

The Kingfisher

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LTA The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



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

***The Mission of LTA The
Land Trust Alliance of British
Columbia***

is to provide education, research and support services which strengthen the objectives of land trusts, conservancies and other agencies, organizations and individuals dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of our natural and cultural heritage for all time.

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**Cover Photo: Graham Osborne,
Hoodoos Property recently
protected by
The Nature Trust of BC**

Message from the Chairman-- John Scull



For the past few months I have been working with a board committee at the Cowichan Community Land Trust on updating and completing our Policy and Procedure Manual -- personnel policy, filing systems, communications, contracting, covenants - the list goes on and on. I have also been working on a paper for regional planners about covenants, compiling our recent surveys, a new basic land trust info package for LTABC, and on policies related to a covenant defense fund. This work seems almost unrelated to habitat conservation, but it is essential to do it, and do it well, if we are going to have a credible land trust and land trust movement. We have resources to help us with this work. The US Land Trust Alliance has a book of sample documents. Many are excellent, but they are designed for the regulatory environment in the US. A number of websites have resources for non-profit organizations, but many of these are not a good fit to the unique needs of land trusts.

As I work I know I am not alone. Some conservancies will be doing this work in the future. Other conservancies and stewardship groups have already done this work and developed these documents, but their work is buried in offices, basements, and computers around the province. This is why I think LTABC's "Best Practices" project is so important. A CD and a book with templates for the documents, policies, procedures, and forms we need to operate a land trust would save huge amounts of work for all of us.

If this important project is going to be successful, we all need to take some time to look through the materials we have developed, found, or cut and pasted; find the ones that we have done best; and send them to Sheila to include in the best practices CD. We can volunteer some time as editors, reviewers, and commentators. By co-operating, sharing, and working together, we can create a resource that will be valuable to all of us.

The Best Practices project isn't the only thing we're doing at LTABC. We continue to maintain the BC Lands in Trust Registry, provide subsidized assistance with covenant baselines and appraisals, and reach out to the professional community. *Continued inside back cover*

PROTECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

The rewards and challenges of conserving built heritage.

*Written by Bill Turner,
Executive Director TLC*

British Columbia's rich natural heritage complements an equally vibrant cultural heritage. Our historic buildings, gardens and artifacts, archaeological sites and landmarks tell a compelling story of the human settlement of these lands, one that can enrich *all* of our lives. Unfortunately, many of these special places have already been lost and many more are at risk. The Land Conservancy is working to protect these priceless heritage resources, to make sure that our story can continue to be told and experienced...forever.

TLC has modeled itself after the National Trust in Britain, adopting a broad mandate to protect both our natural and cultural heritage. Such an approach has been largely responsible for the National Trust's phenomenal success over the years. The Land Conservancy, just like the National Trust, is all about connecting people with their heritage and surroundings. It is about connecting people to place. It's a matter of recognizing and being able to respond to the values that people hold as important to their own well-being and that of their community. A broader mandate attracts a broader range of interests, a wider and more stable base of support, and creates a greater range of opportunity.

While a broad mandate puts pressure on *TLC*'s organizational resources, *TLC* is stronger because of it. There are many heritage values associated with natural area protection – First Nations activities, old homestead sites, historic trails, etc. – just as there are important natural values associated with many cultural heritage properties.



Craigflower Manor, Victoria

These issues are completely integrated and once people begin to appreciate how both our natural and cultural heritage has shaped our communities and our quality of life, they are more committed than ever to its protection.

In addition to the 90,000 acres of natural areas it has protected, *TLC* has also acquired protective control of five significant cultural heritage sites, all of which either are or will soon be open to the public. The story of one of these, Ross Bay Villa illustrates the challenges and rewards of heritage conservation.

Ross Bay Villa answers many of these important criteria. The house is a rare example of an 1860's home on the west coast of Canada, a colonial house predating British Columbia's joining Canada. The house is essentially intact, retaining original layout, architectural features and interior detailing. The modest Gothic Revival architecture is also rare and a good example of a style popular in the 1860's.

The decision to preserve an historic building is based on many factors, including age, rarity, architectural style, intact architectural detail, association with important people, events, siting, associated landscaping, as well as defined and appropriate new use.



Ross Bay Villa – before & after (below)

The residents of Ross Bay Villa have played an important part in Canada's history. Frank and Anna Roscoe were the first to move into the home in 1864. Frank Roscoe was a Member of Parliament for Victoria from 1874-78. The house was subsequently rented by George Winter in 1884 for a hack and livery business. He had strong connections with Government House, as coachman for the Lieutenant-Governor. In 1912, the Mortimer family rented Ross Bay Villa. John Mortimer was a stonemason who earlier, in 1877, had founded Mortimer's Monumental Works, a firm responsible for many monuments in Ross Bay Cemetery.

Ross Bay Villa, built in 1865, is TLC's first built heritage property. It is one of only 12 buildings in an era known to survive in the Capital Region. We purchased the property on April 29th 1999, for \$300,000, the value of the land (two city lots suitable for townhouse construction) rescuing it from demolition. The City of Victoria had done their best to prevent its demolition. They had refused to approve a demolition permit, but the owners were insistent and the City could not hold out any longer. TLC was able to bring together community heritage interests and purchase the building from the developers. Negotiating the purchase from the developers was a business transaction. The developers were just as tired of the process they had been working through as the community was resisting the demolition. We paid the appraised value of the vacant land. As we did not have the \$300,000 purchase price, and took out a mortgage with a Victoria Credit Union. This would normally have been very difficult considering the condition of the building, but the

Credit Union granted the mortgage based upon the fact that we planned to restore the building and then rent it as office space to local charities.

We became the 'owners' and that is when the real fun began. The house was not vacant. It had tenants, in theory three of them. Their rent was being paid by the people of BC through the welfare system. In fact there were two regular tenants and a few others who came and went freely, and there were about 30 cats. The house and grounds were in appalling condition. There was a couch and easy chair in the front yard which served as the venue for daily drunken parties. Also in the front yard was a derelict boat and parts of three or more cars. Much of the property was overgrown and producing a wonderful crop of blackberries. The house itself was equally appalling. We subsequently found that the toilet did not flush (unless you used a bucket of water from the kitchen sink) and that the toilet was not connected to anything – it simply emptied into the crawl space. The floor in the living room had been accidentally chopped when the tenants had missed while splitting wood for the fireplace. But then again the floor boards were also soaked with oil from the repairs on the Harley which was in pieces in the living room. Believe it or not, the fellows did not want to leave this paradise.



It took us six months to remove them. In the end we 'purchased' the boat and one of the cars. We hired a tow truck to help them move another of the cars. We rented a U-Haul and assisted them to move their belongings to another home in another neighbourhood (slated to be demolished for a new shopping centre). About six months after we had become owners, we took possession of the property.

A crew of wonderful volunteers began the task of clean up. Three garbage dumpsters (big ones) were filled with junk which was several feet high though out the house.

Volunteers wearing disposable decontamination suits and face masks removed the debris to the dumpsters. The remains of a 'greenhouse' were also removed from the living room.

Volunteers also explored the crawl space and cleaned that out (remember the toilet). Another crew of volunteers began to clear the blackberries. And guess what, we found we have heritage apples. We had to hire arbourists to deal with the many overgrown trees and also to save the apple tree.

It is hardly surprising that the roof leaked in several places and was damaging the interior walls. The cats had not left with the tenants. Neighbours, delighted with the positive change, came forward and adopted many of the cats. Others were captured by regional district pound staff and most found homes.

The City of Victoria has had the foresight to create the Victoria Heritage Foundation. We were able to obtain funding assistance from the VHF to begin the immediate work needed to restore the roof and to secure the house against moisture and cats. It also assisted with the cost of chimney repair. Most of the windows in the house remained the original 1860's versions, although a couple had been replaced in more recent years. The original windows were carefully and skillfully removed, repaired and replaced. One replica 1860's window was created from scratch. This work required weeks of dedicated work by our volunteers.

At the outset we had formed a committee to oversee the project. This committee had a subcommittee responsible for the restoration work itself. The



Abkhazi Gardens, Victoria

restoration committee has evolved into the project committee and has met monthly ever since.

One of the joys and blessings of this project has been the involvement, dedication and skills of the volunteers, individuals and those from organized groups. The project has become a passion for many and without them it would certainly have failed. As the roof was being installed, the volunteers began work on the foundation, windows and skirting walls. There was no foundation in the modern sense, only posts set into the dirt, which were rotten and had to be replaced. An engineer was brought in to design the bracing needed to protect the building's foundation from earthquake. Fortunately the engineer donated his time. Work on the foundation was greatly assisted by volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria, who crawled under the building, helped set new concrete footings and drove literally thousands of nails to connect the metal straps between the wood foundation beams and the floor joists. Volunteers from the John Howard Society have also provided assistance with yard work and painting. Volunteers can be seen every Saturday and most Wednesday evenings as the site gradually takes shape.

Throughout the process, research has been paramount. As soon as the site was available a crew of volunteers, under the lead of Nick Russell, began an archeological dig in the area of the property near the front door. Their excavation helped to establish the location of fences, paths and walls. It also produced several samples of unique 'garden edging' tiles, which had



**Eagles House
Vancouver BC**

been used extensively in the original garden. Within the building another kind of detective was working on paint colours and on wall paper patterns. World class conservators generously donate their time, spending Saturday mornings taking samples of paints, or steaming off and recording the history of the house through its wall papers. We are told that when finished, Ross Bay Villa will be the best researched and recorded heritage home of the 1860's in British Columbia.

But all this research, the painstaking dedication to detail takes its toll. As we go we have to modify our plans. New discoveries poise new questions. What was thought to be a kitchen turns out to have been a bedroom. What was thought to have been a shed, turns out to be the kitchen. Walls need to be moved. Building codes become an issue. Victoria is blessed with intelligent and reasonable people in its building inspection department, but they must work with The Building Code. The Building Code was written to protect consumers from poor quality construction. However the Building Code is not intended to accommodate 1860's buildings. There are provisions which allow for 'equivalents' but to have these approved you need an architect. Building Inspectors require an architect to sign off on any work that does not fit clearly within the

It's about connecting people to place. It's a matter of recognizing and being able to respond to the values that people hold as important to their own well-being and that of their community.

code. We have had the pleasure of working with a great architect whose understanding and sympathy for old buildings has been a great asset. When we do the next building restoration I will insist that we hire the architect on the first day. In this case we waited a couple of years and that cost us a significant amount of frustration. Architects are not inexpensive, but is a very necessary cost.

In order to accommodate the modern bathroom requirements we have found it necessary to create a wheelchair accessible bathroom in a completely rebuilt shed near the rear of the property. Some of the volunteers have commented that this is now one of the most expensive bathrooms they have ever used.

With the building dry and secure, in the fall of

2003 we began the electrical, plumbing and fire suppression sprinkler system. These mechanical systems require professional crews and are not suited to volunteer crews. In addition they require engineering drawings and this cost must be factored into the budget.

It seems that everything conspires to delay completion and to increase the cost. It is anticipated that the restoration will be completed in 2004, and the site opened to the public shortly thereafter. Meanwhile our volunteers freeze as they wait for the heat to be turned on and to begin the finishing work inside. Frustration is our biggest and continuing challenge.

Continued on Page 14

Member Campaigns & Updates



Major Milestones Achieved

By Deb Kennedy

Photos by Graham Osborne

Two highly significant land acquisitions have been completed by The Nature Trust of British Columbia and its partners during the past few months. These acquisitions include the Hoodoos property in the Columbia River Valley and block 564 and 602 along the Englishman River.

“Both these acquisitions embody the positive energy created when industry, government and the conservation community work together towards a common goal”, said Don Krogseth Chair of The Nature Trust.

The Englishman River Property

On the east coast of Vancouver Island, block 564 and 602 totaling over 700 acres (283 hectares) were secured along the Englishman River, creating a 10km corridor. Completing these acquisitions is a major milestone in The Nature Trust’s 20 year effort to conserve key estuary and riparian woodlands on BC’s 2nd most endangered river system. Extensive logging along with industrial and residential development within the watershed has negatively impacted the abundance of some species. Coho and steelhead stock have experienced a dramatic decline. In addition, an increased reliance on the Englishman River as a water source for neighboring communities emphasizes the need to ensure an abundant clean water system.

“These land acquisitions along the Englishman River will significantly enhance local efforts to restore steelhead and coho salmon populations and will facilitate an upgrade of the public water



supply,” said Don Krogseth. “To see this plan come to fruition after so many years and so much effort is incredibly gratifying.”

Many partners, who all recognize the importance of this river’s restoration, have contributed to the acquisitions. The Nature Trust is actively campaigning to raise the balance of funds for this project totaling \$230,000.

The Hoodoos Property

The Hoodoos property is a remarkable acquisition of 10,000 acres (4,037 hectares) located between Fairmont Hot Springs and Invermere. Kip Woodward, past chair of the Nature Trust stated, “This is possibly the most valuable wildlife habitat on private land available in the province. Generations of British Columbians, as well as neighboring Albertans, will look back on this acquisition as a wonderful legacy for the province.”

