

The Kingfisher



*Conservation & Agriculture
Working with First Nations*

Special Edition
Communities in Transition

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

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Contract Staff:

Ryan Durand
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Damien Barstead

Cover Photo:

Mount Erskine View

Photo: Michael Levy

LTA The Land Trust Alliance
of British Columbia
204-338 Lower Ganges Road, Salt
Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3
250-538-0112 fax 250-538-0172
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca
info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Message from the Editor

This issue is full of conservation success stories and campaigns underway in BC. Yet it is just a sample of how land trusts, landowners and donors are protecting land, farms, forests, wetlands and riparian areas - let alone the significant historical and cultural features that often co-exist on a protected site. It takes years to build the relationships and alliances that create conservation success. Last issue we featured the Intermountain Joint Venture. This issue we review another network - The East Kootenay Conservation Partners. We also feature one of BC land trusts' stalwart financial supporters, Mountain Equipment Coop. This *Kingfisher* also provides inspirational and informative articles, such as working with First Nations and options for protecting agricultural lands. This is our second Special expanded edition, presenting some concerns and options for protecting BC's "Communities in Transition." Sometimes the needs seem just so great, that it's hard to take the time to pat each other on the back and acknowledge our truly amazing work. Whether we're in media, conservation, or politics, it's all about relationships, and those relationships are furthered by positive reinforcement. The New Year is a good time to do just that, and then set our priorities and intentions for the year ahead.

In the area of alliances and networking, the Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA), currently being incorporated, will help further land trust success across Canada. In 2006 The Land Trust Alliance of BC will continue to offer the best services, resources and support we can provide within the regional context, and representing our members at the CLTA. They will be there to advocate on a national level, focusing on improvements to tax benefits, so that financial support is increased and broadened. We will be discussing the CLTA's recently released Land Trust Standards and Practices at our upcoming Seminar Series and AGM at Brackendale in March, considering whether we should join the Ontario Land Trust Alliance in requiring their adoption by our members. These are very useful guidelines for a land trust, to help with the long-term protection of areas that both private and public funds have contributed toward. Equally useful is LTABC's recently released *Land Trust Best Practices, Templates and Resources CD* which contains over 600 sample documents. We are also completing a *Guideline to Baseline Inventories* this year, also to be on CD, which will provide samples ranging from a small city lot, to a larger than 1000 hectare site, the elusive Land Titles Office Summary, and other baseline information. And, before we leave this topic of alliances and networks, another opportunity for networking nationally will be the Stewardship and Conservation conference to be held in Newfoundland, July 5-8th.

At our recent Strategic Planning we reviewed our members' responses to our first membership fee increase since our founding eight years ago. We have now adapted them to a sliding scale and introduced a
CONTINUED ON BACK INSIDE COVER

Conservation Successes



Partnership protects Mt. Erskine on Salt Spring Island

Written by Charles Kahn, Photos by Gordon Scott

The summit of Mt. Erskine on Salt Spring Island will be preserved forever as a provincial park.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Ministry of Environment, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have joined together to purchase 40 hectares of ecologically sensitive habitat on the highest point of land on northern Salt Spring.

This spectacular property contains coastal Douglas-fir and Arbutus forest and forms the core of almost 240 hectares of protected and undeveloped lands on Mt. Erskine, including a park reserve, the Manzanita Ridge Nature Reserve (owned by the SSI Conservancy), two Crown land parcels, and adjacent lands protected by conservation covenants.

Patience and persistence were key elements in reaching a deal with the landowner, who had purchased the property almost twenty years ago. Over several years, Salt Spring Island Conservancy representatives developed a relationship with the landowner. Their efforts were rewarded when the owner offered to sell the property to the Conservancy before putting it on the open market. The property was then appraised, and a value was established that was acceptable to both the owner and the Conservancy. However, the most difficult stage in the acquisition process lay ahead – raising the money to buy the property.



The campaign to save the top of Mt. Erskine was launched by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy in April of this year. The first step was establishing

contacts with any and all conservation organizations that could be helpful, such as The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, the Islands Trust Fund, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Habitat Acquisition Trust, the Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ecological Gifts Program and the Georgia Basin Action Plan), and BC Parks.

Next, the Conservancy produced a simple, inexpensive brochure. Fundraising approaches were discussed with several professional fundraisers, and local politicians were also consulted. Donors to previous fundraising campaigns were approached, and applications for funding were sent to corporate foundations. Opportunities were also provided for the public to visit the property. The response from the public was amazing, and the project succeeded largely because of the many Salt Spring Island residents and businesses who donated so generously to the campaign. The acquisition received a major boost early on by the donation of \$60,000 from Environment Canada (Georgia Basin Action Plan).

“We also acknowledge the valuable assistance and financial support we received from our conservation partners at the Islands Trust Fund, Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, the Land Trust Alliance of BC as well as the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the Capital Regional District, our local Parks and Recreation Commission, and Friends of Salt Spring Parks,” said Peter Lamb, President of the SSI Conservancy at the time of the acquisition.

Of the \$650,000 required to purchase the property, \$340,000 was raised by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, \$125,000 came from the Province of British Columbia, \$125,000 from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and \$60,000 from Environment Canada's Georgia Basin Action Plan.

NCC's contribution was made possible by the B.C. Trust for Public Lands, an \$8-million government-funded, multi-agency partnership announced in 2002. The fund, with matching contributions from the conservation sector, supports improved conservation planning, and the acquisition and management of private lands that have unique ecological values. Under the purchase agreement, BC Parks will manage the property on behalf of the partners. Mt. Erskine will be designated a Class A provincial park some time in 2006.



On Saturday, Oct. 15, a community celebration was held on Salt Spring Island to celebrate the acquisition and to thank the many donors and volunteers who made it possible. During the evening's festivities, a bench that commemorates this partnership was unveiled. It will be placed on the top of the mountain some time next year.

Conservation in the Heart of Coquitlam

Steve Vida, an 83-year-old retired engineer enjoys waking up every morning to songbirds in his backyard. He loves his birds so much that he buys about 40 pounds of black sunflower seeds every two weeks to fill the feeders hanging by his window. His 1.8 acre property with its one-story house was built in 1971 near Minnekhada Regional Park in northeast Coquitlam. Over half the property is covered in second growth forest and Steve goes walking frequently on its paths. It is this love of his natural surroundings that made Steve decide to put a conservation covenant on his property and leave his estate to the Coquitlam Foundation.



As an outdoor enthusiast and resident of Coquitlam for 37 years, Vida is very concerned about the rapid loss of natural areas and wildlife in Coquitlam due to urban expansion, especially surrounding his home. As an alternative way to protect his forest

forever, Vida and *TLC* The Land Conservancy of BC put a conservation covenant on it back in May. This is the first conservation covenant in the City of Coquitlam and Steve hopes that by protecting his property other landowners in the City and the Lower Mainland will follow his example. This conservation covenant will ensure that the vegetation on his property will remain in its natural state while allowing for the residence to stay on site. Down the road, once the property is being managed by

the Coquitlam Foundation, the property will be used for education and research purposes. The Coquitlam Foundation Land Trust Fund committee and *TLC* will be working in partnership to ensure that Steve's conservation goals are maintained in perpetuity. .

The Coquitlam Land Trust Fund:

Michael McPhee, (604)944-9570 mmquadra@telus.net

Tamsin Baker, The Land Conservancy of BC
(604) 733-2313 tamsin@conservancy.bc.ca

New Hornby Isl and Provincial Park: A Community Dream Come True

Written by Tony Quin, Conservancy Director

A local dream since the 1970's finally came true when the Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, The Land Conservancy of BC, Conservancy Hornby Island, and the Comox Strathcona Regional District officially announced the new **Mt. Geoffrey Escarpment Provincial Park** on Hornby Island August 10, 2005. The successful acquisition of the new 174-hectare park demonstrates how the 'partnership' approach can work in securing parkland, the cost of which would otherwise be beyond the reach of local communities.

The funding partners each contributed the following:

- The Province of B.C.: \$1,675,000
- Conservancy Hornby Island: \$300,000 (primarily raised from local residents, visitors and landowners)
- The Land Conservancy of B.C: \$250,000
- Regional District of Comox Strathcona: \$100,000
- Vance Has-Hsin Link (seller): \$250,000

The new park is regionally, provincially and nationally significant because of its location in the Gulf islands, and because it supports many rare and endangered species and plant communities. The property was one of the largest private undeveloped waterfront properties in the Gulf Islands, and as such it presented a great opportunity to protect more of the endangered ecosystem in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, an ecosystem that is under-represented in the "Protected Areas" system.

The new park can be seen from the ferry as you approach Hornby Island, extending from Shingle Spit to Ford Cove. Access to the park is possible from the ferry or from Ford Cove. A forested hiking and biking trail links the grassy meadow area with the ferry dock area at Shingle Spit. A large part of the property is steeply sloping and provides two and half km. of relatively undisturbed rugged shoreline. At Ford Cove, the park entrance includes the site of the original Ford family homestead with its grassy meadow, heritage orchard and grove of large maples. The new park is adjacent to Mount Geoffrey Regional Park and provides a valuable connector for wildlife and trails for the recreating public. Together the two parks include nearly all of Mt Geoffrey's scenic steep bluffs.



On August 14, 2005, Hornby Islanders, partners and supporters celebrated the creation of the new park and the contributions of the former landowner, Vance Hau-Hsin Link. A picnic gathering was held under the large maples in the meadow and orchard at the south end of the park with the partners and local community well represented. The shade of the maples on the hot day and the soft music provided by local musicians, attracting visitors to the picnic area, set a magical mood. It was the first opportunity for Conservancy Hornby Island to publicly thank Vance Link and Jim Parsons, who had owned the property for approximately forty years, as well as the funding partners and those local residents who had financially contributed to the acquisition. CHI would like to give a special thank-you to Bill Turner and the staff of The Land Conservancy for their support and for taking the key coordinating role, instrumental in getting the program underway prior to Provincial Government's involvement. We also give a special thanks to the Comox Valley Community Foundation and the Islands Trust Fund staff for their participation and support in our efforts toward this park acquisition. Special applause goes to the island residents, visitors, landowners and many volunteers for their donations of time and money without which the acquisition would not have been possible.

Mountain Equipment Co-op

More than just an outdoor clothing store



by Sheila Harrington

“Part of MEC's Vision is to inspire leadership for a just world and action for a healthy planet. To us, that means operating our business in a sustainable way - both environmentally and socially - as well as being a positive force for change.”

In the current world of cutbacks and a dearth of foundations and agencies that fund acquisition, Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) is a welcome supporter of BC's land trusts. Recently I met with staff, Laurie Edward, and Lucy O'Driscoll, a Volunteer Board member from Newfoundland. Lucy works for the Wildlife Division of the provincial government. Her background is in environmental education, which includes creating in-service materials for teachers. Completing her sixth year on the Board of MEC, she is one of eight members of the Community Involvement (Environment Fund) Committee, responsible for reviewing grants across the country and delegating awards to what she described as the “best projects” (rather than being awarded on a regional basis). Staff, other board members and outside experts make up the rest of this decisive committee.

MEC is a unique cooperative business, providing outdoor equipment and clothing across Canada. It was formed thirty years ago when several UBC students met skiing at Mt. Baker, Washington. Accustomed to purchasing their equipment and supplies from REI (a US cooperative), they were inspired and became committed to form their own Canadian cooperative. They started with only a list of supplies they would acquire for the buyer, and access to several climbing clubs. They opened their Vancouver store in 1971, a year and half later. Today they have 11 stores across Canada, the newest will open in Victoria, next spring.

Much of their business still comes directly through their catalogue, which is sent across Canada. To purchase anything from the store or the catalogue, one must become a member of MEC. Today's 2.3 million members include 520,000 in BC. Members are eligible to vote or run for the elected Board of Directors and bring issues and ideas to the AGM. One of those seminal ideas was a resolution brought from the floor by a member, which resulted in the formation of the Environment Fund. The motion was to designate a percentage of the previous years profits to wilderness conservation and education in Canada.

Laurie Edward is the Coordinator of the Environment Fund program. She enthusiastically described why she found her initial work at MEC a powerful experience. She likes the style of democratic management, which she characterized as

a “flat hierarchical system, resulting in a sense of tribe.” She is also proud that it “provides a values-driven voice on the Canadian landscape.” Starting work with the co-op just under two years ago on a contract basis, her former environmental associations were with the Outdoor Recreation Council and the Outdoor Leadership School.



Thwaytes Landing Boathouse, Photo Tamsin Baker

The Environment Fund was started in 1987, devoting .4% of the previous year's sales, plus the interest from an Endowment Fund, created in 1997. The first award was a grant of \$100,000 given to the Lasqueti Community Association for protection of Jedidiah Island in 1995. Another active outdoor enthusiast, Dan Culver, contributed 1,100,000

through his estate to the preservation of this 640 acre island. This is one of BC's landmark conservation campaigns, started initially by the local community on Lasqueti Island. Now a Provincial marine park, the island has mixed forest, open meadows, sandy beaches, mossy bluffs with rocky coves and deep anchorages. It has four registered archeological sites, including an aboriginal fish weir.

One of the few foundations or agencies that fund advocacy, Laurie and Lucy were firmly supportive of this type of assistance. They gave an example in Alberta where an environmental group was funded to educate the public about the commercial Grizzly Bear hunt. When they were boycotted by a hunting organization for allowing the group to set up in front of their store, Laurie explained that they held firm as "our policy is we do not support killing animals."

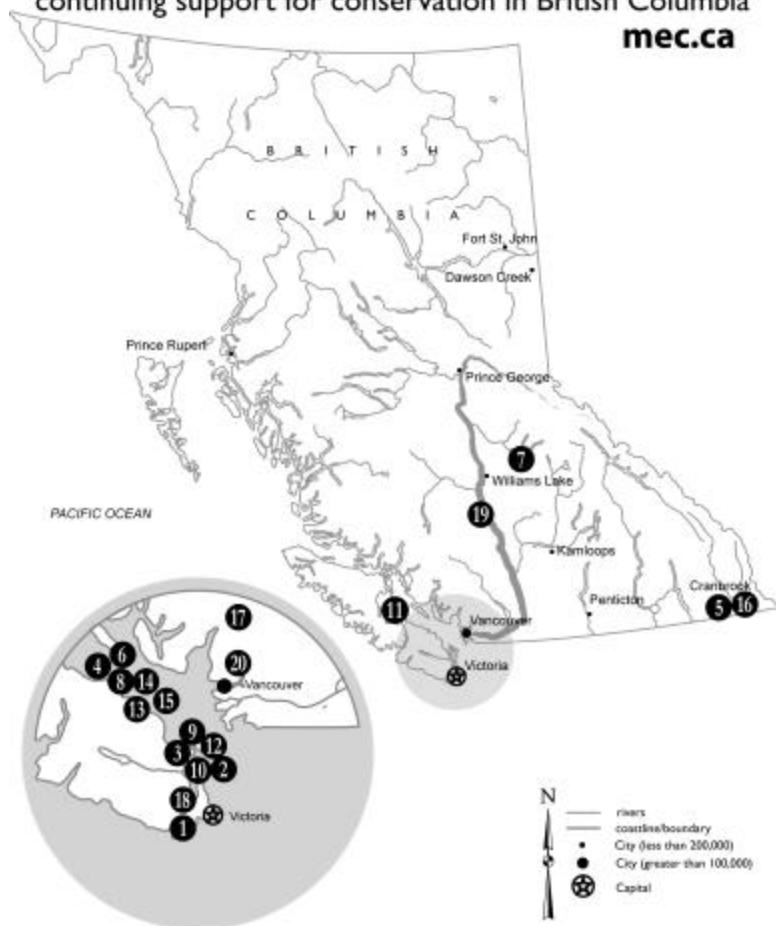
Although they support environmental education and advocacy by non-profit organizations, "MEC itself does not take a formal position unless something impacts our business, such as factory conditions or recreational opportunities, but not grizzly bears," Laurie explained.

