

The Kingfisher



Volume 10, Winter/Spring - January, 2005



helping to protect our natural and cultural diversity for all time

LTA The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

*dedicated to the stewardship and
conservation of natural and
cultural heritage through support
of land trusts, conservancies and
others. We provide education,
research, communication and
financial services.*

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Volume 10, January 2005

Members: free, extras \$2.00 each
Public copies: \$3.50
See back inside back cover for ad
rates and funding partners

Ad and article deadlines: July
31st and December 31st

Cover image: *Myths of Kuper
Island*, photo of carved cedar
panel, by Herb Rice. This map is
part of the Islands in the Salish
Sea Atlas



Message from the Chair, Eileen Palmer

Welcome to 2005! I hope a New Year's resolution for all is to raise millions of dollars and to save thousands of acres of important areas. I know mine is: that and to drink less chardonnay, to exercise more, to eat better, to save the planet...

With another year we will face some challenges, but hopefully more successes. Touched upon in this issue of the *Kingfisher* are two articles based on outcomes from challenges land trusts may have faced in the last year. The Media article is directly relevant considering some negative, potentially land-trust harming press that occurred. The second important relevant issue is on LTA Standards and Practices.

In, "Getting Positive Media Attention...how to make any attention good attention" Erika discusses how to counter and react to negative press. As land trusts become more known, and our conservation tools widely accepted, we must ensure we continue to operate in a professional manner.

LTABC's voluntary dependable Standards & Practices, endorsed by several land trusts, provide policies, methods and practices for land trusts to operate in a professional manner. Though it is important for many of us to retain an inclusive, grassroots approach to our organisations, it is now more crucial than ever to balance that approach with professional and competent operations. The Standards and Practices addresses issues such as insurance, compliance covenant monitoring and liabilities (board, volunteers and staff).

The formation of a National Coalition for land trusts in Canada is taking shape. Currently, there is a representative from each province on the Coalition's Steering Committee. The Coalition is also developing a set of Standards & Practices for Canadian Land Trusts and expects land trust boards to adopt them. LTABC is working on these revised and updated national Standards & Practices. We hope you will respond to the drafts we will be sending you with your own views and suggestions

This year's LTA Seminar Series is being held in Naramata (15 minutes from Penticton for those non-Okanagan-centric). We have a solid line up of seminars and a two day baseline inventory workshop as well as a full session on the draft new version of Standards & Practices, a session I sincerely hope you will all consider attending. I look forward to sharing a bottle of chardonnay with many familiar faces and to clink glasses with new faces. There goes that New Year's resolution.

All the best to you in 2005!
Eileen Palmer

Current Campaigns



Salt Spring Island Conservancy leads drive to complete protection of Mt. Erskine – by Karen Hudson

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) is seeking financial support to acquire a beautiful and strategically important parcel of land on Salt Spring Island. This will complete the protection of a large, contiguous, undeveloped area of up to 240 ha (600 acres), including an extended trail network throughout the Mount Erskine area.

The land consists of 40 ha (100 acres) of open coastal Douglas-fir and arbutus forest on Mount Erskine. A key feature of the property is that it occupies the summit of Mount Erskine (448 m), the highest point of land in the northern part of Salt Spring Island. It is surrounded on three sides by lands already protected by public ownership and/or conservation covenants.

The protection of the natural and recreational resources of the property and the Mount Erskine area has long been of interest to the landowner, the local community, and the Islands Trust, which already owns a 22 ha (56-acre) parcel of land nearby and is partnering the SSIC in this endeavour. In 2002, the SSIC itself acquired about 20 ha (50 acres) of neighbouring land, which is also protected with a conservation covenant. The purchase of the property will be another important step in achieving the vision of the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership, a coalition initiated by the SSIC to protect the green space values of the largest undeveloped area on Salt Spring Island. The property will form the northern part of a corridor of protected lands stretching from Mount Tuam in the south and including Hope Hill, Mount Bruce, Mount Sullivan, Burgoyne Bay, and Mount Maxwell.



West view from ridge, Mt. Erskine

The ecological value of this property is recognised by both the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory, a project of the Conservation Data Centre, and by the recent Islands Trust ecosystem map of Salt Spring Island. The following sensitive ecosystems were mapped on the property: older forest (conifer-dominated ecosystems with an average tree age of 100 years or greater), terrestrial-herbaceous (open wildflower meadows and grassy hilltops), older second-growth forest (coniferous dominated stand with an average tree age between 60 and 100 years).

Additional sensitive ecosystems present on the property include sparsely vegetated ecosystems (inland cliffs and bluffs where vegetation is discontinuous, interspersed with exposed bedrock); mature coastal Douglas-fir forest; wetlands; and Maxwell Creek, which runs through the southwest corner of the property and adjacent riparian areas.

Of special interest is the fact that this property is the centre of the largest habitat for hairy manzanita on Salt Spring Island. Hairy manzanita is a relatively rare shrub in the Gulf Islands and is found in dry, sunny spots such as rocky outcrops and rocky slopes. The hairy manzanita occurs in conjunction with arbutus, creating significant areas of this rare plant community.

The property provides spectacular views to the west and north over Stuart Channel from Mt. Erskine's summit and western ridge. Of special benefit is the significant size of the parcel. It will complete the public ownership of much of Mount Erskine, creating a large open area for passive, recreational use in the more populous north end of the island, which currently has very little park land. A trail network connecting this property with the adjacent land is already in place.

The SSIC is currently seeking pledges to help acquire the land. Contributions toward the cost of acquisition and related expenses will be eligible for official income tax receipts issued by the SSIC. As well, these contributions will help acquire donations from foundations and government organisations that look first at local public support for land acquisition.



For further information, please contact the SSIC, PO Box 722, Ganges PO, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2W3; tel.: 250-538-0318; fax: 250-538-0319; email: ssiconservancy@saltspring.com
Charles Kahn at 250-537-1899; fax: 250-537-1846; email: ckahn@saltspring.com; or Peter Lamb at 250-537-4859; email: gellam@saltspring.com.

UPDATE ON THE SOOKE POTHOLES CAMPAIGN: THE FINAL COUNTDOWN



— by Eileen Palmer



Much has happened since last March, when The Land Conservancy launched the campaign to protect 63 hectares of land adjacent to Sooke River. Our first steps were to purchase both the first and second mortgages held on the lands for approximately \$3 million. This was made possible through 'Green Investors' - individuals who came forward to bridge the financing needed to buy the mortgages and acquire the land.

TLC must raise \$800,000 by January 28th, 2005 to cover TLC's portion of the purchase.

In October, we took title to the site that was a long and very challenging chapter in our efforts to protect this property. In late November, our focus shifted to the public fundraising campaign.

The Capital Region Parks Committee has already voted to partner with TLC: we are waiting to hear about their contribution. Plans are feverishly underway to have the park open this summer for potholes swimmers and campers. This will involve making the old lodge, existing trailways, stairways and roads accessible; building outhouses; and preparing to renovate the current campsite. TLC has also invited the Province to be involved as they are the current owners of the 5-acre Provincial Park.

Please see our website www.conservancy.bc.ca for details.

THE CAPE CRUSADERS FIGHT ON – by Peter Drake



Photo by Ted Bentley

The last issue of the Kingfisher described the wonderful 649 acres of the Cape Roger Curtis property on Bowen Island and warned of the possibility that a local developer, with offshore financial backing, might buy it for development. Unfortunately, he did.

We had identified \$8 million from potential donors/eco-investors and were quite optimistic that the rest of the \$16 million could be covered in various ways – given time. But we weren't given the luxury of time by the developer.

Our first reaction was to try to persuade the developer and the owners to work with us to preserve as much of the land as possible. We organised a picnic event and a petition to the owners. The picnic was a great success and we got over 700 signatures on a letter to each of the new owners (two in Germany and two in Vancouver/Hong Kong), explaining the unique characteristics of the property.

This petition was sent at the end of August but didn't get us anywhere. Within the next few weeks, the developer had applied to the municipality to subdivide the property into 60 lots of 10+ acres each and announced his intention to begin development on 10 waterfront lots on the most ecologically sensitive land of the property. Not surprisingly, we were dismayed at the speed with which he was moving and the fact that our worst fears appeared to be realised. So we made several representations to Council about the need for public and open process, and emphasising that there were many

issues to be considered before a development permit could be issued and subdivision approved.

An important part of our message has been to inform council and staff of their rights, legal powers and responsibilities relative to granting development permits and subdivision approval. There had been a tendency to believe that, since the zoning under the Land Use Bylaw allows for 10-acre lots, there is nothing anyone can do to stop such development on private land. We have been doing all we can to convince them that this is not so and that it is their responsibility to preserve and protect Bowen's environment and amenities as a legacy for future generations.

Private citizens have obtained some excellent legal advice to help council (see www.caperogercurtis.org) and the Bowen Island Advisory Planning Committee has been strongly advocating the need to manage growth in the context of environmental protection. The municipality is therefore becoming increasingly aware that there are many on the island who are concerned about unchecked development and that Council and staff have both the obligation and the right to do something about it.

At the initiative of the developer, the latest proposal being considered by the Council is a "Neighbourhood Concept Plan" (NCP) to guide development of the Roger Curtis Lands. The owners of the property would provide up to \$135,000 funding for consultant teams to be hired to develop the NCP with guidance from a steering committee (consisting of municipal staff and the property owners) and a community advisory committee.

The NCP approach is yet to be approved, at the time of writing this article, and while there are opportunities with this approach, we are concerned that the municipality is not entering the process as an equal partner as long as the 60-lot 10-acre subdivision proposal is on the table. We would welcome any ideas from Kingfisher readers about this type of process. Perhaps you can help us by sharing your experiences of similar situations by contacting us at info@caperogercurtis.org. Further details are available on our website.



Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative – A Project of Habitat

Acquisition Trust – by Jennifer Eliason

Urban forests benefit us all in many ways. As well as providing pleasing views within our neighbourhoods, the urban forest offers shade for our homes (reducing summer cooling costs); shelter from the winds (reducing heating costs); stormwater management (reducing the need for expensive stormwater infrastructure); air pollution removal (improving the air quality); and carbon sequestration (reducing the global impacts of climate change). Trees around our homes increase the values of our properties, and make the neighbourhoods more liveable. Equally as important, the urban forests provide habitat for wildlife, including species at risk (such as the Portus Duskwing butterfly that relies on Garry oak stands), and help to maintain the biodiversity of this region. To retain biodiversity, it is important to retain a wide variety of treed ecosystem types and to protect the ecosystem complexity that provides a variety of habitat niches and makes these ecosystems more resilient to change.

The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative continues to attract interest and attention as it progresses. The Initiative is driven by a multi-party steering committee, comprised of federal, provincial, regional and municipal government representatives, the Department of National Defence, Urban Development Institute, local arborists, consultants and NGO's, including the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Project and Habitat Acquisition Trust.

The discussion paper: *Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island* was released and circulated in January 2004. It is available for download from our website (www.hat.bc.ca).

With the recent development of several Action Committees, we are now looking at several projects. One Action Committee has been looking at the development of a model tree protection bylaw, led by Saanich's Tree Protection Officer, with input from four other municipalities.

The Mapping Action Committee of the UFSI is working on the development of maps and a brochure. The maps will show coverage of urban forests in the Greater Victoria area (Sooke to North Saanich), both currently and in the 1980s. This mapping project will provide data on the location and amount of urban forest in Greater Victoria, the loss of urban forests in recent years, and the associated loss of many ecosystem services such as stormwater management, carbon storage and sequestration, and air pollution removal.