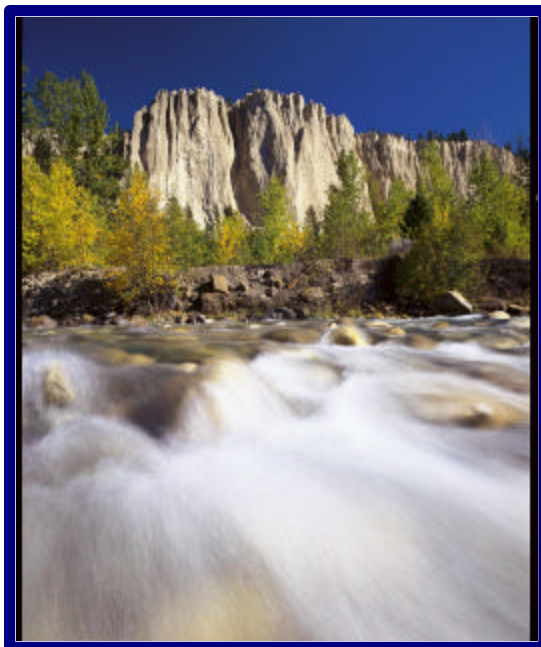
This property is valued for its mosaic of habitat including wetlands, grassland, and forest, which is home for a number of rare listed animals. As well, it provides important migration corridors and critical ungulate winter range. The size and diversity of the Hoodoos property will in conjunction with neighboring conservation areas and parkland allow for habitat management and conservation on a landscape level.

The initial group of partners raised \$1.44 million of the \$3.5 million purchase price to close the agreement in February 2003. The Nature Trust has a \$2 million fundraising goal to be raised over the next two years. Management of the Hoodoos and Englishman River properties involves a number of partners. The Hoodoos have been long-term leased (99 years) to the provincial government (WALP). WALP also holds a long-term lease on Block 564. This property has been added to a complex of habitat holdings managed as part of the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area.

The Nature Trust joins the Provincial Ministry of Water Land and Air protection to manage the property. The acquired property at the head of Craig Creek a salmon-bearing stream will be co-managed by The Nature Trust, the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo. Block 602 will be managed under a long-term lease agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo as a Regional Park. The Pacific Salmon Foundation will play a very significant role in the restoration of the fish in the Englishman River watershed. The Nature Trust is in the process of developing co-operative property management plans. These land-use plans will ensure continued protection of the various sites' outstanding recreational, fishery, wildlife and other biodiversity values.

As one of the oldest largest and most respected land conservation organizations in BC, the Nature

Trust holds title to more than 21,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of critical habitat and oversees the sustainable management of more than 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) across the province. Through the generosity of many individuals and groups, the Nature Trust has been able to pursue its mission to conserve BC's natural legacy since 1971. **If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation, please contact Patrick Oswald at 604-924-9771 or 1-866-288-7878.**



Hoodoos Property Partners

- Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- BC Conservation Foundation
- Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund
- The Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club
- Southern Guides Association
- East Kootenay Big Game Club
- Sparwood & District Fish and Wildlife Assn
- District of Invermere
- A Bar Z Ranch Ltd
- Individual donors

Englishman River Property Partners

- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment Canada
- Regional District of Nanaimo
- City of Parksville
- Pacific Estuary Conservation Program
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- The Vancouver Foundation
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Individual donors



NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA AND TEMBEC SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO CONSERVE ALMOST 40,000 HECTARES (100,000 ACRES) IN BC'S ELK VALLEY

Photo by Katie Blake

An agreement between the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Tembec, one of Canada's largest softwood lumber producers, to permanently conserve significant wildlife corridors in the Elk Valley near Fernie, BC, while at the same time facilitating continued forest utilization and accommodating the needs of local communities. The agreement is the largest of its kind negotiated by NCC. It will result in NCC's acquisition of 1,565 hectares (3,867 acres) of land, the permanent conservation of an additional 3,000 hectares (7,413 acres) of land through conservation covenants, and the restriction of another 35,034 hectares (86,570 acres) against subdivision and residential development for a period of 10 years.

The 4,565 hectares (11,280 acres) of conservation lands are concentrated around three scientifically identified wildlife corridors that cross Highway 3. Conservation of these corridors is helping to protect key movement opportunities for wide-ranging carnivores such as Grizzly Bear, Grey Wolf and Canada Lynx that rely on them for maintaining healthy and viable population levels. The Elk River also provides critical habitat for many other species, including populations of Bull Trout and East-slope Cut-throat Trout, both

species at risk. In September 2003, a large grove of giant Black Cottonwood trees, the oldest known Cottonwood trees in the world, were discovered in the area to be conserved.

"We believe this partnership is a superb example of how industry and conservation organizations can develop sustainable solutions that benefit both parties, while respecting the needs of neighbouring communities," said Jan Garnett, NCC's Regional Director for BC. "The Elk Valley is a very precious piece of Canadian wilderness and I think that as Canadians we should all feel proud to know that it will be conserved for nature, for wildlife and for future generations."

NCC and Tembec have a history of cooperating on conservation efforts in the Elk Valley through their co-management of NCC's 8,947-hectare (22,100-acre) Mount Broadwood Heritage Conservation Area, located immediately south of Tembec's private property. Tembec holds timber rights on that land from a grandfathered agreement with Shell Canada, which donated Mount Broadwood to NCC in 1992. In 1997, after several scientific studies identified the significance of the major wildlife movement corridors across

Highway 3, NCC and Tembec began working on a plan to ensure the conservation of the entire area.

“We were pleased to find a solution that confirms our commitment to responsible forest, land and environmental management while benefiting the environment, the community, our shareholders, employees, customers and the local public that use these lands,” said Dennis Rounsville, Vice President BC Operations, Tembec. “An important part of our growth from a single mill in 1973 to one of the world’s leading forest companies has been our support of the responsible stewardship of resources, including forest, fish and aquatic habitat, wildlife, air, land and water.”

The agreement also restricts another 35,034 hectares (86,570 acres) against subdivision and residential development for a period of 10 years, giving both parties the opportunity to investigate possibilities for more permanent conservation. According to Bill Bennett, MLA for East Kootenay, the agreement fits in well with objectives of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management’s Southern Rocky Mountain Management Plan, which aims to provide increased certainty for both resource development and conservation.

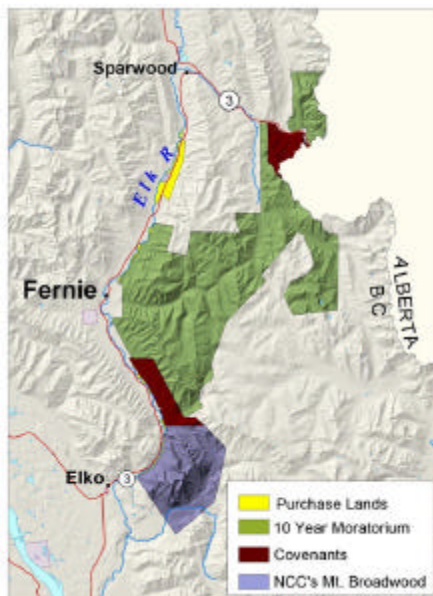
“Recognizing and addressing the economic needs of BC’s resource-based communities in the Heartlands is a crucial part of growing our provincial economy,” said Bennett. “This agreement between Tembec and NCC is a perfect example of how we can continue to protect British Columbia’s world renowned natural beauty and wildlife habitat while still allowing economic development opportunities.”

Nature Conservancy of Canada:

Dave Hillary, Canadian Rocky Mountains Program Manager
Ph: (250) 342-5521

“This initiative establishes a productive new model for conservation and economic development in and around our community,” said Mayor Randal Macnair of Fernie, a town of 5,000 at the centre of the agreement lands. “It affirms our community’s heritage of maintaining a balanced connection to our landscape, wildlife and natural resources. Hunting, fishing, and forestry are ensured as honoured economic and recreational pursuits, while the new conservation status of the surrounding lands will provide a fresh economic boost to tourism and residential development within our urban concentrations.”

Tembec is an integrated Canadian forest products company principally involved in the production of wood products, market pulp and papers. The Company has sales of approximately C\$4 billion, with over 58 manufacturing operations in the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, as well as in France, the United States and Chile. Tembec’s common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol TBC. Additional information on Tembec is available on its website at www.tembec.com



NCC is a non-profit, non-advocacy organization that takes a business-like approach to land conservation and the preservation of biological diversity. Its plan of action involves partnership-building and entering into creative conservation solutions with any individual, corporation, community group, conservation organization or government body that shares its passion. Since 1962, NCC and its supporters have protected more than 725,000 hectares (1.8 million acres) of ecologically significant land nationwide. Additional information on the Nature Conservancy of Canada is available

on its website at
www.natureconservancy.ca

Tembec Inc:

Dennis Rounsville, Vice President BC Operations, Ph: (250) 426-9205



Photos and story By Markus Merkins

There is nothing quite as constant as change. The environment around us is in a state of flux and keeping up with this, often abrupt, transformation is paramount to the survival of any entity that occupies it. Consider the wildlife community and farmland occupying the Fraser River delta. Providing habitat that can support such a diverse faunal assemblage as is found here is a complex matter, especially with the pressures of the urban environment surrounding this special region. As the human population continues to grow, pressures on wildlife habitat and agricultural land are increasing.

The Greater Vancouver Regional district, with a population of 1.64 million distributed over an area of 2,930 km², contained 470 km² of agricultural land in 1996. The regional population is expected to reach 2.9 million by 2021. This phenomenal growth will further impact land-use in the delta resulting in a likely reduction in land for wildlife and agriculture in the urban shadow of Vancouver.

In the early 1990's it became evident that concerted efforts needed to be made to conserve the farmland so that the farming lifestyle, wildlife

populations and their benefits to society could be preserved.

By the late 1980's two thirds of the farmland in Delta was farmed under lease, less than 10% of the land was under forage production, local processing facilities were on the decline as was soil productivity. Today high input costs, changing markets, pressures from competing global suppliers, further reductions in local processing facilities, transportation problems, pests and soil degradation continue to put selective pressures on farming operations. As a result, the general composition of farming operations continues to change. More and more land is being converted to "newer" crop types such as greenhouse-grown produce, cranberries, and blueberries to name a few. This increase or change in the diversity of crops in Delta is essential for the survival of farming operations working here.

The capacity of the delta to continue to support migratory birds, and other wildlife, at current levels is dependent on the survival of farming operations in the area. In turn, the survival of farming operations in the area will be dependent on a natural, regulatory and economic

environment able to allow farmers to turn a profit and make a living. If the selective pressures on farming operations that were mentioned above continue to be increasingly detrimental to agriculture, more and more land will be converted to uses incompatible with sustainable agriculture and wildlife conservation.

The soils of Delta are rich and the productive potential is high. The delta continues to support the highest densities of wintering waterfowl, raptors and shorebirds in Canada. These characteristics can only be maintained if society as a whole appreciates them and is willing to conserve them well into the future.

Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust (DF&WT) has been promoting the preservation of farmland and associated wildlife habitat in the Fraser River delta through sustainable farming and land stewardship over the last 10 years. Strategies and tactics employed by the Trust are built around an integrated program of research, education and financial incentives in the development and promotion of land stewardship activities contributing to the soil conservation and enhancement of wildlife values in Delta. DF&WT has identified several areas where voluntary enhancement/ conservation practices might be viable within a land stewardship program whose objectives are to contribute to soil and wildlife habitat conservation. Some of these increase habitat capability on farmland while others work to improve the capacity of the soil to produce crops, for agriculture and for wildlife. Within DF&WT's land stewardship programs the cost of conducting land management practices is shared with landowners.

Currently, the Trust offers incentive programs for grassland set-asides, winter cover crops, land laser levelling, and establishing new hedgerows or grass margins. Under these programs landowners enter into formal agreements with DF&WT, which lay out acceptable management practices on specific pieces of property for varying periods of time. The period of time is dictated by the particular field use or habitat enhancement being carried out.

In return for their co-operation, DF&WT shares the cost of managing the field or structure for the period outlined in the agreement.

DF&WT has raised and invested over \$5 million to support their programs over the last ten years. This is only possible through the generous support of our funding partners and the contributions of their voluntary board and various steering and

advisory committees. Program funding is derived from grants, endowments and general donations. The most generous contributor to DF&WT is the Delta Agricultural Society accounting for about 40-45% of their annual budget in recent years. Other regular contributors include Ducks Unlimited Canada, BC Waterfowl Society and the Canadian Wildlife Service. DF&WT also receives income from two endowments established as the result of wildlife

compensation funds related to the expansion of Vancouver International Airport and the development of a new golf course in Delta. Both of these funds are held and managed by the Vancouver Foundation. Additional funds are derived from Foundations and Programs interested in funding environmental initiatives, unsolicited donations and proceeds from special events.

DF&WT's Board of Directors consists of eight community minded individuals representing farming and wildlife interests. Four are appointed by the Delta Farmers Institute and four by the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee. Their advisory committees include representatives from three levels of government, two universities as well as various natural history groups.





