



The Kingfisher

Volume 22, Winter/Spring 2010 - 11 The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



In this Issue:
**Lifetime Legacies of Land
Living Community Forests
Wetland Wildlife Passages**

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



The Land Trust Alliance of BC is dedicated to the stewardship and conservation of BC's natural and cultural heritage. We provide education, research, communication and financial services which support land trusts, conservancies and others.

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Johnny Osland, photo by Donald Gordon

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Message from the Executive Director

You, our members, responded with great enthusiasm to our member land trust survey circulated in August.

With the Board of the Land Trust Alliance set to discuss our strategic direction in November, receiving first-hand feedback from members was the most vital step in moving the discussions forward.

The results indicated that land trusts have several key issues facing them today:

Funding / fundraising; Communications / public awareness; Capacity building in areas of volunteer programs, board and staff skills development.

These are some of the issues the board will face during these strategic discussions.

Obviously funding is at the forefront of all non-profit strategies today. The economy, politics, human resources and capacity all come into play. With land trusts growing in scope during the past decade, we must look at effective ways to fund our projects and seek partnerships that increase the visibility of land trusts.

Almost parallel to funding is communications. With increased communications to targeted audiences, potential donors and funders will better understand the role of land trusts and their importance to British Columbia. Increased public awareness will also help expand the donor pool and educate people who may be interested in covenants and long-term land donations.

With more donors and visibility come opportunities to attract more volunteers and skilled Board members. As many land trusts operate on a volunteer basis it is essential that these resources grow to provide the appropriate level of capacity needed for local organizations.

Those land trusts with staff components also face capacity issues. Often the amount of work exceeds the time staff are available and choices must be made which leave areas of importance unaddressed.

During the past five months I have met with many people from local land trusts, provincial organizations, donors and funders. The singular word I would select to describe the efforts of people involved in land trusts is passion. Often you see people engaged because they love the arts, are committed to finding a cure or challenged to build a new university facility. These characteristics exist in land trusts but the added and dominant element of passion is what makes our organizations flourish and grow.

To have one million acres protected in BC makes land trusts a leader in Canada. Not only is the size of the protection impressive but also the timespan in which it has been accomplished.

Our planet, country and province all face enormous challenges as people try to address issues around conservation. Whether we represent provincial members such as NCC and TLC, regional groups like the Islands Trust Fund or local land trusts such as Malaspina and NALT we have one common bond – to protect and conserve British Columbia.

As we embark upon a new strategic plan, it is my hope that we come together to find new and innovative ways that will benefit all members as we move toward conserving our second million acres!

Paul McNair, Executive Director

Table of Contents

Page

Current Campaigns

Warner Philip Conservation Area (NCC - Ranch and Grassland Protection)	4
Piecing Together the Conservation Puzzle on the Horsefly River (TLC)	6
Wetland Wildlife Passages (Wells Gray Provincial Park Corridor)	7

Conservation Successes

TLC - Negotiating the Faces on the Malamute	8
Legacy of a Lifetime (Lasqueti Resident donates 164 acres to Islands Trust Fund)	9
Land Trust Creates MacDougall Forest (Savary Island)	12
Fairy Fen - Islands Trust Fund Acquires Bowen's Newest Nature Reserve	13
Late Breaking Campaigns (Pender Island and Mary Lake, Victoria)	14

Feature - Innovative Developments

Living Forest Communities	15
---------------------------	----

Species at Risk

Avian Romance on the Galiano Waterfront	18
The Species at Risk Act - Critical Habitat: What it Means and What it Doesn't	19

Restoration and Management

Meditative Journey: Grasslands Reclamation in the Rocky Mountain Trench	20
Tk'emlups Wetland Construction	22
Restoring Fish Channels in Nanaimo's Departure Creek	23

Conservation Programs and Planning

Partnering for Conservation in the Okanagan Basin	24
Islands Trust Fund Releases Regional Conservation Plan	26
The 2010 Real Estate Foundation of BC Land Awards	27

