

The Kingfisher

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LTA The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



Special Issue
Communities in Transition

Land Trusts help expand BC's parks
Conservation & stewardship stories
Mapping and more mapping

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

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Sooke Potholes

photo by Gordon Scott

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Message from the Editor

With the next two issues of ***The Kingfisher***, we are taking a special look at what is happening in BC's rural communities. Demographic changes are pushing some communities into rapid development. The aging of the baby boomer population (many of whom have lived in a generation of abundance) is now resulting in the accelerating purchase of second homes, (40% of Salt Spring Island homes are now reported to be owned by non-residents). Juxtaposed to this rapid growth, the limits of the resources which created many communities such as mill towns or fishing villages are leaving other communities with different transition challenges. The social, cultural and environmental effects of these changes are now emerging. New neighbours, economies and lifestyles are shifting our sense of belonging both to the community and to the land with its environment and the traditional natural resource economy.

Who gets to decide how communities grow – market forces or community members? How do people get a voice in our own community directions? For example, on Salt Spring, the OCP states that the Ganges core is pedestrian-oriented village. However, the By-laws stipulate that each business must have an associated four parking spots. Thus the core is full of parking lots, right up to the waterfront. How can we be more successful in protecting both our cultural and natural heritage?

Thanks to the Real Estate Foundation for raising these topics in the next two issues through the Communities in Transition Initiative, a partnership program which many organizations including the LTABC are pleased to be part of. We also take a brief look at several other partnership initiatives, including the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture and the Canadian Mapping Network.

BC can be proud of our beautiful Provincial Parks. Land trusts have been working for years with all levels of government to help create and in some cases offer stewardship and management for parks and protected areas. This issue celebrates some of the results of this work, and reminds us that our public parks need our continued support, so that they are not eroded by short-term and limited, private commercial interests.

Continued on inside back cover....

On June 26th, 2005 The Land Conservancy (TLC) and the Capital Regional District Parks (CRD) announced the opening of Sooke Potholes Regional Park. TLC is thrilled with this significant achievement after spending nearly two years fundraising and negotiating this \$3.3 million acquisition.

This project was initiated by the community and would not have been successful without the overwhelming support shown by residents of the area and indeed, visitors throughout British Columbia. For decades, people have used the area for swimming, fishing and hiking.

The property was being foreclosed upon when TLC stepped in to acquire it. It had been subject to several failed development proposals during recent years and was undergoing a court-ordered sale. By buying out the interests of the primary creditors, TLC was granted title to the property last fall. TLC partnered with CRD Parks and the Provincial government to facilitate the purchase. The new Potholes Park adds 63.5 hectares to the existing five-acre Provincial Park.

The energy showed by TLC and CRD staff and volunteers to bring the site to a presentable fashion for June was immense. Though much of the equipment and garbage left on the site was contained in few areas, the clean up took several months due to the volume.

The "potholes" are unique geological formations which create deep pools in the Sooke River which provides one of the best freshwater swimming for the region. The clear green pools are linked by picturesque waterfalls and gorges, and surrounded by

Sooke Potholes Celebrated

By Eileen Palmer

the beautiful forests of the Sooke Hills. Visitors to the park may also picnic or explore Douglas fir trails and stunning vistas from several viewpoints. This park is also accessible by way of the Region's Galloping Goose Trail.

With the acquisition phase of the Sooke Potholes project now completed and the creation of a regional park announced, TLC has immediately proceeded with Phase Two to get the park and the campground up and running. Phase Three will include

TLC's development of a visitor's centre on the site over the next few years. Already 30 of the 64 campsites are open and are available at www.sookepotholes.ca. As the summer weather is finally upon us, visitors have been steadily using the site.

It is our first campground and our first partnership where TLC manages land (the campground and visitor's centre) within a government owned park.

The magnitude of this project has been a first for TLC. It is our first campground and our first partnership where

TLC manages land (the campground and visitor's centre) within a government owned park. The partnership with regional government has been extremely positive: their assistance has been crucial to our success. For more details on the project, please contact TLC at 250.479.8053

The Nature Trust's Contribution to BC Parks

Francis Point - Photo, Graham Osbourne



BC parks are some of the most beautiful in the world. Hiking up mountainous terrain, watching salmon make their river journey or sitting below a towering Douglas-fir, our parks provide opportunities to enjoy memorable experiences and the ecological diversity of British Columbia.

As a leading non-profit land conservation organization, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has played a key role in both the establishment and contribution of key infill private properties to a number of Provincial Parks. In addition, a number of Nature Trust properties under long term lease to the province or federal government are designated and managed as Ecological Reserves, National Wildlife Areas and Wildlife Management Areas (which will be detailed in the next issue of *The Kingfisher*). Since 1971 The Nature Trust has worked to protect BC's wildlife and plants through the securement and management of high-risk habitats. Due to the generosity, support and foresight of donors and many partners, numerous Nature Trust properties with significant ecological values have been conserved and in a number of cases become part of Provincial Parks. Of over 120 land acquisition projects acquired by The Nature Trust, 11 are managed as Provincial Parks.

"It is very satisfying to know we have been able to add to the conservation values of our provincial protected areas system," said Nature Trust Director Frances Vyse. "For example, at Roderick Haig-Brown Park our purchases were critical to protecting the integrity of the lower Adams River ecosystem; our purchase of private land in 2001 in the small remaining areas of dry

coastal forest led to the creation of Francis Point Park."

1. Cowichan River Provincial Park

The Nature Trust acquired 4.4 hectares (11 acres) near Cowichan Lake that became part of the Cowichan River Provincial Park on southern Vancouver Island. This park protects significant stretches of the Cowichan River, a Provincial Heritage River, internationally renowned for its salmon and steelhead fishery. The park features Douglas-fir and Western hemlock forest communities and rare wildflowers. Mammals found in the park include shrews, voles, bats, martens, river otters, black bears, black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk. At least 200 different bird species inhabit the area including osprey, hawks, owls, ravens and bald eagles.

2. Francis Point Provincial Park

In 2001 The Nature Trust purchased 72.8 hectares (180 acres) at Francis Point west of Madeira Park on the Sunshine Coast. This property is now Francis Point Provincial Park. It features the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. This low elevation forest type is exclusive to the eastern side of Vancouver Island and small areas on the Sunshine Coast.

3. Juan de Fuca Provincial Park

The Nature Trust owns 1.6 hectares (4 acres) at Botanical Beach that is now part of Juan de Fuca Provincial Park. Located south of Port Renfrew on Vancouver Island, Botanical Beach is one of the richest tidal areas along the west coast. It features a unique shoreline framed by ridges of shale and quartz, which jut up through the black basalt to form huge tableaus or "potholes." Juan de Fuca Provincial Park includes China Beach, the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail and Botanical Beach as well as waterfalls, grottos, old-growth forest, estuaries and tide pools.

4. Kitsumkalum Lake Provincial Park

The Nature Trust acquired 61.43 hectares (152 acres) of Kitsumkalum River and adjoining slough with high fish and wildlife values near Terrace. This land is now part of Kitsumkalum Lake Provincial Park. The slough stays open in winter and many waterfowl including Trumpeter Swans overwinter here. As well, it is an important coho and sockeye spawning and rearing area and protects the mouth of Dry Creek. There are

6. MacMillan Provincial Park

Photo Doug Walker

7. Marble River Provincial Park

The Nature Trust owns 47.5 hectares (118 acres) of land that is part of Marble River Provincial Park near Port Hardy on northern Vancouver

large cottonwoods
and snags
surrounding the
slough providing
nesting sites for
many bird species.

The Nature Trust owns 34.67 hectares (86 acres) that are now part of the Lakelse Lake Wetlands Provincial Park in the Skeena River Watershed near Terrace.

This area
features
lakeshore
cedar,

8. Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

On the east side of Okanagan Lake, just opposite Peachland is Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. The Nature Trust contributed 202.5 hectares (500 acres) to this park that encompasses ecosystems from three different biogeoclimatic zones: bunchgrass, ponderosa pine and interior Douglas-fir. The park protects habitat for five blue (vulnerable) and two red listed (endangered) bird species including the Western grebe and Whiteheaded woodpecker. Blue listed reptiles found in the park include Western painted turtle, Rubber boa, Gopher snake, Western blue racer and Western rattlesnake.

9. Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park

Between 1976 and 1986, The Nature Trust and its partners acquired 46.52 hectares (115 acres) on the Adams River to establish a 1,076 hectare (2,658 acre) corridor along the world-famous sockeye salmon spawning grounds of the Adams River. The wooded area surrounding the river contains Douglas-fir, cottonwood, birch, alder, ponderosa pine, hemlock and cedar. The park is home to numerous bird species as well as whitetail and mule deer, black bear, beaver, river otter and mink. It is named after one of the first directors of The Nature Trust, Roderick Haig-Brown, a well known conservationist, writer and magistrate.

10. Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park

The Nature Trust owns 81.7 hectares (202 acres) at Cold Fish Lake in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park. This park is one of Canada's largest and most significant, and it spreads across the Spatsizi Plateau and the Skeena Mountains. Lands within the park support large populations of wildlife. The light snow in the rain shadow of the Eaglenest Range creates one of the most important habitats for woodland caribou in British



Columbia. The Spatsizi River Valley, with its flooded areas and oxbow ponds, provides aquatic vegetation for summer forage as well as willow flats for winter browse for moose. Grizzly and black bear, wolverine, beaver, hoary marmot, and Arctic ground squirrel are found here as are more than 140 species of birds.

11. Squitty Bay Provincial Park

The Nature Trust acquired 5.7 hectares (14 acres) on Squitty Bay on the southeast shore of Lasqueti Island. Lasqueti Island lies between central Vancouver Island and Texada Island. Ground-hugging prickly pear cacti grow here alongside Rocky Mountain juniper, far from its montane habitat, and the blue-listed California hedge parsley.

BC is one of the most desirable places to live and visit due in large part to our ability to enjoy the province's spectacular natural beauty. However, this beauty is fragile. We must protect it. For over 34 years The Nature Trust has been committed to finding a balance between conserving our land for its extraordinary biodiversity values and providing recreational and economic benefits. Through management plans for each property, The Nature Trust along with its partners assesses the allowed use relative to the conservation values and sensitivity to disturbance. Where appropriate certain properties become part of Provincial Parks and protected areas as one way to conserve biodiversity.

- **Robin Rivers**

Matson Lands Preserved Forever



The culmination of many years of work was finally realized in June when the Matson Lands in Esquimalt were preserved. Protected through an innovative partnership of visionary land developers, dedicated local residents and grass-roots conservation organizations, Esquimalt's Matson Lands constitute an exemplary model of successful community-based conservation in an urban setting. Members of the West Bay Residents Association (WBRA) and Friends of Matson Lands (FML) have championed the conservation of the Matson Lands for nearly ten years. An agreement with Mandalay Developments Ltd, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the Municipality of Esquimalt and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has now brought this process to a point where conservation and protection is a reality.

Our management plan for the Matson Lands, developed by HAT, NCC, FML, WBRA, Esquimalt and Mandalay Developments, envisions the Matson Lands Conservation Area as:

"A remnant example of the endangered Garry Oak woodlands that once dominated Victoria's landscape, the Matson Lands have become an important node in a regional network of protected areas and greenways surrounding Victoria's Inner Harbour and Gorge waterways....the transformation of this overlooked and degraded ecosystem to a healthy, ecologically functioning, species-rich, conservation area enjoyed by thousands of people stands as a testament to what community-based conservation can accomplish. The Matson Lands have truly become the crown jewel of the Inner Harbour".

The Matson Lands, which are 1 hectare or 2.4 acres, are now owned and managed by HAT. Over the long term management will include rehabilitation of eroded meadow slopes, forested habitats heavily infested with alien species, a public walkway, and interpretive signage. HAT's role as landowner will be to chair the management advisory group and direct the conservation and restoration of this important urban ecosystem.

Special thanks are extended to the Friends of Matson Lands and the West Bay Residents Association whose dreams and tireless efforts were integral to seeing this land conserved. This project was made possible by the forward-thinking donation of the Matson Lands Conservation Area and stewardship funding from David Price of Mandalay Developments Ltd.



Update on NAPTEP

It's not a new international organization and not a military codeword. It's the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program, launched earlier this year in the part of the Islands Trust Area that is in the Capital Regional District and the Sunshine Coast Regional District. The program is designed to offer incentives to landowners to place conservation covenants on private lands. It offers a 65% property tax exemption on land protected with a NAPTEP conservation covenant.

April 1 was the deadline for landowners wishing to receive a tax exemption in 2006. To date we have received four applications from landowners on Salt Spring Island. Applicant lands include wetland, coastal bluff, mature forest and stream ecosystems, comprising more than 25 hectares (60 acres). At their June meeting, the Islands Trust Council agreed to award Natural Area Protected Tax Exemption Certificates to those properties, conditional on the owners registering conservation covenants by the end of October and completing baseline inventory reports consistent with the standards developed for the NAPTEP program.

The Trust Fund Board waived the application fees for first five NAPTEP applications. With four applications received, there is room for one more free application.

For more information check the Islands Trust Fund website at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca or call (250) 405-5186 or write to the Islands Trust Fund at 200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8.



Loretta's Wood on North Pender Transferred to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

The Trust Fund Board transferred a 38.7 hectare nature reserve on North Pender Island, known as Loretta's Wood, to the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

The transfer is a result of public consultation that showed strong support for the move.

"Ecosystems are best managed as landscapes," said Louise Bell, chair of the Islands Trust Fund Board. "Having Parks Canada, with its conservation knowledge and scientific expertise manage the Loretta's Wood property, is preferable to having three different organizations administering adjoining lands."



First Free Crown Grant New Nature Reserve on Gabriola Island

The province has approved the transfer of a 64-hectare forest on Gabriola Island to the Islands Trust

Fund Board as a new nature reserve. Earlier this year the board applied to the government to transfer the old-growth forest property under the provincial Free Crown Grant Program. The transfer brings the amount of protected area in the Gabriola Local Trust Area from 2% protected (the least amount of any Local Trust Area) to 3.1%. It almost doubles the public walking trail infrastructure of Gabriola Island while protecting important biodiversity values. Local school children will be involved in naming the property. The Islands Trust Fund is accepting tax-deductible donations towards the \$6,000 survey needed for the transfer.

The Islands Trust Fund is now consulting with the people of Bowen and Gambier Islands to select a parcel of crown land from the Howe Sound area for our next application. The land will ideally have threatened or at-risk species or ecosystems, broad community support, a potential management partnership and be adjacent to a protected area. The Trust Fund will also consider urgency due to existing or potential threats to conservation.

Opportunity Fund

The Islands Trust Fund established an Opportunity Fund in 2004 to support regionally important conservation projects in the Islands Trust Area. The fund was named the “Opportunity Fund” as the Board wishes to assist partners who are seizing opportunities for land conservation.