Every year our programs affect a significant proportion of the land in Delta. For example, DF&WT stewardship programs directly impacted almost ¼ of the land within the ALR within Delta during 2002/03. The widespread geographical distribution of fields enrolled in our programs indicates that farmers throughout delta are interested in improving their farms through stewardship beneficial to both soil and wildlife conservation. In fact, our programs have affected approximately 60% of the farmland in delta over the last four years.

DF&WT intends to increase its activity within soil and wildlife conservation efforts as well as in the development of new land stewardship practices. The Trust will continue to play a pivotal role in fostering a balance in wise land management of the delta well into the future. The agricultural resources of the delta have high potential to contribute to society as a whole through food production and support of wildlife communities. It is up to us, as stewards of the land, to realize that potential. It is our hope that both farming operations and wildlife communities in Delta will continue to adapt to changes and that the resources necessary for their survival continue to be compatible.

New Guidelines for Agricultural Land Reserve Covenants Released

After several revisions based on input from the Land Trust Alliance, the ALC has released guidelines which they and we hope will facilitate improved timelines, processing and approval of conservation covenants on Agricultural Reserve Lands. See our website for a copy.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
CANADA'S CONSERVATION COMPANY

Ducks Unlimited Canada have initiated a new long term program towards preservation of soil based farming in Delta. In 2002 an agricultural – wildlife program was designed to improve the viability of farm operations that would provide feed and refuge for wildlife based on information from farmers, agricultural and wildlife experts. Activities within the program include winter cover crops, grass field rotations, field leveling, nutrient management, water management (drainage, irrigation) and pest management. Once a long-term management plan is developed for a cooperating farm, the costs of suitable management practices necessary to implement the plan are shared between DUC and the landowner over the term of the 15 to 20 year agreement. The program is also designed to incorporate additional funding opportunities such as the recent trust fund set up by Ducks Unlimited Canada with funding from Vancouver International Airport Authority and Transport Canada and in-kind support from Canadian Wildlife Service. Income from this particular trust will be used to evaluate and implement the best management practices to provide feeding habitat for Snow Geese that migrate through the Fraser Delta.

Agricultural Facts: The Farm Crisis, Bigger Farms, and the Myths of “Competition” and “Efficiency” Major new NFU report on the farm crisis November 20, 2003 nfu@nfu.ca

Since the second world war, the average Canadian farm increased its gross revenues five fold, but farmers net income has declined - farmers take 1 from every 10\$ they generate in sales; the transnationals who produce inputs and technologies take \$9. The report gives examples of environmental degradation due to farming, and the economic costs that are not considered when industrial or agrofarming and larger farms are promoted instead of smaller, family farms: pollution, loss of habitat, loss of biodiversity, climate change - due to increase of carbon inputs-fertilizers, etc. & increased mechanization, etc.)

Environmental Farm Plan Training

If you wish to be certified to perform Environmental Farm Plans, contact LTABC for further info

Sunshine Coast Conservation Assn.



The Sunshine Coast Conservation Association is very pleased to announce that it has recently been approved to accept conservation land covenants including those qualifying for ecological gifts. The SCCA acts as an umbrella group for 27 environmental, community and conservation organizations from Langdale on the Lower Sunshine Coast to Lund on the Northern Coast. In addition, the SCCA is pro-active itself in many areas and is a strong advocate for regional protection of biodiversity on Crown Lands.

Entering into private land conservation has long been a top priority of the SCCA so that protection can be afforded to private lands, which occupy many of the remaining rare and endangered low elevation biogeoclimatic zones, including estuaries and foreshores.

Together with TLC, the SCCA is now a co-covenant holder on approximately two hectares of land owned by the Roberts Creek Co-Housing Project and is preparing to take on, again with TLC, a conservation covenant at the Ruby Lake lagoon's proposed Nature Reserve Society.

Brad Benson, director, SCCA

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E-mail: dvarney@shaw.ca



The Kootenay Land Trust Society

The Kootenay Land Trust Society and The Land Conservancy of BC now hold covenants on a small property on Paradise Valley Road, Winlaw, BC in the Kootenays. This property is .838 hectares, has a few existing buildings and is wooded with mixed species including lodge pole pine, Douglas fir and western red cedar with a few Douglas maple and some cottonwoods along one boundary on the edge of a wetland pond.

This property is owned by the Kutenai Growth Society and operated by Benailse Retreat. The covenants are aimed at preserving the forest, though it is not especially unique, and the permanent use of the land as a retreat centre.

The property is also part of a wildlife corridor and is visited by deer, elk, moose, black bear and an occasional cougar.

The first meeting between representatives of Kootenay Land Trust Society and officers of Kutenai Growth Society was in August of 1999 and a field survey was done a year later after members of the society decided that placing covenants on the property title was desirable.

Draft covenants followed and eventually all parties agreed with the scope and the details of the agreements. This property is adjoining another covenanted, larger property in Paradise Valley. The covenants on that parcel are also held by the Kootenay Land Trust Society and The Land Conservancy of BC.

"It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence. And the alternative to disarmament, the alternative to a greater suspension of nuclear tests, the alternative to strengthening the United Nations and thereby disarming the whole world, may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation, and our earthly habitat would be transformed into an inferno that even the mind of Dante could not imagine." – Martin Luther King Jr.



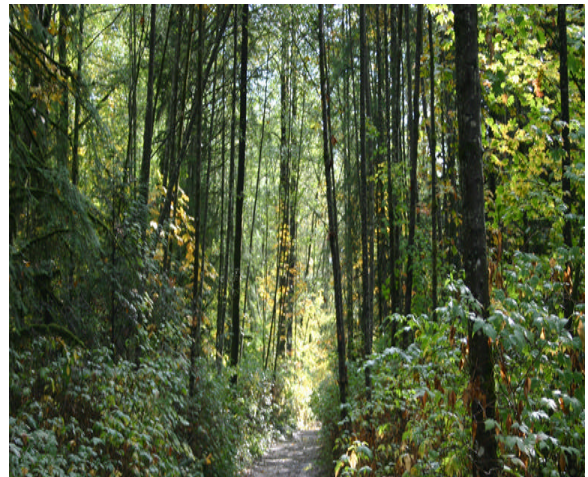
The City of Coquitlam, centered in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, is bordered by mountains and rivers. Eagle and Burke mountains provide the northern backdrop while the Fraser, Coquitlam and Brunette rivers form the south, east and western edges. Within its boundaries, Coquitlam boasts over 100 kilometers of streams, many of them home to salmon and trout within walking distance of the city's town centre. Portions of the upland forest have been preserved as park including Mundy Park, a 450-acre stand of mixed conifer forest. While some environmentally-sensitive areas have been protected, much more needs to be done if we are to provide a natural legacy for future generations.

The Coquitlam Foundation was established June 4, 1992 by an Act of the BC Legislature. The private member's bill resulted from a petition by six founders who wanted to establish an organization with broad appeal that could become the charitable soul of Coquitlam.

The Coquitlam Foundation Land Trust Fund was established by the Coquitlam Foundation in 2002 to provide a means for the acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of sites, areas and objects of ecological, historical, recreational or agricultural interest in or near the City of Coquitlam, primarily for the use, enjoyment and benefit of present and future inhabitants of the City of Coquitlam.

**Take a step back into space
and what you witness
is a living, breathing planet
a self-contained life support system
powered by the sun.**

As the trustee of the Land Trust Fund, the Coquitlam Foundation is responsible for the protection and management of land by either holding title to the land or by holding a conservation covenant with the registered owner of the land. The Coquitlam Foundation Land Trust Fund (CFLTF) presents an exciting opportunity for landowners and the general public who share the desire to protect special places for the future.



The eight member CFLTF Committee is currently working with potential land donors who are interested in preserving their property and leaving a legacy in the community.

Persons wishing to make a gift of land or to enter into a voluntary conservation covenant with the Coquitlam Foundation Land Trust Fund may do so by contacting the CFLTF Committee at:

**Coquitlam Foundation
Land Trust Fund
P.O. Box 2, 1207 Pinetree Way
Coquitlam, BC
V3B 7Y3**

phone: 604.468.9598
email: info@coquitlamfoundation.ca

Cultural Properties

Continued from Page 4

What we have learned

- Assign a person to coordinate the restoration, preferably with contractor experience.
- Assign an Architect to the project immediately.
- Assign a Heritage Consultant to the project immediately.
- All of these people need to be working together from the very first day.
- Try to do all the planning, engineering and architect work before starting any work.
- (This is often hard when there issues like leaking roofs, missing windows, etc.)
- At least double any estimate of the amount of time it will take to finish the project.
- Fundraising for heritage restoration projects can be very very difficult.
- Arrange for security of the site.
- Treat the volunteers with great respect and provide for their comfort and safety.
- Keep the neighbours informed and involved if possible.
- Keep the media informed, restoration makes a great story.

Where the money comes from.

- The City of Victoria has granted a property tax exemption.
- The doctor whose office is located next door has donated generously to the cost of cleaning up the grounds and providing use of his parking lot.
- The Victoria Heritage Foundation.
- The Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society of Victoria provided a \$50,000 loan.
- Benjamin Moore Paint provided paint for the exterior and \$5000 in cash.
- The Millenium Fund.(No longer available)
- The BC Heritage Trust Fund. (No longer available –new Heritage Legacy Fund which TLC and the Heritage Society of BC are establishing).
- The Infrastructure Program (BC, Canada, City of Victoria).
- Ross Bay Hardware Store
- The Real Estate Foundation of BC.
- And dozens of merchants and contractors have supported the project.



- A very limited number of individual donors.
- Hard Hat Tours – the public loves to see the detective work in action. Problem is ensuring the public is safe while on these tours.

The Costs:

- Building permits.
- Sewer connection charges.
- Storm drain connection charges.
- Water connection charges (Fire sprinkler systems need larger pipes, putting the connections together can cost over \$10,000).
- Architects (\$20,000 and up).
- Engineers for structural, foundation, electrical, fire sprinkler systems.
- Materials, paint.
- Skilled trades (Concrete, bricklayers, masons, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters).
- Heavy equipment to dig trenches, level ground.
- Dumpsters to remove garbage, construction debris (can cost \$200 per month for years).
- Equipment rental (scaffolds) - we actually purchased the stuff as it was cheaper than renting for the long period of time involved.
- Food for volunteers.
- Security
- Telephone, power, drinking water charges.
- Top soil
- Plants
- Signs to tell the public what is going on – need regular updates.
- Custom made timbers and boards – dimensions of modern wood do not match 1860's.
- Don't forget funds for ongoing maintenance.

Comox Valley Land Trust *Comox Valley continues efforts to keep Lannan Forest as public greenspace*

In spite of strong community opposition to the sale of Lannan Forest for development, Land and Water BC has listed Lannan Forest for sale by competitive bid. The Regional District and the Comox Valley Land Trust are putting together a joint bid in a final attempt to retain this forest as a park. For more information on the Lannan campaign, visit the Comox Valley Land Trust website at <http://www.communitythings.com/cvlt>

Friends of Mt. Parke Society *- Mayne Island, B.C.*

Friends of Mt. Parke was formed in August of 2003 by a number of Mayne Islanders concerned about the possibility of commercial development on the privately owned portion of the summit ridge of Mt. Parke. Mt. Parke at 271 metres is the highest point on the island, and considered by many to be our island "icon". The summit ridge is shared by the 40 hectre Mt. Parke Regional Park. The actual summit is occupied by several telecommunications towers, and is part of the 242 acre property (which includes a steep cliff and a heavily logged bottom portion). Friends of Mt. Parke has formed a partnership with CRD Parks and The Land Conservancy to try and purchase the entire property. The summit ridge portion of the property would be added to the existing regional park (if an acquisition campaign is successful), and direct community involvement would be sought to determine the best use for the balance of the property. As the vendors have expressed a wish to sell the property quickly, Friends of Mt. Parke, and our partners are developing a strategy to move the whole process forward with all possible speed.

Friends of Mt. Parke, which has very broad support in this very small island community, is not a single issue society. With a clear appreciation of the cultural and environmental values basic to our existence, our constitution provides for our involvement in future land acquisition campaigns, and in other land stewardship issues. We are glad to be associate members of the LTA, and look

forward to meeting our colleagues in the conservation movement at upcoming conferences and seminars. *Peter Askin, Friends of Mt. Parke*

The Islands in The Salish Sea Community Mapping Project Update & New Maps

This extensive three-year mapping project has completed Phase 2 – producing and exhibiting 30 maps of the community values that these island communities identified. Recently, the project was awarded the group Community Stewardship Award by the Islands Trust. Now we are busy fundraising for the final Phase – publishing the maps and their background information in "The Portrait of the Islands in the Salish Sea" – or the Atlas! We have just been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Georgia Basin Action Plan (developed from the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative), which puts us over \$30,000 toward our \$80,000 budget to print the book! We have an outstanding grant application to the Canada Council and some discussions with potential outside publishers. We hope, that by year end, we will have a remarkable book about Community Mapping with glorious maps to help us find a sustainable future for these overly popular island homes.

Threatened Ecosystems Map, by Briony Penn



LTABC Programs, Ideas & Updates

Working with Municipal Governments

By Lisa Fox, Abbotsford Land Trust Society

In 1994, the Abbotsford Land Trust Society formed from a joint agreement between two municipalities (District of Matsqui and District of Abbotsford) and the Community Foundation to establish a body to hold land. The land trust at that time had very little funds and no means to care for donated land or acquired land. Thus an agreement was struck to help the land trust hold land (municipalities) and acquire land (community foundation agreed to set up and promote an endowment fund).