Like most organizations, they evaluate their policies periodically and have just undergone a Strategic Review of the Environment Fund. Lucy explained that they will be putting more resources through their stores to outdoor local community projects. Other changes include a new national capacity building program, investing in organizational effectiveness. In land acquisition, they will add to their ecological focus to include recreationally significant lands.

Organization Key

CCLT – Cowichan Community Land Trust
DCA – Denman Conservancy Association
HAT – Habitat Acquisition Trust
ITF – Islands Trust Fund
MWPS – Macdonald Wood Park Society
SSIC – Salt Spring Island Conservancy
TLC – The Land Conservancy of British Columbia
WBTBC – Wild Bird Trust British Columbia

Thanks to Mountain Equipment Co-op for their continuing support for conservation in British Columbia
mec.ca



1. Ayum Creek (HAT)
2. Brooks Point: South Pender Island (ITF)
3. Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve (CCLT)
4. Chickadee Lake: Denman Island (DCA)
5. East Kootenays Stewardship Program (TLC)
6. Hornby Link-Parsons (TLC)
7. Horsefly River (TLC)
8. Jedidiah Island (Lasqueti Island Community)
9. Laughlin Lake: Galiano Island (ITF)
10. McFadden Creek Heronry (WBTBC)
11. Macdonald Wood Park: Courtenay (MWPS)
12. The Mill Farm (SSIC)
13. Nanaimo River (TLC)
14. South Winchelsea Island (TLC)
15. Wildwood (TLC)
16. Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor (TLC)
17. Squamish Malamutte (TLC)
18. Sooke Hills (TLC)
19. Talking Mountain Ranch (TLC)
20. Thwaytes Landing (TLC)

This is exemplified in a recent grant to TLC of \$100,000 for Thwaytes Landing. Still underway, this acquisition will protect a 130-acre waterfront property, which offers one of the few beaches that kayakers and canoeists can land on in Indian Arm - most of the inlet is steep cliffs. Adjoining Thwaytes Landing are two provincial parks: Mount Seymour Provincial Park and the newly created Indian Arm Provincial Park. There are many trails on the site and it includes a heritage home built in 1927, a boathouse and a dock. There is no road access.

Since 1987, most of the acquisition grants have gone to BC organizations. Last year, a 100,000 grant was awarded to the

Cumberland Community Forest Society, to protect 156 acres of forest and wetland within the Village of Cumberland's boundary. The property has a salmon-bearing creek, first and second growth forest and nesting habitat for endangered and threatened species including: the red-legged frog, water shrew and Keen's long-eared myotis. Its rare plant communities and a large wetland join with other wetlands to form a circle around the Village. Shirley Ward, of Comox Valley Land Trust said, "the Forest has been purchased in two

MEC has contributed over 6 million to wilderness conservation, since the Funds inception, through three specific programs: land acquisition, advocacy and education, and recreational access and research.

stages-the first parcel of 106 acres was purchased in March 2005; the purchase of the second parcel will be completed Dec. 15. The Forest is owned by the Village of Cumberland and the conservation covenants are held jointly by the Comox Valley Land Trust and *TLC The Land Conservancy*."

Last year the Envirofund had 10 Letters of Inquiry for the Acquisition program; five were asked to submit full proposals. Two were successful, including the Cumberland Community Forest

project and a 50,000 grant made in Nova Scotia. On average, they grant 150,000 in the acquisition category. Laurie added "In 2005, we have committed to granting

a minimum of .5% of sales to conservation and access projects (an increase of .1%). We will be accepting proposals twice rather than three times yearly."

Deadlines are March 10 and Sept 10 for Research, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Education, and Access. Land Acquisition Letters of Intent are accepted Sept 10th and full proposals, upon invitation, are accepted for the March 10th deadline.

Details on the significant 30 acre Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve were described in the last issue of *The Kingfisher*. The acquisition of the Garry Oak Preserve was a joint project of the Cowichan Community Land Trust and NCC. John Scull, on the board of CCLT explained that "It was agreed at the outset that if we managed to raise the money then the Nature Conservancy of Canada would hold title. CCLT did the fundraising in BC, NCC did national and international work." Now jointly managed by the Garry Oak Recovery Team (GOERT) and NCC, the Cowichan Community Land Trust received \$30,000 from the MEC grant in 1999.



Sometimes, a grant is awarded and the property is not successfully acquired. Patti Willis on Denman reported.

"The Denman Conservancy Association made four purchase offers on Chickadee Lake (to Mike Jenks et al) in various configurations, but they were all rejected (even with a certified appraisal, etc). MEC supported this project with a grant of \$50,000; however, because we never were able to complete the purchase, the grant had to be rescinded. To MEC's credit, they hung on through a number of fiscal years, keeping the grant alive in hopes that we would be able to

complete. Chickadee is still not protected. It has just changed hands to a new private owner last month who apparently was able to pay the price. Its fate will become clearer in the months ahead."

A fairly recent successful acquisition was in the East Kootenays. The Land Conservancy of BC completed the final phases to protect the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor south of Kimberley. This 900-acre acquisition, that protects threatened and endangered species in the East Kootenay region, was completed through a generous donation from the Columbia Basin Trust and individual donors. The final 80 acre parcel was purchased April 30 from Teck-Cominco. This parcel is viewed as one of the most critical in the Corridor as it protects important habitat along the St. Mary River and joins two pieces that have already been protected.



Above, Talking Mountain Ranch,
Below Ponderosa Pine on Wycliffe,

I asked Laurie and Lucy if their members know about the sites they have helped protect. They remarked that they had done very little marketing, focusing on what they called “earned media” such as attention to a recent Green Roof award in Toronto. MEC’s website states: “We have been “greening” our buildings by making design, materials, and construction decisions based on environmental considerations. Our buildings are award winning – our Ottawa and Winnipeg stores were the first and second retail buildings to comply with Canada’s C2000 Green

Building Standard - a Natural Resources Canada program that acknowledges buildings that

achieve a 50 percent reduction in energy consumption over conventional structures.”

“This property contains critical habitat for endangered species in the area, such as badgers and Lewis’ woodpecker,” says Kathleen Sheppard, Kootenay Region Manager for The Land Conservancy. “It stretches along the St. Mary River and is an important wildlife corridor for wild ungulates such as elk and mule deer.”



“The purchase of the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor was completed due to a strong partnership with Teck-Cominco: they offered the land at a reduced price and extended timelines for us.” Sheppard added that Teck-Cominco

also donated 103 acres as part of an earlier phase of the project.

The completion of this project was supported by the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP), a partnership of local and regional groups and organizations focused on conserving private land. By working in a coordinated fashion, EKCP partners act more strategically, protecting critical lands around the East Kootenay area. A full article on this program is within this issue.

Another area of sustainability that MEC focuses on is product sourcing and social and environmental responsibility. The STEP audit team conducts interviews with factory managers, reviews documentation, and conducts a 30-page evaluation survey, containing over 200 questions covering employee health and safety, employment practices and environmental records. The process includes a full day of in-house observation and a review and analysis of the factory’s administrative documents. In their STEP process factories are audited to see if they comply with specified standards. If the factory doesn’t meet standards, the deficiencies and level of seriousness are documented and a follow-up audit is scheduled.

Laurie told me that in their recent Strategic Planning, they formulated a new vision for the Environment Fund. “Canada has the world’s most ecologically significant parks and protected areas: Canada contains the worlds most outstanding outdoor recreation areas; and self-propelled outdoor activity is a key element of the Canadian lifestyle and identity.”

These are visions that land trusts share. We are grateful to MEC for their support of conservation in BC. Nature lovers, outdoor recreationalists, and all of our children will have a place to explore, learn from and share in the future! **Thanks MEC!**

Special Feature

Three Things You Should Know When Working With First Nations

story and photos by Bob Joseph

I have been hearing from many with interests in conservation that they are increasingly encountering First Nations Peoples in their travels. The experiences vary but a common need is emerging to understand a little about First Nations.

There are, of course, many more than three things you should know when working with First Nations, but let's start with these three.

Culturally Diverse Peoples

The first thing you should know is that at the time of contact, North and South America was inhabited by a very diverse group of Indigenous People each with their own culture, values, beliefs, religious views, political organizations, educational systems, lands and resources, and social structures. Geography played an important role in the development of the diversity of the Indigenous People of the "New World." Clearly defined geographic boundaries and the abundance of natural resources like fish, game, and agricultural crops allowed for the development of different cultures that in many cases would go on to develop languages that were unique and distinct.

Today linguist's talk of language in terms of language families which are broad categories or languages of common origin. Canada is home to at least eleven distinctive Aboriginal language families and some of the language families are sometimes broken up into more dialects. The Haida language family is a stand-alone language while the



Kwakwaka'wakw big house in Alert Bay, photo Bob Joseph

Wakashan language family is broken up further into dialects. Other language families in Canada include: Athapaskan, Salishan, Tsimshian, Ktunaxa, Tlingit, Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut, and Iroquoian families.

It is also important to note that each of the

language families in Canada is completely different from one another. If someone from the Athapaskan tried to speak to someone from the Wakashan they would have little ability to understand each other. In fact, it would be similar to speaking English to someone who speaks Japanese.

Just as there are distinct language families, it is important to recognize that there is no such thing as a single First Nations group in Canada. First Nation communities are made up of people from many different cultures. This difference can impact your conservation efforts, as they may not all want the same thing. What one First Nation wants may not be what another First Nation wants. How you reach agreements with one First Nation may not be how you reach agreements with another, and so on. Put another way, there is no blanket solution, template, or cookie cutter model that works when working with First Nations.

Definitions

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people: Indians (now known as First Nations people), Métis and Inuit. These are three

distinct peoples with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. The term “Indian” collectively describes all the Indigenous people in Canada who are not Inuit or Métis. In addition, three categories apply to Indians in Canada: Status Indians, Non-Status Indians, and Treaty Indians. Some people may fit into more than one of those categories. Some people find the term “Indian” outdated and offensive and prefer to identify themselves as First Nations people.

Although the term “First Nation” is now widely used, there is no legal definition for it. A First Nation usually has a governing body that is organized and established by the community. A First Nation can be made up of status and non-status Indians. A First Nation can be made up of one band or include several different bands. The term “First Nations” can and has in many cases replaced the term “Band.”

Now that you have a sense of the term First Nation, it is important to decide, after doing some research, if this is indeed who you will be working with and want to work with. For example, if you are securing a piece of land for conservation purposes you may want to know if there is a First Nation or First Nations close by. Your research should also attempt to determine if there are Métis Peoples and perhaps Inuit Peoples near by. If there is only a First Nation close by then that is who you are working with. If however, in your research you discover Métis Peoples or Inuit Peoples then the definition to use would be Aboriginal Peoples because the Canadian Constitution recognizes all three as Aboriginal Peoples.

So what is the best definition to use? My answer is, “It depends.” If you are working to conserve in an area where there is only a First Nation or First Nations then you would be more inclined to use the term First Nation or First Nations. For example, the XYZ Conservation Group is committed to developing relationships with neighboring First Nations to help conserve and protect culturally important values. If however there are First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis Peoples that you would be more inclined to use the term Aboriginal Peoples. For example, the XYZ Conservation Group is committed to working with Aboriginal



Osoyoos NK'MIP Desert and Heritage Centre

Peoples to conserve and protect culturally important values.

First Nations are pro conservation or pro development?

The third thing you should know about First Nations is whether they are pro-development or pro-conservation. I'm often asked in my workshops this question. Again, my answer is, “It depends.”

The first consideration to explore in the determination of whether a specific First Nation is pro-conservation or pro-development is the discussion about how First Nations started out in North America. Many scholars, until recently, believed that the First Nations People who populated North America did so by way of a land bridge that stretched across the Bearing Sea. The land bridge theory talks about a single wave of migration from Asia at the end of the last ice age being responsible for the population of North and South America. Mention the land bridge theory to First Nations and ask them if they crossed a land bridge and their response would likely be, “No.” Instead First Nations would talk about creation and say they did not acquire their lands by walking across a land bridge but rather will talk of first ancestor stories or creation stories.

Creation is an important belief in trying to pin point if a First Nation is pro-development or pro-conservation. From the viewpoint of creation, the creator gave First Nations lands. These lands were to be used and protected for their benefit and are required for their long-term cultural survival.



Cultural survival and the ability of the people to survive for another 10,000 years is the measure of sustainability that First Nations would use in an ideal world and would suggest a pro-conservation belief.

Unfortunately, it is not an ideal world. A look at current socioeconomic conditions within a First Nation or First Nations is the second consideration to explore. What are the key indicators of a community showing? Is there high unemployment or low employment? Are there high rates of suicide and violence because of lack of economic opportunities? What kind of health issues do First Nations have? If a First Nation community is wrestling with poor socioeconomic conditions, and many, but not all are, they may be more inclined to address short-term socioeconomic issues through natural resource development. Put another way, the need to survive culturally in the short term can push First Nations to be more pro-development. It is not development at any cost though. First Nations will still weigh their decisions against cultural survival.

What are some interests First Nations might have in doing conservation?

Some First Nations are interested in setting aside land for conservation purposes and would be interested in exploring partnerships with conservation organizations. They may want to set a parcel aside for conservation but in doing so may

request continued access to the parcel for traditional purposes, such as, gathering plants or root crops for medicinal purposes.

Other First Nations could be attracted to conserving a parcel of land to protect a sacred site. Bathing pools, first ancestor sites, and other culturally important areas are of cultural significance to First Nations and a conservation group could potentially find additional support from a First Nation or group of First Nations to conserve a sacred site.

