

The Kingfisher

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Biodiversity and Climate Change
Protecting Grasslands and Ranches
Polls reveal - public wants conservation

Spreading the news about conserving BC's natural and cultural diversity

The Kingfisher
Volume 13, August 2006

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View from Pine Butte Ranch
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Message from the Editor

Having just returned from a wonderful holiday camping and sailing in beautiful British Columbia, I'm revitalized and inspired by the magnificent diversity and beauty of our province. From the East Kootenays to the Thompson Nicola Valley, and back home to the coast, my partner and I reveled in BC's parks and forest site recreation camps. We also discovered a few conservation sites on the way - one a large NCC covenanted property in the East Kootenays and the other a Ducks Unlimited wetland restoration site at Beaver Ranch Flats. Maybe one day we'll have a BC land trust map-guide to publicly accessible sites. The trip also included many discussions with locals about the threats to our existing ecosystems, from the effects of Pine Beetle infestations to increasing traffic of huge container ships and other barges along the BC coast.

This issue continues the on-going story of conservation success in BC, with the announcement of the protection of another contiguous portion of the "St Mary's Prairie" area of the East Kootenays. Over to the coast and Denman Island, the long awaited conservation of Morrison's Marsh was also completed this year. Congratulations to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Land Conservancy of BC, the Islands Trust Fund and Denman Conservancy for these recent successes. And especially thank you to those who made it all possible - far-sighted conservation landowners.

This *Kingfisher* also features an article on "Managing Biodiversity in the Face of Climate Change." Thanks to Jenny Fraser from the BC government, readers can consider conservation priorities in this context. We also feature the second half of the article, "Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples" by Bob Joseph. We are lucky to have such authoritative voices contributing to conservation and stewardship in BC. We also thank the other authors of this issue, including our continued contributors from the Communities in Transition Initiative. As a special addition, we have now started a Book Review section. We hope you find it useful and will possibly contribute a review to future issues.

The LTABC is excited about our new Public Outreach project, which will publicize stories about the people who have protected land and the land trusts who helped them. Many land trust members asked us to prioritize this public outreach and promotion of conservation success, tools and options. As the recent polls outlined in this issue suggest, BC citizens rank conservation and environmental protection as a top priority - however, many still think it's all up to government, and don't know how they can personally help protect what matters to them in their communities.

Continued on inside back page

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VOLUME 13, FALL 2006

PUBLISHED BY THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT CONSERVING BC'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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THE REAL ESTATE
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PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

by Kathleen Sheppard and Janet Hughes

Photo by Tim Ennis

With so many species at risk relying on grassland habitat in the East Kootenay Rocky Mountain Trench, conservation groups are taking a collaborative approach to ensure this habitat does not disappear. The rolling hills and hayfields of what is known as St. Mary's Prairie, near Cranbrook, are some of the last remaining natural grasslands in the area.

Recently both the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) have secured properties in the Trench as part of this larger conservation initiative.

NCC has secured the protection of the 1,306 acre (529 hectare) Pine Butte Ranch. Renowned for its purebred Horned Hereford cattle, Pine Butte Ranch has been owned by the Van Steinburg family since 1952, and has been operating since 1961. Today, three generations of ranchers work diligently to run one of western Canada's most highly respected ranches. With their high regard for nature's processes, they have created both an economically viable and ecologically sound ranching operation.

"Mother Nature is our Manager," says Pine Butte Ranch owner Ray Van Steinburg. He and his long time ranch manager Hugh McLuckie's management practices earned them the 2004 BC Cattlemen's Association's Environmental Stewardship Award. They have turned down offers to sell their land for development, deciding to work with NCC to conserve their land and their livelihood.

"As this is one of the last remaining grasslands, we want to see it continue in its natural state, and

not fall victim to the increasing pressures of urban development," says Mr. Van Steinburg, "Pine Butte has always worked to maintain the ranch as a viable working operation, while still working with and enhancing what Mother Nature has given us. The Ranch's land base consists of large parcels of rolling grassland and has an exceptional value for conservation."

In May, NCC purchased 480 acres (195 hectares) of the ranch and is leasing the land back to the ranchers for grazing. The family generously donated conservation covenants on the remaining 824 acres (334 hectares) of the ranch's private land base, preventing intensive subdivision and development of the land. Pine Butte Ranch will continue to operate as it has for many decades. Meanwhile, NCC and the

ranchers have ensured that the habitat on the land will not be fragmented and will remain a valuable wildlife corridor.

NCC's efforts to protect Pine Butte Ranch would not have been possible without support from our partners the Tula Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

TLC is building on its successful Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor project, which saw the protection of 900 acres of grasslands, with a second 900 acre project known as Luke Creek Wildlife Corridor. Both of these areas are strategically adjacent to an additional 660 acres that have been protected by the Province of BC since 1998. When completed, the Luke Creek Wildlife Corridor will protect critical grassland



Luke Creek Corridor, photoTLC

and aspen habitats in the East Kootenay and will maintain an important trail system for the local community. The Land Conservancy would like to thank Columbia Basin Trust and the BC Trust for Public Lands for funding the first phase of the Luke Creek Wildlife Corridor acquisition.

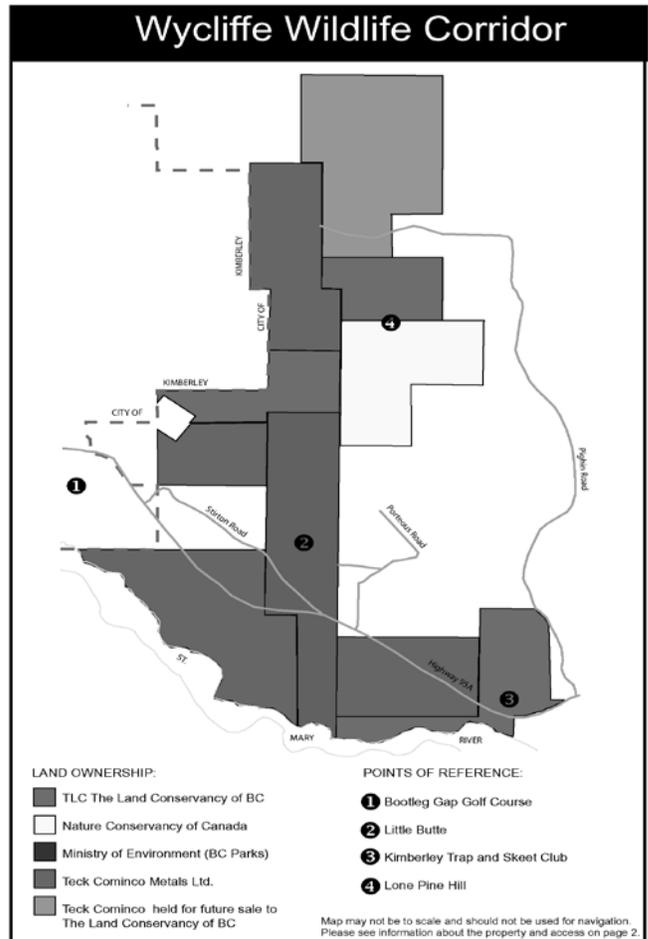
Following the completion of the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor in 2004, Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. approached TLC about some additional parcels of land that would provide a vital connection between Wycliffe and neighbouring crown lands. This project, which was to become the Luke Creek Wildlife Corridor, provides a natural, undeveloped buffer between Teck Cominco's Kimberley holdings and other private landowners in the area. In addition, it allows TLC to protect more key habitat in the area.

This project will provide a continuous, unbroken corridor of protected land that will allow large mammals such as elk and mule deer to travel safely between different parts of their range. Wycliffe and Luke Creek contain a number of threatened and endangered species, including the badger,

long-billed curlew, and Lewis' woodpecker. Eight endangered plant species have also been identified on the property as well as several rare plant communities.

The protection of these lands has had implications beyond the borders of the fee simple lands. TLC, NCC, Teck Cominco and the Ministry of Environment have been able to work together to manage the larger area as well. By coming together on issues such as access, grazing and the management of forest in-growth, each of the partners are able to manage their properties with an eye to the broader landscape.

When combined with other wildlife conservation areas nearby, protection of both TLC's Luke Creek and NCC's Pine Butte Ranch greatly enhances habitat for an already present population of ungulates, migratory, grassland and prey birds, and other wildlife. By working together, NCC and TLC are able to achieve these large, landscape-level conservation goals.



MORRISON MARSH PROTECTED AT LAST

by John Millen

Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) achieved a long sought goal when the Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve land was donated to the Islands Trust Fund in January this year. The land, just under 52 hectares, is located near the southern end of Denman Island adjacent to Boyle Point Provincial Park. It is also adjacent to another block of crown land.

As well as providing an extension to the natural areas of these park and crown lands, the new Reserve includes a considerable portion of Morrison Marsh and much of its headwaters. The marsh is one of the major wetlands on Denman Island.

Denman Conservancy's desire to protect this land became explicit in the spring of 1999 when the property was identified as a target of DCA's Island Legacy Project. Fortunately the property was soon purchased from its logging company owners by a person with a clear, long-term vision of the need for more protected land on Denman Island. With the donation of the land to Islands Trust Fund and a conservation covenant to be held by DCA, this vision will have been achieved.

Home to more than 80 bird species, the site is a key waterfowl over-wintering and breeding area. Several species of special concern live on the property, including Great Blue Herons, Hutton's Vireo, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Red-legged Frogs. The property is also home to many other species including beavers, minks, river otters, raccoons, rough-skinned

newts, pacific tree frogs, and several endangered/threatened plant communities.



The upland part of the property was forestland with mature timber prior to logging in 1979. Weldwood replanted the site in 1980. The surrounding forest in Boyle Point Provincial Park and the adjacent crown land, of which a small portion is the Regional Park for the Denman boat launch ramp, contains significant old growth stands.

Pioneer settlers once farmed Morrison

Marsh. They ditched and drained the wetlands to grow crops of potatoes and hay. After 1940, farming activities ceased in the marsh and beavers controlled water levels. Ducks Unlimited began a project in 1985, with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the shoreline owners of Morrison Marsh,



to regulate the water levels of the marsh. The project involved the installation of a variable crest weir and an outlet stream, which flows for a short stretch before it drains into the sea. Water in the marsh is held at an average depth of 0.8 m. Ducks Unlimited and local landowners maintain the weir and a series of nest boxes.

Morrison Marsh is regionally significant as freshwater ecosystems make up only 1% of the Gulf Islands. Marshes are essential for migrating birds, contain some of the richest biological areas of the islands, and act as important groundwater recharge areas.

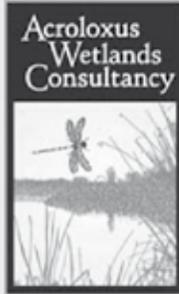
The DCA has had the concept of a Protected Area Network (PAN) for Denman Island since the early days of the organization. In 1998 Silva Ecosystem Consultants, as part of a wider study of Denman Island, prepared a map showing how known sensitive and ecologically significant areas could be linked to form a network. By acquisitions and covenants, the network is gradually becoming a reality. Morrison Marsh is a key connection between Boyle Point Park and the two main corridors up the length of the Island: the eastern wetland complex and the western escarpment.

The Denman Conservancy and the Islands Trust Fund will be working with the Denman Island community to develop a management plan for the property. This plan will define short- and long-term

management goals for this new nature reserve, including the prospects for public access.

The Islands Trust Fund acts as a regional land trust for the Islands Trust Area. With the generous support of island communities and landowners, it has protected important natural and cultural values on 60 properties with a combined value of over \$20 million.

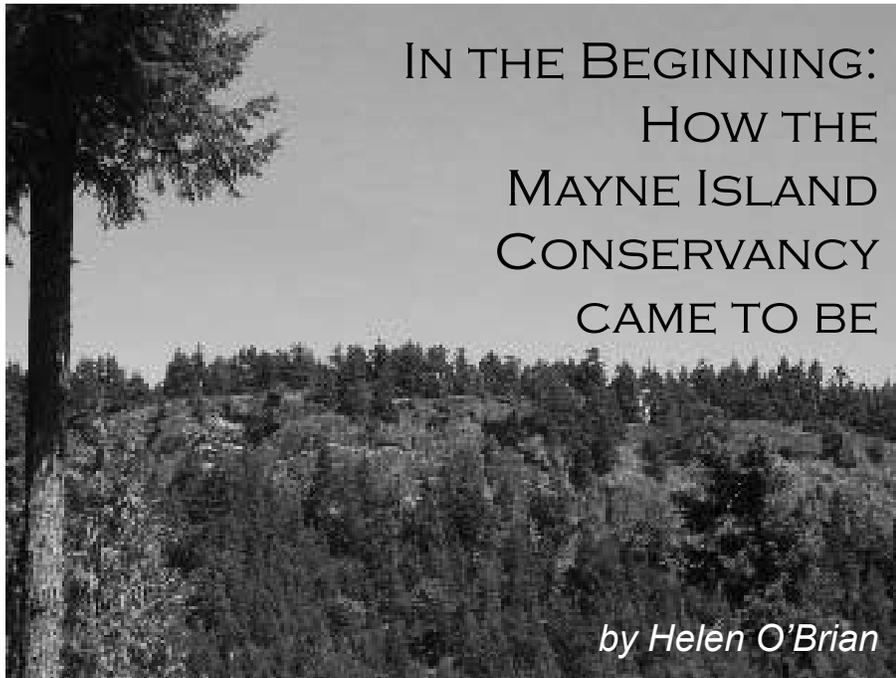
The Denman Island Conservancy was formed in 1991. They own one property and have covenants on two. Denman Island Conservancy currently manages three properties on Denman Island and is negotiating several new covenants. We have a successful Stewardship Program and are active in community education with our 'Walks and Talks'. In September we will complete the purchase of the 147-acre Central Park property.



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IN THE BEGINNING:
HOW THE
MAYNE ISLAND
CONSERVANCY
CAME TO BE

by Helen O'Brian

Once upon an island, not so very long ago, there was (and still is) a park that the people thought was much larger than it proved to be. For years, the Islanders and those who visit from both near and far have hiked up through the shaded northern slope where western red cedar, grand fir, Douglas-fir and other trees grow. Indian pipe and sword ferns, mosses and mushrooms, salal and Oregon grape grow on the forest floor. The trail eventually pops them out onto a high dry ridge overlooking the Pender Islands to the south, Saturna Island to the east, Prevost and Salt Spring Islands to the south and west with Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island behind. On a clear day the snow-capped Olympic Mountains loom in the far distance. In spring, fairyslippers, coralroots, blue-eyed mary's, small flowered lupines and other delicate flowers bloom. Arbutus, Garry Oak and bigleaf maples courageously grow out of the precarious rocky outcroppings on the bluff's edge, with second growth Douglas-fir and larger arbutus growing further back crowning an understory of grasses and lichens. And, there are rocks scraped smooth by glaciers first advancing and then creeping into retreat over 10,000 years ago. From atop the ridge one might look down upon an eagle soaring above the valley below where sheep and goats graze, organic

produce grows and, at this particular time, an old Japanese farmstead was going through yet another transformation, a vineyard in the making, or so the islanders were told. The park, beloved by so many, is Mount Parke Regional Park on Mayne Island. In 1994 it was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks as a showpiece of Gulf Island bio-diversity.