The Opportunity Fund started with public donations that arrived without specifying which project they were for. The account grows with each new fundraising initiative, such as the sale of birthday calendars (still available for \$17.95) and appeals to past donors.

The Fund will generally provide support for ‘hard to fundraise’ costs associated with land protection or will be used to match other donations to land acquisition projects. Opportunity Fund application guidelines will be posted to the Islands Trust Fund website by September. Grant amounts will typically be small, in the \$500 - \$5,000 range.

Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Site

Ruby Alton grew up on Salt Spring Island digging clams, fishing and raising sheep and vegetables on the family farm to supplement the family’s income. She was an ardent environmentalist who loved gardening. Later in her life, she left her wonderful waterfront property as a bequest to the Islands Trust Fund. The 1.6 hectare (4 acre) property, including forest, 1930’s house, gardens, and pasture, is now protected for generations to enjoy as a nature reserve.

In 2004, the Islands Trust Fund decided to solve a water supply problem at the Ruby Alton Nature Reserve house by installing a rainwater harvesting system. Installing this system provided a good opportunity to educate the public about this technology and about the impact of climate change on Gulf Island water resources. The project demonstrates a range of available technologies and good practices.

Generous donors to this project include: Vancity/Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia Green Building Grant Program, Capital Regional District, Victoria Foundation, and Rainwater Connection. Slegg Lumber, Mouat’s Trading and Windsor Plywood of Salt Spring Island each donated products for the garden portion of the rainwater harvesting system. Our water storage table, completed by the Rainwater Connection, shows that in a year with average rainfall,



our rooftop catchment system with 5980 imperial gallons of storage, will provide 61% of the total annual demand of a four-person water-conserving household on Salt Spring Island. The house could run entirely on the rainwater from November through January each year, but will require a total of 21,300 gallons of stream water to supplement the rainwater supply. This size of cistern reduces the summer stream water demand to 2,200-2,400 gallons per month during the driest summer months. The summer draw on the stream water could be reduced by approximately 500 gallons per month if the 1,500 gallon emergency reservoir was used to supply the house instead.

Given the site topography, all of the water flows by gravity to a flash or sump tank at the south east corner of the house. Filters and a first flush device screen the water as much as possible prior to it entering the surge tank. It is then pumped up to the 5980 imperial gallon tank in the driveway. The existing stream water supply pipe also connects to the storage tank to provide a supplementary water source, necessary during the summer. The water from the storage tank in the driveway falls with gravity to the basement of the house where the water is treated through biosand, particle, charcoal and UV filters to ensure it is potable.

The garden system demonstrates how two barrels, a simple pump and an ordinary light timer can be combined to create an automatic watering system capable of running up to fifty drip emitters each averaging 1 gallon per hour.

The Ruby Alton Nature Reserve rainwater demonstration site at 661 Isabella Point Rd, Salt Spring Island, will be open for guided tours 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm most Saturdays, July through September. Group tours may also be arranged by calling Kate Leslie at (250) 653-0031.



The Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society is pleased to announce the opening of the Iris Griffith Interpretive Centre on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast.

The focus of the Society this year has been the construction of the Field Studies and Interpretive Centre at Ruby Lake Lagoon. The Iris Griffith Centre, named in honour of the late local naturalist Iris Griffith, is designed to help all ages explore and appreciate the natural wonders of British Columbia's Sunshine Coast. The landowners, the Cogrossi Family at Ruby Lake Resort, have allocated 25 acres to the Lagoon Society for 80 years for this project.

The Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve features the freshwater lagoon and forested acreage located along a scenic section of Highway 101 between Pender Harbour and Egmont. The site is extremely diverse both in terms of the large variety of habitats and the abundance of different animals and plants. The lagoon is already well known by bird lovers for its wood ducks and has been identified by the Wild Bird Trust as one of the most important bird habitats on the Coast. The Nature Reserve is being protected by the Cogrossi Family with a conservation covenant by The Land Conservancy, managed by the Lagoon Society.

The Reserve is en route to the Sunshine Coast ferry services and flanked by the Sunshine Coast Trail

network. It is centrally located within 10 km of several Provincial and Marine Parks and an Ecological Reserve. Thus, it is an ideal location to highlight these natural features and offer interpretive facilities on the mountain, wetland and marine habitats and wildlife of the region. The natural attractions within the Reserve will be further enhanced by restoration of a 4 hectare wetland area south of the Lagoon. Check out the website for more information, up to date news, construction progress and ways to support the work of the Lagoon Society – www.lagoonsociety.com or contact them at RLLNRS RR#1 S20 C16 Madeira Park BC V0N 2H0.

Interpretation Centre at Montague Marine Park, Galiano Island

How about an opalescent nudibranch? Or a hungry acorn barnacle dining on plankton soup? You might even be lucky enough to see a sunflower star motoring around the touch tank at the speed of up to 3 feet per minute! Stick your hands into the touch tank to feel the smooth carapace of a kelp crab, the suctioning tube feet of a purple star, the sharp spines of a sea urchin or dead man's fingers! We also have a touch table where you can identify many locally found skulls and bones and classify a variety of seashells. For the night owls, we open up the "hole in the floor" every Saturday night to entice nocturnal ocean creatures to the surface to watch them feed and reproduce. The Nature House on Galiano Island's Montague Provincial Park is open from 1-5pm, Thursday through Sunday during the months of July and August. Go to the BC Parks website or link to it through our website at www.galianoconservancy.ca.
Pauline - Galiano Conservancy Assoc. 539-2424.

The Latest From Cape Roger Curtis – Bowen Island

The good news is that the bulldozers haven't started, nor have the chain saws. However, the bad news is that the developer withdrew from the "Neighbourhood Concept Plan" in March 2005. He claimed that the time schedule of his investors' objectives was being compromised by all the discussions. Since that time he convened a couple of meetings with selected representatives from various community groups and identified a variety of possible development options, most of which would require extensive rezoning approval, allowing public process.

The Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society continues to maintain community interest in the Cape and to preserve the maximum possible area of the lands for

future generations. We are particularly encouraged by the recent "Draft Regional Parks and Greenways Plan" (<http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/parks/>) proposed by GVRD. This document clearly identifies the need for more parks, and we have submitted feedback to GVRD showing how closely Cape Roger Curtis fits with most of GVRD's goals and strategies. Though we have the tentative support of the Municipality of Bowen, we must now try to develop support from other municipalities in the GVRD. Any suggestions from Kingfisher readers on how to encourage this support would be very welcome. Please contact us at info@caperogercurtis.org.



Planning for Community Transition in Rural Areas

A Partnership Initiative

By Sara Muir Owen

I have been traveling south in New Mexico, along State Hwy 180 to Hurley, Bayard, Santa Clara, and eventually, to the Mimbres Valley. I am on my way to meet with community members of these rural towns to discuss the development of the Grant County Comprehensive Plan.

I soon learn that three of these four small communities, though distinct places with their own unique histories, are facing the same challenge. Phelps Dodge Corporation is curtailing mining activity throughout New Mexico and rural jobs in Grant County are in decline - severe decline. The local economies of Hurley, Bayard and Santa Clara are not being sustained and the towns are facing depopulation. Yet, the exact opposite is holding true in Mimbres, just 35 kilometres east of Bayard, also in Grant County. Rich in scenic and recreation amenity, the Mimbres Valley has become a desirable location, and new development cannot be contained. This historic agricultural community is being transformed and locals are concerned about the environmental, economic and social implications of sudden, unplanned growth.

When I moved back to BC from New Mexico, I wasn't surprised to learn that what is happening in the arid southwestern USA is also occurring in my own, much greener, home province in southwestern Canada. In many rural regions throughout BC

factors that underlie community well-being are changing rapidly, and in most cases, creating challenges. Stresses are being felt, particularly in communities traditionally dependent on resource industries like mining, forestry and fisheries. In some rural communities, as traditional industries decline, economic opportunities erode, jobs disappear and social dislocation occurs as community members are forced to move elsewhere or remain unemployed. Yet, in other rural areas, new enterprises such as destination resort development and oil/gas exploration present new economic opportunities – and another very different set of challenges.

Often, the rate of new economic growth can over-tax the abilities of communities to plan adequately for local and regional land use impacts. For instance, increases in resort and recreation activity, while diversifying the local economy and generating

economic prosperity for a community, can impact wildlife habitat, water quality and landscape aesthetics, drive up the cost of living for long-time community members and, to some degree, influence the socio-cultural fabric of a place. Such changes have negative consequences on the very features that originally drew people to the place.

In BC many rural communities are experiencing unprecedented real estate price increases spawned by historically low interest rates, investment potential and lifestyle demand for resort and recreation experiences. Canadians, Americans and Europeans are entering the

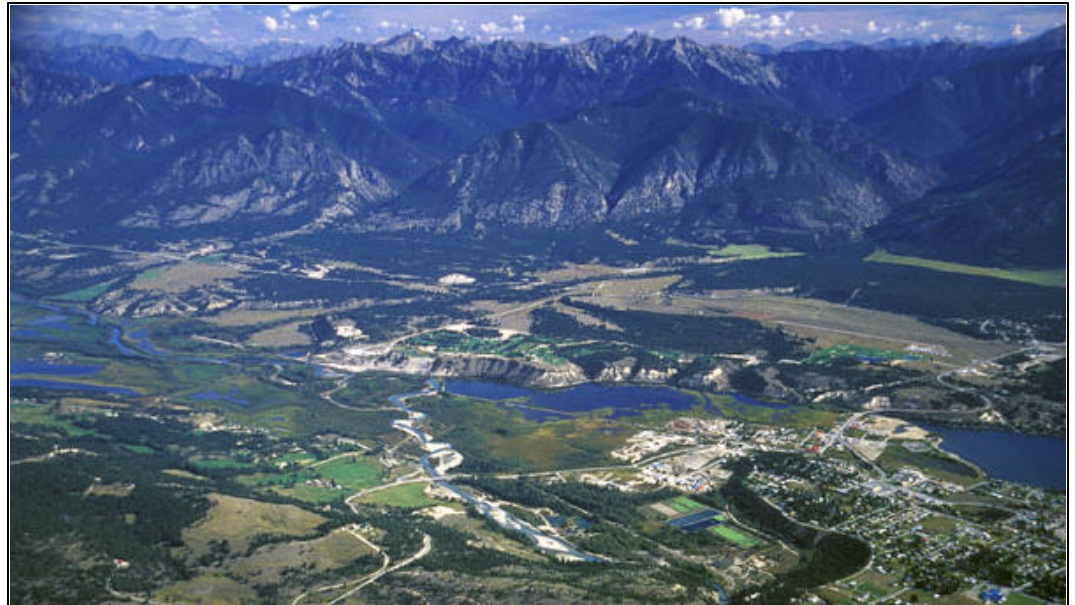


recreation real estate market like never before. Baby boomers continue to be the driving force in the market, sending prices for recreational property skyrocketing. Of all types of recreational property in Canada, the greatest price increases have occurred for waterfront land. Some of the most expensive waterfront properties in Canada are found along the Sunshine Coast and on Salt Spring Island. The RE/MAX 2004 Recreational Property Report indicates starting prices for a three-bedroom, winterized recreational property on water frontage to be \$500,000 on the Sunshine Coast and \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 on Salt Spring Island. These high prices are not limited to the coastal regions. Waterfront property in BC's interior and eastern boundary has experienced significant price increase also.

A recent Vancouver Sun article "Six Success Stories: Buyers Who Have Watched the Value of Their Homes go Through the Roof" (June 11, 2005) reports significant price increase in a property by Windermere Lake near Invermere of the East Kootenays. In 1967, the purchaser bought the .22-hectare waterfront lot for \$7,000; in 2005 he is selling it for \$1.29 million—an 18,328.6 per cent increase in price.

Recreation real estate market prices are expected to continue to rise. Furthermore, given current property values in prime international recreational destinations such as Vail and Aspen, Colorado (where the average sold price for a single family house in 2001 was \$4,100,000 US) many BC markets are considered undervalued. "The waterfront is becoming an exclusive retreat for affluent purchasers," states Michael Polzler, Executive Vice President in the RE/MAX 2004 Recreational Property Report.

Invermere, on
Windermere
Lake, left –
1906 – right
2005 – photo
Darrell Smith



The Capital District (CRD) (responsible for Salt Spring Island, the Gulf Islands and Victoria) scores among the "five best" in the **BC Stats 2004 Economic Hardship Indices**. The East Kootenay Regional District (EKRD) (responsible for Cranbrook, Fernie, Kimberly, Elkford, Invermere, Sparwood, Canal Flats, Radium Hots Springs and six Electoral Areas) rates "best." The indices indicate that CRD and EKRD communities exhibit high per capita incomes coupled with low-income assistance and employment insurance rates. Yet, even in light of favourable socio-economic indicators, the intense, unprecedented demand for recreation properties has placed upward pressure on residential markets, creating an affordability issue for local purchasers.

The changing real estate profile is also changing the socio-cultural fabric. The Gulf Island's *Driftwood* publication reports in "Last Call at Moby's" (July 13, 2005) that the sale and subsequent closure of a local pub and restaurant for possible resort redevelopment on Salt Spring Island has left some islanders mourning the loss of "spirit and familiar symbols of community." Traditional communities in places such as Salt Spring Island and the East Kootenays are very much in transition.

In direct contrast to the economic vitality and rising real estate markets facing rural communities in the Capital Regional District, other rural BC communities are facing economic and population decline. In a forthright presentation to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance in October 2003, the Oliver and District Community Economic Society declared: "Of the communities in BC, Oliver

has the highest economic dependency rate, one of the oldest populations, one of the smallest proportions of people in the workforce, one of the lowest percentages of university attainment among the workforce and incomes that are declining in comparative terms and now run about 70 percent of the provincial average.” It is telling that from 1996-2002, the dollar value of development permit applications declined to nearly half of what it was during the 1991-1995 period. The types of issues Oliver is facing are being addressed (as described in more detail below) by a positive agricultural heritage vision, which is being promoted for the Oliver area.



Biologists search for species at risk on former Garry Oak ecosystem, Channel Ridge, Salt Spring Island, now the site of a 400 home subdivision, photo Terry McIntosh

In recent years, several communities facing challenges like those of Salt Spring Island, the East Kootenays, and Oliver District have approached the Real Estate Foundation for grants to conduct research and education projects that will help them address the changes that are occurring in their area. The Foundation has taken an active role in working with such cases, establishing the Communities in Transition (CIT) program in late 2004.

CIT's *mission* is to support values-based planning processes that balance social, environmental, economic and governance concerns to address regional and local land use and conservation issues in non-metropolitan areas of BC. Led by a ten member Advisory Group formed from founding

partners, the CIT has three major goals to assist in carrying out its mission:

- **Goal #1. Help communities plan for transition.** CIT strives to help communities plan for transition and address impacts arising from specific and cumulative events or the erosion of traditional economies and social structure. CIT enables research, professional and public education services, and work on public policy concerns.
- **Goal #2. Encourage and support partnerships and collaboration.** CIT brings together many agencies and practitioners whose responsibilities and professions or vocations play a role in shaping the use and conservation of land for local communities and their regions.
- **Goal #3. Share achievements, expertise and implementation strategies.** CIT shares the achievements (in the form of practical services), expertise and implementation strategies of its partners through a web-based resource library and applied educational services.