Other First Nations dealing with extreme socioeconomic conditions may be interested in proposals from conservation groups that would help address the short term socioeconomic issues as well as conserve strategically important lands. An example of this could be a parcel of land set aside for plant or animal conservation purposes but allowing some limited economic development for the benefit of the First Nation, such as, a low impact Interpretive Centre on a parcel of land providing for conservation and economic opportunities.

Bob Joseph is a member of the Gwa-wa-aineuk Nation. He has provided strategic council and training through workshops and guest lectures at Universities and Colleges on Indigenous or Aboriginal Relations since 1994. Bob can be reached at www.indigenousscorporatetraining.com.

Seminars on First Nation's Land Trusts and The Conservation Interests of First Nations will be held at the Land Trust & Stewardship Seminar Series 2006 – Changing Tides March 17-19th

Register by February 17th for early registration discount – Travel subsidies available

info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Current Campaigns

TLC JOINS COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO SAVE JOY KOGAWA'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Community efforts to save Joy Kogawa's childhood home from the wrecking ball moved into a new phase as The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) agreed to lead the campaign to acquire the house and secure its protection.

"The Kogawa house is a very important part of British Columbia's heritage," said TLC's Executive Director Bill Turner, "and we are determined to see it protected. We will need to raise \$1.25 million to ensure the future of this site."

The Kogawa house is located in the Marpole neighbourhood of Vancouver and was the childhood home of noted Canadian author Joy Kogawa. She and her family were removed from the home in 1942 as part of the Government's policy of internment of Canadians of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Kogawa's celebrated novel *Obasan* is a powerful and heart-rending story of that internment and features the house prominently as part of her childhood recollections. It has been listed by the *Literary Review of Canada* as one of the 100 most important Canadian books ever written.

Inspired by the Save Kogawa House Committee, many community groups such as the Vancouver Heritage Foundation, Heritage Vancouver and the Vancouver Alliance for Arts and Culture and other cultural organizations like the Writers' Union of Canada and the Federation of BC Writers have come together to support the protection of Kogawa House. On November 3 they were able to convince the City of Vancouver to delay a demolition permit on the house for 120 days (effective November 30) to give the community time to raise the funds to buy it. This followed the symbolic planting at City Hall of a graft from the cherry tree at Kogawa House, as



Mayor Larry Campbell proclaimed *Obasan* Cherry Tree Day on November 1.

"I am so touched by the way the community has rallied to protect this house that holds such symbolic importance for me – and for so many others," said Joy Kogawa. "I just wonder when I'm going to wake up from this dream of miracles."

Committee spokesperson Ann-Marie Metten said, "We are delighted that The Land Conservancy is taking on this project. As British Columbia's National Trust they have the expertise to know what needs to be done and the ability to do it. They have a great record of success in similar projects around the Province and we all believe that by working together we will be successful here too."

Bill Turner opened the fundraising campaign by saying: "We are calling on everyone who has been moved by Joy Kogawa's writing to contribute to saving the house. Your contribution will not only recognize and honour Joy's accomplishments but will also provide the opportunity for a writers-in-residence program that will enable a new generation of writers to be inspired by her work. We are also calling on everyone who has been touched by Canada's past treatment of communities such as the Japanese-Canadian community. This house will stand as a symbol of the wrongs that were committed in the past, but also as a symbol of what a community can achieve when it pulls together."

Donations can be made to The Land Conservancy through our website at www.conservancy.bc.ca or by calling Lower Mainland Office (604) 733-2312 or our Head Office in Victoria at (250) 479-8053

Pine Butte Ranch in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor

The wetlands and grasslands that occupy the valley bottom of the Rocky Mountain Trench form an important refuge for many species and communities in the Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. The Rocky Mountain Trench contains the longest contiguous wetland complex in western North America, supporting tens of thousands of waterfowl on their migratory routes; it also contains grasslands that are increasingly rare in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. These grasslands, which are disappearing at a rate of 3-5% every year, support the greatest number of endangered species of any habitat type in the ecoregion. Only 1.2% of BC's grasslands are protected, yet they are home to over 50 species-at-risk, including American Badger, Long-billed Curlew and Lewis' Woodpecker.

For the past two years, the Rocky Mountain Trench has been one of the focus areas of the Nature Conservancy of Canada-BC Region. As a member of the East Kootenay Conservation Program, NCC works in concert with landowners, ENGOs, local government and businesses to protect threatened habitat and to keep wildlife corridors open. NCC's contribution to these goals includes the acquisition of the 1,486 acre (602 ha) Thunderhill Ranch, now managed for biodiversity-ranching; the protection of the famous Dutch Creek Hoodoos, a 62-acre landmark property which was gifted to NCC; the acquisition of Kootenay River Ranch, a 3100-acre property south of Canal Flats; and a conservation covenant on a 279 acre property adjacent to Kootenay River Ranch.

NCC-BC is now working towards the conservation of **Pine Butte Ranch** a 1,306 acres (529 ha) property located 10 km northwest of Cranbrook,



*Pine Butte Ranch – St. Mary's Prairie,
Photo by Jim Thorsell*

BC, in an area known as the St. Mary's Prairie. The area supports a wide variety of wildlife, fish and plant species including the endangered Badger, Elk, Osprey, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Flammulated Owl. Prevalent habitat types include open Bluebunch Wheatgrass/ Ponderosa Pine grasslands, denser Douglas Fir/Western Larch stands, and rocky outcrops. The predominant ecological feature of the ranch is its native grasslands, which make the property a high priority for protection. These grasslands provide forage for ungulate populations, nesting habitat for grassland birds and open hunting grounds for birds of prey, such as

Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk. The ranch also contains small lakes and ephemeral wetland areas that provide staging habitat for as many as 80 migratory bird species such as Killdeer, Snow Bunting, Greater Scaup, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Black-necked Stilts.



*Badger in the Rocky Mountain Trench
Photo by Tim Ennis*

The protection of Pine Butte Ranch tops the East Kootenay Conservation Program's list of priorities. The project is part of a larger conservation initiative to protect the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor. Located between the growing cities of Cranbrook and Kimberley, habitat fragmentation through subdivision for residential development is a great concern. Pine Butte Ranch adds to the puzzle of protected pieces in this landscape: adjacent land is already protected by The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), and the Ministry of Environment owns a wildlife management area next to the property.

The current owners of the ranch have always been practicing excellent land and water stewardship, and earned the 2004 Environmental Stewardship Award from the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association. If this campaign is successful, NCC will protect Pine Butte Ranch through a combination of covenants and acquisition, and will work with the current landowners and neighbours to maintain connectivity in the landscape, and protect fragile grassland and riparian habitat in the East Kootenay. Our development team is working towards a January deadline to make conservation of Pine Butte Ranch a reality!

Please contact us for more information

Marion Grau, Development Coordinator
 The Nature Conservancy of Canada, BC Region
 1205 Broad Street, Suite 300 · Victoria, BC V8W 2A4
 Telephone: (250) 479-3191 ext. 224 · Toll Free: 1-888-404-8428 · Fax: (250) 479-0546
 Email: bcoffice@natureconservancy.ca · Website: www.natureconservancy.ca

Working Together to Conserve the Working Landscape in the East Kootenay

by Darrell Smith, Program Manager

Population growth and development in the East Kootenay over the last 30 years has reached a point where ecosystems and native species are being impacted and wildlife habitat is being lost. In order to try and balance the economic, environmental and social needs in the East Kootenay, more than 41 groups, agencies and businesses are working together under the umbrella of the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP).

The vision of the partnership is to facilitate a win-win approach to conservation on private land that will help maintain the rich biological, economic and social heritage of the East Kootenay – balance the three legged-stool as they say. The EKCP is promoting land conservation and stewardship in the region by working with landowners and local communities to encourage habitat conservation on private land. The East Kootenay is world-renowned for its scenic beauty and diverse wildlife, but there are increasing demands on the land base, particularly on private



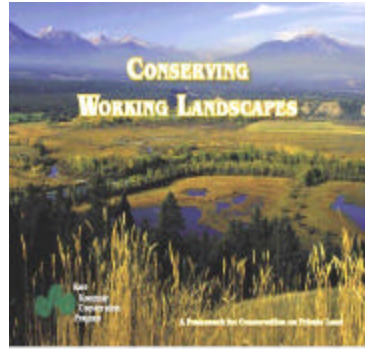
land, that will make balancing growth and wildlife needs challenging.

About 11 per cent of the East Kootenay region is privately owned and while that might not sound like much, the majority of those lands are valley bottoms, which are critical year-round habitat for wildlife. The Columbia, Kootenay and Elk River valley bottoms include grasslands, wetlands, and cottonwood forests not found anywhere else in the East Kootenay.

The mandate of the partnership is to coordinate and facilitate habitat

conservation efforts on private land, set conservation goals and objectives, and generate support and resources to maintain this effort. One of the first steps of the partnership was setting goals by habitat type for acquisitions, conservation covenants and stewardship. These goals would assist the partners in focusing effort, and secondarily, would provide the baseline from which to gauge success of the partnership.

In addition to coordinating habitat conservation efforts on private land and setting conservation goals and objectives, the EKCP and its partners have completed a document *Conserving Working Landscapes – a Framework for Conservation on Private Land*. This outlines the role of the EKCP, the habitats in the valleys, and identifies priority activities that need to be undertaken to achieve habitat conservation goals.



Measures of Success

Over the last three plus years, the partnership has been tracking the goals it set for itself.

Acquisitions:

For acquisitions, a 10 year time frame was set to meet the habitat goals. It was felt that opportunity exists now with the window closing rapidly. With escalating land prices and fragmentation of the landscape, key holdings are being lost monthly. As a result, partners have done a tremendous amount of work in collaboration with each other through the EKCP Securement Team. **The partnership is at 72% of the acquisition goal.** Prior to the partnership, acquisitions were occurring at a rate of 550 ha. per year. **Since the formation of the partnership, partners have ramped that up to 1525 ha. per year!**

Conservation Covenants:

Conservation covenants are a newer tool in the East Kootenay, and like elsewhere in BC the Agriculture Land Commission must approve covenants on ALR land. A five-year timeframe with a smaller habitat goal was set to allow partners the opportunity to inform landowners of conservation covenants and how they work. The EKCP Securement Team, partners have been collaborating - 53% of the five year goal has been met, at a rate of 1500 ha. per year.

Stewardship:

All the remaining private land habitats in the East Kootenay that did not fall under acquisitions or conservation covenants were placed under the

stewardship category. This resulted in a highly optimistic, large target. A Stewardship Team is developing a way of tracking the stewardship habitat goals. One of the main priorities for the Team is to ensure coordination with other stewardship initiatives underway in the East Kootenay, such as the Environmental Farm

Planning initiative and Land Conservancy of BC's stewardship advisor. 2006 will see a substantial kick-off for stewardship with East Kootenay landowners!

The Future

On the near horizon, the partnership is undertaking a public opinion poll across the Kootenay Region to gauge the level of interest and awareness towards private land conservation. Conserving the working landscape, managing growth, and who should help pay for conservation, are some of the themes in the poll. The partnership is working with the Columbia Basin Trust, Communities in Transition Initiative, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Heart of the Rockies Initiative and Regional District of East Kootenay in funding this exciting project. The results will be multi-faceted and will provide insight into various topics that are important to the people in the Kootenays. This will provide great information that partners can use to focus their conservation effort.

The partnership has grown from 26 partners to 41. Great dialogue has been initiated with local and regional governments, between partners and with the communities across the East Kootenay. In the long-term, the partnership will continue to focus on the goals for acquisitions, conservation covenants and stewardship. The partnership has brought conservation values and stewardship to the forefront for many living in the East Kootenay.

For more information on the East Kootenay Conservation Program, contact Darrell Smith, EKCP Program Manager, at (250) 342-3655 or ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca. www.ekcp.ca A complete list of the 41 partners are listed on the web site.

BC Trust for Public Lands gets its feet wet in the Okanagan

By Les Bogdan

The first purchase under the B.C. Trust for Public Lands has preserved 50 hectares of land on the south shore of Swan Lake, one of the last remaining undeveloped wetlands in Greater Vernon, extremely important habitat for residents and wildlife alike.

Ducks Unlimited Canada had its eye on Swan Lake since it began conservation work in BC 37 years ago. As early as 1922 it was proposed as a bird sanctuary by local interest groups.

One of the most important habitats for breeding and staging waterfowl in the Southern Interior, Swan Lake is a critical resting and feeding stop for migratory birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway. The lake and surrounding lands include habitat for non-migratory birds and other wetland-dependent animals such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals.

As human settlement drained and altered many of the wetlands in the rest of the Okanagan, Swan Lake continued to provide a home for wildlife that was declining in the rest of the valley.

Despite numerous attempts to secure more land and water for conservation, all efforts were in

When the Anderson family decided to sell their land on the south part of the lake, the timing was perfect. Conservation partners, in cooperation with the new BC Trust for Public Lands, purchased the property for habitat restoration and public education.

The Swan Lake announcement kicked off the official signing ceremony for the BC Trust for Public Lands Partnership.

The partnership consists of Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Land and Water BC Inc., Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Union of BC Municipalities, Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, The Land Conservancy of



Swan Lake, Vernon

British Columbia, Pacific Salmon Foundation and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Since the establishment of the Trust the partners have been working with other government and non-government organizations and local groups to identify projects for securement and to manage existing conservation lands in British Columbia.

To date the partnership has completed seven key land securement projects located in the Okanagan, Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island—in excess of \$ 6.3 million dollars from all participating partners.

The partners also started to create a conservation database of all conservation lands and a coordinated and efficient way of managing all conservation lands in BC. They are also working with key stakeholders to continue with the development of a biodiversity plan for the Province.

When the BC Trust for Public Lands was established, the partners committed to matching all the funding from the Trust a minimum of three to one. To date the partners have matched the funding from the Trust four to one.

Contact Les Bogdan: l_bogdan@ducks.ca

Stewardship and Agriculture Shanghaied,

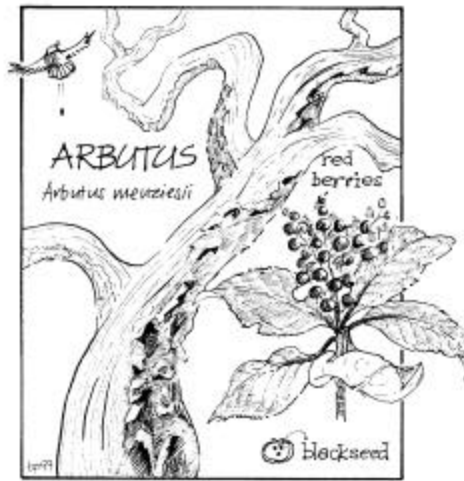
Special Column

by Briony Penn

It must be my colonial west coast roots coming through but whenever I hear the word Shanghai, I think of being seized by some force and diverted in an entirely new direction. The act of Shanghaing comes from the old west coast tradition of drugging sailors in boarding houses and dragging them onto ships, enroute to Shanghai -an unpopular run because the return voyage could take up to a year. The practice was brutal, involving unscrupulous captains and boarding house owners who profiteered through the trade of men. In the century since it was last practiced, the expression has become watered down to mean a sort of benign trick to get someone to change course. When I was asked last month to lecture to a group of Shanghai journalists, I kept thinking of being Shanghaied - seized by some force and diverted in an entirely new direction. I was right to trust my intuitions.