Book Reviews

Two Farmland Trust Books & Conservation Finance	28
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Land Trust Alliance of BC Updates

Member Workshops, Conservation Assistance Fund	29
Living Carbon Investments - update, Canadian LTA update	30

Conservation News and Resources

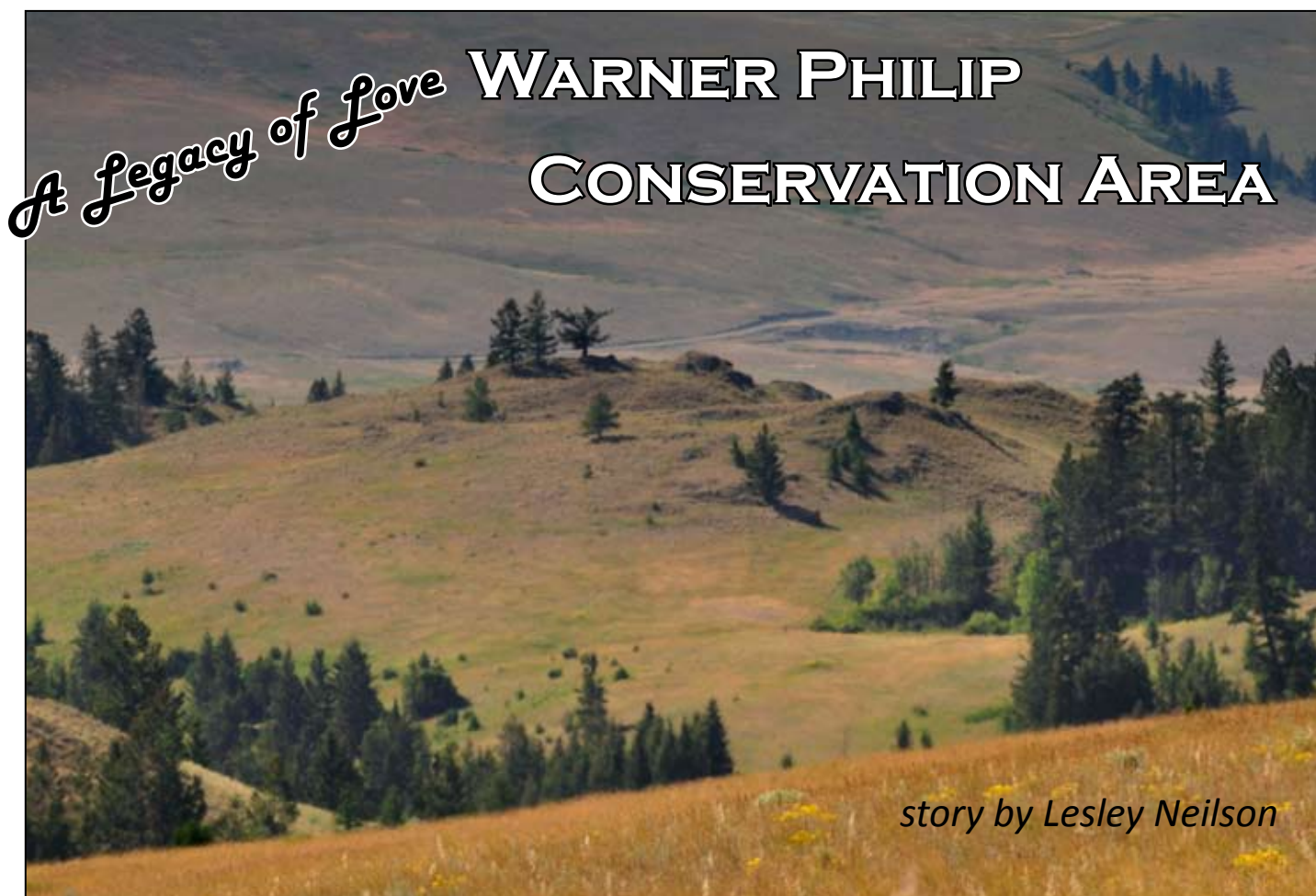
31

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A Legacy of Love

WARNER PHILIP CONSERVATION AREA

story by Lesley Neilson

photo by Tim Ennis

South of Kamloops in the rolling native grasslands of the Nicola Valley lies 640 acres (260 hectares) of low-lying prairie and woodland-capped hills. This is the Philip Ranch, one of the area's oldest ranching establishments. An impressive mosaic of habitats flourish here, and when passing through you would be certain to see, hear and smell the rich diversity of plants and animals that make use of the property.

Settled in 1909, the Philip Ranch has been actively run by the family ever since. With the passing of Warner Philip in 2005, his wife, Connie, initiated a conservation project with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to honour her husband's legacy and love of the land.

"I want to see this ranch protected because of Warner's love of the place, especially the homestead his father originally came to," says Connie. "And because of the kind of man Warner was, I want something dedicated to him."

Warner spent his entire life ranching. He grew up on the ranch, taking over from his father in the middle of the 20th century. Warner married Connie in 1950, and together they

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is seeking funding to create the Warner Philip Conservation Area. Once complete, a conservation covenant will protect the original homestead of the Philip Ranch.

raised a large family and built a large and prosperous ranch. Now their son, Peter, runs the family business.

