement with the governments of Greenland and Nunavut to protect polar bear populations in their overlapping regions. Read the full story at <http://www.canada.com/technology/Canada+sign+polar+bear+protection+treaty/2159258/story.html>

Canada sets aside its boreal forest as giant carbon vault - By banning logging, mining and oil drilling in an area twice the size of California, Canada is ensuring its boreal forests continue to soak up carbon. Read the article at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/29/canada-boreal-forest-carbon-vault>

Gambier Community Celebrates Newest Protected Area The Mount Artaban Nature Reserve was filled with pride as Gambier islanders gathered under blue skies on Saturday, August 22nd to celebrate the grand opening of the newly protected area and to hike to the mountain’s summit. The Islands Trust Fund took ownership of the 107 hectare (264 acre) nature reserve in 2008 through the provincial government’s Free Crown Grant program. To satisfy the province’s conditions for the transfer, the Islands Trust Fund partnered with the Gambier Island Conservancy to fundraise over \$40,000 to cover the costs of the land survey and a management plan which was completed in 2009.

Salish Sea in Canada and the US! - The Washington State Board on Geographic Names will determine whether to accept Salish Sea as a new official place name—something the board's Canadian counterpart is prepared to do. The "Salish Sea" would honour the region's aboriginal people and recognize the shared marine ecosystem comprised of the protected waters of the Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait, and Puget Sound. Janet Mason, B.C. member of the Geographical Names Board of Canada, confirmed the recommendation that the board "endorse the name Salish Sea in principle, with the view to adopting the name as a joint decision with the United States Board on Geographic Names, if upcoming deliberations by USBGN are conclusive." Mason's letter states the name has "extensive positive support," including from first nations, and does not replace any existing place names but is only meant to represent a "collective name for the entire inland waters." Bert Webber, a retired Western Washington University marine biologist, is the driving force behind the name.

Islands Trust Celebrates 35th anniversary. "In 1973, the NDP government instructs the all-party Select Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs "to inquire into future development, including the development of community plans on the Gulf Islands and such other islands in the vicinity." The report cites "large subdivisions and over development as the priority concern." It also notes the need to limit commercial and industrial land use, to ensure continuing recreational opportunities, to control and coordinate water transportation, and to recognize the potential shortage of potable water." The Committee is clearly aware of the threat to the islands and of their national significance, concluding that "the islands are too important to the people of Canada to be left open to exploitation by real-estate developers and speculators." The report ends by recommending the creation of the Islands Trust "to be responsible for and coordinate the future of the islands." On June 4, 1974, Bill 112 is given third reading, and the Islands Trust Act is proclaimed the next day. (from Islands Trust newsletter, summer 2009)

Chehalis Indian Band & sport fishers collaborate on access to Harrison River - Led by Chehalis Indian Band and supported by FSWP, collaboration between First Nations and recreational fishers is forging peace and shared access to salmon fisheries on the Chehalis and Harrison Rivers. By providing recreational fishers with an access trail, parking, educational kiosks and catch monitoring, the project helps direct users away from sensitive areas and alleviates local conflict. The project is a model for improving relationships

strained by fisheries conflicts. Read the news story at <http://www.theprovince.com/travel/trail+leads+river+peace/2070304/story.html>. and view the FSWP grant project description at http://www.thinksalmon.com/fswp_project/item/collaborative_anger_access_management_plan/

Wildlife Habitat Canada recognizes Canada's stewardship leaders through national awards -

WHC has presented six national stewardship awards as part of their continuing efforts to promote good stewardship of Canada's forests and agricultural lands. The award presentations for the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program and the Countryside Canada Recognition Program were made at the National Stewardship Conference in Calgary, Alberta this past summer. The 2009 Forest Stewardship award winners were: Galiano Conservancy Association, Galiano Island, BC; Donna Cansfield, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources; and Elmer, Peter and Andrew MacKay, owners of the MacKay woodlands in Lorne, Nova Scotia. The 2009 Countryside Canada award winners were: Dylan and Colleen Biggs, owners of TK Ranch, east-central Alberta; Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, Edmonton; Ernie Ewaschuk, a lifelong proponent of stewardship from St. Albert, Alberta.