Shanghai is now the biggest city and port in China with a population of 20 million. One third of the world's concrete is in this city. Shanghai sprung into importance in 1842 with the Treaty of Nanking and was pivotal in the opium trade and wars, controlling the Yangtze and the Pacific. For me, Shanghai was a romantic concoction of opium dens, junks and narrow alleys which no amount of globalisation ever shakes. The way I was briefed for the lecture was that China is exploding into the 21st century. The journalists were sent by their press associations to soak up everything they could about media to meet rising demands in the city for news and international reporting. They faced some major challenges. Could I give them a sense of what it is like to be a science or environment reporter?

To be honest, I was feeling a little intimidated. What do I really know about reporting? Since there aren't any environment journalists left in Canadian newspapers, it seemed foolish to expound on



techniques of a career that doesn't exist anymore. I might as well talk about the job opportunities of a rickshaw driver in Shanghai. I also knew that this was a country where to even hint at a possible negative environmental impact, even something as gargantuan as the Three Gorges Dam, would mean an instant job dismissal. In this regard, it wasn't much different from B.C., I'd been dismissed for less. What was the use of

talking about censorship, whether it is from government or corporations, we all live in an era of being silenced. All we could do was shrug our shoulders and empathize. Finally, the connection of Shanghai's 20 million to the natural world was ten times more remote than even the most hardened Vancouverite. There is no natural world left. The spread of the mercantile philosophy made sure of that.

With this trepidation in mind, I walked into the Arbutus Room, one of those grey, nondescript rooms that litter the university, to deliver a three hour lecture to the journalists. I encountered a roomful of exhausted people. I was at the tail end of their grueling three-week schedule of intensive lectures in a foreign language in the Arbutus Room. I suspected that they had reached a saturation point. This is the point at which my cultural conditioning of being Shanghaied seized me. "How would you like to go for a walk?" I asked, "and get out of this room!" Relief is expressed in Mandarin, the same as in English. We dropped our powerpoints, notepads and pens and grabbed our coats, hats and scarves and left. I made a bee line for the closest arbutus tree. It was laden with berries and was as beautiful a sight for city-weary eyes as could be found. *We like this Arbutus Room.* We all plucked some of the sweet berries and began chewing happily. There is nothing like the shared language of food. Cameras came out and captured 16 happy

faces reflecting the scarlet of the berries in our cheeks and bright blue of the sky in our eyes. *We never have blue skies and we never see the stars in Shanghai.*

For the next three hours, we wandered through Mystic Vale following the creek to Cadboro Bay. The vale and path were lined in gold as the last of the big leaf maples released their leafy treasures to the ground. It looked like it was raining gold as the huge leaves fluttered down around us. British Columbia used to be called Gold Mountain by Shanghai men that built the railways. *You live in a golden paradise.* When I told them these were the icon of our national flag, great bunches of leaves were picked up and we walked like happy children released briefly from our duties on reporting the sorry state of the world. The air was rich in the chattering from nuthatches, woodpeckers and chickadees. A winter wren showed itself briefly to the group then darted under a swordfern. *We don't hear birds in Shanghai.* Lichens, mosses and fern grow profusely out of the maples and many of the journalists had never seen tree trunks festooned in green. *What is this green stuff?* Lichens are one of the first organisms to disappear with poor air quality. The leafy lichen, lungwort or "healer of lungs," is named for good reason. Where it grows, it is a healthy place for the lungs. *There is a lot of asthma and respiratory diseases in Shanghai.* One of the group had a bad cough. I extracted a tiny section of rhizome from the licorice fern. It was used traditionally as a medicine for colds and sore throats by the Songhees. Near the maple was a grand fir or balsam. The blisters in the bark are full

of rich-smelling resin, which was boiled to make medicinal teas for colds. *The forest is like Chinese cough syrup.* As we head down to the sea, there is a pair of loons swimming in front of us. I grab a loonie and show them the bird on the coin then point to the pair diving down and coming up with small fish. *You are very rich.* A huge pile of tangled kelp sits on the beach. We grab the ends and start skipping. *We don't ever have time to play.* We talk about climate change and how seaweeds help with sequestration of carbon. *We don't have seaweeds on our shores anymore.*

Three hours went very quickly. They got Shanghaied to the forest. It might take them a year spiritually to return to the city of a third of the world's concrete. I never delivered my lecture on environmental/ science journalism in the western world. I didn't really know anything about it anyway. Over tea, we sat down and one of the men took out a calligraphic brush of what is still referred to as wolf hair from the days when wolves roamed the countryside, and wrote a piece as a memento of our tranquil day. It is an old Chinese proverb, which I have pinned above my desk as I write. Roughly translated it means "what you know to be true should be consistent with what you do and that unity has high value." Journalists the world over know that few can achieve this simple objective, but we know whether it is Shanghai or the golden land of Victoria that we have to keep trying. *author (Monday Magazine, Dec 1-7, 2005 reprinted with permission of the author)*

Good Neighbours, HAT's Stewardship Continues



students, teachers, and parents eager to get planting at Strawberry Vale school, as teacher Lenny Ross explains about the pond naturescape

What better ways to engage children with nature than by getting their hands and knees dirty, their eyes right up to a creepy crawly critter, or their noses pressed against a flower bud? Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT)'s Good Neighbourhoods project gets kids out doing exactly that!

HAT's *Good Neighbourhoods* Project is about kids in the 'hood: an elementary schools version of our highly successful Good Neighbours Program. The *Good Neighbourhoods Project* provides fun and educational activities for elementary schools, to foster environmentally aware youth, and to link the school and the neighbourhood to local parks. In our

Think Like An Oak classroom session, we discuss species-at-risk, ecosystem awareness, urban conservation issues, and environmental stewardship with a bio-regional theme. Then, we hit the trails with an *Expedition of Discovery*! Armed with eyes, ears, noses, and fingers, we explore a park or natural area near the school.

Good Neighbourhoods' third stage brings nature a bit closer to home, as we build a NatureScape garden right in the school grounds. This year, we've been creating native plant gardens with Sundance, Braefoot, and Strawberry Vale elementary schools. For many months, the schools have been getting ready for their gardens: pulling weeds and turf, piling leaves and mulch, and learning about soils, native plants and animals, habitat niches, food webs, and garden design. Kids, parents, and teachers have planted hundreds of Oregon grape, swordfern, red-osier dogwood, mock orange, Garry oak, Nootka rose, salmonberry, hardhack, and other hardy, native plants.

These gardens are outdoor classrooms where children can connect with and learn about local ecosystems. Teachers will use these school gardens not only to teach about nature but also as spaces to teach math, geometry, poetry, chemistry, entomology, mapping and a myriad of other subjects. School gardens provide a sense of community and connection – they bring nature back into children's daily lives and build excitement for conservation, protection and restoration of wild places.

Good Neighbourhoods has been generously funded by the Victoria Foundation Community Fund, TD Friends of the Environment, and BC Gaming Commission. RalMax Enterprises, District of Saanich, Saanich School Board, and Victoria School Board all donated many tonnes of leaf mold, mulch, and topsoil for school gardens, and Capital Iron donated planting tools and supplies.

Habitat Acquisition Trust
Creating a Conservation Legacy
250-995-2428 hat@hat.bc.ca

Farml and Awareness Campaign

Since 1993, the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust (DFWT) has worked with farmers to promote the conservation of farmlands at the mouth of the Fraser River. Conservation of the farmlands is vital to maintaining important wildlife and migratory bird habitat, as well as providing future generations with some of the most productive agricultural lands in Canada.



Recently, DFWT in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited Canada and a \$10,000 grant from Vancity Credit Union launched a new Farmland Awareness Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to reconnect people with their food source and significant green areas around them. Farmland is a precious, finite and irreplaceable natural resource, and society must support its continued existence through buying local produce and supporting initiatives that conserve farmland.

The campaign consists of four elements: bulk mailed information postcards; posters to be distributed to local merchants, schools and Vancity branches; a self-guided farmland tour; and a new website for the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust.

The Campaign was launched outside Choices Market on West 16th Avenue in Vancouver, where a brand new John Deere Tractor was loaded up with 400 bags of Delta Grown potatoes, which were handed out to passers-by. This also coincided with the arrival of many thousands of Snow Geese escaping the Arctic cold in record numbers, converging upon the farmlands of the Fraser River

delta to fatten up over-winter. The message is clear; farmland is a precious resource for people as well as wildlife. Winter is one of the most difficult challenges for migrating birds, so the loss of farmland resources on the Fraser River delta would have significant consequences not only for the Snow Geese but also for more than 300 other bird species that live on or travel through the delta during annual migration.

The Campaign encompassed a mail-out of 32,000 postcards to Delta residences and the production of 200 posters for Vancity branches, schools and other organisations. The postcards and posters provide details on farmland activities within the delta and where to find maps and signage for a self-guided tour of interesting farm sites.

Did you know that approximately 70,000 snow geese migrate and spend about two months over winter on the Fraser River delta farmlands? Did you know that Delta farmers plant over 3,000 acres of winter cover crops annually for the purposes of soil conservation and waterfowl feeding habitat? Did you know that over 50 million pounds of

potatoes were grown in Delta last year? Find this out and more on the new website www.deltafarmland.ca established under the Campaign for people to learn more about the importance of farmland to food production, the environment and habitat conservation. The website also offers many links to other related sites.

Overall, the Campaign aims to raise public awareness about the wealth of resources to be found on the delta for both people and wildlife to benefit from. People can support agriculture in Delta by purchasing locally grown produce or by buying directly from one of the many farms open to the public. This in turn promotes a healthy farming region capable of supporting a diverse assemblage of wildlife.

In addition to Vancity's grant, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Choices Market, Lower Mainland Vegetable Distributors, and Friesen Equipment have supported and contributed to the Farmland Awareness Campaign.

For more information please call DFWT office at 604-940-3392 or check out the website.

Agricultural Options – Defined terms

Whole farm planning provides farmers with the management tools they need to manage biologically complex farming systems in a profitable manner. As a management system, it draws on cutting-edge management theory used by other businesses, industries and cities. It encourages farmers to set explicit goals for their operation: carefully examine and assess all the resources -- cultural, financial, and natural available for meeting their goals; develop short and long-term plans to meet their goals; make decisions on a daily basis that support their goals; and monitor their progress toward meeting goals. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/businessmanagement/DF6985.html>

Community Supported Agriculture is a partnership of mutual commitment between a farm and a community of supporters which provides a direct link between the production and consumption of food. CSA helps to establish a sense of community and encourages land stewardship. CSA encourages communication and cooperation among farmers as well as supporting the bio-diversity of a given area and the diversity of agriculture through the preservation of small farms producing a wide variety of crops.

A CSA is a mutually beneficial relationship in which a farm supports the community's needs for fresh, nutritious, wholesome food, and community support allows a farmer to devote his/her energies to gentle, conscientious and sustainable farming practices.

Members of a CSA share both the harvests and costs equally with other members and the farmers. The community of members pledges to support the farm with an annual financial commitment. The amount of the commitment is determined by a detailed budget which is created to suit the needs of the community. <http://www.tdc.ca/csa.htm>

Community Land Trust (CLT) is a form of common land ownership with a charter based on the principles of sustainable and ecologically-sound stewardship and use. The land in a CLT is held in trust by a democratically-governed group, while individuals own the buildings and the improvements created by their own labour and investment. Through an inheritable and renewable 99-year lease, the trust removes land from the speculative market and facilitates multiple uses such as affordable housing, agriculture, and open space preservation. <http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/clts.html>

Collaborative Arrangements That Protect Agricultural Working Landscapes – *Permanently*

Story and photos by Ramona Scott, Manager of Agricultural Programs, TLC The Land Conservancy of BC

In June, 2005 TLC purchased Keating Farm, a 13-hectare (27 acre) farm in the Duncan area on Vancouver Island. Our goal is to restore and protect, in perpetuity, its heritage, agricultural and ecological values. The property is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and has significant agricultural potential, although it has not been in production for nearly fifteen years.



Keating Farm, Heritage Farmsite in Cowichan area, Vanc. Island

One of the oldest farms in the Cowichan Valley, Keating farm contains a number of important heritage structures, the most significant of which is the 1880's-era farmhouse containing a unique Great Hall, designed and built by architect, John Tiarks. Shu-hwuykwselu (Busy Place) Creek, designated for trout and salmon habitat, borders the property. The abandoned CNR right of way parallels the creek and is of recreational interest to the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Two blue-listed species are recorded on the farm. Good soils, abundant water from springs, southern exposure, and a very favourable climate provide for a variety of agricultural and development opportunities.

Keating Farm Estate provides a valuable opportunity as a model for other land trusts and communities who wish to protect agricultural working landscapes for local food production, as well as environmental, heritage and community values. Once a land trust purchases farmland and places a covenant on it to secure it in perpetuity, speculative land prices are no longer a barrier. Thus, farmers can lease land at affordable prices to then operate with agreements for sustainable use.

The challenge for *TLC* is to determine how to restore the agricultural use of Keating Farm Estate, while preserving its ecological, social and heritage values in a manner that is economically sustainable. What model can be applied for land ownership,

management and operation that works in conjunction with the restoration and operation of a heritage site? As a non-profit land trust, *TLC* is not prepared to staff a farming operation, but it is capable and interested in operating a farm heritage site for local visitors and tourists. *TLC* envisions the whole farm as an agro-tourism attraction, but it requires a great deal of support and help from the local community to bring Keating Farm Estate to its full potential. Since the purchase of Keating Farm, *TLC* has held three Open Houses drawing approximately five hundred visitors. An open planning session was also held, attended by about twenty people representing a variety of farm business proposals. Since then, *Masselink Environmental Design* completed a Preliminary Land Use Plan to provide a baseline assessment of the agricultural capabilities of Keating Farm Estate.

To meet our challenge, we looked elsewhere to explore collaborative arrangements and community models for ownership and management of agricultural land. Our aim was to develop at least three possible options which could be examined further in depth. At the outset, we agreed on some basic qualities to look for:

- Community participation in 'whole farm' planning, development, management and operation;
- Restoration and protection of agricultural and natural landscapes, and built heritage;
- Demonstration of sustainable, small-scale, organic, mixed farm systems;
- Development of a heritage centre for local events, visitors and tourists;
- Provision of a variety of educational opportunities;
- Involvement of First Nations and local government.

The following describes three examples, each of which exhibit some of these qualities.