This MOU or letter of understanding and agreement is mentioned here because excerpts may be helpful to those looking to establish agreements with municipalities (to among other things reduce or eliminate land / property tax). A lawyer drew up the letter after several meetings and discussions took place between the parties involved. An original council member and staff member from this process are still with the City of Abbotsford so please forward any questions.

From the letter it is clear that one of the driving forces in the establishment of this land trust and agreement would be the benefit to the residents of the municipality. In addition, the land trust went beyond the scope of parkland and open spaces to include ecological reserves, heritage sites and cultural sites. From this basis the following...

- The Land trust could accept properties on its own without the municipality's involvement, but if any assistance was sought in connection to a property the municipality would have to be in on the acquisition process from the beginning.
- A Standing Review committee would be established comprised of representatives from the land trust and both municipalities.
- The Property Review Committee would conduct a preliminary review for environmental assessment, geotechnical conditions, and the value of the property (monetary and aesthetic).
- If that property was suitable for the land trust, it would refer the property to the board of the land trust and municipality for them to undertake their own separate reviews.
- If approved by the municipality, the land could be donated to the land trust and leased back to the municipality (for \$1) and for this the municipality would be responsible for all insurance, 3rd party liability insurance, any and all taxes (including property), maintenance, environmental matters and all other expenses concerning the property.
- Notwithstanding the proposal, alternate arrangements can be reached for the responsibilities.
- If the property was not approved by the municipality, the land trust could go forward with the donation or acquisition, etc.

How might you do this?

Find one council member and staff member (community planning or environment manager) and make the case to them that land trusts and the work they do benefit municipalities and the health of its residents, and an MOU can help them and you work better. Together the staff and council member can lobby the whole council. It is also beneficial to 'make the case' to all supportive council members. Final thoughts... Abbotsford is very conservative; getting this agreement in place should hopefully encourage other more progressive municipalities to do the same -shame them into it if you have to!

Report on Funding Research

*by Ben van Drimmelen & Nancy Nelson,
with direct excerpts from the core resources*

This is a review and summary of two recently released reports on the changing funding landscape in Canada. The Canadian Council on Social Development has just released a report available at <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/fm>, which assesses the impact of these changes on the financial capacity and long-term sustainability of nonprofit and voluntary organizations. The second report is a commissioned research piece from the recent Stewardship & Conservation in Canada conference, the Leading Edge. This survey and cross Canada review *Appreciating the Values, Needs and Potential of the Stewardship and Conservation Sector in Canada: Strategic Directions for Funding and Other Support* was undertaken by Dovetail Consulting in Vancouver, BC.

Problem: As the need for restoring, maintaining and protecting wildlife, ecosystems and other natural values has increased, funding for non-profits, from both public and private sources, has become scarce and what funding that is available has become more restricted.

- Generally, funding is insufficient.
- As funding from foundations and government decreases, competition for resources increases, so too many groups are chasing too few dollars.
- Funders are adopting an increasingly targeted approach to funding.
- There has been a marked shift away from a core funding model which funds organizations to pursue their mission. The new model is project-based and is characterized by contracts that give funders increased control over what the organization does and how it does it.
- Funders are reluctant to fund administrative costs that cannot be directly tied to a project or program.
- Funding is being provided for shorter periods of time, and is increasingly unpredictable.
- Reporting requirements have increased.

- Funders are increasingly requiring organizations make joint submissions with other project partners and to demonstrate that they have secured funding from other sources – either financial or in-kind contributions – before extending their support.

The result of the unpredictability and scarcity of funding has led to very worrisome trends:

- Volatility – As organizations struggle to diversify their funding sources, they can experience huge swings in revenue. This volatility undermines an organization's stability and its capacity to provide consistent, quality programs or services, to plan ahead, and to retain experienced staff.
- A tendency to "mission drift" – As organizations scramble to qualify for narrowly prescribed program funding or to win government contracts, some are being pulled away from their primary mission, which is their long-term purpose and the source of their credibility within the community.
- Loss of infrastructure – With the move to project-based funding and the tightening of restrictions on administrative costs that will be covered by funders, some organizations are losing their basic infrastructure. They are becoming a series of projects connected to a hollow foundation.
- Reporting overload – Many smaller organizations are losing heart as they face yet another round of short-term contracts, short-term hiring and letting-go of program staff, all the while pursued for multiple reports from multiple funders with multiple forms and requirements.
- House of cards – Because funders often now require financial or in-kind contributions from other sources, the loss of one contract or the end of one partnership agreement can bring down the whole interlocking structure. A service that is thriving one year can collapse the next. Organizations despair of arrangements in which funders will not commit until other funding partners are on-side, the last one standing being the preferred position.
- Advocacy chill – When organizations must cobble together different projects and partners

in order to survive, being seen as an outspoken advocate on behalf of one's client group can be regarded as too risky, despite the justice of the cause. Some organizations may not want to have their name in the media when their next funding submission comes up for approval. In effect, advocacy organizations have been effectively marginalized over the past 10 years.

- Human resource fatigue – People, both paid and volunteer, are stretching themselves to the limit to meet the new challenges and yet remain faithful to their mission and to the citizens and communities to whom they feel responsible.
- To the victor go the spoils – Because of the limited funding, granting bodies often disperse their funds to limited number of large well connected and well organized agencies leaving small and mid-level agencies grasping for crumbs.

Solutions:

Both papers provide few remedies to this dilemma.

From The Dovetail Report's abstract summary:

- Governments at all levels should place a higher priority on stewardship and conservation, in part by continuing and increasing environmental programs that provide financial support.
- Project funding should be accompanied or supplemented by core funding that allows for effective implementation of projects and long-term capacity building.
- All those involved – including government agencies, conservation and stewardship organizations and the private sector – need to connect the value of stewardship with its benefits to society and local communities.
- All sectors need to increase their coordination and to collaborate where this is feasible and appropriate.

From the Dovetail report generally:

Over the past decade the sector has increased influence, has grown in size and diversified, has a broader geographical scope, and is adopting a more proactive, longer-term perspective. Groups have increasing expertise, capacity, and activity levels, are taking on work formerly done by

government, and are implementing measures directly through hands-on projects.

The value and contributions of the stewardship/conservation sector

The environmental contributions of the stewardship and conservation sector include:

- awareness raising;
- public and community engagement;
- policy and legislation improvements;
- innovation and management advances toward sustainability;
- protection of land;
- promotion of stewardship practices on private land;
- research;
- provision of information, knowledge and tools; and
- building partnerships.

The social contributions of the sector include:

- community building and cooperation;
- education and awareness-raising;
- health benefits of a clean environment;
- quality of life, including recreation;
- increasing community debate and engagement; and
- cultural and spiritual benefits.

The economic contributions of the sector include:

- preventing costs to society and the government – now and in the future;
- protecting/restoring environmental services;
- protecting/restoring the resource base;
- doing work on a volunteer or lower cost basis than government;
- providing a basis for recreation and tourism;
- spending on conservation measures;
- spending by stewardship and conservation organizations; and
- attracting population and higher property values.

These extensive, highly important contributions of the sector are largely under-appreciated by Canadian society – the work is valued, but not to the degree it deserves. This is largely because of inadequate public awareness of the importance of stewardship and conservation, especially in

relation to economic pressures: when environmental priorities are perceived to compete with economic ones, the economy comes out ahead. Another societal trend that is unfavourable to the sector is declining participation in volunteer activities.

Contextual factors affecting capacity include:

- Currently, *governance* in Canada currently does not provide to the conservation and stewardship sector sufficient power, priority, or policy and legislative support. Power and influence in our political system work against stewardship and conservation groups, and government does not place a high enough priority on conservation and stewardship. Furthermore, government policies, environmental laws and regulations need improvement to better protect the environment.
- With respect to private landowners and individuals, motivating behaviour change and commitment to stewardship becomes more difficult as the focus moves to the “unconverted.” *Landowners need more incentives* to practice stewardship on their property.
- Currently *negative economic forces* present a number of challenges for the conservation and stewardship sector.
- *Pressures on ecosystems and resource scarcity* add to the workload of conservation and stewardship groups, and make projects more difficult.
- *International, political-economic issues* compete with environmental priorities for attention.

A conservation and stewardship sector working at full capacity would:

- do more work with greater ease and quality, at a faster pace and with a broader scope;
- have credibility because of its track record, and the public would recognize and appreciate the work of the sector;
- prompt improvements in government’s approach to protecting the environment;
- have a positive impact on public awareness and engagement in stewardship and conservation;
- more effectively protect the environment “on the ground”: more land would be protected,

more landowners would adopt stewardship practices, environmental quality would be improved, and there would be progress towards sustainability.

Actions for systemic change to support the long-term sustainability of the conservation and stewardship sector

Actions for government

- Governments across Canada, at all levels, should place a higher priority on funding stewardship and conservation. In addition to continuing environmental programs that provide financial support, they should assess the potential for tax- or fee-based sources of funding for the stewardship and conservation sector.
- Endowments should be used to the greatest extent possible and governments should continue to support standing Funds.
- Government agencies and different levels of government should strive for a harmonized approach to policy development to coordinate stewardship and conservation programs and support a more integrated, broader scale approach.

Actions for grantors (foundations and government grant programs)

- Project funding should be accompanied or supplemented by core funding that allows for effective implementation of projects and long-term capacity-building.
- Funders should provide more multi-year grants and support applications for continuing as well as new projects.

Actions for conservation and stewardship groups

- Stewardship and conservation organizations should build strong linkages with the local community, including diverse social and business communities.

(Personal note – Nancy Nelson)

It has been my observation as a businesswoman working with non-profit organizations that the two groups perceive each other as antagonists rather than as partners managing the same resource. For example: the cleanup of the Gorge Waterway has resulted in the increase in local property values and the attraction of businesses and people to the area.

Another example is the suit brought by fruit ranchers in Washington State against the Cominco smelter in Trail, BC in the late 1950's. In the ensuing legal battle, an environmental firm hired by Cominco showed that pollution controls would recover enough precious heavy metals that the controls would pay for themselves within only a few years.

Business and stewardship/conservation groups need to educate themselves about each other's activities, and stewardship groups need to emphasize messages about a sustainable landscape both ecologically and economically in order to be better received by business and the general public.

Inter-sectoral actions

- Communications between funders and stewards or conservation groups should aim to clarify the needs and priorities of the conservation and stewardship sector. A funding gap analysis should be undertaken.
- All those involved – including government agencies, conservation and stewardship organizations and the private sector – need to connect the value of stewardship with its benefits to society and local communities, including its function in protecting the foundations for life.
- All sectors – government, private sector, and the conservation and stewardship sector – need to increase their communications and coordination.
- To support stewardship and avoid duplication, governments at all levels *and* national, provincial and territorial and local stewardship and conservation organizations should harmonize efforts to promote program integration and the effective and efficient use of financial resources.
- Local groups and local governments should cultivate closer working relationships to increase support for the work of the groups and increase its effectiveness.

Review: The National Watershed Stewardship Report - By Eric Clough

For the full report see:

http://www.leps.bc.ca/website/NWS/NWSreport_Nov2003.PDF

reading the entire report is highly recommended and there is good executive summary

This report was completed in November, 2003. An earlier draft was presented and discussed at the 'Leading Edge Conference: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada' held in Victoria in July, 2003.

Members of the committee who prepared the report represented groups from across the country who were selected on the basis of a wide range and diversity of experience with watershed management. The regions represented are: Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies and Pacific. Langley Environmental Partner's Society represented the Pacific region and are the key authors of the report.

Quoting from the executive summary: "*Watershed stewardship focuses on promoting, monitoring, and conserving the ecological health and biodiversity of an area of land that drains waters, through a stream or its tributaries to a shared destination (i.e. a watershed).*"

Watersheds are often very large areas of land. They frequently span jurisdictions including private ownership, government bodies, and large corporate entities. It is not unusual for numerous levels of government and crown corporations to have partial overlapping jurisdiction over the same areas.

The report points out that community-based stewardship can provide many benefits. Some of these are: efficient monitoring of factors involved in ecosystem integrity, protection of watersheds, support for community activities, long-term environmental planning for sustainability, working partnerships among the various users of an area of land, improved commitment to international conventions and agreements, and more.

The National Watershed Stewardship Report describes “22 recommendations with implementing actions for government and community.” These include providing funding for community and volunteer organizations for long-term planning and implementation of stewardship; legislate watershed planning; commit to building partnerships with land owners, aboriginal communities, industry (including mining, forestry, energy, etc.), community groups and the various levels of government; provide the necessary tools to monitor and interpret data.

A key recommendation in the report is to “Establish a Stewardship Task Force responsible for developing and implementing a common stewardship vision and strategy”.

It is interesting to note that the idea of land trusts and protective covenants was not mentioned in this 36 page report.

LTABC Program Updates

Appraisal Assistance Fund

March 31st Deadline Fast Approaching

The Appraisal Assistance Fund still has some revenue available for land trusts!