One day, rumours rumbled down from Mount Parke that the "vineyard folks" actually owned most of the ridge and were planning to commercially log it - land that many islanders had incorrectly assumed was park and which included the highest point on their island. The good people of Mayne Island were shocked by the news and fearful for the life of the forest and the natural beauty of the ridge. A small group of concerned islanders met to discuss the matter and quickly organized themselves into the Friends of Mount Parke (FOMP), in August 2003. As it turned out, CRD Parks, keen to acquire the ridge lands as an extension of the existing park, had already initiated discussions with the managers of the Glen Echo property, the "vineyard folks." What they needed now was to partner with the island community who would have to raise 1/3 of the land costs.

The Friends quickly organized themselves to work with both the community and CRD Parks towards the common goal of protecting the ridge as one intact and contiguous ecosystem. They were mobilized. They were ready. BUT, the owner, not the managers, of the Glen Echo lands had the ultimate word in this plan and would not consider the subdivision of the ridge. He would only sell the entire 240-acre parcel.

Enter The Land Conservancy of B.C. (TLC) who negotiated with the landowner and made an offer to purchase the entire parcel, which was accepted. Now the work really began. Over the next few months FOMP was successful in raising the funds to cover the security deposit and pledges, held by TLC, for the community's one third share of the 52-acre ridge portion. However, with the clock ticking ever faster our initial success was ultimately unravelled by the difficulties in establishing a responsible purchase and development plan for the large remaining parcel below the ridge. The offer to purchase expired and shortly thereafter the Glen Echo property was sold. The new owner has, as yet, no declared plans for the property and is well aware of the community's and the CRD's ongoing desire to acquire and protect the ridge. The story is NOT over.

Encouraged by the positive community response to the Mount Parke campaign FOMP made the decision to move on from being an 'issue-based' organization to work on a broader conservation scale. We changed the name to the Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS) and the organization's considerable energies are now directed towards other issues such as education, stewardship and landowner contact.

Mayne Island has no crown land to speak of. Any future land acquisitions will occur only as a result of successful landowner contact. Voluntary stewardship agreements and covenants will be essential to the protection of sensitive ecosystems on Mayne Island in the years ahead. Through educational programs, community events, invasive species awareness and



photo by Sabrina Aven

removal, movie nights and community mapping projects, we aim to heighten awareness of conservation issues and work towards our goal of preserving the ecological integrity of Mayne Island for future generations.

Currently MICS is excited about a small publication we are working on called "Tread Lightly: a guide to living lightly on Mayne Island." With input from other community groups and individuals this illustrated handbook will contain helpful hints, useful references and friendly contacts to help guide both residents and visitors through eco-friendly ways to tread lightly on this beautiful island.

Just recently we organized an exuberant May Day community celebration to honour the greening of the earth and the fertility of the soil. The Green Man crowned the beautiful May Queen, the Mayne school children danced around the May Pole and the cake and lemonade disappeared in the wink of an eye. This will become MICS' signature annual event.

A few years ago an American family left a small piece of land on Horton Bay in the hands of the Islands Trust Fund Board as a Nature Reserve. MICS has recently signed a management agreement with the ITF Board and will be monitoring the property, known as the Horton Bayviary, on a regular basis.

The ultra-urban artist Andy Warhol has been quoted as saying, "I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art anyone could ever want to own." We agree, and thus the MICS story continues. We hope to live ecologically happy ever after.

MANAGING BIODIVERSITY IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

By Jenny Fraser, Climate Change Section, Ministry of Environment

Climate is a major determinant of biodiversity, and the climate of the past determined the distribution, structure and species composition of the ecosystems that exist today. The relatively rapid climate change currently underway may therefore have impacts on biodiversity and on the practice of conservation in British Columbia.

Most people think of climate change as an increase in average annual temperature. While this is generally accurate, there is much more to the story. The global atmosphere warmed by 0.6°C during the 20th century, a rate likely faster than at any other time in the past 1,000 years. Atmospheric warming affects other parts of the global climate system, including the temperature of surface air, land and water, precipitation, evaporation, and wind patterns. It also affects the ocean system, including temperature, currents, and sea level. Climate change manifests differently from one region to another, and a few parts of the globe are getting cooler.

Climate change also means a change in natural climate variability, for example the length and/or the amplitude of the cyclical swings between cool, wet La Niña years and warm, dry El Niño years. It also means regional changes in the frequency and/or severity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, and high intensity rainfall, and weather-related events such as flooding and coastal storm surges. Changes in regional climate drive changes in physical systems – for example, the timing and volume of river flows –and in



biological systems – for example, the date of bud or leaf emergence.

Historic trends suggest British Columbia is already starting to experience climate change and some of its impacts. From 1895 to 1995, average annual temperatures increased on the coast by 0.6°C (about equal to the global average), in central and southern interior regions by 1.1°C (twice the global average) and in northern British Columbia by 1.7 °C (nearly three times the global average). In particular, minimum temperatures increased; winter in British Columbia is getting less cold, and spring is arriving earlier.

A substantial body of research has found evidence that 20th century warming has already affected physical and biological systems. Climate change is linked to observed changes in the timing of reproduction and migration, the length of the growing season, species distribution and population sizes, and the frequency and intensity of fires, pests and diseases.^{1,2} One major research study concluded that climate change is already affecting living systems and that small persistent changes in climate can alter species interactions, destabilize communities and drive major biome shifts.³

Individual organisms, populations, and species respond to climate change in three possible ways:

1. They remain in their original location and undergo changes in physiology (e.g. growth rate), phenology (e.g. time of emergence, flowering, leaf dieback), or behaviour (e.g. primary food source). Some species may undergo genetic changes.⁴ Species response may also include changes in rates of growth, death, migration, and dispersal⁵, fecundity, establishment, survival, distribution, and abundance.

1. Parmesan, C. and G. Yohe. 2003. A Globally Coherent Fingerprint of Climate Change Impacts Across Natural Systems. *Nature* 421:37-42

2. Root, T., J. Price, K. Hall, S. Schneider, C. Rosenzweig, and J. A. Pounds. 2003. Fingerprints of Global Warming on Wild Animals and Plants. *Nature* 421:57-60

3. Parmesan, C and G. Yohe. 2003. *Ibid.*

4. Rice, K. J. and N. C. Emery. 2003. Managing microevolution: restoration in the face of global change. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 1:469-478

5. Parson E. A. and others. 2003. Understanding Climatic Impacts, Vulnerabilities, and Adaptation in the United States: Building a Capacity for Assessment. *Climatic Change* 57:9-42.

2. They migrate to new, more suitable locations. Scientists are modelling potential shifts in the 'climate envelopes' associated with existing species and ecosystems. Such research indicates, for example, that by 2100 the climate suitable for the boreal forest may be found 200 to 1200 kilometres further north.⁶ This does not mean that the trees will inhabit new ranges in the near future. Mature trees may survive for many decades, perhaps centuries, on existing sites, and seedlings may not become established on newly suitable sites if the sites are too far from the species' current range.

3. They die or go extinct, particularly if climate change is rapid or severe.

Climate change will also alter interactions between species, including patterns of competition, predation, and dominance. As climate and related physical systems change, there will be changes in ecosystem structure (e.g. predominant vegetation, age class distribution, and species composition) function (e.g. productivity, decomposition, nutrient cycling, water flows) and distribution within and across landscapes, and in the prevailing patterns of disturbances such as insects, disease, and fire. Projected changes include the reversion of more ecosystems to an early successional state, and increased dominance of invasive and weedy species. Tree rings, fossils, pollen, and other paleo-ecological records demonstrate that in the distant past there existed ecosystems both similar to and very different from those present today. Contemporary climate change will similarly leave stable 'refugia' in some parts of the larger landscape and in other locations drive the creation of new combinations of species, and entirely new ecosystems.

The majority of climate scientists attribute most of the recent atmospheric warming to the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and other human activities that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

⁷ A comprehensive response to climate change therefore includes reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and capturing some of the excess carbon already in the atmosphere. Such initiatives are expected to slow the rate, and possibly the

⁶ Dokken, D. J., H. Gitay, A. Suarez, and R. T. Watson (editors). 2002. Climate Change and Biodiversity: IPCC Technical Paper V. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Geneva. 77 p.

⁷ Albritton, D. L. and others. 2001. Summary for Policymakers: A Report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IN J. T. Houghton et al. (editors). Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press. 881 p



magnitude, of climate change. Information about how all can reduce greenhouse gas emissions is available at <http://www.bcclimateexchange.ca/index.php>.

Slowing the rate of climate change will make it easier for natural and human systems to adjust. Scientists warn, however, that further climate change is unavoidable, and cannot be stopped or reversed. The excess greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere will continue to drive climate change and its impacts for centuries to come, whether or not we reduce future emissions.

The global atmospheric warming projected for the 21st century is an additional 1.4°C to 5.8 °C, a rate likely faster than at any time during the past 10,000 years. The actual rate of warming will depend on how fast greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere, and how the climate system responds. The projected rates are similar, however, to those that have occurred in the distant past. Natural systems have responded to major climate shifts during the long history of life on Earth and they will adjust to future change. Species will migrate, evolve, or become extinct. Some ecosystems will change radically, and others will remain similar to those of today.

Conservation has traditionally assumed that climate will remain stable, and the leaders in this field are only now starting to consider the management implications of rapid climate change. The literature to date provides only general guidance to conservation practitioners, and few organizations actively address climate change impacts on the ground. (One such organization is The Nature Conservancy, which is testing strategies to address sea level rise along the coast of North Carolina, including establishment or restoration of near-shore

oyster beds or reefs, dunes, and native vegetation.⁸) Conservation has moved in general from trying to maintain species and ecosystems at a desirable, steady state, to maintaining and restoring the capacity of species and ecosystems to evolve. This new approach recognizes that some degree of change is natural and inevitable, and is therefore appropriate for addressing climate change. For conservation professionals, a realistic goal is to allow native species and ecosystems to respond to climate change to the limits of their natural capabilities. Most existing conservation measures will remain relevant,^{9,10} including:



- establishing and maintaining interconnected reserves and biodiversity corridors that allow species to move from one location to another;
- reducing or eliminating other (i.e. non-climate) external threats to biological systems;
- controlling the introduction of invasive species;
- establishing recovery programs for species at risk;
- maintaining and restoring ecosystem structure and function;
- maintaining and restoring natural disturbance patterns;
- ongoing monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of management strategies; and

8 Pearsall, S. H. III. 2005. Managing for Future Change on the Albermarle Sound. Pages 359-362 in T. E. Lovejoy and L. Hannah (eds). Climate Change and Biodiversity. Yale University Press, New Haven. 418 pages.

9 Gitay, H., S. Brown, W. Easterling, and B. Jallow (editors). 2001. Ecosystems and Their Goods and Services. In: McCarthy, J., O. Canziani, N. Leary, D. Dokken, and K. White (editors). Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press. 1032 p.

10 Hansen, L., and J. Biringer. 2003. Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change. In: L. Hansen, J. Biringer, and J. Hoffman (editors). Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems.

WWF. Berlin. 244 p.

- employing 'adaptive management' in which new information is continually incorporated.

Climate change will also challenge conservation professionals to reorient or place a greater emphasis on some activities, for example:

- field and laboratory research into the climate tolerance, migration ability, and evolutionary capacity of individual species;
- maintaining and restoring connective corridors that facilitate migration northwards and upslope;
- active intervention through assisted migration;
- identification of climate refugia that are likely to experience less change than other areas;
- maintaining genetic diversity and breeding suitable genotypes for restoration; and
- monitoring of biological values sensitive to climate.

In preparing for climate change, conservation professionals face the same limitation that engineers, planners and other managers of human systems face – the uncertainty in projections about future climate change and its impacts. Conservation can address this to some extent.

Some natural systems are already vulnerable to extreme weather events such as droughts, heat waves, severe windstorms, and heavy rains, and climate change may increase this vulnerability. Management activities – for example, restoration of riparian vegetation – that reduce vulnerability to existing extreme events may also convey future benefits.

Scenarios project some aspects of climate change – for example, sea level rise – and some impacts on biodiversity – for example, inundation of coastal wetlands – with higher certainty. Other impacts with greater certainty include reductions in snow pack and associated changes in hydrology and ecology of snow-dominated river systems.

Future scenarios and studies of the distant past can help identify locations where there is low potential for disruption ('climate refugia'), and those where the potential for disruption is high under various future climate scenarios. Conservation managers can take such projections into account in deciding where and how to focus efforts.

Although climate change will likely have observable impacts on biodiversity, it should be considered in the context of other challenges and priorities. The

Continued on page 18

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

In the previous issue we provided some background on the culturally diverse Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, gave readers insights on terminology, gave a cross cultural perspective on whether or not Aboriginal Peoples were pro-environment or pro-development and closed off with some interests Aboriginal Peoples might have in doing conservation or land trust work. In this article we will give you some practical tips and tidbits of advice taken from our book *Working Effectively With Aboriginal Peoples* which has been written to help individuals and organizations work more effectively with Aboriginal Peoples.

What's the best approach to working effectively with Aboriginal Peoples?

The short answer, and it has much to do with cultural diversity that was discussed in the previous article, is that there is no best approach. What works in one community won't necessarily work in another. How you get decisions in one community won't necessarily be how you get them in another. Who makes decisions will also change from community to community.

So then what can we do? First of all we need to take the time to understand the community, where they are coming from, and what they might want. The best way to do this is to conduct research on the community before you make the first contact.

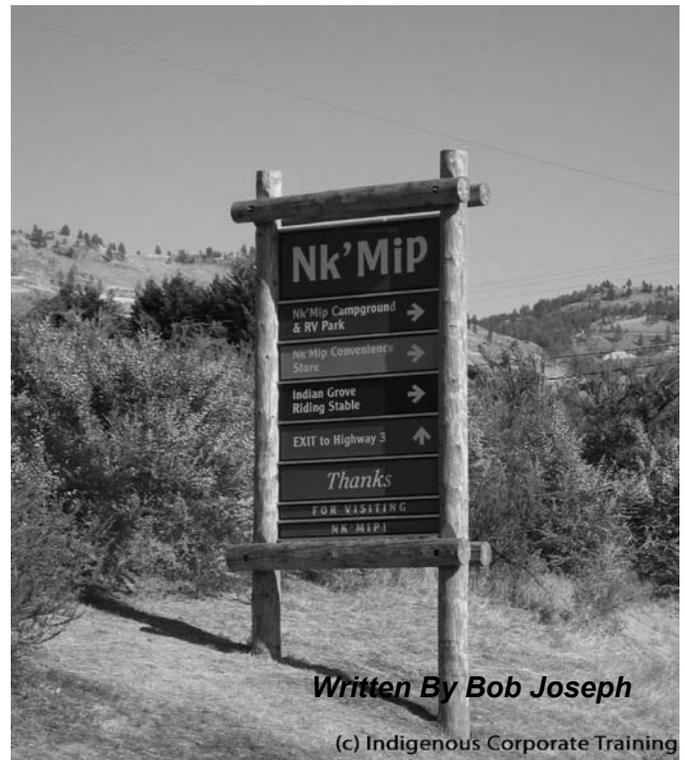
The following checklist can be used to begin your research of a First Nation community of interest.

