

Cover photo: Tamar Griggs – Garry Oaks newly protected on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

## ***From the LTA Staff & Council***

Since our last issue, we now have the **BC Lands in Trust** on-line inventory and description of the sites protected by the majority of BC's land trusts and conservancies. Thanks to all for your hard work entering the information on your group's conservation lands into the Protected Lands Catalogue. We hope you have viewed the site and have been as thrilled as we are at this display of our work to date. And, we haven't done it just for show. As you can see from the Summaries and Statistics pages, this is a wonderful way of gaining an overview of the habitats and nature of the areas we have protected. The next step is to find the gaps and work to fill them through identifying species, habitats, and corridors that should become a priority in years ahead. In order for this incredible tool to be useful for us all, we can't stress enough how important it is to keep this work updated consistently. We welcome your comments on keeping your records and data updated, sent into our office, and on navigating the site. Again, thank you for your contribution!

As government land protection programs dwindle, our efforts to help steward and protect private lands become even more important. Thus, our focus for our up-coming **Stewardship & Land Trust Seminar Series** is on strategies to keep your organizations running successfully through this transition time. As requested, this year we are holding the event in a natural setting – the Cowichan Outdoor Education Centre on Vancouver Island. Because most of our members are still near the “big island,” as we “small islanders” call it, we are keeping this year's event close to the homes of most of our member groups. We have tried hard to keep our costs down this year, so that as many of you as possible can attend! We are offering a 10% reduction for more than two participants from any one group and an early registration rate. So, we encourage you to come increase your skills, knowledge and inspiration for the incredibly important work we do.

This year, we are also planning to start a series of Regional workshops across the province. First, we want to work with you to offer Monitoring workshops to accompany **ON THE GROUND** for your volunteers and staff in your region. Secondly, we are beginning to design our long awaited Professional Seminars – to lawyers, accountants, financial planners, realtors and other professional groups essential to land trust operations and activities. Thanks to the Appraisal Institute of Canada and Environment Canada, we have a template with the two Training Sessions for Appraisers offered last year and coming up in mid February this year.

As we are coming up to our Annual General Meeting, we are seeking applications for nomination to our Council. We have three seats to fill this year, with renewal for half of our dedicated Council. Please contact [eileen@conservancy.bc.ca](mailto:eileen@conservancy.bc.ca) for an application for Council nomination. And we would like to take this opportunity to thank a Councilor who has been with us since our inception and was promoting land trusts for many years prior. Ron Pither is stepping down this year in order to further his organic farming work. He will continue his involvement in West Coast Islands Conservancy, co-sponsors of our Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Project. All our good wishes Ron, and thank you for your inspiration, dedication and tremendous ability to connect people and knowledge together, as we work to protect our food, soils, water, air and land for the future.

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**Council: Bill Turner, John Scull, Ben van Drimmelen, Ron Pither, Marion Markus, Tyhson Banighen, Sue Austen, Eric Clough, Eileen Palmer, Staff: Sheila Harrington, Linda Horsfall**

# SAVING CANADA'S LARGEST GARRY OAK WOODLANDS

*by Briony Penn*

It was a downpour on December 16, 2002. But the rain didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of people who gathered together for a party to celebrate six years of hard work: lobbying four levels of government; collecting scientific data; letter writing; fund raising; meeting; monitoring; enduring prison sentences and injunctions; coping with violence and assault from logging contractors; and persisting to save one of the most endangered places in Canada – our nation's largest Garry oak woodlands.

What drove hundreds of people to risk their professions, bare their flesh, empty their pockets and work for thousands of hours on an issue that at its core was the grey and fuzzy question of private corporate rights versus shared communal responsibilities for fresh water and protection of endangered species? On Saltspring, the persistence of the struggle was given strength by virtue of three critical factors:

- 1) Maxwell/ Burgoyne area was the best candidate area for protection of Garry oak ecosystems in B.C., with over 1000 acres of undeveloped oak woodlands stretching from the water to the summit of Maxwell at 2000 feet, half of it already in protected status;
- 2) the largest watershed of the islands was at stake, and water more than any environmental issue, brings in a broad spectrum of the community;
- 3) Saltspring Island had one of the best chances of pulling off a victory with its combination of influential island personalities (such as Robert Bateman, Arthur Black and Randy Bachman), scientific expertise, conservancy and stewardship expertise and a close-knit group of committed islanders;



- 4) After weeks and months of biodiversity values identified, the case for protection backed up by a partnership of funding agencies spearheaded by land trusts, a big purchase lay in the realm of possibility.

Some of us felt that if we couldn't protect biodiversity on Saltspring, then where in the world could we? So the fight at one level became a symbolic one for communities and land trusts to see what it takes to save endangered ecosystems and watersheds in the absence of any legislation to protect these places.

**Photo: Tamar Griggs**

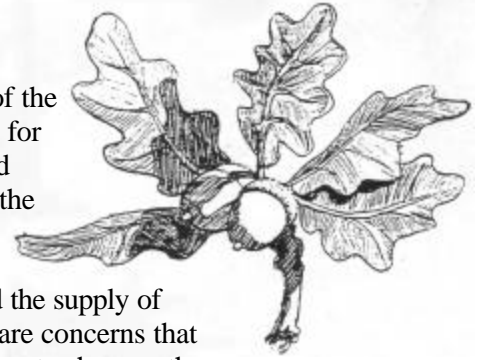
David Anderson, federal Minister of the Environment said in a recent interview "there is no way that we can keep buying these places. The financial costs are too high." From the perspective of the community, health and social costs were also too high. How many times can you put your life on hold, go to prison or ride down Howe Street naked for the same cause. Less cohesive communities with fewer resources would be hard pressed to match our efforts, especially with disappearing social supports from government. So what is the alternative? David Anderson responded by saying, "education and individual responsibility in our backyards is the answer." But then the question begs, who is responsible for educating? Is both the role of education and land acquisition falling on the already overburdened non-profit sector? The conclusion most of us came to is that government has to get involved in these issues and the laws must change. Although we didn't change any, we did prove, by putting our money where our mouth was, that it takes extraordinary lengths to save these places

in the absence of laws. At the heart of the issue is: why as a society do we care about endangered ecosystems? The watershed issue is more straightforward. For most of the people that fought to save the Garry oak meadows that grace the slopes of Maxwell, it was a question of protecting beauty, diversity and sanctuary. These are places where animals including humans are naturally attracted. They are sunny, south-facing savannahs, open in aspect that contains a wonderful tumbled chaos of flowering plants, insects, birds and mammals. At least one hundred of these are species at risk. They are at risk because Garry oak meadows are beautiful places to live and people have traditionally sited their homes, castles (Craigdarroch), farms and vistas in the middle of the meadows before anywhere else. What won Saltspring a major public relations victory was the celebration of their beauty by island photographers, filmmakers and songwriters in calendars, television documentaries and concerts.

Rarity is also a quality that accentuates people's desire to protect the little that is left. Less than one percent of the original extent of the Garry oak ecosystems remain. Garry oak ecosystems are found no-where else in Canada but southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and two isolated groves in the lower mainland. They stretch as far as California down through the Willamette Valley but pressures on this ecosystem down south have been even more intense. This particular grove probably represents the largest in the world. The biggest and the best of the rarest was a compelling argument.

Learning about oak meadows also started something of a renaissance of culture. More tangled garden than wilderness, Garry oak meadows have become better understood as the camas-growing areas of the Salish nation. Camas, the equivalent of the potato to Saanich and Cowichan people, was harvested along with other root crops, like the chocolate lily, over thousands of years in these meadows. Encroaching Douglas-fir were burned annually to keep the meadows clear. Root crops were enriched and further propagated by gathering and digging. People are a critical disturbance element of the ecosystem, rather than some invasive species. The disappearance of the meadows, and species in the meadows, from lack of traditional uses have become synonymous with the loss of traditional cultures. On Saltspring, we have begun to

see the restoration of the land as a possibility for restoring culture and building bridges to the Salish nation.