"The ranch meant everything to Warner," says Connie. "One night, when he wasn't so sick, he took me down to Long Lake. Our kids said it was just like we were out on a date. But it was as though he knew his cancer would come back. The one thing he wanted before we took him to the hospice was to drive him around the old homestead and the rest of the ranch."

Nestled into a handful of British Columbia's river valleys, grasslands cover less than one percent of the province's natural environment. Despite the small footprint of our native grasslands, an incredible array of plants and animals rely on this habitat. But grasslands are magnets for humans—we are attracted to their agriculture potential, their ease of development and their aesthetic qualities. The pressure is on to protect what remains.

The Philip Ranch supports prime grassland habitat for some of BC's most imperilled species. The Burrowing owl, badger, Sandhill crane and Western rattlesnake are all

species at risk that rely on these grasslands for survival.

Connie, who still lives on the ranch, can rattle off a list of her fellow creatures faster than anything.

“We have bluebirds and hummingbirds, swans, Canada geese, mallards and herons” she says. We have Burrowing and Great Horned owls. We have three types of woodpecker – Downy, Hairy and Pileated. This winter I saw a Red-naped sapsucker, the first one I’ve ever seen up here.”

The ranch is also ripe with native wildflowers, a feature that was almost as close to Warner’s heart as his love of cattle.

“Warner loved the farming as much as the cattle,” recalls Connie. “It was his whole life. He was so very observant of the land. He could spot new flowers even when driving the car, and he was always the first to report new flowers coming through in the spring. Ladyslipper, shootingstar, lupine, violets, Chocolate-lilies all grow on the ranch. And of course there are all the berry bushes too – the wild raspberries and saskatoons and chokecherries.

“I know that Warner would appreciate the land staying as it is, rather than seeing it settled.” Connie remarked, “I’ve had numerous real estate agents asking if I want to sell, but I know Warner wouldn’t want that and I don’t either.”