CIT partners agree to share the expertise they acquire through projects and produce research, analyses, and educational services. CIT partners also engage with other organizations (collaborators) to carry out projects.

Funding for CIT projects can come from a variety of sources including the Real Estate Foundation. One example of a CIT project that received a Foundation grant (spring 2005) is the Oliver and District Economic Development Society's Agricultural Area Plan/Agriculture Resort strategy.. The Agricultural Area Plan includes the review and generation of legislation and policy that will lead to the creation of an Agricultural Resort Area. Under this status landowners might operate spas, cooking schools, and other enterprises that would bolster the local economy while complementing the region's agricultural heritage. The Agriculture Area Plan will identify acceptable resort development that enhances Oliver's existing agriculture industry by allowing for value- added products, other markets, and expanded, diversified income potential while

maintaining the existing acreage in crop production. Under the Plan, the Agricultural Resort Area designation will allow for farm development and prosperity in Oliver while preserving the values and objectives of the Agricultural Land Commission and promoting agricultural tourism. To Oliver and the District Economic Development Society, creating an Agriculture Resort Area and supporting agricultural tourism is a means to *“support agriculture on ALR land, not replace it; celebrate farming activities, not crowd them out; learn to value the sight of cultivated fields, not yearn to replace them with time-share condos; fit in amongst the orchards and the vineyards.”*

On another CIT project, the Real Estate Foundation is working jointly with Urban Futures Institute to develop a two-year research study that looks at “Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts of Recreation and Resort Property Markets Growth in the Columbia Valley.” Like Salt Spring Island, the communities of the Columbia Valley in the East Kootenay Regional District are experiencing a range of impacts driven by the growing recreation and resort property markets. At the time of writing this article the research study had just begun. The research is intended to answer several questions, the most important to CIT being: (1) what may be the critical paths of these markets in the Columbia Valley; and, (2) how predictable might these markets and their impacts be? We anticipate that unlike boom and bust scenarios of past resource-based economies highly influenced by world market factors, resort and recreation development can provide traditional communities with a diverse economy and a more predictable, steady growing market demand. If so, local governments, agencies and organizations could have more control over the their local economy and the growth and development of their communities than they may have had historically through times of "boom and bust." Understanding the critical paths and predictability of resort and recreation real estate markets will assist decision makers plan effectively for land use and conservation. Research findings will be relevant to other locales experiencing resort and recreation economic diversification and facing associated challenges, such as affordable housing for local residents.

In New Mexico, as part of the Grant County Comprehensive Plan process, our consultant team worked closely with local community members to



In the Mimbres Valley, Grant County, New Mexico, residents wish to preserve and protect the natural and agricultural landscape.

identify the treasures - important community features to preserve and protect - in their rural communities and to create visions for their future. The resulting Plan outlines goals and policies to implement their visions and protect their treasures. The Plan guides citizens to create positive change through strategic actions such as the *Mining District Revitalization Strategy*. The Strategy identifies necessary project partners and funders for industrial land use opportunities as well as other private/public economic development strategies in light of the declining mining industry. It outlines detailed, but flexible, land use concepts to manage and/or promote future growth.

In BC, we hope the cumulative expertise gained through CIT partnership and services will help BC's non-metropolitan communities in transition create clear visions for their future, make appropriate land use decisions, and overall, implement positive change. Ultimately, CIT is about helping communities to successfully apply values-based planning in order to achieve community well being.

For more information about the Oliver and District Economic Development Society's Agriculture Area Plan/Agriculture Resort strategy and/or the Columbia Valley Resort and Recreation Real Estate Market Research, as well as other CIT projects proposed, underway or completed, visit the CIT website at www.communitytransition.org or contact Sara Muir Owen, CIT Manager of Secretariat Services, by email at info@communitytransition.org or phone 604-688-6800 (Toll-free: 1-866-912-6800).

Some CIT partners, such as the Real Estate Foundation of BC, may be able to help fund an organization's project. The Real Estate Foundation (REF) is looking for proposals that can become successful grant applications. Proposed projects must meet the REF's funding criteria, as well as exhibit a strong compatibility between the applicant's and CIT's mission and goals. To find out more about the application process, visit the REF website at www.realestatefoundation.com and review "How to Apply". Note that there is a special application form for CIT projects.

CIT partners are non-profit organizations, agencies and institutions with mandates related to planning for social, economic and environmental sustainability and real estate and land use issues. Their participation serves their member organizations and non-metropolitan communities in general.

BC Non-Profit Housing Association
 BC Real Estate Association
 BC Society of Landscape Architects
 BC Treaty Commission
 BC Wilderness Tourism Association
 BC Water and Waste Association
 Chinook Institute for Community Stewardship
 Columbia Basin Trust
 Community Futures Development Association of BC
 Community Transition, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
 East Kootenay Conservation Program
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region
 Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
 Land Trust Alliance of BC
 Northwest Corridor Development Corporation
 North Central Municipal Association
 Okanagan Mainline Association
 Real Estate Foundation of BC
 Real Estate Institute of BC
 SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development
 SFU City Program
 UBC School of Community & Regional Planning
 University of Northern BC



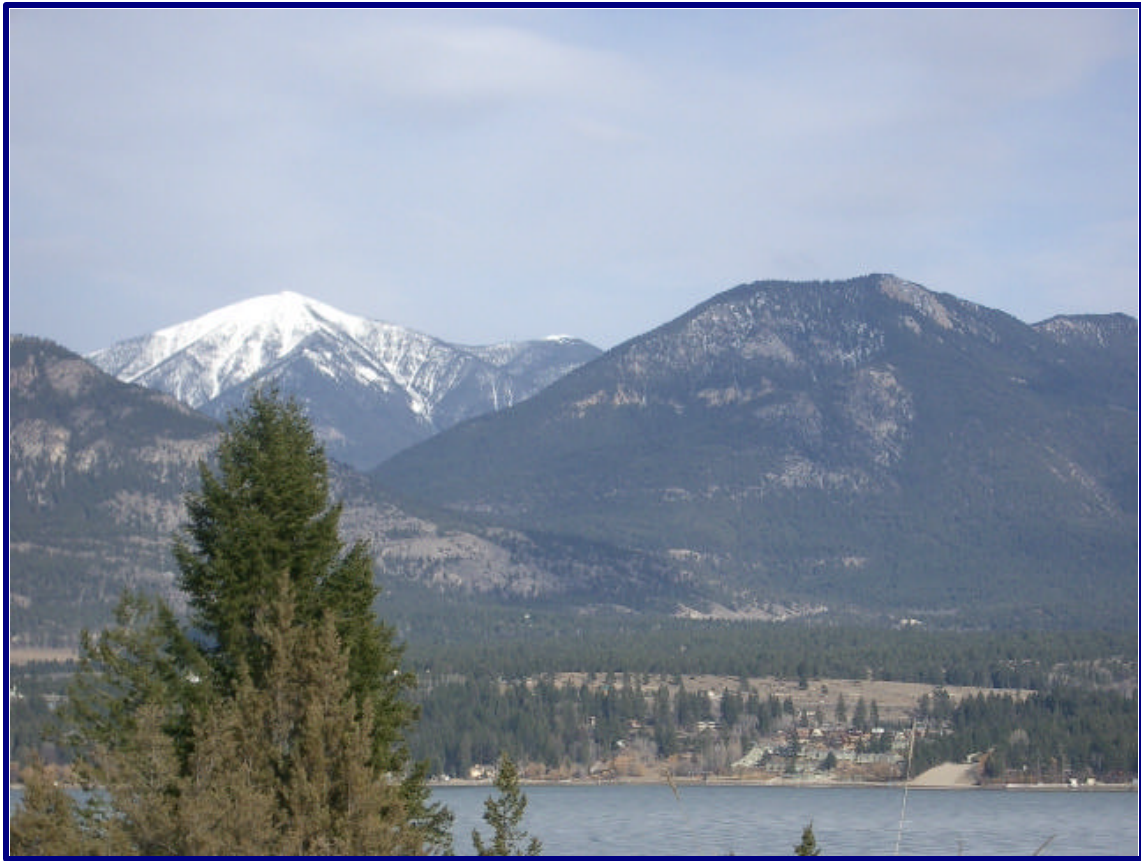
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry

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

Capital Appreciation

by Tim Pringle



“In a world where money talks, the environment needs value to give it a voice.”

From *Costing the Earth* by Frances Cairncross, 1992 - Harvard University Press

Whistler and Tofino, in British Columbia, Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Canmore, Alberta have created housing agencies whose missions are to acquire and build dwellings that can be purchased or rented by residents with incomes among the lowest third of the local workforce. While Whistler is primarily a destination resort community, these other places have traditional communities that are becoming overwhelmed by growth, driven primarily by real estate demand. Many of the buyers are non-resident owners who have the wealth to acquire second or third homes. They compete for prime locations, thus fueling price increases throughout the local and regional property markets. Housing agencies are but one of a variety of coping strategies that these communities may pursue.

Non-resident ownership may be as high as 50% in these communities. Canmore, Alberta noted in its

2001 report on the “Community Monitoring Program” that 50% of the population was made up of people new to Canmore within the last five years.¹ According to Jonathan Schechter of the Charture Institute in Jackson, these communities are “places of ecological and aesthetic significance (PEAS).”² The property markets in each region appear to create a pattern leading to intractable problems that influence the ability of PEAS communities to plan for use and conservation of the landscapes that attracted the impacts in the first place.

This paper briefly looks at two BC areas that fit the PEAS profile. Both the Columbia Valley in the East

¹ Canmore Community Monitoring Program Committee, *Canmore Community Monitoring Program, 2001 Report*, p. 3.

² Blais, Peter; “Life in a Western Resort Town” in *Multifamily Trends*, Fall 2003. Published by the Urban Land Institute.

Kootenay region and Salt Spring Island, one of the Gulf Islands, are well along the path of change driven by property demand and inflation of real estate values.

First, the analysis looks at apparent benefits and risks of resort, recreation and retirement property markets, which dominate economic diversification in these regions. Second, the study reflects on points of view offered by economists regarding market capital invested in such property markets, and the implications for social and environmental capital perspectives. Finally, the analysis suggests that PEAS communities must learn to understand and balance economic, social and environmental priorities if they want to successfully plan for transition. Otherwise, outside forces will determine the quality of future well being.

"The concept of natural capital provides a different way of thinking about the environment that focuses on its importance to both our economic prosperity and our overall quality of life." .from "Dialogues – Winter 2005" published by the Canada West Foundation

Benefits and Risks

In an attempt to summarize the impacts of the burgeoning property markets in the Columbia Valley, only some of the characteristics of this phenomenon will be covered.

There are three property markets in the Valley. Resort based real estate is comprised of hotels, detached, semi-detached and apartment style dwellings, retail/service commercial, golf courses and other recreation facilities, conference centres and vacant land. Recreational real estate is comprised of seasonal or second residences (cottages, cabins and manufactured dwellings)



usually located adjacent to natural amenities (waterfront, views, wildlife areas, etc.) in rural settings. There is also the traditional community, which tends to be comprised of permanent residences and the commercial and retail services required by the local population.

Who are the Buyers?

According to David Baxter of the Urban Futures Institute, people are looking for "Bonanza with a Starbucks image," and they're finding it in places like the east and west coasts of Vancouver Island, the Okanagan Valley, and, if you're from Calgary, the Columbia Valley.

"They're looking for that rural, more tranquil setting with less of the background noise that we have as urbanites," Baxter says. "But at the same time they're not pioneering; they're going into well-finished real estate."

"It's tame nature that they want. They want to get the newspaper and the decaf latté and the latest book, and they want to be within 45 minutes of the nearest airport because they're still engaged in the larger world."

And financing these rural (but replete with every urban mod con) idylls are, for the first time, couples with two pensions and a house to sell. That means not just cash in the bank, but cash coming in on a regular basis, too.

"It's revolutionary," says Baxter. "Never before in the history of mankind have we seen this."

From "These Houses Are Worth More Than \$1,000,000 and There Are 12,200 More Like Them in B.C." by Nicholas Read, *The Vancouver Sun*, June 11, 2005.

The Columbia Valley includes all three property markets, while Salt Spring Island is characterized by recreational and traditional property markets. In both regions real estate demand is overwhelming institutionalized development approval and planning processes. During the past four years, residential property values have doubled in these regions. Waterfront and view properties are most highly sought and it appears that demand will be unrelenting for several years into the future.

There are a number of reasons that communities welcome the economic diversification that is associated with the demand for recreation and resort commercial and residential development.

Construction and service employment increases. The new jobs offer an opportunity for young people to stay in their home places. The active real estate markets mean that people who need to make housing changes can sell and acquire a more appropriate dwelling and perhaps free some capital for their retirement. Many of the new property owners purchase local cottage industry and artistic products. Retirees bring capital into the community through their investment and pension incomes. Some newcomers are amenity migrants who choose their new community for retirement or bring with them work that can be managed from a rural base.

According to research of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, the economies of four counties reflected job generation “clearly dominated by economic drivers that rely on various aspects of an amenity-rich resort environment. These drivers, including Second Homes, Winter Visitors and Summer Visitors, generate from 72% to 85% of Estimated Total Jobs in the counties studied.” Second home construction and owner spending contributed 38.4% of the estimated total of basic and secondary jobs in the counties.³

“From deaths to births, from economic growth to standardized test scores, measurement permeates contemporary life. Hundreds of measurements—or indicators - fill the news, shape public opinion, and inform millions of actions that individuals and organizations take each day. They serve as proxies for larger, more complicated trends, telling us whether the state of human enterprise is getting better or worse.” from “This Place on Earth 2002, Measuring What Matters” published by Northwest Environment Watch

PEAS communities typically have found it difficult to anticipate the liabilities that likely will emerge when their place becomes a focus for resort and recreation property development, retirement living and amenity migration. In the Columbia Valley, previous economic surges have been driven by mining, agriculture, forestry and other forces. The current, buoyant real estate market is a new trend of economic diversification that does not depend on resource extraction activities; rather, it is dependent on resource conservation and stewardship because migrant buyers tend to put a priority on proximity and access to the Valley’s natural amenities. These newcomers want to play golf, enjoy the lakes and



streams, ski, hike and view nature. They are willing to pay higher prices for properties that abut and/or include these natural amenities.

