

The Kingfisher



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LTABC The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

Children, Seniors and Nature:
from play station to protected site
What is a Whole Community?
NEW Conserved sites in BC

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

Published by The Land Trust Alliance
of British Columbia.

We are dedicated to the stewardship
and conservation of BC's natural and
cultural heritage. We provide education,
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Where the river bends: the Columbia River
cups The Fort Shepherd Conservancy
Area's eastern periphery for 8.3 km.
Photo: Bill Turner

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**LTABC IS TEN YEARS OLD,
WHY SHOULD WE CARE?**

When Sheila asked me to write an editorial it occurred to me
that this was an opportunity to review the 'why' of LTABC and
for that matter the 'why' of the many land trusts which now are
doing so much for their communities across British Columbia.

We have come a long way in those ten years. Ten years ago a
number of people who cared about their communities gathered
together in Nanaimo to establish our Alliance. At that time there
were three large trusts working across BC and a growing number
of regional and community based trusts (probably about a
dozen). But the energy was there. The people who attended this
inaugural meeting realized the power that land trusts brought to
their communities. The opportunity to make a lasting difference
based on grassroots values. They realized that governments and
even big national organizations could not do everything. They
realized that important places, special to communities, were
falling through the cracks. They also realized that there was so
much to learn, so much to do, and so much strength in working
together as community groups.

From that meeting LTA BC was established - the first alliance
of land trusts in Canada. LTA BC has provided our wonderful
annual Seminar Series' meetings which have provided not only a
place to meet and talk but a place to learn and be inspired. LTA
BC has researched and published a number of useful publica-
tions and is recognized in many circles as the spokesperson for
the land trust movement. Its role is recognized by the Canadian
Wildlife Service, the Real Estate Foundation and increasingly
the Provincial Government.

So what is the 'why' of land trusts? To me land trusts represent
the finest of community values. They connect people in commu-
nities to places that are special to them and to future generations.
As several articles in this issue detail, they also link kids to these
natural places and cycles – a must for the future of conservation.
It is rewarding work and it is making a huge difference. What
to me is so important is that these trusts remain grass roots and
connected to their origins. There is no better way to stay con-
nected to what matters in a community than to be of that com-
munity. Peter Forbe's article explores more of the why of this
in his article. This is why membership is so important. Land
trusts should not ideally be created from above (although there
are some very good trusts that have been so). Involving com-
munity is vitally important. I think of the great success of our
friends at Ducks Unlimited, where community volunteers work
through fundraising dinners and auctions to find support for their
important work in protecting wetlands. I think of the dedicated
continued on inside back cover

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SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT CONSERVING BC'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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FORT SHEPHERD CONSERVANCY AREA

Photo by Dr. Merlin Tuttle, BCI



*By Emily Nilsen and Kathleen Sheppard
The Land Conservancy of BC, Kootenay Region*

Follow the Columbia River six km downstream from Trail and eventually your paddle will dip offshore of the recently protected Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area. Formerly owned by Teck Cominco Metals Ltd, the 2,200 acre property has recently been donated to *TLC* The Land Conservancy of BC as a split receipt under the Ecological Gifts Program. The acquisition aims to protect the historic, ecological, and recreational integrity of the area.

The Townsend's big-eared bat is one of many rare or endangered species to call the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area home. Photo credit: Merlin Tuttle

This past September, with autumn simmering mildly overhead, a satisfied group of conservationists, community members, industry and government reps gathered on the eastern banks of the Columbia to celebrate the collaboration that finally secured the property. For the local community, the gathering represented over twenty years of efforts. As the new information post was unveiled, applause circled downwind with the spirit of bank swallows in flight.

HISTORY

If you had you gathered on the same grassy bank 140 years ago, you would have witnessed a different scene. The stillness that now settles upon the opposite shore once churned with the hands of traders, the clink of new metals, and the crackle of meat cooking over an open fire.

As with boom and bust businesses that were typical of the Kootenays, Fort Shepherd's history as a functioning

trading post was tainted with erratic use. The Fort was originally built by Hudson's Bay Company in 1857 in response to the surveying of the 49th parallel. However, lack of suitable land for farming and settlement hobbled the Fort's success as a trading post and in 1860 its shutters were closed.

The discovery of gold in the neighbouring Pend d'Oreille River and the subsequent Kootenay gold rush allowed the Fort to reopen in 1863. Two years later the Dewdney pack trail was built from Wild Horse Creek to Rock Creek to enable travel to the gold fields. During this time, Fort Shepherd once again became an important trading and stopping post. However, the gold rush was short-lived and the Fort closed for the last time in 1870. In 1872 the Fort was destroyed by fire; today a stone cairn is all that remains to mark the site.

The Lower Columbia River, including Fort Shepherd, was also part of the Sinixt people's traditional territory. In 1956, the Department of Indian Affairs declared the

Right: Fort Shepherd Hudson's Bay Company fort circa 1861. Photo: BC Archives



Sinixt Nation extinct; a declaration that failed to recognize small pockets of individuals who had fled to the other parts of their territory.

Prior to their significant population loss, the Sinixt used extensive trade routes known as grease trails. The Fort was a trading place for the Sinixt who used the flat benches along the Columbia River as a traditional base for hunting caribou and fishing from the river. They arrived and left the Fort by foot and sturgeon-nosed canoes, they took shelter in pit houses, and they used the expanse of wilderness to gather wild plants for food and medicine.

Understanding how human hands have shaped our landscape gives invaluable cultural and historical insight. The creation of the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area allows us to continue learning from the land, and will provide an excellent venue for future education and research.

ECOLOGY

The Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area is the largest intact area of the very dry warm Interior Cedar Hemlock biogeoclimatic subzone (ICHxw) in British Columbia. Beyond the riverbank, the tapestry of land weaves itself into ecologically important features. Dry slopes, open benchlands, meandering forests, snags, rocky cliffs, crevices, and caves are all important wildlife habitats found in the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area.

Animals are defined by their habitat; scroll through a list of species found in Fort Shepherd and the landform diversity will become apparent. Black bears, moose, mountain goats, river otters and bobcats share this unique area with squirrels and chipmunks. Nine species of bats (including the rare Townsend's big eared bat) take advantage of the warm, dark ledges and caves. Reptiles such as the alligator lizard and the rubber boa sun themselves on the rocky outcrops. Racers and western skinks, both rare species, have an array of hiding places to shirk predators. Stream and riverbank detritus also provide ample cover for amphibians, including the Columbia spotted frog and the Pacific tree frog.

Advice to the visitor: bring binoculars. Sixty-five birds choose to make both year-round and seasonal homes in this area. Songbirds include the Lazuli bunting, the common nighthawk, and the bank swallow (the river-cliff's springtime tenant). As for birds of prey: the red-tailed hawk's startling cry will cause visitors to look skyward; the merlin's unabashed nature will attract the visitor's eye; and the northern saw-whet owl has potential to be viewed after dusk. The great blue heron and canyon wren have also been observed; both are considered rare species in BC.

As a protected area, the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area allows several ungulate species to spend winters nestled beneath the benchland's Ponderosa pines without the stress of impending development. For white-



Donations are still needed for Fort Shepherd and other projects. Go to conservancy.bc.ca to find out how you can help.

A collaborative handshake: (from left to right) Bill Turner - The Land Conservancy of BC, Graham Kenyon - Trail Wildlife Association, and Mark Edwards - Teck Cominco Metals Ltd, shake hands in front of the newly acquisitioned Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area. Photo credit: Teck Cominco Metals Ltd.

tailed deer, mule deer and elk, the winter rangelands here are ideal (class 1 and 2). Habitat located in the very dry warm Interior Cedar-Hemlock subzone means less precipitation than surrounding areas, less snow for hooves to sink into, more exposure to grasses, and thus greater survival potential for grazers.

Providing an aquatic element to the area, the last free-flowing section of the Columbia River within BC cups the eastern periphery for 8.3 km. Whether the moving water is tinted an appealing blue or dimly subdued with silt, as many as sixteen species of fish flash their scales in the current. The endangered white sturgeon and Umatilla dace are both found here.

RECREATION

Although the bordering land is not currently protected, the Conservancy Area is large enough to both protect the ecological values and provide ample room for wanderings. The recreational value of the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area has not been overlooked. Located in close proximity to the town of Trail, the area is integral to the local people who hunt, fish, hike, ride horses and picnic on the property. Listening to Sheppard creek as it trickles over rocks, tightening boot laces to follow mysterious animal tracks, or watching steam curl off the horse's back after a winter ride



Mule Deer photo: Cornelius Iwan

– such experiences play an invaluable role in continuing public stewardship.

Due to the rarity of its features (including the three-fold cultural, historical and ecological importance) the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area has been deemed the most important land acquisition in the West Kootenay region. Management of this valued piece of property will be a challenge into the future. The Land Conservancy of BC and the Trail Wildlife Association have agreed to work cooperatively in developing an effective long-term management plan that will protect this unique property for years to come.

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CENTRAL PARK ON DENMAN ISLAND



Written By John Millen

Wetland in Central Park Photo: G. Thornton

In late September 2006 Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) purchased 60 hectares of land in the middle of Denman Island. We call it Central Park. Along with ownership of the property came our Central Park Vision, which entails the eventual protection for conservation and public use, of an area comparable in size to Central Park, New York. The Vision encompasses 300 hectares of contiguous lands stretching 5 kilometres from the middle of the Island northward to Chickadee Lake. DCA's work, over many years, has made this Vision a real possibility.

THE LONG MARCH

The first major action of the newly formed society in 1991 was to raise funds and to buy the 2 parcel, 9-hectare Pickles Road Woods, which was then transferred to the Islands Trust Fund (ITF) for preservation. Adjacent to an existing 23-hectare Crown reserve surrounding a large beaver pond, these parcels make up the Inner Island Nature Reserve.

The society was heavily engaged for the next ten years in securing the Lindsay-Dickson forest in the southeast of the Island, now also owned by the ITF.

In 1997 forests covering one-third of Denman Island were bought by 4064 Investments Ltd. The company immediately commenced wholesale clearcutting. One of the most valuable parcels in their holdings was the 32-hectare Chickadee Lake parcel that became the priority for DCA. After two unsuccessful offers to purchase it had been made to 4064, and two large pledges dedicated to the Chickadee Lake project had expired, this property was recognized as out of DCA's reach in 2004.

Meanwhile, in August 2000, DCA purchased the 2.5-hectare parcel now called Winter Wren Wood. It abuts the Chickadee Lake parcel, links to Crown owned Chickadee Place that protects the west side of the Lake and to a Crown quarter section to the south.

Logging activities by 4064 Investments Ltd in 2000 led to a legal suit launched by DCA, which had been assigned contractual rights from a previous owner. The suit asked for implementation of terms of 4064's purchase contract that required establishment of covenants on two sensitive parts of the land. This suit was finally settled, out of court, on November 6, 2006. In addition to the placing of conservation covenants on the Komas

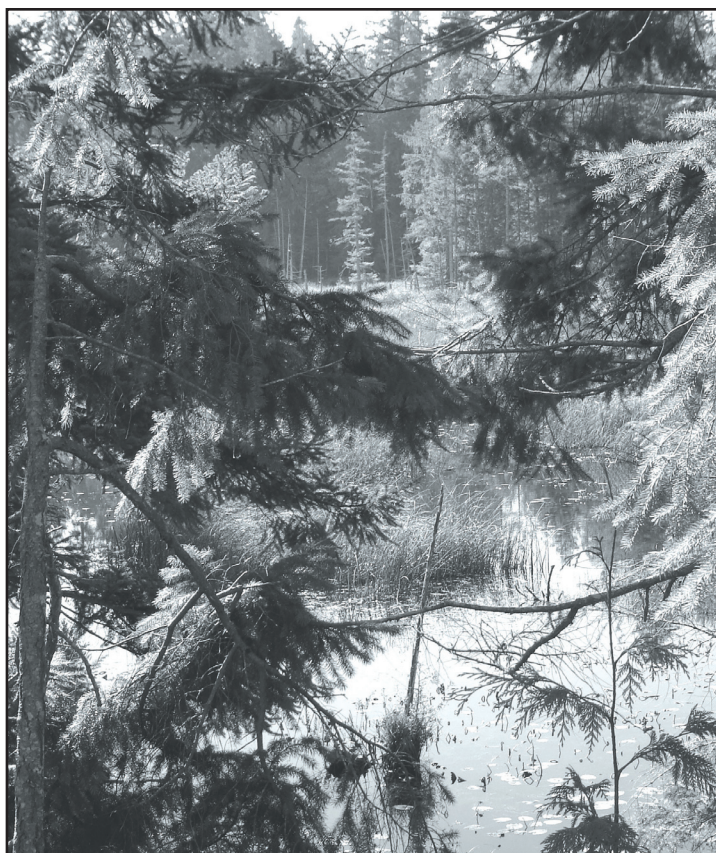
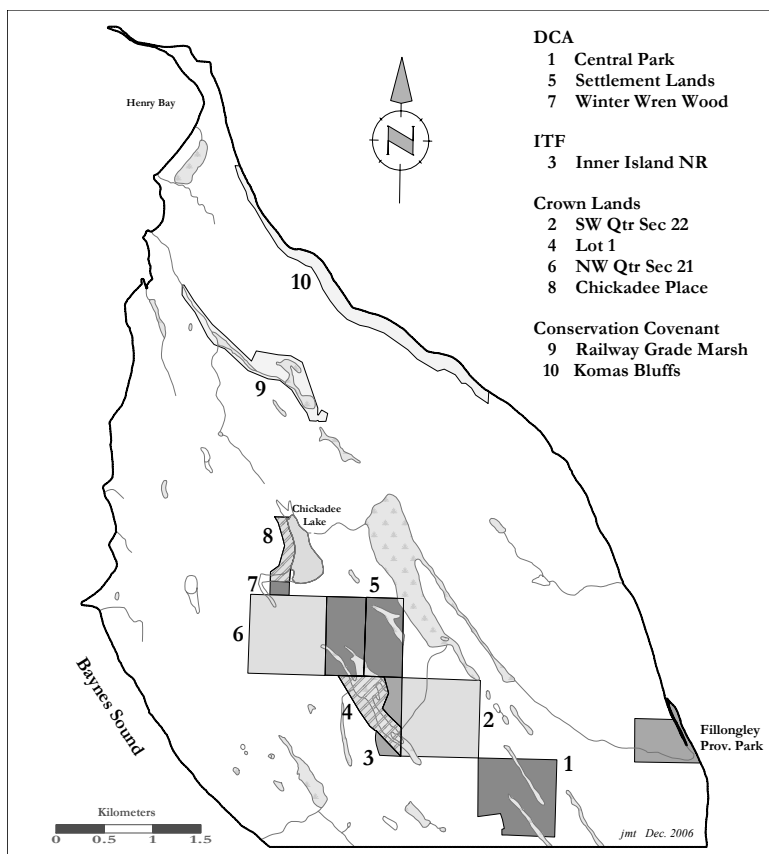
Bluffs and the Railway Grade Marsh, the settlement included the transfer of title to DCA of two adjacent 32-hectare parcels now called The Settlement Land.