Climate change and the supply of good quality water are concerns that everyone is beginning to share as they affect our everyday lives. Garry oak ecosystems are relic communities left over from the last warming period 5,000 years ago. Pockets of oaks persisted, like Saltspring activists, in the driest, ruggedest areas where competition wasn't so fierce. With global temperatures on the rise, these relic communities represent insurance for a warmer coast where Douglas-fir forests can't survive. The concept of keeping options open for the future resonates with anybody that likes to hedge their bets.

All told, nearly 1000 acres of Garry oak are now protected within a mosaic of 5000 acres of old growth Douglas-fir, wetlands, salmon bearing streams, rocky outcrops, rugged shoreline of Burgoyne Bay, Mount Maxwell lake and second growth forest. Just under half of these 5000 acres was already protected as provincial park, ecological reserves, regional park and crown park reserves, but as disconnected parcels. The recent acquisitions of 2,600 acres connect up these

parcels to create a unique mountain to sea to mountain contiguous protected area.

The partnership was spearheaded by land trusts and non-profits: The Land Conservancy of BC,

the Nature Trust of BC and the Water Preservation Society in conjunction with the North Saltspring Waterworks District. The government agencies included: Forest Renewal BC, the province of B.C., the Capital Regional District and the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative. Local conservancies such as the Saltspring Conservancy played a critical role in education and covenant negotiation as part of the deal included a covenant on 270 acres of the Maxwell watershed. Over \$21 million dollars was spent on the purchase, over one million of that coming from islanders through The Land Conservancy of BC, Saltspring Appeal headed up by Elizabeth White. It was a monumental achievement by a community and a partnership of organizations for a monumental place.

It is now the largest protected area in the highly fragmented landscape of southern Georgia Strait and the largest contiguous protected area of this ecosystem in the world.

(drawing courtesy of Briony Penn)

The laws must change though and land trusts have played a key role in accentuating the folly and costs of not making the protection of endangered ecosystems and watersheds a national responsibility.



**Garry Oak  
Ecosystems  
Recovery Team**

Contact information.

Jim Rutter

Public Involvement and Extension Specialist

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

#202 - 26 Bastion Square, Victoria, BC, V8W 1H9

Phone: (250) 383-3293

jwrutter@shaw.ca

## MEMBER PROJECTS & PROFILES

### **CONSERVATION IN THE KOOTENAYS**

**-by Eric Clough**

The interior of the province of BC is vast and the number of organized groups is still small, but there is growing interest in finding alternative ways to perceive the rights and responsibilities of land ownership.

Far-sighted and dedicated pioneers have been working hard for years in Canada and North America helping to create parks and conservancy areas.

The US Land Trust Alliance has been in existence for only 20 years and now has more than 1,200 members. The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia was founded in 1997, and now we have grown to 35 member organisations and numerous individual members. Most of the member organizations are located on the Lower Mainland of BC or on one of the Gulf Islands.

The interior of the province has groups who have been active for years, while those working in the land trust field are still relatively new.

The Turtle Island Land Trust Stewards (TIES), located in Salmon Arm, have been helping communities and



**Photo courtesy of Eric Clough – Win Creek**

individuals establish land trusts and draft covenants for 25 years. TIES assists landowners to steward, enhance, restore, or protect their properties by placing their lands and forests in trust....”

The Kootenay Land Trust Society holds covenants with The Land

Conservancy of BC on a 155 acre parcel of land in Paradise

Valley near Winlaw, B.C. This land is owned by The New Family Society who placed deed restrictions on the land more than 30 years ago. It accomplished this by setting up another ‘not for profit’ company and then creating a long-term lease between the society and the company with the limits of use described in detail in the lease agreement.

The dream was to protect the land and allow limited residential use, without treating the land or the timber as commodities to be sold to the highest bidder. This land is near the headwaters of Dumont Creek that supplies water to many residents of Winlaw in the valley below. Protecting the land, its forest, its wildlife and its watershed capacity while using it for limited residential



occupancy was then, and presently remains, the challenge.

When BC adopted Conservation Covenant legislation in 1995, the New Family Society decided to further formalize the agreements in the form of covenants to protect the land and the forest in perpetuity. It took us more than five years as the legislation was new and a small legal office had to set the work aside from time to time to address more pressing matters. Thankfully, now there is a body of experience across the province, including experienced consultants and professionals, who are available to assist in a faster process.

The Kootenay Land Trust Society is still a fledgling organization, but we hope to help inform residents of the west Kootenays about the land trust movement. Kootenay Land Trust Society is available to assist west Kootenay land-owners with the early parts of the process and is also willing to hold conservation covenants.

As we all know, there are many examples of very poor logging practices found on private land. The Silva Forest Foundation, also of Winlaw, are ecoforestry experts and can help people provincially to develop the ecoforestry aspects of covenants, and will also act as a second covenant holder for forested lands.

The SFF develops and teaches the principles of ecosystem-based planning and ecologically responsible forest use, including alternatives to conventional timber management. It is possible to develop covenants that both protect the land and forest and create management protocols at the same time.

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice is in New Denver and has been working for environmental



**DENMAN ISLAND  
CONSERVANCY**  
*Story by Leslie Dunsmore*

Denman Conservancy Association was formed in 1991 to protect habitats representing the biological diversity of this fragile northern Gulf Island. This critical wetland habitat was identified as Denman Conservancy Association was formed in 1991. Nine properties of ecological merit were initially assessed as worthy of preservation in the Island Legacy Project.

preservation for over 20 years. While not a land trust society, as such, they are members of the Land Trust Alliance of BC and are actively engaged in conservation of the environment on many levels.

There are other conservation organizations that hold and protect land while allowing and encouraging mixed use. For example, the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program started only a short time ago, represents eight conservation organizations that are active in trying to protect as much of the Okanagan desert region biodiversity as possible, as well as working together to protect wildlife corridors. This active group is working on a broad base, including land acquisition, training private land owners in responsible stewardship, helping to develop covenants, and working in conjunction with local governments as well as agencies of provincial and federal governments, in developing long-term planning to protect biodiversity.

This short overview of some of the conservation work being done in the BC interior cannot do justice to the actual scope of the movement. Hundreds of domestic watersheds are threatened by potentially destructive logging intentions by both private owners and others in the logging industry. Residents of these areas are working individually and sometimes collectively to protect the environment. Fortunately the Land Trust Alliance of BC and other organizations are ready to help.

***Contacts of groups mentioned in the article:***

eric@netidea.com; [www.ties.bc.ca](http://www.ties.bc.ca);  
silvafor@netidea.com; [www.soscp.org](http://www.soscp.org)  
[daniels@vws.org](mailto:daniels@vws.org)



In the past four years, close to 1/3 of Denman Island has been clear-cut by a private industrial company (4064). Six of the nine critical parcels have fallen victim to the saw. Only three properties remain intact. A private conservation-minded buyer purchased one of the properties and conservation covenants are now being drafted with the help of a grant from an EcoAction federal government grant. Komas Bluffs, still owned by 4064, remains untouched for now. And in 2000, Denman Conservancy purchased a small 2.5-hectare (six acre) property at the southwest corner of **Chickadee Lake**, the third intact property.



Now, with partners The Islands Trust Fund and others, Denman Conservancy is working to purchase Chickadee Lake, totaling 32.38 hectares (78 acres). The property includes a pristine lake (13.8 hectares) and the surrounding undeveloped and forested lands.