Non-resident ownership has grown dramatically. Local Realtors talk about the Calgary “rubber tire market,” buyers who want their version of cottage country. As property prices escalate, housing affordability becomes a concern for persons with fixed or low incomes. The idea that some people working in the service industry will have to commute to recreation and resort centres from communities that have less expensive housing illustrates a settlement impact that no one wants in the Valley. Residents of the region express concern about the growing footprint of settlement in the Valley, where ranches have been rezoned to allow subdivision and residential development. Equally problematic is the lack of integration of non-resident owners into the culture of the traditional communities. For the Columbia Valley this is a huge issue. The Fairmont neighbourhood has 60% non-resident ownership; in the Invermere area it is estimated to be about 40%.⁴

Economic Perspectives

What could be better for a community’s well being than sustained, positive economic activity? Such a goal ought to be part of a community’s vision, provided it is able to understand its market, social and environmental capital resources, and the net effect of debits and credits against this capital. Natural capital is the stock of assets that occur on the land and in the water. Human endeavour may draw on natural capital but does not create it as is the case with market and social capital.

³ Venturoni, Linda; *The Social and Economic Effects of Second Homes*, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, June 2004.

⁴ Pringle, Tim; From a presentation at the “9th Annual Living Lakes Conference,” Invermere, BC, September 2004.

Communities are accustomed to measuring net market capital investment in their areas. Thus, real estate development, increased cattle production, or new retail services are “good” news in the business section of the local paper. In contrast, the interruption of a wildlife migration corridor or siltation of a stream due to land development may be merely a story that illustrates one of the concerns about changing land use. Likely, there is no inventory of such natural capital values that is debited to reflect the net loss of capacity due to land development.



“Natural capital consists of natural resources, environmental and ecosystem resources, and land. It is capital in the sense that these resources are assets that yield goods and services over time – goods and services that are essential to the sustained health of our environment and the economy.” from *The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada* by Nancy Olewiler

Mt. Erskine on Salt Spring Island, acquisition near completion thanks to earnest local community Conservancy and government support providing natural services in perpetuity

As Frances Cairncross observes in her thoughtful work, *Costing the Earth*, “put a proper value on an environmental ‘good’ and the balance between costs and benefits will start to look greener.”⁵ However, our economic system prefers to realize a benefit today rather than far in the future. If I lend you \$10 to be paid back in five years, I want \$15 at that time to pay me for my loss of use. If you only want to pay me \$10 five years hence, I will lend you \$6.75 today in order to get my 8% return. Because most environmental goods produce value in the future, the market (market capital) wants to make a discounted investment today.

⁵ Cairncross, Frances; *Costing the Earth*, Harvard University Press, 1992, p. 33.

The dynamics of the capital market pressure government to take on the responsibility of protecting (conserving and stewarding) natural and social goods that are for the benefit of the community (the commonwealth) as a whole. Increasingly, government authorities charge levies and fees to the property market to help pay for the costs of commonwealth amenities such as parks, community facilities and stewardship of natural capital. The market adds these costs to the development bill. Such strategies have the effect of covering more of the “real” costs of stewarding natural and social capital at the time of real estate development, instead of deferring indefinitely these liabilities.

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia provides a thoughtful review of this line of argument in its paper *Safeguarding Canada’s Wealth, Bringing Stewardship and Conservation into Ecological, Economic Valuation*. The thesis is that “the costs of degrading Canada’s ecosystems are extensive and outweigh the costs needed to achieve restoration. It is profitable for society to conserve and preserve ecosystems.”⁶ It is also essential and profitable for communities take measures to prevent and/or mitigate the detrimental impacts of rampant property markets.

For example, the Resort Municipality of Whistler requires developers to provide units of housing for “service workers” when a project is built. The developer has the option to make a grant to the Whistler Housing Authority in lieu of building units himself.

The Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan harbours provisions intended to achieve community benefit when owners decide to act on their existing subdivision potential or seek rezoning. These measures are:

- Shared residential zoning, which makes it easier for people to share ownership of a property. “Where a lot has subdivision potential, the Trust committee should consider rezoning applications that would allow this property owner to build (without subdividing) the same number of single family dwellings on the lot that would result from subdivision of the lot.” The objective is to facilitate less costly housing and reduce the

⁶ Horsfall, Linda and Harrington, Sheila; *Safeguarding Canada’s Wealth*, Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia, 2003, p. 2.

expenses of building roads and impacting the environment.

- Amenity zoning is meant to foster development of community amenities (not specifically defined) in exchange for extra density on a parcel.
- Transfer of development potential intends to achieve commonwealth benefits such as clustering development in the vicinity of services (shops, schools, etc.) And protecting sensitive natural areas. The Plan identifies areas that are “Development Potential Donor Areas” and “Development Potential Receiving Areas.”⁷

The fact that these tools have rarely been used by the Salt Spring Trust Committee reflects, in part, the difficulty in quantifying the values that would be realized by the commonwealth and the property owners in any specific case of transfer or shared ownership. Essentially such tools intend, where commonwealth values can be established, to have the property development and/or sale process pay a higher rate of return (discount less) for those values. Rampant recreation and resort property markets pose a defining challenge for communities: how can property buyers, sellers and developers be persuaded that the long term value of their land asset depends to a significant degree on the maintenance of social and environmental capital of the region and local community? Typically, these latter capital values are not well quantified. Cairncross points out that “high inflation puts enormous pressure on consuming now rather than next year—let alone leaving something for posterity. In particular inflation tends to drive people out of cash and into tangible assets.”⁸ The current property markets in the Columbia Valley and Gulf Islands are fueled, to a great extent, by a juggernaut of wealthy buyers making discretionary real estate investments aided by low cost mortgage funding. This is an aggressive market that will need to see the specific real estate assets in danger of losing value before it will pay willingly for the protection of social and environmental goods. It expects rising property values—increased wealth—to cover unforeseen costs and latent risk. It is a case of exuberance before prudence.

Fortunately, there are a growing number of cases where communities have and are taking measures to bring market, social and environmental capital consumption and stewardship into better balance. Often, non-profit organizations provide the



expertise needed for this process to move ahead. The final section of this paper reviews this trend.

Balancing Capital Priorities

“It is a very different question to ask: How much am I willing to pay for a 50% increase in air quality? Versus how much compensation do I want for a 50% reduction in air quality?” from

Costing the Earth by Frances Cairncross

Successful transition planning ought to yield more of the benefits and fewer of the liabilities of change brought on by economic diversification. The dilemma is that balancing social, environmental and economic priorities requires appreciating that each of these types of capital offers returns over different time frames. Relative values are needed, but unavailable for many types of commonwealth capital. Cairncross points out that “the higher the discount rates governments (or businesses) apply, the more they are willing to pass environmental costs on. Benefits today become more worthwhile, even at the expense of costs incurred tomorrow.”⁹

Our society is geared to producing wealth, equating it with community well being, and primarily counting the investment and expenditure activity that relates most closely to this process. Thus, BC society has lots of data on jobs, growth or decline of economic sectors, gross economic product, etc. There is less, and often little data, about phenomenon such as the cultural heritage impact of a community losing its seniors, or the depletion of a region’s wetlands, or the loss of its ranch lands and the infrastructure that supports ranching.

PEAS communities find that the traditional approaches to community planning are inadequate for the situation generated by their property-market-fuelled economic diversification. A new process for planning must be found. These communities need to conduct research that will quantify the regional real estate markets and provide demographic profiles of the buyers and sellers. How big is the demand? How long will it persist? How predictable might the trend be? As the opening paragraph of this article hints, the inability of PEAS communities to produce a supply of affordable housing may become an impediment to future development. Similarly, the strains on the environment and social

⁷ From the “Background and Summary” of the *Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan - June 10, 1998*.

⁸ Ibid., p. 34.

⁹ Ibid., p. 32.

traditions have poorly understood dimensions that may be emerging or latent limitations for the future of the regional property markets.



Photo: Judi Stevenson

A watershed approach to these vexing problems was launched in 1974 for the Gulf Islands region. The *Islands Trust Act* “established the Islands Trust as a unique land-use planning agency, acting both for residents of both the Trust Area and the province generally, and having a special conservation-oriented responsibility—to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.”¹⁰ In February 2005, the Islands Trust sponsored a forum to capture expressions of the island communities’ “hopes and concerns” kindled by the current period of community growth and change. Most mentioned were the hopes that “the original vision of the Islands Trust would be recaptured”; and that there would be a process to “re-examine the limits to development and managing growth for a sustainable balance among environment, economy and socio-economic diversity.” The principal concern was the “scale, type, amount, location and speed of development.”¹¹

A challenging reality is that many Salt Spring properties long ago received approval for potential subdivision rights. Presently, the buoyant real estate market offers ample opportunity for owners to sell. The community recognizes the persistent upward pressure on housing prices. Two non-profit housing organizations were established during the past 12 months. The Salt Spring Land Bank Society and the Salt Spring Community Land Trust have goals of establishing housing that households with lower incomes can afford to rent or own. The Islands Trust appears pressed to meet current land use processing demands; and challenged to find the funds and In resources to conserve the natural capital of the Gulf Islands. These measures point to

the need for the community to be completely involved in the pending review of the Official Community Plan.

In the Columbia Valley a series of strategies—some linked, some not—indicate that a new process for planning for use and conservation of land is emerging. We are referencing only projects led or carried out by non-statutory agencies. Levels of government and their agencies, of course, have dominant roles in the processes for planning; however, community agencies increasingly are becoming expert in topics related to the stewardship of environmental and social capital.

In September 2004, Wildsight, formerly the East Kootenay Environmental Society, was the lead agency and manager of the 9th Annual Living Lakes Conference, sponsored internationally by the Global Nature Fund. The conference focused on the Columbia Wetlands as a natural resource of international importance and also a magnet for recreational use and real estate markets. The District of Invermere and the Village of Radium Hot Springs were host communities.

The conference drew a focus to water issues and Wildsight responded by spearheading the “Healthy Water, Healthy Communities - Lake Windermere Project,” which is in progress. This initiative is measuring the water quality of Lake Windermere and assessing the demands placed on it by recreational users and continued real estate development. Extensive surveying of area residents is taking place to determine the values they place on the lake and its role as a key environmental amenity in the Columbia Valley. Project partners include two provincial government ministries, Regional District of East Kootenay, District of Invermere, East Kootenay Conservation Program, and the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission.

The rapidly growing property markets in the Columbia Valley and Salt Spring Island generate concerns about planning that must be addressed both locally and regionally. There is a critical role for the non-profit agencies whose missions focus on social and natural capital concerns. Not only do these organizations have expertise, they are flexible and can, if properly funded, quickly execute research and deliver it to a planning process. Finally, community leadership must emerge in order to generate research and education, and to facilitate the collaborative process required for transition planning. The alternative is unpredictable change.

¹⁰ From *The Islands Trust Policy Statement Consolidated* - April 2003.

¹¹ From the Islands Trust website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca), “Islands Forum 2005” documents.

The Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture



"Working together to maintain, enhance, restore and manage habitat for the benefit of wildlife and people in the Canadian Intermountain"

By Saul Schneider

Wood duck, photo by John Innes



The Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (CIJV) is part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a coordinated effort between Canada, the United States and Mexico focused on maintaining the diversity and abundance of all North American birds. In British Columbia the CIJV complements the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV) which is focused on coastal areas from Alaska to Southern California.

The Canadian Intermountain region is located in the south and central interior of British Columbia and the Rocky Mountains of Alberta. It encompasses over 480,000 sq. km, including several of Canada's National Parks. It is a landscape of widely varying elevation and climatic conditions resulting in a broad range of habitat types, including desert, wetlands, lakes, rivers, grasslands, forests and alpine tundra. These highly diverse ecosystems provide very important habitat for breeding, migrating and wintering birds.

With 373 bird species recorded thus far, the Canadian Intermountain has one of the most varied bird faunas of any Canadian region. The intermountain contains important breeding habitat for 26 species of waterfowl. It provides habitat for more than 60% of the world's population of Barrow's Goldeneye. The area also has the highest owl, woodpecker, swift and hummingbird diversity of any ecozone in Canada and contains the entire British Columbia populations of 11 provincially endangered bird species (Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brewer's Sparrow (subspecies *breweri*), Lark Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow).

The Canadian Intermountain also supports a growing human population and extensive resource-based industries, including ranching, forestry, mining, agriculture, hydroelectric power generation, tourism and recreation. While these activities sustain the Canadian Intermountain economies, they can also pose a threat to bird habitats and have a profound influence on bird populations, particularly in the valley bottoms where human settlements continue to expand.





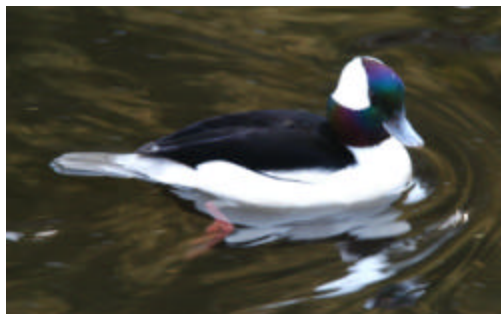
The CIJV was established in 2003 to address the challenges of sustaining healthy populations of birds and other wildlife, while at the same time ensuring the sustainability of other uses of the landscape such as resource-based industries. It is the most recent of a series of joint ventures across Canada focused on ensuring that populations and habitats of North America's birds are protected, restored and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional and local levels.

The CIJV is a partnership of British Columbia-based resource industries, government agencies, First Nations, conservation organizations, and academia which complements and augments existing conservation initiatives and partnerships. The CIJV is directed by a management board consisting of representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

BC Cattlemen's Association
 BC Field Ornithologists
 Ducks Unlimited Canada
 Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)
 Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
 The Land Conservancy of BC
 The Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Parks Canada Agency
 South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
 University of British Columbia Centre for Applied Conservation Research

BC Ministry of Environment
 BC Hydro
 East Kootenay Conservation Program
 Federation of BC Naturalists
 Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Tribal Council
 Riverside Forest Products Ltd.
 The Nature Trust of BC
 Teck Cominco Limited

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) provides matching grants to organizations like the CIJV that have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. To date, the CIJV NAWCA and partners in Canada and the US have contributed over \$21 million for the securement, enhancement and management of over 114,000 ha. of high-priority wetland and associated habitat. These conservation projects integrate the



Bufflehead, photo by John Innes

diverse needs of both land users and wildlife that rely upon the water and wetlands. Future projects of the CIJV will continue to focus on critical habitat for acquisitions and conservation covenants, in addition to enhancement, management,

outreach and educational activities.

An emphasis on stewardship and working effectively with industry partners will continue to be key to effecting positive change across this expansive and diverse landscape.

The CIJV provides an opportunity to celebrate conservation successes, use our existing resources more efficiently and jointly address the habitat conservation challenges ahead. CIJV partners invite other agencies or groups having interests in bird conservation, resource management and use of the working landscape in the Canadian Intermountain region to participate in this exciting new initiative.