The UFSI is currently seeking partnerships with the federal, provincial and regional governments and foundations to develop this data. At the same time, the Strategy Action Committee is working towards the development of an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island.

The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative is supported by the Georgia Basin Action Plan, BC Hydro, the District of Saanich and Tree Canada. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Jennifer Eliason at HAT (250) 995-2428 or jennifer@hat.bc.ca

ATLAS OF THE ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA



The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Project has brought together local communities on all 17 of the populated islands in the Salish Sea. The Atlas is a beautiful compilation of the work of 30 Island Artists, displaying the various islands' distinct natural, economic and cultural heritage.

You can order a copy at our pre-sale price of \$45.00 by contacting Erika@landtrustalliance.bc.ca or visiting www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Land Trust Success Stories



Ecological Gifting at Work in BC -

by Robin Rivers

The gift of environmentally important land is priceless. Each makes a significant contribution to creating a network of protected areas across Canada. Wide ranges of lands qualify as ecologically sensitive from cliffs and forests to wetlands and grasslands. Some property may have been in one family for generations and the owners want to ensure that it is not developed. Other property may have been purchased with the hope that it would be preserved through a conservation covenant. Donating land can appeal to generous individuals who care about the environment.

The Beaty family is an excellent example of generosity in action. They donated 6.5 hectares (16 acres) on Gunboat Bay in Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast to The Nature Trust of BC. As well as being a beautiful location, the property features a mosaic of streamside deciduous woodland, old meadows and upland second growth forest. Heid Creek, a fish-bearing stream, runs through the property and into the inter-tidal marsh and mudflats in the bay.

A tour of the property reveals western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas fir, and broadleaf maple as the canopy layer with a sparse sword fern understory. Along the creek there are alder with some maple, cottonwood and cedar with dense salmonberry and rose below. In the wetter areas horsetails and skunk cabbage are abundant. Coho, chum and cutthroat spawn in the creek.

The joint federal/provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) systematically identifies and maps rare and fragile ecosystems in a given area. The Sunshine Coast SEI riparian designation has been

mapped on approximately one-third of this property. The riparian area of the site as recognized by the SEI, the presence and spawning habitat for anadromous salmonids and the mosaic of habitats illustrates the ecological sensitivity of this property and the significance of this ecological gift to The Nature Trust.

The Pender Harbour area is a maze of islands, coves, and reefs. The harbour penetrates over 4.8

kilometres (3 miles) inland, and its complexity of inlets provides a total of 165 kilometres (103 miles) of shoreline. Until recently, most travel was on the waterways rather than the winding roads, giving the region its name of "Venice of the North." Conserving land in the Pender Harbour area and along the Sunshine Coast is becoming more and more of a challenge.



Heid Creek, photo by The Nature Trust

The attractive coastline, proximity to Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, recreation opportunities and temperate climate make it very desirable.

437 gifts valued at over \$118 million and protecting 37,000 hectares (86,450 acres) of ecologically sensitive land across Canada—that's the achievement of the federal Ecological Gifts Program.

The Nature Trust offers sincere appreciation to the Beaty family for having the foresight to donate this land for conservation.

For more information on the Ecological Gifts Program, visit www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/ecogifts or contact The Nature Trust of BC at www.naturetrust.bc.ca



GERALD ELKINGTON

AND HIS LEGACY – by Tim Ennis

Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) ecosystems and their associated ecosystems are one of the most endangered ecosystems in western North America. Their range extends from near Campbell River, BCa on Vancouver Island's eastern shores, in a southward fashion along the sub-Mediterranean rain-shadow habitats of south-eastern Vancouver Island and the adjacent Gulf Islands, through the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound and down through the Willamette Valley in Oregon, as far south as Eugene. From here the Garry oaks mix with other oak species, (e.g. Kellogg's oak, *Quercus kelloggii*) and extend well into California as the northern half of a chain of oak habitats extending through Central America.

Widespread habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species and the effects of fire suppression have largely been responsible for all known plant associates of Garry Oak being listed as "critically imperiled". Throughout the Georgia Basin-Puget Trough-Willamette Valley Ecoregion, Garry oak ecosystems have been restricted to approximately 2% of their 1850's distribution.

In Canada over 117 species at risk are associated with these Pacific oak habitats. The conservation challenge facing Garry oak ecosystems is extreme, as 75% of the human populations of BC, Washington and Oregon live in this ecoregion, which is over 80% privately owned, and 40% either urbanised or killed. The remaining 60% of the ecoregion is largely subject to industrial forestry, with less than 3% of the area protected in parks.

The valley-bottom, deep soil Garry oak savannah ecosystem types are particularly endangered, literally balancing on the edge of extinction. These areas in particular were immediately valued by early European settlers to the region, who were looking for arable land for livestock and agricultural land that required less effort to clear than coastal forests.

Between 1850 and the 1890's, the majority of this deep-soil habitat was converted to agricultural uses



Photo of Garry oak meadow by Tim Ennis

and seeded with European pasture grasses (see *Conservation Biology*, April 2004 for a literature review of pre-contact Garry oak plant associations).

In the Cowichan Valley, one such pioneering family, the Elkingtons, purchased and farmed over 600 acres of oak savannah for the production of butter, cream and other dairy products. The Elkingtons were also ship builders and mariners, and are credited as being the first people to export these products to the newly established Fort Victoria from the Maple Bay area. However typical their settlement pattern may have been, one thing unique about the Elkingtons was that they kept one portion of their land in its natural condition, which they referred to as Oak Park. In the centre of this area they built a second home, having lost their first one in an accidental fire reportedly started when a Chinese farm worker knocked over his oil lamp. This second home was built in 1894/95 and on January 7, 1899 a son Gerald was born in the master bedroom upstairs.

Gerald enjoyed a very happy childhood at Oak Park and grew to appreciate the natural world. He once won a school contest for collecting the largest number of wildflower specimens that he pressed and kept in a book. He also learned a great deal about the birds, and other animals that inhabited Oak Park and the surrounding lands and waters near Mt. Tzuhalem, Maple Mountain and the Maple Bay area.

In his late teens, Gerald moved away to attend McGill University, interrupted by a time in the forces during WWI. Upon returning, he completed his training as an electrical engineer and worked for General Electric for some time in the U.S. before moving to Fernie in south-eastern British Columbia and taking up a position with a power corporation in the Kootenays. Here he raised his family (sons Peter, Bill and Dick and daughter Awdrie) with his wife Peggy, enjoying a lifestyle of fishing, hunting and boating in the lakes and rivers of the Canadian Rockies.

After his parents passed away, Oak Park was rented out for a short time, until one day Gerald returned to visit, and found his family's house rundown and in bad repair. He immediately evicted the renters and boarded up the house. It sat this way for some time, until he and Peggy moved back into the house at Oak Park from Fernie in 1966.

Gerald again demonstrated his caring nature for the land, by maintaining Oak Park in its natural condition, removing the invasive Scotch broom as he was able and allowing the native flora to flourish largely undisturbed. Many years passed. Peggy sadly passed away at the age of 94, but Gerald was able to carry on. In 1999 Gerald celebrated his 100th birthday. By this time, he had a staff of caretakers looking after him so that he was able to remain living at Oak Park.

No doubt these costs were escalating, and the Elkington family decided they had to sell Oak Park. Gerald's sons were interested in seeing the property subdivided and developed to maximise their return, which must have been a heartbreaking situation for Gerald, who wanted nothing more than for one of his children to carry on the family legacy and continue living in the house.

Clearly this was not going to happen, and the property went on the market. A local developer became very interested in the property and made plans for a subdivision. Lots were surveyed, and flagging tape went up all over Oak Park.

Fortunately, local Maple Bay residents had come to love Oak Park and its magnificent displays of native wildflowers each spring.

One concerned resident, Barb Stone, contacted the Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT) and launched a campaign to save this last vestige of deep-soil oak habitat. Given that the value of the land had increased significantly from the \$600 (\$1/acre) which the Elkington's paid for it in the 1800's, the CCLT contacted the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to help secure the property.



Photo of *Viola praemorsa* by Tim Ennis

The local fund raising effort was hugely successful, raising approximately \$150,000, but in total over \$850,000 was needed to protect Oak Park. Fortunately, NCC was successful in raising the requisite funds from Federal and Provincial governments, private donors and corporations like Shell Canada. In 1999 Oak Park was purchased by NCC for the purposes of biodiversity conservation.

Through the decades, the Elkington's had sold most of their original 600 acres, and by 1999 only Oak Park remained. It was 30 acres of Canada's most intact deep-soil Garry oak habitat. Botanists in the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) identified significant populations of the rare *Aster curtus*, *Viola praemorsa* and *Triteleia howellii*, in addition to extensive swards of more common Garry oak elements such as *Camassia leichtlinii*, *Camassia quamash*, *Lomatium utriculatum*, *Dodecatheon hendersonii*, *Erythronium oregonum*, *Collinsia grandiflora* var. *pusilla*, *Carex inops*, *Festuca roemerii*, and many other species of native plants and animals. In fact, the CDC botanists noted that despite a legacy of fire suppression and invasive species introduction to the region, Oak Park expressed an unprecedented 60% native cover.

Despite having purchased the entire property from Gerald, including the house, NCC agreed to donate a life tenancy lease agreement to Gerald that he might live out the rest of his days in the home he was born in. Regrettably we must report that after nearly five years of enjoying Gerald's company, he

passed away in the house at Oak Park, on Feb. 7, 2004, at 105 years.

Gerald was fond of recalling the sound of horse and buggy along Maple Bay Road, the sight of Purple Martins and Western bluebirds swooping through the oaks, and commenting on how slowly the oaks grow. Somewhat fittingly, Gerald's urn was interred at St. Peter's Anglican Church just down the street, alongside his wife, and parents, in a graveyard that is dominated by Garry oaks, and has similarly avoided the plough. In this new place Gerald will always be surrounded by the wildflowers he loved and cared for so much.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada will miss having Gerald around, and will continue to protect, steward and restore Oak Park (now known as the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve) in his honour. We are all indebted to him for his careful stewardship of this rare ecological jewel.



Salt Spring Island Conservancy Completes Stewardship Project 2004

—By Karen Hudson

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) has successfully completed its 2004 Stewardship Project, which focused on rare species and sensitive ecosystems on Salt Spring. Robin Annschild and I, who were hired as Biologist and Project Manager, completed the project January 14th.

To complete a project that focussed primarily on the protection of locally endangered and threatened species and ecosystems, we needed to become more familiar with Canada's new Species at Risk Act and its implications for the protection of Species at Risk (SAR) on SSI. We began by attending the Species at Risk Conference held conveniently in Victoria in March, where we not only learned about the Act and details about many of Canada's rare species, but also were able to make invaluable connections with individuals and organisations working on SAR in BC. Through contacting the various recovery teams for federally listed SAR on SSI and

sharing information, we've learned a lot about how this Act is influencing conservation in Canada.

In order to decide which areas of Salt Spring to target throughout the project; we obtained records from the Conservation Data Centre of the locations of known populations of rare plants and animals on SSI. Where possible, we verified those locations through site visits. While not all previously recorded populations were found this year, some new ones were! As you recall, hot, dry weather came swiftly in 2004, which caused several of the plants we were looking for to dry up early in the spring before we had a chance to find them in all locations.