Richmond makes pesticides illegal - Using pesticides to spruce up lawns and gardens on all residential property and most city property is now illegal in Richmond. News story at http://www.bclocalnews.com/richmond_southdelta/richmondreview/news/64524742.html

Cowichan Bay named North America's first "Cittaslow" - Cowichan Bay has been named North America's first certified Cittaslow (slow town). Joining towns in Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, Portugal and the UK, Cowichan Bay was assessed and certified under six potential areas of excellence, including environmental policy, infrastructure, hospitality and community and quality of urban fabric. Cittaslow towns, a movement founded in Italy in 1999 and rooted in the Slow Food movement, aim to improve the quality of life for their residents, support local specialties and cultural diversity while preserving their rural lifestyle. To learn more about Cittaslow cities visit <http://www.cittaslow.net>.

Proposed Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights receives first reading - Bill C-469 was introduced and received its first reading before Parliament on October 29, 2009. The proposed Bill would impose a legal duty upon the federal government to protect Canadians' right to a healthy environment, improve access to environmental information,

provide protection for Canadians who report environmental crimes, improve access to justice and accountability by giving Canadians the right to bring the federal government to court when it fails to implement environmental laws. It can be found online at http://www2.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Bills/402/Private/C-469/C-469_1/C-469_1.PDF

Green Report Card: Consumer Perceptions of Corporate Greenness - This Green Report Card, from Research and Markets Ltd., examines consumer perceptions of corporate greenness. It looks at 93 companies over 13 industries, gathering “environmental friendliness” ratings and tracking perceptions over time. So what does this mean for us as consumers? It means we should be concerned about where our goods come from, how they’re disposed of, and which companies provide the most environmentally friendly products and services. For more information and to order this report visit http://www.researchandmarkets.com/product/9ea807/green_report_card_consumer_



UN Climate Change Conference. December 7 – 18, 2009, Copenhagen. The COP 15 conference is the 15th conference of the Parties under the United Nations’ Climate Change Convention and is being billed as the meeting that will determine the future of humanity. There are many sites to watch to keep abreast of the conference news, events, facts and forums. Here are a few that may interest our readers: COP 15 Home Page is the conference’s official site at <http://en.cop15.dk/> Clean Skies follows global events leading up to the conference at <http://www.cleanskies.com/special-reports/United-Nations-Climate-Change-Conference-Copenhagen-2009?gclid=CJqTIIjRpp4CFSn6agodZzxglQ> The New Scientist Journal’s Catherine Brahic and Fred Pearce will sift through the mass of science and policy to pick out key points to watch at <http://www.newscientist.com/special/copenhagen-climate-change-summit?DCMP=NLC-nletter&nsref=instantexpert>

Unique Habitats, Unique Challenges. January 19-20, 2010, Richmond. The Invasive Plant Council of BC’s (IPCBC) 5th Anniversary Celebration and public forum. Speakers will discuss aquatic invaders, unique habitat challenges, practical solutions, and collaborating for success. The event will be held at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond. Details online at www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca or email cklym@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 2010. March 18-20, 2010, Naramata. Voted by members as the Land Trust Alliance of BC’s number one resource, don’t miss this incredible information sharing and networking opportunity. The 2010 Seminar Series will be held at the Naramata Centre. The program is currently being finalized including 2.5 days jam packed full of: fundraising workshop with Kim Klein, two site visits to spectacular Okanagan areas, inspiring plenary speakers, and 15 seminars. Full details will be broadcast soon. For more information, contact the LTABC at info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca or phone 250-538-0112.

Earth Wind Fire 2010 – May 29, 2010, Kelowna. Join the Nature Trust of BC for a night of fine food, great wine and dancing. Tickets \$150. The event will be held at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort. Contact Robin Rivers at rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca or call toll free 1-866-288-7878. More details are available at <http://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/>

Sneak Peak of Hollyhock’s 2010 Programs. Now available. Register early and save. http://www.hollyhocklive.ca/show288a/Sneak_Preview_of_2010_Program.