The Okanagan River Restoration Initiative

Hope for an Endangered River

By Shawn Black, TLC

The Okanagan River flows south from Lake Okanagan to the Canada/US border, and eventually joins up with the Columbia River. Back in the 1940's, a series of floods on the Okanagan River caused extensive damage from Penticton south to Osoyoos Lake. In response to public concern, engineers and water managers decided that the best solution was to straighten and dyke the Okanagan River. This massive project achieved its objective of reducing flooding, but it also had significant impacts on the ecological health of the river and the rich riparian ecosystems that flourished throughout the valley bottom.

Historically, the Okanagan River was approximately 70 km of meandering channel, today only 6 km of natural river remain. Nearly half of the original channel length has been lost and nearly all of it lies in a straight sterile channel. Within that channel, virtually all of the river's natural features have been eliminated including the riffles and pools; undercut banks; the islands and side channels; emergent boulders and back eddies; and in-stream large woody debris. The river channel is confined between barren dykes with little or no riparian vegetation and beyond the dykes wetlands that were once lush and productive have been denuded, drained and filled to allow for agricultural and urban development. These alterations have had devastating consequences for plants and animals.

In spite of this, the Okanagan River is still a vital waterway with significant ecological values associated with it. One of the last two remaining



Okanagan River Channel – C. Bull photo

natural runs of Sockeye Salmon on the entire Columbia River system spawns in the Okanagan River just north of Oliver BC. The remaining fragments of riparian and wetland habitat found adjacent to the river are home to a number of nationally and provincially listed species at risk. These species include the Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Screech Owl, Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Spadefoot Toad, Great Basin Gopher Snake, and Painted Turtles to name a few. Fortunately, there is hope for the Okanagan River.

A restoration plan has been developed for the Okanagan River, with an initial focus on a 2 km section between the

Town of Oliver and Inkanee Provincial Park. The strategy

consists of purchasing key riverside properties, and then moving back existing dykes to allow room for the river to rebuild a meandering channel and fully functional floodplain. Due to the reduced energy in this river system associated with a regulated flow regime, the plan calls for some in-stream works to encourage development of these natural features. This restoration method has proved successful in many countries and is working well in a short portion of the Okanagan River that was originally constructed with set back dykes.

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department, the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, Ducks Unlimited, and fisheries biologists, The Land Conservancy of BC negotiated

the purchase of two parcels of land adjacent to the river as a first step in implementing restoration work in the watershed. Funding for these strategic acquisitions was provided by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and a grant from the Ministry of Transportation. The two properties, which were purchased from Hugh and Megan Lougheed and Helen Nemes, provide us with access to 1 km of river front and almost 11 acres of land to work with. These lands will serve as a test section where we can implement the set back dyke concept and habitat restoration work.



Okanagan River Set-Back Dyke Section - We want to restore to this

Thanks to funding provide by the Habitat Stewardship Program, we have been able to develop a draft restoration plan for the Lougheed and Nemes properties. The plan, which consists of a new meandering river channel, and upland riparian habitat, is currently undergoing review by fisheries and wildlife experts to ensure that it achieves our restoration objectives. The end result will be an increase in salmon spawning habitat, and restored riparian habitat benefiting endangered species like the Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Screech Owl, Spadefoot Toad, and Tiger Salamander. Further

engineering work and agency approval will be required before we are able to implement the restoration plan.

As a land trust, The Land Conservancy brings expertise in negotiations and acquisition to the table. TLC is proud to be an active partner in this important project, and to contribute where we can. The next time you are in the South Okanagan, take a minute to look at the river. With a little help from TLC and our partners, it will hopefully start to look more like a river, and not like the ditch it resembles today.

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Ecoregional Assessments – Conservation Planning Tool Kits

By Pierre Iachetti, Conservation Planner, Nature Conservancy of Canada-BC Region

To achieve its conservation mission, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has adopted ecoregional assessments as a conservation planning framework. An ecoregion is a relatively large land area determined by factors such as geology, topography, climate and vegetation. It is big enough to encompass natural processes, such as fire, and to capture the range-wide distribution of many representative species and communities within its boundaries. The province of BC has 12 ecoregions.

NCC has been developing ecoregional assessment for use as decision-support tools. Highly technical conservation assessment information is compiled and presented in an accessible format. The information, and the form in which it is presented, allows us to look at the implications of land use planning decisions and answer the following questions:

- * Where are the elements of biological diversity that ensure viable populations when protected together?
- * How do we set priorities among them?
- * How much land do we need to protect to maintain viable habitat?
- * How do we measure our progress, not in hectares, but in biological diversity?

NCC's ecoregional assessments are available for use by other organizations, allowing managers, planners, or project proponents convenient access to the following information and datasets in a spatially explicit and dynamic platform:

1. Freshwater and terrestrial classification systems for the entire ecoregion;
2. A catalogue of biodiversity targets (e.g. species) -- where they occur, the viability of those occurrences, and goals for successful conservation of the target;
3. Mapping and analyses of land management and ownership ecoregion-wide;
4. Assessment of threats and opportunities related to conservation activities;



5. A network of conservation areas that includes spatially explicit descriptions of specific areas within the ecoregion critical to conservation success;
6. A prioritized list of action sites for directing conservation implementation.

To date, NCC-BC has completed ecoregional assessments for the Canadian Rocky Mountains, Puget Trough-Willamette Valley-Georgia Basin, and Pacific Northwest Coast Ecoregions. NCC's science team led the "Conservation Area Design for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area," and the "Ecosystem Spatial Analyses for the Central Coast, North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands" for the Coastal Information Team (CIT). We will soon complete the Okanagan Ecoregional Assessment, as well as the North Cascades and Pacific Ranges Ecoregional Assessment. E-mail us if you would like more information about ecoregional assessment products in your area: bcoffice@natureconservancy.ca, or call us at (250) 479-3191.

The Comox Valley Conservation Strategy

The Comox Valley Land Trust and our partners are close to completing the first step of an ambitious three-year planning process: the **Comox Valley Regional Conservation Strategy**. The first product of this initiative, the *Current Land Designations Map*, is a GIS map showing current land protection designations for the entire Comox Valley region. The

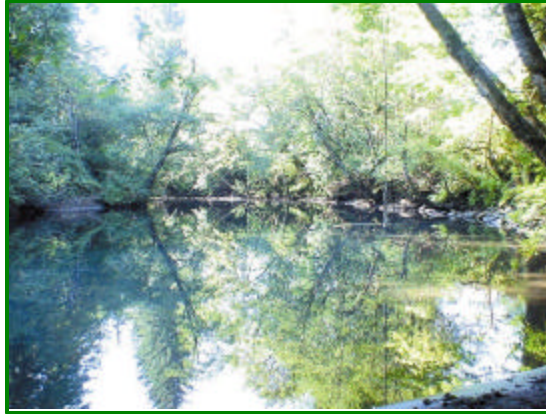
map will form a baseline for identifying conservation opportunities in five land categories - habitat, heritage, recreation and sustainable working forests and farms - through consultation with representatives of the stewardship community and members of the larger Comox Valley community.

The goal of the Regional Conservation Strategy is *to work cooperatively with local and First Nations governments, pertinent provincial and federal departments, businesses, neighborhood associations, scientists and naturalists, community groups and landowners to create a plan to identify and prioritize sensitive areas and sustainable land uses in the Comox Valley.*

The Strategy will provide local decision-makers with maps describing (1) the areas and land uses that have been identified as critical to the preservation of habitat and community values, and (2) preferred land use scenario(s) chosen by the community. The Regional Conservation Strategy Report will present well-supported conservation and stewardship strategies for implementing chosen land use scenarios.

Objectives of the Regional Conservation Strategy :

- set priorities for the Land Trust and ensure that our conservation efforts focus on areas most important to the community and most valuable for long-term environmental and human health;
- create a tool to guide future land use and development in the Comox Valley region;
- create a tool to help government, community groups and developers identify common goals and undertake cooperative land conservation activities,
- help other community groups plan their work in the context of a Valley-wide regional conservation strategy.



The Tsolum is a lifegiving artery that runs the length of the Comox Valley. In former years it was one of the most productive salmon runs on the east side of the Island. CVLT would like to see a complete protection plan for this important corridor.

The completed Regional Conservation Strategy will provide a thorough, well-supported and proactive plan to conserve areas and land uses that are of high priority to the people of the Comox Valley in terms of liveability, environmental health, economic opportunities and civic pride.

This initiative will improve land use practices by:

Respecting and drawing resources from existing planning processes at the local and provincial levels including Official Community Plans, the Ministry of WLAP's regionally-specific Best Management Practices, Smart Growth, and similar processes throughout the province.

Providing local governments with a regional perspective on land conservation and stewardship tools. This will encourage more coordinated and cooperative planning by local governments, stewardship groups, and community members.

Encouraging members of the development and real estate sector to view natural areas, sustainable land uses, and alternative stormwater infrastructure as beneficial amenities.

Our project contributors are varied and diverse. Tsolum River Restoration Society and Project Watershed Society have partnered with the Land Trust to provide GIS mapping expertise and education/extension programs to complement the planning process. Other Comox Valley stewardship and community groups, local and provincial government agents, provincial trust organizations, private foundations, private landholders and business managers have already contributed or have expressed their interest in contributing to the Regional Conservation Strategy. To date, the Land Trust has received funding for this project from the Real Estate Foundation, Vancouver Foundation and the Coastal Community Credit Union. Lynda Fyfe, RCS Project Coordinator: 250-338-1368, lynda@cvlandtrust.org

Abbotsford Land Trust Society

Protecting Areas of Natural and Historical Significance with the Community Mapping Network

The Natural Areas Stewardship Project is the Abbotsford Land Trust Society's (ALTS) most recent undertaking. Various forms of land protection are accomplished by promoting and supporting individual landowner use of conservation covenants, donations, bequests and life estates. We also are encouraging municipal-led land protection by promoting the use of tools such as Environmentally Significant Areas designation.

The project is being conducted on a watershed-by-watershed basis, beginning with the Clayburn watershed, an area rich in natural and historical significance. While the ALTS has taken the first step in providing opportunity and process through the creation of an online watershed atlas, active community involvement is encouraged. In July, random surveys will be sent to area residents and a general survey will be provided on the ALTS website. Resident and landowner participation is crucial to the process of identifying and visioning the key areas within the watershed that deserve protection.

www.abbotsford.landtrust.ca



To learn more about the Natural Areas Stewardship Project and the Clayburn watershed, check out the maps provided on the ALTS website. Follow the link to the Abbotsford Watershed Atlas, hosted by the Community Mapping Network (CMN). Have a look at the features of this area, experiment with the map layers, and note the privacy protection and interactivity that is available. Lisa Fox, notes *“Having an on-line publicly accessible atlas and a workable organizational mapping and planning product in an all in one tool is essential to our land trust work.”*

The CMN website has community, provincial, national and international mapping projects and many atlases that may be applicable to your area or interests. The site was created to share a wealth of natural resource information and maps with communities in British Columbia. The main objective of the CMN is to promote planning for sustainable communities. The CMN integrates data from many sources and makes it accessible through a **user-** friendly mapping system. There are many **uses** for the information including:

- ❖ community planning,
- ❖ storm water management,
- ❖ habitat restoration and enhancement,
- ❖ watershed planning,
- ❖ development referrals,
- ❖ impact assessment,
- ❖ coastal planning, research,
- ❖ education and awareness,
- ❖ emergency response.

Many sensitive habitats such as smaller urban and rural watercourses, eelgrass beds, riparian areas and wetlands remain unmapped, poorly understood, and impacted by human development.

Methods provided through CMN help to explore and promote awareness of these habitats by mapping their location and inventorying their attributes. The awareness and commitment to local watercourses and other sensitive habitats is an important process created

through co-operation of local communities, First Nations, municipalities, planners and managers throughout British Columbia. The Community Mapping network also provides watershed educational material, mapping methods, standards and training workshops. They are always eager to listen to your mapping project ideas. For more information about the CMN and to view the atlases on-line go to <http://cmnbc.ca>

Primarily written by Lisa Fox

The Cowichan Community Land Trust Society (CCLT) has been working on an eelgrass restoration project in the

Cowichan Bay for the past year. A group of eelgrass enthusiasts met a month ago for an ecology workshop conducted by Nikki Wright from SeaChange Marine Conservation Society. Volunteers learned about the ocean grass, and the conditions in which it takes up residence. Forming meadows in the subtidal zone, eelgrass can grow up to ten meters below the low tide line. The root system traps sediment, and stabilizes bottom composition, while muffling wave action on the nearby shore. The blades of grass create a home for many small fish, crab, sea slug, sea star, and snail.

Next on the agenda for the project is a site assessment training workshop. Cynthia Durance from Precision Identification will be joining the Land Trust on July 23. The historical record gathered from community consultation has been compared to present eelgrass bed locations, and three possible sites



for restoration planting have been identified. The workshop will start with a

presentation, and then a visit to the sites. The following week, July 31, a test plot of about 200 – 300 eelgrass shoots will be transplanted at a selected site.

The project aims to transplant a large area on the north side of the bay next spring, putting the transplants in just before their most productive time of year. The shoots moved from a donor bed will then be given time to establish new roots, before the shorter days and stronger waves of winter.

The Cowichan Community Land Trust is seeking volunteer SCUBA divers and land participants for the workshops. If you are interested in participating, or hearing more about the project, please call Jennifer at 746-0227, or email steward@island.net. Thanks to the Habitat Restoration Trust Fund, and the Pacific Salmon Commission for funding.

Species Monitoring by Volunteer Naturalists

Most land trusts and associated organizations are aware of the limited resources to fund monitoring of species at risk.

Grants are available through some government agencies, like the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk and other private agencies, but these funds are limited and in high demand. One solution is to enlist volunteers and train them to be volunteer naturalists to assist with the monitoring of species at risk.

In planning for the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Stewardship 2004 Project, which was partially funded by HSP, recruitment and training of six volunteer naturalists was identified as one of the project's objectives. The plan was to enlist local specialists with knowledge of the project's target species, and to train them to identify species at risk so they would be available to continue to advise landowners after the conclusion of the project. During the monitoring of species at risk in 2004, staff identified willing local volunteer naturalists and paired them up with species at risk experts on site visits to areas known for occurrences of species at risk. This allowed the project to combine the work of annual species monitoring with training of volunteers in identification of rare species and habitats. The project successfully recruited and trained eleven volunteer naturalists.

Volunteers continue to play a key role in this year's stewardship project, "Habitat Protection and Stewardship of Species at Risk on Salt Spring" which is again funded by HSP with additional funding from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and The Vancouver Foundation. Our four bird volunteers made regular site visits through the spring to document any sightings of the BC red-listed Western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*). Our butterfly volunteer is aided in her search for the COSEWIC threatened Dun skipper (*Euphyes vestries*) and other BC listed butterflies by a local group of volunteers that has formed to record butterfly sightings: the Salt Spring Butterflies. Their primary goals are to monitor butterfly species and populations on Salt Spring and to encourage all islanders to protect and create the kinds of environments these remarkable insects need to survive. You can find out more about this group at: <http://www.ssbutterflyers.org/butterflyers/>



Z. Fritt,
Photo Ann Richardson

Our local Ecological Reserve warden, Paul Linton, is constantly on the lookout for rare plants, and one of the Conservancy board members is now looking under snake boards for our local COSEWIC endangered Sharp-tailed snake. Whatever species you are looking for in your area, you will find that with limited funding, volunteer naturalists are a key part of any long term species monitoring plan.