The project funded the production of two new educational brochures for SSIC members and the public, one addressing Species at Risk on SSI, and the other discussing invasive alien species on Salt Spring. The Conservancy sent out an all-island mailer to 2775 households on the island. This mailer consisted of an introductory letter explaining the project, a calendar of educational events, and copies of our two new brochures. We got a very good response from islanders, with many people who had not previously participated in conservancy events calling to register for our walks and talks.



We've worked closely with our many partner organisations, such as the Salt Spring Butter flyers,

the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT), and the Sharp-Tailed Snake Recovery Team. GOERT provided us with copies of their Species at Risk and Invasive Species in Garry Oak Ecosystems manuals, which we distributed to landowners. Christian Engelstoft, scientific advisor to the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team, visited Salt Spring several times this year, located many rare snakes and gave one of our project presentations. We held six educational events, which were attended by a total of 273 people, and we organised a number of walks to explore Garry Oak Ecosystems, old growth ecosystems, and to seek out some of Salt Spring's rare and beautiful butterflies.

The Conservancy hopes to continue this exciting work in the near future. With feedback from the SSIC's Stewardship Committee, Karen and Robin are working on grant applications for our next project, titled *Habitat Protection and Stewardship of Species at Risk on Salt Spring 2005 -07*. Should we receive funding, the project is set to run from the spring of 2005 to the spring of 2007.

The Conservancy would like to thank its board and committee members, project partners, landowners, and volunteers. Many thanks to our funding partners: Salt Spring Island Foundation, the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Bullitt Foundation, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, a grant in aid from the CRD, and a matching grant from the Islands Trust. For more information, please email ssiconservancy@saltspring.com or see our website at <http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/conservancy/>

We contacted over 50 residents with Garry Oak Ecosystems on their land and completed site visits to many of these. Management plans were completed for ten landowners whose land contains sensitive ecosystems or SAR. In addition to this, SSIC staff and expert consultants visited Channel Ridge properties and presented recommendations for management of the rare ecosystems and species present in this area



SAVING THE CENTRE THAT SAVES THE OWLS!

By Shawn Black, TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, Okanagan Region

The Land Conservancy of BC is proud to announce that it has purchased the Eagle Bluff property that is home to the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls (SORCO). This purchase will ensure that SORCO, the only licensed clinic and rehab centre for birds of prey in the southern interior of BC, will be able to continue to operate and will not have to worry about losing the land where they have built their facilities.

SORCO was founded in 1987 by Sherri and Gary Klein and a handful of dedicated volunteers. Operating out of Sherri and Gary's home, SORCO eventually constructed a clinic and flight cages on the Kleins' land to accommodate the work of the society. The most recent addition to SORCO's facilities is a new, modern flight cage building. When Gary was diagnosed with cancer and was told that he was terminally ill, the future of SORCO became uncertain. Sherri approached TLC and others supporting conservation in the South Okanagan to see if her land could be purchased and protected so that SORCO could continue its work.

Recognising the importance of the centre, TLC agreed to try to raise the funds needed to purchase the Klein's land.

After close to two years of effort, TLC - with the help of a number of organisations, individuals, and businesses - has finally raised enough funds to purchase the land from Sherri. The effort to save SORCO was not without hiccups. The wildfires of 2003 had a significant impact on the Save SORCO campaign, as many in the valley turned their attention to the Yellow Ribbon Campaign to support the victims of the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire. In early 2004, we were all saddened when Gary Klein finally succumbed to the cancer he had been fighting so valiantly against. Despite these and other obstacles, TLC and SORCO's supporters pushed on. We have to thank everyone who helped with the campaign. Penticton KVR Middle School Grade 8 student, Lindsay Doyle and her classmates raised over \$600, to which the Penticton RCMP detachment added an additional \$500. SORCO itself worked very hard to raise and contribute

funds through a variety of events and fundraisers. The Peachland Sportsman's Association and Okanagan Falls Lions Club also contributed funds to the purchase, along with hundreds of individuals who made donations. Real estate agents in Kelowna, lead by Christine Reimann at MacDonald Realty also stepped forward. In the final months of the campaign, contributions from TD Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Foundation, Burrowing Owl Estate Winery, and a private donor brought TLC close enough to our goal that we were able to complete the purchase.

TLC and SORCO are now working on a lease that will allow SORCO to continue its operations on the land indefinitely, and Sherri Klein will also remain on the land as the volunteer resident Operations Manager for SORCO. We are proud of everyone involved in this campaign, and wish to thank everyone who stepped forward to help or made donations of funds.

To help cover closing costs and the last little bit of funds needed for the purchase, TLC is still accepting donations towards this project. Please make a contribution if you can.



Partners Offer Support for Fundraising Calendar

Local business and non-profit partners are stepping forward to help the Gulf Island environment by supporting the new Islands Trust Fund birthday calendar.

Project sponsors include Beacon Hill Communications who provided the concept and design for the calendar and BC Ferries who donated toward the production costs of the calendar and is selling the calendar in the on-board gift stores.

The perpetual birthday calendar celebrates the Islands Trust Fund's 50 Protected Places with photographs of protected areas taken by Gulf Island

photographers. All of the proceeds raised from calendar sales will be dedicated to conservation projects on the Gulf Islands.

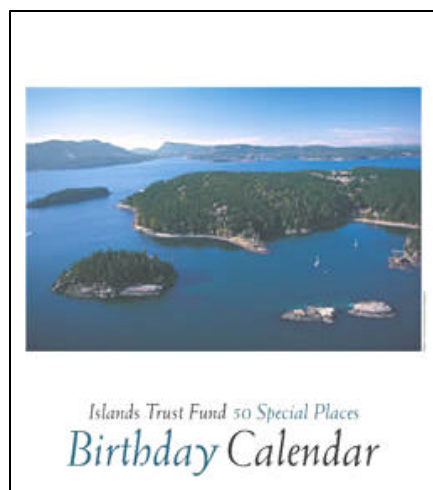
"As a birthday calendar, the calendar is designed for year-round use and can be used forever," said Louise Bell, Chairperson of the Islands Trust Fund Board.

Retail partners on Vancouver Island include Chapters in Victoria, Tanners Books in Sidney and Howling Wolf Gallery on Croft Street in Chemainus. On the Gulf Islands, calendars can be purchased from Howling Wolf Farm on Thetis Island, Abraxas Books and Gifts on Denman Island, and the Saturna Island General Store.

The Pender Island Conservancy Association and the Galiano Conservancy Association will also be selling the calendar as fundraisers. In addition, the calendars are also available through the Islands Trust offices on Salt Spring and Gabriola and from the Islands Trust Fund website at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca.

Contact: Ardice Neudorf
A/Manager, Islands Trust Fund
(250) 405-5176
or Louise Bell
Chairperson, Islands Trust Fund Board
(250) 335-2113

Please visit
www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/supportourspecialplaces/birthdaycalendar.htm for more details



Special Features

Strategies for the Protection of First Nations' Archaeological Sites - a Role for Land Trusts

By Shawn Black, TLC



Tsawout elders at a burning ceremony, Walkers Hook, Salt Spring Island - Photo by Phil Vernon

Land trusts in BC are getting pretty good at protecting environmental values on private land. However, how well are land trusts doing in protecting our cultural heritage, and more specifically, archaeological sites found on private property? Not so well, I suspect. But why? Why are land trusts not more involved in protecting archaeological sites? The answer could be that we are simply not aware of the problem, or we are too busy with our environmental work. Land trusts are well equipped to play an important and vital role in the protection of these important sites.

The tools that we regularly use to protect environmentally sensitive lands can also be applied to the protection of archaeological sites. In British Columbia, First Nations archaeological sites are under a tremendous degree of threat. As people who care about BC and its natural and cultural heritage, our goal should be to protect these sites in place, not on protecting the site's information after it has been excavated or destroyed. In a recent article in the Archaeological Society of BC's newsletter *The Midden*, Eric McLay provided three examples of archaeological sites in the southern Gulf Islands where development proceeded without proper consideration for or protection of the sites. In two of the examples, the ancient remains of 36 and 13 First Nation individuals were excavated was for a luxury resort's in-ground pool; the other was for the effluent outflow of a sablefish hatchery. As with environmentally sensitive areas, archaeological sites are threatened by intensified rezoning of

private properties, high density residential subdivisions, and large-scale commercial and industrial development. This problem highlights key gaps in the management and protection of archaeological sites in BC. As with environmentally sensitive areas, archaeological sites are threatened by intensified rezoning of private properties, high density residential subdivisions, and large-scale commercial and industrial development. This problem highlights key gaps in the management and protection of archaeological sites in BC.

There is an urgent need for partnerships (local and regional) to help ensure there is responsible stewardship over these threatened sites¹. To reduce conflicts over archaeological sites on private property, Eric McLay states that there must be a cooperative effort on behalf of the province, local government, First Nations, and private property owners to ensure that heritage conservation is addressed at the earliest stages of land-use planning². Land trusts and community-based heritage conservation organisations could also play a key role in these partnerships, by bringing tools and expertise in land securement and stewardship to the table.

For any land trust getting involved in the protection of First Nations archaeological sites, one of the first steps that I would recommend is to meet with representatives from your local First Nation, your local or regional government, and other community organisations that can strengthen the partnership. Around BC, land trusts have been key players in a number of successful conservation partnerships, and this experience could be used to help protect archaeological sites.

It is important, however, that we recognise that when we work with First Nations, we are working in a cross-cultural context. In many cases, that shell midden, burial cave, or depression in the land may be the only remaining link for First Nations people

to that place: the last shred of evidence that they historically used and occupied that area. First Nations today face many challenging and complex issues associated with land, including but not limited to: unresolved claims of aboriginal title and rights, treaty negotiations, specific claims for reserve cut-off lands, overlapping territorial claims by neighbouring First Nations, and in some cases, poor relations with our two senior levels of government. It may be difficult for First Nations and government to work together given their history. As non-government organisations, we may be able to avoid these issues and help focus energy and resources. I believe that land trusts are in a good position to partner with First Nations and to work cooperatively to plan and implement strategies for the protection of these heritage resources.

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Fortunately, there are a number of strategies that can be implemented to help protect archaeological sites on private lands within your community. The strategies highlighted in this article have been articulated in an excellent booklet produced by the US National Park Service. Titled *Strategies for*

Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands, it was created in response to the numerous requests for more “nuts-and-bolts” guidance on archaeological site protection.

The Strategies booklet can be found at www2.cr.nps.gov/pad/strategies/. There are six key strategies identified in the booklet, listed below. The online version of the *Strategies* booklet also contains links to 21 case studies that are useful, giving a strategy or combination of strategies that have been applied in real situations.

Key Strategies

Land Ownership – The strongest and surest way to protect an archaeological site is through outright ownership of the land where the site is located. The *Strategies* booklet lists conservation easements³ as a type of ownership.

¹ Eric McLay, 2004, To Preserve and Protect the Archaeological Heritage of the Southern Gulf Islands, *The Midden*, Archaeological Society of BC.

² Eric McLay

³ In the US, Alberta, and other jurisdictions, the term conservation easement is used instead of conservation covenant.

Financial Strategies – Financial resources can be used in a number of ways to secure site protection.
Development Regulation – Archaeological protection can be approached through land use planning processes.

Laws – Protection can be achieved through controlling how or by whom an archaeological site is excavated. In BC, the *Heritage Conservation Act* is the primary legislation that deals with archaeological sites. Its purpose “to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage property in British Columbia”.⁴ Due to length limitations, I will not go into the details of the *Heritage Conservation Act* in this article.