Two blocks requiring protection to complete the Central Park Vision are both quarter sections of Crown Land. As well there is the question of the privately owned 32-hectare Chickadee Lake parcel, which was not logged by 4064.

CONSERVATION AND SOCIAL VALUES

Inner Island N.R., Winter Wren Wood and the large Crown-owned blocks have mature second growth fir-dominated forests. Winter Wren Wood is adjacent to an extensive wetland at the head of Chickadee Lake. Inner Island Nature Reserve is on two sides of the beaver pond with the Settlement Land enclosing the northern end of that pond. Trumpeter Swans visit the pond in winter.

The Settlement Land and Central Park were logged in about 2000. Their forests will eventually mature as the Coastal Douglas-fir type,



increasingly rare in our region. Each contains significant wetlands with remnants of the forest in their riparian areas. Central Park is agricultural land with a good site index for tree growth and the regeneration there is very satisfactory. Part of the Settlement Land, in the rich Beadnell Creek lowlands, has been farmed and its restoration will be considered.



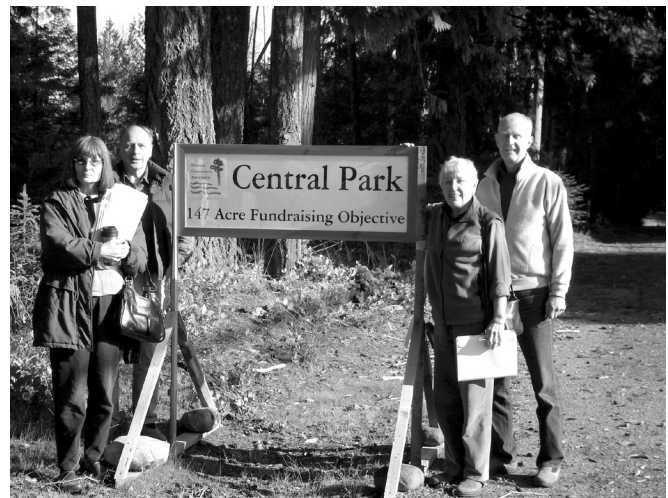
Almost a century ago a logging railway was built, which traversed from the shore of Baynes Sound to near Chickadee Lake and then through the Crown and Settlement Land to south of Central Park. Much of the old hand-built alignment is still traceable. The recent land acquisitions offer the possibility of resurrecting this 5km route as a recreational trail. Existing walking trails are open to the public in Central Park.

right: Beaver Pond on the Settlement Lands, Crown Land in background, J Millen
above: Eagle in Central Park, Dennis Forsyth

Help Protect Central Park on Denman

DCA is continuing with fundraising to pay off the mortgage on Central Park over the next five years. The organization is anticipating a major shift in its activities towards management of land and covenants.

The Denman Conservancy Association is a volunteer organization of approximately 200 members formed to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the natural and human environment of Denman Island. DCA organizes nature walks and workshops and has sponsored streamkeeping and stewardship programs. It is a registered charity. For further information on DCA, the land it manages and its activities visit www.denmanis.bc.ca/



Four Board members after yet another meeting Photo by John Millen

PROTECTING THE WEST CREEK WETLANDS

by Tamsin Baker, Vancouver Region, TLC



West Creek Wetlands, photo: Heather Skydt

In the summer of 2004, TLC The Land Conservancy of BC was approached by members of the Glen Valley Watersheds Society and the Langley Environmental Partners Society to help save the West Creek Wetlands in the Township of Langley. The community became concerned about the future of the site when they saw a For Sale sign appear. This largely forested 66 hectare (163 acre) parcel of land is located close to the intersection of 264th Street and 72nd Avenue, north of the Trans Canada Highway.

The property is special for a couple of reasons. First, it is a large, relatively undisturbed greenspace – one of the largest unprotected areas of natural vegetation in the municipality. Second, it is unique because of the variety of habitats. The area contains several creeks, a large shallow-water wetland and a bog. Nearly 170 different species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, 22 of which are endangered or threatened, call this area home. The main channel of West Creek



West Creek Beaver
Pond and mushrooms,
photos by Tamsin



runs through the property; this creek is one of BC's 14 designated "sensitive streams," with healthy stocks of Coho and Chum salmon and small but stable populations of resident and sea-going Cutthroat Trout. Wood Duck Lake, in the northern half of the property, contains an active population of beavers.

Wetlands are at risk from development in the increasingly suburban landscape of the Fraser Valley. 80% of the Fraser River Basin's wetlands have already been lost. Wetlands are vital to the overall environmental health of this area, retaining water for recharging aquifers, acting as natural filters for sediments and contaminants, and providing critical habitat for wildlife, including those insects and birds that play an important role in pollinating plants and controlling pests.

By the summer of 2006, TLC was able to secure an agreement with the vendor to purchase the site. The property is valued at \$3.6 million, but the vendor was willing to sell it as parkland for \$2.5 million cash and a \$1.1 million tax receipt. In the fall of 2006, TLC launched a public campaign to raise \$150,000 of the funds needed through individuals and businesses. As of late December the property has been purchased and saved thanks to the generous support from the local community and all the

various funding partners involved. For updates on the campaign and to find out more about all the partners involved, visit www.conservancy.bc.ca.

Once protected, the site will be managed as a nature park with low-impact facilities, including walking trails, boardwalks and bird viewing areas. It has great potential for educating students, families and the general public on the importance of nature in supporting our way of life.

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707-ACRE RECREATION AREA SECURED ON GABRIOLA ISLAND

Kerry Marcus, Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

By 2004, access to many well used trails and wilderness areas on vacant private land on Gabriola Island were fast disappearing as properties were sold and developed. At that time a small group of people with a common concern and a proactive interest got together and formed the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust or “GaLTT”.

Glenna Borsuk and Don Gately of Center Stage Holdings Ltd had owned a spectacular view property of approximately 300 acres overlooking False Narrows for several years. Glenna was also very interested in the concept of a large park on Gabriola. Mike Jenks held a large block of forest land for sale in the center of the island. Gabriola’s Official Community Plan had defined a density transfer option since 1997, however no one had submitted an application, and the process was untried. The density transfer rezoning application submitted by Centre Stage Holdings in 2005 proposed 707 acres (284 ha) of the Jenks forest land for park in exchange for 35 densities to transfer to their 300 acre subdivision development.

The “707 acres”, (as yet unnamed), is a “young” forest that has supported many logging operations over the years. Some argued that it was worthless as park. However, with the process of regeneration well underway, it will be a forest again. Hikers, cyclists and horseback riders have long enjoyed the extensive system of old trails and logging roads that connect many neighbourhoods. There are some lovely panoramic views to be enjoyed while the forest is young, a small wetland, an eagle nesting area and nicely regenerating forest. Eagles, ravens and hawks are common sites, and deer are plentiful.



The opportunity to secure a 700 plus acre park, a park nearly the size of Stanley Park, was unlikely to come again on Gabriola. Securing the conservation of this land for current and future generations seemed an important legacy that caught the interest and imagination of many in the community.

As participants in a broad community process, GaLTT encouraged members and the public to get informed and involved in this important decision through flyers, letters, presentations, and petitions. The Gabriola Land Conservancy co-hosted a well attended community walk with GaLTT to help raise awareness of the significant environmental value of the 707 acres and a future forest.

The application was accepted by the Islands Trust. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) now holds the land as a community park for Gabriola, with covenants planned to further protect key areas. A community management planning process in 2007 or 2008 will help to refine the community’s interests and the permitted uses under the new “wilderness recreation” zoning. Thanks to the vision, patience and determination of three land owners, the Islands Trust, the RDN and many supporters, 707 acres of gulf island forest land is secured for future generations to once again enjoy a mature forest in the years ahead.

Gabriola’s protected area has increased from 70 ha in 2004 to near 419 ha in 2006 with the completion of the “707” density transfer and a Crown land grant of 65 ha of mature forest to the Islands Trust Fund.

Excerpt from:

WHAT IS A WHOLE COMMUNITY: A LETTER TO THOSE WHO CARE FOR AND RESTORE THE LAND

by Peter Forbes

Editors Note: The following is excerpted with permission from a 57-page letter that was distributed in every bag at the last US LTA Rally in Tennessee. It gives us food for thought, as we move into a New Year, working with communities and land trusts in British Columbia. Photo right: Barbara Moore

This is the time of our becoming. As a community of people who care about the land and about our relationship to it, this is a moment of opportunity. It is that community I address.

What we care about and what we stand for is powerful medicine for what most ails our planet. Within the land and within acts of restoration and conservation are essential clues for how to live joyfully and responsibly in a world being torn asunder. But our country will never taste what we ourselves are afraid to put on the table. The work of conservation is bigger and more important than our smaller interests in easements, acres, plans, dollars, and tax benefits. What was once a movement guided by passion, vision and values is in the process of being reduced to a technology – even, merely, to a commercial enterprise. The true benefit and skill of land conservationists is our ability to put on the table a feast of values that reminds every American of what is healthy, what is fair opportunity, what is beautiful and meaningful, and what it means to be in relationship.

It will take our greater selves to realize that this moment of becoming asks something entirely different of us. This call is not to do more and to be bigger, but instead to pause long enough to reconsider the very questions that motivate us: Why and for whom do we do our work? Who do we want to be? What is our purpose? Where are we on purpose and off purpose? What keeps us from being more open to the claims of others? Who are our allies and what will it take to join their side? When did we replace wisdom with data and information? What tastes like truth today?

By asking ourselves what matters most and then being courageous enough to find fresh answers based on that truth, we are elevating conservation and restoration from a technology to a life-affirming wisdom. One thing is

certain: as things now stand, we cannot possibly restore or conserve all the lands that need our attention or even that meet our own stated goals. American conservationists have been enormously successful in protecting land, marshalling the money and skills to purchase more than 14 million acres of land in the last decade. But are Americans any closer to that land or to the values that the land teaches? To what degree have our conservation efforts created a balanced and healthy American culture? Today, the average American can recognize one thousand corporate logos, but can't identify ten plants and animals native to their region. Despite important examples to the contrary, neither the values of the land nor the creatures of the land are flourishing in America.

For too long, we conservationists have lived on the moral and spiritual capital of our past. In conserving and restoring our relationship to the land, we must also express our own spirit and a moral voice that knows, and cares, and responds. It's time to seek a fresh perspective on what was said thirty and sixty years ago by heroes like Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. What do MaVynnee Betsch, John Francis, Miriam MacGillis, Jeanette Armstrong, Vine Deloria and Will Allen ask of us today? Do you know who these heroes are?

A new model of conservation is taking hold across the country that is intentionally and successfully bridging divides by showing that people, land and community matter most. This effort to honor land and people treats relationship as important as place, inspires action rather than demands it, and is linked by values rather than divided by strategies and geography. This endeavor speaks to urban and rural people and asks them alike, what is a whole community and how do we get there?

It doesn't matter if you call this work "finding the radical center" as they do in the west or "building whole

communities” as we do in the east. We’re inspired by different circumstances but held together by common principles:

- Whole thinking: the commitment to look freshly at problems and to think and act with the whole system in mind

- Relationship is as important as place

- Commitment to grappling with issues of race, power and privilege, and understanding our personal connection to these issues

- Redefining success: commitment to finding shared meaning and values and new definitions of success as a source for deep collaboration.

- Telling our stories and inspiring action, not demanding it.

THE CONTEXT FOR CHANGE

The world is changing and conservationists shouldn’t be left behind. We are part of a different community today than when the modern land conservation movement was born. The Latino population in America has risen by 58 percent in the last decade; almost 80 percent of Americans now live in metropolitan areas; wealth has been concentrated to such a degree that the top one percent of the U.S. population now controls one-third of the nation’s wealth, creating a dangerous and immoral divide between haves and have-nots.... Today, our culture builds more malls than high schools, produces more prisoners than farmers, and develops land at the warp speed of 267 acres per hour. These are the everyday realities of American life. As we aspire to speak to more Americans we must understand that they are waiting first for our responses to these truths.

As conservationists, we must make visible the ethics that guide not only how we work but why and for whom. We must also invest further in an authentic process of grassroots engagement. Finally, we need to find new approaches to our work simply because no

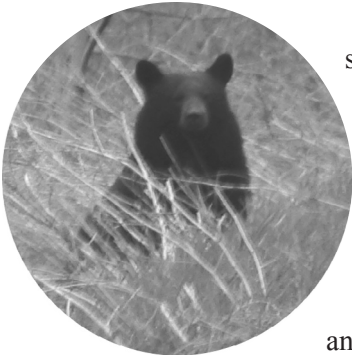
property boundary will ever survive a suffering humanity. We speak of “protecting” land through conservation easements or fee acquisitions but how do these tools “save” land from climate change, acid rain, or a public that simply no longer cares? To be truly meaningful and enduring, the work of conservation must be grounded not just in legal statutes, but in peoples’ hearts, minds and everyday choices.

A VISION FOR CONSERVATION

Many land conservation organizations want to act, and have acted, as more mature public citizens. They have done so by redefining for themselves what matters most and then leading with those values first. Conservation’s real goal is bigger than biological diversity, bigger than smart growth, bigger than urban greening. It’s bigger than wilderness designations or food security. It’s even bigger than the 14 million acres conserved in the last decade. The real success of land conservation is the power of all of the above to positively re-shape what wealth means. Real success is conservation’s ability to re-define for all people their health, their relationships, and their sense of fairness by joining with all of the other groups connected to the land movement – community revitalizers, environmental justice activists, public health advocates, green businesss – to transform communities and culture.