Find Cultural Background Information through

- Community cultural centres
- Provincial museums
- Books on communities
- Books by community authors
- Traditional use studies

People You Should Consider Talking To

- Government representatives
- Consultants
- Lawyers
- The community's lands and resources person



Written By Bob Joseph

(c) Indigenous Corporate Training

Information To Look For

- Community profiles and statistics
- Fishing, hunting, and gathering activities
- Spiritual practices
- Custom elected or majority elected
- Tribal council affiliations
- Other political affiliations
- Decision making structures
- Community priorities
- Date of the next band election; political change is an issue with any government

Questions they will ask you

- Media stories outlining main issues
- Past agreements - written or verbal
- Role of hereditary leaders and elders
- Indian Act legislation that pertains to your work

I would like to help out but they don't return our phone calls or respond to our letters.

Upon completion of your community research and decision to proceed, you may find that community people may be really hard to get a hold of. If this has happened to you it is important to know that you are not alone. Communities can spend a great deal of their time consulting with government agencies that have legal and regulatory requirements to consult with communities. The numbers can be

staggering. I spoke with one chief earlier this year who said that he and his council and administration team numbering less than 15 people were dealing with multiple Environmental Assessment processes as well as a few hundred consultation Referrals all at the same time. Think about it from the perspective of the community for a second. referrals for land development are written requests sent from government agencies to communities for review and comment. They can be quite complex packages of technical information requiring the feedback of technical staff that many communities don't have. Throw in the Environmental Assessment processes and it is easy to see that a team of less than 15 people are in triage mode trying to decide who to work with and who not to work with. They would be happy to engage if capacity issues could be addressed. You could offer to lend technical, financial and other resources to the community to help them work with you. Such an approach could see a priority rather than another person or organization seeking time on an already busy agenda.

We've got our foot in the door but do not want to make mistakes.

The key things to do in your first meeting and subsequent interactions should include observing cultural protocol, using a joint problem solving approach, watching terminology and pronunciation, and being prepared to do more listening than speaking.

It also goes without saying that one should avoid acronyms. In attending many meetings in communities along with other representatives I have witnessed first hand the use of acronyms that make great sense to the people who are using them, but leave others in the dark. Remember that not everyone works in your organization or sector nor is familiar with those acronyms that are designed to speed up communication. In fact, they might not even want to learn your acronyms. In such circumstances acronyms can actually break down communication by forcing people to consider asking potentially embarrassing questions about the meaning of the acronyms. Avoid using them and opt for readily identifiable terms.

Lastly try to avoid using colloquialisms. There are many very common colloquialisms in popular

communication. Each has connotations that may be offensive to some the people that meet and work with. The intent here is to help you avoid using the expressions that may offend some people. Some sample colloquialisms are "circle the wagons," "low man on the totem pole," "too many Chiefs not enough Indians," and "have a pow wow to discuss that issue."

Do's and Don'ts

The following are some things to do and not to do when working with Aboriginal People:

Do:

- Research the community and governing parties before going to the community.
- Undertake capacity building initiatives.
- Take training on "Working Effectively With Aboriginal People" before you start.
- Thank them for the invitation into their traditional territory. For example, "I would like to thank the _____ First Nation(s) for agreeing to meet with us and inviting us into your traditional territory."
- Use caution when shaking hands. The typical North American elbow grab and double pump may not be needed or appreciated.
- Try to establish a relationship and meet when you don't need something.
- Approach issues with a joint problem solving approach.
- Ask the First Nation how they want to be consulted. What are their expectations?
- Know the difference between a Band Chief and a Hereditary Chief before you go to a community.
- Be prepared to meet both Band Chiefs and Hereditary Chiefs on the same day and in the same meeting.
- Be prepared to say that you are having a problem and that you are there to get some thoughts from them on how to solve it.
- Consider dressing down for community meetings. Band offices in many cases have more casual dress policies than businesses.
- Anticipate questions they may have of your organization and prepare answers to those questions.
- Honor all your agreements, especially your oral agreements. Traditionally these are oral societies and oral agreements are as important in

- Aboriginal communities as written agreements.
- Be flexible. Understand that it is not uncommon for the band office to close on very short notice for various reasons, for example, a death in the community.
- Call ahead to confirm your meeting time.

Don't:

- Tell them you are there to speak to them as a stakeholder.
- Tell them that you have a time line and that they have to meet it.
- Tell them what dates to meet, ask which dates would work best.
- Go to them with a completed draft plans or maps; it can send the message that you are willing to work with the community as long as they do it mostly your way.
- Expect to work with the same tribe in the same way on similar or different issues.
- Confuse potluck with potlatch.
- Confuse reservations with reserves.
- Refer to them as Indians or Natives. Instead use Aboriginal People or First Nations.
- Say some of my best friends are: Aboriginal People, Indian, or First Nations.

- Ask them if they know well-known First Nations personalities, for example Chief Dan George.
- Tell them you prefer a municipal style of government
- Tell them, "We should all be equal."
- Ask them if they are going to be Canadian when this is all over.
- Need or expect direct eye contact.

We would like to close by saying Aboriginal Communities may be interested in working with people and organizations, but that systemic limitations sometimes make it difficult for communities to meet with every organization that wants to do business with an Aboriginal community. By considering and implementing some of the things we have suggested, you may be able to increase your chances of "Working Effectively With Aboriginal Peoples."

Bob Joseph is a member of the Gwa-wa-aineuk Nation. His company Indigenous Corporate Training helps individuals and organizations work more effectively with Aboriginal Peoples.

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NEW SHARP-TAILED SNAKE SITES FOUND ON SALT SPRING

by Karen Hudson and Christian Englestoff

The endangered Sharp-tailed Snake has been found by three landowners in the north end of Salt Spring Island. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has been visiting landowners as part of its Species at Risk Stewardship project, and these new sightings come as a result of voluntary site visits to landowners and neighbourhood gatherings near the snake's known locations. The landowners are given tips on how to identify the snakes and monitor Artificial Cover Objects (ACO's) in likely habitat identified by snake experts. The sightings are then verified by a digital photo or by a follow up visit to the site. These three new sites double the number of known sites for this extremely elusive snake on the island.

Sharp-tailed Snake's are found in only a few locations in BC. Most Sharp-tailed Snake sites in the Gulf Islands are located on private land, which means that they are unprotected by law. The future of the snakes depends on landowners to voluntarily protect their habitat.

Sharp-tailed Snakes are non-venomous and completely harmless to humans. They may be confused with juvenile garter snakes but can be distinguished by the sharply pointed scale at the tip of their tail, for which they are named, and the distinctive black and white banding on their belly. Adult Sharp-tailed Snakes are brown in colour, about as thick as a pencil, and up to 30 cm long, which makes them one of the smallest snakes in BC. They are rarely seen because they spend most of their time

underground. Hatchlings are a bright reddish brown and about the size of large earthworms.

Garter snakes give birth to live young whereas Sharp-tailed Snakes lay eggs. Females lay between three and five eggs, and deposit them underground or in cracks between rocks. Because hatchlings depends on the sun's heat, Sharp-tailed Snakes use south/southwest facing rocky slopes or small openings

in Douglas-fir/Arbutus forests for nesting, so it is important to protect such habitat.

Sharp-tailed Snakes are most active in early spring and fall. During the hot and dry periods in the summer they are hiding under some sort of cover. The Sharp-tailed Snake

is rarely found on the surface during the daytime but hides under rocks, rotting logs, or debris. Tidying a property and removing these sources of cover may make the snakes more vulnerable. Humans and Sharp-tailed Snakes often share habitat, which means that the snakes can become victims of cars, weed eaters, cats, and indirectly, a loss of their habitat to development, including backyard projects. Gardeners may be pleased to learn that small slugs are most likely the favourite food of the Sharp-tailed Snake – an added incentive to provide suitable habitat.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Species at Risk Stewardship Program is funded by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program and the Bullitt Foundation.



URBAN PROTECTED AREAS

by Geoff Huber, Habitat Acquisition Trust

Urban protected areas are constantly under threat. Threats range from new pathogens, such as a fungus carried by Bull Frogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), which kills our native frogs, to the more commonly known invasive plants like Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) or Daphne (*Daphne laureola*), which out-compete our native plants. Maintenance of urban protected areas takes time and money and can be especially difficult for small non-profit organizations. Over the last few years, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has been working diligently to make sure that urban protected areas are truly protected. HAT is accomplishing this goal through our award-winning Good Neighbours program.



Good Neighbours Landowner Contact Programs

Many of the threats against urban protected areas can be minimized or eliminated through the creation of buffer zones on private land. HAT's Good Neighbours program works with landowners to foster good stewardship of properties next to parks

and to involve communities in caring for habitats and protected areas. Examples of land care or stewardship include gardening with native species that attract birds and butterflies, removing invasive weeds, and maintaining existing native vegetation. By encouraging property owners to be "Good Neighbours" to protected areas by creating buffer zones on their properties, the integrity of habitats will be strengthened.

We have had a tremendous positive response, as well as an inspiring commitment by landowners to improve the region's ecological integrity. "HAT's Good Neighbours programs are grassroots outreach projects designed to provide landowners with the information they need to care for their property in an environmentally sensitive way," says Sharon Hartwell, Colquitz Good Neighbour Project

Voluntary Steward. "Friendly and knowledgeable staff visit homeowners, tour their property and provide simple tips on how to make the yard more wildlife friendly, and lessen any negative impact on surrounding habitat and waterways. I support the program and hope to see it spread to many more neighbours and neighbourhoods".

Good Neighbours was started in 2002 in the Tod Creek watershed. Since then, HAT staff have spoke with or visited over 3000 private landowners surrounding local protected areas such as Colquitz River Linear Park, Durrell Creek, Mill Hill, High Rock Cairn, Oak Haven Park and Mount Doug Park, to name a few.

Getting Youth Involved

In all of the communities we visited through our Good Neighbours program, parents and teachers asked us for a similar program geared towards youth. So HAT took the Good Neighbours program to school! We developed the Good Neighbourhoods Project - providing fun and educational activities for elementary schools to foster environmentally aware youth, and to link the school and the neighbourhood to local parks. Environmentally aware parents and youth from our Good Neighbours or Good Neighbourhoods programs will be key motivators in the struggle to maintain our urban protected areas.

The Evolution of Landowner Contact

As property values and land development soar in the Capital Regional District (CRD), the need to go beyond land acquisition to maintaining the ecological integrity of urban natural areas becomes even more pressing. Urban natural areas, including significant plant and animal populations, are disappearing faster every day. This pressure to protect what's left makes landowner contact programs, like HAT's Good Neighbours, even more critical. HAT is working hard to expand and evolve our Good Neighbours program through partnerships and coordination of local efforts.

As numerous non-profit groups and government agencies have responded to the need for habitat conservation in the CRD, co-ordinating our efforts

have become a challenge. With this growing number of outreach projects, there is an increasing potential for overlap – for a single property owner to be contacted multiple times by different projects. These multiple contacts may not only lead to landowner fatigue, but also duplicate effort and fail to build on relationships that a group may already have established. In conjunction with Environment Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program, HAT is addressing this challenge by developing a region-wide Landowner Contact Database (LCD). The LCD will allow conservation groups in the CRD to pool their landowner contact data to better coordinate their efforts. If you are interested in hearing more about the Landowner Contact Database or getting involved in the program, please contact HAT with the information provided below.

HAT’s Good Neighbours for 2006

Currently HAT is working in the Township of Esquimalt with neighbours of the newly acquired “Matson Conservation Area” – the last Garry Oak ecosystem in Victoria Harbour. Many of the residents of this area are pleased that the Matson

Conservation Area was protected and are doing their part to maintain its ecological integrity.

Other upcoming Good Neighbours projects include expanding our already successful Sharp-tailed Snake project to other parts of the CRD, including Galiano, Mayne and Saturna Islands and starting outreach in the Rithet’s Bog community of Saanich.

All of our Good Neighbours projects are made possible through the support of local conservation groups and generous donations and grants from individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. Many thanks go to supporters of the 2006 Good Neighbours programs, including the BC Gaming Commission, Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program, Judith Cullington and Associates, Shell Environmental Fund and the Victoria Foundation. Involving the local community in preservation and environmental education has proven to be very rewarding and successful in maintaining our urban protected areas.

Habitat Acquisition Trust
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Climate Change -Continued from page 12 -

general wisdom from other sectors it that it is more effective to integrate climate change considerations into existing planning, management, and decision-making processes than to treat climate change as an isolated challenge. To do this well will almost certainly require new tools and approaches, and ongoing discussion within the conservation community.



Resources

Australian Government. 2004. National Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan 2004 – 2007. Available at <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts/biodiversity.html>.

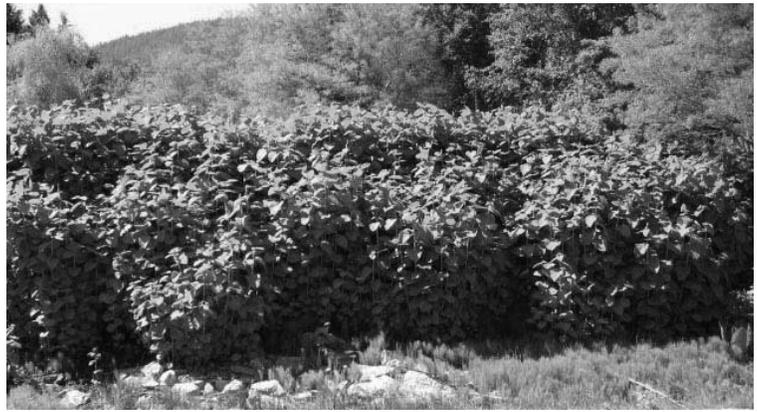
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Lovejoy, T. E. and L. Hannah (eds). 2005. *Climate Change and Biodiversity*. Yale University Press, New Haven. 418 pages.

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Photos within Climate Change article by Sheila Harrington



Giant Knotweed

by Jane Perry and Gail Wallin

Awareness of Aliens

Invasive plants are plants that are alien to British Columbia and which have the potential to establish quickly and pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems. Over an estimated three-quarters of invasive plant species were intentionally imported as ornamentals, crop plants or erosion-control species, while others were accidentally introduced as a contaminant in packaging material or within hay or feed.

The wide-ranging impacts of invasive plants include their ability to replace native species, reduce agricultural yields, clog shorelines, reduce recreational opportunities and visual quality, and destroy wildlife habitat. Dense cover of an invasive plant species on an area of land can drastically decrease the property's value. And invasive plant management costs tax dollars to control outbreaks and restore ecosystem integrity.



Invasive plants have become a prominent issue for many organizations, agencies and land managers. Utility companies, ranchers, forest companies, governments, First Nations, land trusts, environmental groups, property owners and others are all becoming more aware of invasive plants and their impacts. New initiatives are underway to work collaboratively to prevent their establishment, find and control new outbreaks early on, and implement the most effective management treatment option. Species like Scotch broom, giant hogweed, knapweed, orange hawkweed, carpet burweed and purple loosestrife have become notorious for their invasive nature and their ability to completely replace native vegetation, whether on the coast or Interior, or on grasslands or wetlands.