Islands in the Salish Sea: A Community Atlas – This fabulous and inspiring Atlas of Artistic Community Maps is a great gift idea and a must have for any land trusts and people who live within the Salish Sea. Special price for LTABC members is \$32.00 plus shipping. Order by email at info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca or phone at 250-538-0112.

GOERT planting guides - For ground preparation tips and garden designs using native plants, order your copy of The Garry Oak Gardener’s Handbook. If you plan to propagate your own plants from seed or cuttings, read the Native Plant Propagation Guidelines for information on about 75 native Garry oak plants. For information on these publications visit <http://www.goert.ca/>

Garry Oak Ecosystems Research Colloquium 2009 Proceedings - Every February, researchers in the field of Garry oak ecosystems recovery get together in Victoria to give presentations about their work to their peers. An online summary of the 2009 proceedings is available on the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team’s (GOERT) website at www.goert.ca/research

A Snapshot of ENGO biodiversity activities in Canada

- Wonderful biodiversity activities are happening across the country. The RCEN has collected examples from ENGO's across Canada showing their most innovative work related to the conservation, sustainable use and awareness of biodiversity. These submissions were gathered during their "Pan-Canadian Biodiversity Best Practices/Case Studies Contest." Included are submissions from the Galiano Conservancy Association (a winner who will be featured in a new RCEN handbook) and Comox Valley Land Trust, partnered with the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy Community Partnership. www.cen-rce.org/IYB2010/submissions/index.html?utm_source=RCEN+E-Bulletin&utm_campaign=6691b3ea14-e_Bulletin_oct28_Eng&utm_medium=email

EcoSociety seeking information about environmental resources in the Columbia Basin Watershed

- West Kootenay EcoSociety has developed an online interactive directory with Wildsight and the Columbia Basin Trust, listing environmental groups, organizations, businesses, and local governments with environmental initiatives, resources and services promoting ecologically sustainable development and environmental practices within the Columbia Basin watershed. The new searchable, updatable, CB Green Directory (www.cbgreen.ca) and networking tool is an opportunity to share information within the Columbia Basin. To register contact Mona Southron, West Kootenay EcoSociety, earthmeandyou@yahoo.ca or phone 250-354-1909.

Canadian Biodiversity Information Network

- Environment Canada has recently launched the online CBIN to promote and to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and the many stories and events that will take place. <http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca/index.cfm?lang=eng>

The impact of climate change on fisheries

- A recent BC study published in the journal *Global Change Biology* predicts climate change through 2055 may lead to an increase in catches at higher latitudes and a decrease in the tropics. This study is a part of "The Sea Around Us Project" which investigates the impact of fisheries on the world's marine ecosystems by using a GIS system to track global fisheries catches from 1950 to the present. Visit <http://www.searoundus.org/about/index.php/2009/10/climate-change-will-affect-ocean-food-supply/>

Forest tree genetic conservation status report 1

- In situ conservation status of all indigenous BC species. In this document the BC government evaluates how well BC's protected areas meet the goal of conserving genetic diversity of all indigenous tree species in all major biogeoclimatic units

in which they occur. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Tr/Tr053.htm>

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Fraser 2009 Assembly report

This report presents the highlights of presentations from the June 2009 Assembly, and also contains useful information about the program and links to program and partner resources. Download the report at www.industry.milout.com/Industry/Home/703/18141/link166522/2009%20Fraser%20Assembly%20Report.pdf

Wetland Ways: Interim guidelines for wetland protection and conservation in BC

- Produced by the Ministry of Environment, this document is written primarily for people who are planning some form of activity or development near wetlands, as well as those looking for guidance on ways to best maintain the high ecological values in these areas. http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/wetlandways2009/wetlandways_docintro.html

Considerations for forest and range stewardship under BC's Forest & Range Practices Act

- Monitoring and effectiveness evaluations are foundational elements of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and crucial to its success over time. Download the Chief Forester's report at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/frep/reports/CFReport_20091019.pdf

Loss Of Top Predators Causing Surge In Smaller Predators, Ecosystem Collapse:

The catastrophic decline around the world of "apex" predators such as wolves, cougars, lions or sharks has led to a huge increase in smaller "mesopredators" that are causing major economic and ecological disruptions, a new study published in *Science Daily* concludes. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/10/091001164102.htm>

Environmental Flows and Canada's Freshwater Future

- Canada ranks among the world's top nations in terms of renewable water supply. Such global treasures make Canada enviable in an increasingly thirsty and warming world. But this perspective is misleading. Water is constantly moving, and it is this constant motion – the flow of water – that provides insight into the availability of fresh water and the health of freshwater ecosystems. Read the WWF report at <http://wwf.ca/conservation/freshwater/riversatrisk.cfm>

Wildlife and Landscape Science News

- Environment Canada's online bulletin informing scientists, policy and decision makers and others interested in conservation and management of Canada's wildlife and habitats. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/scitech/default.asp?lang=En&n=80EDB3FF-1>

Birds in the News - Online journal "Living the Scientific Life" includes a colourful and informative avian news section. View the latest issue at http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/2009/03/birds_in_the_news_162.php



Are Executive Directors Disappearing? From Trends & Issues, HR Council for the Voluntary & Non-profit Sector. Very topical article on the state of non-profit leadership and succession (2½ pages)
<http://www.hrvc-rhsbc.ca/trends-issues/trends-issues.cfm>

Weathering the Storm: A survey of non-profits and charities in BC Vancouver Foundation, October 2009. Survey explores the impact of the economic downturn on BC non-profit organizations (21 pages)
<http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/documents/Van-Fdn-WeatheringTheStorm-Survey2009-Final.pdf>

The Nonprofit Starvation Cycle Stanford Social Innovation Review, Fall 2009, Co-authored by writers from Bridgespan. Article looks at the impact of non-funding of infrastructure in nonprofits and the myth of 18% admin costs (5 pages)
http://www.ssireview.org/images/articles/2009FA_feature_Gregory_Howard.pdf

Register with Give Green Canada - Give Green Canada (formerly Green Legacies) is a national project for donors, advisors, and ENGO's to grow green philanthropy. In addition to comprehensive resources and many helpful capacity-building tips on its website, Give Green Canada will offer an online distance learning course on Gift Planning. Help donors & advisors to easily find your organization. Add or update your listing with Give Green Canada's Stewardship Canada Directory. Click on <http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca/register/index.php/organization> and enter (1) your logo, (2) a one sentence high-impact description of your work, (3) your charitable tax number and legal name, and (4) your contact info. For information contact Nora Layard at nora@givegreencanada.ca.

CharityVillage.com Campus e-Training. Ongoing. Online courses include: Receiving Charitable Gifts in Canada;

Strategic Planning; Event Planning; Getting Started in Planned Giving; Building a Great Volunteer Program; Boards that Work; Proposal Writing; Grantseeking and How Fundraising Works. Online, at your pace. Visit <http://www.charityvillage.com>

Sustainability at home toolkit – "Sustainability at Home", a new toolkit developed by the David Suzuki Foundation and Light House Sustainable Building Centre and funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC will make it easier for BC residents to make decisions about how to live more sustainably. By taking a room by room approach, homeowners and renters alike can reduce their impact on climate change, save money, and help BC lead the rest of Canada to a more sustainable future. Link to <http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/toolkits>

"Salary & Benefits Survey of Western Environmental Groups" and "Weathering the Storm: Timely Strategies for Landing on Solid Ground" Results of TREC's latest surveys amongst environmental organizations – comparative results of recent surveys conducted amongst senior management in more than 100 environmental organizations in western Canada and the U.S. On their website, TREC also offers a 5-part video training series (7 minutes each part) on "Preparing for Tough Times". Search all of their resources and download the surveys at <http://www.trec.org>

BC Centre for Non-Profit Development - Operates to build capacity in the non-profit sector. The Centre offers a variety of resources, including a new "Non-Profit Management Course" which will be held at educational institutes across the province. Free seats are available at most of the locations. For full details on the course and locations, to subscribe to their online newsletter, or view their resources, visit <http://www.ufv.ca/bccnpd/> (for the Management course, look under Education).