Its headwaters, a salmon-bearing stream emptying into the Strait of Georgia through Provincial Fillongley Park's old-growth forest, lead to the lake, a sanctuary for wildlife and rare plant species. Its preservation is vital in a planned protected area from lake to sea. Some of the corridor will be protected through landowner stewardship contracts, conservation covenants, management agreements and education.

Chickadee Lake will be acquired and placed in permanent protective status. Negotiations are on-going with the provincial government to achieve protective status on adjacent crown Land. Chickadee Lake escaped the 1970-80's housing developments that encircled the small number of lakes found on the Gulf Islands. This critical wetland habitat has been identified as *"high priority .... on the Master Site List and .... given a very high biodiversity significance rating and a high Protection Urgency rating. Its importance cannot be overstated in maintaining integrity of the watershed"*<sup>1</sup> Preliminary acquisition efforts got underway in March 1999. A local and regional campaign has raised substantial funds. A formal appraisal has been

completed with the generous support of The Land Conservancy of BC and The Real Estate Foundation of BC. Negotiations are now underway to determine the selling price.

Denman Conservancy is in the late stages of the campaign, seeking funds from government, conservation agencies, foundations and private donors. The appeal invites donors to *Leave a Lasting Impression Upon the Earth* by donating generously to The Island Legacy Fund. If you wish to help complete this project, you can make a donation to DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION, Box 60, Denman Island, B.C., V0R 1T0. A charitable tax receipt will be issued. And Chickadee Lake, if it had a voice, would thank you from *the*

*bottom of its lakebed heart.*

**Photos of Chickadee Lake by Lynn Thomson**

## **Fraser Headwaters Alliance Launches New Goat River Website**

The Fraser Headwaters Alliance has launched a new website to help protect the upper Goat River watershed.

The site, [www.savethegoat.ca](http://www.savethegoat.ca), was put up recently in response to news that McBride Forest Industries has started road construction in this pristine watershed, located in the Cariboo Mountains west of McBride, BC.

Visitors to the new website can access background information on the watershed, learn about government planning processes, and voice their opinion using the site's interactive 'Take Action' page. The site's designers hope to keep the content as current as possible and welcome suggestions to make the site more effective.

For more information on the fight to save the upper Goat, contact Roy Howard or Taylor Bachrach at (250) 968-4490 or email us at [roy@fraserheadwaters.org](mailto:roy@fraserheadwaters.org).

<sup>1</sup> Quote by Conservation Data Centre of BC



## Hornby ISLAND Conservancy

### LINK-PARSONS PROPERTY

Story & photo by Amanda Heath

#### Land Acquisition Proposal for Park and Conservation Purposes

The owner of the 430-acre property on the west side of Hornby Island has offered to sell his property for conservation purposes. This property has high conservation values locally, regionally and beyond. Many hope that this land can be preserved and protected for future generations.



- The property has a 10-lot density under current zoning. There is potential for density transfer should subdivision be necessary as part of the acquisition strategy.

- CHI has submitted an acquisition proposal to BC Parks. A consultant/biologist has performed

an Ecological Integrity Assessment of the property. An appraisal of the property is nearly complete. CHI has a fundraising pledge campaign underway to demonstrate support for the acquisition.

Conservancy Hornby Island (CHI), Islands Trust Fund, The Land Conservancy of BC, the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and BC Parks are potentially interested in acquiring this property.

#### **Why is this property significant?**

- It is composed of four parcels of land totaling 431 acres. It rises from the water to the highest part of the island, the whole 'undeveloped face' of Hornby as you approach the island by ferry.
- This is one of the most spectacular pieces of land in the Gulf Islands. Many people think it is already a park, but it isn't.
- The property is connected to the existing Mt Geoffrey Regional Nature Park, the Upland Crown land area, a small park area at the top of Mt. Road, Shingle Spit (ferry landing area) and Ford Cove.
- Three trails totaling approximately 10 kilometers traverse the land. Walkers and cyclists use these trails.
- The ecosystems represented on the property are in a natural condition. Rare and endangered species and plant communities are present.
- The forest on this site is of considerable value to logging companies. Thus the risk of logging is significant should the land be put back on the real-estate market.

If you would like more information, or if you would like a pledge form, please contact:

**Conservancy Hornby Island, Box 55, Hornby Island BC V0R 1Z0**

Website: <http://www.hornbyisland.net/link-parsons>

Ann Zielinski, Link-Parsons Committee

(250) 335-0988 Tony Quin, Chair (250) 335-2603,

Email [oldrose@mars.ark.com](mailto:oldrose@mars.ark.com)







**by Marci Crosfan**

## **Islands Trust Fund**

### **If You Love the Islands: An Update of Islands Trust Fund's Conservation Recent Work**

Whether it's the beginning of a new year or the end of the old, it's good to look back and see what's been accomplished. The Islands Trust Fund has been busy over the past twelve months, protecting and preserving land on the Gulf and Howe Sound Islands in the following ways.

#### **Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve, Denman Island**

On Denman Island, one of the northern Gulf Islands, there is a newly protected special place, where the Douglas-firs meet above the road and extend to the shale beach nearby. Known as the Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve, this mix of new, mature and old-growth forest will now be enjoyed for years to come by the residents and visitors of Denman and Hornby Islands.

Protecting precious habitat such as this often involves expensive real estate and complex solutions. For over a decade this 52 ha parcel on East Road, on the way to Hornby at Gravelly Bay was the focus of heroic fundraising by islanders and tireless but failed negotiations by the Denman Conservancy Association. From the outset, Islands Trust Fund supported the Conservancy's desire to protect this special property and indicated its interest in taking responsibility for the site if a deal could be struck. Miraculously, this past spring (June 2001), after the community had given up hope and logging operations had begun, the Provincial Government arranged a purchase agreement with the owner to save this special area.

As part of the successful agreement, the land was transferred in July to the Islands Trust to manage, in perpetuity, as a nature reserve. This solution delighted many islanders who had put up tour signs, pulled weeds, and baked quiches from 1990 to 2001 for the annual Denman Home and Garden Tour, which helped raise funds. Local Trustee and Chair of the Trust



Fund Board Louise Bell said, "It's certainly one of the most ecologically important acquisitions that the Islands Trust Fund has received to date." She also noted that the Inner Island Nature Reserve, established in 1992 and the first land acquired by Islands Trust Fund, was another project made possible through the hard work of the Denman Conservancy Association.



**Cormorants' courtesy of Briony Penn**

#### **Trincomali Nature Sanctuary, Galiano Island**

As of February 2001, Double crested and Pelagic Cormorants have a safer home on Galiano Island. Trincomali Nature Sanctuary, a 15-hectare site, is another "special place" protected by Islands Trust Fund and its partners in conservation. Trincomali Nature Sanctuary is not only a home for cormorants and other birds but has undisturbed second growth Douglas-fir forest, which is found in very limited amounts in these islands, and unique coastal bluffs that sustain a rich diversity of unique plant and animal life.

This project is but one of many collaborative ventures to protect special features in perpetuity. In this project, The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) worked with the landowner to secure an "offer to sell" the property to the Islands Trust Fund with private donors to raise the funds needed to purchase the property. As a public agency, the Islands Trust Fund was able to undertake a special subdivision process (section 99) that allowed the lot to be subdivided quickly to ensure protection of the site. Islands Trust Fund will manage the nature sanctuary with assistance from two

volunteer wardens who live on Galiano. To provide an added level of long term protection, TLC and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) jointly hold a conservation covenant on the property. The covenant holders are also helping with the development of the Management Plan for the site.

Currently, due to the critical nesting habitat located on-site, this area is not open to the public.