For those who have traveled on Vancouver Island, you have undoubtedly noticed the Scotch broom along the highways. Did you know that English ivy, which climbs trees throughout the coast, and it is still sold in many nurseries, can strangle the host tree and kill it? Most people have noticed the bright white ox-eye daisies that line roads, utility corridors and fields throughout the Interior—ox-eye daisy replaces native and desired forage species and is unpalatable to livestock. Or have you experienced the misfortune of a skin burn from giant hogweed? All these alien plants were introduced plants that have displaced other native plants and created major economic and social losses to the local community and economy.

A variety of locally based “weed warrior” programs around British Columbia involve residents of all ages, living in large and small communities, who are helping to manage invasive plants and reduce their widespread impacts on the environment and



Photo - Orange Hawkweed, by Juliet Craig

Preventing outbreaks and finding new hotspots of invasive plants is much less expensive than controlling an established outbreak. British Columbians need to realize that their care and attention when buying nursery plants, packing up their tent from a campsite, or moving their boat to a new lake can prevent the spread of invasive plants. One of the most effective ways to manage invasive plants is to prevent their introduction into new areas, and awareness is the first step. Land users need to be aware of and be vigilant in taking the necessary precautions to avoid unknowingly spreading seeds and foliage.

Here are some things the public should know:

1. Gardeners need to know about the potential invasiveness of a new plant before purchasing or growing it, and properly dispose of yard and garden waste.
2. Wildflower mixes often consist of invasive species, and wildflowers should not be picked along roadsides and brought home.
3. Horses, dogs, recreational vehicles and boats should be checked and cleaned before being moved to new areas, parks or waterways.
4. Outdoor recreationists should clean their boots before starting on a new trail, avoid driving from weed-infested areas into new areas, and clean their ORVs to avoid transporting seeds and forage into uninfested areas.
5. Recreation and outdoor associations can help to increase awareness among their members about invasive plants, and take measures such as installing information signs and providing a boot brush at the trailhead.

On a provincial scale, a broad cross-section of organizations and individual land managers has helped to create the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia. The Council is a registered society building cooperation and coordination to minimize the negative ecological, social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants. The Invasive Plant Council's Board of Directors, committees and members are working to increase public awareness of invasive plants, secure long-term and stable funding for invasive plant management and the work of local weed committees, compile current legislation on invasive species, build linkages among invasive plant inventories and databases, and identify and promote coordinated research.

The Invasive Plant Council website at www.invasiveplantcouncil.bc.ca provides a wide range of information and resources. The Memorandum of Support is available for signing to show support for improved invasive plant management in British Columbia. The information compendium, IP-InfoSource, also on the website is a searchable database of invasive plants and their management. An Invasive Plant Strategy for BC has been developed, which is also on-line. British Columbians who learn more about invasive plants will increase their own awareness and help to control the spread of invasives.

Other Invasive Plant Groups & Resources

British Columbia:

Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee
www.kootenayweeds.com 250-352-1160

Coastal Invasive Plant Committee
coastalinvasiveplants@gmail.com

South Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Plant Society - sosips@vip.net 250-404-0115

Northwest Invasive Plant Council
1-866-449-3337

The Community Mapping Network is also creating an Invasive Species Atlas <http://www.shim.bc.ca/invasivespecies/main.cfm>

International:

www.noivyleague.com

www.invasive.org

www.invasives.org.au/photos.htm

ALIENATING ALIENS AND SAVING SPECIES AT RISK: *A Case Study of Outreach That Works*

By Chris Junck, Outreach Coordinator, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

Garry oak and associated ecosystems are among Canada's most endangered ecosystems, and are home to more than 110 species at risk (SAR). The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team uses a diverse array of educational tools and outreach initiatives (brochures, posters, display, website, scientific publications and reports, presentations, workshops, etc.) directed to specific target audiences to contribute to the recovery of these imperilled ecosystems and species. Among the most effective extension products are a series of stewardship manuals, including the interactive Decision Support Tool for Invasive Species in Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems (available online at: www.goert.ca/resources/index.html#DSTDocs).

The Invasive Species Steering Committee of the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team and a contractor (ESSA Technologies Ltd.) developed the Decision Support Tool (DST) to assist land stewards in making decisions regarding whether, and how, to manage invasive species in Garry oak ecosystems. It helps stewards identify and assess the scope of an invasive species problem and provides management options for dealing with its control. The Decision Support Tool also includes an explicit focus on the needs of species at risk, which has been lacking in much of the invasive species control efforts in Garry oak ecosystems to date. It emphasizes the need for assessments by experts to determine exact locations of species at risk, and the potential that they will be harmed or helped by invasive species control. Therefore, the Decision Support Tool brings together the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team's coarse and fine filter approaches; it integrates the needs of ecosystems and species at risk.

The contractor recommended application of an adaptive management strategy for the development, evaluation, and revisions to the Decision Support Tool. Part of the strategy involved piloting and evaluating the draft Decision Support Tool in collaboration with a diverse group of partners, at a range of sites.



Scotch Broom, a common alien on the coast

Magnus Bien and Chris Ferguson, two University of Victoria Restoration of Natural Systems Program students were contracted as project leaders to help me with the pilot testing of the DST. We engaged four participant groups for the trial (the Municipality of Esquimalt and three volunteer stewardship groups), provided advice during field sessions, and collected feedback. One of the participating groups didn't complete the piloting because their invasive species management priorities changed, but they submitted most of the required recording sheets and provided many verbal and written comments. Feedback was also obtained from four groups that used the Decision Support Tool, but were not part of the piloting project. Other individuals also provided comments and recommendations.

In many ways, the piloting process became a type of outreach. The project leaders functioned as ambassadors for the Decision Support Tool. They promoted its use, encouraged progression through all of the steps, and assertively collected recording sheets, evaluation forms and comments.

In general, there was a huge difference in the quantity and quality of feedback submitted by pilot participants, compared to others. For example, no recording sheets or evaluation forms have been received from the 75 agencies from around the world that requested, and were sent the DST via e-mail, or from those who downloaded the tool from our website (>2,000 downloads to date).

Conversely, piloting yielded an abundance of useful information for improving the tool. The project team leaders observed how the DST was being used and collected feedback before, during and after the tool was used. By working with the groups in the field, we were better able to interpret the trial results, and information on recording sheets. The project leaders were also able to answer questions and clarify comments made by participants during the field sessions.

The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team provided funds (through the Habitat Stewardship Program of the Government of Canada) for two of the groups to contract experts to conduct rare plant surveys and contribute to the development of their invasive species management plans. The manager of Esquimalt Parks was able to use the Decision Support Tool and subsequent invasive management plan to secure funding to hire two term employees for invasive plant control work, and to hire a

contractor to provide best practices training. Due to the rapport building that occurred during the long-term period of the piloting, the project team and contracted experts were able to influence some of the participants' attitudes, beliefs and behaviours. This led to improved management practices with two of the three pilot groups and consideration of species at risk in all of the invasive species management plans developed by the pilot participants.

Pilot testing outreach materials is more time and resource intensive than using only traditional evaluation methods, such as feedback forms. However, the benefits of using piloting as part of an adaptive management strategy for testing and refining stewardship tools help to justify the costs and effort expenditure. The key results are more effective ways to manage (or at least alienate) alien and invasive species while saving species at risk. Piloting is an outreach method that really works!

LIGHTING THE SPARK OR FANNING THE FLAME? DESIGNING EDUCATION TO FIT YOUR TARGET AUDIENCES

By Will Husby and Sue Ellen Fast

More and more organizations are offering education and interpretation services to get the message out, to inspire neighbours and others to care and contribute, to involve communities and develop stewardship values and behaviours. How to decide on the content, and how you will present it? Will you involve people, or just give them information? This article is designed to help you make these choices.

We have been leading and managing these services for years in parks and nature centres, and also through non-profit and conservancy groups as volunteers. Tried and true techniques exist for planning and delivering traditional interpretation and education. Family campfires and guided hikes, for example, usually aim at increasing awareness and appreciation among site visitors. In some circles, this level of learning goal is known as “lighting the spark.” But today some agencies and conservation groups are reaching beyond these goals, aiming to increase stewardship and leadership. They seek to

“fan the flames”, seeing an urgent need for action and assuming that some visitors will already have been “sparked.”

Any group that has a stewardship mandate can use this model. If you already have programs and services in place, it's a useful tool for looking at all of them together and thinking about what is being accomplished. If you are starting from scratch, think of it as a trailhead with a grand vista from which to plan your route. Or even if you only do the odd education project, we hope there will be something useful in here for you.

Know Your Target Audiences

We strongly believe that the first step—the key foundation—is a clear understanding of the people who will be participating in your programs. Not just where they come from or their ages and so on, but what they already know about the topic (prior knowledge), plus their current attitudes

and behaviours toward your site, habitat or topic. Considering this first, will mean less chance of boring people with things they already know, or baffling them by using unexplained terms and concepts new to them. And of course, the odds are higher that you will attract the kind of people you want.

By the way, the word audiences is a bit out of date, implying as it does a passive group sitting quietly, soaking in words of wisdom or carefully reading displays. Current learning theory invokes active participants, not passive ones, with lots of conversation and doing things—and doesn't that sound like more fun? More on this later.

A New Tool

Alberta Parks and Protected Areas (PPA) contracted our company, EcoLeaders, recently to develop new interpretation/ education plans for two of their flagship protected areas:

- the Alberta section of Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, on the southern Saskatchewan border
- the Beaver Hills, a relatively wild knob and kettle region just east of Edmonton, including Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, Cooking Lake/Blackfoot recreation areas, and a number of smaller land parcels.

Their mandate is evolving to include stewardship, and expanding to serve not only visitors to its sites, but also site neighbours (landowners and people living in communities near the parks and protected areas), and people further afield that may not ever visit the actual sites. This is an extremely wide audience target with a broad spectrum of interest and commitment to land stewardship, ranging from downright hostility to devoted commitment. We needed a new tool to help us design effective services for all.

The PPA Stewardship Model

The model we developed identifies audience groupings based on their level of awareness, knowledge and engagement in environmental and heritage stewardship. It was based in part on the Environmental Stewardship Citizenship Scale developed by Parks Canada in 1992 and several other similar models.

The PPA Stewardship Model represents a learning progression in environmental stewardship ranging from unsupportive and unaware, through levels of increasing awareness, understanding, changing values and behaviours and action all the way to leadership in the community.



Visitors taking part in a guided wetland discovery tour. Programs like this can "light the spark" of awareness, appreciation and understanding of your site

Of course, an individual's learning does not really happen as a linear progression. People can be at various points on the scale at the same time. For example, a visitor may support your group's efforts to preserve a listed species, but may not be aware of all

of the other habitats that are protected in your site. The model is best used to focus on learner-audience types as you plan what services to offer, rather than to reflect on an individual's progress.

"Lighting the spark" is illustrated as the early stages in progression towards stewardship values and skills. Key factors include:

- applies mainly to the awareness, appreciation and understanding levels of the model
- is most effective with first-time visitors and with introducing repeat visitors to new aspects and features of the site
- can include an aspect of ecotourism

The **"fanning the flame"** stages are more advanced.

Key factors:

- applies mainly to the values, behaviors and leadership levels
- more effective with return visitors, site neighbours and nearby communities
- includes a life-long learning aspect

Lighting the spark and fanning the flame can now be seen as part of the same spectrum. Developing, adapting and expanding services to engage learners at various levels of the model are now possible.

What's new in Learning Theory?

We looked at current theories and practice in several related disciplines for guidance in how to use the model, recognizing that traditional techniques would probably not be effective for all the learner-audiences defined.

Most contemporary educational theories now recognize that learners need to be active—considering many ideas and engaging in discussion, reflection and debate. Knowledge is constructed and re-constructed by the learner. We concluded that in addition to the interpretation techniques currently in use, a combination of the following techniques and approaches should be incorporated:

- experiential education
- inquiry learning
- learner-centred
- life-long learning

Other related fields such as environmental literacy and education for sustainability have much to offer as well, including elements such as:

- feelings of responsibility
- sense of place
- vigorous fair debate
- skills for questioning, analyzing and addressing environmental issues

Community engagement is another area where new communication and learning models will be useful. For example, stewardship groups and sustainability program providers often engage in two-way learning, where organizations gain knowledge from community members as well as vice versa.



Volunteers taking part in a stream inventory. Work like this can “fan the flame” by increasing understanding, developing skills and deepening commitment to your site.

These are all useful general approaches to help learning through the PPA Stewardship Model to be effective. But how does one specifically address the various levels? Different types of approaches will be most effective for the different audiences described by the model, and we found some helpful ways of selecting these. A few examples are listed in the following table. The table provides a few examples for a taste of the detailed plans we developed. The point is that workshops, projects, and other program types generally work better at higher levels of the stewardship spectrum than more traditional approaches.

A Suite of Services

Any group that has a stewardship mandate can use these ideas to develop a suite of complementary services. It's a useful tool for looking at all of your programs and services together, and thinking about what is being accomplished. You can identify your target learner-audiences and current offerings, and place them along the scale of the model. Do they complement each other? Are there overlaps? Gaps and peaks revealed by this review may indicate an opportunity to redistribute services to better meet your mandate, leading to a more effective suite of offerings. Or if education is a small part of what you do, or you are just starting to think about it, we hope that these up-to-date tools and ideas will help you make the most of your efforts to fan those flames of stewardship!

Parks and Protected Areas Stewardship Model

	Level of the Stewardship Model	Program Type Example	Effect on Target Audience
Fanning The Flame	Leads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persuades others • effects change in awareness, appreciation understanding and behaviour in others 	Volunteer program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity to develop, design and lead stewardship activities in the their communities
	Behaves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • displays positive behaviour in her/his actions • tangible actions 	Restoration project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn stewardship techniques and behaviours that can be used in their everyday lives • Develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to effectively work with other stewards, government and private sector
	Values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considers the environment to have intrinsic worth • the environment becomes an important part of her/his identity 	Wildlife watching skills workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop deeper connections with wildlife, habitats and landscapes • Develop and intensify feelings of respect, esteem, even awe for landscapes, habitats, creatures and plants
	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has in-depth knowledge • precisely grasps meanings • able to interrelate concepts 	Guided hikes, evening programs, interpretive trail signs, virtual tours on web sites	Understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological functions of a landscape • the economic factors and interests related to the site • how your group is working to protect the landscape
Appreciates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can comment on the content and importance of specific environmental components 	Appreciate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the free ecological services provided by your landscapes • the aesthetic and historic values of the landscape • the valuable stewardship role of your group 		
Lighting The Spark	Aware <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has learned something about the natural and cultural environment • can remember some elements 	Drop-in activity tent at a busy beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self- or guided discovery of plants, animals and habitats • Guided discovery of issues
	Unaware <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not equipped with specific or general knowledge 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-discovery of plants, animals and habitats • Guided discovery of issues
	Unsupportive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • behaves in ways that do not support environmental citizenship 	Articles in local newspaper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show that your group has validity within the community

Will Husby and Sue Ellen Fast are consultants and freelancers through their company, EcoLeaders Interpretation and Environmental Education. They have many years of experience in western Canada, and some international projects under their belts as well. They edit and produce InterpScan, the journal of Interpretation Canada, in which a longer version of this article appeared. Sue Ellen is the chair of the Bowen Island Conservancy, and Will has a consuming interest in nature photography. Contact them at sueellen@ecoleaders.ca or will@ecoleaders.ca

POLL RESULTS ACROSS BC ALL POINT TO THE SAME CONCLUSION

By Darrell Smith, Katherine Dunster, and Sara Muir Owen

This article provides a brief overview of three environmental conservation polls conducted by three different organizations in three different BC regions between 2004 and 2006. The Islands Trust (Gulf Islands), the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (South Okanagan), and the East Kootenay Conservation Program (East Kootenay) carried out the opinion polls to gauge, among other things, public attitudes towards conservation.