Conservation can play an essential role in creating healthy, whole communities by building more enduring relationships between people and the land. That relationship, as nurtured in our choices about how we eat, live, work and play, is the foundation for a more tolerant, generous and inclusive culture. By collaborating more effectively with others, we can combine core competencies to convert abandoned and polluted city land into parks, urban gardens and affordable housing. We can encourage farmers’ markets and create community-supported agriculture that links rural, suburban and urban populations and connects people with healthy food and water supplies. We can bear witness to the connections between unjustly distributed urban green





space and the growing inequity between the health of white and non-white populations. We can create more lasting social and political support for wilderness. And we can demonstrate health, fairness and good relationship in each and every conservation project that we undertake.

This is the beginning of a shared vision for a practice of land and community restoration that speaks more compellingly to the range of issues confronting us today. Many conservation leaders are beginning to understand that the way to reach this vision is by building authentic bridges among the conservation, social justice, community revitalization, faith, public health and food security sectors.

This is a critical moment to re-define why and for whom land is protected in this country. And the most effective way to do this is to shift the question away from, “How much land can we protect, for how much money?” to a question that inspired, leader by leader, a new approach: “What is a whole community and how do we get there?”

The transformative power of conservation is in its ability to help us break free. Despite all the investments in the old system, conservation is capable of creating a transition culture, a fabric of relationships between people and places that can take the place of the old culture that is dying. Making these changes requires the conservation movement to leave the comfort of our past tools and successes and direct our formidable resources toward new ways of thinking.

Editors Note: The entire Letter is available through: <http://www.wholecommunities.org/pubs.html>

Communities in Transition

THE UNSTOPPABLE DEMOGRAPHIC: AGING-IN-PLACE AND LOVING IT

by hans peter meyer

Like the rolling of one year into the next, the inexorable changes being wrought by demographics don't get no respect unless we give them some special attention. In the Comox Strathcona Regional District, population growth is projected at approximately 42% by 2031, almost 5% higher than the provincial average. The 65+ population, on the other hand, will grow by almost 100%, to about 24% of the total population. In neighbouring districts, the numbers are even higher: Alberni-Clayquot 65+ will be at 29.5%; Cowichan Valley at 27%.

Why so grey so fast? Here, in the southern part of the province, BC Stats tell us, we enjoy greater access to services (especially in our larger centres), and a “more pleasant climate ... which attracts the elderly looking for a place to retire.”

Take a breath. The above stats are for regional districts, not municipalities. The global trend is for migration from hinterland into the centres. The same is true here. For example, in 2001 20% of the people living in Nanaimo RD were over the age of 65. Parksville was

at about 31%, and Qualicum Beach (tops in BC) was at 38%. Marketing has put the Comox Valley “on the map” – along with QB & Parksville – as primo seniors' tourist and retirement destinations. Like them, our local urban areas are growing greyer faster than the outlying areas of the region. The question remains: Have we done community planning to match the success of our marketing?

What does it mean when about a quarter of the folks in our town are 65+? It doesn't necessarily mean that we'll be surrounded by – or living in – care institutions or even patio homes. More and more of the elderly are healthier, fitter, and more active in community and employment and business than previous generations. Despite popular opinion, seniors are living longer in their single family dwellings (SFDs). They are “aging-in-place.”

This is a good thing – for the men and women who are staying in their neighbourhoods. It's also good for our neighbourhoods and communities. Community “elders” embody a rich resource. A deep well of volunteer ener-

gies and commitments, they are also a living repository of local knowledge. Aging parents and grandparents often play a significant role supporting and mentoring younger friends and family members as they make their first steps in business, home ownership, and raising a family.

Aging-in-place is one of the ways the community sustains and enjoys its “social capital.” Because it also sustains social support networks, researchers are saying that it reduces stress, and generally promotes healthy activities and eating. In this way having seniors stay in their neighbourhoods and homes also helps communities’ financial capital, offsetting some of the expected higher costs of health care.

But “social capital” isn’t just related to financial returns, whether in terms of family business support or keeping the lid on health costs, or volunteer contributions. It’s also about “local knowledge.” A favourite story of one of my mentors, former Mayor of Nanaimo Joy Leach, had to do with knowledge of “where the water came from.” Where she grew up, in Parksville, it was the old-timers who remembered the value of the first public water system, the volunteer energies required to build and maintain it, and the source of the water. In the ‘90s, Leach was decrying the endemic lack of local knowledge, the assumptions that the water, for example, just comes out of the pipe. The challenge today is both to plan for seniors aging gracefully in place, but also in a way that enables those of us who don’t know “the place,” its history and its workings to access this wisdom. Building “intergenerationality” into our communities, as Sechelt is striving to do in its current community planning, introduces a myriad of benefits – financial, social, and environmental.

A dozen years ago the conservation corner in my part of the world was sometimes referred to as the “grey-green gang.” This collection of greying individuals were “green” for a variety of reasons. They’d seen their community and region change, and were concerned for its

natural integrity. They now had the time and energy to be active on behalf of the natural amenities they valued. And – importantly – they had pockets deep enough and a view of events long enough that they understood the value of creating the legal and financial means to protect those places that were most important to them. Whether through bequests in wills, donations of land made for parks, organizing conservation covenants, or working on behalf of the local land trust this “grey green gang” was making – and continue to make – an disproportionate contribution to the conservation efforts in this region.

It will be interesting to watch how greying newcomers engage in these issues. For many, access to health services is part of a parcel of amenities that includes a mild climate and a beautiful natural setting. Having come from more urban and suburban areas, or from places like Alberta where the natural setting is much more subtle than Vancouver Island’s lush wet coast environment,

will they see the value in protecting neighbourhood forests, seasonal streams, wildlife corridors and pathways? For conservation organizations the value of seniors as volunteers, benefactors, and as sources of wisdom and local knowledge is inestimable. To support and enhance their ongoing contribution to community is part of a long term strategy for community well-being – and organizational well-being.



Marketing has put the Comox Valley “on the map” as a premier seniors’ tourist and retirement destination. New development Photo Sheila Harrington

The good news is that our elders are already, wherever possible, staying in their homes until late in life. The bad

news is that this happens mostly by default: we haven’t done much to actively support graceful aging-in-place. And it only gets harder as we fail to build supportive services and amenities into the many big development projects taking place around the region. These include: better transportation systems than the SFA (single family automobile); more affordable housing systems than the detached SFD (single family dwelling, often over-built in terms of size and lux finishings); and more sustainable engineering standards – ie. standards that encourage integration with natural systems, and are less costly to build and maintain. These aren’t just amenities that seniors will need; they are part of what is required for any urban centre serious about quality of life, sustainability

(in whatever measures you use: fiscal, environmental, social, cultural), and marketability. The benefits of developments that incorporate sustainability measures as part of planning for seniors' needs are myriad. They will be appreciated by young families, the "working poor" who underwrite the current service and tourism economy, individuals with physical and mental disabilities, taxpayers – including those who labour in the fields of conservation as well as those engaged in health care, and including those who fret over the financial bottom line. Finally, they will be part of enabling seniors to remain vital elements in their neighbourhoods.

For example, I know of two cases – one in Black Creek, another in Union Bay – where seniors were faced with having to move from their long time (in one case 40 years, in the other 50+ years) family home because failing eyesight meant loss of a drivers' license. Theirs is not a unique situation. And it doesn't just apply to them because of age. Public transit could be expanded and heavily subsidized – to keep the elderly in their homes, to give youth more access to the amenities (skateparks, recreation facilities, dances) they seek without getting into cars, to give short-of-cash

young families an alternative to subsidizing the auto industry. And, to help staunch the flow of financial capital that SFA's suck out of all levels of government.

This region recently extended public transit to the rural hamlets, but the service is not enough to support people's needs to remain active and engaged – and to get people out of their cars.

Development patterns can have a huge impact on how we provide and pay for services like extensive (rather than limited) transit, decentralized health and social services, etc. Once upon a time... there was an initiative to plan for village nodes throughout the region. This could have created the network of densities and services to sustain transit, provide water & sewage services, to protect green spaces, and potentially provide affordable (smaller, more compact, less costly to service) housing. A network of village nodes could have provided affordable housing options for seniors who were ready to leave their SFD, but not their neighbourhood or community. It could have given farmers local markets, made mar-

ginal agricultural land more viable. It could have helped people who'd lived most of their lives with neighbourhood streams and woodlots stay to enjoy – and care for – these often "under the radar," but nonetheless important, natural resources.

It's time to revisit the idea rural hamlets, dense but contained rural developments, as part of regional growth management strategies throughout the southern part of the province. Our communities and regions are becoming inexorably greyer, and more heavily populated. For those active in the fields of conservation, it may be time to look at strategies that combine development goals

(ie. graceful aging-in-place with attendant amenities) with conservation goals (ie. accessible green spaces, water and air quality). In various jurisdictions land trust organizations are playing an important creative and problem-solving leadership role. They are one of the tools for conservation-minded development.



Parks and trails that integrate with natural systems aren't just amenities seniors will need; they are part of what is required for any community serious about quality of life, sustainability and marketability. Photo Hans Meyer

In 25 years I will be in my early 70s. If the demographers are right, and I maintain my current regime of dancing & swimming & eating well (perhaps too well), I will be a lively senior. I will want to live within walking or wheelchair access to shopping, a health clinic, a coffee bar, a social centre, the forests, fields, and riverways that are on the edge of downtown. I will want to be able to visit my friends – of diverse ages – on a

regular basis. I will want to participate in my neighbourhood and community.

My dream is that my g-g-g-generation will be active in our neighbourhoods, supporting our kids and grandkids as they grow and engage the world, nurturing the places that make life here rich and beautiful. I see a graceful aging in decentralized urban neighbourhoods peppered throughout the region – making a serviceable network for transportation and health and social services and commercial activities throughout the cities, towns, villages, hamlets, and rural areas of the region. The "unstoppable demographic" is an opportunity – and a good reason – for us to do some serious and imaginative planning, development & redevelopment that underlines how conservation needs are connected to the social and financial needs of an aging population.



STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION ENTREPRENEURIAL BY NATURE

written by Tim Pringle

This is a shortened version of the paper I presented at the Valuing Nature Stewardship and Conservation in Canada, 2006 conference at Corner Brook, Newfoundland Labrador in early July. Valuing Nature was the third national conference of stewardship and conservation organizations, following Guelph in 2000 and Victoria in 2003. The Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (www.landstewardship.org) is the coordinating agency for the fourth national conference scheduled for July 2009 in Alberta.

Tim Pringle, Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation of BC

In this presentation, I argue that many Stewardship & Conservation (S&C) organizations could increase the level of financial and collaborative support for their missions by pursuing more entrepreneurial strategies to manage and deliver their services. This can be done well within their non-profit and charitable status and mandate to serve the public trust. This can be done without posing conflicts for the volunteer component that gives many S&C organizations their strength.

I should state that when referring to “Stewardship and Conservation”, I am using the definitions cited in *Hinterlands Who’s Who – Canadian Wildlife Federation*. Stewardship, in an environmental context, is the concept of responsible caretaking; stewardship is based on the premise that we (humans) do not own resources (ecological assets), but are managers of these resources and are responsible to future generations for their condition. Conservation means the preservation or wise use of the natural environment—including wildlife, habitat and the ecosystems of which they are a part; the use of natural resources in a way that assures their continuing availability to future generations.

Why this assertion? Because, the S&C workforce measures what matters: it addresses the extent to which Canada’s communities and expanding settlements consume natural capital at a rate that exceeds balance and replenishment. This work includes mapping and monitoring the condition of ecological assets upon local landscapes and taking action through education, land owner contact, restoration of the natural environment, citizen science and many other

required services. Notwithstanding recent perverse trends of meager funding for environmental non-government organizations (ENGOS) and their government counterparts, the S&C sector’s services ought to be in considerable demand.

The S&C sector harbours and develops critical expertise that governments and communities require to manage settlement change, particularly growth. Many of us see our landscapes under pressure to accommodate households moving to access jobs, pursue retirement, purchase a time share or build a recreation “cottage” or second home. We all have our own observations of woodlots vanished into rural subdivisions; wildlife depleted in our favourite landscapes; and questions about what may be on or in the produce that arrives from exotic places for sale in the local supermarket. The only thing super about these trends is the erosion of the ecological systems that we depend on for the well being of our home places. Who is counting, if not your organization and your colleagues? Now is the time for the S&C sector to step up and reaffirm its services to Canada’s communities.

The sector needs to devise and employ more effective marketing, including a consistent national message that conveys essential expertise of stewardship and conservation organizations. As well, the sector must advance Canada’s Stewardship Agenda. Three principles described in the agenda are key to this paper.

1. Stewardship depends upon collaborative action and local capacity and ownership-typically anchored by volunteerism.



PHOTO: LARRY HALVERSON

2. Stewardship programs are developed with an understanding of socio-economic conditions.
3. To the extent possible, stewardship programs ought to be based on long-term commitments.

Canada's Stewardship Agenda identifies a vision of Canadians working together and committed to sustaining our ecological goods and services. A unique component of this work involves measuring the debits and credits against the ecological account, from which we draw those natural life-support systems that sustain us. Canadian communities typically put the economic values of settlement growth before social and environmental values. The lack of metrics about the consumption of ecological assets to provide the life-support goods and services demanded by our expanding settlements is a chronic need across the Canadian landscape. S&C organizations are the experts for this work.

Based on the sector's expertise, there is opportunity to adopt a more entrepreneurial approach to securing operating and capital funds. For example, for the past five years, the Real Estate Foundation has made annual grants of \$35,000 to the land Trust Alliance of BC. The funds are invested not only because the Foundation wants to support the LTABC mission, but also to buy expertise. The Foundation appreciates the value of the research, education and training that the Alliance provides for its members and others.

Wildsight is involved in a multi-year project focused on monitoring and evaluating the health of Lake Windermere. The provincial and local government have provided project funding for Wildsight's management and expertise for the project.