However, I will highlight a few key points of interest in that we should be aware of. In the Act, the term “heritage site” includes sites of heritage or archaeological value, and it is defined to mean

“whether designated or not, land, including land covered by water, that has heritage value to British Columbia, a community or an aboriginal people”.⁵ What I find most interesting about this definition is that a heritage site does not have to be designated to be considered a Heritage Site under this legislation. Section 13 of the Act outlines the protection provisions of the Act, and basically states that, “except as authorised by a permit issued under section 12 or 14, or an order issued under section 14, a person must not:

damage, desecrate or alter a burial place that has historical or archaeological value or remove human remains or any heritage object from a burial place that has historical or archaeological value; damage, alter, cover or move an aboriginal rock painting or aboriginal rock carving that has historical or archaeological value; damage, excavate, dig in or alter, or remove any heritage object from a site that contains artefacts, features, materials or other physical evidence of human habitation or use

before 1846”. Section 13 contains protection for additional heritage sites, but for this article I have only pulled out the provisions specific to First Nations heritage sites. It is important to note the “except as authorised by a permit issued under section 12 or 14, or an order issued under section 14” caveat of the section 13 protection provisions.

Unfortunately, as history shows and Eric McLay illustrates in his article, there appears to be a lack of will (political or otherwise) to enforce the Heritage Conservation Act.

Voluntary Strategies – Legal means sometimes are not enough. Voluntary strategies alone or in combination with regulatory approaches can be very helpful. Landowner contact and volunteer programs are listed as Stewardship Programs under Voluntary Strategies.



Destruction of 4000-5000 year old archaeological shell midden, Poets Cove Resort and Spa, South Pender Island. Photo by Eric McLay, 2003

Site Management – Responsible site protection can best be achieved through a long-term management plan⁷.

This illustrates why we cannot rely on laws or regulation alone. We need to implement a multi-strategy approach for the protection of archaeological sites, why land trusts could be paying more attention to these sites. While land trusts may be able to help plan and implement

these six strategies, they may not have the capacity, resources, or mandate to do so. Therefore, I will expand on the two strategies that land trusts are most familiar with *Land Ownership* and *Voluntary Strategies*.

Land Ownership

As stated above, full ownership is the strongest way to protect archaeological sites, since the owner has complete control over the land (subject to certain limits). **(Story continued on page 18)**

⁴ Province of British Columbia, [Heritage Conservation Act](#), [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 187.

⁵ Province of British Columbia, [Heritage Conservation Act](#), [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 187.

⁶ Province of British Columbia, [Heritage Conservation Act](#), [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 187.

⁷ Susan L. Henry Renaud, 2000, [Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands](#), National Parks Service, US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

GETTING POSITIVE MEDIA ATTENTION

...how to make any attention good attention – *By Erika Olson*

In 2004, land conservation groups south of the border experienced considerable unsolicited media attention regarding tax issues and conservation policies and priorities. Three articles in the *Washington Post* were sufficient to cast a shadow of doubt that stretched all the way up to Canada, causing alarm in this country's Department of Finance. As a result, the American Land Trust Alliance made their Standards and Practices more rigorous and required all member U.S. land trusts to adopt them. The new National Coalition of Land Trusts in Canada is also revising our Standards and Practices, to better protect and guide land trusts.

Media is a key communication tool for any conservation initiative. It may be the primary place where the public finds out about your land trust's work, and motivate community members to become involved in conservation activities. Media attention may be actively solicited (e.g. press releases, public service announcements) or it may come unsolicited, through investigative journalism or via coverage of an event related to the mandate of your organisation (reporter asking for a public comment on some issue). Regardless of whether it comes by your group's request, or of its own accord, media attention should be used strategically to forward your organisation's goals.

Certain things can be done to make news items more attractive to the media and hence more likely to be covered. The following provides an overview of media relations tips that can be used to promote the goals of land trusts and to effectively foster an increased understanding and conservation ethic in the region.

Media Relations Toolkit:

News Release/Press Release: used to announce news: a project, a discrete event, meeting of an objective, etc. The project spokesperson should be quoted. If possible, relate to an issue or topic of local concern or importance. Backgrounders or supplemental documents should be included, along

with contact information for questions and interviews.

Media Advisories: used to invite media to cover an event and to arrange interviews and photos.

Tip sheets: used to give the media ideas for stories and features about ongoing projects. The sheet may be used as the article or as a framework. Supplement it with materials and contacts and present the information in a brief, catchy, readable way. These stories are not so much associated with a specific event but more with a movement, trend, or emergent themes. They may be printed at any time.

Community Bulletin Board Announcements: used to invite the community to upcoming events, or to notify the public of campaigns, etc. Many community television channels will do free announcements as a service to charitable organisations.

Creative Things: Supplementing a media package with something that will catch the eye is a good way of getting the recipient to engage with the cause – and to keep the issue in their mind. See the following website for more information and samples:

www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/media_relations_tools_e.html

"I've heard about you!"

A consistent positive message helps the public to remember who your group is and what it does. It also makes you look coherent, focussed, and effective. Certain strategies for public relations are equally useful regardless of the medium.

Keep your message clear. Any more than three main points becomes confusing for the audience. Considering that the media can be selective, prioritise the messages.

Prepare your front-line public relations people. Preparing the people who will actually be talking

with the media and the public can make all the difference. Group brainstorming sessions are a good way to come up with concise responses to potential questions and public relations to make sure that your organisation is presented in the best possible light.

Have facts and figures to support your key points. Know the sources. Be prepared to field questions about them.

Repeat your message, and keep on topic. In an interview, bring the discussion back around to your key points as often as possible.

Focus on the positives. Your group has done good work, and the focus of any interview can be brought around to this.

One of the best strategies for using any medium is to become familiar with it. Read the papers, listen to the radio shows, and observe the television programming in which you are trying to gain coverage. Plan your press events over a sufficient time period, and select a variety of forums for reaching the community. Talk to editorial staff and programmers about how to best publicise your activities. Ask them what you can do to make their work easier.

The Newspaper: don't hide behind it – USE IT!

Each section of a newspaper will have an assortment of news and feature stories. The editorial staff at the paper will arrange these in whatever way they think will get the attention of the largest number of consumers; thereby making the paper the most attractive for advertisers (most papers make more money on advertising than on circulation).

News stories: These are stories with a 'news hook'. They deal with events that are immediate and discrete (e.g. an acquisition, a new stewardship project, a celebration). News stories are relatively easy to get in the paper because they focus on a particular thing that is tangible, relevant, and directly understandable by the community. Press releases and media advisories are your tools of choice.

Feature stories: These types of stories focus more on people, issues and trends. They are less tangible, and can be a more difficult sell to the media.

Feature topics require skilled presentation to show them as important and charismatic "newsworthy" issues. Topics for feature stories may be ongoing, continuous things affecting the community in subtle but important ways, or biographies of key players in local conservation. To get feature stories printed, you might piggyback the article on to some new development – a discrete event that acts as a news hook, and then go on to talk about the more general trend, and its implications. A well-supplemented tip sheet is a good tool for this.

Editorials: A paper's editorial board (the publisher, managing editor, editorial page editor, and

WETLANDS INSTITUTE 2005 Victoria, BC, July 3-9



Learn wetland mapping, inventory, and restoration techniques, all placed in a community context. The Wetlands Institute focuses on project development and implementation. Participants interested in building and implementing a plan are encouraged to apply.

This course is primarily field-based and participants gain field skills in the host community. **Register by March 1, 2005** and the registration fee is only \$500 (includes meals and accommodation). After March 1, 2005 the late registration fee is \$750. Only fifteen registrants are accepted on the basis of a portfolio on a first come first served basis. *To discuss your project idea or to order an application contact:*

Lisa Mose., Coordinator Wetland Education Program
Phone/Fax: 250-423-2654
Email: wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca
www.bcwf.bc.ca

sometimes writers) determines its stance on issues and the content of the editorial page. Scheduling in a meeting with the paper's editorial board gives an opportunity for you to present your case. Be careful of what you say though, as any of it could turn up in print!

Opinion Pieces: These columns run on the editorial page. You can write them yourself, or you can draft (ghost write) a piece, and have a leading community member or a regular contributor sign it.

Letters to the Editor: These should be approached with caution and carefully edited (especially if the writer identifies an affiliation with your organisation) to ensure that they are not inflammatory and that they are concise and well informed. Letters may not garner quite as much respect as an article elsewhere in the paper. They are more easily dismissed as the opinionated grindings of someone's axe. Letters to the editor are usually very short and are a difficult venue for anything other than short, simple arguments.

Standing Features: Consider reaching different sectors of the community through the different sections of the paper. For example, a 'Lifestyles', 'Over 60', 'Gardening', or an 'Arts' feature might reach a different demographic than the editorial page or the headlines.

Community Section: Most papers have a Coming Events section, where community groups can promote upcoming activities for free (i.e. a bulletin board). Some papers will also do features on work being done by local non-profits. A tip sheet with supplemental materials (photos, contacts) might be a good approach. If there are other groups in the community doing related work, you might team up to present a more broad-based package that gets a more auspicious spot in the paper.

If you ask me... (ideas for interviews)

As a representative of a land trust, you may be called upon to make public statements on the behalf of your group. Alternatively, you may ask a newspaper, radio station, or television program to do a feature on your organisation's Following are some basic tips on verbal media representation:

- Be easy to quote! **Talk slowly**, and in short sentences, and make punchy, **quotable statements**.

- Try to use **appropriate language** for your audience. People might feel alienated (and consequently, disinterested) if they are bombarded with cryptic technical jargon. Instead of boosting the credibility of the speaker, academic language may shut down communication. If technical issues are at the heart of your cause, recommend a resource where your audience can learn the language of the topic.

- Direct the interview** in the direction that you want it to go. If you are excited about a certain topic, the reporter will likely follow suit.

- Reporters may try to elicit particular responses.

Try not to be led away from your message and try to avoid repeating parts of ambiguous questions (in case the words are attributed to you). Avoid discussing hypothetical situations. Instead, provide examples of what has actually come to pass. Focus on the positive work that your group has done.

- Sum things up in your own words**, briefly and in a quotable way, "The most important thing is..."

- Let awkward pauses run their course** and then get back to your main point with the next question. Time is limited in an interview and you might as well skip to a more fruitful topic if you feel that a particular line of inquiry is counter to your cause.

One of the best tools for safeguarding the integrity of your organisation in the public eye is to place it in a legitimate historical context. "Land trusts have been conserving areas of significance to our communities since 1984. We have protected 850 hectares that include these easily identifiable sites in our community. Many land trusts have adopted a provincial or national set of Standards and Practices, which forms the foundation for long-term conservation." Adoption of the Standards and Practice is an excellent way to protect your reputation in the media and to avoid unintentional breaches of public trust. Every land trust exists for a very good reason. Remember your Land Trust's reason for being: this is your message, and it should pervade all of your media relations and day to day activities.

Watch for the LTABC's 'Best Practices' CD - coming soon - with sample media relations materials.

SALT SPRING BEAVERS HELP SALMON BY RENOVATING FULFORD CREEK

By Erika Olson

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Association has been working on the restoration of Salt Spring Island's salmon spawning waterways for over 20 years. Fulford Creek, which has been the subject of ongoing attention, has shown much higher returns of Coho spawners this year than it has for a long, long time. It appears that record numbers of salmon, reared in Fulford Creek in 2002, survived and came back to spawn. This follows a change in the management of a beaver dam on the creek, accomplished through a conservation covenant. Before the land was sold to three separate private property owners in 2002, Texada Land Corporation donated a 20-acre covenant along 1000 meters of the stream.