**Photo: Arbutus Trees At  
Trincomali Nature Reserve - ITF**



### Longini Covenants, Galiano Island, ALR Land

Can we help protect habitat within the Agricultural Land Reserve? It may be a challenging task but there has been success this past year. In July 2001, Islands Trust Fund, the Galiano Conservancy Association and landowner Rose Longini registered a covenant on Rose's 24 ha "Greenfrog Farm" property. In particular, the covenant protects habitat in the riparian corridor along McDowell Brook and adjacent to two existing ponds, prevents subdivision, and requires strict sustainable forestry practices to be implemented if any logging is done on the property (logging could not be completely precluded in the ALR). The project was somewhat complex, especially in establishing how to define sustainable logging practices. But in the end everyone was happy. Not only did Ms. Longini balance use of the agricultural land with protection of the special natural values on site, she has helped protect part of an important watershed for South Galiano Island.

And just like the energizer bunny, she kept going and going and going, and also registered a covenant on a new eight ha lot that she was creating for residential purposes (outside of the ALR). The second covenant

was designed to ensure the lot will never be subdivided into smaller lots, permit only one residential dwelling to be built, and ensure the protection of the wooded nature, in particular a large stand of Guardian Maples that are at least 200 years old. A great conservation success!

### Why we Keep Doing What We Do

The Gulf and Howe Sound Islands are home to some of Canada's most rare ecosystems. Two ecosystems within the area are the dry Coastal Douglas-fir zone which occupies a mere 0.3% of the total land area in British Columbia, and the Coastal Western Hemlock zone, one of the wettest regions in the world. This is fondly referred to by some as "BC's Galapagos Islands." It is also the location of one of the fastest growing regions in Canada. In 1991 the resident population of Salt Spring Island was 7,871 and the end of 2000 estimated it at 11,000—a 28 % increase in nine years. Similar growth rates are occurring on many other islands. Conservation continues to be an important goal. Islands Trust Fund thanks those landowners and partner groups who we have worked with over the years to help protect significant natural areas within this special island region.



Habitat Acquisition Trust  
Creating a Conservation Legacy  
telephone: (250) 995-2428 fax: (250) 920-7975  
Visit [www.ConservationConnection.bc.ca](http://www.ConservationConnection.bc.ca)

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## REPORTS ON PAST CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

### Agriculture Tax Updates For Professionals 2001



*by Sheila Harrington*

**H**aving an Organic farmer like Ron Pither on the Council of the LTA has many benefits. One, was his heads up to this outstanding workshop on Agricultural Tax Issues and Estate Planning for Accountants from across BC November 26, in Abbotsford. The 32 attendees were Accountants specializing in working with Farmers across the province.

It was a great opportunity for the Land Trust Alliance to introduce the conservation and estate planning tools that Land Trusts and Conservancies can offer farmers as we work to protect both agricultural values and ecological values on BC's farms and ranches. It was also a great opportunity to learn more about the Agricultural and Estate Planning and Tax information important to Land Trusts as they work with farmers or ranchers over the coming years.

The workshop was sponsored by the BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food based on a presentation from the Agricultural Business management Branch of Alberta Agriculture. The Branch's Merle Good has been putting together workshops on estate planning and tax issues for farmers in Alberta for some time, including working with Conservation Easements (which became law in Alberta in 1996.) The full day workshop leaders were Agricultural Tax Specialist Greg Gardner and Lawyer Phil Renaud.

According to Greg Gardner, farming already is the biggest tax shelter in Canada. First, farmers are granted a \$500,000 capital gains deduction when they sell or transfer the farm to some other body. This is given, just like the capital gains deductions for Eco gifts, in order to promote farming in Canada. For example, if John sold his farm to his daughter Glenda for \$500,000 more than his original cost, the capital gains deduction would shelter John from this tax. (Currently, there are moves to reduce this deduction.)

A second tool often used in Estate Planning for farmers is the Rollover Rule. With many variations, this rule basically allows the owner to sell his/her property, buildings, or shares to a family member at cost or for some value between cost and the increased Fair market Value and arrange a Rollover of the accrued income tax liability to be deferred to the next generation. (In some cases this would be beneficial and in others it would not.)

Greg, a farmer himself, has been advising farmer clients on estate planning and tax issues for 15 years. His expertise was so intense, that we was quoting without reference, Subsections of the Income Tax Act, and detailing the loops and traps that a farmer could fall into, which he advised these accountants to ensure they avoid.

The workshop started with an overview of Estate Planning for the Farm. Details included the many forms of agreements farmers use, such as partnerships, corporations and personally owned assets. Greg detailed the "smart" steps in identifying which agreement type to use, and in what order, in order to help the farmer reduce tax upon death or selling.

Phil Renaud, past chairman of the Wills and Trusts Section of the Canadian Bar Association for North Alberta, is a mentor of Wills & Estates and taught at the U of A. Law School. He introduced the concepts of "trusts" as defined by the Income Tax act, detailing the benefits and problems with the testamentary trust (created upon death) and the inter vivo trust (created during life). Both of these are "relationship" agreements created in order to "transfer property to another person (the trustee) to be held for the benefit of other persons (the beneficiaries)"<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Underhill's Law of Trusts and Trustees (12<sup>th</sup> edition)

Another fact Phil brought in that is of use in all estate planning and land trust fundraising is that Insurance falls outside of the usual estate. "Many people believe that if they name a beneficiary of insurance in their will, the insurance will form part of their estate and will be subject to the claims of creditors. They also fear that it will increase the value of their estate, which will increase the amount of probate fees payable to the Court. This is not the case. . . the insurance money passes to the beneficiary outside of the estate of the insured and the insurance monies remain creditor proof.<sup>2</sup> "

This important and interesting fact was part of what my father used in order to benefit charities. He promoted insurance policies with a charity as the beneficiary. (He worked with the Victoria Foundation primarily). **Land trusts could use this technique in fundraising strategies.**

Phil also detailed the status of matrimonial and common-law legal claims on estate or properties. The fair and equitable transfer of lands and other farm inventories, in addition to capital assets and non-farm assets were explored in depth. I have the typed notes from these discussions and would willingly copy them for any LTA members at the cost of copying and postage. Also, we have the excellent book, Estate Planning for the B.C. Farmer available for loan to members. Much of this information is important for land trusts to understand, when working with land owners and discussing their estate planning options which might include donations to land trusts.

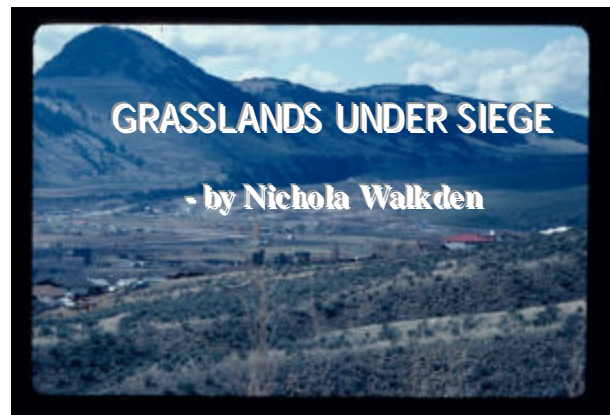
After lunch, the LTABC was given a spot to present our Tools. Ron and I detailed how land trusts work, gave a brief glimpse of how conservation purposes can go hand in hand with agricultural purposes, and handed out our brochures. Several accountants inquired further about land trusts. We have made a mutual link from our website to theirs: [www.Farmsuccession.com](http://www.Farmsuccession.com) in order to facilitate the connection between BC's land trusts and the many farmers who are retiring or transferring title over the next decade.