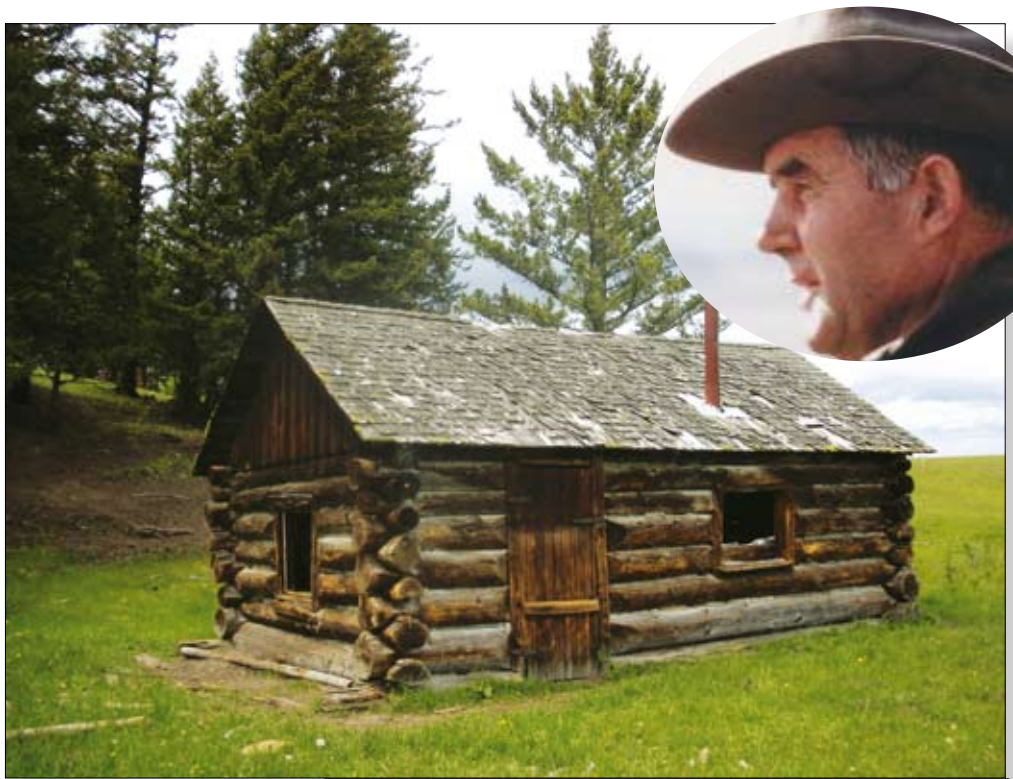


photo by Tim Ennis

To help support the protection of the Warner Philip Conservation Area contact Barb Pryce, NCC Okanagan Program Manager at 250-497-8010 or barbara.pryce@natureconservancy.ca