The covenant is held by The Nature Trust of British Columbia and is monitored by the Salmon Enhancement Association and Ducks Unlimited.

Good overwintering habitat and summer pools are the main limiting factors for survival of Coho on Salt Spring Island. Because of development in the Fulford Creek watershed – particularly increased impervious surfaces and cleared land – peak water flows in the winter were so high that Coho fry would get prematurely washed out to sea. A good Coho stream should have about 40% pool habitat, in which fry can hide in the slow water among tree roots and under bank overhangs, and also wait out the hot summer months in cool, oxygen-rich water.

Up until 2001, when the property changed ownership, Fulford Creek's beaver dam was regularly dismantled by farmers leasing the land. This was done to prevent excess pooling of water during the rainy winter months. Such actions have lead to a scarcity of suitable rearing habitat (ponds) for the creek's Coho fry, which typically spend a year in fresh water before 'buttoning up' into smolthood and heading out to sea.



It is difficult for a beaver to transport materials under **the Beaver Fence**. The fence is only about 4 inches below the water surface, placed across a deep pool, so that it cannot be turned into a strong new beaver dam. It simply ensures that the beavers cannot quite swim down and block the culvert or stream channel with large logs and must resort to using smaller pieces of wood that they can drag around the fence. This makes the dam much easier to maintain.

The beaver ponds provide ideal habitat for the fry to overwinter, because the slow, sheltered water allows the fish to conserve their energy. Says Kathy Reimer, Senior Biologist for ISSEA, "For years people have been killing beavers, because they were viewed as 'nuisance animals' – a danger to highways and bad for farming.

Little did people know that beavers were actually creating ideal fish habitat!" Reimer hopes that Salt Spring's experience with increased freshwater salmon survival owing to beaver activity will prompt biologists in other areas to try non-destructive beaver management strategies. She added that the services provided by beavers (who do not need a water license!) will be even more essential with climate change, because of increased drought in the area. With their dams, beavers retain

valuable winter precipitation that would otherwise run out to sea. Having a free round-the-clock water level maintenance service can make all the difference to growing salmon fry. A little ingenuity may go a long way in devising a successful water management plan in a system that involves beavers. A balance must be struck between habitat quality for wildlife requiring ponds and managing the risk of hardship to property owners, due to flooding. Devices that allow varying degrees of permeability in the dams can be employed to allow for this sort of flexible management. Pictured below are some strategies that Reimer's group has developed or employed over the years. Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Association encourages readers to suggest their own low-tech beaver solutions, and would be pleased to facilitate exchange of non-destructive beaver management strategies among interested groups. Please contact Kathy Reimer by phone: (250) 537-8983 or by e-mail: thesalmonladies@saltspring.com



This **Beaver Float Device** has been very successful in preventing resident beavers from plugging an emergency overflow culvert at the top of Fulford Creek. To do this, just position a floating dock in front of the pipe.



The Clemson Beaver Device (used by Ducks Unlimited) is a perforated PVC pipe surrounded by a cage to allow some water flow through a beaver dam (the pipe is laid across/under the dam, parallel to the stream). The cage is situated some distance upstream of the dam or culvert at the preferred high water level. Some beavers will artfully pack this device with mud, so regular maintenance is needed to ensure that it remains functional.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series

At the Naramata Centre in the
Okanagan - March 17-20th 2005
Take advantage of one of this year's

site visits:

- i. *Locatee Lands Project*: This long-term conservation initiative aims to protect species at risk on First Nations land. Adjacent to the En'owkin Centre in Penticton, the Locatee Lands include increasingly rare riparian cottonwood stands - suitable habitat for some of the area's most endangered birds. This area is also an ideal educational site for the community.
- ii. *Tinhorn Creek Antelope Brush Restoration & Snake Fencing Project*: During a tour of this vineyard and winery, participants will be invited to taste the delectable fruits of a stewardship partnership with the Land Conservancy of BC. Native plant restoration, intact antelope brush habitat, a snake barrier fencing pilot project (to guide snakes to safer natural areas), and wine tasting are all features of this tour.

Strategies for the Protection of First Nations' Archaeological Sites

Story continued from page 12

However, as we know, this is also an expensive method of protection unless the owner is willing to consider a bargain sale or full donation of the property. In the end, purchasing ownership of a site may not be possible in some cases. An alternative to fee simple ownership that still offers strong protection is a conservation covenant.

As we know, the protection provisions of a conservation covenant can be tailored to the goals of the landowner, the covenant holder, and the needs of the site. Only those rights or interests needed to protect the site should be included in the covenant, leaving all other rights with the owner. As an example, covenant "restrictions for archaeological sites need only prohibit activities that would disturb archaeological remains".⁸ However, covenants must be monitored and enforced, and landowners may need frequent attention. The covenant holder must have the human and financial resources required to monitor, and if needed, enforce the covenant.

Voluntary Strategies

There are five voluntary strategies described in *Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands*. These are discussed briefly below:

Registers of Historic Places: Registers formally and publicly recognise the importance and significance of historic and cultural resources within a community. Many regional and municipal governments in BC have registries for historic buildings within their communities. The provincial government also maintains a registry of known archaeological sites in BC. However, due to the sensitive nature of these sites, this database is not available to the general public. Having said this, First Nations can ask the government to provide a complete listing from this database of known sites within their traditional territories. This is another reason why partnering with your local First Nation

is important, together we can identify which sites are most important and in the greatest need for stewardship and protection. At a local level, some form of registry of important archaeological sites could help raise awareness about these sites and ensure that they are given appropriate consideration in land use planning processes. Care must be taken to protect listed sites from vandalism and looting.

Education Programs: Education programs and activities such as publications, workshops, site interpretations, displays, presentations, and exhibits help build a preservation ethic and increase and enhance local understanding about archaeological values and protection strategies. Jim Miller, a Florida State Archaeologist stated in the *Strategies* booklet "The more people who know about sites, the more who will care about them and watch out for them". As land trusts, we know that public education and support is vital to the environmental work that we are doing. The same can be said about the protection of archaeological and historic sites.

Stewardship Programs: The *Strategies* booklet describes two primary types of stewardship programs. The first involves voluntary community participation in site protection through field surveys, site recording, site monitoring, site management and other activities. The second relies on encouraging landowners to serve as stewards of sites on their property, through landowner contact programs. Many land trusts are actively involved in one or both of these forms of stewardship programs. Of the five voluntary strategies described in the *Strategies* booklet, this is the one that land trusts are in the best position to deliver. We must remember that the "how can we help you" approach is much more effective than the "you should do it this way" method.

Community Archaeology Programs: Local community based archaeological programs can provide a focal point for community interest in archaeology. These programs can offer the public opportunities for involvement and education in archaeology. To be effective, these programs would involve professional staff and facilities; thus they may be costly to maintain.

⁸ Florida Department of State, 2000, Conservation Easements: Protecting Archaeological Sites and Historic Buildings on Private Lands, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources.

Avocational and Professional Archaeological

Organisations: An organised group of people committed to archaeology can be very effective in doing field research, monitoring protected sites, educating the public, reaching out to landowners, and influencing decision makers. The effectiveness of this sort of organisation will depend on how active the members are and their ability to coordinate with other groups with similar goals (such as land trusts)⁹. Many communities have local heritage or historical societies. Make sure that you include them in your planning and activities.

Conclusions

I would highly recommend that any land trust interested in the protection and stewardship of archaeological sites in their community get a copy of *Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands*.

In the *Strategies* booklet, the US National Parks Service provides the following guidance for those who may be considering protecting local archaeological sites:

- Include a wide variety of strategies in your site protection tool kit, and be prepared to use them in creative ways.
- Know all of the strategies in your tool kit, be able to explain their strengths and weaknesses, how they work, and contacts for using each. Don't try and be an expert in all of the strategies, stick to your own expertise and partner with others who specialise in using the strategies.
- Protection in place is the first option to consider.
- Remember that ownership is power.
- Establish priorities for site protection so that you and/or others can move quickly when the need or opportunity arises.
- Develop a list of the top priority sites that need protection
- Identify the landowners and make contact.
- Visit each site on the list to verify its condition.
- Establish an on-going and long-term relationship with the landowner that is respectful, courteous, friendly, proactive, informative, and helpful.
- Update the list as sites are protected.

⁹ Susan L. Henry Renaud, 2000, *Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands*, National Parks Service, US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

- Develop and strengthen partnerships and networks with the archaeological community, provincial agencies, local elected officials, First Nations, and other groups with similar interests.
- Share information on archaeological sites with your partners and decision makers.
- Work to make archaeology an integral part of your community's planning and zoning processes.¹⁰

We must remember that when we are talking about protecting archaeological sites in BC, we are primarily talking about First Nations' sites. These are sacred places to First Nations people, and we must be respectful of their wishes and interests. It is important that we develop good working relationships with our local First Nations, and that we remember the "how can we help you" approach that land trusts have had success under. With the tools and expertise that land trusts can bring to the table, we can play an important and effective role in community and partnership based approaches to the protection of archaeological sites in BC.

References and Resources

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¹⁰ Susan L. Henry Renaud, 2000, *Strategies for Protecting Archaeological Sites on Private Lands*, National Parks Service, US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

Land Trust Alliance of BC Program Updates

LAND TRUST BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

LTABC received funding last year to prepare a Best Practices CD full of sample documents, policies, and resources for Land Trusts. We are well into this project, having now collected over 600 documents that we are currently sorting, modifying and categorising. This CD will be catalogued into three primary sections: Land Stewardship and Management; Operations; and Outreach. Research and resources will also be included. Committee members working on the project are excited about it, having found its contents useful in day-to-day activities already. Committee members are John Scull, (Cowichan Community Land Trust), Karen Hudson, (Salt Spring Island Conservancy), Eileen Palmer, (The Land Conservancy of BC), Les Bogdan, (Ducks Unlimited), Lucy Reiss, and Kathy Dunster. We hope to have the CD complete by March 2005. Funding for this project has been generously provided by the Vancouver Foundation and The Real Estate Foundation of BC.

BASELINE INVENTORIES FOR LAND TRUSTS:

We have completed three Baseline Inventories over the past year and will continue to offer the services of a Baseline Technician as funding allows. Cowichan, Cortes and Abbotsford all used the services of our inventory specialists and all felt that the service was very beneficial both to complete the Baseline itself and as an opportunity to learn and share in baseline methods. Funding for this project came from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Endswell Fund of the Tides Canada Foundation.

ATLAS OF THE ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA – TO BE PUBLISHED!

At last, we have found a commercial publisher who will help us publish the Atlas! We are now preparing text and graphics to accompany the 30 full colour maps prepared by 17 island communities in the Georgia Strait area. Heritage House publishers, Touchwood Editions, will be

publishing and distributing the Atlas to commercial retailers in August. The LTABC has sole retail distribution rights on the Islands and we can sell by direct mail anywhere. We are very excited about the release of the book and a final exhibition of the original maps and a Book Launch event planned for late August. Please contact Erika@landtrustalliance.bc.ca to order your copy in advance. Send a cheque for \$45, pre-sale rates, and we'll be sure you get yours early! Look for them in bookstores in September.

Baseline Inventory Training

The Land Trust Alliance of BC is offering this course on March 17, 18th
Naramata Centre, Naramata, BC

Led by Ryan Durand, the course will offer one day of baseline methods, from the minimal needed for larger properties with few covenant restrictions to more detailed procedures for properties with restrictive covenants.