- **Karen Hudson, Salt Spring Island Conservancy**

Pender Island Stewardship "Ours to Care for, Ours to Protect"

The Pender Islands Conservancy's recent focus has been directed towards "caring and protecting" – encouraging individual appreciation of Island treasures, small and large, that depend upon each of us for their protection. Through displays at our weekly Farmers' Market, an ongoing speaker series, and regular beach cleanups, we hope to instill a sense of caring and stewardship in our community.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have had remarkable speakers from Dr. Peter Ross speaking on whales, to Dr. Robb Bennett on spiders! "What do Dinosaurs, Runaway Trains, and a House of Cards Have to Do with Sustainability?" was the topic of a timely and thought-provoking presentation by Neil Dawe of CWS and the Qualicum Institute on Sustainability – in conjunction with our North Pender Official Community Plan Review.

In support of the proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area, and the Orca Pass Stewardship Area, we have had a series of speakers on the life of the Salish Sea. Dr. Robb Butler introduced us to ***The Jade Coast***, and ***Beneath the Salish Sea***, brought us wonderful views of life beneath the waters off Pender Island. Local naturalist and underwater photographer Derek Holzapfel is making a study of these waters and compiling an inventory. His photographs may be viewed at www.naturediver.com. Peter Ronald of the Georgia Strait Alliance provided very helpful information on conservation issues of Georgia Strait and Puget Sound. We were also privileged to have Bruce Whittington and Tasha Smith bring us a two-part series on "Birding the Salish Sea".

We hope that learning to care will encourage people to look closely, appreciating and conserving, bringing with it an ethic of conservation and private land stewardship for our Island.

-**Sylvia Pincott,
Pender Islands Conservancy Association**

11 YEARS OF LANDHOLDER CONTACT IN THE COWICHAN REGION

By Ann Archibald, François Cormier, and John Scull

Cowichan Community Land Trust Society

Landholder contact programs have been favoured by many conservation organizations as a tool to encourage land stewardship. Landholders are educated about ecological consequences of their land use practices and steps they can take to be more responsible members of the ecological community. Programs can be focused on specific regions, ecological features, actions or sub-groups of landholders. It is believed that landholder contact provides an effective alternative to other approaches to stewardship such as regulation.

The Cowichan region has experienced various landholder contact programs over a period of 11 years. These were begun by the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program and continued by the Cowichan Community Land Trust. This long history has provided a unique opportunity for an assessment of the long-term consequences of landholder contact land-stewardship education programs.

After databases from the various projects were reconciled, a telephone survey was conducted, in the spring of 2005, with 89 participants from previous landholder- contact programs. Following the interviews, site visits were made to 8 properties.

In general, the results of the survey were extremely positive regarding changes in attitudes, knowledge, and activities of landholders, both with respect to the specific focus of the landholder contact and with respect to wider environmental issues. Landholders who agreed to participate were motivated to care for the natural environment and eager for information about how to do it. They expressed appreciation for the knowledge they gained through program. They responded with a wide range of changes in land use practices and other environmentally relevant behaviours. Some of the specific changes they reported were:

- changes in attitudes about land stewardship, including a greater understanding of passive conservation (leaving things alone);
- a wide range of changes in environmental management practices, especially those related to wildlife habitat;
- land stewards were much more likely than the general population to join environmental and

conservation organizations or to contribute to land acquisition campaigns;

- publications delivered during the program were, in many cases, still in use.
- changes in a number of different areas of environmental stewardship, with the average landholder reporting 8 different changes; with a range from 0 to 22 changes. The most common categories were as follows:

Enhance wildlife habitat, native plants; Do less, leave it alone, refrain from development; Increase recycling and water conservation; Control invasive species; Reduce pesticide use; Change farming practices; Energy conservation; More community involvement; Stopped burning.

A strong message from this research is that landholder contact needs to be a continuous and ongoing process of education, support, and community-building. An ongoing dialogue with landholders and greater facilitation of mutual support among land stewards might greatly enhance the effectiveness of landholder contact.

The major weakness identified for all the programs resulted from the short-term nature of project funding, usually one or two year grants. Staff changes and inconsistent follow-up were seen as major limits to the effectiveness of all the landholder-contact programs. Historically, agricultural extension workers and community public health staff have used a model of providing ongoing education and support at the community level. These successful precedents may provide a more realistic model for land stewardship education than short-term grant-funded projects, media campaigns, publications, or centralized programs. Land stewardship is an ongoing process and stewards need ongoing support. As people become more committed to being responsible members of the biological community they need continuing support within the human community.

The complete report can be found on the web at www.island.net/~cclt, www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca, www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca, or www.stewardshipcanada.ca.

WHAT IS ECO-CULTURAL RESTORATION??

By Barbara Moore

Between February 14 and 17 about 30 people gathered at Bodega Resort to hear about and ponder this question. There were 22 full participants plus Galiano Conservancy staff, representing a wide cross section of people and geographies. Several local residents took advantage of this

opportunity and others came from far a field - northern B.C., Vancouver Island, Pender, Cortes and Denman Islands, Vancouver, Calgary, several First Nations and even Korea! Yes, a forestry professor from Seoul who knew of the work of one of the instructors, Herb Hammond, travelled here especially to attend the workshop. It was a rich mixture of people, ideas and conversations among those already involved in and committed to restoration projects of various types.

During the week we met comfortably at Bodega Lodge, and had field trips to Dionisio Point Provincial Park through Therah Village and to the Forest Restoration site in the Galiano Conservancy's Pebble Beach Reserve.

The instructors, Herb Hammond and Dennis Martinez, are both leaders in this field and brought cutting edge ideas and examples from their extensive experience working all over North America and around the world. Dennis, who currently lives in northern California, is a leader in the Indigenous People's Restoration Network, working to bring together traditional ecological knowledge and western ecological science. His wide-ranging knowledge of plants, animals, ethnobotany and indigenous uses and practices, offers historical yet fresh insights into how we can move towards a truly sustaining relationship with the forest and the land.



Herb Hammond, along with his wife Susan, is one of the founders of the Silva Forest Foundation in the Slocan Valley. His book, *Seeing the Forest Among the Trees* is widely used and acclaimed. Herb is a rare breed of foresters who combines heart and mind to form practical methods for ecological forest use. He continued to remind us that “*We do not sustain the forest; the forest sustains us..*”

Far from having a purely benign and unobtrusive relationship with the natural world, indigenous people intensively managed vast territories, using fire as one of their most important tools. Fire followed by seeding provided vigorous growth of food crops, for both humans and the animals they hunted. Humans have been a key species in land ‘management’ for thousands of years and our presence is important in maintaining ecological balance. Here on Galiano we can see that, for example, without predators or hunting, deer become overpopulated and small. With fire suppression, the forest litter builds up dangerously.

In a nutshell, the theme was one of learning about restoring a variety of landscapes, local cultures and economies - healing on a broad scale starting at the community level. To this familiar theme was added subtle shifts in thinking about how we re-learn to sustainably meet our needs while maintaining ecosystem integrity. Galiano was showcased, ideas were generated and new partnerships were forged.

Thanks to all who participated - our instructors Herb and Dennis, Bodega Lodge, Go Galiano and to our funders who made bursaries possible - The Georgia Basin Action Plan, the Endswell Foundation, the Brainerd Foundation and the Galiano Parks and Recreation Commission.

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Managing Lands with Camas

The Lekwungen (Songhees) Regenerate Traditional Harvests

The Lekwungen (Songhees) people have been involved in camas harvests and pit cooks as far back as our people can remember. The Lekwungen territory was known for their camas meadows. They were large areas that covered most of what is known today as Victoria. Camas is a versatile plant that can grow in many different terrains. However, the naturally flat landscape in various areas in Lekwungen territory was excellent for harvesting. Camas, *kwetlal*, is one of our traditional staples, our main food resource. Camas was an important form of food starch, much like potatoes, that sustained our people through many generations. The Lekwungen people's camas bulbs were an important trade item as well. We had two types, the common and great camas. Songhees was known for trading camas and was visited by various nations.

The Songhees people camped near the present St. Ann's Academy while collecting camas bulbs on Beacon Hill and crabs from the bay, which is now filled in. The Empress Hotel sits on what used to be part of the bay. Lekwungen traditional territories were ample with camas.

For over six years now, Cheryl Bryce has been involved with harvesting camas and pit cooks. These pictures are from various camas harvests on Tichless Island (Discovery Island). Cheryl recalls harvesting some traditional foods with her grandmother as a young child. She took the values from these teachings into harvesting camas. She would gather them and pit cook them as their ancestors have done in the past. Once the pit cook was opened, the Lekwungen people would enjoy sharing a magnificent feast.

Harvesting camas was just one way our people used to sculpture the landscape in our traditional

territories. Each family group would have an area of land where they would harvest, managed mainly by the women.

There is much work to be done with regards to camas and cultural restoration. There is a growing need to have access to traditional food - even more so to environmentally safe food to consume. Cultural roles and practices need to be included in the restoration of these ecosystems.

Our reserves are so small we have to maintain and sustain our food resources. Our land base is decreasing and our population is increasing. And the Species at Risk Act (SARA) can be useful, but it can also impact our economic development, housing, and land use on reserve.

To me, access to traditional foods is important because it governs what we eat. It's a part of self-governance, not just law and legislation, but our right to traditionally gather our resources.. We have our plots on Discovery Island and other places, but it is not enough. We need to be able to access our resources in our territories of our reserve systems.

As a result, we are working on making official agreements with the University of Victoria, provincial parks, municipal parks and private lands. I hope to acknowledge and respect this right and need as an indigenous people, and to review ethics of how institutions do their own research. Equally important, our old traditional harvesting sites are generally linked to archaeological sites. These are areas that need to be protected and managed by First Nations.



Photos and story by Cheryl Bryce

PAUSE AND REFLECT

While we in the land trust community are working hard to preserve plant and animal life and sometimes heritage buildings or cultural amenities we might pause to remember that, in a climate of accelerating development especially in south coastal areas of B.C., First Nations peoples are facing increasing destruction of their historic burial sites and ancestors' remains. While awareness and recognition of this issue, as well as general respect and consideration for First Nations' remains and cemeteries is increasing, the need for greater public support for the protection of our threatened archaeological heritage in British Columbia is critical.

South Coastal areas, especially the Gulf Islands, are experiencing unprecedented and large-scale development. Within this context, the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has recently registered a request to the Urban Development Institute (UDI) – a national non-profit organization of business leaders, to revoke its public award for “Best Resort Development” to Poets Cove Resort on South Pender Island. Robert Morales, Chief Negotiator of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, states, “Poet's Cove is one of the worst desecrations of an aboriginal burial ground by development in the recent history of Canada. Our First Nations are solemnly disgusted by this public tribute to a corporation that has destroyed our national heritage, violated provincial law, and profited from the destruction of our ancestors' graves.”

On February 10th, 2003, the RCMP shut down the construction site to investigate the resort development's alleged large-scale destruction of a Coast Salish historical village and cemetery site estimated to date up to 4000-5000 years old. Thousands of human remains representing the bodies of over 50 aboriginal peoples have been salvaged over the last two years from the resort's construction fill. Crown Counsel has recently announced charges under the Heritage Conservation Act against Poets Cove development team scheduled for a 10 day court trial at Victoria Provincial Court in January 2006.

“Those who vandalize and despoil the cemeteries of any other minority group in Canada receive civic disgrace, not public acclamation. This award [from UDI] to Poets Cove is an insult to all First Nations”, stated Morales. “We believe our aboriginal people and our burial sites deserve equal public respect in Canada.”

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group is also requesting a professional Archaeological Impact Assessment study be conducted prior to any further land-altering development at the Galiano Inn property at Sturdies Bay on Galiano. First Nations' peoples have constitutionally-protected aboriginal rights to protect their ancient heritage sites and burial grounds in Canada and, under the Provincial Heritage Act, these rights should be recognized and upheld.

As development pressures continue to increase throughout coastal regions the archaeological heritage of British Columbia will face increasing degradation unless public pressure and our Provincial Government leaders dictate otherwise. Furthermore, it is imperative that all levels of government recognize and enforce First Nations' rights to preserve and maintain the dignity of their ancestors' remains within appropriate burial contexts.

For further information contact: Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group Research Department (Background Information) : Tel: (250)245-4660 Fax: (250)245-4668

You can write letters of support to:
Honourable Liz Frulla, Department of Canadian Heritage, Canadian Heritage, 350 Albert Street, Suite 330, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5 Tel.: (613) 996-5977 Fax: (613) 996-9255 Honourable Olga Ilich, Minister, Archaeology and Registry Services Branch, Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8

Summarized by Maureen Milburn

First Nations Land Trust or Conservancy

A meeting was held in Penticton last March to discuss the formation of one or several land trusts to serve First Nation's and conservation interests. Nearly 40 people attended and discussed the various elements of land title on reserve lands, conservation and stewardship, and options for protecting and acquiring both reserve and additional lands.

A second meeting is planned. We look forward to our existing land trusts and the LTABC working collaboratively with First Nations to help protect our natural and cultural diversity.

The Land Trust Alliance of BC Reports and Outreach

Canadian Land Trust Alliance, CLTA

The CLTA is preparing to sign off on its Incorporation and Bylaws. Thanks for the hard work by all on the Steering Committee, and a special thanks to Jim Smith for spearheading this stage of the CLTA's formation. The LTABC is pleased to be part of this new national voice for land trusts. We join five other regions across Canada as voting, Charter Members. Other Associate members are welcome, but are not given voting privileges. The office will be located in Ottawa.

The Canadian Standards and Practices are now complete, and you can print them off from our website at

www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/standards.html

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

The LTABC is also working with a task force to help found an American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts 501C3 US organization. It will have a mission and goals to help acquire and protect Canadian land owned by American citizens. Please let us know if you would use the services of such an organization to help you protect lands owned by US citizens in your region.

Contact LTABC at 250-538-0112 or
Sheila @landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Seminar Series 2006 – Squamish, BC

The LTABC is pleased to announce the location and dates of next year's Seminar Series! We are excited about meeting at the North Vancouver Outdoor School's beautiful Brackendale Conference centre March 17-21. We look forward to special site visits and workshops in the Squamish First Nation's territories, specifically to the salmon spawning stream and beautiful forests near the area, held as a conservation covenant by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. We invite all conservation organizations and interested individuals and groups to contact us with requests or proposals to present at next year's gathering.