Go to our website to download the application form and application procedures! Any Ecogift which has completed within 2002-2004 is eligible for up to \$2000 or ½ the cost of appraisals. Apply now!

Many thanks to the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada for this wonderful grant program!



Environment
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Environnement
Canada

Service Canadien
de la faune

NEW Baseline Inventory Service & Workshops

We have some limited funding to offer a qualified Environmental Assessor to perform or assist with Baseline Inventories at 1/2 typical professional rates! Some training on basic protocols is also available through this program - at your site. Rates are \$150 per day plus 1/2 travel expenses. We've completed one successful inventory, with two more reserved in February or March. Contact Sheila or Damien to find out more.

Sharing Templates & Best Practices

We are working on gathering, analyzing and presenting sample policies, protocols, and template documents for your use. This will be our combined efforts so that no one group has to redesign documents for every topic. We need your help! Please send us your best and most useful policies and documents in the following three areas: land protection negotiations and management of lands; outreach with communities for publicity, membership and financial support; and organizational development in order to successfully deliver your organization's land protection and stewardship goals. Please forward us your best samples so that we can all benefit from each other's experience! If you can work with us as an Advisor in one of these three areas, please contact Sheila ASAP.

Funding for both these wonderful initiatives has been generously provided by The Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Canadian Wildlife Service. *We currently have applications in for additional assistance to the Vancouver Foundation and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.*

With warm thanks to both these funding partners:



THE REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

New Agriculture Land Commission Guidelines for ALR Covenants

The Alliance has worked with many of our member land trusts on improving the Covenant Guidelines that the ALC has initiated. We tried hard to expand the scope of their approval to community trails and historic sites, but at this time - this looks doubtful! However, approval looks promising for ecological values and they seem committed to approving in 90 days. They are now posted on our website. Please keep us informed as to the progress of your applications. We are monitoring this for future relations with the Commission and other government agencies.

You Asked us to help with Crown Lands

At our last Annual General Meeting in July, you asked us to help with the current process of divesture of Crown lands in BC. On our website is a copy of the letter we sent to Stan Hagan in this regard. In February both Boyd Pyper, ED of HAT and currently a Councilor of LTABC and Bill Turner of TLC will be meeting with Minister Hagan to go over our concerns.

BC takes the Lead on National Monitoring of Ecogifts Survey

CWS initiated a national teleconference meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the monitoring of Ecogifts. As you know, the donor receives tax benefits for donating land or covenants under this program. Furthermore, the Ecogifts Program requires that there be no change in use or disposition. If a change in land use does occur, there can be a penalty and fine to the recipient organization.

The LTABC has agreed to lead a national survey to determine the nature and extent of monitoring on these lands. Please be prepared for a call from Damien in our office in February to ask you a series of brief questions about your monitoring practices. We will be compiling regional surveys from across Canada and hosting a one day workshop on the results and future steps with a group of representatives from across Canada at the 2004 Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series.

National Land Trust Coalition Forming

There is a group of land trust representatives from across Canada meeting with the support and encouragement of Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada and the Canadian Nature Federation to explore the development of a national land trust coalition. It is too early to report on any agreed principles or articles – but we will keep you posted. Contact Sheila, John or Bill if you wish have your group's input included.

ADHOC Funding Committee & Economic Valuation Study

We are working with a few of our members and other allied organizations on the Funding crisis. We are developing a study of the environmental values which have been or should be included when determining economic values. We will be putting this work on our website for your reference and use in the coming months.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 2004 Building Partnerships for Success

**March 26 – 28th
Cowichan Outdoor Education
& Conference Centre**

***Register Now for the upcoming
Seminar Series!***

Seminars in these theme areas:

Partnerships
Communications
Conservation Options
Financial Support
Organizational Development

Site Visit on the Friday afternoon will be to the Nature Trust's Cowichan Estuary lands. We will also hold a half day workshop on advanced covenant issues. (Both are only \$25 extra) See this issue or our website for registration package.

Government Programs & Associated Legislation Update

Important Upcoming Changes to the Streamside Protection Regulation in BC

excerpted from <http://www.pskf.ca>

The provincial Streamside Protection Regulation (SPR) was passed January 19, 2001, following much consultation with municipal governments, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), stewardship groups, developers and other interested parties.

The 2001 SPR is being replaced by a Riparian Assessment Areas Regulation (RAAR). The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has been developing this alternative in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Union of BC Municipalities. To date, there has not been public consultation. The only information provided to the stewardship/conservation community about replacement of the SPR was a preliminary overview meeting to provide an outline of the new proposed alternative. This meeting occurred in the Lower Mainland in December, 2003.

The following facts, recommendations and concerns regarding replacement of the existing SPR were compiled by a core group of stream stewards who attended the preliminary overview meeting. No copies of the draft regulation, SPR Guidebook or monitoring guidelines have been made available for this review. After these documents have been reviewed, another fact sheet more specific to the new regulation and supporting documents can be developed.

Facts

The stated purpose of the Riparian Assessment Areas Regulation is

- “to protect streamside protection and enhancement areas so that the areas can provide natural features, functions and conditions that support fish life processes and
- to establish policy directives that reflect the intergovernmental protocol agreement between MWALP, Fisheries and Oceans and

the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.”

- The foundation of the Riparian Assessment Areas Regulation (referred to as SPR in the rest of the fact sheet) is the provincial Fish Protection Act (1997)
- Supporting documents (draft regulation, Streamside Protection Regulation Guidebook, monitoring guidelines) have not been made available for review
- The regulation is needed because existing rules do not adequately protect streams and riparian integrity.
- A proponent may proceed with streamside development by conducting a simple assessment (using appropriate predefined setbacks) or by hiring a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to conduct a detailed assessment (determine site-specific setbacks).
- The measuring stick used to determine setbacks has been changed from the previously followed convention of starting at top of bank to starting at the high water mark.
- Developments are to be monitored for compliance with and effectiveness of the SPR in protecting streamside areas, but the monitoring guidelines are not yet developed.

Recommendations

Stewardship groups and other NGOs should ask MWALP for a copy of the new regulations and supporting documents, read them thoroughly and compare with existing regulations. Until these documents are available, it is not possible to determine potential changes and their implications. Governments should not sign the memorandum until they have seen all the documents, including the monitoring guidelines, and until there has been adequate public review and consultation. The methods need to be field tested adequately by specialists and QEPs that will be required to follow them, and results compared to existing assessment methods. Much more needs to be done to ensure that there is a governing body that can set standards, qualifications, testing and disciplining of QEP's,

e.g., with the Association of Professional Biologists.

Personal Privacy Act

On January 1, 2004, the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) came into effect. PIPA will regulate the way private sector organizations collect, use, keep secure and disclose personal information.

PIPA will ensure that organizations that hold information about individuals handle that personal information responsibly. It also gives individuals control over the way information about them is handled and a right to request access to and correction of their personal information.

Organizations covered by PIPA need to consider how they will comply with and implement PIPA's privacy protection provisions. (For more information on whether your organization is covered refer to

http://www.mser.gov.bc.ca/FOI_POP/privacy/Tools/Pipa_Tool_4.htm

The way an organization approaches compliance will vary depending on a number of factors, including:

- the nature of the organization's business;
- the organization's size;
- the kind of information the organization collects, uses and discloses;
- how the organization stores and secures information;
- the expectations of the individuals who deal with the organization;
- whether the organization transfers personal information across provincial or national borders; and,
- the reputation the organization wishes to promote.

Develop and implement policies and practices for the handling of personal information and make this information available to the public on request.

Identify the purpose and use of the information

- Identify the purpose(s) for which personal information is needed and how it will be used and disclosed before or at the time personal information is collected.
- Ensure that the collection of personal information is necessary to fulfill the purpose(s).
- Ensure that the purpose(s) is limited to what a reasonable person would consider appropriate in the circumstances.
- Inform the individual from whom the information is collected, either verbally or in writing, before or at the time of collection why the personal information is needed and how it will be used.
- On request by the individual, provide the name or title and contact information of a person within the organization who is able to answer questions about the collection of personal information.
- When using an individual's personal information that has already been collected for a new purpose not previously identified, inform the individual of the new purpose and obtain consent prior to its use.

Obtain consent for its use or disclosure

- Obtain consent from the individual whose personal information is collected, used or disclosed.
- Obtain the individual's consent before or at the time of collection, as well as when a new use is identified.
- In determining what form of consent to use (e.g., written, verbal, implied, opt-in or opt-out), consider both the sensitivity of the personal information and what a reasonable person would expect and consider appropriate in the circumstances.
- When obtaining express consent, inform the individual of the purposes for the collection, and its use or disclosure in a manner that is clear and can be reasonably understood.

Other elements included in the act are:

- Limit collection, use, disclosure and retention,
- Be accurate, open, use appropriate safeguards,
- Give individuals access to their own information and provide recourse for any complaints.

Update on Ecogifts

By Blair Hammond

Exactly 1 year ago I provided readers of the Kingfisher with an update on the Ecological Gifts Program in BC and it seemed appropriate that I would provide a similar update this year.

In 2003, 14 gifts totaling 670 hectares of ecologically sensitive land, valued at nearly \$4.3 million, were donated under the Ecological Gifts Program in BC. The large majority of these gifts have been in the Georgia Basin, but one large gift was in the south Okanagan. Eight additional gifts covering nearly 600 hectares are already in the system and expected to be completed in 2004. BC's 'share' of the total number, area and value of gifts donated in Canada has increased substantially in each of the past two years, a trend I hope to see continue. You all have my sincere thanks and congratulations for making these gifts happen.

At the end of 2002 the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency released Income Tax News No. 26, which addressed the issue of 'split-receipt sales'. Although the Income Tax Act has not yet been amended to reflect the contents of this circular, CCRA has provided the Ecological Gifts Program with assurances that it is now possible for registered charities to purchase property for less than its market value and issue a tax receipt for the difference. The Ecological Gifts Program has been working with CCRA to produce a circular that clarifies the specific requirements of split-receipt sales involving land, and it should be available soon.

The Ecological Gifts Program is also looking forward to the release of our Tax Scenarios Handbook, a documents that is intended to demonstrate the general nature of tax benefits a donor might expect to receive under a variety of donation scenarios. We hope to make this document available early in 2004. In addition, we are working on an Applicant's Guide to provide land trusts, donors and their representatives with detailed instructions on how to apply for the certification of ecological sensitivity and appraisal review and determination.

In the upcoming year you can expect the Ecological Gifts Program to continue to work with your Land Trust Alliance and individual land trusts to facilitate the donation and long-term management of ecological gifts. This will include our continued support of the annual Seminar Series, acting as a resource for land trusts and cooperation on special projects related to the long-term monitoring of an ecogift's ecological integrity.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2004. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me by either email (blair.hammond@ec.gc.ca) or phone (604-940-4647).

Blair Hammond, Canadian Wildlife Service

7th Annual Meadowlark Festival

May 20th to 24^h, 2004



Celebrate the unique
ecosystems in one of
Canada's biodiversity
hotspots!

Make plans now to attend one of BC's
premier nature festivals, taking place as
always in the beautiful South Okanagan
and Similkameen Valleys.

Look for more information and details on
ticket sales in spring on our website:

www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca

Tel: 1-866-699-9453

Email: meadowlarkfestival@telus.net

Events, Resources and News of Interest

Events of Note:

**Planning Sustainable Communities:
A guide to internet based resource information
Date: February 13, 2004
Location: Eco Center in Mission Creek
Regional Park, Kelowna**

Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Cost: FREE
Please Register by: Feb 6, 2004

Local governments and conservation groups in the Okanagan basin and throughout British Columbia are developing map-based resource information, document libraries, and field data collection methods to facilitate land use planning and natural resource management decisions. The time is right to share the excellent results of work done over the last few years and to demonstrate how to access and update these internet based systems. Participants of the workshop will have opportunities to provide feedback on ways to improve the delivery of the systems and to expand content.

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**Effective Coalitions: Solving the Riddle  
Vancouver - February 6, 2004  
with Julian Griggs**

Many non-profits these days are recognizing the need to work in cooperation with other organizations who have similar missions. Coalitions are growing in number almost daily. But while they offer wonderful opportunities for collaboration and more concerted campaign successes, they also pose many unique challenges.

Julian Griggs and Kim Wright have together conducted extensive research on how to work effectively in coalitions – what works, what doesn't, basic ground rules, common pitfalls, etc.

If you are currently involved in a coalition, or are thinking of forming one, you won't want to miss this one-day workshop. Make sure all your coalition partners sign up too!