Day two will include photopoint monitoring with Carl McNaughton

Registration is limited to 15
Cost \$225 includes accommodation for two nights, meals and the course

Contact Erika@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

LTABC will be using some of the feedback from this course to develop

Guidelines for
Baseline Inventories for
Land Trusts

CANADIAN COALITION OF LAND TRUSTS

The Canadian Coalition of Land Trusts is moving forward and has started some initial projects. Beyond setting up incorporation as a federal charity, which takes quite some time, the Steering Committee has decided to focus on some key issues in the meantime. Eileen Palmer will represent BC on the Steering Committee. Initial projects include:

Creation of National Standards and Practices for Land Trusts

A new and revised set of Standards and Practices is now being developed. These will be based on both our existing BC standards and the new revised Standards that the US LTA has spent the last four years developing. From my perspective, these standards are important on several fronts. Firstly, as Eileen points out in her editorial this issue, we are moving into another stage. Land trusts are now more well known, more involved in large conservation planning initiatives, and the level of professionalism expected of us has increased. As long as we are stating that we are protecting land in perpetuity, we need to be prepared to back that up with long-term defensible strategies, plans and policies.

Our BC Standards and Practices have been a very good start. However only 6 out of 36 Land Trusts in BC have formally adopted them. As you know, there were some questions about the activities and practices of a few land trusts in the US, and one here in BC. Letting the public know that your land trust follows a province wide or nation wide set of Standards & Practices will help assure the public that their donations, especially their land donations, are going toward long-term protection. Land trusts who adopt the Standards & Practices will be able to assure both the public and government agencies that pass the legislation that enables us to do our work, that their conservation activities and land on the ground is truly protected. To facilitate your involvement in the revisions, we hope that as many of you as possible will come to the special 3 hr session we have planned to review a draft of the new revised Standards on the day starting our Seminar Series this year in Naramata, March 18th, 2005. Kathleen Sheppard of TLC is doing the bulk of the work on this for Canada! Thank you Kathleen!

Cross Border Donations – or as the Nova Scotia Nature Trust has coined the phrase, Conservation Without Borders. Some folks are working on initial research and investigations into the option of forming a separate charity that can accept donations in the US for Canadian Land Trusts and provide US citizens a tax receipt. This is still in the early stages of development, but if you would feel supportive of such an undertaking, please contact Eileen Palmer.

Green Legacies – Canada Wide?

Some of the Canadian Government staff are so impressed with BC's Green Legacies that they want to make it national. This is definitely in the early stages, and we'll keep you posted how and if a national version develops.

An update of the Guide is now available for the planned giving section: *A Guide for Donors*. Please see www.greenlegacies.ca for more details.

National Steering Committee Meeting in BC, March 21-22nd

We have invited the Steering Committee to meet here in BC following our Seminar Series. We of course hope that many of them will join us for our own inspirational and informative workshops, site visits and Seminars. This will be the second in-person meeting of the committee, the first being held prior to the Ontario Land Trust Alliance's meeting in October. Things are moving quickly and we welcome your ideas or thoughts. Contact Eileen Palmer if you have any ideas or suggestions for the National Coalition.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PROJECT

We will begin a research project this year on the changes in property tax assessments on lands that are owned by conservancies, covenanted, or which are next to or nearby a newly protected area. We are aware that in most cases, conservation does not generally change the value of protected lands directly, unless it restricts subdivision. Although the BC Assessment authority is required by policy to consider the restrictions on land which conservation may place there, there are some cases where both land trusts and private landowners may not be receiving the appropriate change in tax rate. The purpose of this project is not only to find

out what is actually occurring with assessments on conservation lands, but also to find out how protected lands affect neighbouring property values. We hope that the project's final Property Tax Information Kit will help land trusts and BC's assessors and landowners understand the nature, value and restrictions that conservation can place on a property. Our primary goal, of course, is to help provide incentives to landowners who have generously chosen to protect some part of their land for the public benefit of all.

SUMMARY ABOUT BC CONSERVATION LANDS FORUM

The BC Conservation Lands Forum established a Trust of \$ 8.0 million dollars to achieve the following key initiatives within the province:

To support biodiversity conservation in BC by:

- strengthening private and public sector partnerships
- enhancing coordination and efficiency among conservation oriented organizations, including government
- supporting a science-based approach to conservation planning
- facilitating the acquisition and management of ecologically significant private land, and
- encouraging donations from the private sector

The funding will be allocated to the various initiatives as follows:

- Land Securement \$ 1.0 million per year
- Operation and Management \$ 200,000 per year
- Conservation Planning Tools \$ 360,000 per year
- Administrative Support \$ 40,000 per year

A key component of this initiative is that all the funds from the Trust must be matched minimum 3:1 from non-provincial funding sources.

The Board of the Forum will be made up of the following organisations representatives:
Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
Nature Conservancy of Canada
The Nature Trust of British Columbia

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Representative of a Regional/municipal agency

At present the partners are working towards establishing the Trust and Implementing the Forum by the end of February. Once all the necessary pieces are in place we will be able implement the objectives of the Trust.

If you have a project requiring acquisition funds, please contact the LTABC with a Case including financial matching plans and we will be sure to bring it to the table.

COVENANT DEFENSE FUND

We have opened an account with VanCity that starts our Covenant Defense Fund. A committee from the LTABC Council is developing policies and ideas for the fund's future use. This item will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, Sunday March 20th. Initial ideas include a \$100 fee when a covenant is registered. What are your ideas? Does your land trust have its own Covenant Defense fund? Please contact us with your thoughts.

Appraisal Assistance Fund

Yes, it's still available! You can get up to \$3000 of your land trust's appraisals or other associated legal costs of an Ecogift reimbursed through this Fund. Thanks to the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, we have continued this grant program to April 2005. See our website for application forms and instructions for applying.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS & GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

CHARITABLE PURPOSES ACT

Bill 63, the Charitable Purposes Preservation Act, has been introduced to the Legislative Assembly. The act, a response to recent litigation, is intended to ensure a balance between the interests of donors and charities, and the interests of those to whom a charitable organisation is indebted or liable. The new act will allow a donation to a charity for a specific charitable purpose to be used exclusively for that purpose; and protect the donation from being used to satisfy unrelated debts or other liabilities of the charitable organisation.

Donations of property or money given for a specific charitable purpose are now to be kept and administered separately from other property, and used exclusively for the specified purpose. For more information, contact: Kelly Harris, Public Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Attorney General 250 387-1253/ 250 361-8349 cell; or, visit www.gov.bc.ca

PROVINCE ALLOTS \$ FOR RIVERS & ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE HIGHWAYS

The Province has allotted \$4 million over two years to protect and enhance wildlife and fisheries habitats linked to highway projects. The funding is meant for restoration and conservation projects that minimise environmental impact of roads. About 30 out of 50 projects planned for the 2-year period have been completed. Projects include acquiring environmentally valuable lands in wetlands and along rivers; building spawning channels on the lower mainland and Vancouver Island; and improving or restoring fish passage on highway stream crossings. The Ministry of Transportation has entered into partnerships with local stewardship groups and is working with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete the projects. Additional information is available at: www.gov.bc.ca

In September 2004, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection announced that \$7 million would be allotted for restoration and protection of BC rivers. View the press release at: www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2004W LAP0049-000758.htm

NEW PROVINCIAL RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

The province's new Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) is due to be activated in March 2005. This new, more flexible legislation is significantly different from the earlier Streamside Protection Regulations, and may have an effect on the welfare of fish populations. Read West Coast Environmental Law's assessment of the RAR at: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/30/02/06.htm>

BILL C-15 TO PROTECT MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION

Bill C-15, An Act to amend the Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994) and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999), has been presented for its second reading. C-15 is designed to make the enforcement of marine pollution cases more effective, calling for increased fines for offenders, and more powers for enforcers to redirect and detain ships. The amendments were prompted by recent court cases, and also by evidence of huge numbers of seabirds being killed by oily bilge from passing ships. To read more about oiled birds:

www.atl.ec.gc.ca/boas/index_e.html.

For more information on Bill C-15, visit:

www.ec.gc.ca/media_e.htm

NEWS

2004 awards

Congratulations to Ken Millard, Director of the Galiano Island Conservancy, and to Kathy Reimer, of the Island Stream & Salmon Enhancement Association (Salt Spring Island) for winning Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards!

Also, congratulations to the Honourable David Anderson, winner of West Coast Environmental Law's *Dr. Andrew Thompson*

Award, which recognizes lifelong contributions to the environmental protection and sustainability of BC through the law.

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE & ARCTIC ECOSYSTEMS

The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment was presented at the November 2004 International Science Symposium in Reykjavik, Iceland, held by the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States are the members of the Arctic Council. This report is a comprehensive evaluation and synthesis of knowledge on climate variability, climate change, and increased ultraviolet radiation and their consequences. It discusses the differential vulnerability of arctic ecosystems and communities to the above phenomena. According to Robert Correll, the oceanographer who headed the study, in the past 60 years, the average winter temperature in the Alaskan and Western Canadian North has increased at twice the average global rate. Additionally, in the past 30 years, Arctic sea ice has shrunk by 10%, and the permafrost line, which is important for transportation, petroleum exploration and construction, is expected to retreat north by about 300 km this century if trends continue. For more information: www.acia.uaf.edu

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Canadian Wind Energy Atlas, a massive database of high resolutions wind statistics for all of Canada, was released in October. The Atlas was created using the Wind Energy Simulation Toolkit. The Government of Canada has committed to purchasing 20% of its electricity from emerging renewable power sources by 2006. For further information: http://www.ec.gc.ca/media_e.htm



Vision Quest Windelectric and the Pembina Institute hope to power 20,000

computers with wind, and also to enable individual wind power operators to feed electricity into the grid. Visit the Pembina Institute's website for more information: www.pembina.org/default.asp

SPECIES-AT-RISK NEWS

WORLD CONSERVATION UNION UPDATES RED-LIST



In November 2004, the World Conservation Union released an updated IUCN Red List of

species from around the globe that are at risk of extinction. The rate of the current decline in global biodiversity identifies this as potentially the most serious mass extinction event in the fossil record. One in three amphibians and almost half of all freshwater turtles are threatened, on top of the one in eight birds and one in four mammals that were already on the List. Some of the threats identified include over-exploitation of resources, habitat loss, introduction of invasive or predatory species, pollution, and climate change. For more information, and to view the List, visit: www.iucn.org

UPDATES TO SARA LIST

On October 22, 2004, Minister of the Environment, Stéphane Dion, recommended the addition of 76 of 79 species suggested by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) to the Species at Risk Act. Minister Dion recommended not listing the Cultus and Sakinaw Lake sockeye salmon, citing excessive impact on the fishing industry, First Nations fishing, and tourism, should these fish receive protection under SARA. The speckled dace was returned to COSEWIC for further review. The public was given 30 days to provide comments and concerns.

For more information, visit the Species at Risk web site at: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca or the SARA Public Registry site at: www.sararegistry.gc.ca or contact: André Lamarre, Office of the Minister of the Environment (819) 953 8239; or Brian Underhill, Director of Communications, Office of the Minister, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (613) 992-3474.

ORCAS ADDED TO U.S. ENDANGERED LIST

In December 2004, the U.S. Federal government announced that the Southern resident population of orca whales will be listed under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA). As a result, the whales, which have suffered a 20% reduction in population since 1990 (to a low of 85 animals), will have some level of protection conferred in both Canadian and

American waters. Threats to the orcas include toxic pollution, boat noise and harassment, and declines in Chinook salmon and other prey. The announcement follows a court challenge launched by American environmental organisations, in conjunction with the Sierra Legal Defense Fund, the Georgia Strait Alliance, and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

CHANGES TO BC'S SPECIES-AT-RISK LEGISLATION

Since 1980, cabinet has been able to designate and protect mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds as species at risk. May 2004 amendments to the Act allow for listing of fish and plants, and grant cabinet a new power to protect 'species residences'.