**For further information or requests for copies of the materials, contact [sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca](mailto:sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca)**

1970, p. 3

<sup>2</sup> Phil Renaud, Bare Bones discussion of Trusts – Page 12

\* Sustainable land management, environmentally sustainable agricultural (ESA) production, and sustainable development, mean ensuring that our agri-food systems are economically viable and provide for basic human food and fibre needs, while conserving or enhancing the resource base and the quality of the environment for future generations (from Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development).  
\* Soil and water conservation practices are actions carried out in order to maintain the quality of the environment and the agricultural productivity of the land.<sup>3</sup>



The siege is weeds, and the rationale for bringing together nearly 200 people for this summer field tour: range managers, botanists, wildlife biologists, environmentalists and ranchers. The conference, a combined event of the Society for Range Management and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC was held in Vernon June 20-22.

Weeds are not a common dinner table discussion, perhaps they should be. According to Roy Cranston weeds are a top cause for loss of natural diversity in our environment. Provincially they result in crop losses of over \$50 million annually and reduce forage available to grazing animals by close to 50%.

Lecturers from around the Pacific Northwest joined to showcase knowledge on weeds and weed control. BC is a leader in biological control, with new species

<sup>3</sup> (Benefits and Values of Land Stewardship in Relation to Agricultural Landscapes and Conservation Easements, Gaylen Armstrong: A Legacy of Land: Conservation Easements and Land Stewardship, Conference Proceedings, Environmental Law Centre, Alberta.

proving successful in reducing populations of plants, such as hounds tongue. "Biocontrol is a "living" control. Understanding ecology as the "tool" is a message that was communicated from many of the lecturers – understanding the stability, health and ecology of the area as key to selecting the tools necessary to help rebuild the health of the system. How can we use different herbivores like sheep that will eat leafy spurge that is unpalatable to cattle? When do weeds come to seed, when do they most successfully compete with native plants? Many different minds, and a lot of great minds, spent the weekend discussing the topic, getting out into the field

and sharing a BBQ at the historic O'Keefe ranch. Weed control should be a continuous management objective for land trusts, a key to protecting much of BC's environment for the future.

Thank you to the Society for Range Management and the Grasslands Conservation Council for bringing these issues to the public. The Ministry of Agriculture has a great site for identifying and managing problem weeds - <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/croplive/cropprot/weedguid/weedguid.htm>

## **Commission for Environmental Cooperation Report by NAAEC**

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the **North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC)(1992)**. The CEC was established to address regional environmental concerns, help prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts, and to promote the effective enforcement of environmental law. The Agreement complements the environmental provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

- Natural disasters have become more frequent and more expensive, for example, the 1998 ice storm in eastern Canada and northeastern US. 1998 was the single most costly disaster insurance year on record. This is a result of increased occurrence of natural disasters and the proclivity of people to migrate to high-risk areas.
- The poor are most highly impacted by environmental problems - notably, aboriginal communities who depend on natural resources for their diet, economy and culture. The erosion of this system is particularly noticeable in the Great Lakes Basin and the Arctic.
- Transportation systems are said to follow an unsustainable path. For example, almost 90% of Canadian and American households have vehicles, while the Mexican statistic is 30%. The Canadian population has increased by 50% in the last 25 years, while the number of cars has doubled. The public transit system has not been an option for most people

as 80% of all commuting trips in Canada and the United States are via private vehicles.

- Soil erosion is declining, yet the threat of drought is on the increase - 10% of North America experiences drought in any given year. While soil erosion is declining, the loss of soil is still greater than its regeneration -this is a result of there being a lack of humus due to heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers.
- North Americans are seen to be fishing down the food chain-60% of the world's fish stocks are either over fished or fully harvested.

**Despite it being nine years since NAFTA's inception, the CEC has released its first detailed and long-awaited analysis of the state of the North American environment. What follows are some of the most salient points as reported by the Commission itself:**

- Freshwater species are more vulnerable to extinction, mainly because of physical barriers preventing their escape to new ecosystems.
- Global warming has induced a rise in sea levels

that could threaten coastal areas, including Louisiana, Florida and North Carolina. At the low end of predicted temperature increases, the sea level could rise by 1.5m. At the more extreme point of temperature increase, the sea level may rise 3.5m. Along with this devastating effect, storms and flooding along the coast will increase. - GDP revisions need to measure the "true cost of development" Canada and the United States are the largest per capita water users in the world. **Canada no State of the Environment report since 1994 - The CEC website posts a variety of documents and environmental reports, all of which can be reviewed online and/or downloaded.** <http://www.cec.org>  
**Assessing the Environmental Affects of Trade -CEC North America-January 17-18, 2002**



## LTABC



## UPDATE

### Real Estate Foundation Supports LTA

The governors of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia recently approved a grant of \$40,000 in support of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia's education and research projects. \$10 000 of which is contributing to the Salish Sea mapping Project.

The Real Estate Foundation of B.C. is a non-profit corporation mandated to support non-profit initiatives use. Under the Real Estate Act, the Foundation receives interest from "unassigned" trust deposits held by real estate agents and uses the income to fulfill its mandate in public and professional education, research, law reform, and good works related to real

estate and land use. In 2001 the Foundation approved 81 grants totalling \$2.7 million for projects throughout British Columbia. Salt Spring Island, January 9, 2002.

Contact: Tim Pringle Executive Director Real Estate Foundation of B.C.  
570-355 Burrard Street; Vancouver, BC, V6C 2G8 tel. 604-688-6800; fax 604-688-3669,  
<http://www.landcentre.ca/foundation>

### Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

Thanks also for a recent grant of \$16,000 for work done on the BC Lands in Trust Registry and the upcoming Seminar Series 2002.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

**Congratulations to Vicky Husband  
Recipient of the Order of Canada.  
We wish to thank her for her  
longstanding achievements and  
remarkable work protecting natural  
areas and species in BC.**

### New UN Program launched

The UN Environment Program warns that erosion is bringing silt down to settle behind dams, causing the reservoirs of the world to lose their capacity to hold water. According to UNEP Executive Director, Klaus Toepfer, clearcut logging accelerates this process. In response, UNEP has launched a new Dams and Development Program (DDP), based in South Africa, to address such environmental repercussions of dam and reservoir development. Toepfer acknowledges that some siltation is inevitable, however he encourages the modernisation of design techniques and the acceleration of reforestation to ease the current situation. 4 December 2001: Source: Environment:  
<http://www.ens-news.com/>

**Full participant listings of both meetings can be  
found at [www.all-species.org/meetings.html](http://www.all-species.org/meetings.html)**

### Recording all life on earth...

The ALL Species Foundation announced a unanimous resolution by the participants of the Megadiversity Countries Workshop (Mexico City Sept. 28-29, 2001) and the Summit for all Species (Cambridge Oct 13-15, 2001). In summation, the resolution obligates a commitment from the participants to identify and record every living species of life on earth in the next 25 years. The number is estimated to be between seven and ten million, only a few percent of which have been discovered thus far. The conferences were aimed to coordinate global inventory efforts, to share information on current and anticipated technologies, to accelerate systematic efforts, and to explore funding needs and opportunities.