What are the principle qualities that S&C sector organizations share with entrepreneurs?

- S&C organizations attract and develop human expertise, for both employees and volunteers, as described above.
- S&C organizations develop products and services through research, policy development and experimentation. For example, conservation covenant legislation for BC was developed through work of the West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation.
- S&C organizations need to attract capital just as do any entrepreneurs. For example, the last issue of the *Kingfisher* reported that the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservancy of Canada have collaborated to purchase 40 acres of ecologically sensitive land atop Mt. Erskine. The S&C sector wisely has initiated the "Green Legacies" program to enable Canadian household to reinvest in the land when estates are settled.
- Finally entrepreneurs have to market their products; they must find ways to differentiate or make credible claims about unique or foremost qualities of what they have to sell. The S&C sector provides specialty products and services, the foremost being the capacity to measure what matters. Local governments have pressing need for these services as settlement growth persists and irrevocably changes BC landscapes.

I believe that S&C organizations can choose to utilize entrepreneurial principles within their non-profit and charitable mandates. This argument does not fit every S&C organization. Whether an agency works locally, regionally, provincially or nationally will have a bearing on the extent to which it might use entrepreneurial principles. In any case, it is not enough for any S&C actor to claim that by providing an “inherent good” the community should give it money. There is a world full of non-profits doing good works.

I see three unavoidable challenges lying ahead for the S&C sector, if it is to advance its essential role in building and executing the vision of Canada’s Stewardship Agenda. Step by step, the sector must encourage and engage Canadians in actively working together to sustain our natural life-support systems.

The first challenge is measuring what matters. The Sightline Institute, based in Seattle, Washington, has taken on the challenge of measuring “to what extent northwesterners are secure and thriving, to what extent Northwest nature is thriving, and to what extent northwesterners’ way of life is benign in its impacts on nature and cultures outside the region.” Sightline points out that society is preoccupied with measurements of economic “growth” in the form of gross national product, cost of living index, financial market trends, etc. However, these indicators say little about a community’s social capital, or about the status of the environment’s capacity to support life – the ecological services that sustain us (our health and our economy). This concept of measuring what matters is taken up by Mark Anielski in a recent article in *Municipal World* magazine, April 2006. He asks, “How could we design a system of performance measures and management that aligned with our values and that measured the conditions of well-being of our households, the environment and our community as a whole?”

Much more work is needed in the vein of *Valuing Canada’s Natural Capital* (Nancy Olewiler; Ducks Unlimited, 2005) and *What’s in it for me? Exploring Natural Capital Incentives* (Karen Wilkie; Canada West Foundation, 2005) and *Safeguarding Canada’s Wealth: Bringing Stewardship & Conservation into the Economy*, LTABC 2004. An overview of this matter, from the point of view of strategy that the S&C sector needs to advance, is contained in “Making the Case for a Stewardship Communities Network for

Canada” (a working paper by Douglas Wolthausen; Wildlife Habitat Canada, May 2005).

Some basic measurement opportunities and strategies for the S&C sector are:

- To report, in quantitative and descriptive terms, to local, provincial and national audiences about the contributions of the sector’s work to the well-being of Canadian communities.
- To develop and adopt standards for the metrics that ought to be applied in the local landscapes to measure the debits and credits against the ecological account.
- To establish provincial and national standards for this work.

The sector needs to work with and expand the effectiveness of three national initiatives, the new Canadian Land Trust Alliance, the Canadian Stewardship Communities Network, and the StewardshipCanada.ca web portal, an excellent resource that the S&C sector ought to build up and use to support local and national collaborations.

The hard reality is that what gets measured gets managed. The latent liabilities of settlement expansion impinge on and eventually lead to intractable problems for ecological assets in the environment. Until measured, these concerns likely are unsolvable. The complexity that underlies this reality leads to the next challenge theme.

The second challenge is to understand that complex systems constitute what we refer to as settlement and ecology. Both of these are complex systems with



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webs of interrelated parts – subsystems. The subsystems that comprise settlement and ecology are poorly balanced. This reality is captured in the concept of the “ecological footprint” found in the work of Dr. William Rees. Without going into detail about the theory, it is apparent, as discussed earlier, that communities cannot better manage settlement growth unless potential and current impacts on the ecology are measured, monitored and understood. To be effective in reaching its goals, the sector must be able to focus its education and research activities in the context of the complex systems which its work must address.

The third challenge concerns strategies that might be adopted at the national level to build collaborations for the S&C sector. As soon as possible, the sector ought to form a strategic relationship with the senior environmental grant-makers in Canada through the Canadian Environmental Grant-makers Network. (CEGN). An immediate goal should be to gain support for the Stewardship Canada web portal, including the addition of content relevant to the work of the environmental grant-makers. With the leadership of two or three foundations, it ought to be possible to obtain multi-year support from the several CEGN member foundations for the Stewardship Canada web portal.

Not only would this strategy buildup use of the site for the S&C sector, it would focus the attention of the key Canadian foundations that support concerns related to the environment. The members of the boards of these foundations could become powerful advocates for the work and issues of the S&C sector organizations.


And finally, opportunity is embedded in the mutual interests of Canada’s charitable foundations—family, corporate and community—and the S&C sector to attract additional endowment and gifting for non-profit and charitable services that address environmental concerns. The S&C sector can do a great deal more to inform communities and the public about the critical tasks of protecting ecological assets as settlement changes and grows. Baby boomers need to be persuaded that support of stewardship and conservation charities is every bit as essential as health issues, education, and other dominant charitable opportunities. They will appreciate, from the income tax point of view, the advantages of the Ecological Gifts Program

This message and focus goes beyond the inherent good of the sector’s work. It embodies the expertise of the sector to provide a wide range of services to understand the status of ecological assets, protect economic and natural values of wetlands that technology can replace only at considerable cost, and so on. Governments, businesses and donors will understand this message. The achievements of Alberta Ecotrust, Manitoba Eco-network, Stewardship Ontario, the Land Trust Alliance of BC and many other endeavours are encouraging. However, the lack of national organization, research and marketing leaves numerous opportunities languishing.

Foundations will be attracted to a strategy that offers expert services for needs basic to community well-being. The attendant opportunity to attract new donors and estate gifts will be compelling. Collaboration with the foundation sector also will bring new issues to the mutual agenda with the S&C sector.

The stewardship and conservation sector has strength. It enjoys considerable public support. The staff and volunteers are Canada’s experts regarding protection of our natural life support systems. You must engage the Canadian public in helping the sector to expand its role to meet the pressing need for protection of our ecological assets.

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G R E A T T E A C H I N G . G R E A T P R O G R A M S . G R E A T F U T U R E .

**STARTS
MAY 2007**

LAND TRUST & STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR SERIES 2007

*10 Year Celebration of the LTABC &
The Conservation of BC's Special Places*

March 16th – 18th

The Cowichan Outdoor Education & Conference Centre

Hosted by:

The Land Trust
Alliance of  Trust
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With financial support from:



**Garry Oak
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How to Get to the Cowichan Outdoor Education & Conference Centre:

• **From Victoria, BC: ~ approx. 1hr 20 min (96km)**

Trans Canada Highway #1 North

Left at Cypress Street (Provincial Route Hwy 18) to Lake Cowichan

• **From Nanaimo, BC: ~ approx. 1 hr 20 min (96 km)**

Trans Canada Highway #1 South

Right at Cypress Street (Provincial Route Hwy 18) to Lake Cowichan

• 28 kms west of Duncan, BC

Cowichan Outdoor Education & Conference Centre phone #: (250) 749-6213.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, March 16th - Full day – pre-sessions: 9:30am – 4:30pm (includes lunch):

A. Garry Oak Preservation and Recovery 2nd of two conservation workshops with those from GOERT Plus Field Trip: Morning workshop, afternoon tours to Garry oak sites: Mt. Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve (BC Parks), the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve (NCC), Cowichan Garry Oak (in Maple Bay)

B. Planned Giving – Fundraising consultant and trainer Lorna Visser will provide you with step-by-step action checklists and critical information about receiving planned gifts. Topics in this session will include working with donors and professional advisors, Canada Revenue Agency requirements (e.g. disbursement quota), legal obligations, record-keeping, receipting and acknowledgement. Lorna Visser, Carmanah Strategies

C. Field Trips to Conservation working lands: The morning will be spent at historic Keating Farm, a new co-op and CSA farm owned by TLC – lunch and then the afternoon tour will travel to Wildwood, Merve Wilkinson's Ecoforestry site. (Ramona Scott and Jay Rastogi leading)

Opening Plenary & Banquet 6:00 pm

Special Guests:

First Nation welcome and presentation - Halakwii (Ralph Edgar) Dididaht

BC Government welcome - Honourable Minister Barry Penner

Conservation and Land Trusts: A 10 year Retrospective - Bill Turner

Banquet & Informal mixing & tour of conservation displays

Saturday, March 17th, 2007 (see next page for Seminars)

Morning Plenaries:

Robert M. Pyle butterfly ecologist, renowned nature writer and lifelong conservationist, received a 1997 Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology.

Bill Merilees zoologist and botanist, author of *Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to Know in Washington and British Columbia*, and recently *Newcastle Island: A Place of Discovery*.

Media Event:

Release of: People Protecting Places - Public Outreach campaign & celebration of the land trusts, people, and places that have been protected in the last 10 years including (launch of Booklet: *People Protecting Places*, 12 Case Studies of How BC People have protected BC Places, DVD with psa's, and more...

Evening Entertainment and Celebration:

This evening is reserved to relax, network and enjoy our creative talents as we celebrate our successes and our connections with BC's natural and cultural diversity. Following the Conservation Volunteer of the Year Award, there will be an evening of entertainment and fund hosted by Todd Butler, with an open mike - Bring instruments, poetry, and creative inspiration to share with all.

Sunday, March 18th (see over for Seminars)

The Land Trust Alliance of BC, Annual General Meeting and election of Councillors

SEMINARS (TIMING TO BE DETERMINED)

**For full descriptions of Seminars go to our website
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/seminarseries.html**

1. The Social Context of Communications - How do we build support for conservation in our communications and meetings with partners and others? Richard Kool, Royal Roads
2. Management Plans, Public Use, Signage and Donor Recognition - Management plans, public use access issues, and discussion on how to link our donor recognition with signs for future support. Christina Waddle TLC, Gordon Scott, WLT
3. Ecogifts & Appraisals - This seminar will provide a review of the Ecogift tax benefits, effective instructions for Appraisers, and details on how and what issues affect valuation. Ann Hillyer and Jack Miller, Canadian Ecogift Appraisal Review Board
4. Maintaining Status as an Incorporated Society and as a Registered Charity – Revisions, amendments to Incorporation & Bylaws, Reporting requirements, and new changes in Charitable and Society Act requirements. Anders Ourom
5. Ranching For Wildlife –This presentation will introduce and discuss concepts associated with meaningful collaboration between the conservation community and the ranching community in the East Kootenay Region. David E. Hillary, The Nature Conservancy of Canada
6. Covenants and Emergencies - Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and the Galiano Conservancy Association (GC) will describe how they dealt with a forestry covenant on Galiano Island during and after the 2006 Galiano Island Forest Fire. Kate Emmings (HAT) and Ken Millard (GC)
7. Working with Local governments – Ideas for partnerships with local and regional governments, case studies, including greenways and corridors in urban areas, and new Model Bylaws. Bill Turner, Tasha Sargent, Kathy Dunster, & Hugh Westhauser
8. Ecological restoration –Dave Polster will present an approach to restoration that uses natural successional processes as a model for treatment of degraded sites. David Polster, Invasive Species Council of BC
9. Ecological Vegetation Management - Dave Polster will present a strategy for the management of invasive species based on the ecological characteristics of those species and the successional status of the ecosystems in which they are found. David Polster, Invasive Species Council of BC
10. Businesses, developers and Ecogifts – This seminar will review some of the special considerations when dealing with potential donations from the development community and provide suggestions as to how development lands can be effectively conserved. Blair Hammond, Environment Canada, Ecogifts Program
11. Mapping and affecting regional/provincial strategies - The GCC will provide information on their priority grassland mapping, conservation targets and planning tools, and discuss solutions, and relationship building between agencies. Tasha Sargent, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
12. Enforcing Covenant Breaches - How to “cure” a breach. How / when to use the rent charge. Christina Waddle, Nichola Walkden, Bill Turner, TLC
13. Land Trust Public Outreach Campaign, getting our message out to media - With the current release and launch of the People Protecting Places Campaign, land trusts will be given a package of materials and tips on how to get our message out. Briony Penn
14. Land Trust Standards & Practices – Update - Including discussion on areas of difficulty, mandatory nature, assessments issues and look at the US Accreditation review process for reference only. Kathleen Shepphard & Sheila Harrington
15. Building Membership – This presentation will offer critical information and helpful hints on building membership and developing donors for land trusts. Karen Hudson, (SSIC) and Tom Arnold (TLC)

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Fee Schedule: After March 1st (ADD \$50 FOR LATE REGISTRATION)

Please check the items you wish to register for:

Pre-Session Friday (Must pre-register by March 1st)

All day workshops and site visits (includes lunch)

Members \$ 75

Non-Members \$125

Please indicate Pre-session you will be attending: (A, B, C) _____

Full Program: Friday evening opening and dinner – Sunday

(includes all Seminars, Meals, and Accommodation for Friday and Saturday night on-site)

Members \$295

Non-Member/Individual/Non-Profit Rep. \$370

Government/Corporate \$450

Saturday Only Rate (includes lunch)

Members \$100

Non-Members \$150

Saturday Add dinner \$ 30

After March 1st Add: \$ 50

Speaker Discount Subtract: (-\$ 50)

Membership:

Annual Membership Land Trust \$100 - \$500

Annual Membership Associate Org. \$ 75 - \$125

Annual Membership Individual/Professional \$ 20 - \$ 50

Amount Enclosed: _____

IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED, PLEASE INCLUDE DUES WITH YOUR REGISTRATION

Send By Fax: 250-538-0172

Or by Mail: 204-338 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3

Registration is open to all - For inquiries call 250-538-0112

FROM THE FOREST TO THE SEA - A WATERSHED JOURNEY

Barbara Moore, Galiano Conservancy Association

"To interact humbly with nature we need to be free and undomesticated in it."