After comparing the poll results, the article suggests conclusions regarding the level of public support that exists for environmental conservation, province-wide. British Columbia is a wonderfully diverse province. Sometimes it seems that the motivations and values of community members vary considerably from place to place. However, the results of these polls suggest that no matter where we live, we hold similar values and appreciation for our home landscapes. Furthermore, where we live is not entirely chance, but choice, and keeping the natural landscapes surrounding our homes and communities intact are a deep concern—possibly even a number one priority across the province.

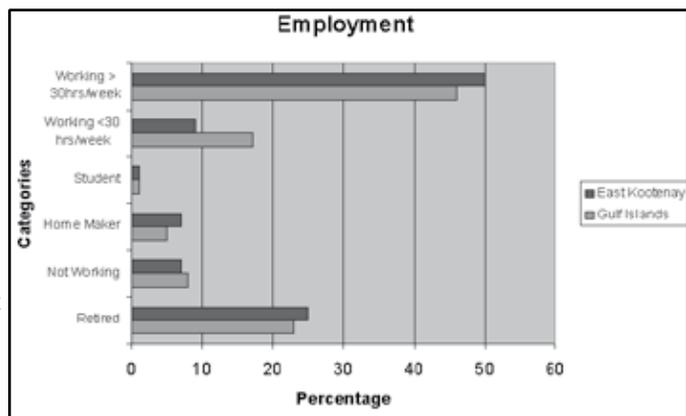
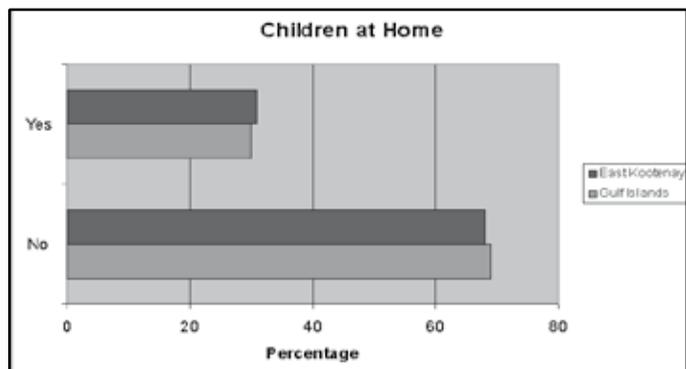
The three regional public polls (Gulf Islands - Dec. 2004, South Okanagan - Nov. 2004, and East Kootenay - Feb. 2006) were completed recently, all independent of each other. While each landscape is very different from the other, all are wrestling with the strain of growth and development. Economic development is often the highest priority for all levels of government and businesses. The polls were carried out to get a sense of the priorities and concerns of the local residents. Based on a review of the conservation polls, economic development might not be “number one” for the majority of the public surveyed. The results of the polls suggest that a truer balance between economic growth and land conservation is needed.

Methods

All three polls were delivered by professional polling firms (Cameron Strategy, Ipsos Reid and Synovate Canada). Questions were fielded using a telephone survey. The sample size for the Gulf Islands was 800, South Okanagan 300 and Kootenay (East and West) 750. A random and representative sample was taken in all three areas. Since all three polls were independent of each other, not all the same information was collected to allow for direct comparisons on all demographics and questions.

Demographics First

The comparison begins with an evaluation of the demographic results of each survey. The categories of “Children at Home” and “Employment” are very similar across the three regions.



Only slight differences among age, length of residency, income, and employment are seen across the regions

- South Okanagan has a larger segment of people over 65 years old, approximately 32 %.
- East Kootenay has a larger portion of the population (38 %) that has lived there more than 30 years as compared to the South Okanagan (22 %).
- The income in the East Kootenay concentrates in the \$60,000 to \$99,999 category; whereas the Gulf Island incomes seems to be more spread across the lower two categories.

Survey Says

While the three regions differ ecologically, the demographics are analogous. Yet, do people have the same values towards the landscape they live in? The polls were undertaken to gauge the public’s attitudes toward conserving landscapes and to determine if there is a desire to alter the balance between economic growth and conservation. To evaluate overall attitudes, questions on similar themes were pulled from each survey and the results of these questions were compared.

All three polls included questions to gauge respondents’ attitudes towards the balance of economic development and protecting / conserving landscapes for species and habitat. For instance, the Gulf Island poll asked if you agreed or disagreed with the statement “BC’s Gulf Islands should be protected from over development?” The South Okanagan and East Kootenay polls worded the question: “Is it more important to conserve and protect species and habitats even if it means slowing down short-term economic development?” The responses to these questions were very similar (Figure 6) and suggest that residents do not embrace industrial and/or economic development at the expense of the natural environment in these regions. Whether one could extrapolate and assume that residents might expect or demand a more “sustainable” approach is speculation. However, any further polling (future surveys) could and should explore this in more detail.

Figure 3

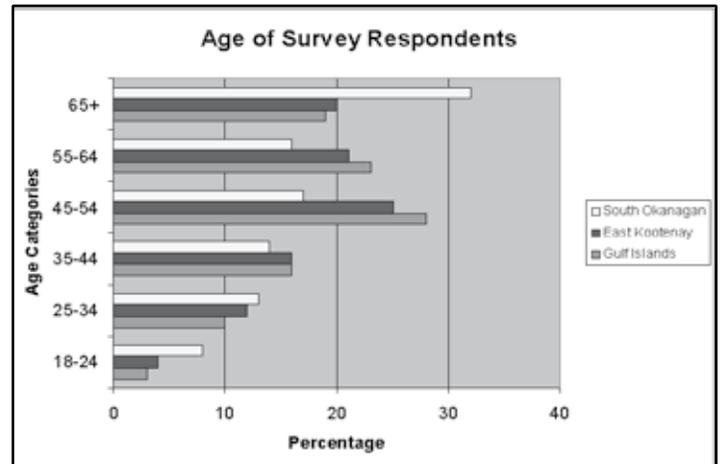


Figure 4

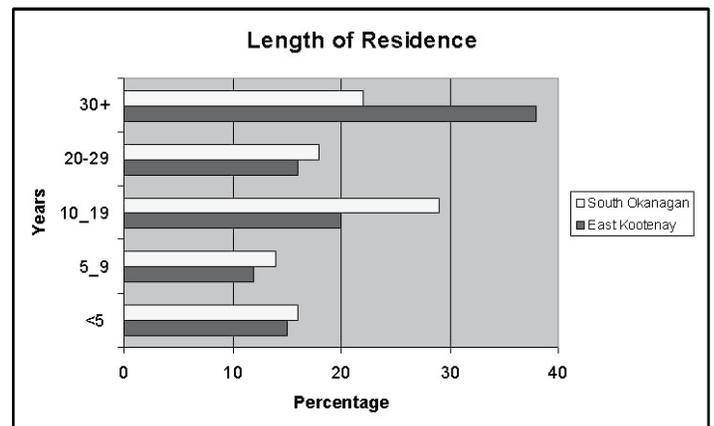
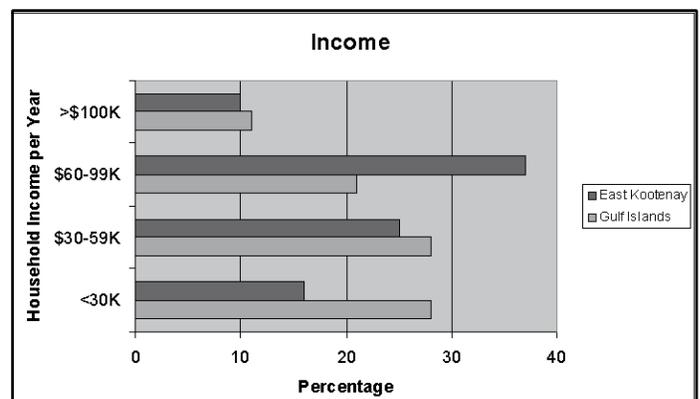
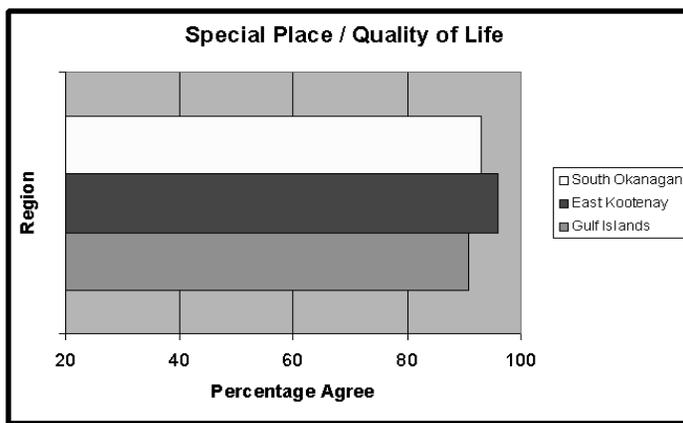
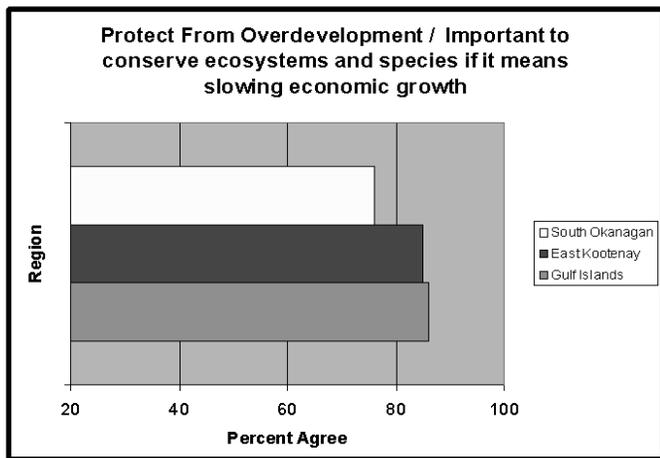


Figure 5

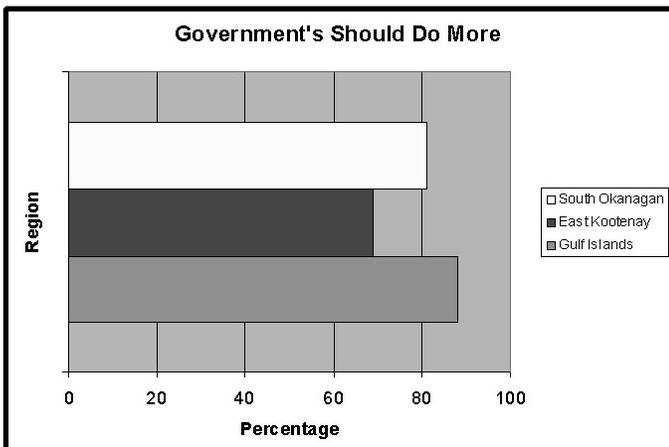


“Is it more important to conserve and protect species and habitats even if it means slowing down short-term economic development?” The responses to these questions were very similar and suggest that residents do not embrace industrial and/or economic development at the expense of the natural environment in these regions.



Governments Should Do More

Another question theme that was asked in all three polls was if the government (local, regional, provincial) should do more to conserve wildlife and habitat. The Gulf Islands poll response rate was the highest (88%), followed by the South Okanagan (81%) and then the East Kootenay (69%). Whether this could be directly correlated to the distance from Victoria, one can only speculate.



Another common theme among the surveys was whether one considered where they lived to be “a special place” or how it influenced their “quality of life.” The Gulf Islands poll asked if one agreed or disagreed with the statement “BC’s Gulf Islands are a special part of British Columbia.” The South Okanagan and East Kootenay polls asked: “Is it important to protect natural ecosystems/plants and wildlife for quality of life?” Comparison of the responses from the three polls might suggest people feel that the natural environment where they live contributes to making their lives better and makes their communities special places. British Columbia is a very biologically diverse province, with a significant number of rural settlement areas alongside predominantly natural landscapes. Many people live in settlements that are close to the natural landscape or surrounded by the natural environment, which—the polls suggest — contributes to their quality of life and the special attachment they have for an area.

The South Okanagan and East Kootenay polls further explored people’s attitudes towards environmental conservation by asking about a suite of issues, such as importance of water quality and quantity and wildlife habitat protection. Water management seemed to resonate as an important issue in both regions, in terms of water quality and in terms of concern about water shortages (Figure 8).

Conclusion

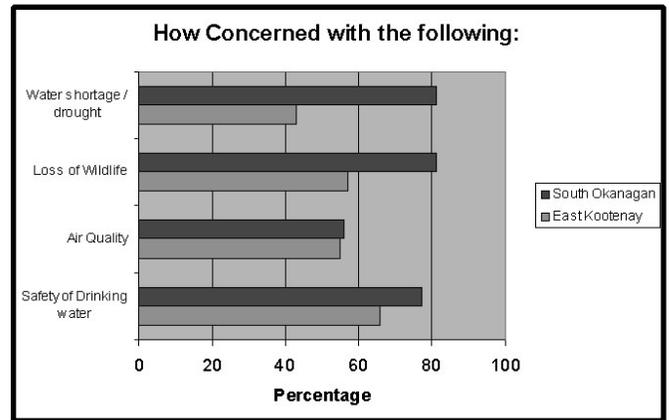
Even though the polls were done independent of each other, general themes, such as balancing economic development with environmental conservation, quality of life, and government involvement, do resonate through all of them. It would seem that BC residents do not generally support economic growth as the first priority; that the natural world in our backyard in British Columbia is one to cherish and protect for future generations; and that government agencies have a key responsibility in this.

The idea of balance (dare we say sustainability) reverberates through these polls in the sense that economic growth should not automatically trump environmental values. Some Regional Districts are developing regional growth strategies and making use of tools such as Community Viz and MetroQuest to further engage the public in long-

term planning and giving them a greater say in how their communities should evolve over the next 50 years. These tools assist in showing consequences, both economically and environmentally, of land use decisions, something that has been overlooked in the past.

These polls point to what is important to residents, at this time. From these three polls, in three distinct geographic areas, what is important to the majority is conserving our natural environment. Making this a higher priority and making lasting changes is the next challenge.

Figure 8



THE REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE USE & CONSERVATION OF LAND

Written by Celina Owen

The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia has been involved with land conservation since 1993 when the Board of Governors first made a grant to West Coast Environmental Law for its efforts to establish conservation covenants as a legal tool for protecting the ecological values of land. This precedent-setting work led the Foundation to support conservation covenant implementation through landowner contact programs and workshops. In 1997, the Board approved funding for the first “BC land trust” meeting.