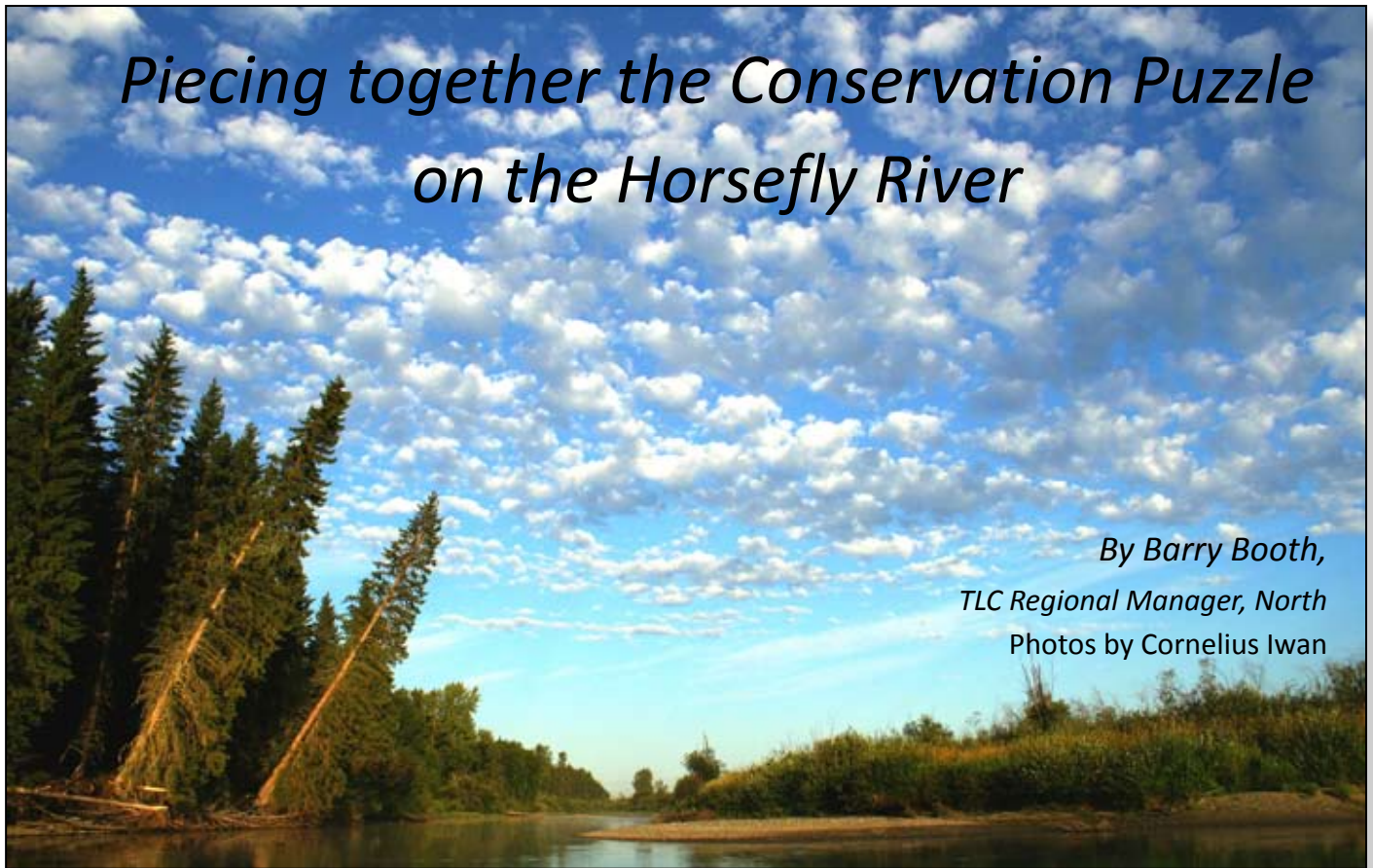
photo of Warner Philip - courtesy of the Philip family
photos of homestead - NCC
previous page and right - Photos - Tim Ennis

Piecing together the Conservation Puzzle on the Horsefly River

By Barry Booth,

TLC Regional Manager, North

Photos by Cornelius Iwan



In many ways prioritizing conservation opportunities is like fitting pieces into a puzzle. Instead of placing individual pieces on a blank table, one changes unprotected pieces into protected ones, thereby building a larger picture that shows an ever increasing area of protected lands. One of the most fulfilling aspects of working with The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) is the opportunity to acquire and then manage a property that builds on previous work. A new acquisition that becomes part of a larger conservation area is extremely valuable from a conservation perspective.

TLC's campaign to purchase a 56-acre parcel in the Horsefly River Valley will fulfill this larger picture. We are working to acquire the last section of the old Kroener Ranch, which is immediately adjacent to the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area (HRRCA), one of TLC's first acquisitions. This new property of young mixed wood forest, wetlands, and intact riparian habitat along the Horsefly River is of immense strategic value for wildlife and salmon conservation.



The importance of this acquisition is three-fold. First, by buying these lands, TLC eliminates the possible threat of future development along this section of the Horsefly River. Second, we also increase the conservation value of the HRRCA by

expanding its overall size, and third, we link it to crown land that has been designated as a key wetland for moose in an Old-growth Forest Management Area. As a result, the protected riparian habitat in the valley would be extended by a further two km on the north side of the Horsefly River and by an additional 140 acres overall. This will result in a greater ability for wildlife to survive and thrive in a larger contiguous area.

This is the most valuable type of acquisition. With this purchase we are continuing to fill in the pieces of the conservation puzzle in the Horsefly River, one of B.C.'s most important wild salmon rivers. The Land Conservancy of BC and its partners require \$160,000 to complete the purchase. Help us protect salmon and other wildlife. Donate today at conservancy.bc.ca or 1-877-485-2422.