Contact Hollyhock Leadership Institute:  
604.669.4802  
[www.hollyhockleadership.org](http://www.hollyhockleadership.org)

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**Reconnecting to Life
Vancouver - February 7-8, 2004
with Jackie Larkin and Maggie Ziegler**

Based on the work of Joanna Macy, this workshop provides an opportunity to get in touch with our true thoughts and feelings about our troubled world. Facing our distress in a safe and transformative process can lead to re-discovery of our passion and joy for life, reconnection to our interconnectedness and renewed energy for participation. This is an intensive and safe group process involving interactive exercises, creative processes, ritual, reflection and discussion. Contact Hollyhock Leadership Institute:
604.669.4802

www.hollyhockleadership.org

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**A Workshop for the Sea to Sky Corridor:  
How to incorporate good management practices  
within our communities to ensure a vibrant healthy  
environment.  
February 19th-20th, Spruce Grove Field House  
Whistler, B.C.**

This workshop is primarily intended for municipal engineering, planning and public works employees, councillors, and administration. The workshop will also be of interest to anyone wanting to learn about land management practices that will ensure a healthy vibrant community. A "dim-sum" style series of presentations will demonstrate current practices in stormwater, flood management, and streamside protection. The goals are to provide practical information about best management practices for reducing development impacts on the landscape, and provide information on the most current Provincial



Legislation and changes to municipal responsibilities. The Resort Municipality of Whistler has generously agreed to host this workshop.

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The Species At Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery Conference
March 2-6, 2004. Victoria, British Columbia

The conference is being organized as a forum for learning, training, and technology and knowledge transfer between scientists, managers, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, aboriginal peoples, industry, academia, students and other interested individuals in the recovery of species and ecosystems at risk. The conference has four themes related to the conservation and recovery of species and ecosystems at risk

- The Science of Recovery
- The Mechanics and Logistics of Recovery
- The Human Face of Recovery and Stewardship
- Successes and Challenges: Lessons from the Field

The preliminary conference program is posted to the conference website at:
<http://www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/html/agenda.html>
. An updated version will be posted at the end of January. A major change is that the conference's welcome and opening address now begins at 8:00am on Wednesday, March 3, 2004 instead of at 8:30am.

The species at risk on March 2, 2004 is now full. A limited waiting list was established and is now also full.

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**Creating Prosperous, Livable Communities: A Strategic Forum**

*Hosted by SMART GROWTH BC*  
**March 5, 2004, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Empire Landmark Hotel, 1400 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC

This forum will: Demonstrate that economic development and smart growth are complimentary and synergistic, highlight models of how economic development and smart growth practitioners can work collaboratively in the creation of prosperous, livable communities, and provide participants with practical tools and techniques they can immediately use to accelerate

the integration of smart growth and economic development in their communities.

**Registration Fee:** \$150.00 (+GST). For more information or pre-registration contact Shane Simpson [shane@smartgrowth.bc.ca](mailto:shane@smartgrowth.bc.ca) or see [http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3386](http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/index.cfm?Group_ID=3386)

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CONSULTATIONS FOR LEGAL LISTINGS: 2004

Recently, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated ten aquatic species in the Pacific region as at risk. Fisheries and Oceans Canada invites First Nations, stakeholders, interested organizations and individuals to a one day workshop to review the current designations under COSEWIC and provide feedback on species of interest to them.

In the interest of better coordinating consultative activities and better serving Canadians, efforts have been made to hold these sessions back-to-back with Rockfish Sustainability Strategy workshops, particularly in areas where rockfish conservation is a concern. Workshops yet to be held are listed below:

Richmond - Monday, February 2, Best Western, 7551 Westminster Highway

- SARA Legal Listings (9am - 3 pm)
- Rockfish/Lingcod (6:30 - 9:30pm)

Prince Rupert - Thursday, February 5 (6pm - 9:30 pm), Crest Hotel, 222 W. 1st Avenue

- SARA Legal Listings

Sechelt - Wednesday, February 4, Driftwood Inn, 5454 Trail Avenue

- Rockfish/Lingcod Sustainability Strategy (1:00 - 4:00pm)
- SARA Legal Listings (6pm - 9:30 pm)

Chilliwack - Thursday, February 5 (6pm - 9:30 pm), Best Western Rainbow Country, 43971 Industrial Way

- SARA Legal Listings

Kamloops - Monday, February 16, Days Inn, 1285 West Trans Canada Highway

- SARA Legal Listings (9am - 3:00 pm)

Check out the DFO website for more information:
http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/sara/listings_e.htm
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**Wildfire and Wildlife,**  
*public conference in Kamloops, BC,*  
**March 13-14, 2004**

Wildlife conservation and forest fire specialists to discuss the biological and management repercussions of the recent BC fires.

Topics on fire behaviour, fire ecology, fire prevention, wildlife ecology, habitat conservation, invasive species, restoration/rehabilitation, forests/grasslands health, fire ecology information and education, wildlife/fire interactions and wildlife rehabilitation. To submit abstracts for review and inclusion in the conference program, contact: Mary Ellen Grant, Manager

Education & Volunteer Centre

B.C. Wildlife Park, Box 698, Kamloops, BC V2C 5L7 Ph: 250.573.3242 Fax: 250.573.2406

E-Mail: [info@kamloopswildlife.org](mailto:info@kamloopswildlife.org)

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Sat., Mar. 20 - BC-Wide Working Forest Rallies
(rural communities and Vancouver)

Rallies against the privatization of public forests (Working Forest, Forestry Revitalization Act, raw log exports). Locations TBA

Sat., Mar. 27 - Victoria Legislature Rally

Major convergence and demonstration against the Working Forest Initiative with speakers, music, theatre at the Provincial Legislature. 12:00 - 2:00.

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**LAND TRUST AND STEWARDSHIP  
SEMINAR SERIES 2004**

**LTABC invites you to our annual Seminar  
Series, March 26-28, Cowichan Outdoor  
Education & Conference Centre**

Friday, March 26 - Cowichan Estuary Protected areas site visit & half day Seminar – Advanced Covenants, dinner, evening reports & networking  
March 27-28 Series of 4 concurrent seminars with themes of Conservation Options, Outreach & Organizational Management, Financial Solutions, Communications, Partnerships

See the inserted Registration Package or  
[www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca) for registration  
information or contact 250-538-0112  
[sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca](mailto:sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca)

**Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest  
Ecosystems**  
**May 3-7<sup>th</sup>, Fairbanks Alaska**

The Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research Program and the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) announce an international science conference on Climate-Disturbance Interactions in Boreal Forest Ecosystems to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska 3-7 May 2004 at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge. Abstract Submission Deadline: 1 November. For more information visit:

<http://www.lter.uaf.edu/ibfra/default.cfm>

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**People and the Planet: Changing Values for a
Sustainable Future**

May 14 2004 to May 16 2004 at the South Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Calgary, Alberta.

Speakers include Naomi Klein, Maude Barlow, David Orten, Andrew Nikiforuk, Ken Wiwa, Elizabeth May, Jerry Mander, and many others. Topics examined will include climate change, water, biodiversity, food safety and sustainable agriculture, faith, social justice, and many more.
**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION PACKAGES
AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 15, 2004.**
Contact: [Angela Rickman](mailto:Angela.Rickman@saitech.ca); tel: 1-888-810-4204.

Resources of Note:

Books, Guides, Reports

Report on Forests and Carbon Storage - Sierra Club of Canada has released a discussion paper on forests and carbon storage. Entitled *Forests, Climate Change and Carbon Reservoirs: Opportunities for Forest Conservation*, the report examines the potential contribution of forests and forest management towards mitigating climate change by storing carbon. The report or a 6-page summary can be downloaded from the Sierra Club of Canada's website. Questions or comments about this report should be addressed to Martin von Mirbach, (martinvm@sierraclub.ca) 613-241-4611. Hard copies of the 25-pg full report are available at a cost of \$15 (in US dollars) from the Sierra Club of Canada, 1-412 Nicholas Street, Ottawa Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7.

Building Organizational Capacity

The Sustainability Network offers a number of free resources that can help build organizational capacity. See their website <http://sustain.web.ca/cbt/commguide.htm> for information that is available on line, referrals to other capacity building organizations and links to content-rich, NGO management web sites. They also offer a free newsletter with updates of on their workshops and documents. Currently available is ***Getting the Message Out: A Step By Step Communications Guide for Environmentalists***, designed to help groups focus their communications efforts. It contains chapters on strategic communications planning, researching public opinion, message development, media relations, print materials and web strategies. To see the table of contents and first chapter, go to "What's New" at <http://sustain.web.ca> and click through. A professionally bound copy by mail is \$25.00 or you can obtain an electronic copy (PDF file) for \$10. To obtain your copy, send a cheque along with your email and mailing address to: Sustainability Network, 615 Yonge Street, Suite 501, Toronto, ON, M4Y 1Z5.

Conservation Finance Guide is available from the Conservation Finance Alliance. The CD-ROM Conservation Finance Guide, a replica of their Web site <http://www.conservationfinance.org>, has been reprinted and a copy can be obtained free of charge from the Ramsar Secretariat. Write to Ramsar's Senior Trade and Development Advisor Alain Lambert, lambert@ramsar.org.

Useful Guides to Landscaping with Native Vegetation

Here are several web-based materials on landscaping with native vegetation and controlling erosion.

A Property Owner's Guide to Controlling Erosion Using Native Vegetation for Arrow Lakes
http://www.cbfishwildlife.org/reports/teaser.php?report_id=368
Streamside Re-vegetation Manual
http://members.shaw.ca/nativeplants/streamside_revegetation.html

Soil Bioengineering Techniques for Riparian Restoration

<http://www.terraerosion.com/pdf/bio.pdf>

On the Living Edge – Your Handbook for Waterfront Living is available at bulk rates for community-based groups. Contact shorelines@jetstream.net, or download the order form at www.livingbywater.ca.

Primer on the Technologies of Renewable Energy

The easy-to-read, informative primer is a handy reference guide to learn more about what renewable energy is and how various technologies work to capture the energy of water, wind, biomass, the sun and the earth. Hard copies of are on sale for \$20 per copy. A limited number of FREE copies of the PRIMER ON THE TECHNOLOGIES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY are available to CEN members by contacting [Elizabeth Everhardus](mailto:Elizabeth.Everhardus@ec.gc.ca)

Pollution Probe's new Primer on the Technologies of Renewable Energy is now available online at

www.pollutionprobe.org/Publications/Primers.htm
This informative 81-page educational booklet has been developed to promote greater public understanding of the potential for shifting Canada's energy generation sources to cleaner and less greenhouse gas-intensive technologies.

Useful Resource Websites

Keep Current on BC Government Actions

regarding the environment and get a punchy synopsis of the government's record at

<http://www.bcfacts.org/>

An accounting of governmental environmental decisions, both positive and negative, can be found on this web site which also contains links to more information including links to government releases -<http://www.bcfacts.org/>

New Watershed planning website & forum

<http://www.bcwatersheds.org/issues/water/bcgwlp/>

Ecosystem Valuation - This website describes how economists value the beneficial ways that ecosystems affect people.

(<http://www.ecosystemvaluation.org/>)

Mapping study of Canada's large intact forest landscapes - Global Forest Watch Canada has released the results of its multiyear mapping study of Canada's large intact forest landscapes, using high resolution satellite imagery, ancillary data, GIS, expert consultations and field verifications. Check the following website - globalforestwatch.org/english/index.htm.

A good example of social marketing from the Sierra Club, USA.
<http://sierraclubmedia.net/flash/h2revise.html>
and <http://gis.americanforests.org/dc/>

Endangered species vignettes on the web
Hinterland Who's Who announced yesterday it's new direction to "reflect today's environmental reality." Their website has new vignettes -- on the common loon, monarch butterfly, polar bear and leatherback sea turtle -- focus almost entirely on the message that these are species at risk from pollution and human crowding, and we'd better take action to save them or they'll become extinct. To that end, many of the new Hinterland series switch the camera away from the animals and into an urban setting, where a young narrator explains to children the importance of protecting these animals. There are 30-second vignettes designed for adults, and 60-second ones for children. The vignettes are available at <http://www.bcfacts.org/>.

A major online library from the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. Each document is linked to the organisation who produced it, including the CEN. Documents can be accessed at <http://www.wssd-and-civil-society.org/>
Contact [Tom Bigg](#), [IIED](#): or [Pieter van der Gaag](#), [ANPED](#) for more information.

Newsletter and Organizational Resources

New Grassroots Newsletter - The Dominion, Canada's Grassroots National Newsletter contains timely links from around the web, original research and commentary, and a daily compilation of news missed by mainstream Canada. To subscribe for an email notification of each bi-weekly issue see <http://www.dominionpaper.ca/>.