Land Trust Best Practices

CD ROM of Resources, Research and Template Documents

We are pleased to announce the release of this CD Rom full of over 650 documents for your use! Many thanks to the committee of six dedicated volunteers who coordinated this collection: John Scull, Eileen Palmer, Karen Hudson, Les Bogdan, Kathy Dunster, and Lucy Reiss. Thanks also to all those land trusts and other organizations who provided their documents. The collection is already being commended for its adaptability and usefulness. We gratefully thank our funders: The Vancouver Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.

Ecogift Appraisal Assistance Program *back on track*

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada is working with us now to complete an agreement for continuation of the **Appraisal Assistance Grant Program**. This program covers legal and appraisal costs associated with the Ecological Gift Program. Applications and Instructions will be on the LTABC website soon. Last year, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, The Islands Trust Fund and The Nature Trust of BC all received funding assistance through this program. We are grateful to have contributed to the conservation of these sites.

Baseline Inventory Service and Guidelines

Ryan Durand has been busy providing Baseline Inventories to several members over the last year. He has been completing baseline services for our members who took advantage of this program. The LTABC work with land trusts to subsidize this service. We would like to hear from you as we start our **Guidelines for Baseline Inventories**, if you have ideas, requests or would like to assist us with this project. Funding to date for the service has been kindly provided by CWS and The Real Estate Foundation of BC.

Legislative News and Government Action

Regan Announces Coast-wide Salmon Fishing Opportunities in 2005

In July, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Hon. Regan, released the 2005 Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP), adopting a cautious approach to harvesting opportunities where there are stocks of concern. The plans for northern and southern British Columbia outline a range of initiatives to protect weaker stocks, such as Cultus Lake sockeye, while providing fishing opportunities for all sectors. BC's Wild Salmon Policy - on-line

http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/wsp/default_e.htm

Environment Minister Adds 39 Species for Protection Under Species at Risk Act

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Geoff Regan, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announced the addition of 32 terrestrial species and 7 aquatic species to Schedule 1, the list of species protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). This is the second group of species added to the list since the Act was proclaimed in 2003. To date, 345 species are protected under the Species at Risk Act.

The Plains Bison will not be listed under SARA at this time because of the inability to genetically distinguish wild and domestic Plains Bison and the potential economic implications for the Canadian Bison industry. Successful Plains Bison recovery initiatives are already underway in some of Canada's National Parks.

The Polar Bear and the plant species of Dwarf Woolly-Heads are being referred back to COSEWIC for further review. The Polar Bear was proposed to be listed as a species of special concern under SARA in October 2004. On the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, the Governor-in-Council decided not to list the Polar Bear at that time in order to consult further with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Following the completion of the consultations, the Polar Bear is being referred back to COSEWIC for additional analysis. Given that Dwarf Woolly-Heads have recently been discovered in locations other than British Columbia, COSEWIC has requested reassessment its level of risk.

SARA Public Registry on the Internet at:

www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Habitat Stewardship Program: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca.

Recommendations: Parliamentary Committee Report on Canada's Kyoto commitment

The parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development's report entitled "FINDING THE ENERGY TO ACT: REDUCING CANADA'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS" can be found at:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/infocomdoc/38/1/parlbus/commbus/house/ENVI/report/RP1875334//Doc_PrintFormat/ENVI_Rpt07-e.pdf

Seismic Exploration and Environmental Regulation Changes

West Coast Environmental Law reports that two changes to regulations are threatening to weaken restrictions protecting coastal environments. Environmental assessment requirements for drilling of exploratory wells may be weakened by the federal government. And, BC and two Atlantic Provinces are considering flawed guidelines on seismic exploration. For more information on these proposed changes that would affect marine mammals at the minimum, contact WCEL. View information on these proposed guidelines at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/newsreel/2005/scp-ecp_e.htm

Parks in Peril

In February 2005, the Public Service Employees for Environmental Ethics leaked BC government documents exposing plans to commercialise BC parks. Plans include an expanded Parks Lodge Strategy whereby the number and types of structures in parks will be dramatically increased, (including resorts, lodges, ecolodges and backcountry huts). Parks listed for potential lodges include: Broughton Archipelago; Cultus Lake; Elk Lakes; Garibaldi; Hamber; Maxhamish; Mt. Assiniboine; Mt. Robson (Berg lake) and Valhalla.

For further information, contact: Western Canada Wilderness Committee: info@wildernesscommittee.org or www.wildernesscommittee.org, or Valhalla Wilderness Watch, wildernesswatch@netidea.com

NEWS FROM WESTCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

EDRF victory blocks BC Parks destruction of turtle habitat

As a result of an EDRF grant, the BC Supreme Court has ruled that the minister responsible for parks is subject to the Park Act, and that BC Parks can't build a driveway through habitat of species at risk to meet the needs of a local developer. The story began in 2003, when a local company, D.J. Bayoff

Developments Ltd, began developing a property across the highway from Grohman Narrows Provincial Park. Ministry of Transportation safety standards require that driveways off a highway be located directly across from each other, but for financial reasons Bayoff located its driveway some 30 metres down the highway from the entrance to Grohman Narrows park.

Read the full article:

<http://www.wcel.org/4976/31/01/02.htm>

Parks whistleblower fired

A victory for the rule of law, protection of parks and the painted turtle, may be costly for the civil servant who blew the whistle on an illegal decision to pave habitat in a BC park.

Read the full article:

<http://www.wcel.org/4976/31/01/03.htm>

Great GAINS for Birds in North Saanich

In May, the District of North Saanich turned down a proposal to allow a marina to expand into a national migratory bird sanctuary: a victory for over 30 species of birds which use the sanctuary, and the citizens of North Saanich who took a stand to protect this ecologically sensitive area. Shoal Harbour, in North Saanich, was designated as a migratory bird sanctuary in 1931 due to its importance as bird habitat. Visitors to Victoria see it from the highway immediately after disembarking from the ferry. The area is a paradise for birds and birders, with great blue herons, green-winged teal ducks, bufflehead ducks, harlequin ducks, and hooded mergansers calling the harbour home.

Read the full article:

<http://www.wcel.org/4976/31/01/07.htm>

Plans to spray grizzly forage with pesticides put on hold

BC Supreme Court decision sets important precedent for challenging irresponsible pesticide use

A July 2005 decision of the BC Supreme Court ordered the provincial Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) to reconsider the Ministry of Forests' plans to

use pesticides on plants relied on by an endangered grizzly population in northwestern BC. The court ruled that the board must ensure that pest management plans will not lead to unreasonable adverse impacts on the environment. The decision also sets an important precedent for the province's new de-regulated approach to pesticide use. The decision marks the end of a two-year legal battle between the Ministry of Forests and EDRF client, the Granby Wilderness Society.

Read the full article:

<http://www.wcel.org/4976/31/01/08.htm>

More Conservation Successes

South-East End of Swan Lake Protected

The shallow and wildlife-rich Swan Lake in the Okanagan has been largely saved! The North Okanagan Naturalists Club contributed from a savings of \$35,000, and a public donation of \$15,000. The Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary donated \$50,000, and the remainder of the purchase price was acquired from the Government's new "BC Trust for Public Lands" fund. As of April 16, the land is under the new ownership of Ducks Unlimited and the local government.

Codd Wetland Saved

In May, the 100-ha Codd Wetland/Aquilini Conservation Reserve in Pitt Meadows was dedicated. Special thanks to funding from the provincial government, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the municipal District of Pitt Meadows, Aquilini Investment, Ducks Unlimited and The Land Conservancy.

Twenty three new biosphere reserves added to Unesco's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Network

Twenty-two new sites in 17 countries as well as one transboundary site between Senegal and Mauritania have been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The Network now consists of 482 sites in 102 countries.

Biosphere Reserves are recognized places where local communities are actively involved in governance and management, research, education, training and monitoring, promoting both socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation.

New sites include: Shouf Biosphere Reserve (Lebanon), the first in Lebanon, covers about 5% of the country and extends along the ridge of Mount Lebanon's western chain at an altitude of 1000 to 2000 metres. It includes 24 villages and two protected areas, Al-Shouf Cedar Reserve and the Ammiq Wetland. See <http://www.unesco.ru/eng/articles/2004/Admin04072005194236.php> for more info.

Appeals

Proposal to Protect the Fraser River Estuary

The estuary is renowned for its high levels of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. It is one of top bird habitat sites in the northern hemisphere. The extensive industrial developments on land and water, especially from the Vancouver Port Authority's facilities at Robert's Bank, and trend towards industrialized agriculture are posing a huge threat to conservation. BC Naturalists are appealing to Environment Canada to create a National Wildlife Area.

Please send letters of concern to Stephane Dion Minister of Environment, Dion.S@parl.gc.ca

Or Hon. Geoff Regan, minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Regan.G@parl.gc.ca

Other News

Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia (IPCBC)

The IPCBC evolved from the Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia, a document produced by a diverse group of partners lead by the Fraser Basin Council. The IPCBC aims to minimize the negative ecological, social and economic impacts caused by invasive plants. Visit www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca for more information

Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles

This public policy initiative provides the means for better management of off road vehicles in BC. The Coalition and the provincial government are developing options for licensing and registration of vehicles. More information can be found at www.orvcoalitionbc.org

DFO Releases Pacific Region State of the Ocean Report

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) released the 2004 Pacific Region State of the Ocean report, confirming warm ocean surface waters spread throughout British Columbia in the spring and summer. Scientists attribute this summer warming to abnormal weather in British Columbia and the Gulf of Alaska, as well as to general warming of the global lands and oceans.

To view the entire news release, please visit:

http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/release/p-releas/2005/nr049_e.htm

Oceans Turning To Acid From Rise In CO2

"If CO2 from human activities continues to rise, the oceans will become so acidic by 2100 it could threaten marine life in ways we can't anticipate," commented Dr. Ken Caldeira, co-author of a new report issued by the Royal Society in the U.K.

Many scientists view the world's oceans as an important CO2 sink. Marine plants soak up CO2 as they breathe it in and convert it to food during photosynthesis. Many organisms also use it to make their skeletons and shells, eventually forming sediments. Estimates show that the oceans have absorbed more than a third of the human-originated greenhouse gas. However, too much CO2 in the ocean could lead to ecological disruption. When CO2 gas dissolves into the ocean it produces carbonic acid, which is corrosive to shells of marine organisms and can interfere with the oxygen supply.

Sea Life in Peril -- Plankton Vanishing - Usual seasonal influx of cold water isn't happening

Oceanic plankton have largely disappeared from the waters off Northern California, Oregon and Washington, mystifying scientists, stressing fisheries and causing widespread seabird mortality. Even a short duration of this trend could severely affect seabird populations because of drastically reduced nesting success, scientists say. The plankton disappearance is caused by a slackening of what is known as "upwelling:" the seasonal movement of cold, nutrient-rich offshore water into areas near shore. This cold water sustains vast quantities of phytoplankton and zooplankton, which are the basis of the marine food web. During periods of vigorous upwelling and consequent plankton "blooms," everything from salmon to blue whales fattens and thrives on the continental shelf of the West Coast.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/07/12/MNG8SDMMR01.DTL>

Hawaii Bans Coastal Light Pollution

Hawaii bans bright lights that emanate out to sea from large hotels and mansions. Lights needed for harbors, airports, and other government operations will be allowed under the bill, as well as lights from hotels as long as they do not cast light beyond 30 feet from the shoreline. The Sierra Club Hawaii chapter, which lobbied for the law, says such artificial lights have been documented as causing the death of hatching sea turtles, fledgling shearwaters, nocturnal flying sea birds and migratory birds.

Tourism Survey Ranks Banff National Park near bottom of list; Gwaii Haanas National Park ranks highest

New tourism survey places Banff national Park at 20th out of the 27 surveyed. Waterton and Jasper parks fared much better. Parks were judged on several criteria, including ecological health, visitor traffic, park management and external pressures.

Dave Poulton, executive director of the local chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society said parks like Banff face serious issues in terms of ecological sustainability. The Trans-Canada Highway and CP Rail transportation corridor are of major concern, and are believed to disrupt animal migrations and spur excessive growth on the gateway to the park.

Gwaii Haanas National Park on the Queen Charlotte Islands is the best national park in North America. The judging panel considered how the parks and historic sites were managed, and also looked at the areas adjacent to the parks. The survey gave Gwaii Haanas high marks for its pristine environment and for its strong relationship with the Haida Nation. The Haida and the federal government jointly manage the park.

UniverCity's Cornerstone wins three environmental awards

The Cornerstone, the first mixed-use building in the village centre of UniverCity, the new community at Simon Fraser University, was recently honoured with three significant awards recognising its environmental sustainability and eco-friendly features. These include geothermal heating and cooling of retail and office spaces, water conserving two-flush toilets and waterless urinals, a ventilation system that recovers heat from building exhaust, and a green roof.

The Cornerstone building has been registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building program, and designed with the LEED certification system in mind.

Contact: Michael Geller, president, UniverCity, 604.291.3138, mgeller@sfu.ca; Zolynne Sykut, 604.291.4202, sykut@univercity.ca

Events

Guided Tour of Wildwood

19-21 August, Wildwood

It is time to repair some of the old structures at Wildwood. Come and help out with some of these projects or help Merve with the garden. There will be a few other options to choose from as well (trail maintenance, blackberry removal etc.).

As always you will have the opportunity to explore the forest and join on the Saturday afternoon interpretive tour of the property. **Note:** This is a camping holiday. Most participants bring their own tents (or share with partners or friends) and sleeping bags. Meals are prepared in a mess tent with the help of the

participants. The washroom is an outhouse. Fee: \$90, Phone: (250)245-5540

Back to the Woods presents

An introduction to Ecoforestry with special guest

Merve Wilkinson, August 20-21st Galiano Island

Meals provided (except breakfast) camping \$135.00 call Julia or Norbert 250-358-2745

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up

September 10-18th

Join tens of thousands of volunteers across Canada as we clean up our rivers, streams, lakes and ocean shorelines. Designed for groups of all ages, the TD Canada Trust Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, coordinated by the Vancouver Aquarium, provides cleanup supplies, educational materials and support free of charge. 1-877-427-2422

www.vanaqua.org/cleanup

SER-BC 2005 – “Restoration in the Rainshadow” Sponsored by SER-BC and the Galiano Conservancy Association

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2005, Galiano Island, B.C.

The theme of the conference for 2005 is “*Restoration in the Rainshadow*”. The focus of the conference will be on restoration projects, needs and issues in the ecosystems of the Coastal Douglas Fir zone, including riparian and tidal ecosystems. The conference will include a get together on Friday evening, a day of presentations, a banquet on Saturday, and a day of field trips to a variety of restoration sites on Galiano Island on Sunday.

ECO Canada's First Annual Conference

January 25-27, 2006

DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel in Toronto, ON.

The event will assist environmental practitioners and employers discover and tap into innovative markets and business opportunities related to the environment industry. It is targeted towards environmental practitioners, consultants, experience managers, and executives. Senior government officials and officers of NGOs, as they pertain to the environment sector, are also expected to attend.