Many things have changed since 1993—both in the stewardship and conservation sector and in the Foundation’s grant making; however, the Real Estate Foundation remains committed to stewardship and conservation objectives. Our overall focus is the “sustainable use and conservation of land.”

Over the past few years, the Real Estate Foundation’s “governance” focus has become its niche. We recognize the value of research, education, and restoration. We also know that well thought-out and implemented regulations can go a long way to support enlightened land use decisions. In fact, one without the others will not have lasting effects. The Foundation adopted a revised grant making strategy in 2004. The decision not to entertain

requests for landowner contact programs was tempered with the decision to offer broader support to organizations—such as the Land Trust Alliance of BC, the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC—which have organizational members themselves.

Land trust projects that have received Foundation grants since 2004 have emphasized the governance aspects of sustainable land use practices. Those organizations have defined the conservation values that their projects address in the context of relevant land use planning, policy, and regulation. Initiatives for which the Foundation has approved funding include Comox Valley Land Trust’s Regional Conservation Strategy, Salt Spring Island Conservancy’s Inter-Island ROOTS Forum, Galiano Conservancy’s Land and Resource Planning Process with the Penelakut First Nation, Savary Island Land Trust’s Official Community Plan Information Sessions, and Abbotsford Land Trust’s (now Fraser Valley Conservancy) Natural Areas Stewardship Project.

The Real Estate Foundation has a broad mandate to support real estate related research, education, law reform and “good works” projects throughout

the province. Our mission is to support sustainable real estate and land use practices for the benefit of British Columbians. As such, the Foundation makes grants for initiatives related to non-profit housing, community planning, buying and selling a home, and many other issues of importance to residents of BC.

Sustainable construction and building operation are issues of importance, which the Foundation is addressing through the Vancity/Real Estate Foundation Green Building Grant Program.

Eligible projects focus on the following:

- * innovative building renovations or retrofits, or
- * advancement of policy or regulatory change to remove barriers impeding the development of green buildings or the incorporation of green building technology.

Projects are eligible for grants of up to \$50,000. There is one grant application intake per year and at least three grants will be awarded. This

year's application deadline is October 3, 2006. The application form is on the Foundation's and Vancity's websites.

The process for funding under the Foundation's regular grants or "Responsive Grants" program (includes Communities in Transition funding) is (1) check out the funding criteria at www.realestatefoundation.com and (2) submit a letter of inquiry. Our staff reviews letters of inquiry

throughout the year and advises each organization whether or not its project is eligible for consideration by the Foundation's Board at one of its quarterly meetings. If you have a project idea, please send it to us. We are pleased to be able to partner with organizations that share our interest in enabling more responsible land use and welcome letters of inquiry from non-profit organizations whose projects seem to fit the Foundation's criteria.

The Real Estate Foundation has approved over \$9 million in grants since 1988. The Foundation uses income from unassigned trust deposits held by real estate brokerages to support its purposes under the Real Estate Services Act. A volunteer Board of five members governs the affairs of the Foundation.

For more information, visit www.realestatefoundation.com.



One Sky - The Canadian Institute for Sustainable Living received a \$25,000 GBG grant in 2005 – at a workshop on photovoltaics



**Wildlife
Collision
Prevention
Program**



**This Sign Means
Watch for Wildlife
Use Caution!**

**17,000 animals are killed each year
Slow Down**

**Animals are unpredictable.
Actively watch for them,
especially from dusk
to midnight.**



For more driving tips and to make a tax deductible donation, check out
www.wildlifecollisions.ca 250.828.2551

Covenants in the ALR

The LTABC has been meeting with several conservation groups and agencies and the Chair and a few staff of the Agricultural Land Commission since January to help improve our working relationships and the Guidelines for Conservation Covenants on agricultural lands. It's been a good exercise for all, and we hope that the outcome will improve our success at receiving approval of covenants in the ALR. Revised Guidelines are due to be finalized in November. If you are working with a landowner considering a covenant in the ALR, please contact us directly for further information.

One thing that Erik Karlson, the Chair of the ALC made clear in our meetings is that if the covenant only binds titles, and does not in any way restrict agricultural practices, it does NOT need to be approved before it is registered. Otherwise, all conservation covenants on ALR lands must be approved by the ALC to be legally effective. We will send notice and post the new Guidelines as soon as they are finalized.

New Conservation Resources

Guide to Baseline Inventories - to be released in September! The printed copy of the Guide and a Cd Rom point to various protocols, templates, and sample baselines relating to the size, purpose and management of conservation lands.

The Guide was developed by LTABC with Ryan Durand as the principal contractor. It has been developed to provide an overview of the types of information needed to complete a baseline inventory, based on a standard compliance type covenant/easement, and it provides protocols for a more extensive ecological inventory. The 33 page Guide includes four sections: The Baseline Inventory Process, Report, The Land Title Summary (for BC), Data, Storage and Archiving, and Resources, Templates, and Protocols. The Cd provides additional examples and further resources. Each land trust member in good standing will receive one free copy. Other copies of the printed guide and CD are available for \$20.

Property Assessments of Conservation Lands, A Guide for Land Trusts and Landowners. This 16 page Infokit was recently completed with the assistance of the BC Assessment Authority and Alan Kotilla, Accredited Appraiser. It includes case studies, references and a bibliography of research on conservation land values. One copy is free to land trust members, and the pdf is available for downloading and printing from our website. Additional colour copies available for \$5.00

2006 Seminar Series ~ Testimonial

*By Jack Minard,
Chair of The Comox Valley Land Trust*

The BCLTA Seminar Series held March 17 through 18, 2006 at the wonderfully rustic and active North Vancouver Outdoor School (NVOS) in Paradise Valley BC near Squamish was incredibly inspiring. I was absolutely amazed with the excellent organization and the caliber of seminar presentations.

It's difficult to pick highlights but Marc Smiley's "Planning, Organizational Structure and Fundraising for Success" kicked off the event providing steps towards a flowing organization where the vision drives the structure right through to the budgets.

Briony Penn's "Media & Communications Workshop" was filled with Ms. Penn's quirky and right on wit and sense of humour. We were urged to develop relationships with editors and reporters. There were many other seminars that were so useful and topical.

The standout for me however, was a moving talk given by Victor "Sky" Elderton, the Principal of the NVOS about how he himself came to appreciate the wonders of nature and how his position at the School has touched the lives of thousands of children.

It is the incredible passion and commitment of all of us who find the natural world sacred that will bring about the changes we seek. Events such as this recharge us and help direct our energies.

INSURANCE - REVIEW OF LTABC MEMBER POLICIES

By Sabrina Aven

The Land Trust Alliance of BC holds a group insurance program administered by AON Reed Stenhouse Inc. This insurance is available for all Associate Organizations and Land Trust members of the LTABC. Coverage for the group insurance program includes a mandatory Commercial General Liability Insurance, and Directors' & Officers' Liability Insurance, with optional Property Insurance and Accident Insurance coverages. We insure the Directors & Officers and Volunteers while working on behalf of the society.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance provides coverage for the amount the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as compensatory damages because of Bodily Injury or Property Damage that occurs within the policy period and coverage territory. Coverage can include defense costs in addition to the Limit of Insurance that is available. The deductible is \$1,000. and a completed application is necessary to calculate your premium.

The limits are as follows:

- \$5,000,000.00 limit per occurrence
- \$5,000,000.00 Aggregate Limit Products & Completed Operations
- \$250,000.00 Tenants Legal Liability
- \$1,000.00 Medical Payments per person

Directors' & Officers' Liability Insurance provides coverage for Directors and Officers against damages resulting from "wrongful acts." (This excludes acts of fraud or dishonesty).

A "Wrongful Act" means:

- any actual or alleged error, misstatement, or misleading statement by an insured;
- any actual or alleged act, omission, neglect or breach of duty by an insured.

It does not include any activity of an insured who is a member of a licensed or certified profession where such activity is related to the practice, whether on a voluntary basis or otherwise.

AON Reed Stenhouse Inc. offers an Aggregate Limit of \$2,000,000.00 with a deductible of \$1,000. A completed application is necessary to calculate premium costs. Bodily Injury or Property Damage

coverage is excluded as these are insured under the Commercial General Liability coverage

According to the *2000 National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, about 41 percent of Canadian volunteers serve on boards and committees. Many board members may be unaware of the legal ramifications of their volunteer work and the possibility of being held personally liable. The basic responsibility of directors is to represent the interest of the organization, their members and their constituencies in directing the affairs of the organization, and to do so within the law. A common risk management measure, and one that is particularly important in minimizing director's personal liability, is that the organization carry Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance. There is more information about this type of Insurance at Volunteer Canada's website: www.volunteer.ca/volcan/eng/content/board/program.php

Property Insurance – Optional Coverage provides coverage for loss to property owned by the Society for "all risks," subject to standard exclusions. Replacement Cost Settlement Basis applies, subject to 90% Coinsurance. There is a \$400.00 minimum annual premium to be eligible for the following coverage: Higher limits are available.
\$10,000.00 – Office Contents Limit (min)
\$5,000.00 – Equipment/Tool Floater (min)

Property Insurance is subject to a \$1,000.00 deductible for all losses except:

- \$2,500.00 Sewer Backup
- \$10,000.00 Flood
- 10% Earthquake Coverage

Accident Insurance – Optional Coverage Accident Insurance provides coverage for Volunteers while performing duties, excluding travel to and from their volunteer work.

The premium is based on \$1.25 per volunteer, with a \$200.00 minimum. Coverage includes Accidental Death & Dismemberment for the following:

- \$75,000.00 Principal Sum and \$250,000.00 Aggregate

- \$10,000.00 Medical Payments
- \$500.00 Weekly Indemnity (for Total Disability and a maximum of 26 weeks)
- \$500.00 for Dental Expenses.

For more information on acquiring insurance for your organization or to find out more about your current insurance plan either contact the Land Trust Alliance of BC at info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca or contact Darlene Knott, Commercial Account Representative with Aon Reed Stenhouse (Victoria, BC) at Darlene.Knott@aon.ca or visit their website at www.aon.ca for more insurance information.

**Outreach Project 2006-07
Public Promotion of Conservation
Landowners and Land Trusts**

Thanks to initial funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, VanCity and the Vancouver Foundation we have started this three part project. Our goal is to increase awareness of and involvement with land trusts and conservation in BC. Not only do the regional polls outlined on page 24 report that the public places a higher priority on environmental protection and conservation than either governments or previous polls have indicated, but a recent national poll indicates a similar priority: A March 2006 Angus McAllister opinion poll found that “84% of Canadians care strongly about saving the planet but wrongly believe that many of their fellow citizens don’t. They blame inadequate information and a lack of government leadership for their own failure to behave sustainably while assuming that others are not really concerned.”

Although the specific tools for protection of private lands have been available in BC for twelve years, there are still many people, including professionals who counsel clients on their land and financial investments, who do not understand nor consider using these options to protect lands important for the entire public’s health and economic future. An indication of this fact is that only 1% of donations in Canada in 2003 were directed toward protection of the environment. A more recent poll showed that only 4% have arranged for charitable bequests. Yet, there are many people who have stewarded and conserved their lands for future generations. We will bring their inspirational and practical cases to the public’s attention.



*Kingfisher feeding on sculpin,
photo by Todd Carnahan*

Part 1: Workshops in Three BC Communities

We will provide a regional meeting and workshop for land trusts and conservation groups where they can meet and network on regional conservation priorities. We will review with the participants our newly created resources, (the Conservation Lands Property Tax Info kit, the Baseline Guidelines, the Best Practices CD and the new Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices with the new Assessment Tool). If possible, we will also arrange to meet and present resources to relevant professionals working in the area. We will also offer to be part of a public presentation on conservation options. The public presentation will explain and promote ways that developers, realtors, land owners and others can help protect wildlife, habitat, agricultural, and riparian (water) values on private lands.

Part 2: Development of Case Studies: In

consultation with our members in these regions, we will arrange to meet and interview landowners who have signed conservation or stewardship agreements (in perpetuity) or who have donated or made a generous contribution toward the sale of their land to a conservation organization. The case studies will be presented in a Landowner Legacies info kit for future communications and educational use for all land trusts and conservation or stewardship organizations in BC. In future, it is likely that it will become the BC portion of a national Green Legacies project, currently being planned.

Part 3. Public Outreach - These interviews will provide case study materials that will also be used as the basis for articles to be published in local, regional and national journals and newspapers, as well as promotional website and presentation materials, and depending on funding and a final communications strategy, for public radio and television psa's or ads. We will also develop a full page ad which portrays "A diversity of people protecting a diversity of landscapes" which will be the key to our promotional materials, with a link to a map of BC showing where BC's land trusts operate and how to contact them.

We have held one workshop in the central Vancouver Island area, bringing together six land trusts and fourteen people, in addition to providing a short seminar to developers. We also had a brief meeting

with members of the Habitat Acquisition Trust Board in Victoria. In September we will be going to the North Okanagan, to meet with the North Okanagan Conservation Partners coalition forming there, and in October we will meet on the Gulf Islands. Briony Penn and Sheila Harrington have already interviewed a few landowners and we are very excited about some of the profiles that we have created so far. If you have a landowner you'd like to see profiled, please call us.

In addition, we have and continue to display exhibits at events, such as the recent World Urban Forum's Earth Festival, The Interpreter's conference at Manning Park, and at the recent Sarah Harmer concert in Vancouver - promoting our member land trusts and the public resources we have available, such as the Salish Sea Atlas.

Sample draft page from Landowner Legacies Booklet

Land owners

Bloomfield Flats – Conservation Covenant

Judi and Brian Bloomfield restored a salmon-rearing channel on their 20 acre property on the outskirts of Courtenay.



The Method
The Bloomfields donated a conservation covenant to the Comox Land Trust on 6.5 acres along the creek. This protected the creek channel and a buffer area, and it provided a wildlife corridor.





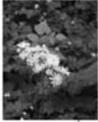
Natural

The riparian areas form part of the Millard Creek riparian corridor, allowing continuous passage from the Creek's headwaters to the estuary. The owners have sighted and seen evidence of large mammals including wolf, black bear, cougar and black tailed deer on the property, and the blue listed species - the Great Blue Heron. Amphibian, reptiles and abundant bird life were noted during the baseline inventory.



Leaving a legacy

Riparian corridors provide shade to keep stream flows cool, add nutrients, filter runoff entering the water, stabilize stream banks, and help control flooding.



We wanted to know that when we moved on in our lives, that the creek would still be protected.

Our land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve. The covenant was approved by the Agricultural Land Commission. The land trust worked with us to make sure we got what we wanted. They were very patient and creative. We can now move on, knowing we've done something to help future generations.

Features

The forest on the Bloomfield property is a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees with abundant sub-canopy flora that shades and buffers the Rearing Channel and Millard Creek, stabilizes the soil, filters run-off, helps to balance water flows and supplies wildlife habitat.




The Comox Valley Land Trust is working with the Millard Creek Stewards and landowners to implement this protection strategy through conservation initiatives such as the Bloomfield covenant.