(Julia Whitty, "Thie Thirteenth Tipping Point - 12 global disasters and 1 powerful antidote" Mother Jones 2006)

I watch a group of excited Grade 5 Students from Queen Alexandra School in East Vancouver scrambling off the ferry and clambouring onto the bus at Sturdies Bay on Galiano Island and I feel the tingle of transformation in the air. This will be a memorable day of firsts for most of these children as they explore the rich intertidal life at Montague Park. The colours of sea stars, the slimy texture of a sea cucumber, the deceptive beauty of an anemone – nothing in 'Finding Nemo' or 'Sponge Bob' has prepared them for the reality which may be a bit daunting and much more exciting than cartoons.

'What a Marine Life' is one of five 'From the Forest to the Sea' Environmental Education programs that the Galiano Conservancy offers to urban youth and particularly those from inner city schools in the Greater Vancouver and Victoria areas. Other choices are 'Sylvan Secrets, What Happened to Laughlin Lake? Healthy Streams and Adventures at the Great Beaver Swamp'. All our programs take place in protected areas - provincial parks, Crown lands, lands owned by the Galiano Conservancy or private land that is generously shared. Our visiting students are made aware of this when we introduce the day. On Galiano there is a direct and inextricable link between land conservation and our ability to offer a wide variety of environmental education programs.



Ever since the Galiano Conservancy Association was created in 1989, land conservation, ecosystem restoration and education have been the three cornerstones of our work because they go naturally hand in hand.

Since our inception, we have been offering environmental education to the public on a wide variety of issues. Our goals are to take people outdoors to experience and appreciate the natural world. There they have an opportunity to realize their connection to their environment, and the impacts of their activities on it.

Beginning at home, we have worked with the Galiano Community School who provide the foundation of our education work with youth. Our goal is to augment the curriculum by providing outdoor exploration, learning and projects. The Galiano children have been our 'test case' in piloting program ideas. They continue to also be our greatest challenge since they have a relatively high level of eco-literacy.

In 2000 we began our education Outreach work to schools in Greater Vancouver and Victoria with the goal of offering Galiano Island as an outdoor classroom to city children, especially those from densely urban areas. With green space shrinking in the city, there is less and less opportunity for children to simply 'play in the woods' or go to a clean beach. What precious green space there is, is often heavily used, impacted and compromised. Galiano offers children

relatively pristine ecosystems, closely juxtaposed to one another providing human scale examples of how the ecosystems are interconnected. Our 'From the Forest to the Sea' programs are designed to be a 'Watershed Journey'.

We also manage the Floating Nature House at Montague Provincial Park from May to October. Last summer our staff hosted over 4800 visitors, engaging them in conversations about marine life and environmental issues, and conducting interpretative programs. This hands on 'please touch' approach keeps all ages engaged for hours - simply watching creatures interact up close is fascinating.

Over the past six years, our programs and participant numbers have gradually grown. Most schools or groups come for just a day trip and choose one of the five program locations, but some come for two or three days and are able to take in several, giving them a deeper and fuller experience as well as more time to disconnect from the city. Our off island visitors have steadily increased from 13 in 2000 to 456 in 2006! It is a challenge for many schools to find money for our modest program fees plus transportation costs, so we offer bursaries to almost 50% of these students, many of whom have never been to a Gulf Island or even on a ferry.

Our goals are really very simple and based largely on our educators' own childhood experiences. Give children a chance to play outside, explore, inquire, connect and fall in love with deep textured natural and magical places. Then they will be more likely to want to ensure that there are still such places for future generations. People need to see, feel and understand a mature forest (the template), to compare it to a plantation and to see what restoration can do. The life filled beaches here are eye-popping surprises to children who have only read about the creatures or seen them on TV. They quickly bond with tiny shore crabs, learn to gently replace rocks on the shore, and learn that every niche is habitat for something.

Our approach is as much as possible to allow for discovery and to engage the kids themselves in the

learning and teaching. By creating a 'teaching train' with many learning stations, all the students have the chance to be learners and teachers. They enjoy sharing their new information. They remember the facts and share insights more readily when they play an active role.

We have recently taken these simple truths to a new level with a project called EnviroMentors. Recognizing that our future health and survival is largely dependent on the environment, we need to educate kids

to be literate in the language of 'air, water, soil and place'. We began a pilot project with the Galiano Grade 5-8 students to empower future environmental leaders. The EnviroMentors researched and created program ideas and activities, in this case about wetlands. Then they became teachers and leaders for a visiting group of Grade 1-2 Vancouver pupils. It seemed a natural success. The EnviroMentors 'owned' their knowledge, gained a new appreciation for their own community and largely enjoyed sharing it all with the younger kids who regarded them with a certain awe. One of the visiting Grade 2 boys had what may be regarded as high praise for the day's expedition - 'Mom, it was better than Disneyland!'



Children explore marine life near the small floating school house at Montague Provincial Park Photos Barbara Moore

Environmental educators intuitively know there is a connection between experiencing nature and protecting it. A recent article about global warming called "The Thirteenth Tipping Point" by Julia Whitty, analyses why many current decision makers are still 'naysayers' when it comes to climate change. "A study of urban American adults by Nancy Wells and Kristi Lekies of Cornell University sheds some light on environmental attitudes. Wells and Lekies found that children who play unsupervised in the wild before the age of 11 develop strong environmental ethics. Children exposed only to structured hierarchical play in the wild - through, for example, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts or by hunting or fishing alongside supervising adults-do not. To interact humbly with nature we need to be free and undomesticated in it. Otherwise,

Continued on Page 26

SALT SPRING ISLAND

STEWARDS IN TRAINING

*Written by Wendy Hilliard
photos by David Denning*

A little fellow is toddling and tumbling in meadow grass on the shores of Ford Lake. It's April 5th on Salt Spring Island, and a group of volunteers have gathered around to learn about how we can assist in the Stewards in Training Program for elementary school children. Looking on, beaming broadly as any kid happy to be outdoors, is Jean Gelwicks, chair of the Conservancy Education Committee. Her energy and vision have played a large part in realizing this exciting educational experience. I watch the delighted one-year-old as he explores a promising thicket, and reflect that This is How it Should Be! A young child free to explore, engaged with nature, full of curiosity toward all he can see and touch.

Finally his Mom, Robin Annschild, biologist with the Conservancy, bundles him onto her back for his nap. Introducing the program, she remarks that in her own elementary education, "Once we went out on a walk... it moved me so much!" I think of my own school experience a generation earlier. Field trips were unheard of.. We were confined to dreary classrooms and a concrete playground.

What a contrast to my young educational setting is the cheerful grade four classroom of Susan Lee at Fernwood school, where I accompany Kate Leslie, School Program Co-ordinator, a few days later. She's there to turn on the kids with a "jeopardy" game, full of information about places like Ford Lake, and to tell them what to bring on their first outing (rain-coats, hats, gumboots etc.) Here's a sample of the kind of questions the kids enthusiastically respond to: "Which of the following animals does NOT use wetlands for food or shelter? Salmon, bald eagles, dragonflies, sharp-tailed snakes, salamanders?" Or, "In household dish and laundry soaps, which of the following is bad for lakes? Baking soda, white vinegar, phosphates, olive oil?" At the back of the classroom, I soak up information, including the fact that Ford Lake has the largest catchment area of any lake on Salt Spring.



Later in the week, the children will arrive at Ford Lake for an adventure in experience and understanding. They will move through four activities or "stations" during their three hour visit. At the invertebrate station, pairs of children will examine the small life from the bottom of the pond, such as worms, insects and crustaceans. With magnifying glass and dichotomous key, they will identify a diversity of creatures we don't usually see.

Moving on to the next station, they will learn to recognize native and alien/invasive plant species, and again use an identification key to home in on the identity of each plant. Since Ford Lake has been used for farming since 1896, and modified through draining and ditching, it's a good location to learn about disturbed habitat and the introduction of competitive species. Further along, the students will learn about First Nations' traditional use of wetland plants such as willow, cattail, western dock, nettles, and Indian plum, as well as the systems by which the Coast Salish people managed the rich animal and plant resources. Completing the series of stations is a chance to explore the value of art in connecting with and observing nature. The kids will discover small wooden picture frames placed round about on grasses, moss, trees and shrubs. Provided with their own box of art materials, they'll each approach a little "framed" piece of nature, and sketch what they see, as well as note down thoughts, feelings, and observations on the page. Later, these pages of field notes will be bound in a book.

In May, the stewardship program will shift to the world of the seashore, where the children discov-

ered a similar range of information and experience and in September to the Garry oak meadows of Channel Ridge. Meanwhile, the middle school component of the program under Deborah Miller explores the Andreas Vogt reserve through four active stations concerning Garry Oak meadows and west coast temperate rainforest ecology.

If the elementary school children I've been accompanying go on to this middle school program, they will have a rich understanding of Salt Spring ecosystems, endangered native plants and animals, critical habitat needs, and what people can do to benefit rare plants and animals. I think I want to go back to grade four and start over.



"They need more of this!" said one teacher at the end of a sensational day.... and the Conservancy is please to announce they have secured funding for the 2007 spring program and will be adding programs at grades 2/3 and grade 8.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewards in Training Program has received generous support over the years from a variety of sources: TD Bank (environment fund), The Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Shell Environmental Fund, the Gaming Commission and by donations from a special conservancy donor, and of course, the Conservancy board.

(Continued from Galiano article page 24)

we succumb to hubris in maturity. The fact that few children enjoy free rein outdoors anymore bodes poorly for our future decision-makers."

So how do we know if we are effective in instilling attitudes and behaviours that will lead to more informed and intelligent environmental choices for the future? The fact is we don't know precisely. The effects are long term and subtle. They may not show up for years. The evidence of the effectiveness of Environmental Education is increasingly positive and measurable but still subjective to a large extent. The best indicator for us is in the enthusiasm of the kids and teachers, the artwork, letters and feedback we get that reminds us of how transforming it can be for a child to have that exciting opportunity to explore part of the natural world unfettered and safely. It is a leap of faith! This is a leap that is supported by our many generous funders who include, NSERC, Nature Canada, WorkSource, the Victoria Foundation, BC Hydro, TD Friends of the Environment, Galiano Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Capital Regional District.

Barbara Moore and Patti Pringle are Environmental Educators with the Galiano Conservancy Association. They can be reached at education@galianoconservancy.ca or at 250-539-2424.

Coming Soon

PEOPLE PROTECTING PLACES CASE STUDIES FROM ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE
PROTECTED A DIVERSITY OF PLACES
THROUGH BC LAND TRUSTS

This Public Outreach campaign
to raise awareness and
involvement with BC's land trusts will
feature television & radio psa's, with a
poster and booklet for use in BC
communities

JOIN US AT THE LAND TRUST AND
STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR SERIES,
MARCH 16-18 TO FIND OUT MORE

COWICHAN COMMUNITY LAND TRUST SUPPORTS THE COWICHAN YOUTH STREAMKEEPERS

written by John Scull

On a damp and rainy autumn morning a small group of youth and adults slip down a steep bank beside a gas station on the Trans Canada Highway. They quickly leave the pavement and noise of the road behind and descend through the trees to a green and peaceful natural wonderland at the edge of a small bubbling creek. For the next hour they measure turbidity, acidity, and water flow; hike downstream to check fish traps, and carefully write all their observations in notebooks.

This is the Cowichan Youth Streamkeepers group, one of three similar groups supported by the Cowichan Community Land Trust (the other two groups are associated with schools) in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society, the Streamkeepers Federation, and supported by Tom Rutherford from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The Youth Streamkeepers (literally) grew out of the Cowichan Valley Young Naturalists Club (YNC). The YNC began 5 years ago following an initiative by



Daphne Solecki from the Vancouver Natural History Society. The club has monthly "Explorer days" with a guest naturalist, aimed at young children and their parents. The exposure to hands-on

science and natural history and the parental support are transformational for many of the children. But children grow up, and the older members of the club wanted something more consistent and mean-



ingful. With support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the Cowichan Community Land Trust provided a streamkeeper course for youth and their parents. DFO gave the group responsibility for a small creek near Cowichan Bay and they began a year of mapping and monitoring to establish a baseline for a stewardship and restoration plan.



Early in the process they discovered that the stream was home to cutthroat trout, making their waterway an official fish-bearing stream for the first time. As a result, streamside signs were erected to that effect. The designation of the creek almost immediately resulted in modifications to a planned development upstream from where they are

working. The youth group could see that by doing science-based monitoring they were already having an impact.

In addition to monitoring their creek, members of the Cowichan Youth Streamkeepers have participated in the Cowichan Bay cleanup on LowTide Day, assisted another group with streamside planting on Bonsall Creek, and volunteered with the CCLT eelgrass restoration project in Cowichan Bay. The experiences they are having now will enrich their lives and help them to become tomorrow's scientists, naturalists, and environmental leaders. Next year they will begin restoration work on their creek and become mentors to the next cohort of children to outgrow the Young Naturalists program.

John Scull is a director of the Cowichan Community Land Trust. He and his wife Linda Hill are leaders of the Cowichan Valley Young Naturalists Club and John helped to organize the Cowichan Youth Streamkeepers.

GREATER VICTORIA'S HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST

Letter to Milt and landowners in the region:

Dear Milton,

Welcome back to Colquitz Creek after your four-year oceanic tour! This is just a note to let all you spawn-ers know that we're thinking of you at this critical time in your life cycle. Now that you've got your "party clothes" on for egg-laying time, we wanted to update you on our efforts to make you feel at home.

HAT recently launched the Rithet's Bog Good Neighbours Project in the Gabo Creek sub-watershed of the Colquitz. We'll be contacting hundreds of people there over the next several months to offer free information on alternatives to the toxic products that may be ending up in the stream where you were born. You see, we have a great system of gutters and pipes that send rain water into Gabo Creek, but sometimes motor oil, dog poop, and synthetic fertilizers can contaminate the rain water. People are starting to realize that their consumer choices can make a big difference to your quality of life. Who would have guessed that liquid drain cleaner was so nasty to fish? I feel your pain.