Canadian Fundraising & Philanthropy - Updating non-profit leaders on news, trends, tips and analysis of developments in the fields of fundraising and non-profit management. This service, originally a monthly newsletter, has expanded over the years to include an online news, workshops, books, back-issue search and Special Advisories for our member/subscribers. New books include "Well Advised" a resource guide for planned giving and "Social Marketing for Business" that explains the topic and why organizations are using it so much. Visit this informative website at <http://www.canadianfundraiser.com/>

Green jobs in Canada – GoodWork Canada is a national green job site. The site offers opportunities for both employers and job seekers. Browse the job listings, subscribe or post a listing at <http://www.goodworkcanada.ca/>

Charity Law Update - From Carters Professional Corporation, this site provides updates to charities and not-for-profit organizations on recent legal developments and risk management considerations. <http://www.carters.ca/>

NotForProfitsCanada.com. Do you know the ten things you must do, as a Not-For-Profit, to remain compliant with Revenue Canada? This free series is taken directly from Revenue Canada's Road Show presentations, on the most common problems Not-For-Profits run into in their operations. The first article may be read at <http://www.notforprofitscanada.com/the-ten-things>. To receive the full series, visit <http://www.notforprofitscanada.com>

Important Changes for Registered Charities – from CRA

- For charities with fiscal periods ending on or after January 1, 2009 – There is a new Form T3010B(09), Registered Charity Information Return to be used along with T1235(09), Directors/Trustees and Like Officials Worksheet and T1236(09), Qualified Donees Worksheet/Amounts Provided to Other Organizations. It is anticipated that the new form will reduce the filing burden for smaller charities, and will also provide the public with more meaningful information about registered charities, to allow them to make more informed donor decisions.
- Disbursement quota – take note: One of the disbursement quota rules requires charities to spend 3.5% of the value of all of their property not used directly in charitable activities or administration. Previously this rule only applied to foundations but as of 2009 it will apply to all charitable organizations. *Note: if the amount reported on line 5900 is \$25,000 or less, the 3.5% disbursement obligation is deemed to be nil.*
- New Fundraising policy guidelines – check the CRA website in the next few months (www.cra.gc.ca/charities) for their new approach to assessing whether a charity's fundraising is in compliance with the requirements of the Income Tax Act. Although this policy will not represent new regulations or requirements it will however, include helpful suggestions for best practices in managing your fundraising, which help ensure your organization is in compliance with the Income Tax Act.

New forms and guide:

- Form T3010B, Registered Charity Information Return: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t3010b/README.html>
- Form T1235, Directors/Trustees and Like Official Worksheet: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1235/README.html>
- Form T1236, Qualified Donees Worksheet / Amounts Provided to Other Organizations: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1236/README.html>
- Form T1259, Capital Gains and Disbursement Quota Worksheet: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t1259/README.html>
- Guide T4033B, Completing the Registered Charity Information Return: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/t4033b/README.html>

These are to be used when filing a return for a fiscal period ending on or after January 01, 2009.

Webinars available - mainly funded by the Canada Revenue Agency at <http://www.capacitybuilders.ca/clip/clip.php>? \$25 for a 1-hour session.

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- People Protecting Places*** (reprinted October 2009) - 32 page case studies booklet describing a diversity of landowners, donors and volunteers who have protected natural and cultural areas – also available in DVD or mini DV format (on website)
- Introduction to Conservation Covenants for Developers and Planners*** (revised and reprinted May 2009) - this 16 page booklet explains details on conservation covenants on development lands.
- Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature in BC*** by Richard J. Hebda and Sara J. Wilson, January 2008
- Credible Conservation Offsets of Natural Areas in British Columbia***, May 2009 Dirk Brinkman and Richard J Hebda, edited by Briony Penn
- Guide to Baseline Inventories***, 30 page guide to procedures, protocols, samples and related resources – Ryan Durand, 2006
- Giving the Land A Voice, Mapping Our Home Places***, 1999, editor Sheila Harrington, Writers Doug Aberley, Michael Dunn, Sheila Harrington, Briony & Malcolm Penn, Bill Turner
- The Kingfisher***, Back Issues - Volumes 1-19 1999-2009



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