A Community Land Trust (CLT) Model : ***Indian Line Farm - Model for Farmland Preservation & Conservation***

The E.F. Schumacher Society developed a unique arrangement involving: the Berkshires Community Land Trust (CLT), the US Nature Conservancy, and two farmers who collaboratively purchased Indian Line Farm in southern Massachusetts. "The aims of the partnership are to preserve the first Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in North America, to maintain it as a small-scale working organic farm, to protect the adjacent wetlands, and to provide small-scale farmers access to affordable farmland." The Nature Conservancy acquired easements (covenants) on the property to permanently limit future development. The CLT acquired title to the land and leases it to farmers on a 99-year basis. The farmers purchased the buildings and gain equity through improvements they make during their tenure. The CLT retains the option to buy back the buildings and improvements, and to resell them at replacement cost to another farmer. The participation of the CLT and the Nature Conservancy provided a way for consumers in the community to "successfully finance the purchase of the land so that the farmers can continue to farm organically and practice wise stewardship without having to use unsustainable growing methods to pay off land debt quickly." (for more information go to: www.smallisbeautiful.org/clts/indian.html)

Cooperative Model :



Glen Valley Organic Farm Cooperative, Abbotsford, BC

The Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-operative (GVOFC)'s vision is "to feed and educate present and future generations by co-operatively holding, stewarding and sustainably farming (their) land." GVOFC share price is \$5,000 each, payable either as a lump sum, or through a financing arrangement approved by the GVOFC membership team. Any person over the age of 16 years, who supports the vision, statement of purpose, goals and objectives of the GVOFC, may apply to become a shareholder. (for more information go to www.gvofc.hub.org)

Benefits of being a shareholder are: ownership in a certified organic farm for only \$5,000; being part of a community where shareholders care about the farm, each other and our planet; participation in management of a successful, dynamic cooperative; and first option to purchase fresh, healthy, organic produce at fair prices.

With approximately 70 shareholders since 1997, the cooperative has nearly completed final capital purchase of the 50-acre property. Six of the shareholders lease land and/or buildings from the co-operative for their farm businesses. Income from leases is used for the maintenance of buildings and property.

Glen Valley Organic Farm is a *TLC* Conservation Partner and has earned the 'butterfly' label for environmental stewardship. (See story www.conservancy.bc.ca/conservationpartners/GVOF)

A Co-operative is a for-profit enterprise, managed by a Board of Directors made up of elected shareholders. It has a financial plan that lays out how lessees and other revenue sources work for the Co-op. In the case of a Co-operative collaborating with a land trust, a 99-year lease can be granted to the Co-op to manage and operate the land. The land trust can hold title to the property to protect the farmland in perpetuity. Once in trust, the land is taken out of the speculative market. This solves the problem currently in British Columbia as escalating land prices are making it close to impossible for new farmers to own their own land and start new farming businesses.

A Society Model :

Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park, Kelowna, BC

Gellatly Nut Farm Society had a dream to transform their farm into an “active educational and agricultural tourism centre while preserving the 100-year old orchard, restoring the buildings and maintaining the sustainability and viability of the farm.” The Society set out to illustrate to the Regional District a high level of community support for the project in order to encourage the Regional District to purchase the property. The Society started a “seed” money campaign, selling nut seed certificates (\$5 each) and trees (at various prices). A successful campaign demonstrated considerable community support, resulting in the Regional District purchasing the property and designating it as a regional park. Since then, the district has entered into a management and operation agreement with the Society. The Regional District pays the Society to operate the park. *(for more information go to www.gellatlynutfarm.ca)*

According to Carolyn Ellis, Administrator of Gellatly Nut Farm Society, Phase 1 restoration is complete and the basic operational infrastructure (roads, parking, washrooms, water services) is in place so that the Regional Park is now open to the public year-round. It was financed jointly by a Federal/Provincial/Regional infrastructure grant (\$602,000) and \$113,000 raised by the Society. The Society has funded a Site and Development Plan and is currently entering into Phase 2 restoration fundraising to construct a major interpretive centre to house the Gellatly story, administrative offices, nut harvest headquarters, etc.

Conclusion

There are several other interesting and successful examples in the United States and the United Kingdom. In Canada, there is Genesis Land Conservancy in Saskatchewan, Parkland County Demonstration Farm in Alberta, and New Brunswick CLT (Waelghinbran Farm). In British Columbia examples of alternative ways to manage and operate farmland include: Linnaea Farm (a TLC Conservation Partner on Cortes Island), Haliburton Farm (Saanich), Providence Farm (Duncan), Fraser Common Co-op (Aldergrove), Boskeywoods Farm Co-op (Langley), and A Rocha (Surrey).



Providence Farm, Vancouver Island

If communities have the will, there are ways to secure farmland so that new farmers are able to start businesses without having to pay exorbitant land prices, to enable farmers to make a fair wage, to be good environmental stewards, and to produce food for local consumption.

TLC is planning an Open House at Keating Farm Estate in January, 2006. Call 250-479-8301 for more information or go to: www.conservancy.bc.ca

For a definition of Sustainable Agriculture,
www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/srb9902.htm
<http://www.uwyo.edu/AGadmin/SustainableAg/definition.htm>

Special Section – Communities in Transition

The Green Infrastructure Model Bylaws Package

By Calvin Sandborn, Legal Director, Environmental Law Clinic, University of Victoria



Vernon area, subject of an inventory of sensitive ecosystems to be conducted in 2006 spearheaded by a municipal government (Coldstream) in the N. Okanagan, photo Carmen Wong

The Environmental Law Clinic at UVic Faculty of Law is developing a set of tools to help local governments to better protect environmentally significant lands. Working for Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC, and the Wetland Stewardship Partnership, and with the assistance of the Real Estate Foundation, the Environmental Law Clinic is producing:

- A package of model bylaws for protecting environmentally significant areas;
- Primers for local governments that describe how such bylaws will benefit their community; and
- Other materials that promote the model bylaws.

In coming months there will be consultation with selected officials and local governments to bring these documents into final form. After that, the bylaws package and other materials will be made available to local governments.

Green Infrastructure Model Bylaws Package

The *Green Infrastructure Model Bylaws Package* is a set of model bylaw provisions. The *Package* provides:

- Integrated bylaw provisions that protect ecologically sensitive areas and natural systems (the “green infrastructure”)
- Model provisions for Regional Growth Strategies, Official Community Plans, Development Permit

Areas, Zoning, Tax Exemptions, Environmental Assessment, Stormwater Management and other regulatory tools.

- Provisions designed so that local governments can either develop a comprehensive bylaw package, or choose applicable portions when considering revisions to a particular type of bylaw.

The bylaw examples in this package are not theoretical. Most have already been implemented by at least one BC jurisdiction. Different local governments are doing different things well – this model bylaw package picks out the best provisions and puts them all together as examples of the variety of ways local governments are protecting the green infrastructure.

General Recommendations

The Environmental Law Clinic generally recommends that local governments use the following regulatory approach:

1. **A regional growth strategy** that establishes an urban containment boundary and secures a commitment from member municipalities that 90% of growth over the life of the strategy (25 years) will occur within the urban containment boundary.

- 2. Official community plans**, local area/neighbourhood/integrated watershed plans that:
- delineate (map) watercourse management areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs);
 - delineate land uses and densities in keeping with the regional growth strategy;
 - list how the local government will ensure no loss of significant wetland, riparian and grasslands habitat; and
 - establish amenity/density bonus policies, if desired.

- 3. Development permit area guidelines** that:
- require a permit from the local government before development occurs in a watercourse management area or ESA;
 - establish a development review process, including an environmental/green infrastructure impact assessment process;
 - create guidelines for best management practices for development.

- 4. Zoning bylaw standards** that:
- maintain large lots outside the urban containment boundary;
 - encourage mixed-use, cluster development within the urban containment boundary;
 - repeat the setbacks from watercourse management areas and ESAs;
 - set specific density bonuses for specific zones; and
 - enable cluster development in specific zones, to create incentives to move development away from ESAs.

5. A Green Infrastructure Bylaw that sets out regulatory prohibitions that apply to the whole municipality (not just watercourse management areas and ESAs) in the areas of tree protection, soil removal and deposit, water quality, and sloping terrain.

6. Official adoption of a Rainwater Policy & Design Manual that focuses on water infiltration strategies, in order to mimic natural processes.

Overall, the main objectives of the Bylaw Package are to:

- Contain urban or developed areas and maintain resource and environmentally sensitive lands outside urban containment boundaries as large lot (20 hectare +) parcels;
- Prevent development on or near wetlands, grasslands and other sensitive areas;
- Maintain the integrity of the ecological systems that wetlands, grasslands and other sensitive areas are part of;
- Ensure that the impacts of development are adequately assessed and that mitigation measures are carried out; and
- Strive for administrative simplicity so that this package of approaches is relevant for small and large, urban and rural local government.

Benefits of the Green Infrastructure Bylaws Package

The key benefit of this package is in the comprehensive approach. This package demonstrates the possibility of developing integrated tools. Local governments can get beyond reacting to specific issues, regulatory or other, by ensuring that the systems are in place that enable a proactive approach to managing the entire green infrastructure.

“Smart communities” now recognize that the organizing principle of community planning should be to plan development around the “green infrastructure” of natural areas, instead of around an arbitrary grid of service infrastructure (e.g., roads).¹ Smart communities:

- Examine the landscape’s particular characteristics in order to determine the optimal uses for all its different parts; and
- Identify the natural systems, such as water, soil and biota, and plan development around that green infrastructure.

By identifying and planning around sensitive areas, the same amount of development may be possible, without blundering into areas that damage the Green Infrastructure.

¹ The GVRD Green Zone and the CRD Blue-Green Spaces Strategy are BC examples of this approach, which is well articulated in the report of the Crombie Commission.

Key Advantages for the Community
The *Green Infrastructure Model Bylaws Package* will protect wetlands, grasslands and other sensitive areas. By doing so, it will:

*** Maintain the natural infrastructure necessary to sustain surface and ground water supplies.**

During the wet season, wetlands act like giant sponges, soaking up excess rain, snow and surface waters. Then in drier seasons, the wetlands not only provide wildlife drinking holes, but also slowly release their stored waters into aquifers and streams. Wetlands are the source of water recharge for many aquifers that serve as community water supplies.

*** Maintain the natural infrastructure that purifies a community's water.**

Wetlands are Mother Nature's kidneys - they filter pollutants and sediments out of the waters of our lakes, rivers and streams.² Wetlands trap nutrients and sediment in runoff, protecting downstream watercourses from algal blooms and fish-threatening sedimentation. They also can retain heavy metals and detoxify chemicals and pathogens. Wetlands are such effective water purifiers that constructed wetlands are commonly used in the tertiary treatment of industrial and municipal waste water.³ It has been estimated that the waste-cleansing services of natural wetlands in the lower Fraser Valley are worth at least \$230 million each year - and many times that amount if replacement



² Riparian wetlands are particularly important for protecting watercourses from non-point source pollution, such as leachate from septic systems and stormwater runoff from agricultural fields, lawns, roads and parking lots. Nitrogen from these sources is metabolized by wetland vegetation, before it can cause algal blooms in adjacent streams and lakes. Other pollutants are either recycled or filtered before they can contaminate neighbouring water bodies.

³ *Protecting America's Wetlands: An Action Agenda -- The Final Report of the National Wetlands Policy Forum*, The Conservation Foundation, (Washington, DC, 1988) p. 10. It has been estimated that one hectare of tidal wetland can do the job of \$123,000 worth of state of the art waste-water treatment. See Patrick Dugan (editor), *Wetlands in Danger*, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (London, 1993), Introduction page.

infrastructure costs are added.⁴ Grasslands also play a major role in cleansing water.

***Maintain natural drainage and natural flood control systems.** Wetlands along shorelines absorb floodwaters, protecting adjacent lands from damage. When wetlands are eliminated, flood damage can increase dramatically. For example, the draining and dyking of wetlands near Abbotsford led to serious flood problems along the Nooksack River, and to \$40 million being invested in remedial projects.⁵ On the other hand, protecting wetlands can maintain natural drainage and water storage systems - and avoid the need for expensive storm sewer construction.⁶ Johnson

County, Kansas, estimated that it saved \$120 million on stormwater controls by setting aside \$600,000 worth of riparian greenways and wetlands.⁷ At a smaller scale, individual developers and communities can save enormous amounts in infrastructure cost if they maintain natural drainage

systems (including wetlands and grasslands), instead of destroying them, and then constructing concrete replacements.

***Maintain critical habitat for wildlife that rely upon sensitive areas.** More than 30% of BC's species at risk depend upon grasslands, and more than half of species at risk depend upon wetlands. A majority of our commercial fish depend upon wetlands during at least one stage of their lives, as do many birds. For example, BC wetlands provide the most important migratory bird habitat on the Pacific Coast between California and Alaska.

*** Maintain recreational, tourism and economic development opportunities.** Communities that

⁴ Nancy Olweiler, *The Value of Natural Capital in Settled Areas of Canada*, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy, 2004, "Conclusions".

⁵ In the 1970s approximately \$40 million was invested in flood control measures, yet damaging floods continue to occur. Neil Hamilton, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, personal communication.

⁶ Environmental Best Management Practices for Urban and Rural Land Development, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, 2004, p. 3-2.

⁷ Trust for Public Lands, *Healing America's Cities* (San Francisco, 1994) pp. 14-15.

maintain natural areas will be able to attract new businesses to their communities. Protecting natural areas is essential to the long-term prosperity of a community. Maintaining green space is a key to maintaining the quality of life that twenty-first century industries are looking for when they locate their businesses.

The Legal Advantages

The *Green Infrastructure Model Bylaws Package* will help communities to respond proactively to new environmental legislation that is bound to develop in order to protect our diminishing wetlands and other natural resources. It will help communities to direct development away from sensitive areas – and save future legal headaches for the community. Specifically, it will help communities in the following ways:

- By adopting the suggested *Green Infrastructure Bylaws* package that protects all sensitive areas, a community can get beyond reacting to specific issues, regulatory or other, by ensuring that the systems are in place that enable a proactive approach to managing all environmentally sensitive and important areas.
- The integrated regulatory approach suggested in this model bylaw package will exceed the requirements of the *Riparian Areas Regulation*. Using a combination of setbacks and development permitting, municipalities can have greater control over development in watercourse management areas. For administrative ease, the focus in the model Bylaw Package is on maintaining the ecological function of all watercourses that form part of the green infrastructure, not just those that contain fish. This integrated approach will also assist municipalities to put into place systems and best practices that should meet senior government regulations in the future.
- In addition, this initiative will assist local governments to comply with the provisions of federal and provincial *Species at Risk* legislation. Protection of wetlands and grasslands is a necessary component of any strategy to protect species at risk, because a majority of such species depend on either



*Junction Sheep Range Provincial park
photo BC Parks*

wetlands or grasslands. Proactive local action to protect these areas will reduce the need for less effective – and more costly – recovery plans for such species. By acting proactively, local governments can avoid the confusion that will arise when legislative requirements begin to provide necessary protection to the endangered and threatened species found in wetlands and grasslands.