You may remember swimming past the native shrub stream buffers HAT planted with landowners last year along the Colquitz. We're going to plant some more creek side areas in Broadmead to help filter rain water contaminants. Speaking of long term solu-



tions, several students have gained Streamkeepers certification at the bog through our project too. We also came up with this idea to sign up residents and local businesses as Bog Buddies when they commit to protecting Rithet's Bog habitat and to maintaining your water quality. Finally, our Goldstream Chums program has introduced thousands of students to your kin since 2003. Let me know if you have any good ideas, but I can't get that oily gunk that makes car tires look black and shiny off the department store shelves just yet.

Milt old chum, I know times have been tough for generations of salmon in the Colquitz. But I can assure you that people really do care about salmon; not because you are so delicious, but because your recovering stocks are a symbol of our capacity to reverse ecological degradation.

Todd Carnahan, Land Care Co ordinator
Habitat Acquisition Trust

P.S. Thank you to our funders! VanCity Savings Credit Union, BC Gaming, Victoria Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, and the Shell Environmental Fund.

February 15th, 2007
McMorran's Beach House
5109 Cordova Bay Road
Reception 6:00, Dinner 7:00
Tickets \$65
995 2428

Gala Dinner

Guest speaker: *Dr Nancy J. Turner*

Celebrating HAT's 10th Anniversary
and recognizing Bruce Whittington with
a Distinguished Contribution Award

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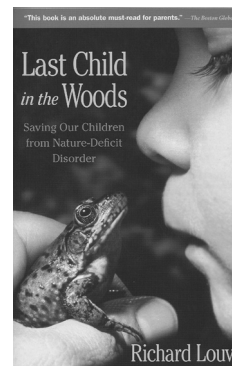
NAI Media Awards 2005
NIW2005
FULL SPEED AHEAD
First Place Trail Guide
Fragrances Forest of the Interior
Self-Guiding Interpretive Trail
Habitat Acquisition Trust
S. Dangerfield & S. Sherryd

TRAILGUIDE
FIRST PLACE 2005 · NAI
TRAILGUIDE
FIRST PLACE 2004 · NAI

Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Written by Richard Louv

Reviewed by Bob Peart



"I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are" reports a fourth-grader.

It seems trite to say --- but this is one of those books that had to be written. Never before in history have children been so out of touch with the natural world. In his book Richard Louv pulls together a remarkable set of data telling us that we may be misdirecting the activities of our young and thus determining a future that few of us would want our children to live in. Louv links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation. He calls it nature-deficit disorder, which displays some of the most disturbing childhood trends such as obesity, depression and the high prescription rate of drugs. Louv's book makes many important points, including:

- The downward trend of environment-related education by schools and government;
- The lack of knowledge of basic facts of nature;
- Exposure to nature seems to be essential for early childhood development and can improve problem solving, critical thinking and decision-making;
- The criminalization of nature and media exploitation that has developed a culture of fear (fear of traffic, crime, strangers and nature itself) which prevents parents from allowing their children the freedom they themselves enjoyed when they were young;
- There is more and more homework for students and less and less access to natural areas;
- The human and ecological costs of alienation from nature at the child, family and community level --- costs that could mean that in the future there will be fewer people caring for nature and less understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things.

He includes an excellent and extensive bibliography related to nature-deficit disorder and the importance of kids being outside.

Louv believes, as do most of us, that the solution is just outside --- often in our own backyard. Clearly we all need to look at what we are doing to and with our children in terms of their ability and willingness

Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
2005, 323 pages including bibliographical references.

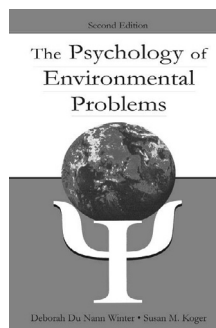
to connect with and appreciate nature.

Applying the themes of this book to British Columbia means there is a need to evaluate the current environment curriculum in our schools, the better use of park systems to get kids outside, and the need for land trust organizations to determine how their lands can better facilitate the opportunity for children and families to enjoy, learn about and interact with nature.

I know that when I was a kid my mum said to me, "Now go outside and play, as long as you are home for supper." So I spent my youth playing in parks, fishing for perch and chasing butterflies through meadows. I am convinced my love of and dedication to nature built on those wonderful hours outside. It is therefore important that land trusts and others in the field seriously think about how their sites link to nature education, free play and fun --- and the ability to simply love being outside. So much of our future is with our children!

This book is a great read and provides a hopeful entry to the sometimes glum and depressing news that we are receiving about climate change and society's perception of the environment. You may also wish to check out the author's website at www.thefuturesedge.com.

PLEASE NOTE: Bob has organized with the support of Mountain Equipment Co-op, Royal Roads University and the University of Victoria for Richard Louv to give a free public talk in Victoria about the theme of his book. There will be an opportunity to meet the author. Louv's presentation will take place at 730pm Tuesday February 20, 2007 at the University of Victoria, Fraser Auditorium Law Building. There will be further advertising in Victoria regional media closer to the event.



The Psychology of Environmental Problems

Deborah Du Nann Winter & Susan M. Koger

Reviewed by Ann Archibald and John Scull

Why do some people seem to close their eyes to the environmental threats all around them? How can people understand ecological threats but do nothing to try to solve them? What can we do to encourage good land stewardship and increase activities like recycling and energy conservation and discourage waste, habitat destruction, or the use of toxic chemicals? The discipline of psychology – the study of human thoughts, feelings, and behaviour – can shed light on these questions.

The *Psychology of Environmental Problems* by Deborah Du Nann Winter and Susan Koger provides an overview of six different psychological approaches that help us understand the possible rationale behind seemingly irrational environmental behaviour, and the book offers insightful examples that can lead to changes in environmental attitudes and behaviour.

A good general overview of contemporary environmental issues in the first chapter familiarizes the reader with these issues while emphasizing the importance of personal action. Readers familiar with the complexity of environmental challenges and their relation to broader social and global systems may find this brief summary lacking. However, the primary focus of the book is a discussion of psychological theory and its relationship to destructive human behaviours, so the authors may be forgiven.

The body of the book provides an accessible overview of psychoanalytic, social, behavioural, cognitive, health, and holistic psychology in a clear and concise way and includes useful, realistic examples applying each theory to everyday environmental actions. The material is presented in such a way that a reader with no background in psychology can gain valuable insight into human behaviour. Because of its unique focus on environmental issues, this book would be an appropriate supplementary text for a university-level course in psychology or the environmental sciences.

Before reading this book, Ann had a passing understanding of psychology but a fairly good understanding of the issues facing the environmental movement. Resistance to change is a common response to our work and Ann has been known to say that “sometimes it feels like we are selling something people don’t want to buy.” Having read this book, she now has a greater appreciation and understanding of the underlying processes that people go through when faced with the reality of environmental crises and the necessity of change. While reading this book, Ann experimented with some of the concepts that address and attempt to overcome people’s resistance to the sometimes demanding changes necessary to successfully care for and steward their land. Ann feels that this book provided both insight and more effective approaches to encouraging land stewardship.

John found that the book gave a surprisingly balanced and thorough discussion of how different psychological theories and perspectives can be applied to environmental questions. While the book did not have the detail of an introductory psychology textbook, it presented an accurate and comprehensive overview that avoided the over simplifications often found in pop psychology. John felt that the book provided a balanced and informative review of how psychological theory can be applied to changing environmental behaviour.

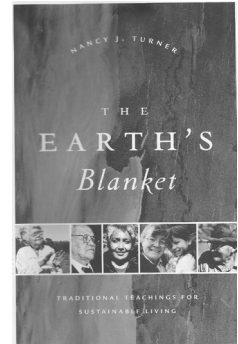
The authors of *The Psychology of Environmental Problems* are both psychology professors at universities in Oregon. Deborah Du Nann Winter has worked extensively on the psychology of peace and environmental issues. Susan M. Koger’s work in biological psychology has focused on the role of pollutants in brain development.

Ann Archibald is Executive Director of the Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT) with an academic background in geography and political science. John Scull is a member of the Board of Directors of CCLT. He has a Ph.D. in psychology and has retired from a career in clinical psychology and college teaching.

The Earth's Blanket

Nancy J. Turner

Reviewed by Sheila Harrington



This Christmas break I relaxed for a bit and read one of the MUST READ books on my shelf, Nancy Turner's *Earth's Blanket*. I knew it would bring a whole new element of knowledge to my work, and my life, and it has done even more than that. Nancy's lifetime association, friendship and study with BC's First Nations is a blessing for us all. In her usual scientific yet easily readable style, she has brought a wealth of knowledge together to give an overview of the traditional habitats of BC's First Nations, and their respectful use of the "Earth's blanket."

She ascribes this metaphor to a notation written by Teit, describing the "Flowers, plants & grass especially the latter are the covering or blanket of the earth. If too much plucked or ruthlessly destroyed (the) earth (is) sorry and weeps. It rains or is angry and makes rain, fog & bad weather."

The many stories and narratives shared with the reader in this remarkable book remind us that the way First Nations treated nature was kincentric – "we have relatives all around us: the rocks, the mountains, the trees, the edible roots, the animals and birds and the fish...all are our kin, all are related to us and to each other." This kinship, she explains, gave rise to the special ceremonies, taboos and rituals that all First Nations' peoples practiced. The colonists didn't know or understand their meaning or significance, and subsequently banned most of them. As the reader delves into these stories, learning about their relationship to important places, wildlife and habitats, and our own human relationships, one must feel sorrow, compassion and understanding of how of these mysterious rites and stories helped balance human life in relationship with nature.

"Elders from many nations around British Columbia and beyond see value in the land and in their cultural traditions. No amount of gold or currency can make up for the loss of their traditional lifeways or of their ability to care for and benefit from their own homelands."

This is an important message in today's world. As we commodify virtually everything, starting here in BC a couple hundred years ago with land to the increasing questions about water. Now we talk about working forests and farmlands, moving to identify land by the work and resources it brings humans, rather than their intrinsic or natural characteristics. Wisdom and different values is what many of our First Nations' elders can teach us, and Nancy has been given the honour and right to share these voices with us.

The many land-based stories she shares with us, such as How the Arbutus saved the Wsanec, and other place-based teaching stories about the Tsartlip's sacred Mt. Newton and Malahat, touches close to heart this January 2007, as the Tsartlip and Songees try to protect the sacred cave at Bear Mountain, or Spaet. These sacred places are priceless, and yet our western culture sees them primarily in terms of "best use" or what the market will pay for them for development. But these very stories, such as how Thunderbird flew over Goldstream and turned a whale, which kept the salmon coming back in the inlet, into Mt. Newton, served multiple functions. It teaches us that nature has a mystery and a balance that we humans shouldn't ignore – or dire consequences can ensue.

As we experience some of the coldest weather here in BC this winter, I wonder if the Earth is shedding her blanket, or at least shaking it, to remind us of this ancient wisdom. Let us not take to the moon or other planets as some suggest, instead we can learn the wisdom of the elders, and change our ways and values, and most importantly our relationships, to consider all of our kin. This book is a gift – one we in conservation can learn from, in order to understand the nature of the habitats and creatures that we hope to protect, and the cultures and relationships of the First Nations we still share this Earth with.

Since our founding in 1997 almost ten years ago, the Land Trust Alliance of BC has welcomed more than 86 members to its provincial fold. Of these, 27 are “voting” member land trusts. Another 3 land trusts are among another 23 “affiliated” organizations who steward or manage lands in BC. Our other 36 individual members are primarily professionals working in the field. Over the last ten years, we have developed educational, research and resource programs that have helped conservation groups steward, protect and restore our natural and cultural diversity. Land trusts, with the help of generous donors and willing land owners, have now protected close to 445,773 hectares of significant lands in BC. (We are currently updating the BC Lands in Trust Registry, so that we can be more accurate with our numbers.).

2007-2010 STRATEGIC PLAN:

In November 2006, the LTABC Council met for a weekend retreat to review our Goals and Strategies for the next three years. We reviewed evaluations received from our members, current trends, and the external context of our work in the world.

Summary of Members needs:

- Funding for protection, staff, management, core funding
- Tax Reform (GST, Capital gains,)
- Long term capacity, sustainability of Land Trusts, viability of long term protected sites
- Professional education and research (incl. scientific trends)
- Public promotion and build public support of land trusts

In order to increase and strengthen the protection of natural and cultural heritage areas, based on these needs and current challenges, our work for the next three years will be guided by the following four goals. We invite our land trust members and our associated organizations to comment and review these strategies.

Building a culture of conservation -
helping to steward, protect and restore
BC's natural and cultural diversity

1. Build an alliance of strong land trusts.

- facilitate partnerships and collaborations between land trusts and with other conservation-related organizations and government agencies;
- build knowledge and support of land trusts with government agencies.
- encourage the adoption and practice of the CLTA/BC Standards & Practices.
- assist with land trust strategic planning, including recognition and financing for the long-term costs of conservation.
- provide networking and training opportunities regionally and provincially

2. Provide research and promote the protection of (healthy) human communities and ecological systems.

- research and promote healthy communities, including cultural and historical values, sites, significance
- research and support protection of vital ecological systems especially wetlands, riparian areas, and habitats for wildlife and species at risk,
- support and promote protection of working lands that also protect ecological systems or habitats

3. Advocate for improved tax incentives and financial support for conservation

- advocate for increased tools for conservation, focusing on improved tax laws, and improved legislation
- research and promote financial and economic incentives for conservation
- research and create written and digital resources on these tools
- deliver to associated professionals, other organizations, government bodies

4. Build public awareness and involvement with land trusts

- Support and promote increased opportunities for contact between people and nature (on protected lands), specifically for young people - the future generations who will advocate for and protect nature
- increase knowledge of land trusts and conservation options to the public generally
- help build public financial support, land donations, and membership support to land trusts
- continue associated professional education programs

BC LANDS IN TRUST REGISTRY UPDATE — DUE FEBRUARY 20TH

As most land trusts are aware, we have a province-wide custom database system, The Protected Lands Catalogue, (PLC) which provides a cumulative and detailed overview of the sites that BC's land trusts have protected, either via a Conservation Covenant, or through ownership in fee simple. Updating is necessary in order to keep the public side, the BC Lands in Trust Registry, the only record of the combined amount and types of sites protected by BC's land trusts relevant. Developed 7 years ago, it has been used and kept up to date by many hard working staff or volunteer board members of land trusts. Recently, we have been able to provide some wetland data to the BC Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Division, for their Amphibian recovery work. This is but one of the many uses of the Registry, which also provides many statistics and summaries of the types of areas, values, protected species etc. that our generous landowners and land trusts have worked so hard to conserve.