Conservation & Stewardship Seminar Series 2007

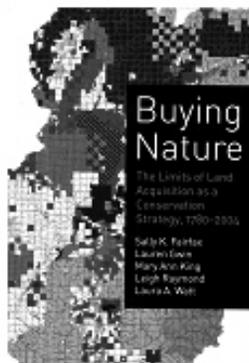
Cowichan Outdoor & Conference Centre

Special 10 year Celebration –

March 15-18 (to be confirmed)

Send us a proposal for a seminar, workshop, tour, or event

info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca by November 30th



**Buying Nature
The Limits of Land
Acquisition as a
Conservation Strategy,
1780-2004**

Sally K Fairfax, Lauren
Gwin, Mary Ann King,
Leigh Raymond,
Laura A. Watt

Reviewed by Les Bogdan

In this book the authors offer a comprehensive and intriguing history of U.S. land acquisition for conservation from 1780 to the present. The information and historical detail are sufficient to make it a field manual and possibly a standard reference in the fields of conservation history. The book draws us a picture of how the land conservation ethic has evolved from the very beginning and how these initiatives helped to define, support and drive policies in the United States.

What we can see in this book is how the initiatives and policies helped to drive conservation in the US and these programs helped to develop the framework for Canadian conservation organizations and initiatives.

As conservation organizations grew in size and in numbers they started to partner with the US government and eventually taken the lead in developing priorities and influenced policy makers to develop programs to assist in implementing mutually developed programs. The US government started to rely more and more on these organizations to help shape conservation initiatives.

This book should appeal to a diverse audience especially those concerned with conserving historic and natural resources. I found the author's analysis provocative and instructive.

I know this book will contribute to the public understanding of environmental problems, issues and policies of concern today in the US and it will suggest promising actions for the future, which could be interpreted and incorporated into future initiatives in Canada.

MIT Press, August 2005, 360 pp, \$25.00 illus

**THE GOLDEN SPRUCE:
A True Story Of Myth,
Madness, And Greed**
by John Valliant

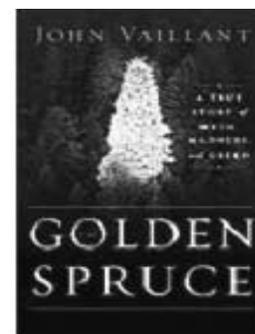
Reviewed by Sheila
Harrington

I wondered when I was two thirds through *The Golden Spruce*, and Valliant had

already described with vivid historical detail, the coming of the Norwesters, which led to the near dissemination of the sea otter and the Haida people, the history and character of the logging industry in BC, and the history and character of Grant Hadwin, the logger who cut down the legally protected Golden Spruce in Haida Gwaii to the shock and outrage of the world, what more Valliant was going to reveal?

My heart was heavy, as I had determined to continue through the book, the winner of BC's Roderick Haig Brown Award for contributing most to an appreciation of British Columbia published in 2005. The story had already impressed me with its level of historical detail, complete with quotes from early explorers, some of BC's first loggers, numbers and more numbers of the amount of acreage cut per year, amount of board feet squandered, and the rate, weight, trade names, and speed that a chainsaw can cut through a living tree. These descriptions were made with cold calculating clarity, something like the intentions of its main protagonist, who cut the renowned spruce as a dramatic statement about protection of specimen trees, at the expense of the forest.

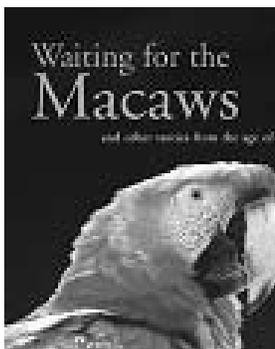
The story demands deep reflection. Valliant winning this award, in addition to the Governor General's Award, brings our attention yet again to the disturbing issues that plague our generation - the one which both Valliant and the Golden Spruce's faller wish us to consider. Why do we (including the Haida and every other culture) continue to willingly take the path of extinction, without slowing or changing our direction? Valliant offers a few suggestions: we can't see the forest for the trees; we only see our own short-sighted greed, need, and personal gain;



we think that claiming and taking is our only option; those in “charge” are professionals with little if any on-the-ground experience with wilderness or nature. I remember after visiting Carmanah for the first time thinking, if VanderZalm could only see this, he couldn’t possibly continue, like every other premier in BC has continued, to allow the cutting of old growth forests. But today, we do continue.

Valliant, originally from Boston, has written a comprehensive story, in a dramatically compelling way, that gives us an eagle’s view of the issues and characteristics of our beleaguered province that is

remarkable in one not raised here. I’m still left with my initial conclusions – BC needs continued, if not increased protection of its remaining forests, grasslands, deserts, and marine and wetland biodiversity. And the public’s psyches still need to understand something so hard to feel – at a gut level in everyday life. We are all connected, and what we lose today, will be felt by our children tomorrow. What we save today, will be there for our children to enjoy and to continue to protect tomorrow. Knopf Canada, May 2005 272 pages, \$35.00



**WAITING FOR THE
MACAWS**
by Terry Glavin

Reviewed by Karen
Hudson

Mayne Island writer Terry Glavin’s latest book (Feb 2006) *Waiting for the Macaws* is best explained

by its subtitle “and other stories from the age of extinction.” Terry Glavin, a well-known author, journalist, conservationist, and adviser to the B.C. Sierra Club of Canada, is well versed in the topic of extinction. His nine stories serve to illustrate what ecologists are calling the Sixth Great Extinction in the history of life on Earth, and what Glavin calls, “a time without parallel in 65 million years.” Here in BC we are no strangers to this global calamity as 86 species are listed as locally extinct, endangered or threatened, and 21 species are known to be extinct. “This is a book about extinctions,” Glavin states, explaining how “roughly 34,000 plants, or 12.5 per cent of all the plants known to science, are threatened with extinction. One in eight bird species is threatened with extinction, along with one in four mammals, one in three of all known amphibians, four of every 10 turtles and tortoises, and half of all the surveyed fish species in the world’s oceans, lakes, and rivers.”

Incredible facts about extinctions of species around the world are found in the stories, but Glavin also talks about the interconnected losses facing us. “Humanity’s diversity is similarly withering.

Though the world population has surpassed six billion, it is as though some savage ethnic cleansing is underway. The world is losing an entire language every two weeks. Fully half of the world’s 5,000 languages are expected to be gone, with all their songs and sagas, by the middle of this century. We are losing religious and intellectual traditions, entire bodies of literature, taxonomies, pharmacopias, and all those ways of seeing, knowing and being that have made humanity so resilient and successful a species for so long.”

Traveling around the planet, from Mayne Island to locales such as Ireland, Singapore, Costa Rica, and India, Terry Glavin seeks out the stories of the place and the human and environmental factors that are leading to extinction. He finds causes in the loss of habitat, but also in the global upheaval and dispossession of human societies as a result of rapid advances in technology, shifts in political power, and economic disruption. What Glavin finds are the stories of the places he visits, and by drawing out the people and their histories, Glavin gives us hope that by passionately caring, we may somehow conserve what remains of the living things of the world: “deep within the human consciousness is an ancient and abiding desire to be in the presence of flourishing, abundant, and diverse forms of life. Like the desire for narrative, enchantment with the beauty, utility and diversity of living things is an inescapable aspect of human nature.”

On Friday, September 29th, Terry Glavin will speak at a Salt Spring Island Conservancy educational event.

UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (CLTA)/ALLIANCE DES ORGANISMES DU CONSERVATION DU CANADA (ADOCC)

by Shawn Black

On Wednesday July 5th, in front of the delegates at the Valuing Nature Stewardship Conference in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Jim Smith, current Chair of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, officially launched CLTA/ADOCC. This was an exciting moment for all of us in the land trust movement in Canada. It signalled the end of a year and a half of work to form a national organization representing land trusts across Canada, and the beginning of efforts to get CLTA up and running.

The Mission of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance is to strengthen the land trust movement in Canada through education and training and to promote the voluntary conservation of private land.

CLTA's Objectives are:

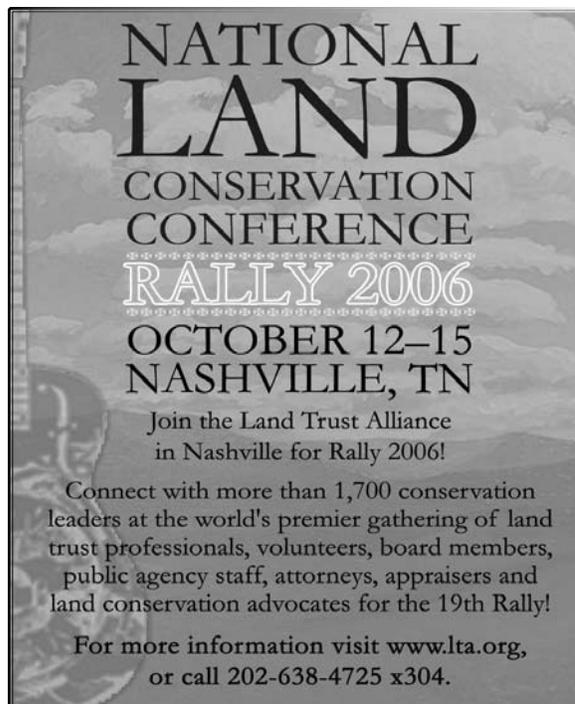
- To act as a united voice for land trusts across Canada.
- To promote and maintain public awareness and support for land trusts.
- To co-ordinate the flow and exchange of information, communication and networking among land trusts.
- To train board members, staff and volunteers for land trusts.

Programs:

- Promote and maintain community support for land trust activities in Canada.
- Provide training opportunities to volunteers and staff of member organizations, in both official languages, that will enable them to better accomplish the goals and objectives of their organizations.
- Develop and work with member groups to implement the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices to ensure the continued confidence of funders, donors and regulatory bodies.
- Represent the interests and increase the profile of the members of the CLTA with policy and decision makers at the national level.

With the mission, objectives, and program directions in mind, the CLTA Board has started to develop its committee structure, with the conference, governance, and communications committees already getting down to work. Other standing and ad hoc committees will come on line as we are ready for them. CLTA will be looking for volunteers to help with committee work, if you are interested in a specific topic or issue, please let me know.

One of the first priorities for CLTA will be to start organizing a national land trust conference, similar to the US Land Trust Alliance Rally. CLTA also has to address the issue of a membership fee structure. Given the nature of the land trust movement in Canada, this is a fairly complex question. CLTA is looking at models from the existing provincial Land Trust Alliances, and other national alliance type organizations for guidance and ideas. Watch for more on this, and other CLTA issues and initiatives in the future. Your thoughts, comments, feedback, and suggestions are always welcome.



NATIONAL
LAND
CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE
RALLY 2006
OCTOBER 12-15
NASHVILLE, TN

Join the Land Trust Alliance
in Nashville for Rally 2006!

Connect with more than 1,700 conservation leaders at the world's premier gathering of land trust professionals, volunteers, board members, public agency staff, attorneys, appraisers and land conservation advocates for the 19th Rally!

For more information visit www.lta.org,
or call 202-638-4725 x304.

May 2, Tax changes –Donations of Ecologically-Sensitive Land

The Eco Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect natural areas and leave a legacy for future generations. Since 2000, donations to approved conservation charities of ecologically-sensitive land, or easements, covenants and servitudes on such land have been eligible for special tax assistance. Previously, the standard capital gains inclusion rate was 50 per cent, and therefore the capital gains inclusion rate for donations of ecologically sensitive land to a conservation charity was 25 per cent.

In order to help Canada's landowners and conservation groups in their efforts to preserve Canada's natural heritage, Budget 2006 reduced the capital gains inclusion rate for such donations to zero. This measure will apply to donations of ecologically sensitive land made on or after May 2, 2006.

Donations of Publicly-Listed Securities to Public Charities

Donations to registered Canadian charities are eligible for a charitable donations credit (if the donor is an individual) or a deduction (if the donor is a corporation). For individuals, the credit for the first \$200 in total annual donations in a taxation year is calculated by reference to the lowest personal income tax rate for the taxation year, and the credit for donations above that \$200 threshold is calculated by reference to the highest personal income tax rate for the taxation year. To encourage additional donations of listed publicly-traded securities to charitable organizations and public foundations, read the full report: www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/docs/taxchanges06.pdf.

The revised version of the Personal Information Protection Act incorporating the recent amendments from Bill 30 - 2006: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2), 2006 is now available on the Queen's Printer website at: www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/P/03063_01.htm.

Lawyers for the Great Bear Rainforest

February 2006 saw the long-awaited provincial government announcement regarding the future of the "Great Bear Rainforest", a 6.4 million hectare area on BC's Central and North Coasts. The outcome? Protection of one third of the Great Bear Rainforest from all logging, sustainable "ecosystem-based" management requirements for the remaining area by 2009, and commitments for collaborative management with Coastal First Nations in new protected areas. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/31/04/01.htm>

March 3, Alberta suspends spring grizzly bear hunt while collecting data - Edmonton.

Alberta will suspend the spring grizzly bear hunt while DNA census data is collected throughout the province, which is expected to continue over the next few years. "While we pursue better grizzly bear population estimates, Alberta will take the most precautionary approach possible with the spring hunt," said Minister of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Dave Coumts. For more background info and copies of the documents that were released go to: http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/bear_management/index.html

March 21, - Leadership Council Open Letter to First Nations in BC: New Relationship Trust Act

The proposed legislation to establish the New Relationship Trust. A seven-member Board of Directors (composed of a representative from each of the Leadership Council member organizations, two Leadership Council appointees, and two provincial government appointees) will spend the coming months structuring the Trust, including: Gathering input from First Nations, Developing a 3-year strategic plan, preparing fund policies etc. To get more information on the New Relationship Trust Act go to: www.legis.gov.bc.ca/38th2nd/1st_read/gov11-1.htm

**Ministry of Environment, March 26,
INVESTMENT SUPPORTS WATERSHED AND
FISH MANAGEMENT**

VICTORIA - The B.C. government is investing \$190,000 in a number of ocean, fish and watershed projects across the province to help rebuild fish stocks and improve oceans management and water quality, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced today. "The B.C. government is committed to making our province a world leader in air and water quality, with the best fisheries management," Penner said. "Through partnerships with a number of agencies, these projects will help us reach that goal."

**Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, April 28
B.C. ANNOUNCES SPOTTED OWL
RECOVERY ACTION PLAN**

VICTORIA - The Province is immediately activating a \$3.4-million, five-year action plan to recover B.C.'s northern spotted owl, Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell announced. Based on the work of the Canadian Spotted Owl Recovery Team, the Province will act as soon as possible to initiate measures to re-build spotted owl populations.

**Ministry of Environment, May 19
B.C. INVESTS MORE THAN \$13 MILLION
TO IMPROVE PARKS**

VICTORIA - The B.C. government is investing \$13.3 million this year to upgrade BC Parks infrastructure and to acquire additional park land to improve the camping and day-use experience for park visitors, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced. "These improvements will help BC Parks provide first-class outdoor recreation opportunities," Penner said. "We made a commitment to upgrade our parks and we're following through on that commitment to make our parks system even better." For more information about a BC Park nearest you visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks

**Canadian Species at Risk Programs Receive
Continued Crucial Support, Aug. 3**

The Endangered Species Recovery Fund (ESRF) has recently awarded a total of \$713,291 to support 56 research and education projects across Canada.