- Adopting the bylaw package will help communities deal with future requirements of other legislation, e.g., drinking water legislation. Protection of wetlands (and potentially grasslands) will inevitably be part of comprehensive drinking water legislation, as Ontario's new policies have indicated.⁸ Communities that have protected wetlands will be well-positioned to comply.
- In addition, moving development away from sensitive areas like wetlands and grasslands may reduce municipal liability for allowing development in areas subject to flooding, subsidence and erosion.

Next Steps

Consultation regarding the proposed model bylaws is likely to commence with local governments and officials early this year. It is hoped that local governments will begin to implement the proposed model provisions shortly afterward.

⁸ Ontario has announced Source Protection Planning that will protect wetlands as drinking water sources.. Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wetland Policy and Legislation Summary, August, 2005.

Attainable Housing Options: Implementing Successful Transition Planning

By Tim Pringle and Sara Muir Owen

When is housing not attainable for a significant portion of local employees and families? If you ask BC communities, where property demand has caused the median price of homes to double since 2000, homes are not attainable for those who move away to find housing they can afford. There is no solace in commuting back to their jobs in the communities they have left, nor in living in temporary or sub-standard accommodation in order to remain. Tofino, Salt Spring Island, Osoyoos, Fernie and the Columbia Valley (East Kootenay) represent regions facing this problem. The following looks at some tools which can address this concern.

Housing Corporations share the same goal as Community Land Trusts (CLT's) - providing housing ownership that is attainable for local employees and families with modest incomes. The success of CLT's results from separating the cost of land from that of dwellings. Housing corporations favour developing housing for full ownership but with restrictions on potential capital gain. In this article we review the need communities may have for such tools, and their structure and function, as well as the story of the Tofino Housing Corporation (THC), together with reference to several CLTs. The Tofino Housing Corporation is one of British Columbia's newest special tools, selected and designed by the local community, to address the challenges of escalating prices for housing.

Unlike non-profit housing societies that develop, own and rent low cost and/or special needs housing, non-profit housing authorities or corporations develop housing and sell interests (tenure) with restricted participation in the capital gains that may accrue in the real estate. These corporations are managed by boards with community membership, which execute a business plan that will achieve the housing attainability goal(s) that the community has established. In some way the community provides or has provided start-up and/or working capital for the housing authority. In the US the common model is the community land trust. In BC and Alberta it is the non-profit corporation.

Key Housing Inflation Factors

Several factors have converged to cause significant inflation of housing prices in some of BC's non-metropolitan regions. Affluent investors seek second homes in areas with prized natural and recreational amenities. For example, Alberta residents have purchased about 60% of the new homes in the Columbia Valley since 2000.¹ The economic, lifestyle and demographic trends producing retirees and amenity migrants will persist for several years. Second homes and relocation will continue to feature prominently in the plans of these households, some of which are inheriting their parents' estates just as their own retirement is commencing. For recipient communities it means more inflation of housing prices.

There are other systemic factors involved in the widespread demand for real estate. The Royal Bank (RBC Economics) reported in the July 2005 article, *Household Asset Valuations-Equities and Housing*, "The two biggest assets on household balance sheets in Canada and the United States are housing and equities." In the course of analyzing the possibility of a housing bubble existing in Canada, the article observes, "While the price-earnings ratio for existing homes has indeed risen sharply, it has not gone up nearly as much when looking at new home prices." The experience of the BC communities noted above, suggests that resale homes have had to absorb the rapid increase in the value of land, thus driving up combined values of land and dwellings. All housing prices have risen on the tide of demand heavily influenced by buyers coming from other, more "urban" market contexts and bidding aggressively for local properties that they consider bargains.

These buyers import inflation. Going forward, annual percentage increases in values may

¹ Berlin and Ramlo. *BCAA Data Analysis: A Spatial Overview of Patterns of Property Ownership in the East Kootenay Regional District, 2001 and 2005*. August 2005. The Urban Futures Institute prepared this report for the Real Estate Foundation. It can be downloaded from the CIT web library at www.communitytransition.org.

moderate, but the new base of price ranges will remain far beyond the purchasing power of many incomes, which have risen modestly (Invermere at 8% and Osoyoos at 14% for example) during the 2000-2005 interval. *(Based on BC Stats figures, adjusted for inflation for 2004 and 2005).*

Second homebuyers, amenity migrants and retirees bring new capital to local real estate markets. New construction brings job creation and a diversity of services that new owners and residents may demand. As the stock of lower priced homes is absorbed, communities face the need to house young people taking on these new jobs together with other lower-income earners, who cannot afford typical rents or purchase prices. Finally, communities are faced with planning and management challenges related to their social and environmental capital.

For example, over a decade ago the Town of Jackson Hole in Teton County, Wyoming faced overwhelming impacts related to this kind of property demand scenario. The community chose coping strategies, based on special tools, to augment traditional governance powers. The Town passed a bylaw requiring all commercial development and redevelopment projects to include a housing component for employees. Gas stations, convenience stores and small commercial malls have housing on the second stories of the buildings. In addition to this bylaw, the Town also set a “growth” boundary, and worked with the County to establish a housing foundation, the Teton County Housing Authority. The Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust and the Jackson Hole Land Trust are two not-for-profit organizations that also serve the town and county.²



The Town of Jackson Hole, Teton County, Wyoming has a bylaw that requires all commercial development and redevelopment projects to include employee housing. As a result, gas stations, convenience stores, and small commercial malls, like the one shown above, have housing on the second story of buildings.

Community Land Trusts

The longest established community land trust in North America is the Burlington Community Land Trust (BCLT), founded in 1984 at Burlington, Vermont. Today the BCLT has 370 single-family homes and condominiums and 270 rental apartment leases. Families that secure housing through a CLT gain tenure through a long-term lease, typically 99 years. The lease has market value and can be resold, but the CLT has first right to purchase the remainder of a lease when an owner wishes to sell. Ownership of the land remains with the CLT. This legal structure separates the land from the dwelling and affords a lower cost home. Although owners of CLT units give up the opportunity to reap the potential gain of increasing land values, they have lower entry costs in the housing market. As well, they can benefit from the value of their long-term lease: the gain is related to the replacement cost of the dwelling, which increases over time, at least until the lease term approaches expiry. More information about CLTs can be obtained through the Institute for Community Economics (www.iceclt.org).

² More information about these organizations can be found on their websites at www.housingtrustjih.org and www.jhlandtrust.org respectively, as well as in the Charture Institute's *Jackson Hole Almanac* prepared in 2004.



Cedros, Lummi Island Community Land Trust. The CLT owns the land, while providing nine independent homes at a reduced cost to owners. The site also provides wetland protection and other environmental restrictions through a covenant. Photo Gordon Scott

In the spring of 2005 the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (Harvard University) announced the research project, *Community Land Trusts: Leasing Land for Affordable Housing*,³ which will analyze the implementation and function of CLTs in the US. The researchers are using the Burlington Associates definition of a CLT. “CLTs are non-profit, community-based organizations whose mission is to provide affordable housing in perpetuity by owning land and leasing it to those who live in houses built on that land. Complementing their status as non-profit corporations, as defined by the US tax code, and their formal rights and responsibilities codified in the ground lease, CLTs are governed by a board of directors with membership from the community. In the classic CLT model, membership is comprised of adults who live in leased housing (leaseholders); adults who live in the targeted area (community members); and local representatives from government, funding agencies and the non-profit sector (public interest).” This research is worth following for those who seek attainable housing solutions for low-income households in their communities.

Housing Authorities and Corporations

Like the community land trust, Housing Corporations are established by local communities to address attainable housing goals. The Canmore Community Housing Corporation (CCHC),

established in 1998, recently published the Report on Canmore’s 2004 Shortage of Affordable Housing (May 1, 2005). The report concludes: “Canmore faces a significant challenge that is unlikely to be overcome without a multi-pronged strategy to address it. At least for the foreseeable future, the provision of deed-restricted housing, which is the focus of the CCHC’s efforts, is only going to provide relief to a small percentage of those who need it. Thus, other strategies that complement those of CCHC are going to be required.”⁴

Currently, the Corporation is working on improving the disclosure and covenant provisions that its clients accept when purchasing a dwelling developed by the CCHC. Experience reveals that in rapidly inflating housing markets, similar to Canmore, owners of the affordable units attempt to challenge the title restrictions and reap the potential capital gains.

The Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) has proven to be a very successful non-profit housing corporation. The Resort Municipality of Whistler owns the WHA, which develops both ownership and rental housing. Through disclosure agreements and covenants, the WHA protects the affordability of the ownership units that it develops. (www.whistlerhousing.ca)

The Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) develops both ownership and rental housing with resident occupancy and price restrictions. McKeever’s Place, shown with the children’s play area, is comprised of 78 WHA townhouse ownership units.

The Tofino Housing Corporation Inc. (THC) is a new housing authority with a mandate to develop attainable housing. In the early 1990s the District of Tofino identified housing affordability as an important objective of the Official Community Plan (OCP). The Plan set goals for attainable housing for families, seniors, other community members as well as for employees. In 2000 this pressing concern led the District of Tofino and the Alberni-Clayoquot Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) to establish an Attainable

³ Greenstein, Rosalind and Y. Sungu-Eryilmaz in *Land Lines*, April 2005. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

⁴ Mauws, Michael, K. 2005. Canmore Community Housing Corporation.

Housing Committee (AHC) with a mandate to find solutions. In 2004 the AHC produced the District of Tofino's *Attainable Housing Strategy*, which is now being implemented. A key recommendation of the Strategy was to develop a housing authority. Consequently, the Tofino Housing Corporation Inc. (THC) has been established as a legal, not-for-profit company, under the Business Corporation Act of BC.

The District has provided the THC with approximately 40 acres of land (District Lot 114), close to Tofino's downtown area, to develop a pilot employee and attainable housing project. Currently, the THC is working with consultants to develop a Local Area Plan (LAP) for the site. The Corporation is taking a long-term view of what this plan can and should offer to the District of Tofino, and expects the development will meet a diversity of goals for the community, including a four-plex building for employee housing in the short-term, and attainable single-family housing in the long-term.

Tofino Housing Coordinator, Lori Camire, believes that without the District's donation of land, this project would not be possible. "Having the property is key in keeping things affordable. A single family home of about 1800 square feet at \$100 a square foot to build would be \$180,000. If you have to add the lot price on top of this, it becomes very difficult to make this work for attainable housing." The Corporation expects that upon LAP approval and subsequent subdivision of the land, some DL 114 parcels will be sold on the private market by the Corporation to generate revenue. This equity could be used by the THC to assist in financing attainable and employee housing development on the site. If financing is successfully secured, it is anticipated that construction of the employee housing complex can begin as early as the summer of 2006.

The Tofino Housing Corporation Inc. offers one example of the type and structure of special tools available to communities in transition to address challenges, such as escalating prices for housing. These types of tools are adopted and implemented to do something the regular housing market is unable to do, reduce the impact of increases in land prices on housing.

To download a copy of this article and to access additional Communities in Transition (CIT) resources and information, visit the CIT web library at www.communitytransition.org.



The Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) develops both ownership and rental housing with resident occupancy and price restrictions. McKeever's Place, shown above with the children's play area, is comprised of 78 WHA townhouse ownership units.

*The authors thank their consultation economists Pip White (BC Interest Management Corporation), and Paul Rollo (G.P. Rollo and Associates). Thanks also to Mark Roseland, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University. The authors would also like to acknowledge Celina Owen, Real Estate Foundation Program Coordinator for her assistance in preparing this article.*⁹

For an Overview of the Structure, Development, Governance and Operations of Housing Authorities, Non-profit Corporation Model please go to www.communitytransition.org

THE LTABC Thanks The Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Communities in Transition Initiative for their Contributions and Financial Assistance to these two Special Editions

⁹ Based on the *District of Tofino Attainable Housing Committee Strategy* prepared by Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc. for the District of Tofino, May 2004. The *Strategy* can be downloaded from the CIT web library at www.communitytransition.org.

Changing Tides, Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series 2006, sign up early and save!

See our registration and program package inserted in this issue of the Kingfisher or available for downloading from our website. Registration after March 6th is \$50 extra, and pre-payment by February 17th will earn you \$25 off. Note that the \$275 fee covers seminars, accommodation and meals. The full day Marc Smiley workshop is \$100 (for accommodation, breakfast and lunch Friday) or \$50 for the workshop and lunch only. Marc is also available for individual 90 min. sessions following the workshop Friday only – Sign up early for these limited sessions.

Financial Programs

Group Insurance at Reasonable rates

As either a land trust member or an associate member, your group can access our group insurance policies through Aon Reed Steinhouse. The policies cover Director's and Officer's and General Liability Insurance, with provision for Property Insurance as well. The following members currently benefit from insurance through the program:

Comox Valley Land Trust, Cortes Land Conservancy, Cowichan Community Land trust, Galiano Conservancy Association, Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Land Conservancy of BC, The Land Trust Alliance of BC, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Savary Island Land Trust, Friends of Mount Park, Friends of Cortes Island, Sunshine Coast Conservation Society, Abbotsford Land Trust, Mayne Island Sustainable Community Assn., Gabriola Land and Trails Trust.

Ecogift Appraisal Assistance Program

Thanks to the Canadian Wildlife Service, the LTABC can grant land trust members reimbursement for expenses incurred on an Ecogift. The program covers up to \$3000 or 50% of costs associated with appraisals, and other legal costs. See the Guidelines and application form on our website, under financial programs. The grant program ends for 2005/2006 on March 31st, 2006.