We wish to describe a current, total cumulative overview of the wonderful lands that have been protected for our celebratory 2007 Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series, and most importantly, for our People Protecting Places Media Campaign which will be launched that weekend, March 16-18. Please check the Registry on-line and ensure that we have all your properties listed. Even if we do, some of these listings are sketchy at best, and do need some additional information or photos to make this data meaningful. There are wonderful summaries and statistics that can be analyzed, only if the type of area and other key features have been keyed into it. Deadline to be included in the Media event and campaign is February 20th. This gives us time to add your listing to the combined database program, the public side which is shown on the website as the BC Lands in Trust Registry. If you are having any problems with the PLC program, or need training, please call Sabrina ASAP to arrange for help.

The Islands in the Salish Sea IS SOLD OUT!

We are working with the publisher now to reprint. Please contact Sabrina to order the last few copies left in our office! sabrina@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD — DEADLINE MARCH 1ST.

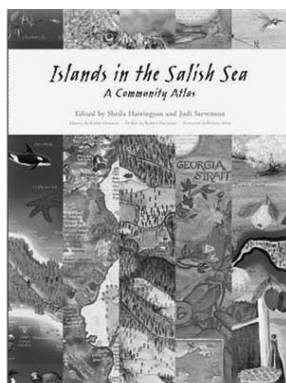
As usual, we will be honouring the hard work of one particular volunteer this year, among the thousands who provide volunteer services to BC's stewardship and conservation organizations. Please send us your nomination including a brief description of the person, their work over the last few years, and your name and contact info by March 1st. The LTQABC Council will select this year's Conservation Volunteer of the Year. This wonderful person will be honoured at Saturday night's Celebration event at the Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education & Conference Centre.

UPDATE ON NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Things are moving a little slower than we'd all like on the Canadian Land Trust Alliance front. As our representative last year, Shawn Black has resigned from the LTABC Council, and changed his work from TLC, we are seeking a new representative for LTA-BC. This person needs to commit to a 3 year term with the CLTA, and of course, they need to sit on our Council as well, in order to keep both organizations up to date. Interested individuals should contact Sheila for further information.

The American Friends of Canadian Land trusts (AFoCLT) is indeed an incorporated organization, and has a strong board of directors: Stefan Nagel, Craig Lee, Dennis Schaffer, Sandra Tassell, Bill Turner and Paul Peterson, with Konrad Liegel acting as legal counsel. The AFoCLT is currently in the application process for US charitable status. I think that will take a while since the IRS is so carefully scrutinizing land trust activity these days. We have a consultant working with us on preparation for the application to Canada Revenue Agency/Finance Department for prescribed

donee status. So, it's been a long, uphill battle, but we're getting close! We are currently actively seeking start-up funding for the organization and the associated program for cross-border conservation. Interested land trusts should contact Bonnie Sutherland for further information. nature@nsnt.ca



Parks Canada issues NMCA E-News, your electronic update about the southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) Feasibility Study. In their latest issue you can find out about Marxan, a computer program used to help plan protected areas such as the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, also the inaugural meeting of the NMCA Science Network and the 2006-2007 Marine Poster Contest. To view an issue go to their website at: www.pc.gc.ca/straitofgeorgia

Premier Launches Green Cities Project:

\$40 million pledged for bike paths, walkways, greenways, and improved accessibility for the disabled; local governments promised financial incentives to switch to hybrid vehicles; new investments promised in expanded rapid transit; and new "Green City Award" created. More details can be found at: <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/302n.asp?newsid=1945>

Coming in the New Year: BC's New Energy Plan-

The BC Liberal government has been labouring, and sometime in January or February, they will release their new 2007 Energy Plan. The BCSEA has met several times with government staff working on the plan, and tell us that they want it to be "one of the best in North America".

SolarBC & 100,000 Solar Roofs

The provincial government is giving a strong positive signal to the vision of BC having 100,000 Solar Roofs - a project created through SolarBC, headed by Nitya Harris. There is now a highly skilled Task Team, chaired by Bruce Sampson, V.P. at BC Hydro, and Mayor Calvin Kruk, of the City of Dawson Creek, and sponsored by the Ministers of Environment and Energy and Mines. The mandate of the Task Team is to develop a Strategy and Action Plan-a Solar Roadmap for BC- within a year.

Chemicals management may be getting tougher.

Canada is poised to release an assessment of 23,000 chemicals, making it the first country in the world to systematically review all of the chemicals in current use within its borders. More info at: http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2006/nov/policy/jp_cachemicals.html

Canada - British Columbia Invest \$20 Million In The Fraser Basin Initiative. - A combined total of \$20 million from the federal and provincial governments will be used in a collaborative effort designed to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations in the Fraser River watershed. To view the entire news release, visit the DFO web-site at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/> and follow the appropriate prompts.

Sea otter hunts in B.C. The federal government is considering allowing the hunting of sea otters in B.C. waters by the Nuuchalnu First Nation for the first time in nearly a century. The sea otter, once slaughtered to near extinction, is currently listed as a threatened species in Canada. Commercial shellfish fishers and First Nations feel that the animals are numerous enough to make a significant dent in local shellfish stocks. A decision is due in March.

Taking a closer look at Canada's Clean Air Act

On October 19, 2006, after months of anticipation, Stephen Harper and Minister of Environment, Rona Ambrose, unveiled his government's "made in Canada" Clean Air Act. To say that most Canadians are underwhelmed by the Act would be kind. There has been widespread condemnation of the plan from the opposition, environmental organizations and the public since the Act was revealed. In an unusual move, Harper sent the bill to a parliamentary committee before its second reading because opposition MPs don't support it even in principle. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel>.

NRDC BioGems reported a major courtroom victory for the Western Arctic Reserve - an NRDC BioGem and one of America's greatest natural treasures. October 2006 A federal judge has blocked the Bush administration from proceeding with oil and gas development in the famed Teshekpuk Lake region and its world-class wildlife nurseries. The Western Arctic Reserve may be less well-known than the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge but its wildlife populations are every bit as unique, spectacular and endangered.

Mount Artaban Nature Reserve Fundraising

Campaign - The Islands Trust Fund is working with the Gambier Island Conservancy to establish a 107 hectare (264 acre) nature reserve on Mount Artaban, Gambier Island. The nature reserve will benefit people and wildlife by protecting forest, high elevation bluffs, watersheds, and popular hiking trails. The Islands Trust Fund is in the process of obtaining the land under the province of British Columbia's Free Crown Grant program. The goal is to raise at least \$30,000 (or about \$300 per hectare) by February 2007 towards a Land Act survey and property management plan. <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/general/whatsnew/whatsnew.htm#projectupdates>

Thompson Award Winners Announced

The winners, from Victoria and Port Alberni, braved the elements to attend the Gala Ceremony at the Vancouver Rowing Club on November 30, 06. The legacy of Dr. Andrew Thompson lives on through the prestigious award created in his honour. **Bill Turner**, Founder and Chair of The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, was presented the Institutional Leader Award for his innovative and extensive application of regulatory controls to protect environmentally significant areas. Keith and Bernadette Wyton, small business owners from Port Alberni, were presented the Community Leader Award for galvanizing individuals, businesses, First Nations and organizations throughout the Alberni Valley to speak out about their common concerns. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/32/03/01.htm>

Bowen Islanders Donate Nature Reserve to the Islands Trust Fund - Bowen Island residents Neil Boyd and Isabel Otter have donated 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of forested land to the Islands Trust Fund as part of a neighbourhood rezoning and subdivision process. The land was donated as an ecological gift. Despite the logging of the land in the early 1900s, old Coastal Douglas-fir trees remain. Numerous wildlife trees in the nature reserve offer nesting cavities and feeding areas to owls, eagles, hawks and a variety of songbirds. Go to www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/ under What's Hot to view all their current campaigns.

Catch of the Day: Choosing Seafood for Healthier Oceans- Senior researcher Brian Halweil explores how buyers of seafood—including individual consumers, school cafeterias, supermarket chains, and large food distributors—can reverse fishery declines and preserve the fresh catch of tomorrow. For more information go to: www.worldwatch.org/node/4707

Giving Green - Most people agree that clean air, clean water and sustainably-managed resources are critically important – today and in the future. Deep linkages between environmental integrity and human health are constantly being discovered. Canadians and British Columbians feel strongly about their environment; are generous and socially-minded; and put their money where their mouths are. For environmental organizations, this is approximately two percent or \$178 million of all philanthropic dollars donated annually in Canada. Contrast that to gifts to health care – about 14 percent or \$1.24 billion. Given that health care is also funded through a substantial portion of tax dollars, the comparison is stark. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/32/03/10.htm>

Scientists Map Ecosystem Services:

Grand Challenge: Make Conservation Mainstream: The Natural Capital Project seeks a future in which conservation is mainstream - that is, economically attractive and common-place through out the world. To achieve that vision, the project will develop and deploy conservation approaches that:

- Link conservation and human well-being;
- Use innovative conservation finance mechanisms and supporting institutions; and
- Engage leaders from diverse backgrounds, including science, finance, policy and government.

To find out more about this collaboration between Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund: <http://environment.stanford.edu/ideas/ncp.html>

States cough up for Land Conservation:

Voters are routinely taxing themselves to preserve land and quality of life -- no matter their political persuasion. Many US states and counties have recently voted for tax initiatives that will purchase parks and greenways. Read More at: <http://www.planetizen.com/node/21680>

International Commission asked to review Canada's failure to enforce endangered species law - A coalition of Canadian and American environmental groups has filed a formal complaint to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC), alleging that Canada is failing to enforce its Species at Risk Act. "We want Canada to take the Species at Risk Act seriously. Canadians don't want species to become extinct." More information can be found at: www.sierraclub.ca/national/media/item.

The Children and Nature Network – Building a Movement to Reconnect Children and Nature. In September of 2006, the National Dialogue on Children and Nature was hosted by the National Conservation Training Center, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.. The goal was to bring together Americans from as many sectors as possible, and to ask them for their ideas on how to get kids outside again. To read about the event go to: www.cnaturenet.org/articles/02_news_NDonCN.html

Columbia Valley battles against a change of scenery by Mark Hume, Globe and Mail

October 16, 2006 - When Fairmont Hot Springs Resort Ltd. came forward with a proposal to put in a golf course and up to 1,200 homes, they ran into a problem: It seemed that people in the Columbia River Valley had gotten sick and tired of seeing the landscape gobbled up by condos, resorts and luxury houses, mostly for Calgarians. The public didn't want to see Lot 48, as the property is officially designated, turned into a collection of cul-de-sacs. In response, the Regional District of East Kootenay did something unusual: They moved to rezone the property from resort development to agricultural land.

Doubling oil and gas production. Coalbed methane development in the South east corner of the Kootenays and on Vancouver Island. New pipelines crossing our province. Each of these initiatives could have enormous impact on BC's environment. The BC government is planning to complete all these projects and more. Residents in British Columbia are addressing problems with access to privately owned land for the purpose of mineral exploration which strip private landowners of fundamental Canadian rights and freedoms: the right to privacy and peace, freedom of utilization of one's land and security from trespassing. The B.C. Land Owners Rights Group (BCLOR)

has launched a website at www.bclor.ca. A petition calls for Canadian citizens to show support to bring changes to legislation. Margot McMillan of WCEL will be the oil and gas lawyer and resident energy expert. Margot has spent the last four months criss-crossing the province – informing citizens and local governments about the potential impact of oil and gas development in BC and discussing the legal options available to address those impacts. <http://www.wcel.org/4976/32/03/04.htm>

Solar Compaction Systems has a solution to solid waste handling that uses solar energy to operate a street level compaction system. The Big Belly can hold more than 1100 liters of uncrushed trash, reducing the number of collections required, eliminating the chance of overflowing trash bins, and reducing the number of garbage trucks needed for collection purposes, along with the associated pollution. See www.seahorsepower.com

The loss of so many ponderosa and lodgepole pine trees around the city of Kamloops isn't only devastating for homeowners and park users, it could mean drastically reduced numbers of some overwintering birds. A careful monitoring program for these species should begin almost immediately. Now is the time to start keeping track of the numbers of birds we see in our pine forests and trying to document changes in population. Everything you need to know about this continent-wide project is at: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/index.html>

2007 Endangered Rivers List for BC: The Outdoor Recreation Council will be accepting nominations for the 2007 Endangered Rivers List, for media release in April. This list is the only one of its kind that is compiled annually based on submissions from literally tens of thousands of British Columbians. Over the years, this list has done much to increase public awareness about major river issues. All submissions should include the name of the river(s) nominated along with an appropriate description of the threat. Nominations can be sent directly to Mark Angelo, ORC Rivers Chair at: mangelo@bcit.ca. Or go to the website at: http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_endangered.htm

The public launch of the **Coastal Invasive Plant Committee** website is <http://www.coastalinvasive-plants.com/>

British Columbian homes are about to get Greener thanks to GreenerHomes.ca, a BC Real Estate Company* that is walking it's Green talk. As of January 1, 2007 GreenerHomes.ca Realtors will be giving their clients \$500 to assess and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

With the Environment foremost on Canadian's minds, and federal incentives for residential energy-efficiency in short supply, GreenerHomes.ca is taking the lead on making Canadian homes more environmentally responsible.

Realtors can, should, and now are, playing a significant role in addressing the health, energy-efficiency, and environmental impact of our homes, remarks GreenerHomes.ca Realtor James Rodgers. We are the ones sitting down at the kitchen table exploring people's housing needs and choices. More and more those needs require finding a home that is Green - energy efficient and therefore affordable to operate (heat or cool), healthy to live in and built with environmentally sustainable materials.