For more information, please email info@eco.ca or visit the conference website available from www.eco.ca

Land Trust & Stewardship Seminar Series

March 17-19th, 2006

North Vancouver Outdoor School & conference Centre, Squamish, BC

Mark your calendar!

Resources

Ecology

The June 2005 issue of *Ecology and Society* includes a total of 43 articles, including:

- *Implications of Current Ecological Thinking for Biodiversity Conservation: a Review of the Salient Issues*

(bringing biodiversity planning into modern times with today's issues and challenges)

Tabatha J. Wallington, Richard J. Hobbs, and Susan A. Moore

- *Incorporating Science into the Environmental Policy Process: a Case Study from Washington State*

Tessa B. Francis, Kara A. Whittaker, Vivek Shandas, April V. Mills, and Jessica K. Graybill

(methodology for integrating complex systems theories into sustainable development projects)

- *The Evolution of an Ecosystem Approach: the Diamond Schematic and an Adaptive Methodology for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health*

David Waltner-Toews and James Kay

- *Finding and Filling the "Cracks" In Resistance Surfaces for Least-cost Modeling*

Kristina Rothley

(from one of our local SFU professors - how to resolve gaps in GIS modeling for wildlife habitat connectivity mapping)

They can all be accessed by going to:

<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol10/iss1/>

Marine and Fisheries Resources

Online Resource Portal

Canada has a new online portal promoting marine conservation. In partnership with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Georgia Strait Alliance, Living Oceans Society and Raincoast Conservation Society, Wildcanada.net is excited to provide you with a place on the web to access a comprehensive set of free online tools; send faxes and emails to decision makers, write letters to editors of newspapers and join the growing community of people who care about protecting the ocean.

<http://www.oceansonline.ca/>

Fish and Shellfish at Risk

Living Oceans and the Monterey Bay Aquarium offer educational information on what species of fish and shellfish are at risk, where they are normally caught, and offer great recipes for those that are conservation friendly.

www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr?seafoodwatch/sfw?regional.aspx

Online Cadastral

Kathy Reimer from the Salmon Enhancement Society on Salt Spring Island has reported that this new resource is great for those of you not using GIS. It provides internet access to cadastral info with a hyperlink to Tatalis GATOR (if you're government). It's free, but you have to register to use it:

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/sgb/imf/index/html>
paul.hagen@gems8.gov.bc.ca
250-952-5017.

Employment

ECO Canada online job board – for job seekers

The Board features environmental employment opportunities across Canada. Job seekers use this service to search for jobs, while employers use the job board to post vacancies free of charge.

Visit www.eco.ca

ECO Canada online job board – for employers

More than 40,000 registered job seekers currently access the job board with approximately 20,000 visits to the job listings each month. Of these visits, 66% click through to view individual ads.

To post a job, simply visit www.eco.ca and sign in as an employer. Once inside, click on "Post a Job" from the left sidebar. As soon as the job is approved (to ensure it is environmentally related), the job will appear on the job board. Jobs are approved five times a day, and relevant jobs will be approved within one business day. After the job is posted, it can easily be edited and viewed from the right hand side of the main "Employer" page.

Regulations and Enforcement

Action on liability insurance for the voluntary sector

Has your organisation been affected by the liability insurance crunch in recent years? The revised Backgrounder explains the causes of the liability insurance situation, and why solutions will require both a short-term and long-term approach. For help with your immediate insurance and risk management needs, see the new sections on Risk Management Resources, Shop for Insurance Products, and Insurance Basics. To see what action is being taken on this issue across the country, see Regional Action and In the News. Check it out at <http://www.vsf-fsbc.ca/eng/liability/index.cfm>

WCEL – Enforcing Environmental Law, A guide to Private Prosecution 2nd Ed. By James S. Mallet
\$34.95 email the Environmental Law Centre:
elc@elc.ab.ca toll free call 1-800-661-4238

Funding:

Green Building Grant Program

The Green Building Grant Program is up and running for 2005. The Program will provide one or more grants (up to \$50,000 each) to qualified recipients. Grants awarded will total \$100,000 maximum, per year. If you know of any non-profit organisation that might be interested in applying, please forward this information to them.

<http://www.realestatefoundation.com/greenbuilding.html>.

The application deadline is Monday, October 3, 2005.

Contact: Celina Owen, Program Coordinator
Real Estate Foundation of BC tel. 604-688-6800

VanCity EnviroFund

- Air Quality & Alternative Transportation
- Wildlife Preservation and Habitat Restoration
- Watershed, Wetland and Marine Ecosystem Restoration

The deadline for submissions is **September 1, 2005**.

Grants ranging from **\$15,000 to \$40,000** are awarded in November. www.vancity.com/grants

Moira Teevan, Community Specialist
Sustainability Group/Marketing Vancity
T 604 877 7620 F 604 877 8292

Government of Canada Announces \$1,754,205 in Funding for Habitat and Species at Risk In British Columbia & Yukon

July 2005 - Federal Environment Minister Stéphane Dion announced a contribution of \$1,754,205 toward 42 projects aimed at helping conserve habitat and species at risk in British Columbia and the Yukon. Funding is allocated under the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk.

In BC, the majority of funded projects this year focus on stewardship efforts related to large marine mammals, the rare Garry Oak ecosystems of southern Vancouver Island, and the recovery efforts specific to species that are at risk in Canada's only desert area, the South Okanagan.

The Habitat Stewardship Program is one of three major components in the Government of Canada Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk. The other two components are the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk*, endorsed by the provinces, territories and the Government of Canada, as well as the *Species at Risk Act*.

Anne-Marie Sleeman, Communications Advisor,
Environment Canada, (604) 713-9514

Trish Hayes, Head Species at Risk Programs
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada,
(604) 940-4658

For information on the Habitat Stewardship Program,
Trevor Swerdfager, Environment Canada, (819) 997-1301

Unilever and Evergreen awarding \$105,000 in grants to restore aquatic habitats

Through the Unilever-Evergreen Aquatic Stewardship Grant Program, twenty organisations across Canada, and their local lakes, rivers and streams, will benefit. The grants will support activities such as planting native trees and shrubs, controlling runoff and erosion, educating the public and showcasing innovative new restoration techniques.

Unilever Canada is a consumer products company that produces a wide range of food, home and personal care products. Its brands include Sunlight, Dove, Lipton and Becel.

Contact: Keith Treffry, Evergreen, (416) 596-1495 ext. 25
ktreffry@evergreen.ca

Imagine Canada Funding

Funding for research into volunteering

Imagine Canada is pleased to announce the Knowledge Development Centre's 2006 funding competition. The Knowledge Development Centre provides funding to nonprofit and charitable organisations and post-secondary institutions to conduct research on volunteering and volunteerism. In 2006, the themes are:

- * Volunteer Experiences
- * Communities of Interest
- * Research reviews of volunteers and volunteerism in Canada
- * Developing Leadership

Applications may be submitted online or by courier or post by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, September 16, 2005.

Please visit www.kdc-cdc.ca and click on "Applying for Research Funding" to find the 2006 Application Guidelines, the 2006 Application Form.

Request for Proposals: From Sand County Foundation's Community Based Conservation Network

The Sand County Foundation (SCF) invites scholars, practitioners and landholder communities to test and assess innovative ways to overcome constraints associated with rights and resource value. SCF is offering grants in the range of \$10,000 - \$20,000 to demonstrate and assess innovations. Awards will be available from September 2005. This invitation is extended to individuals or organizations working in CBNRM in North America or eastern and southern Africa. * NOTE: Special consideration will be given to

proposals submitted by or on behalf of Lake Associations in 2005. Deadline August 31, 2005
<http://www.sandcounty.net/programs/cbcn/search/>

The Fundit – Fundraising News and Views from Canadian Non-Profits

View this informative online discussion and news blog at <http://www.thefundit.com/>

And some thoughts on

Changes in Climates

by Linda Horsfall

Climate Change

Vancouver journalist Stephen Hume's recent article "*Climate change is upon us, and we're not going to like it*" brought the effects of our changing climate into local focus. In 2004, the ocean temperatures off the BC coast rose sharply, creating appealing habitat for exotic warm water species such as the jumbo flying squid and forcing a decline in local species numbers. Hume writes of the pine beetle infestation in the dry Interior and how it is expected to kill 80 per cent of the province's lodgepole forests by 2013. This translates to 25 to 30 per cent of B.C.'s commercial timber inventory. With the milder winter temperatures, it is becoming doubtful that a cold spell will limit the growth of the beetle's population. Furthermore, if the pine beetles exploit more northerly and higher elevation habitats, they could adapt to jack pine.

The coastal oceanic temperatures, from central California to BC, are two to five degrees above normal. According to an article titled "Dead Birds Do Tell", (Associated Press, 14 July), the uncharacteristically cool wet Spring 2005 brought southwesterly wind to the coast and little northerly wind. Without this northerly wind, there is no upwelling and plankton remains at lower depths in the ocean. This year, juvenile salmon populations are below normal, there is a higher dead bird count off the coast, and warm water species continue to show up on our coastline.

Fortunately, frustration and concern over such occurrences are being channelled into constructive action by people the world over. In the United States, city mayors have joined together to work on creating more sustainable cities and towns, enforcing Kyoto mandates in a political climate where the Protocol has not been nationally ratified. The US Conference of Mayors represents 169 cities. What the U.S. Conference of Mayors does domestically, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign does internationally,

with the support of the U.N.-sponsored International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

Changes in Business Climate

The social economy evolved some thirty years ago in Quebec to support the collective social, environmental, cultural and economic well being of communities. The reason d'être behind such an economy is not one of profit, but one with a broader bottom line. Consumer cooperatives, community organisations and community economic development initiatives all signal an approach which brings in social balance.

Currently the BC Roundtable on the Social Economy is at the initial stages of exploring how to strengthen the social economy in BC.

At a major scientific conference at the Met Office in Exeter, in February, Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change, a dismal picture of the earth's future was portrayed should greenhouse gas emissions continue unchecked. Scientists suggested that the business community is integral to tackling global climate change. Not only are companies very often threatened by the effects of climate change, they are increasingly being called upon to assume some responsibility for slowing greenhouse gas emissions. For example: the European emissions trading scheme, launched January 1, aims to lower the EU's emissions of greenhouse gases by imposing limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that certain energy-intensive industries are allowed to produce. Furthermore, companies are able to buy and sell wanted or excess carbon credits on the open market, and face fines should they be non-abiding.

Many insist that environmental regulation is a business opportunity rather than a burden. Openings for environmental management consultants and technology providers are increasing, providing a good reputation for those companies that subscribe to socially and environmentally responsible actions. Increasingly, investment funds acknowledge companies that value a strong environmental portfolio, and several indices, such as FTSE4Good and the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, calibrate such performance.

Consumers must also play their part. In the UK, industry cut carbon emissions by 6 per cent between 1990 and 2003. However, during the same period, household emissions increased by more than 10 per cent, while transport emissions rose by 4.6 per cent.

Here is a little food for thought from Dhyani Ywahoo

Look carefully at the nature of your mind; look carefully into your heart. Can you perceive in your thoughts the seeds of your reality? Consider carefully the future harvest, your tomorrow, your children's tomorrow, and think of beauty. All of our people are saying we cannot go on this way; all the old people around the planet are saying the Earth is hurting because we have forgotten to take responsibility for life. We think somebody else is to blame, somebody else is the aggressor, somebody else is the victim. It is not so. In the mind it arises, and in the mind it is resolved. In the mind we are related to everything.

To understand is not as important as to be, because understanding in itself implies a separation, someone to understand and something to be understood. The knowing is within you, the flow of breath.

Everything is related. Mother Earth cannot be renewed without our renewal; the pollution in the atmosphere will not be transmuted until the pollution of the mind is transformed. And the transformation comes from putting aside the idea of "them" and "us" and understanding that we are all human beings here together. It is we who have the capability and the responsibility to renew life here on Earth.

(Voices of our Ancestors, Cherokee Teachings from the Wisdom Fire)

Protecting Wildlife Beyond Conservation

While driving in British Columbia, one of the main attractions is the opportunity to view the abundant wildlife. But because roads and animal travel corridors generally occupy the same valley bottoms, there is a high risk of encountering wildlife. Each year, approximately 17,000 animals are killed by collisions with vehicles, three people are killed, and 250 people are injured.

The Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program advises that motorists can improve their chances of anticipating and avoiding wildlife hazards while driving. The key factor is to reduce driving speed in areas with wildlife warning signs. Collision avoidance and driver response time are improved at slower speeds. Actively watching for wildlife, particularly between 7:00 pm and midnight, can really help.

Knowledge about wildlife behaviour is important too. All animals are unpredictable. Even if one sees you, it may still jump in front of your vehicle or bolt onto the road unexpectedly. Animals often travel in groups. If one animal crosses the road, others may follow. Adjust your speed accordingly.

And some news on Organic Farming from the UK

Organic farms are better for wildlife than those run conventionally, according to a study covering 180 farms from Cornwall to Cumbria.

The organic farms were found to contain 85% more plant species, 33% more bats, 17% more spiders and 5% more birds.

Scientists - from Oxford University, the British Trust for Ornithology, and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology - spent five years on the research.

Other key differences found on the organic farms included smaller fields, more grasslands and hedges that are taller, thicker and on average 71% longer.

A greater area of organically-managed land in the UK would help restore the farmland wildlife that has been lost from our countryside.

Soil Association policy manager Gundula Azeez Increased biodiversity was a "happy by-product" of sustainable farming practices and farmers working with "natural processes" to increase productivity, she added.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 2006

At the North Vancouver Outdoor School - Brakendale,

March 17-19th 2006

Proposals for Seminars & Workshops Now being accepted

Contact:

**Karen@landtrustalliance.bc.ca or
call 250-538-0112**

Editorial, continued

We are also excited to report on some First Nation's conservation and restoration initiatives happening in the province. Looking at ecorestoration and traditional harvesting, First Nations have many gifts and challenges to share.

We are delighted to announce the release of the *Islands in the Salish Sea Community Atlas* October 29th, 2005. The book's launch will be coupled with a final exhibition at Artspring on Salt Spring of the original 30 maps in the collection. We hope that the atlas, like its maps, will contribute to the protection of cherished natural and cultural features on these rural islands and in other communities undergoing transition. The book shares a collaborative knowledge and message: our true wealth and legacy for the future is in the stewardship and conservation of natural systems.

Sheila Harrington, Executive Director

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WHO CARE WITH CAUSES
THAT MATTER



The Islands in the Salish Sea A Community Atlas

For Every Community in Transition
People can relate to nature and humans with maps like these!
Brilliant – this illuminates the possible future path...,
(comments from the guest book at the exhibition)

Final Exhibition of the Maps and Launch of the Atlas
Artspring on Saltspring, Oct 29th – Nov 4th
Call 250-5378-0112 for details

**Get your copy of the atlas – a portrait of these communities in all
their beauty, diversity and fragility**
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