In BC, the Conservation Data Centre has listed 108 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds as endangered or threatened. According to West Coast Environmental Law, of these, only the burrowing owl, white pelican, sea otter, and Vancouver Island marmot have received legal protection. To read a review of BC's species at risk legislation: www.wcel.org/deregulation/bill51.pdf

PROVINCE OF BC ANNOUNCES NEW SPECIES RECOVERY STRATEGY

Canada's new Species at Risk Act allows the federal government to intervene if provincial governments are taking inadequate action to protect species. In February 2004, the Sierra Club of Canada, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, ForestEthics and the David Suzuki Foundation represented by Sierra Legal Defence Fund threatened the federal government with court action if there was no such intervention in BC. In October 2004, the province announced that it would allot \$800,000 to accelerate progress on recovery planning for spotted owl, mountain caribou, and marbled murrelet. View the MWLAP Press Release at: www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_news_releases/2004W LAP0054-000869.htm

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD SPECIAL REPORTS

The Forest Practices Board, an independent public watchdog that reports to the public about compliance with the Forest Practices Code, has called for immediate specific and decisive action from BC's Provincial government with regard to marbled murrelets and mountain caribou.

Marbled Murrelets – In their report, *A Lack of Direction – Improving Marbled Murrelet Habitat Conservation Under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)*, the FPB summarises the latest science available on murrelet population and habitat needs, as well as the conservation tools available under FRPA. For preserving the marbled murrelet on BC's south coast, the FPB has called for clear government direction and removal of constraints on habitat protection. One of the key challenges to marbled murrelet habitat preservation is the 1% timber cap.

Mountain Caribou – The Forest Practices Board report, *Forest Practices Board report, BC's Mountain Caribou: Last Chance for Conservation?* Calls for the immediate introduction of habitat protection measures by the BC government if mountain caribou are to survive. View the report at: www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/news/releases/2004/29-09.htm

CPAWS REPORT ON MOUNTAIN CARIBOU & THE BOREAL FOREST CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has released a new report on the status of woodland caribou and their habitat in Canada. The report states that of the 5 major woodland caribou populations, one (mountain caribou) is endangered, two are threatened and one is of special concern. Without large-scale habitat preservation, in this century the species will likely disappear from much of its range.

CPAWS, in conjunction with industry, First Nations, and other NGOs, has worked with the Canadian Boreal Initiative to create the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework. The framework aims to see half of the boreal forest permanently protected from industrial uses, and to see the rest managed in such a way that resource extraction does not put wildlife populations at risk. CPAWS is looking to partner with other groups to protect other species living in this region. For more information: www.cpaaws.org/boreal

OIL & GAS MORATORIUM NEWS

PRIDDLE PANEL REPORT & FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION

In November 2004 the Federal Panel on Offshore Oil and Gas released the *Priddle Panel Report*, based on a series of hearings that sampled public opinion

on whether the moratorium on oil and gas exploration in BC should be lifted. Of approximately 3700 submissions, 2759 (75%) were from respondents opposed to lifting the moratorium. The report outlines the position of moratorium 'keepers' and 'lifters' on consultation with First Nations, ecological impacts of lifting the moratorium, and socio-economic impacts. To download the Report of the Priddle Panel: www2.nrcan.gc.ca/es/erb/CMFiles/PRP-English-Final_for_web205KFH-18112004-9111.pdf

A second report shows First Nations participants as largely opposed to lifting the moratorium. To download the results of the Priddle Panel's First Nations consultation: www2.nrcan.gc.ca/es/erb/CMFiles/FNEP_English_Final_for_Web205KCU-18112004-5276.pdf

TREATY 8 STATEMENT ON OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

In October 2004, Treaty 8 First Nations released a three-point statement resulting from a first ever conference on the impacts of oil and gas that included First Nations participants from across BC and Alberta. The press release, available at the URL below, states that the group finds oil & gas development as currently practiced to have unacceptable social and ecological impacts; that government failure to require cumulative impact assessments in advance of development infringes on treaty and aboriginal rights; and that the participants intend to support renewable energy projects. View the press release at: www.dogwoodinitiative.org/Pages/newsroom/intenews.php?filepath=http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/in_the_news/archives/000703.html

COALBED METHANE

The BC Provincial government is exploring development of a coalbed methane industry. Coalbed methane is a gas that occurs anywhere that there is coal. Plans include many communities that have not been the focus of oil and gas extraction in the past. Disposal of produced water (considered a pollutant in the US) from coalbed methane extraction is one of the key issues raised in an article by West Coast Environmental Law: www.wcel.org/4976/30/02/03.htm

SALMON & FISHERIES NEWS

SALMON STEWARDSHIP GROUPS AT RISK: NEW REPORT

Two new reports from the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council indicate that salmon stewardship groups reliant on federal funding will need to shift focus onto creation and implementation of recovery plans if they are to survive. This would require science-based planning, and the co-operation of volunteers, governments, First Nations, and scientists to devise measurable goals. The reports also highlight the essential work that has been done by such groups, and give advice on how to modify stewardship activities to reflect changes in legislation. With less government support, concerns have arisen over who will pay for the projects and requisite monitoring. Both reports are available at: www.fish.bc.ca under "Council Release Report on 'Reality Stewardship'"

POST-SEASON SALMON REVIEW

In December 2004, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans released the results of its post-season review on the management of southern British Columbia salmon stocks in 2004. To download the review, *A Policy Framework for Conservation of Pacific Salmon*: www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/wspframework/WSP_e.pdf

New assessments of salmon stocks

BC Auditor-General Wayne Strelieff joined with the federal Auditor-General to produce two new reports on salmon stocks in BC. The overall message is that unless provincial and federal governments take immediate and serious action to protect wild fish populations, learn about fish farming, and protect habitat, BC's wild salmon stocks will collapse. In spite of evident threats from increasing urbanization, forestry and agriculture, neither arm of government has any real vision for protecting the wild stocks. The reports highlight the impossibility of knowing how much long-term damage aquaculture will cause for the fisheries or for the environment. View the reports at: www.bcauditor.com/AuditorGeneral.htm and: www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EELGRASS MAPPING - The Broughton Archipelago

Stewardship Society is asking boaters to help map eelgrass meadows in the Archipelago. If you know

the location of an eelgrass bed in the Broughton Archipelago, please send the location description/GPS reading to: Kate-sc@island.net

COWICHAN TRIBES APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS

Chief Harvey Alphonse met with UN officials in October to discuss the lack of progress in Treaty negotiations with federal and provincial governments. Discussion of crown land issues was another item on the agenda, as Canada is bound by international covenants and agreements to observe the rights of First Nations to access of lands, resources, and self-determination. For additional information, download: www.treatycouncil.org/PDFs/2004Oct_NR_UN_Meetings.pdf

RESEARCH NEWS

ONE THIRD OF AMPHIBIANS FACE EXTINCTION

Dr. Simon Stuart of the World Conservation Union lead a recent study on global amphibian decline, which showed one third of frogs, toads, newts and salamanders to be at risk of extinction. The study (**Status and Trends of Amphibian Declines and Extinctions Worldwide**, *Science* 2004 306: 1783-1786) found that pollution is the major factor in decline. The spread of a fungus called chytridiomycosis, which may be exacerbated by global warming, is also thought to be a significant factor. This study shows amphibians to be experiencing more rapid and dramatic decline than other animal groups, and emphasizes the alarming unilateral nature of the losses. For more information: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3743682.stm>

Subscribers to the online journal may view article at: www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/306/5702/1783

BIRDS IN DECLINE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

The National Audubon Society has released a 'State of the Birds' report, which finds that birds, like amphibians, are rapidly disappearing. Nearly 30% of bird species in North America are experiencing a significant decline. By analysing data on 654 species, collected from 1966 to 2003, the group discovered that 36 percent of shrub-land species are

disappearing, along with 25 percent of forest species, 23 percent of birds in urban areas, 13 percent in wetlands, and a whopping 70 percent in North America's grasslands. The report calls for assistance from private land and homeowners (e.g. keeping cats indoors, putting decals on windows, avoiding pesticide use). View the report at: www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/

TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS IN BREAST MILK OF NORTHWESTERN WOMEN

Northwest Environmental Watch released a report describing toxic Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) pollutants in the bodies of northwesterners. The study shows levels of PBDEs – flame retardant chemicals applied to furniture foams, textiles and consumer electronics – in the breast milk of 40 women tested from Oregon, BC, Montana and Washington. Access the report at: www.northwestwatch.org/toxics
To view regional efforts to phase out PBDEs: www.northwestwatch.org/toxics/toxics_regional.pdf

RESOURCES

THE EARTH CHARTER

To endorse the Earth Charter initiative, a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society, visit: www.earthcharter.org

CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION

For information on climate change in Canada by region, visit the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN) website: www.c-ciarn.ca/index_e.asp

Also, the Government of Canada's report, *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation: A Canadian Perspective*, gives an overview 5 years worth of knowledge in key sectors, accumulated by Canadian researchers. View the report at:

http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/perspective_e.asp
For information on how to slow climate change, or to calculate your current yearly emissions, please visit: www.climatechange.gc.ca

COSEWIC WEBSITE

To access the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's list of species-at-risk, the database and species reports, or to find

contact information for species subcommittees, visit: www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm

GOOGLE ACADEMIC SEARCH ENGINE

Google has opened a beta version of their scholar research engine that will allow academic science and research articles to be accessed (for free) by the public. The URL is: www.scholar.google.com

CERTIFICATION FOR CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONERS

The Canadian Environmental Certification Approvals Board (CECAB) has developed two new types of certification for workers in the environmental field. The purpose of certification is to denote competence of environmental practitioners, and to raise standards for environmental practice. The two certifications are:

- 1) 'Canadian Certified Environmental Practitioner' – for environmental practitioners with 5 or more years work experience. Gives formal nation-wide recognition of the practitioner's environmental skills & expertise.
- 2) 'Canadian Environmental Practitioner-In-Training' – provides opportunity for environmental practitioners with less than 5 years experience to develop related skills & knowledge of environmental practice. For more information, visit www.cecab.org/home.asp

TOUR GUIDE AND HERITAGE INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION COURSES

Island Discovery & Training is offering 2 courses (Certified Heritage Interpreter, Certified Local Tour Guide) on Vancouver Island, and in Greater Vancouver. For details, contact Donna Hill (250-753-5246) dhill@uniserve.com, or visit www.naturepark.com/idat

THE DOGWOOD INITIATIVE – STEWARDSHIP RESOURCE FOR FIRST NATIONS

This Victoria-based organisation aims to make BC a model for sustainable land reform, by devising sustainable community-centred solutions for lands and people. We help communities and First Nations gain more control of the land and resources around them.

For more information, visit: www.dogwoodinitiative.org

STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENTS OFFERED FOR VICTORIA'S GORGE WATERWAY

Through assistance from the City of Victoria, The Real Estate Foundation of BC, and VanCity Credit Union, the Gorge Waterway Action Society is able to offer stewardship assessments to landowners along the Gorge Waterway in Victoria. Interested property owners and managers can contact Caren Cameron at (250) 381-3069 or Henry Kamphof at (250) 389-1939 in Victoria.