Baseline Inventory Service

Upon request, we also offer subsidies for performing a Baseline Inventory using one of our contracted technicians. ***Coming in 2006 – Guidelines to Baseline Inventories***

Resources

Publications available

- ***Islands in the Salish Sea, A community atlas*** 2005
160 page full colour atlas including 30 artistic maps done by local islanders, with additional chapters on protecting lands with maps, history of the area, and the process of community mapping
- ***Land Trust Best Practices CD Rom*** 2005
600 template documents sorted by Acquisition & Management, Operations and Outreach, compiled by BC's land trusts
- ***An Introduction to Conservation Covenants, A Guide for Developers and Planning Departments***, 12 pages - 2004
- ***The Kingfisher***, Volumes 1-12 1999-2005
- ***Series of Four Conservation Brochures*** for member use, revised 2005
- ***Giving the Land A Voice, Mapping Our Home Places***, 1999, Writers Doug Aberley, Michael Dunn, Sheila Harrington, Briony & Malcolm Penn, Bill Turner
- ***ON THE GROUND, A Volunteers Guide to Monitoring Stewardship Agreements***, 2001
practical manual with sample forms
- ***The BC Lands in Trust*** database program to manage and store property records with on-line Registry of Lands Protected by BC's Land Trusts
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry

Published Research

- ***Safeguarding Canada's Wealth, Bringing Stewardship & Conservation into the Economy***
2004 Linda Horsfall & Sheila Harrington
- ***National Monitoring of Ecogifts Survey Results and Guidelines***, 2004 Damien Barstead
- ***What Makes a Successful Stewardship and Conservation Organization***, research published at Stewardship & Conservation in Canada 2003 Conference, by Heather Miller
- ***Gap Analysis of Protected areas in the Southern Interior Ecoprovince***, 2003 by Damien Barstead
- ***A Survey of Land Trusts in BC***, John Scull, 2003
- ***Options for Protecting Ecological Values on Agricultural Lands***, 2002, Land Trust Alliance of BC, by Erika Knudsen
- ***Three Landholder Contact Programs in British Columbia***, Lawrence, Little and Scull, 2000

LTA US Rally in Madison, Wisconsin

by Shawn Black

In October, Tamsin Baker (TLC Lower Mainland) and I were fortunate to attend the Land Trust Alliance US National Rally in Madison, Wisconsin. I had never been to one of these LTA Rallies and saw this as a great opportunity to learn from our American friends in the land trust movement, and to see a part of the American mid-west. For a young land trust professional like myself, it was an incredible learning experience.

Similar to LTABC's annual Seminar Series, just add another 6,000 land trust staff and volunteers, this was a huge conference, with four days of field trips, seminars, concurrent workshops, plenary speakers, receptions and dinners. With more experience and history than us, the US Land Trust community has a lot to offer in lessons and knowledge.

The first session I attended was a full day seminar on the Three Part Planning Process: Strategic, Annual & Fundraising Plans taught by Marc Smiley from Portland Oregon. In this session, I sat next to Blair Hammond from the Canadian Wildlife Service. We were both very impressed by Marc's presentation. I have sat through many sessions on planning before, but this one really opened my eyes to the need and value of planning. As a result, we are bringing Marc Smiley to BC in March to do a session for us at the Seminar Series 2006. You do not want to miss this!

One of the major themes of this year's conference was around lobbying and advocacy. In the US Land Trust community, there is significant concern that the tax benefits supporting conservation of private land could be lost or rolled back. There are IRS and congressional hearings going on, looking at whether these tax benefits are needed or are being abused (the result of the negative publicity around some dealings of The Nature Conservancy). The Land Trust community is working very hard to ensure that these incentives are not lost.

Canada was well represented at the conference, thanks to funding support from Environment Canada. Go to the LTA's website (www.lta.org) for more information and speaking notes from the Rally.

Canadian Land Trust Alliance – now forming

As you've heard in previous issues, the CLTA is currently completing its registration as a national non-profit corporation with charitable status. The board of the Society will be representatives from five regions: BC, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic region plus one representative from Ducks Unlimited Canada, and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. Three other board members will be nominated from the community at large. The LTABC has sent in a \$3000 membership fee. Individual land trusts are welcome to join, however the LTABC will represent all land trusts in British Columbia generally. Individuals interested in representing our province's land trusts should put their name forward to LTABC. We will be working to ensure our land trusts' needs in the province are championed at the national level.

The office will be near Ottawa, in order to be able to contact and work near federal government representatives and offices. Its first project, the new Canadian Standards and Practices are complete, and a full set is on our website, plus we will be sending our members a printed copy. A second project underway involves creating a national Green Legacies guide (which will likely be on-line and not in a hard copy format.) A third item is a US cross border incorporated body that will have a purpose to assist with the transfer of US charitable donations of land in Canada. If you have US citizens who wish to donate their land or interest in land, but are reticent because they would not be able to receive any taxable benefits, this program/organization will be very helpful. An individual land trust must negotiate fees on both an annual and a per contract basis. If your land trust is interested in this option, you can contact Sheila for further information.

Other Outreach

Kathy Dunster and Eric Clough contributed several articles to the BC Society of Landscape Architects magazine, *Sitelines*, in October 2003. The outreach to landscape architects included articles on Conservation covenants, communities in transition and community mapping. Also included was a CSLA Sustainability Declaration which "identified preservation and restoration of natural systems as central to their professional concerns." The issue is on their website www.bcsla.org/communication.htm.

Governor General announces new appointments to the Order of Canada

August 29, 2005

OTTAWA – Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, announced 82 new appointments to the Order of Canada. These appointments are in effect as of June 29, 2005. On the recommendation of the Order of Canada Advisory Council, the Governor General is pleased to announce the following awards:
William Charles (Bill) Turner, C.M. – Victoria, BC - Environment

Species At Risk 2004 Pathways to Recovery Conference proceedings

The Species At Risk 2004 Pathways to Recovery Conference proceedings are now posted on the conference website at:
www.speciesatrisk2004.ca/html/searchform.html

Invitation to Comment on Possible Additions to SARA Schedule One

Environment Canada has recently launched a 90-day public consultation period related to the possible addition of plants and animals to Canada's official list of species at risk (Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*). Your comments will inform whether the Minister of the Environment recommends these species for listing under the Act (SARA). There are also upcoming opportunities to provide feedback on recovery strategies that are nearing completion. The Government of Canada is considering a total of 46 species at risk that have recently been assessed by the independent Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The committee has made a science-based determination that these species are at risk in Canada. Environment Canada is seeking input on the listing of 33 terrestrial species, 17 of which occur in British Columbia. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is conducting consultations on 13 aquatic species: information

on aquatic species is available on their website.
Environment Canada's consultation period ends February 15th, 2006. Detailed information on the listing process is presented in "*Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act*." This document and an electronic comment form are also available on the SARA Public Registry at: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/public/showDocument_e.cfm?id=759.

Climate campaigners claim greatest ever success at Montreal

Negotiators from more than 180 nations unexpectedly agreed to develop far-reaching measures to combat climate change. The 39 nations governed by it have agreed in principle to make deeper cuts in the pollution emissions causing climate change when their present clean-up commitments run out in 2012.

Two changes to regulations are threatening to weaken regulations protecting coastal environments

Environmental assessment requirements for drilling of exploratory wells may be weakened by the federal government. BC and two Atlantic Provinces are considering flawed guidelines on seismic exploration. You can see information on these proposed guidelines at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/newsreel/2005/scp-ecp_e.htm

Charity law changes from CRA

Canada Revenue Agency has announced several changes concerning all charities.

The small publication "Registered Charities: What's New?" Available at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4414/README.html> provides information on changes to the Form T3010A, Registered Charity Information Return, including a new penalty for failure to file and the disbursement quota. It also contains sanctions and appeals process as well as the new requirements for official donation receipts.

Environmentalists go to court in bid to protect B.C.'s spotted owl

A coalition of environmental groups filed a lawsuit aimed at preventing the extinction of the spotted owl in British Columbia, now estimated at six remaining breeding pairs.

Read the full article:

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Science/2005/12/06/pf-1341360.html>

Wildlife Habitat Canada Launches National Survey on Ecological Goods and Services

The Government of Canada is providing \$191,000 to Wildlife Habitat Canada to conduct a national survey of over 1,500 farmers and ranchers. The survey will assess their attitudes and behaviours towards ecological goods and services on agricultural lands. Some examples of these goods and services include water supply and regulation, erosion control, climate regulation, food production, raw materials, and recreational activities.

Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations

In 2003, representatives of approximately 13,000 incorporated non-profit organizations and registered charities were surveyed by Statistics Canada. They were asked to report on the characteristics of their organizations and the factors that influenced the capacity of their organization to achieve its mission. The data presented in this report have been weighted to provide estimates for the 161,000 incorporated non-profit and voluntary organizations and registered charities in Canada. The survey provides the most comprehensive profiling of nonprofit and voluntary organizations ever undertaken in Canada and, given its scale, it may be the most comprehensive study conducted in the world. For a full copy of the report, go to: http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/files/nsnvo/nsnvo_report_english.pdf

Hupacasath First Nation Entitled to Consultation Regarding Private Timberlands

The First Nations Summit, AFN and the Union

of B.C. Indian Chiefs have just negotiated a new interim agreement with the Premier's office on forest management with First Nations. Justice Smith's decision ensures that the Minister of Forests must address Aboriginal interests when making decisions about forest lands, whether those lands are Crown or private. This decision may further strengthen the new Forestry Agreement between the Province and First Nations. For full article visit the Union of BC Indian Chiefs at: <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>

Native Band Bids for Control of Coast Forest

The Heiltsuk First Nation has released a landmark resource-use plan declaring their intention to manage 16,770 square kilometres of forests in their territory surrounding the community of Bella Bella. The Heiltsuk want 49 percent of their territory to be protected. They have also laid claim to 19,000 square kilometres of the surrounding ocean and waterways. High on the list of banned activities under the plan is salmon farming, oil and gas exploration and destructive logging practices. The Heiltsuk are also calling for the protection of old-growth cedar, which they say cannot continue to be harvested at the current rate. For more information, visit:

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/vancouverstory/news/story.html?id=eb20e5bc-8a2b-4003-b9a3-e053a91bd190>

Reach for Unbleached (RFU)

OVER A DECADE LATER, PULP MILLS STILL TOP POLLUTERS -*October 17, 2005* (Campbell River) - Over a decade after the worst chlorine accident in BC history at the Powell River mill, pulp and paper facilities are still topping the list of the worst polluters in BC, according to a new report. Pulp mills continue to lead the ranks in toxic emissions having profound effects on human health and the environment. Pulp Pollution Day is appropriately the official launch date for a major new online activism tool and information resource on pulp mill pollution. The new RFU web site at <http://www.rfu.org> features a wealth of new discussion forums and online activism opportunities as well as all the vast information

and links on pulp mills and pollution that RFU has amassed. To read the account of the Powell river spill, see <http://www.rfu.org/navigation/Librarydocs/CACW/WindsofWarningPRSpill.htm>

***Don't forget to order 100% recycled paper through info@rfu.org**

BC SEA (BC Sustainable Energy Association) *Watt's Happening? December 2005*

BCSEA at COP 11 –They were part of Canada's NGO delegation at the United Nations global climate conference known as COP-11. There were ten days of events and developments, to see what happened visit: www.bcsea.org/blog

BC Government Energy Policy Review - The next three months are going to be critical for the future of sustainable energy development in BC. The Alternative Energy Task Force is soon to present its report; BC Hydro is going to finally release its Integrated Energy Plan (IEP); and the Ministry of Energy and Mines is going to rewrite its Energy Plan, which sets the framework for energy policy in BC. The BCSEA has already given input to the Task Force, and to BC Hydro's IEP. The BC government has laid out its five goals for the 'Golden Decade' see: www.climateregistry.org/

Solar BC award

In November the Solar Hot Water Acceleration Project had won the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA) award for Solar Advocate of the Year. (See www.bcsea.org/media/051109-shw.asp). The project is rolling along; for details, see here: www.solarbc.org

VREC Secures Prime Plus One Financing for Renewable Energy

The Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative, has struck a deal with the CCEC Credit Union on the Lower Mainland that will offer a prime plus one interest rate for any loan towards the purchase of a solar hot water system, solar space heating system or solar PV electricity generating system from VREC.

For more details, visit: www.vanrenewable.org

Bowen Island Biodiesel

The little fleet of 3 buses (Bowen Community Transit) on Bowen Island converted to Biodiesel during the summer. Biodiesel is also available to purchase from their local purveyor of fuels. Representatives from Canadian Bioenergy are from Bowen Island as well. While they are not using the used french fry oil or methane off gassing from landfills, they are making a difference! Check out their website at: <http://www.canadianbioenergy.com/>

In Canada's Wilderness, Measuring the Cost of Oil Profits

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS, Alberta - Deep craters wider than football fields are being dug out of the pine and spruce forests and muskeg swamps by many of the largest multinational oil companies. Huge refineries that burn natural gas to refine the excavated gooey sands into synthetic oil are spreading. Environmentalists warn that the growing oil sands industry threaten to tear up a huge stretch of Canada's boreal forest, which is a nursery for hundreds of bird species and where bogs filter water and store carbon that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. So far they have reclaimed 13,000 acres of forest and wetlands, about 15 percent of the land disturbed. But the provincial government has approved oil-sand work on more than 230,000 additional acres over the next 60 years, and applications for new projects are proliferating.

New Calls from Peasants and Small Scale Farmers to Ban Terminator

Ban Terminator News, December 2005

Terminator, a technology requiring multiple genetic modifications, will stop farmers from being able to save and reuse seed. It is designed to prevent farm-saved seed from germinating so that farmers have to buy new seeds each season. It has been developed to increase corporate control over seeds by the biotech companies. Terminator directly infringes Farmers' Rights, undermines food sovereignty and presents a threat to farmers' livelihoods and agricultural biodiversity. For more information on how to take action in your community and to endorse the campaign against Terminator to these new resolutions from farmers and seed savers in

Europe, Canada and South Africa see:
www.banterminator.org

Some Good News!

Garden of Eden thrives in chilly Alps

August 23 2001 by Julia Ferguson

Ramingstein, Austria - In the coldest part of Austria, a farmer is turning conventional wisdom on its head by growing a veritable Garden of Eden full of tropical plants in the open on his steep Alpine pastures. Amid average annual temperatures of a mere 4.2°C, Sepp Holzer grows everything from apricots to eucalyptus, figs to kiwi fruit, peaches to wheat at an altitude of between 1,000 and 1,500 metres (3,300 and 4,900 feet). He is now feted worldwide for creating the only functioning "permaculture" farm in Europe. Once planted, I do absolutely nothing," Holzer said. "It really is just nature working for itself - no weeding, no pruning, no watering, no fertiliser, and no pesticides." Holzer's philosophy is that nature knows best and needs negligible interference from man.

Top court backs pesticide ban Lawn-care industry appealed bylaw - Homeowners face fines starting in 2007

Nov. 18, 2005, Paul Maloney

Environmentalists are hailing a Supreme Court decision that upholds Toronto's ban on pesticides. The decision means the pesticide industry has exhausted all legal avenues in its attempts to strike down the city's bylaw, which restricts the use of pesticides on lawns and gardens. It also means that starting Sept. 1, 2007, Toronto homeowners who break the bylaw will face fines.

The Conservation & Ecology News

This electronic compilation of environmental, conservation and sustainability issues that relate to our local and global communities is issued throughout the majority of the year with tidbits and alerts for special articles or urgent issues of concern to the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Eco-Region. **The CEN now on-line at:**
<http://www3.telus.net/public/adamah/cen/cenindex>

Resources

Guides to Preserving Farmland On Line

Two groups intent on preserving farmland have released guides to help public and local government officials. Smart Growth BC's "Citizen's Guide to Protecting Agricultural Land in BC", which can be found online at www.greenbelt.bc.ca and a policy and bylaw adoption report from West Coast Environmental Law can be found at www.wcel.org.