According to ALL Species Foundation CEO, Brian M. Boom, "The mission of ALL is to fund modern approaches to biodiversity research and training globally. It is an ambitious initiative to be sure, but doable thanks largely to recent and prospective innovations in biological informatics and genomics. We want to fund the best, most cutting-edge ideas to expedite what is really organismal biology's equivalent to the human genome project in terms of its scope, cost, and potential societal benefits." 29 Oct. 2001:

## ...AND SOME GOOD NEWS

### Amazonian Mahogany Trade Suspended

After months of investigation, Greenpeace released a report detailing the extent of the illegal trading in Amazon mahogany. The Brazilian Government announced unprecedented action to suspend all logging, transport and trade of Brazilian mahogany until it completes an investigation into the industry. The Greenpeace report discloses a slew of illegalities, including the logging of Indian lands (which is strictly prohibited), the use of fraudulent authorization papers, and false mahogany inventories. By overestimating the volume of mahogany present within an allowed logging area, loggers are able to log outside their legally allotted area without raising suspicions. Because high-quality mahogany is only found in pristine rainforest areas, the illegal mahogany trade is directly responsible for the destruction of these areas as it leaves behind a network of roads and trails that other loggers can use to access the remaining forest. "In Canada, Ontario-based Gibbard Furniture is one of the country's largest importers of mahogany. This mahogany is imported from Pará State in the Brazilian Amazon through DLH Nordisk in the United States. DLH purchases wood from companies that are known to have engaged in illegal mahogany logging practices in Pará State."

"The Canadian government has purchased tables made with mahogany from Gibbard Furniture for use in Canadian embassies overseas", states Edwards, Greenpeace Canada forest campaigner. Just four importers – DLH Nordisk, Aljoma Lumber, J Gibson McIlvain Co Ltd and Intercontinental Hardwoods Inc - accounted for more than two-thirds of the mahogany export trade. Mahogany is used largely in luxury goods such as yachts, high-class furniture, musical instruments and coffins.

Some 80 percent of these forests have already been degraded or destroyed. "Consumers should stop buying this wood unless eco-certified to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards, as all Mahogany that is not FSC-certified is suspect." Oct 24, 2001



### For more information contact:

Gavin Edwards, Greenpeace Canada forests campaigner in Brazil: Tel: ++ 00874 324 453 810  
Tamara Stark, Greenpeace forests coordinator, (604) 253-7701 x18 **The report is available at**  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/amazon>

### Paper, Publishers and Forests of Plenty

21 prominent book publishers made a commitment to adopt new purchasing policies, steering them away from use of ancient forest fibre. Publishers include New Society, Raincoast, Harbour, McClelland & Stewart and Random House. In addition, a commitment was made to reduce consumption, increase recycled content and adopt preferential purchasing of totally chlorine-free-paper. FYI - most book paper comes from boreal forests, or from deciduous forests in the US, so this will directly benefit those forests more than those here in BC, but it will help to highlight threats to forests everywhere (we hope!) Sent by Markets Initiative (Friends of Clayoquot Sound; Greenpeace; Sierra Club of BC).

### Bolivia's Gift

Three wetlands totaling 17,760 square miles, an area larger than Switzerland, have been designated a protected site under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty. The Bolivian Pantanal is best preserved as part of larger Pantanal system that extends through central-western Brazil, eastern Bolivia and eastern Paraguay. The agreement has made the area South America's largest freshwater protected area. It has enormous biodiversity, sustaining at least 197 species of fish, more than 70 species of amphibians and reptiles, more than 300 species of birds, and over 50 species of large mammals. Unfortunately, dry forests that are considered to be among the most endangered yet least protected biomass in the world, bind it. 19 Sept 2001-  
*Environmental News Network*

## ETHICS CORNER

***“When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?”-Eleanor Roosevelt***

### **Selections from Wendell Berry’s Thoughts in the Presence of Fear**

A post-Sept. 11 manifesto for environmentalists

I. The time will soon come when we will not be able to remember the horrors of Sept. 11 without remembering also the unquestioning technological and economic optimism that ended on that day.

II. This optimism rested on the proposition that we were living in a "new world order" and a "new economy" that would "grow" on and on, bringing a prosperity of which every new increment would be "unprecedented."

III. The dominant politicians, corporate officers, and investors who believed this proposition did not acknowledge that the prosperity was limited to a tiny percent of the world's people, and to an ever smaller number of people even in the United States; that it was founded upon the oppressive labor of poor people all over the world; and that its ecological costs increasingly threatened all life, including the lives of the supposedly prosperous.

IV. The "developed" nations had given to the "free market" the status of a god, and were sacrificing to it their farmers, farmlands, and communities, their forests, wetlands, and prairies, their ecosystems and watersheds. They had accepted universal pollution and global warming as normal costs of doing business.

XI. We now have a clear, inescapable choice that we must make. We can continue to promote a global economic system of unlimited "free trade" among corporations, held together by long and highly vulnerable lines of communication and supply, but now recognizing that such a system will have to be protected by a hugely expensive police force that will be worldwide, whether maintained by one nation or

several or all, and that such a police force will be effective precisely to the extent that it overpowers the freedom and privacy of the citizens of every nation.

XII. Or, we can promote a decentralized world economy that would have the aim of assuring to every nation and region a local self-sufficiency in life-supporting goods. This would not eliminate international trade, but it would tend toward a trade in surpluses after local needs had been met.

XXV. We should reconsider and renew and extend our efforts to protect the natural foundations of the human economy: soil, water, and air. We should protect every intact ecosystem and watershed that we have left, and begin restoration of those that have been damaged.

XXVII. The first thing we must begin to teach our children (and learn ourselves) is that we cannot spend and consume endlessly. We have got to learn to save and conserve. We do need a "new economy," but one that is founded on thrift and care, on saving and conserving, not on excess and waste. An economy based on waste is inherently and hopelessly violent, and war is its inevitable by-product. We need a peaceable economy.

Wendell Berry's many books of poetry and prose include *The Unsettling of America*, *What Are People For*; *Another Turn of the Crank*. This article first appeared on OrionOnline.org, the web magazine of *Orion* and *Orion Afield*, in a feature called "Thoughts on America: Writers Respond to Crisis".  
11 Oct 2001 – reprinted with permission

***The tide turns.***

***After a little while***

***one sees***

**by Sheila Weaver**

## GOVERNMENT/LEGISLATION UPDATE

### Rock Fish and Lingcod Fishing Ban

In December Stephen Hume, reporter with the Vancouver Sun, announced that he witnessed a remarkable consensus for a total ban on inshore rockfish harvests that was achieved between conservation groups and commercial fishing interests based on what they saw as indisputable evidence of steep declines in groundfish stocks in the Strait of Georgia and elsewhere on the coast.

Commercially, lingcod and rockfish are already deemed virtually extinct south of Campbell River. Yet while commercial fishing stopped, sports anglers continued to fish.

And then later in December the Vancouver sun announced that Fisheries Minister Herb Dhaliwal asked that the fishing industry prepare ways of reducing the elimination of rockfish by April, 2002.

DFO's annual Pacific Region budget, including the Coast Guard, comes to about \$300 million. Of that, Terry Glavin reports that it spends roughly \$5 million on science for "groundfish."

### Token Gift

Environment Minister David Anderson announced on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001 that the Government of Canada is contributing \$1.3 million toward conservation of habitat and species in the Province of British Columbia through the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk.



**According to Conservation Data Centre,  
there are currently 597 red listed species in BC**



### Restructuring of the Land Commission

"The Land Reserve Commission is being restructured so it can respond more effectively to community needs," Sustainable Resource Management Minister Stan Hagen announced.

#### **These specific changes are included:**

The Land Reserve Commission will be restructured to be more regionally responsive to community needs. A new commission with six regional panels will be appointed. There will be three members from each of the six regions and one provincial chair. The new panel members will have backgrounds in relevant fields like agriculture, local government and business. The Agricultural Land Reserve will continue to be administered through the Land Reserve Commission, which will work co-operatively with municipalities to delegate more decisions to local governments. Delegation agreements will be voluntary and consistent with the provincial interest in maintaining the ALR and the principles of the community charter.