Wetland Wildlife Passages



By Barry Booth

photo by Jason Hollinger

According to scientists, corridors that link critical habitats together are the key to the continued existence of wildlife populations. Consequently, creating corridors so animals can move from place to place is a major focus of most conservation organizations. TLC is working to do just this in the Clearwater River Valley.

Over the years, the boundaries of Wells Gray Provincial Park have been extended southward. The result has been a considerable enlargement of both the western and eastern sections, such that southern Wells Gray Provincial Park today occupies two extensive tracts of land separated by a sliver of private land, referred to locally as Upper Clearwater. Currently, many of the park's large mammals—moose, wolf, deer, cougar, black and grizzly bear—migrate semi-annually across these private lands. Together with renowned lichenologist and naturalist, Trevor Goward, TLC aims to create a permanent wildlife corridor that will connect these two parts of Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Presently, the movement of animals in this area has been relatively easy because a number of private lots are undeveloped. However, this situation is changing: pressures are mounting that will ultimately see the development of these lots as recreational properties.

TLC's Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor Campaign involves the acquisition of three properties (38 acres). Added to this Trevor Goward is generously donating 10 acres and his neighbours John and Edwina Kurta are donating 66 acres. With these purchases, the project will secure a permanent wildlife corridor across the Upper

Clearwater, the protection of 66 acres of wetlands, and a 10-acre meadow that is home to Canada's most diverse population of Moonwort Ferns (*Botrychium* spp.). This project will also provide access to a portion of the wetlands, as plans are being made to construct trails and a viewing platform that will allow the public to experience the soon-to-be created Kurta Wetlands Conservation Area.

As people move and settle further into the wild places of BC, ever increasing pressure is placed on wildlife populations. This pressure affects one of the fundamental needs of wildlife: the ability to move safely from one place to another. Creating corridors like this one in the Clearwater River Valley is possible, thanks to these generous donations and further donations to acquire these last links. (See next page to find out how you can help!)

In late August, Trevor Goward, two TLC members, and a staff person toured the Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor and the southern section of Wells Gray Provincial Park. One TLC member was astonished by the variety of plant species as a result of a fire in 1926, as well as the massive boulders sprinkled on the property from the last glacier retreat. The other member was fascinated by the presence of scratch marks on trees and large excavations dug by bears looking for food. At the end of the day, the tour made each of them realize this special place is truly a wildlife corridor worth saving!

*TLC - Negotiating the
Many Faces of the Malamute*

*Heather Skydt,
TLC Communications Manager*

One of the lesser known facts about The Land Conservancy of BC's work is the amount of hours the organization dedicates to negotiating deals that save threatened sites throughout BC. The latest success of the Malamute property in Squamish is no exception.

As a popular climbing destination and valuable falcon nesting bluff, the Malamute was recently protected and added to the Stawamus Chief Provincial Park. It was a multi-level initiative which involved the Province of BC, the District of Squamish, several First Nations, various climbing associations, and the landowner, Malamute Holdings Ltd. From the beginning TLC played a vital role in the land acquisition as the mediator.



photo Kevin McLane

TLC received approximately \$60,000 from Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) to help research and negotiate the deal to purchase the Malamute. TLC established the initial contact with the owner, presented the deal to the District of Squamish and the Province of BC, organized the tax incentives through Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, conducted various appraisals, and supported the deal until completion.

In addition to public fundraising campaigns to protect natural areas, heritage sites and agricultural lands, TLC often labours behind the scenes and acts as a mediator to negotiate deals that save special places, that are ultimately owned or managed by other conservation organizations or even the Province of BC for the benefit of future generations. It is because of TLC's considerable experience in putting together multi-party solutions—which have included federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as many other local land trusts and other non-profit groups and businesses—TLC is respected and relied upon by many organizations to make land negotiations happen.