The BC Environmental Network (BCEN) database can be used to find like thinking groups in a particular geographical or issue area. See <http://www.bcen.bc.ca/> or contact: Beverly Tanchak, Executive Director, tel: (604)879-2279 ext. 303 fax: (604)879-2272, email: btanchak@bcen.bc.ca,
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**Boreal Forest Action Centre** - Wildcanada.net is a national conservation organization that helps Canadians protect wildlands and wildlife by combining grassroots organizing with sophisticated on-line action centers. Wildcanada is expanding its Boreal Forest Program through the creation of a nation-wide Boreal Forest Action Centre, working in partnership with other conservation groups, First Nations and community groups from across Canada. For more information on the Action Centres in their Save BC Parks Action Centre see <http://www.savebcparks.net/>.  
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Legal Resources Available

West Coast Environmental Law launches new web site for watershed activists. The [BC Guide to Watershed Law and Policy](#) provides community groups and lawyers with a comprehensive guide to protecting BC watersheds. The B.C. Guide to Watershed Law and Planning
The West Coast Environmental Law also provides legal services to ENGOs and others working on environmental issues. Their staff lawyers can answer questions about legal tools that are available to protect the environment, or other legal issues that may arise in the context of environmental work. If you have a complicated legal problem and actually need to retain a lawyer to act on your behalf or to provide an in-depth legal opinion, they also administer the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF). The EDRF provides funds for ENGOs and individuals working on environmental issues to retain a private lawyer to work at a legal aid rate (\$80/hr) on helping to resolve an environmental dispute. EDRF funded clients have used their lawyers in a variety of ways, from assisting in negotiations to representing the client in court. More information about the EDRF, is available at <http://www.wcel.org/> or contact Andrew Gage at #1001-207 West Hastings St. 1 Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7 1 Tel. (604) 601-2506 1 Fax. (604) 684-1312
Assistance with environmental assessments - Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) has

formed a new Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus committee to provide advice to groups interested in taking environmental assessment-related legal actions. Requests for advice would be shared among the members of the committee. Please send your EA-related legal issue to Martha Kostuch, (martha@rttinc.com) or Jannis Klein, (jannis@cen-rce.org) Caucus Coordinator. The Committee would also be interested in circulating news of upcoming projects that are in the very early phases of development.

The United Nations Environment Programme is the environmental voice of the UN family. With its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, it has 650 staff and a budget of approximately \$US80 million per year. Its activities include environmental monitoring and assessment, development of policy instruments and law, awareness raising and information exchange, capacity and institutional building, and technical assistance. For more information, please visit www.uneptie.org.
Contacts: Jason Anderson
j.anderson@conservation.org (202) 912-1464,
Pamela Moyer p.moyer@conservation.org
(202) 912-1294

The Office Paper Buying Club is now offering monthly orders and on line ordering at www.rfu.org/buying or phone Paper Choice at 1-800-567-4055.

Protecting ALR Farmland

A group of concerned BC citizens has set up a web-site on this issue. The group is called "BC Farmland Watch". They are associated with Farm Folk / City Folk. This group has been primarily focused on urban issues like food security and sustainable food systems, rather than rural issues like farm profitability, but they are trying hard to link the two halves of our very diverse agricultural communities.

The BCIA role rests with our need to ensure scientific expertise is truly expert. The link is in trying to ensure that opinions expressed on soil capability and agricultural options is backed up by good science, or challenged when the science can't be defended.

<http://www.ffcf.bc.ca/BCFarmlandWatch.html>

New Investigative News Service For ENGOS In BC And Beyond

Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) introduces you to "A Reliable Source," a news service designed to increase the depth and breadth of environmental reporting in BC. The BC-wide poll IMPACS conducted this past spring revealed that the public is simply not receiving information about pressing environmental issues. Part of the problem is dramatic newsroom budget cuts that make it increasingly difficult for reporters to put in the required time to research stories.

To assist with up front research for reporters and editors, "A Reliable Source" will regularly provide select BC and national reporters with three or four story ideas from the conservation and environmental beat. We'll offer a brief summary of the main story elements plus contacts for further follow-up and other information links. We are grateful to the Brainerd Foundation for their support of this pilot project.

We are looking for submissions in the following categories:

- * Tips on brand new, never before covered stories, or updates on the latest twists and turns with respect to ongoing public policy debates.
 - * Stories behind the story: scandals, smoking guns, what's really happening behind the closed doors on environmental issues.
 - * Something surprising: interesting details on environmental stories most people -- even environmentalists -- wouldn't expect!
 - * Personal profiles: someone who makes a difference behind the scenes.
 - * Reality check: information that puts a current news story in perspective.
 - * Green business: corporate solutions to environmental problems.
 - * Outlook: what reporters should pencil into their calendars in the weeks and months to come -- anniversaries, conferences, decision-making timelines. Plus tips to help plan future coverage.
- To make a story submission or to see the first version of "A Reliable Source," drop an email to Mary MacNutt at marym@impacs.org

Funding Sources:

Funding for Historic Preservation

Parks Canada is offering financial incentives to eligible commercial [historic places](#) listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places (provided that conservation work complies with the Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada) in order to: save threatened historic properties from demolition or destruction; preserve historic properties for future generations through proper conservation; and develop new or enhance existing commercial purposes for historic properties within the community..

More information is available at http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/plp-hpp/plp-hpp2a_E.asp

Funding For Urban Aquatic Habitats

Evergreen in partnership with Unilever Canada recently announced a new grant program for community groups engaged in the restoration and stewardship of Canada's urban aquatic habitats. The Unilever-Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship Grant will provide grants of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 to support community-driven, partnership projects. Application deadline is February 23, 2004. For more information, please visit Evergreen's Web site <http://www.evergreen.ca/>, or contact Stewart Chisholm, Evergreen Common Grounds at 416-596-1495 ext. 34; Toll Free: 1-888-426-3138.

Home Energy Efficiency Grants

For information on the federal Home Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants see <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses-maisons/english/homeowners/grant/grant.cfm>. Answers to common questions on these grants are available at: <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses-maisons/english/homeowners/grant/question.cfm>

Knowledge Development Centre's 2004 Research Grants

The Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) aims to promote Canadians' participation in and contributions to their society. The CVI is funding three national centres including the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. The CCP is pleased to

announce the Knowledge Development Centre's 2004 research grant competition. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, February 13, 2004**. Applying for a Research Grant, <http://www.kdc-cdc.ca/display.aspx?pid=35&cid=35>

North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) created the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) in 1995 as a means to fund community-based projects in Canada, Mexico and the United States that promote the goals and objectives of the CEC. Last year \$671,700 was granted. The next funding deadline will likely be **March 31, 2004**. For information see

<http://www.cec.org/grants/about/index.cfm?varlan=english>

News:

First Some Good News:

Citigroup And RAN Reach Agreement

After four years of grassroots mobilization, Rainforest Network declared victory in its campaign to transform the environmental practices of the world's largest financial institution, Citigroup.

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The release of "Citigroup New Environmental Initiatives"

([www.citigroup.com/citigroup/citizen/environmental](http://www.citigroup.com/citigroup/citizen/environmental)) raises the bar for the financial sector in areas related to deforestation and indigenous rights, endangered ecosystems and no-go zones, greenhouse gases and climate destabilization, and clean energy and sustainable development.

Rainforest Action Network today also sent letters to ten of the most destructive U.S. banks challenging them to catch up with modern social values and "meet or beat" Citigroup's policies. Paul West, Communications Director

[pwest@ran.org](mailto:pwest@ran.org)

Rainforest Action Network [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org) (415) 398-4404, x319

## **Western Priority: Ecology, Not Taxes Findings of Exclusive Survey**

*Excerpts from an article by Ian Bailey of the National Post*

The new poll of Western opinion produced by the non-partisan Canada West Foundation found that people in the four Western provinces care most about health care and discouraging young people from moving away from the region. But Loleen Berdahl, research director for the Calgary-based think-tank, said the poll also suggests almost two-thirds of Western Canadians rank environmental protection as a high priority -- even in Alberta -- and lowering taxes was the lowest priority among those surveyed.

Across the West, environmental protection was ranked as a high priority by 64.1% of those surveyed. That figure was almost as high -- 63.6% -- in Alberta, which has been ground zero in the debate over the implementation of Canada's commitments to the Kyoto accord to reduce greenhouse gases. The survey, titled **Looking West 2003**, asked respondents to rank 13 policy fields, attaching to each a high priority, medium priority, low priority or not a priority label. Across the West, the top priorities were: Improving the health care system (74%); retaining young people (67.6%); protecting the environment (64.1%); supporting rural industries (61.9%) and improving the K-12 education system (59.5%).

Top Five 'High Priorities' British Columbia: 1) Health: 77.6% , 2) Youth: 67.3%, 3) Environment: 66.1%, 4) Rural: 65.1%, 5) K-12 education: 62.5%

## **Polluter Pays Upheld by Supreme Court** *From Friends of the Earth Canada*

In a landmark decision that will have ramifications across the country, the Supreme Court of Canada recently released a decision in a case concerning the clean up of a contaminated site in Levis, Quebec. In its decision, the Court upheld crucial government powers to protect the environment and public health by ordering polluters to clean up their contaminated sites. In so doing, the court has reinforced the importance of ensuring that polluters, and not the community, bear the full cost of cleaning up contaminated brownfield sites.

A key concern was the need to preserve the "polluter pays" approach to environmental protection in Canada. The polluter pays principle is internationally recognized as a key element of environmental regulation. Friends of the Earth Canada would be interested in hearing from any other group working on clean-up of contaminated sites in their province or municipality and who might like to work with them on using this decision. For further information please contact: Beatrice Olivastri, Friends of the Earth Canada, (613) 241-0085 extension 26.

## **Now Back to the Other News:** **One Million Species Under Threat**

More than a million species of plants and animals, representing a quarter of all life on land, are at risk of extinction within 50 years, according to a new scientific study.

The study has revealed the main culprit of the biodiversity threat is the production of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, by cars and industry that effectively trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, causing global warming.  
<http://www9.sbs.com.au/theworldnews/region.php?id=76466&region=3>

## **Melting Ice Caps Will Submerge Cities, Report Warns**

Measures called for by the Kyoto Protocol are far too weak to prevent the melting of ice caps and other consequences of global warming, according to a new report released (see [http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu\\_sn2003\\_engl.html](http://www.wbgu.de/wbgu_sn2003_engl.html)) at a meeting in Milan of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The report, produced by the German Advisory Council on Global Change, warns that even if the protocol comes into force, it will have only a "marginal attenuating effect" on climate change and measures at least four times stronger than Kyoto are needed to prevent "dangerous climatic changes."

If the world's average temperature rises more than 2 degrees Celsius, the study says, the West Antarctic ice sheet and the Greenland ice cap would start to melt away. It's not the increase in



water that is concerning but the overall increase in ocean temperature. A warmer molecule moves around more, thus the water molecules will move around more, causing the level to rise because the water molecules will in effect be 'standing up'. This will increase sea levels worldwide by up to 30 feet. Most affected will be tropical regions where some cities are 1 or 2 meters from sea level. There are tropical countries where this is a threat today.

To prevent such a disaster, the report advises that industrialized countries would have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 percent by 2020, and by up to 60 percent by mid-century. The Kyoto Protocol would cut emissions by only 5 percent by 2012 at best, the report says. Global emissions, meanwhile, are on track to increase by as much as 75 percent by 2020, according to former U.K. Environment Minister Michael Meacher (Geoffrey Lean, London Independent, Dec. 7).

On Friday, scientists told reporters at the Milan conference that Western Europe may get colder as a result of global warming, because the melting Arctic ice cap is cooling the warm ocean current that is largely responsible for Europe's mild weather. A similar warning came Saturday from an Indian scientist, who said that "If the warming continues, there will be about half to one meter increase in sea level by 2020 and cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras will be completely submerged," said Rajiv Nigam, who works at the Geological Oceanography Division in the western state of Goa.

#### **Renewed Mandate for Minister Anderson**

Canada's new Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, had re-appointed the Honourable David Anderson as Canada's Minister of the Environment.

In addition to his responsibilities for the Department of the Environment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Prime Minister Martin has asked Minister Anderson to manage a broadened portfolio which includes the Parks Canada Agency, the Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corporation, the Canada Lands Corporation Limited, and Queen's Quay.

A new Minister of State for Infrastructure, the Honourable Andy Scott, and the Honourable Serge Marcil, Parliamentary Secretary with special emphasis on Parks, will join Minister Anderson in achieving the objectives of the portfolio.

Reflecting the new Government's commitment to sustainable development, the Prime Minister has also struck a new Cabinet Committee on Domestic Affairs that will take an integrated approach to social, economic, and environmental policy. Minister Anderson will be a member of this committee as well.

#### **Dhaliwal Announces Government Climate Change Initiative**

A Government of Canada investment announced will help Canada respond to climate change. The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, made the announcement of a \$20- million contribution to the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment initiative.

The initiative represents the Government of Canada's initial action toward using primarily fast-growing hardwood trees to address climate change. The funding is part of the \$1 billion announced by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on August 12, 2003, under the Climate Change Plan for Canada, to stimulate and complement actions on climate change by individual Canadians, industry, business, governments and communities.

Under the initiative, options will be developed to attract investments into fast-growing tree plantations to encourage the planting of trees on non-forested rural lands. Such plantations can contribute to helping Canada meet its target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change..