In co-operation with other government agencies and private forest landowners, the Forest Land Reserve will be phased out and replaced by new government initiatives - including the working forest initiative now under development by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. "One of our New Era commitments was to make the Land Reserve Commission more regionally responsive to ensure it reflects the values and aspirations of our communities," Hagen said. "British Columbians expect our government to affirm the historic role of the Agricultural Land Reserve, while making it more meaningful to their needs." "A restructured commission will help protect the land base for safe and secure food production, expand agricultural economic opportunities, promote healthier communities and enhance environmental sustainability," said Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister John van Dongen.



Funding from the Forest Investment Account will be available for land-based activities, marketing, and value-added growth, as well as research to promote forest stewardship

To ensure funding is properly managed and focused on the government's key forestry commitments, investment dollars will be directed to activities on public land, enhanced forestry, watershed restoration and resource inventories, and marketing and research that supports sustainable forest management and increased allowable annual cuts.

Interim commissioners are Jon O'Riordan, deputy minister of sustainable resource management; Gordon Macatee, deputy minister of agriculture, food and fisheries; Kirk Miller, chief executive officer of the Land Reserve Commission; Brian Underhill, director of strategic planning and corporate policy for the commission; and Colin Fry, director of regional operations to the commission. Their appointments are effective immediately.

On Dec. 7, the government replaced the 11 former land reserve commissioners with five interim commissioners who are senior civil servants. The new members of the Land Reserve Commission will be announced this spring. Jan 16, 2002  
This news release and background are available online at [www.gov.bc.ca/srm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/srm)  
Minister Hagen's presentation to cabinet on the Land Reserve Commission can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca/prem/popt/cabinet](http://www.gov.bc.ca/prem/popt/cabinet)

## **SUMMARY of Canadian Information System for the Environment Report**

released Nov 23, 01

The report recommends actions to improve the transparency and accountability of governments and to provide Canadians with timely, consistent and credible information on the state of our environment. Part of a federal government initiative to improve the scientific foundation upon which environmental decisions are made, to promote new public policy instruments and incentives, and to encourage Canadians to participate in shared agendas and partnerships for environmental solutions.

Anne-Marie Sleeman  
Regional Communications Advisor  
Environment Canada, Pacific & Yukon Region  
Please see:  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/Press/2001/011023\\_n\\_e.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/Press/2001/011023_n_e.htm) for the news release and the Final Report on CISE.

The following is a link to the Ministry of Water Land & Air Protection report on P2 Pollution Prevention Planning. The Water Health and Toxics Caucus of the B.C. Environmental Network participated in the committee that produced this report.  
Check it out  
[http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/industrial\\_waste/pollution\\_prvntn/ipphome](http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/industrial_waste/pollution_prvntn/ipphome)

## **Breakdown of Liberal cuts to Environment, Communities, First Nations**

*Submitted by by Jeffrey Paleczny-Sierra Club of BC*

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Environmental auditor eliminated
- Fisheries Renewal BC eliminated
- Forest Renewal BC eliminated
- Probable off shore oil and gas development
- \$7 million cut from environment programs
- Youth employment environment team projects canceled
- Moratorium on grizzly bear hunting lifted
- Possible dropping of AOX zero discharge law for mills
- 14 staff responsible for endangered species and biological diversity research fired

- Canceled initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases
- Reduced taxes on SUV's
- Changed in focus of land-use planning towards less parks and more development

### **FIRST NATIONS**

- Imposed \$9 million referendum: subject land claims

### **COMMUNITY**

- Eliminated the Ministry of Multi-Culturalism
- Scrapped anti-SLAPP legislation which protected protesters from frivolous legal action
- Cut \$7 million from cooperative and volunteer initiative
- Increased policing costs for municipalities of under

5000 people

- Cuts to RCMP funding planned
- Elimination of the "Buy BC" program to promote BC grown produce
- Expected introduction of community charter to "give local governments greater autonomy"
- Criminal injury compensation cut
- \$175,000 community archives grants program cut
- Proposed budget cuts to crown prosecutors will cause higher social costs
- 20 Provincial court houses around the province closed

### **BUT THERE IS MONEY FOR**

- \$6,000 Pay bonuses for back benchers who chair caucus committees

- 32% raises of up to \$70,000 a year to deputy ministers
- 7 fold increase in spending for the premier's office: (from \$79,000 to \$1.4 million)
- Office furniture went from \$10,000 - \$48,000
- \$107,000 for advertising and promotion,
- salaries and benefits for the premier's office went from \$2.5 to \$13.6 million
- Pay raises in excess of 10% for 11 top public officials most whom already earn \$150,000
- \$9 million on Referendum on treaty issues (so silly that it deserves a repeated mention)
- \$9 million for Olympic bid
- \$5 million on Legacies Now program which sponsors provincial sports programs



‘Cormorants’ courtesy of Briony Penn

## **WORKSHOPS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Green Goes Digital**

In December 2001, "the green channel" was launched as Canada's "first" television service (and accompanying website) offering relevant and entertaining programs and information focusing on the environment. "We want to help tell your story," says the green channel. "Canadians want to know about your efforts, your programs and the information you can provide to help them live in a way that helps sustain the environment. We also want your videos or television productions if they are of broadcast quality to include in our "Making a Difference series."

Stories can also be promoted through your email lists, newsletters, magazines etc. Check out [www.thegreenchannel.ca](http://www.thegreenchannel.ca) or contact Richelle Wiseman, [greengroups@thegreenchannel.ca](mailto:greengroups@thegreenchannel.ca)

### **Ecological Gifts Seminar for Appraisers**

Hotel Grand Pacific - Victoria, B.C.- February 22-23

The Appraisal Institute of Canada, in cooperation with Environment Canada is offering a two-day Ecological Gift Seminar focusing on the valuation of ecological gift and conservation easements. **Environment Canada is allotted 17 complementary places in this workshop to offer to the NGO community and other involved parties, and we would like to invite one of your representatives.** Tuition, lunches and course materials are provided for both days and a shared table for your brochures will also be available.

Cost: \$175.00 incl. GST, course binders, coffee and lunch. Feb. 22 & 23 2002 8:30am –5:00pm  
Contact AIC directly at:  
845-1200 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C V6P 6G5  
604-266-8287 604-266-3034  
Or, register and pay online  
<http://www.appraisal.bc.ca/members/calendar>

Contact EC for space allotment:  
 Blair Hammond  
 Habitat Biologist, Ecological Gifts  
 Canadian Wildlife Service  
 Pacific and Yukon Region  
 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. 1  
 Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2  
 Ph: 604.940.4647  
 Cell: 604.341.8149  
 Fax: 604.946.7022



### **Sixth Annual Roads, Rails And Environment Workshop** Revelstoke, British Columbia, March 6-7

This annual workshop is intended for an interdisciplinary audience of biologists, engineers, rail and highway crews, managers, conservationists, and all those with an interest in sharing information on how our transportation systems and the environment interact. Presentations will be on the results of new research, updates on works in progress, examples of successes and failures, and changes to regulatory requirements.

*For more information and to register, please visit the Columbia Mountains Institute web site at [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org)*

### **The BC Community Forestry Forum: Exploring Policy and Practice** Ocean Pointe Resort, Victoria, BC, March 14-16

The BC Community Forestry Forum is designed to explore the practice of community forestry and the policies required to support it. While the primary focus of the Forum will be on British Columbia, an examination of community forestry policies and practices from across Canada and other countries will be included.