Even though TLC does not have an official stake in the final Malamute deal which was announced on September 24, 2010, the Province acknowledged that TLC was the catalyst for this deal and that they provided the leadership and the groundwork to make this possible.

TLC credits Mountain Equipment Co-op with the vision to launch a campaign to protect the Malamute, with bringing TLC in to lead the project, and committing the financial support to make it happen. In addition, TLC would like to thank the Province for staying committed to the project during the long and complex process. This new addition to Stawamus Chief Provincial Park would not have happened without the efforts of provincial staff, West Vancouver – Sea to Sky MLA, Joan McIntyre, and former Environment Minister Barry Penner.

Help the Clearwater and Horsefly Campaigns!

photo below: Cornelius Iwan



TLC and its partners need to raise \$510,000 to secure these acquisitions for the Horsefly River and Clearwater corridor. With the generous donations by Goward and the Kurtas, the total area protected in the Clearwater River Valley will exceed 114 acres. To make your donation visit conservancy.bc.ca or call 1-877-485-2422.

A LEGACY OF A LIFETIME

by Donald Gordon

Through his life on Lasqueti for 62 years, John Osland became a landmark. He seemed as much a part of Lasqueti as the land and the trees he admired. And in parting, left an everlasting gift.

Storyteller, Lasqueti archivist, island historian, boatbuilder, sailor, lover of woodsman-philosopher Henry Thoreau, friend, John Osland left us on March 10. His love of Lasqueti is shown in his legacy. He also leaves us with memories of his broadcast-quality stories, delightful wit, fierce independence, and remarkable physical toughness.

John was born in Woonsocket, South Dakota, on Boxing Day 1918. Just before the Second World War, John built an 18-foot sailboat in his parents' backyard in Salem Oregon, and ran down the flooding Willamette and Columbia rivers to the Pacific.

According to newspaper reports at the time, he figured that going to sea single-handed in his small boat would give

him the quiet that he wanted to get some reading done. He headed down the wild coast of Oregon and California with a few charts, a large supply of books and a smaller supply of food. Within a couple of weeks he was declared "Lost at Sea." More likely, he was enjoying his reading, and was in no hurry to rejoin town life. "John is not lost at sea. He has Viking blood," said his dad.

Johnny Osland left his 164-acre property to the Islands Trust Fund to become a nature reserve. He hoped that the people of Lasqueti would enjoy it and care for it as carefully as he did. This is a remarkable legacy from a remarkable man.

His later plans of continuing his sailing down to Panama were scuppered by the Military Registration Board, who didn't want military-aged men sailing out of US waters. So he and his 18 footer had to end their trip in San

Diego, 1,100 miles of open Pacific from the mouth of the Columbia.

After three years of the Second World War aboard US Coast Guard ships escorting military supply convoys from San Diego to the Philippines and from Australia to American-captured islands across the South Pacific, John keenly needed more quiet reading time. He attended the University of Oregon for a year, then came north to Lasqueti for the summer of 1948. He was hooked.



He found a piece of land where he could work his fields, walk among ancient trees, and climb to the top of the third highest point on Lasqueti. He could discuss books with his neighbour Archie Millicheap, and socialize with the Douglasses. And he could soak up the stories, told by the old-timers and interspersed with Chinook words, that he could still vividly retell 60 years later.

During his early years on Lasqueti, logging of the old-growth trees was going strong. With pressure from some neighbours, he signed a two-year logging contract and was glad at first of the dollars that it began to bring in. After the first summer, however, he had a change of heart. He wanted those massive old trees to be allowed to remain, without having to fall “in the name of the dollar” as he put it. Luck was on his side, and the second summer was too dry for much logging. When the logging company wanted to extend their contract, he refused. So John’s big trees have remained.

Despite, or perhaps because of, his remarkable life John never seemed to grow old. At age 90 he was building incredibly tall skinny ladders to enable himself to build a tree-house 40 feet up one of his cedars. And despite cataracts, he still rode his bike at speeds which terrified onlookers. When asked at 90 what his secret to fitness was, he replied “First, you’ve got to be poor!”