SMART BYLAWS GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In November 2004, West Coast Environmental Law released a web-based 'Smart Bylaws Guide' to assist local governments with implementing smart growth strategies through policy and bylaw changes. The guide can help local governments to:

- Create urban containment boundaries and preserve agricultural land;
- Create more compact complete communities where services and residential uses are integrated into walkable neighbourhoods;
- Assess the look and impact of increasing densities
- Implement affordable housing strategies;
- Integrate green infrastructure into neighbourhood design; and
- Ensure that the cost impacts of different types of development are properly addressed.

The guide is available at:

www.wcel.org/issues/urban/sbg

STATISTICS CANADA: HUMAN ACTIVITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

The 2004 edition of *Human Activity and the Environment* highlights are available at www.statcan.ca/start.html for free. The full report can also be purchased.

Also from Statistics Canada, a brief report, *A Profile of Environmental Nonprofit & Voluntary Organisations in Canada CEGN Research Brief (October 2004)*, based on Statistics Canada's National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organisations, has information relevant to conservation groups and land trusts. It is available for download at www.cegn.org/NSNVO%20Environment%20Highlights.pdf

SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION PROJECT CASE STUDIES

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy's Report *Nature conservation case studies: What makes a project really work?* provides sample best practices based on Conservation of Natural Heritage program conservation projects. Case studies include: Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve (British Columbia); Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Project (Nova Scotia); Lands for Life (Ontario); Manitoba Mining Sector Consultation (Manitoba); Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (British Columbia); Pacific Estuary Conservation Program (British Columbia); Vuntut National Park (Yukon); and Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (Yukon). View www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/newsletter/Summer2004E/Summer-2004_E.htm

Interactive timeline of environmental milestones World Watch Institute has created an online version of their timeline of Environmental Milestones from the 1960's to present day. The online version has internet links associated with each event: www.worldwatch.org/pubs/timeline

NEW GUIDEBOOK SHOWS BENEFITS OF NO-TAKE MARINE RESERVES. The Ocean Conservancy has released *Marine Reserves: A Guide to Science, Design, and Use*, written by scientists Jack Sobel and Craig Dahlgren, and published by Island Press. This book discusses no-take marine reserves as powerful management tools for restoring and preserving marine biodiversity. The case studies in this book draw on global experience to provide a history and assessment of marine reserves, and also discussion of social impacts. For more information, contact Gregg M. Schmidt by telephone: 202-857-1685 or by e-mail: gshmidt@oceanconservancy.org

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

Any lake, stream, bay or other waterbody can be registered for the World Water Monitoring Day Report. To register for 2005, order a monitoring kit, or to view the current results 2004's World Water Monitoring Day (October 18) visit: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org

CETACEAN SIGHTINGS NETWORK

A collaborative effort of the Pacific Biological Station and the Vancouver aquarium, the network

gathers important information about populations of whales, dolphins and porpoises in BC. Of the 23 cetacean species in BC, 7 are endangered. This network provides an essential resource for their conservation. To report a sighting, or for more information, visit:

www.wildwhales.org/stewardship/index.html

FUNDING & AWARD APPLICATIONS

Unilever & Evergreen Community Grants

Friday, January 28, 2005 is the deadline for 2005 applications for Unilever and Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship grants. These grants are between \$2,000 and \$10,000, and are given for a range of small-scale, community-driven, partnership projects including wetland, riparian and littoral zone restoration, instream bioengineering, and wildlife monitoring. Download application at: www.evergreen.ca/en/cg/cg-funding.html

2005 Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund

The submission deadline for Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund applications for 2005 project funding is February 4, 2005. Applicants are encouraged to contact Jim Hope or Marian Adair at The Nature Trust to find out further information on how to apply and to discuss their project and its suitability for funding support. Funding available in 2005 is limited to \$2,500. For application: www.naturetrust.bc.ca/news/events.html

CANADIAN AND GLOBAL RESOURCE USE

FOOTPRINT REPORTS

WWF, in partnership with the United Nations Environmental Program and the Global Footprint Network, has released the Living Planet Report 2004, a survey of resource use by 150 nations. The report finds that humans are exceeding the 'carrying capacity of the Earth' by about 20%. The Living Planet Index, a measure of species' population trends, has declined by 40 % in the past 30 years. View the report at:

www.panda.org/news_facts/publications/general/livplanet/index.cfm

- According to a report prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada has the world's third-largest "ecological footprint," and if everyone in the world consumed at the Canadian rate, it

would take four more Earths to support them. The average Canadian needs the support of 7.2 hectares of land and water. To download Ecological Footprints of Canadian Municipalities and Regions: www.fcm.ca/english/communications/eco.pdf

EVENTS

HERITAGE CONSERVATION: WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

Harbour Centre, Vancouver; February 18, 2005;
Hosted by City Program, Simon Fraser University.
Cost is \$195
www.heritagebc.ca/cityprogram.pdf

GREEN COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Sessions include a panel discussion on key factors in the successes (& failures) of Green Communities, Communicating Green Communities, Innovative local Projects, and addresses by David Suzuki and Elizabeth May. The conference is open to individuals affiliated with GCA member organisations, and others (that's you) by invitation.
Location: **The Liu Centre, UBC, Vancouver, BC**
February 24-26, 2005
Contact: 1-877-533-4098, conference@gca.ca

2005 PUGET SOUND GEORGIA BASIN
RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Seattle, Washington; March 29-31, 2005
www.engr.washington.edu/epp/psgb/save.html

SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
NORTHWEST 2005 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
"Sustainability and Restoration: A Practical
Partnership for the 21st Century"

Washington State Convention and Trade Centre
Seattle, WA, April 4-8, 2005

49TH ANNUAL BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION
CONVENTION

Nanaimo, BC; May 4-7, 2005
www.bcwf.bc.ca/s=142/bcw1089397688895/

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF
CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Proposed sessions include: Ecological Citizenship
Ethical Revolutions: Animal rights,
environmentalism, and strategising for social
change; Political Ecology and Landscapes of
Inequality in the Global South.

Location: **The Canadian Congress of Learned
Societies, The University of Western Ontario**
June 2-4, 2005

www.thegreenpages.ca/esac/events/conference2005/proposed_sessions.htm

HOLLYHOCK EVENTS

Hollyhock, Cortes Island,

To register, please call Hollyhock at 1-800-933-6339

•ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Every year, Hollyhock Leadership Institute hosts a week-long Environmental Leadership Initiative. This intensive course is intended for emerging leaders in the environmental movement, and covers a wide range of topics. These include, but are not limited to: campaign planning, communications and media, leadership, avoiding burnout, and working in groups effectively. **June 22-29, 2005**
www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3458

•ETHICAL INVESTING: USING YOUR MONEY
TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Find out how to invest for both your future and for a just and sustainable world. Experts Deb and Perry Abbey cover: Portfolio design for the concerned investor. Social Investment Options: The Canadian and US landscape today and tomorrow. \$65 tuition, bring bag lunch. Feb 4, 7 - 9 pm, Feb 5, 10am-4:30pm. To register, please call **Hollyhock** at 1-800-933-6339

•EXPANDING YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE:
ENGAGING ON THE ISSUES YOU CARE ABOUT
with Tzeporah Berman & Karen Mahon
Mar 11, 7:30 - 9:30 pm Mar 12, 10am-5pm

Are you concerned about global climate change?
Trying to make a change in your child's school?
Hear how individuals and organisations have made effective change in issues like the Great Bear Rainforest as well as inspiring stories from exciting campaigns dramatically influencing social, corporate and environmental responsibility. Our goal is to examine options for impacting what you care deeply about and inspire you with new ideas and energy. Bring bag lunch; \$95 tuition.

RECONNECTING TO LIFE 2005

Vancouver - March 5-6, 2005 *with Jackie Larkin & 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. Tuition:\$95

WETLANDS INSTITUTE

Attend the seventh bi-annual Wetlands Institute. Participants will learn wetland mapping, inventory, and restoration techniques, all placed in a community context. The Wetlands Institute focuses on project development and implementation. Participants interested in building and implementing a plan for a wetland education, conservation or restoration project in their own community are encouraged to apply.

Victoria, BC; July 3-9, 2005

www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/wetlandsinstitute.html; Contact Lisa Mose, Coordinator, 250-423-2654, wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca

REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR

The McGregor Model Forests Association, Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptations Research Network, Canadian Forest Service, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, UNBC, and FORREX plan to host a seminar to disseminate current information regarding climate change to its partners and the public. Community vulnerability and adaptations approaches and the basic science behind climate change are proposed topics of the seminar. The target audience includes community representatives, the forest industry and the general public. **Prince George, BC; Date: TBA**
Contact Rein Kahlke, 250-612-5842, rein.kahlke@mcgregor.bc.ca

INTRODUCTION TO CARBON ACCOUNTING SEMINAR

Prince George, BC; Date: TBA (~ October 26, 2005)

The McGregor Model Forests Association and its partners propose a half-day seminar to further the dissemination and application of new knowledge related to carbon budgeting to forestry practitioners and the interested public. An additional objective is

to evaluate and help guide the implementation of carbon accounting systems within the Prince George TSA by: Reviewing the current knowledge base for carbon budget accounting; Identifying what knowledge has or has not been applied and why; Defining what we will need to know in the next 3-5 years; and Developing a strategic plan to address those needs. The seminar will be held together with the **October 26th** Regional Climate Change seminar. Contact Rein Kahlke, 250-612-5842, rein.kahlke@mcgregor.bc.ca

CONTESTING THE FRASER: COMMUNITIES, COALITIONS AND THE FISH VERSUS POWER DEBATE

Join historical geographer, Matthew Evenden in this exploration of the history of the Fraser River. Admission by donation.

Fraser River Discovery Centre, 788 Quayside Drive, New Westminster, BC, February 9

VANISHING BRITISH COLUMBIA

Explore the history of the Fraser River with artist and writer, Michael Kluckner. Have you ever wanted to know why some river communities developed or wanted to take a look back at their unique histories? This seminar is part of the Fraser River Discovery Centre's speaker series, "Tales of a River's Past". This year's series will provide a retrospective on communities and towns of the Fraser River. Admission is by donation.

**Fraser River Discovery Centre, 788 Quayside Drive, New Westminster, BC
April 13, 2005**

INTERPRETATION CANADA TRAINING MODULE 1

Principles & Planning: definition of interpretation, principles, audience, learning styles, planning structure & creativity. Great for anyone involved in environmental education, nature or historical museums, conservation organisations, cultural or arts centres or tourism companies.

\$149 (incl \$15 non-refundable registration fee, workbook and completion certificate)

Small classes so space is limited. Donna Hill B.Sc. B.Ed. Nationally Certified Heritage Interpreter
dhill@uniserve.com; 250-753-5246

www.naturepark.com/idad

**Feb. 5 & 6, 2005 9:30am-4: 30pm, Nanaimo, BC
MODULE 2: Feb 12 & 13, 2005 9:30am-4: 30pm**

Atlas of
The Islands in the Salish Sea

\$45.00 PRE-SALE PRICE

SEND A CHEQUE TO:
204-338 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 2V3

Or contact Erika at
erika@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

*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 Foundation of
British Columbia
Ministry of Community
Development,
Cooperatives and Volunteers
The Bullitt Foundation
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www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry

**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 180,000 hectares listed)
- Protected red-listed species details including habitats

LTA Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

204-338 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

250-538-0112 fax 250-538-0172

info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