The \$500 Rodgers and his fellow Green Realtors are giving their clients will result in ongoing monthly energy and cost savings in the homes they buy and sell. As well, the GreenerHomes.ca Realtors will utilize the Energuide for Homes rating system to help their clients access thousands of dollars in various energy-related financial incentives.

The EnerGuide for Houses rating system a number between one and 100 for each house where 100 is extremely efficient. Is a critical tool designed to reveal to homeowners the quality of hidden renovations like insulation and proper air sealing, says Paula Steele, Energy Efficiency Coordinator, City Green Solutions (www.citygreen.ca). Clients will value a realtor who can help them compare two 1950s homes and know which one will save them energy and therefore money over the long-term.

Green Realtor training and certification is currently being developed by the Greener Realty of BC Association (www.greenrealtors.ca) and it's partners. The curriculum consists of six primary fields of study:

Energy Efficiency; Green Building Design, Construction, Renovation, and Materials; Housing Affordability and Green Finance; Green Market Awareness and Trends; Healthy Homes including immediate environmental issues such as pollution, contamination, etc.; and Site and Community Planning (including protective covenants, etc).

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — In a November election, voters in 23 states approved 99 ballot measures to provide \$5.73 billion for state and local government funding for land conservation. The total is a record, eclipsing the previous local spending record of \$5.68 billion, set in the general election in November, 1998, according to figures compiled by the Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization.

The 2006 total approved for local conservation spending was also a record, reaching \$6.03 billion, compared to the \$5.86 billion approved in all of 1998. The figures for the entire year include all ballot issues in the year, including those on primary election ballots.

On Nov. 7, there were 128 conservation funding measures on ballots around the nation. The 99 that passed meant a success rate of 77 percent, which is similar to the last decade, when voters have approved about three out of four such measures.

This year's largest single land conservation measure was a statewide bond in California, which included \$2.25 billion for acquisition and protection of open lands.

The Trust for Public Land, established in 1972, specializes in conservation real estate, applying its expertise in negotiations, public finance, and law to protect land for people to enjoy as parks, greenways, community gardens, urban playgrounds, and wilderness. TPL has helped to protect more than 2.2 million acres across the country. For more information, visit TPL on the web at www.tpl.org.

Contact Info: Tim Ahern Tel : 415-710-9095
Website : the Trust for the Public Land tpl.org

New Web site tracks ecosystem health of Georgia Basin and Puget Sound: A new Web site tracks ecosystem health in Puget Sound and Canada's Georgia Basin. The effort is being lauded for monitoring conditions on both side of the border, helping regulators and environmental watchdogs detect trends that might otherwise have been missed. Go to: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/290212_epa27.html

Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. has a new name and contact information. Go to their website at <http://www.ictinc.ca/> to register for upcoming sessions on Working Effectively With Aboriginal Peoples

First Nations Land Rights and Environmentalism in British Columbia
<http://www.firstnations.de/development.htm>

BC Environmental Network, carrying stories and Action releases for BC environmental issues.
<http://www.ecobc.org/>

Researchers at the Earth Institute at Columbia University have developed a map that projects where people will be living in the year 2025. The map forecasts population changes worldwide, with significantly fewer people living in parts of Eastern Europe and Japan but considerable gains elsewhere. Overall, already densely populated developing countries are expected to grow, while populations in developed countries will decrease. Dr. Gaffin said the map can be used for "an enormous array of applications", including playing a central role in improving environmental policies, and reducing the risk of natural disasters in vulnerable parts of the world. The map can be found on line at www.ccsr.columbia.edu/population/map.

Zerofootprint provides information, products and services to the global network of consumers and businesses that wish to reduce their environmental impact. Their website is at: <http://www.zerofootprint.net/>

Current Results – BC's Natural Resources Research Digest - Includes many articles about BC's environment that appear in the scientific literature,

a good way to keep up-to-date on newly published research with the convenient summaries. The online newsletter provides straightforward descriptions of key research findings about BC's environment and its stewardship. Go to their website at: www.CurrentResults.com

The Canadian Energy Efficiency Centre was created by the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEAA) to help facilitate and ease access to energy efficiency information and resources. CEEA promotes and advances energy efficiency and its related benefits to the economy and the environment. Visit www.energyefficiency.org

New Publication **WILDLIFE AND TREES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA** by Mike Fenger, Todd Manning, John Cooper, Stewart Guy and Peter Bradford Wildlife and Trees in British Columbia has one primary purpose: to raise awareness among those who work in B.C.'s forests and also among those who care about them as to the vital role played by "wildlife trees" in protecting biodiversity. For more information about this book go to: www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/1-55105-071-4

Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Tools Network website provides a database of tools to facilitate ecosystem-based management. www.ebmtools.org/index.html

BC Ministry of ENvironment:Deverlop With Care The March 2006 version of Develop with Care replaces the (June 2004 and April 2005) of *Environmental Best Management Practices for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia*. This document is intended to assist people who are involved in planning, implementing, reviewing and/or approving land developments in British Columbia's urban and rural areas. Its primary purpose is to provide province-wide guidelines for the maintenance of environmental values during the development of urban and rural lands. It also provides information on ways that environmental protection and stewardship can benefit the community, the property owner and the developer, as well as the natural environment. http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/dev-withcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

Volunteer BC The “A - Z Directory for Board Governance” is found on the Volunteer BC website. This tool is organized along a continuum of Board development, from new organizations that are in the process of building a Board through to more mature organizations with experienced Board members. To access the directory through the Centre for Sustainability’s Resource page go to: www.centreforsustainability.ca/resources/index.html#BoardDevelopment

Planning Toolkits from CIVICUS

CIVICUS is an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world. They have produced a range of toolkits to enable organizations to improve their capacity in a number of communication and planning areas. From learning how to write a funding proposal, developing a financial strategy and budgeting, to developing more effective action planning skills, the toolkits provide many useful tips and ideas to help strengthen organizations.

Charity Village Subscribe to their e-learning update and find out about courses they offer like Strategic Planning, Event Planning, Building Volunteer Programs, How Boards Work, Proposal Writing, Grant-seeking, Fundraising, Writing Effective Policies and Procedures and More.

www.charityvillage.com/cv/learn/index.asp

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) registers qualifying organizations as charities, gives technical advice on operating a charity, and handles audit and compliance activities. On their website there is much information to assist charities including helpful Forms and Publications for day to day operations at: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tax/charities/publications_list-e.html One document that was referred to the LTABC from the CRA is called the RC4108 which is a basic document that answers most charity financial questions and can be found at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4108/README.html>

The Centre for Sustainability offers a comprehensive list of websites to support your organizational capacity building efforts and enhance organizational effectiveness. For the detailed list go to: www.centreforsustainability.ca/resources/index.html#StartMaintainNotforProfitCharity

Energize Training Tools & Collective Wisdom

<http://www.energizeinc.com/art/subj/train.html> Energize, Inc. is an international training, consulting and publishing firm specializing in volunteerism. They offer facilitation tools for individuals getting started in facilitation, or are leading groups of volunteers. Great “do’s” and “don’ts”, includes links to other sites and resource, team games, how to run a workshop etc. There is also a Collective Wisdom section on the site, with postings from leaders.

Free Management Library – A complete integrated online library for Nonprofits and For-profits. They have a great resource for anyone working with consultants. Topics include Requests for Proposals, Potential Issues in Hiring Consultants, a Sample Checklist for Hiring Consultants and common pitfalls of working with consultants. For more information go to: www.managementhelp.org/staffing/outsrcng/consult/consult.htm

The “Fostering Sustainable Behavior” listserv provides the opportunity for over 3500 program managers to easily dialogue with one another regarding a wide range of behavior change programs that support sustainability. If you would like to subscribe, simply send an email to web@cbsm.com with “Subscribe” in the subject. You may also be interested in searching the archive of past listserv discussions which can be found at www.cbsm.com/forums/search.lasso

Training Programs

Malaspina Natural Resources Extension Program

- Upcoming programs at various locations for Electrofishing: Theory, Safety and Uses, Environmental Monitoring for Construction Projects, Erosion and Sediment Control, Fish Habitat Restoration, Fisheries Field Technician Certificate Program (FFTCP), and Riparian Area Regulation. For more info go to: www.mala.ca/nrep/Schedule.asp

UNBC Continuing Studies – Upcoming programs in Prince George, Kamloops and Fort St. James for Forest Law for First Nations, Inspection, Reporting and Managing Bridges, Stream Bank Restoration Using Bioengineering Techniques, Wildlife Habitat Mini-Course, and Wildlife Danger Tree Assessors Certification - Wildland Fire Safety. For more info go to: www.unbc.ca/continuingstudies

Upcoming Funding Deadlines

Vancouver Foundation – Environment Grants

Please note they have moved to two granting cycles annually

Grant Application Deadlines:

The two annual deadlines for receiving completed grant application forms are Friday March 2, 2007 and Friday September 14, 2007.

Please submit your letter of inquiry at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to the official application deadline. You can submit your letter of inquiry online or directly by mail. Go to their website for more information at <http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/GrantInformation/ApplicationProcessandDeadlines.shtml>

PARTNERS IN ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (POD) – UPDATE

The Centre for Sustainability delivers technical assistance grant programs for not-for-profit organizations in BC's health and social services, arts and heritage, and environment fields. POD grants assist organizations that would like to work with an experienced consultant to enhance their organizational effectiveness. The next call for applications for ArtsPOD is March 2nd, 2007. The next call for applications for Social ServicesPOD and EnviroPOD is anticipated for late April 2007. Program guidelines and application forms for each of the three program streams will be posted to their website early in 2007.

Coming Events

2nd Annual Coastal Invasive Plant Committee Forum

Date: Tuesday February 6, 2007

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Location: Beban Park Social Centre - Lounge
2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo B.C.

For more information go to their website at:
<http://www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/>

Thursday, February 15th -

UVic's Distinguished Professor of Ethnobotany Dr. Nancy J. Turner speaks at HAT's 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Bring your Sweetheart to McMorran's Beach House (Charter's Restaurant at 5109 Cordova Bay Rd). Tickets for this HAT fund-raiser are \$65 – call to reserve at 250 995 2428. Or for more information go to www.hat.bc.ca/events.htm

Growing Up Organic

**Canada's first national conference on organic food
Toronto, Feb. 17th, 2007**

*Early-bird prices available until January 15th

Canada's first national conference on organic food, Growing Up Organic, takes place in Toronto on Saturday, February 17th, 2007 from 9am to 5pm at 89 Chestnut Street (University of Toronto). Conference topics include the state of our food and its effects on children, the health benefits of eating organics, organic programs for kids, and the price of organic food.

Children's environmental health and agricultural experts, nutritionists, policy makers, and many others will share their views on how organics are making a difference. Speakers include Thomas Pawlick, author of *The End of Food*; Wendy Mesley of CBC Television; Ellen Desjardins, Public Health Nutritionist and Registered Dietitian; and Kathleen Cooper, researcher with the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and co-author of *Environmental Standard Setting and Children's Health*.

More information, a draft agenda and registration is available through Canadian Organic Growers at www.cog.ca or by calling 1-888-375-7383. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series

March 16-18th 10 yr Celebration of Conservation with leading speakers:

Robert Pyle, Butterfly Ecologist and renowned writer, and Bill Merilees, BC writer, botanist and naturalist plus 3 days of workshops and seminars – contact Sab-rina@landtrustalliance.bc.ca for registration details

Trails to Sustainability: A national environmental education conference Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, Alberta

Thursday 24 May to Sunday 27 May, 2007

This event will help you learn more about the many paths to environmental stewardship and a vibrant society and economy. For more info go to: www.trailstosustainability.ca

work of community members in the Cowichan Valley who have made CCLT a part of that community. On the ground, among the people, community based land trusts do matter, and the very community they build is really almost as important as the special places they save. No provincial or national organization can do it all, nor can they ever do what they do in an enduring way without the support of community members and partnerships with local land trusts.

So, what is the “why” of LTABC, and where must it go in the future? LTABC provides research and publications, the BC Lands in Trust Registry, regional workshops, outreach to communities, seminars directed toward professionals and industries, and public education and outreach. These resources have value to its members, beyond the means of any individual trust. LTABC has provided support to a number of emerging land trusts, and it will always have such a role. But I believe its biggest role remains that of a facilitator of meetings, of dialog and of relationships. I see its need to become more of a spokesperson for the land trust movement with local and provincial governments. LTABC has a role in meeting with provincial government representatives in Victoria. It needs to be seen to be sure that local land trusts are seen and counted in development of policy and to act as a conduit in support of our very important grassroots movement. It is a role for which LTABC is uniquely suited, and its time has come. With the support of land trusts across the province, LTABC can become that public voice in much the same way as the various arts groups have provincial representation. Land trusts can be heard as a united voice and through that voice can come financial and legislative support. The work of LTABC provides credibility and a provincial voice. This is why we should be so thankful that LTABC is here and why we should care that it prospers for many many years to come. We welcome anyone connected to the protection of BC’s natural and cultural diversity to get involved with the directions and work of the LTABC by joining as members or to serve with us on Council. Bill Turner, Councillor and Executive Director TLC, The Land Conservancy of BC.

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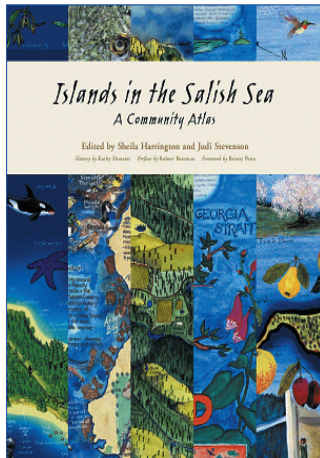
**BECOME A MEMBER OR SUPPORTER OF
THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Member & Supporter Structure and Annual Rates

Land Trust Organization (sliding scale: suggested rates)	Voting	voluntary org.	\$100
		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:

- ☐ *NEW Guide to Baseline Inventories* - CD containing *Guide to Baseline Inventories, samples, template forms, and protocols* \$20.00
- ☐ *NEW 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 \$5.00
- ☐ *Islands in the Salish Sea – A community atlas* award winning collection and guide to community mapping - 30 full colour maps 2005, \$44.95
- ☐ *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 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

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