Contact: Brian Egan, Research Associate  
 University of Victoria, PO Box 3060  
 Victoria, BC, Canada, V8W 3R4  
 Phone: (250) 472-4487  
 Fax: (250) 472-5060; [info@cf-forum.org](mailto:info@cf-forum.org)

**First BC Environmental Studies  
 Association of Canada (ESAC)  
 conference:  
 Ecological Theory, Politics &  
 Action, University of British  
 Columbia, Vanc. March 15-17**  
 ESAC is sponsoring a BC regional  
 conference, aimed at bringing together  
 provincial environmental scholars and  
 activists to share perspectives on:  
 1. the BC situation  
 2. ecological theory, politics and action  
 more generally

Contacts: Don Alexander, Simon Fraser University,  
[dalexana@sfu.ca](mailto:dalexana@sfu.ca)  
 Hilda McKenzie, University of BC,  
[hmckenzi@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:hmckenzi@interchange.ubc.ca)  
 Siobhan Ashe, University of BC, [smashe@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:smashe@interchange.ubc.ca)

### **First National Conference on Family Farm Succession** May 9-11, 2002; Winnipeg, MTB

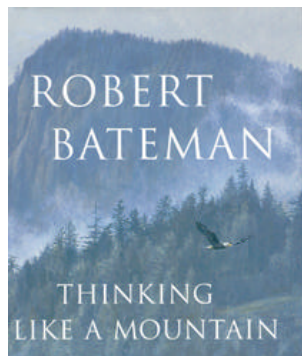
Discussions on the process of Farm Succession in  
 Canada and worldwide  
 To register, visit [www.farmsuccession.com/registraton](http://www.farmsuccession.com/registraton)  
 Or phone: 1-888-232-3262. Fee: \$495 incl. GST  
 Price includes: speaker presentations with  
 simultaneous translation and attendance at all  
 conference events; 2 breakfasts and lunches, and  
 conference banquet for one, documentation binder  
 with speaker presentation texts  
 Registration deadline: April 5, 2002

### **Mountain Caribou in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ecosystems Conference** Revelstoke, British Columbia, October 15-17

The Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology  
 is holding a three-day conference focusing on the  
 ecology and management of Mountain Caribou in  
 British Columbia. This workshop will be of interest to  
 forest managers, biologists, backcountry operators,  
 park managers, and snowmobilers. The event will  
 include two days of presentations and one day of field  
 trips.

Registration information and a list of speakers will be  
 available in early 2002 at the Columbia Mountain  
 Institute web site: [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org)

## Reviews/New Books/Guides



### Thinking Like a Mountain

by Robert Bateman,  
Penguin Books Canada  
Ltd., 2000, \$20.00

reviewed by  
Sheila Harrington

One of the few obdurate realities in life are mountains. Even if we cut all the trees down on its faces, it will survive. However, we have been thinking and acting in this past century as though the entire world is one obdurate mountain - whose plants and streams can be ravaged, climbed to its peak, and mastered. Robert Bateman knows who the final master is, having spent three quarters of this century studying, teaching and drawing nature. On his seventieth birthday, he shares his deep insights into the roots and ramifications of our current culture.

"North America, like the rest of the world, is going through turbulent times. It is as if we are in a canoe that has hit rapids- and there's rough water ahead as far as the eye can see. We have the choice to steer or not to steer, but we do not have the option of getting out of the canoe. We might even paddle to one side and hold in an eddy while we look ahead and challenge many of the assumptions underlying our present philosophy - assumptions like bigger is better, you can't stop Progress, no speed is too fast, globalization is good. We have to replace these notions with some different beliefs: small is beautiful, roots and traditions are worth preserving, variety is the spice of life, the only work worth doing is meaningful work, biodiversity is the necessary precondition for human survival. It's into this philosophical channel that we need to steer our canoe - toward a good future for all life on earth. If we change direction in time, we will get beyond the rapids."

Bateman weaves his own personal experiences with the sad tales of our loss of respect - for nature, for our communities, for our heritage, and for our diverse cultures. He quotes prominent holistic thinkers such as Paul Hawkins, E.O. Wilson, and Wendall Berry, decrying the natural capital that is ignored in our modern industrial agriculture, economies and global trade. And as he reminds us, we've done this in North America only in the last 150 years. Somehow, he

manages to weave these tales of greed and exploitation together in a way that includes the sense of beauty and sacredness of both nature and humans.

He characterizes the loss of our real values in exchange for "instant pudding". His succinct description of the loss of our fisheries, the poisoning of the great whales, after 30 years of outright slaughter, like the distant loss of Philipino communities - due to thoughtless greed, lack of objective thinking, and that ever present North American God - consumerism, mixed with critical understanding of the silencing of whistle blowers, tenant exploitation, and the misdirected investments of the world banks.

Thankfully, these "Unholy Alliances" are contrasted in the third section of the book. Here he details examples of devoted individuals, programs, and even "holy alliances" between the military and conservation projects that characterize the title of his last section: Signs of Hope.

Most people's "environmental or psychology" books require stamina and perseverance to read. Bateman's prose cuts through the smog. His style of peaceful persuasion is utterly poetic! This is one book I'd like to buy all my relatives and friends. I know they will thank me for it! Beauty in art - beauty in prose.

### And - hot off the press: - in preparation for the next World Summit:

State of the World 2002, The Worldwatch Institute,  
W.W. Norton & Company, New York, London,  
\$23.50



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# THE POWER OF HOPE

*by David Richard Boyd, reprinted with permission*

**Good news seems to slip beneath the media's radar screen.** Occasionally there is a human interest story about local folks doing good things. But what about the big picture? What about progress in tackling some of the daunting challenges facing humanity? **Does such good news exist? Yes, in fact, it does.** Here is some eyebrow-raising good news. This news is so good, it may strike some people as unbelievable. All of the following facts come from the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. These are reliable sources, not Pollyannas.

First: Democracy - One of the lynchpins of a secure future, democracy has made rapid strides over the course of the past decade. Since 1990, more than one hundred nations cast aside military dictatorships or one party rule and chose elected governments. Many of these nations also ratified the world's major human rights treaties during the 1990s.

Second: Population - Although the world's population doubled between 1960 and 2000, the rate of growth is now declining. Thanks to efforts to empower women and encourage family planning, families on every continent are now having fewer children. Globally, the average fertility rate has fallen from six children per woman to 2.8 children per woman in the past thirty years. In industrialized nations, like Canada, the fertility rate is below replacement levels, meaning that our population would decline unless bolstered by immigration.

Third: Food - Dire predictions of widespread famine have not come true. Despite the addition of three billion humans to the world's population since 1960, fewer people in total are malnourished today than in 1970. Remarkably, global food production has grown at a faster rate than the population.

Fourth: Literacy - Like democracy, literacy is a cornerstone of a healthy, prosperous society. The literacy rate in the developing world has jumped from 47% to 73% since 1970, meaning many more people have the tools to improve their standard of living.

Fifth: Environment - In the late 1980s scientists discovered conclusive evidence that industrial chemicals were destroying the ozone layer. A groundbreaking international agreement was reached in Montreal in 1987 to address the problem. Since then, global production of ozone-depleting chemicals has dropped more than 80% and Canadian production of ozone depleting chemicals is down 95%.

Sixth: Health - In developing countries a child born today will live, on average, eight years longer than a child born thirty years ago. Life expectancy in Canada also continues to rise, reaching an average of 81 years for women and 75 years for men.

Seventh: Poverty - The world's poor are not getting poorer. Between 1975 and 1998, average per capita income in developing countries, adjusted for inflation, doubled. In other words, people in the world's have-not nations have twice the buying power they had twenty-five years ago.

These seven signs of progress, like the seven human-made wonders of the world, symbolize the extraordinary potential and ingenuity of human beings. Whereas bad news induces pessimism, depression and cynicism, good news spawns optimism. Good news provides us with hope.

Indeed, hope is a quintessential Canadian characteristic. From the audacity of building a multicultural society in this vast and oft-forbidding land, to Canada's international peace-keeping missions, and Terry Fox's mind-boggling Marathon of Hope, we are a society defined by optimism and hope. As Terry Fox said, "I just wish people would realize that anything is possible if you try, dreams are made if people try."