**For ideas and actions to reduce individual contributions to Climate Change see [www.climatechangesolutions.co.in](http://www.climatechangesolutions.co.in)**

## Canadian Forest Fires Increasing

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports the following statistics regarding the number of hectares burned through forest fires in Canada this year:

| Year | Total Cost      | Average Hectares per Fire | Average Cost per Hectare |
|------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2002 | \$37.5 million  | 4.8                       | \$4,370                  |
| 2001 | \$53.8 million  | 7.6                       | \$5,560                  |
| 2000 | \$52.7 million  | 11.5                      | \$2,982                  |
| 1999 | \$21.1 million  | 9.6                       | \$1,819                  |
| 1998 | \$153.9 million | 28.7                      | \$2,009                  |
| 1997 | \$19.0 million  | 2.5                       | \$6,412                  |
| 1996 | \$37.1 million  | 15.2                      | \$1,794                  |
| 1995 | \$38.5 million  | 7.4                       | \$800                    |
| 1994 | \$90.9 million  | 32.6                      | \$2,999                  |
| 1993 | \$25.2 million  | 3.5                       | \$4,860                  |
| 1992 | \$69.7 million  | 8.0                       | \$2,289                  |

Average \* 2007.4 25,316 \$56.4 million 12.7

Considering that the average is 25,316 hectares; this year's total of more than 250,000 hectares (with total expenditures more than \$500 million and property damage costs almost that much) is certainly an aberration that has been predicted by climate experts. The following statistics of total hectares burned in Canada per decade shows a distinct trend (seven spikes in the last two decades) that matches climate change expert predictions:

Source:

<http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/21962-en.html>

**Two GM crops face ban for damaging wildlife -**  
*Excerpts from an article by Paul Brown and John Vidal that appeared in The Guardian on October 17, 2003*

Two GM varieties, oil-seed rape and sugar beet, face a Europe-wide ban after long-awaited field-scale trials showed that the crops damaged wildlife, and would have a serious long-term effect on bee, butterfly and bird populations.

Three years of trials growing GM crops alongside conventional crops, the largest field study undertaken, has provided a legal basis for banning

the two crops under European Union rules, which say that either health or environmental detriment must be proved.

In the case of conventional oil-seed rape, five times as many weed seeds survived, providing food for birds like skylarks, than in the GM field. The results were uniform across the country, giving Professor Chris Pollock, chairman of the scientific panel, confidence that the results would be the same across all of Europe.

David Gibbons, another panel member, said the results were "unexpectedly dramatic. There were very big differences, three to five times more seeds, for example. There will be less food for birds if [the GM crops] are grown commercially".

Ministers were cautious although Elliot Morley, the environment minister, said the results showed "GM crops had severe implications for wild birds". The government would await advice from the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acre) but he said: "I cannot see any European government ignoring these results and their affect on wildlife."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/life/news/story/0,1297,6,1065336,00.html>

**Right-to-farm Law Change Makes it Easier to Establish B.C. fish farms**  
*Canadian Press*

On Tuesday, October 21, 2003, the B.C. government passed changes to the province's right-to-farm laws that the New Democrats say will make it easier to establish new fish farms even if local governments are against it. Bill 48 extends right-to-farm legislation to include aquaculture. Fisheries Minister John van Dongen said the amendment would only be used as a "last resort" and would apply to local governments that are not dealing with agriculture or aquaculture in what he called a reasonable manner. Van Dongen said in certain circumstances, the changes will allow cabinet to designate potential areas for aquaculture. "It makes aquaculture parallel with agriculture in terms of how it works out in practice and it is necessary to make this change to provide an opportunity for access for the aquaculture industry," Van Dongen said during

debate on the amendment.

"It does not allow government to simply impose regulations in that area, but it allows the provincial government to make a designation that says there is opportunity here to apply for an aquaculture licence."

But NDP Leader Joy MacPhail said the amendment is much more significant than the government is letting on and she accused van Dongen of offering it as a pay-off to the fish farming industry. "The act, in its entirety now, does allow this government to guarantee access for the aquaculture industry at the expense of the local government," said MacPhail. "No matter how much the minister wants to deny who he's serving by this legislation, he is serving the interests of the aquaculture industry through expansion at the expense of local government."

#### **Updates From The Charities And Democracy Project**

Under current law charities can use only 10 percent of their resources for advocacy to advance their charitable purposes. As a result, charities are limited in how they can participate in the public policy debates on the issues they serve. Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) has been working since 2000 to achieve a consensus among charitable groups on how the law should be changed.

The Voluntary Sector Forum joined with the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy (CCP) and the IMPACS in responding to the new Canada Customs and Revenue Agency guidelines on charities and advocacy. On October 7th, 2003 the three groups issued a press release, now available for viewing on the Forum's website at <http://www.voluntary-sector.ca/>. Also available on the website is a letter to Elinor Caplan, Minister of National Revenue written in response to the new CCRA guidelines. The document is entitled Policy Statement: Political Activities, reference number CPS-022. Find it at <http://www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/tax/charities/policy/cps/cps-022-e.html>.

IMPACS's view is that the final version of the document contains minor editorial improvements over the draft version released in January 2003 and that the problems identified in their February 2003

letter to Minister Caplan have not been satisfactorily addressed in the final version of the document. You can download their letter to Minister Caplan at

[http://www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group\\_ID=2662](http://www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group_ID=2662)

IMPAC will make materials available for your use in local communities but recommend that you review the new guidelines to reach independent conclusions on their adequacy. Also, the IMPACS/CCP document "Charities: Enhancing Democracy in Canada" has been updated and reprinted and can download the second edition from the IMPACS website at

[http://www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group\\_ID=2662](http://www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group_ID=2662)

#### **World Parks Congress Report**

Held once every 10 years, the World Parks Congress allows conservationists, resource managers, scientists, civil servants and business leaders to exchange experiences, and establish a common agenda. Many new protected areas were announced at the conference in countries such as Madagascar, Senegal, and Brazil, covering well over 200,000 square kilometers.

The Durban Accord is the primary outreach product of the Congress - and it expresses great concern for the Earth's natural areas. The delegates are concerned about the three billion people on Earth who live in poverty, and declared, "We will forge synergy between conservation, the maintenance of vital life support systems, and sustainable development. Protected areas are, for us, a vital means of carrying out this synergy with effectiveness and in a profitable way," delegates said in the Accord.

An important outcome of the conference for South Africa is the government's announcement of new legislation that will exempt all formally protected areas from land taxes known as "rates." Six Latin American countries have joined forces with IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Conservation International, the Ford Foundation, and local partners to preserve the highland route known as the Great Inca Trail. Spanning Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile and Colombia, the network of protected areas will conserve the cultural and natural heritage of the ancient empire

and sustain the livelihoods of Andean communities. In Brazil, the state of Amapá announced the creation of a 10 million hectare biodiversity corridor that covers 71 percent of the state, an area slightly larger than Portugal..

IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and WWF International announced at the Congress that they have joined forces to establish a Global Fire Partnership that aims to prevent the kind of destructive forest fires that raged throughout North America, Europe and other parts of the world this past summer.

### **US Judge Orders National Government to Reassess Orcas Status**

*Excerpted from article By Peggy Andersen, Associated Press Thursday, December 18, 2003*

SEATTLE — A U.S federal judge ordered the U.S. government to rethink its finding that Washington state's struggling orca population is not significant and does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The National Marine Fisheries Service last year listed killer whales in Puget Sound as depleted but not endangered, a move that protected individual orcas but not their habitat. U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik rejected that finding Wednesday, calling it speculative and unsupported. He also said the fisheries service did not use the best available science when it based its decision on the health of the global orca population rather than the local population.

"The judge has given the Puget Sound killer whales the best Christmas gift they could have been afforded," said Fred Felleman of Orca Conservancy, one of six plaintiffs represented by the Center for Biological Diversity and Earthjustice.

Fisheries service spokesman Brian Gorman said officials had not decided whether to appeal the ruling, which gives the agency a year to reconsider its decision. The fisheries service also must consider whether the orcas are endangered over a significant part of their range, Lasnik ruled, a factor that was not considered last year. The Puget Sound orca population numbers 84, down from an

unknown high that the plaintiffs suggested could have topped 200 at one time.

### **IN BC – PCB's increasing especially in orcas and seals**

A report released last month by the US environmental group Oceana found that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) had reached alarming high levels in ten animal species, including orcas, seals, polar bears and sea eagles. Northwest orcas were the second highest with PCB's showing up at 60 times the level when serious health effects begin to appear.

Canada signed the Stockholm Convention first, (aimed at curbing "persistent organic pollutants") but action to stop the untreated primary wastewater plants discharging from the two major population centres in BC continues to flow.

### **Levels of PCB's in the**

BC guidelines is 0 .1.

California guideline is 1.019

Clover, Macauley Point (Victoria) is 16

Iona plan (Vancouver) is 16.3

Environment minister David Anderson does have authority under federal legislation to prevent PCB's from being discharged. Regulations have yet to be set.

### **Study of Impact of Tourism on Biological Diversity**

Washington, DC/Durban, South Africa - Tourism has increased by more than 100 percent between 1990 and 2000 in the world's biodiversity hotspots, regions richest in species and facing extreme threats, according to a report released by Conservation International (CI) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Tourism and Biodiversity: Mapping Tourism's Global Footprint is the most comprehensive study of its kind focusing on the impacts of tourism on biological diversity. Over the past decade, tourism has increased by more than 2000 percent in both Laos and Cambodia, nearly 500 percent in South Africa, over 300 percent in the countries of Brazil, Nicaragua and El Salvador, and 128 percent in the Dominican Republic.



Tourism generates 11 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP), employs 200 million people and transports nearly 700 million international travelers per year - a figure that is expected to double by 2020. It is considered one of the largest, if not the largest, industries on the planet. With nature and adventure travel one of the fastest-growing segments within the tourism industry, the Earth's most fragile, high biodiversity areas are where most of that expansion will likely take place. While tourism has the potential to provide opportunities for conserving nature, tourism development, when done improperly, can be a major threat to biodiversity.

"Tourism has huge potential for good or evil. It is in everyone's interest, particularly the industry's, that the economic power of 21st century tourism is harnessed for the benefit of local people and wildlife," said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP. "Tourism relies on stable and healthy communities and environments. It cannot ruin the very wildlife and landscapes the visitors pay to see and then move on. Fortunately, there are many examples where tourism has balanced the needs of the industry with the needs of wildlife and people."

Tourism and Biodiversity: Mapping Tourism's Global Footprint includes maps that chart tourism's growth across the planet's most biodiversity rich environments and provides guidelines for governments, private businesses, donor organizations and local communities for supporting more sustainable tourism development. High quality images and maps are available on request.

#### ~~~~~ **Trans Canada Trail – Trestles decked**

Twelve BC Trestles were destroyed in the fires this summer, but with the decking of three trestles between Christina Lake and Grand Forks completed, another section of the Tran Canada Trail was declared officially open. The mammoth task of decking and railing the trestle in this pristine location has been a joint effort between the 21 Engineer Regiment, based in Osnabruck, Germany, the Canadian 55<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer Squadron in Trail, Trails BC, the Christina Lake

Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Forks Community Trails Society, plus many funders and contributors. (from Trail Talk, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

#### ~~~~~ **More Trail news: Campaign Tips from TLC**

The Land Conservancy recently decided to purchase land between two regional parks, to create the Thetis Lake to Mount Work Trail Connector. After some unsuccessful attempts to attain major donor assistance, they went to the local media for help. With three weeks to acquire the needed funds, they went to media partners in the Capital Region and the Times Colonist, gaining significant publicity which earned them half the needed amount. Then they went to a local running association, and received more donations, considering the use the trail would have for their members. Then with one day to go, they went to a local radio station, who hosted a "telethon fundraiser" for one hour during their afternoon show. They still needed to raise \$90,000. As the telethon got underway, the response from the public was so successful, that CFAX abandoned the rest of their programming and dedicated the entire three-hour show to the telethon. Both CH and the NEW VI, carried the story on their evening news, and one minute prior to the show ending, the last needed donation was received!  
***What a great campaign! Congratulations TLC***

#### **Late Breaking Events on Saltspring Island *Presented by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy***

***Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Kathy Reimer on Salmon Enhancement***

***March 12<sup>th</sup> David Hancock on Eagles***

***April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bob Burgess on Water Catchment Systems***

***May 18<sup>th</sup>, SSIC AGM & Emily Gonzales Explains her thesis on Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve***

***June 18<sup>th</sup>, Jan Kirkby Sensitive Ecosystems on Saltspring Island***

**For further details call SSIC 250-538-0318**

### ***Con't from the inside front cover***

We are continually expanding and upgrading our promotional and information materials. We provide support and consultations to our member land trusts, government, and the general public. Our main event is the annual Seminar Series, which is a huge job and our opportunity to meet, update our skills, learn from each other, and network on future projects and issues. We look forward to seeing you at this year's event March 26<sup>th</sup> in Lake Cowichan.

In these difficult times we all need to pull together to continue building a strong and dynamic land trust movement in British Columbia. At LTABC we are doing what we can to meet the needs of our members, and with continued support and cooperation from all of you, we can continue.

### ***Funding for the Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Project***

Islands Trust  
Islands Trust Fund  
Environment Canada,  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Georgia Basin Ecosystem  
Initiative & Action Plan  
The Hamber Foundation  
The Real Estate  
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Columbia  
Ministry of Community  
Development,  
Cooperatives and  
Volunteers  
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A GIS BASED WEB SITE DISPLAYING THE NATURAL AND  
CULTURAL SITES PROTECTED  
BY BC'S LAND TRUSTS AND CONSERVANCIES

- Maps of British Columbia displaying Lands owned or Conservation covenants held by Land Trusts & Conservancies
- Maps of Federal, Provincial & Regional parks overlaid
- Regional Maps displaying a list of properties protected by Ecoregions
- Property Summary Pages detailing the protected values
- Provincial Statistics covering the values, red-listed species and areas protected (now over 180,000hectares listed!)
- Protected Red-listed species details including habitats

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