The ESRF is a collaborative initiative led by WWF-Canada and Environment Canada. The funds support the efforts of scientists and conservation advocates working to recover Canadian species at risk. The ESRF sponsors high-priority conservation projects to assist the recovery and protection of endangered Canadian wildlife and their natural habitats. Among the 56 projects receiving funds in 2006 are Dalhousie University's study of entanglement risks from fishing gear for leatherback turtles, a Toronto Zoo assessment of disease risk for the black-footed ferret reintroductions in Saskatchewan, and the University of Alberta's study on protecting critical grizzly bear habitat relative to oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories. For a full list of the 2006 ESRF projects, please visit wwf.ca

Canada and B.C. Sign Infrastructure Agreement

the governments of Canada and British Columbia have signed a new infrastructure agreement that will provide \$102 million in combined funding, over the coming year, to projects in communities across B.C. For more info go to: www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006ECD0021-000826.htm

**Environment Minister proposes to add 42 species,
including the fin whale and ancient murrelet, to
the Species at Risk Act**

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, in consultation with the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announced her proposed recommendation to add 42 new animals, plants and fish to the list of species protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). More information regarding the Species at Risk Act is available on the SARA Public Registry on the Internet at: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Preparing Forest, Range Resources for Climate

Change: The Chief Forester has released a report, "Preparing for Climate Change: Adapting to Impacts on British Columbia's Forest and Range Resources," for public review and comment. The report recommends 13 short-term actions the Ministry of Forests and Range could take in response to the opportunities and risks associated with climate change. The report is available online at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/Climate_Change/

CONFERENCE BOARD: CANADA'S TOP THREE POLICY CHALLENGES

Resource management strategy to maximize economic benefit and environmental sustainability is one of the top three policy challenges for Canada, according to Anne Golden, President and CEO of the Conference Board of Canada. Challenge 1 is Canada's long-term competitiveness in a world of globalization and the growing economic power of China and India. Challenge 2 is the changing Canadian population, which by 2025 will have 20% over age 65, double what it was in 1980. Challenge 3 is the global demand for Canada's natural resources. A resource management strategy is needed. Canada must put climate change at the centre of such a strategy, work to meet commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, develop a comprehensive climate change strategy for beyond 2012 and "promote an honest and creative national conversation on climate change." Read More- Conference Board of Canada. e-library. Sign in. No charge to register. Some documents are free, others are sold. Go to: www.conferenceboard.ca/Boardwiseii/signin.asp (Search Inside Edge, and find Spring 2006)

RESULTS OF NATIONAL SURVEY ON ECOLOGICAL GOODS AND SERVICES

June 2006 - Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is pleased to release the results of the National Survey on Ecological Goods and Services. Over 1,700 Canadian farmers and ranchers were surveyed for their attitudes and behaviours towards ecological goods and services in an effort to inform policy development at the national level. For more info go to www.whc.org/

ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA, A Community Atlas – Wins merits and awards: the editors, writers and publisher, TouchWood Editions, receives the following Merits:

- BC Book Prizes - merits distinction as one of the five best works published in British Columbia this year, and
- BC Book Prizes - merits distinction as one of five works contributing most to an appreciation of British Columbia published this year.
- WINS 3rd PRIZE! For the 2005 BC Historical Federation Book Writing Competition on BC history

PLANET U places the university at the forefront of the sustainability movement. Questioning the university's ability to equip society to deal with today's serious challenges such as economic growth, democratic citizenship and planetary survival, it calls for a new social movement to take a lead in reforming the university - the world's largest industry. The book reviews the university's 900-year history from medieval religious philosopher, to Renaissance nation-builder, to its modern function as training grounds for the world's managerial class and the world's largest industry. It examines diverse campus initiatives across North America and Europe and their traditional concerns of green buildings, renewable energy and transportation demand management. But it also demonstrates the promise for social and ecological progress open to the "planetary university" once the university takes its place seriously and discovers its new mission: to create diverse models of local and global innovation centered around tough new questions about what universities - and their societies - can achieve.

GREEN REALTORS ASSOCIATION BEING FORMED: An innovative Vancouver Realtor is working with others to form a Green Realtors Association. Currently, James Rodgers manages the greener homes website, offering links and tips for green home buyers and sellers. <http://www.greenerhomes.ca/>

SMART GROWTH AT THE FRONTIER: STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

By Barbara Wells – a thorough report on "Smart Growth" initiatives and how federal programs can help increase their efforts. www.nemw.org/RuralSmartGrowth.pdf

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MOTORIZED RECREATION ON BC'S GRASSLANDS by the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC -This pocketbook is based on a document entitled Best Management Practices for Recreational Activities on Grasslands in the Thompson and Okanagan Basins. The document was developed with input from over 40 organizations, For more info go to: www.orvcoalitionbc.org/

Polluted Children, Toxic Nation: A Report on Pollution in Canadian Families - Polluted Children, Toxic Nation is the first Canadian study to test for harmful chemicals in children's bodies, and the results show that Canadians young and old are polluted regardless of where they live, work, play or go to school. For more info on this study go to: www.environmentaldefence.ca/toxicnation/press/inthenews/20051009ctv.htm

Report on Water Conservation Practices and Initiatives Released

The CCME Water Conservation and Economics Task Group has released An Analysis of Canadian and Other Water Conservation Practices and Initiatives: Issues, Opportunities and Suggested Directions, prepared by J. Kinkead Consulting in association with A. Boardley and M. Kinkead. Please see the following for details: www.ccme.ca/ourwork/water.html?category_id=84

Oil & Gas in British Columbia – 10 Steps to Responsible Development

BC is experiencing an oil and gas boom. As with most booms, however, the rapid pace of activity has not led to responsible development. Landowners, conservationists, First Nations, and labour share this concern, and have joined together to release a 10 point platform for responsible development in BC's terrestrial oil and gas industry. To read the full report go to: <http://www.wcel.org/wcelpub/2004/14100.pdf>

Quick Facts on Bottled Water - Members of the United Nations estimate that if the world took half of what it currently spends on bottled water (\$100 billion annually) and invested it in water infrastructure and treatment, everyone in the world could have access to clean drinking water. But bottled water is cleaner, right? Actually, the U.S. EPA sets more stringent quality standards for tap water than the FDA does for bottled beverages, and roughly 40% of bottled water is actually just tap water. A lot of the Canadian water is simply City of Vancouver water in the west or City of Mississauga water in the east. 1.5 billion barrels of oil are consumed each year to produce the plastic for water bottles, enough to fuel 100,000 cars. According to the Container Recycling Institute, only 14 percent of plastic water bottles are recycled. A water bottle in a landfill or lying around as litter will take over 1,000

years to biodegrade. For more info go to: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/Bottled020606.cfm>

Toxin-free treated wood. Wood treated by an innovative and environmentally friendly process will soon be available to builders and consumers for decks, docks, fences, and children's playground equipment. Environmental Science & Technology – For more info go to: http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2006/apr/tech/mf_wood.html

Protect ALR lands Three decades after its inception our Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) faces pressures that threaten our foodlands and compromise one of North America's most effective tools for protecting green space and limiting urban sprawl. "Protecting the ALR: Our Foodlands Under Threat." The ALR Protection and Enhancement Committee has received notable media attention for its recent report, The document is available for download here: <http://greenbelt.bc.ca/content.php?id=3>

Saving Small Towns IV Conference

More than 125 people participated in the Saving Small Towns Conference from Cumberland, BC. CIT Manager of Secretariat Services, Sara Muir Owen, gave a presentation about the Real Estate Foundation's CIT program. Kathy Dunster also gave a presentation. For more information website at www.cumberlandbc.net.

"Heart of the Fraser" campaign a new initiative is being launched, to better protect a key part of the world's greatest salmon river than the Fraser River in British Columbia. The "Heart of the Fraser" campaign focuses on the Hope-to-Mission stretch. The natural values of the Hope-to-Mission stretch are enormous. Visit the Web site to download a report and find out more about the Heart of the Fraser. www.heartofthefraser.bcit.ca

Georgia Strait Alliance has launched a free online pledge program for recreational activities on and around Georgia Strait and its adjoining waters. The program, called Stewards of the Strait, is geared to anyone who enjoys recreational activities on or around the Strait. For more info go to: www.georgiastrait.org/stewards/stewards.php

Biodiversity of British Columbia and E-Fauna portal update: One stop shopping for information on our rich natural capital here in BC. Developed in conjunction with E-Flora, UBC and many other partners this new portal is an on-line atlas and information warehouse on species and ecosystems in BC. More info go to:
<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~brian/Biodiversity/Biodiversityintroduction.html>

SOME USEFUL WEB LINKS

- Recycling Compact Fluorescent Bulbs:
www.nema.org/lamprecycle/household.ht
- Building Green PBS TV Series:
www.buildinggreentv.com
- Salmonopolis website: Updated breaking news, educational resources and advocacy alerts for B.C. salmon stewards. www.salmonopolis.ca/salmonopolis/home/soIndex.asp
- State of the Salmon, <http://stateofthesalmon.org/index.php>
- Stream Talk is now online at:
www-heb.pac.dfo-dpo.gc.ca/community/streamtalk/streamtalk_e.htm
- Innovation Canada: The Canada Foundation for Innovation's online magazine featuring some of the most exciting, leading-edge research taking place in universities and research institutions across the country: www.innovationcanada.ca/21/en/default.html
- E- The Environmental Magazine online - www.emagazine.com
- Great antivirus program that does not interfere with the rest of your computer – free for personal use and affordable for organizations: <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/2/lng/us/tpl/v5>

Events

Ecosystem Monitoring: Field Workshop
September 21-23, 2006. Radium, BC. FORREX, Parks Canada, the East Kootenay Conservation Program, and the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) are pleased to announce a collaborative, hands-on workshop on ecosystem monitoring. The workshop is designed for both practitioners and those new to the field. Workshop content will cover monitoring frameworks, indicators, measures, study design, and data archiving. For further details on these and other upcoming events, visit the FORREX Web site events page at: <http://www.forrex.org/events/events.asp>

If We Snooze, Do We Lose? September 29, 2006
Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Tools in the Thompson-Nicola-Shuswap- Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops BC. This forum will bring together climate change specialists and community members from a wide range of sectors to: learn about climate change impacts and areas of potential vulnerability, particularly with respect to implications for water and shorelines; exchange information and ideas about community adaptation tools, and; explore methods for maintaining collaboration and dialogue among the communities in the region, and among different sectors. For further information, contact: Sarah Weaver Kipp, The Living by Water Project: (250) 832-7405, or email: shorelines@jetstream.net

National US Land Conservation Conference
Land Trust Alliance Rally, October 12-15, 2006
Nashville, Tennessee. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the dynamic and rich educational program for the 19th Land Trust Alliance Rally! More than 1,700 land trust professionals, volunteers, board members, public agency staff, attorneys and land conservation advocates are expected to attend this four-day educational and networking conference. Half-day and daylong seminars will take place Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. Concurrent workshop sessions will take place Sunday, October 14, and Monday, October 15. For more info go to: www.lta.org

Ontario Land Trust Alliance 2006 Gathering
November 2-4, 2006
Kempfenfelt Conference Centre, Barrie ON
Meet land trust representatives from across Ontario who share common concerns, unique experiences and creative solutions for protecting lands. Full registration packages available mid September go to: www.ontariolandtrustalliance.org

The 2nd Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise will be held in Vancouver, BC, January 28 to 31, 2007. The CCSE Steering Committee is now accepting workshop proposals. The information and the proposal application form can be downloaded from www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/conference. Registration will begin in early September.

Message from the Editor - Continued from inside front cover

We believe these compelling case studies, stories, and the public media campaign will result in more public awareness and support for conservation and land trusts. Thus, conservation donors, conservation buyers, and landowners, including ranchers, farmers, and business people will bring stewardship and conservation actions to the forefront - protecting BC's natural and cultural diversity well into the future.

Please see our Update section for more news. The great news is the long sought after elimination of the capital gains on Ecological Gifts and reductions for securities given to charities. On the national front, the Canadian Land Trust Alliance is now duly incorporated. It will be a great opportunity to work with this national LTA, while retaining our made in BC programs and resources. We are beginning to plan the LTABC's 10-year anniversary and celebration for next year's gathering at our favorite location in Cowichan. Currently our Council is determining if we will go ahead with it at our usual March 15-18 timeslot (when the centre is available) or if we will make it later in May or June providing warm tours to protected sites. We hope you will participate and come share the tools and successes that have resulted in beautiful places, protected forever, for us, for our children, and for the continued life of all creatures. Our deepest thanks goes to those that really make it happen – the foundations and agencies, individual donors and ultimately, those generous and willing landowners – **thank you!**

LTABC thanks our members and supporters, including these foundations and agencies who are currently funding our programs and services.

- The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia**
- The Vancouver Foundation**
- Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada**
- The Victoria Foundation**
- The Endswell Foundation, VanCity**



**BECOME A MEMBER OR SUPPORTER OF
THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Member & Supporter Structure and Annual Rates

Land Trust Organization	Voting	voluntary org.	\$100
(sliding scale: suggested rates)		staffed org.	\$250
		regional/provincial	\$500
Business or Corporate Supporter	non-voting		\$500
Associate Organization	non-voting		\$75.00 plus \$50 for insurance option
Professional Consultant	non-voting		\$50.00 plus \$50 for website listing
Individual	non-voting		\$20 plus \$10.00 for Kingfisher subscription

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.

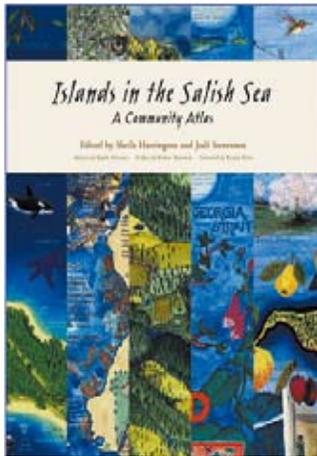
Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/city/island and Postal Code: _____

Amount enclosed - Please include **email and phone** if membership requested -





PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LTABC:

- ❑ *Property Assessments of Conservation Lands*, A Guide for Land Trusts and Landowners, includes case studies, references and bibliography of research on conservation land values, 2006
- ❑ *Islands in the Salish Sea* – A community atlas \$44.95 30 - award winning collection and guide to community mapping - 30 full colour maps 2005
- ❑ *BC Land Trust Best Practices and Template Documents* – CD of over 600 samples \$10.00 (free for members) 2005
- ❑ *An Introduction to Conservation Covenants*, A Guide for Developers and Planning Departments, 12 pages – reprinted April 2006, \$5.00 or discount on bulk orders
- ❑ *The Kingfisher*, Volumes 1-12 1999-2005, \$5.00 each
- ❑ Series of Four Introductory Conservation Brochures, revised 2005
- ❑ *Giving the Land A Voice*, Mapping Our Home Places, 1999, basic how to manual on mapping from a lot level to a community atlas, \$20.00
- ❑ *ON THE GROUND*, A Volunteers Guide to Monitoring Stewardship Agreements, practical manual with sample forms 2001
- ❑ *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

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