New Environmental Law Guide

WCEL – Enforcing Environmental Law, A guide to Private Prosecution 2nd Ed.

By James S. Mallet \$34.95

for your copy: Email the Environmental Law Centre: elc@elc.ab.ca

or call toll free: 1-800-661-4238

Salmonopolis

Salmonopolis (www.salmonopolis.ca) is a new website designed to provide educational, capacity building and advocacy resources for salmon stewards throughout British Columbia. Salmonopolis is collaboration between the Sierra

Club of Canada (B.C. Chapter) and the David Suzuki Foundation. The site is hosted by the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia as a Community of Interest.

State of the Salmon is a forum for specialists to share data, information, and knowledge about Pacific salmon. Visit their website to learn more: www.stateofthesalmon.org

North Shore Black Bear Network

The goal of the Bear Network is to stop the destruction and relocation of bears on the North Shore. The Network consists of representatives of the Districts of North and West Vancouver, the Village of Lions Bay, the RCMP, the Provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and community volunteers. The Network produced a new information brochure with tips for 'North Shore Bear Encounters' and 'Bear-Proofing' homes. For a copy of the Bears Brochure or further information on the North Shore Bear Network contact the information line: 604-990-BEAR (2327).

The Hummingbird Monitoring Network has determined the best long-term monitoring sites of hummingbirds in Western USA & Canada, and northwestern Mexico. They want to effectively sample their population sizes and to use the resulting information to assist in their preservation and protection. For more information and updates go to:
http://www.naturalists.bc.ca/fbcn_bn/2004/bn0410-d.htm

Report: Valuing Open Space

The Economic Value of Open Space: Implications for Land Use Decisions was published in October 2005 by Embrace Open Space, a group of non-profit organizations conducting a campaign to encourage Minnesota residents to become more involved in local land-use decisions. The study lays out a way for local communities to more fully weigh the costs and benefits of open space (parks, natural areas, etc.) when planning for development and includes a review of research on the topic, plus a planning tool to estimate immediate and long-term costs and returns to the local community. The report uses the planning tool for three hypothetical examples of typical local land-use decisions. For a copy of the 69 page, 1.7 MB, PDF file, email Saul at info@sustain.web.ca

Online Cadastre

Kathy Reimer has reported that this new resource is great for those of you not using GIS. It is the new Internet based interactive map for viewing cadastre on your computer. Online Cadastre provides Internet access to British Columbia Crown land cadastral information with a hyperlink from Online Cadastre to Tantalus GATOR. For more info check out the

website: <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/sgb/IMF/>

The Pembina Institute has released a report entitled *Oil Sands Fever: the Environmental Implications of Canada's Oil Sands Rush*. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the intense development of the oil sands. The report can be downloaded from the Pembina Institute website: <http://www.pembina.org/newsitem.asp?newsid=162§ion>

Google Earth – Explore, Search and Discover

Want to know more about a specific location? Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips.
<http://earth.google.com/>

Vancouver Aquarium – Research Programs 2005 – An Overview

The Vancouver Aquarium has completed its report on their Research Programs for 2005. It is quite informative and offers research information on Fish and Invertebrates and Marine Mammals, along with current and future research plans. To receive your copy contact: Dr. Heather Holden, Marine Science Programs, Vancouver Aquarium at 604 659-3448 or email: heather.holden@vanaqua.org

Also check out the Vancouver Aquarium website at: <http://www.vanaqua.org/home/>

Stream Talk is now online at:

<http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/community/streamtalk/streamtalk>



A registry of lands protected by BC's land trusts and conservancies www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

summaries of ecosystems, values and Red-listed species protected
Search for a particular protected site or land trust
New Updates recently posted!

EcoAction Community Funding Program-deadline is February 1, 2006.

Check out the funding guidelines at:
http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/applicants_guide_e.html

BC Climate Exchange "Funding Opportunities" web page is a great jumping off point for finding funding:

http://www.bcclimateexchange.ca/index.php?p=funding_opportunities

2005 Green Source: Environment Canada's Green Source, A Quick Reference to Funding Sources for Environment Projects by Non-profit Organizations in the Pacific & Yukon Region. There is a searchable version of this funding guide available at
http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/grnsrc/index_e.cfm

Two of **BC HYRDO's** funding areas include environment and education. Check out their funding opportunities at:
<http://www.bchydro.com/community/outreach/outreach2335.html#funding>

WCEL's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. The Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund is a designated fund (\$192,000 per year) for individuals and groups that need a lawyer to help resolve an environmental dispute. EDRF Funding will cover a private lawyer working at a legal aid rate, as well as expenses and expert work related to the dispute. For more information about the EDRF, including the application form, view their website: www.wcel.org/services/edrf, or contact Andrew or Jodi Williams jwilliams@wcel.org.

Columbia Basin Youth Grants Program is looking For Projects to Fund! Columbia Basin Youth Grants is a new funding program for youth projects. There is a small grants stream (for projects up to \$2500) and a large grants stream (for projects over \$2500) and there's no deadline to apply! Check it out at:
<http://www.scratchonline.ca/programs.php>

Volvo Adventure Awards: Volvo Car Corporation in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is rewarding environmental projects undertaken by young people to improve their local environment. Young people around the world aged between 10 and 16 years. 1st prize: 10,000 USD; 2nd prize: 6,000 USD; 3rd prize: 4,000 USD. Go to: <http://www.volvoadventure.org>
Deadline: Jan 31, 2006

Partners in Organizational Development (POD) – Update

* Arts Partners in Organizational Development (ArtsPOD) is now accepting applications for its spring 2006 grant cycle. The deadline for submissions is Friday March 3rd, 2006. For more information, please click here
<http://www.artspod.ca>.

* Environmental Partners in Organizational Development (EnviroPOD) was offered as a pilot program. Due to the positive feedback and interest for the program, they plan to offer EnviroPOD as an ongoing program starting in 2006. EnviroPOD is now accepting applications for the spring 2006 grant cycle. The deadline for submissions is Friday April 28th, 2006. For more info please check out the link below:
<http://www.centreforsustainability.ca/programs>

'Thaw the Chill on Advocacy' Workshops continue through January.

The Charities and Democracy Project is pleased to offer their popular workshop "Thaw the Chill on Advocacy by Charities" in the following communities in 2006: Castlegar – January 17 and Calgary – January 19 and 20.

These free sessions on advocacy, public policy development and the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) offer you the opportunity to find out exactly how the CRA affects your organization. To register, please visit their website at: <http://www.impacs.org/charities/ThawTheChill/upcomingworkshops>.

Helping the Helper Workshop Series

This series of six day-long workshops is designed to help not-for-profit organizations increase their resourcefulness and adapt to new demands and opportunities in the marketplace. The first workshop will be offered on **January 17th**, and each workshop will be presented once in the Lower Mainland and in Greater Victoria. The series is sponsored by Coast Capital Savings and The Centre for Non Profit Management, in partnership with the University of Victoria's Centre for Public Sector Studies. For more information, please go to: <http://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/Community/NonProfitWorkshopSeries>.

British Columbia Permaculture Instructors' Conference:

January 21st/22nd 2006

Come and meet with your fellow instructors to discuss the state of the BC permaculture movement, teaching strategies, share experiences, skills etc. at beautiful Linnaea Farm on Cortes Island, home of the Linnaea Farm Ecological Gardening Program. Cost \$60 Bring personal items, notebooks, presentation materials, coffee, tea, sleeping bags etc. contact Heather: hmjstone@yahoo.ca to arrange registration, car pooling etc.

ECO Canada Conference 2006

January 26-27, 2006 – Doubletree International Plaza Hotel - Toronto, Ontario.

Access the Preliminary Conference Program at www.eco.ca/conference

Human Resource Management in Cultural Organizations

Starting **in January**, the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria is offering this distance education learning opportunity for professionals and volunteers working in museums, heritage sites, cultural centres and galleries, as well as those supporting arts or cultural groups. The intensive course examines best practices in HR planning and management, with an emphasis on the interconnected needs of the individual and the institution. For more information please see: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/courses/ha488p.a.spx>.

Request for Nominations for the 2006 Murray A. Newman Awards for Significant Achievement in Aquatic Conservation and Research

The Vancouver Aquarium has been committed to aquatic research and conservation throughout its 50-year history thanks to the founding director, Dr. Murray A. Newman. Invitations for nominations for the 2006 Murray A. Newman Awards for Significant Achievement in Aquatic Conservation and Significant Achievement in Aquatic Research are now being accepted. For more details on the nomination package please contact: newman@vanaqua.org

***Nomination packages are due by Monday February 6.**

2006 National Conference on Community Economic Development and the Social Economy - March 15-18, 2006.

Vancouver, BC. Join us for 3 days of Learning and celebration! *Leaf, Tree, Forest: Rooting Development in Community*. By the Canadian Community Economic Development Network, The BC/Yukon CED Network and hosted by Building Opportunities with Business. For more info go to: <http://www.ccednet-rdec.ca/en/pages/conference.asp>

**Land Trust & Stewardship Seminar Series
2006 - Changing Tides**

March 17-19th, 2006- North Vancouver
Outdoor School & Conference Centre,
Brackendale, BC. See insert or website at
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca:

**The World Planners Congress will be held in
Vancouver from June 17-20, 2006.**

The first-ever World Planners Congress will be held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2006. They invite submissions of papers, proposals and diverse media, including posters, videos and film for consideration as part of the Congress program. <http://www.wpc2006.com>

Stewardship 2006 Conference is coming to Cornerbrook, Newfoundland and Labrador! *Valuing Nature: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada 2006*- will provide an opportunity to network with a variety of stewards, practitioners, and other professionals. **July 5-8, 2006**
For more information go to:
www.nlstewardshipcanada.ca

Restore America's Estuaries' 3rd National Conference and Expo on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration "Forging the National Imperative" December 9-13, 2006 - New Orleans, Louisiana, Hilton Riverside Hotel -*Call for Presentations and Posters* for "Forging the National Imperative," the 3rd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. *Presentation submissions are due March 31, 2006 and Poster submissions are due April 30, 2006.* For more information or to download the application, visit <http://www.estuaries.org/conference>



**Hollyhock Leadership Institute
Upcoming Training & Events:**

Hollyhock Centre, Cortes Island, BC

Raise More Money: Build Your Base of Individual Donors -Kim Klein

February 6 & 7, Vancouver

How to Facilitate Social Change Strategy

George Lakey February 9-11, Vancouver

Art and Craft of Effective Facilitation

Julian Griggs May 3-7, 2006

NEW! Social Change Institute

May 12-16, 2006

Art of Leadership -Robert Gass

August 18-23, 2006

Facilitative Leadership across Cultures

Julian Griggs & Michelle Le Baron

Sept. 20-24, 2006

View Hollyhocks' 2006 Program Calendar at:
www.hollyhockleadership.org/programs

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www.taara.ca

Also directly in response to requests made by members at last year's Seminar Series, we set the intention, planned and wrote the grants that will help us spread the word to the general public. Thanks to funding from The Real Estate Foundation of BC and The Vancouver Foundation, we will work in 2006 on an extensive public outreach campaign that spreads the message that we still have the ability to conserve land, with its beauty, natural services, resources, health and spiritual benefits, while its still relatively intact and the prices are still within reach. Contributing to that winning sports team may be exciting, but these protected sites are close to home, and a place we, other species and our children will enjoy forever. In association with this public outreach campaign, in 2006 the LTABC staff and council will visit three regions, offering individual support and visiting the community's protected sites, so that we can promote them and the local land trusts and their benefits further.

Speaking of sports teams, another success story is our recently released, *Islands in the Salish Sea Community Atlas*. Not only have we received numerous congratulatory e-mails, letters, and media attention, but over Christmas, it was No. 9 on the BC best seller list - just behind *Hockey Play by Play*. You can order individual or group discount copies from us directly.

This year, the Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series promises to be better than ever. We have special guest, Marc Smiley, a remarkable strategic planner and fundraiser from Oregon coming to give a full day workshop. We will also be hosting other inspirational and knowledgeable people including Bill Henwood, Parks Canada; Brenda Beckwith, Uvic specialist in restoration and ethnobotany; Taiaike Alfred, on the board of BC's first First Nation Land Trust, Victor Elderton, principal of the North Vancouver Outdoor School and an avid environmental educator, Briony Penn, Nikki Wright, and many more, including our regular experts – Bill Turner, Ann Hillyer, and hopefully you – all essential to make this network of BC's Land Trusts strong and successful. You make conservation happen, and the LTABC is your Alliance. Thank you for your support!

Sheila Harrington, Editor

Become a Member or Support the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

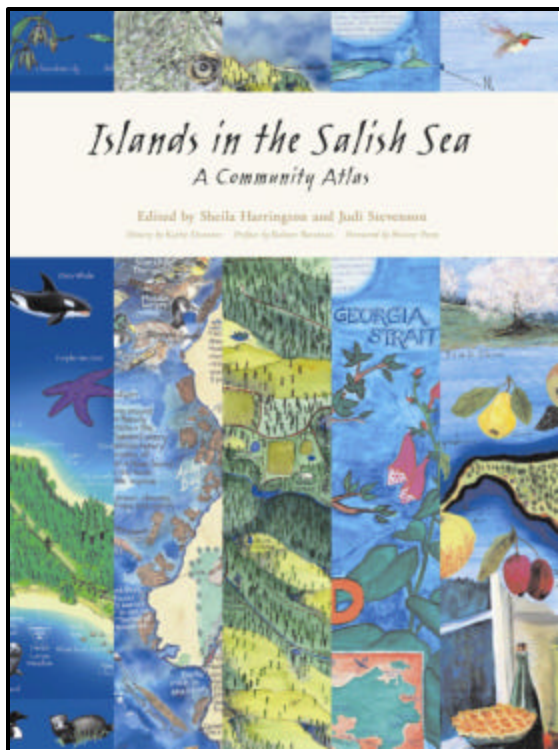
Member & Supporter Structure and Annual Rates

Land Trust Organization	Voting - <i>voluntary</i>	\$100
(sliding scale: suggested rates)	- <i>staffed</i>	\$250
	- <i>regional, provincial</i>	\$500
Associate Organization	Non-voting	\$ 75 Plus \$50 for insurance option
Individual ¹⁰	Non-voting	\$ 20
Professional Consultant (p.c.)	Non-voting	\$50 + 50 website
Business or Corporate Supporter	Non-voting	\$500

Or simply fill out and send this form with your donation to receive an Official Tax Receipt. Your contribution will help further conservation in British Columbia.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____
Do you wish to be on our BC land trust listserve: Email _____

¹⁰ Individual members add \$10.00 to receive our bi-annual Journal, *The Kingfisher*



**LTA The Land Trust Alliance
Of British Columbia**

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Send your cheque or money order to:

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204-338 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3
250-538-0112 fax 250-538-0172
info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca***