Leaving only his bicycle tracks along his grassy driveway, and trails for carrying bags of bark home on his back, John walked lightly on the land. He got immense pleasure from walking among his big firs; it was always a treat to do this with him.

For the last 20 years John wanted to find a formal way to protect the Nature on his land after he was gone. “Too often nature has to serve the almighty dollar.” He envisaged his land being a place where nature could be left mostly undisturbed except for visits and walks by those “seeking the enjoyment of nature.”



From the editor's conversation with Donald Gordon, who among others, helped ensure the Osland land was protected:

"We talked a lot. Before I had kids I did a lot of conservation work in northern BC. He was friends with my Dad (who bought and then donated Trematon), but he and I had an enduring relationship. When the donation of Mt. Tremeton happened, he was glad, and saw how that had happened.

John was concerned that his land might get sold and developed. Then it would lose its conservation values—the big trees and the wetlands. He was very concerned, but other things were more pressing. One day we were talking about it, and I said it's all very well to talk about it, but unless you write it down, it's all just hot air. I got him a book on wills, and contacted several conservancies, receiving some text to include in the will from Islands Trust Fund staff. A patient lawyer provided her services for free to create a solid and legally-binding document.

A lot of people thought he was a hermit. But to the people who really knew him, he was terribly sociable. He was very interested in what was going on. He spent a lot of time reading books—no wonder he got cataracts. He was sitting there one January. It was just freezing. This place gets no direct sun in the dead of winter. It was at least minus 5 in here, and he was sitting there reading, no fire on. He was sitting there and looked up. His friend Jane said, are you reading about somewhere warm? He said, "Isn't that just like a woman. No, I'm reading about someplace colder—Antartica—so I can feel warmer." "The last 60 years he got used to living in a cool house. There was no slow decline. He was fine, hauling wood around right up to the end."



From Johnny's copy of Robinson Crusoe

Excerpted from one of Johnny's 110 composition journals:

October 1st 1936 U.C.L.A. campus

I have had my Botany and Biology and Chemistry. I have dipped some to the various laws and speculations as they were pushed before me by struggling teachers. Aye, I have been shown the way. And yet, in vain, so little do I know. We muse a little but I fear, oh I dreadfully fear for myself had I been with him—that long forgotten creature who wandered lost among these trees, or on the plains, I fear I perhaps have forgotten to muse even a little... What,

had not some great creature told me that "there are things between heaven and earth" I had been doing. Worn from the chase you might find me debauching with my friends under this great fir tree then to fall back and sleep. The search for food, the conquest of man; Oh, I learn from my hunting and my food gathering amongst the berry patches and in the rivers, but I am never free. And had I been. Let us say I have all this stored for my use. What, then?

Or should I have looked "before and after?" Now I fear for myself. What might I have learned of these great forests and from these great trees. Should I have asked myself why the Hemlock were different from and yet so much like, these great things we call Firs? Or in the night should I have guessed the immensity of the stars? Would Pine and Spruce and Cedar have been examined, even the systems of nature visualized by my free and easy self? But enough - let us climb down from our limb far above.



photos previous page - Donald Gordon
photos this page - Sheila Harrington

Ecological Features:

The majority of the Osland property contains mature forest (>80 years old) and to a lesser extent young forest (40-80 years old). Several Douglas fir trees found on the site are believed to be over 150 years old. Douglas fir, red alder, arbutus, grand fir and western red cedar are the prominent tree species. The property features ecosystems associated with the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone. Only 0.25% of the CDF remains in the Province of B.C. (approximately 256,100 ha). CDF has less than 2.5% protected in the province and is the smallest forest subzone in BC with intensive urban and agricultural pressures.

Land Trust Creates

MACDOUGALL FOREST

By Carmen Cadrin R.P.Bio, P.Ag. and Liz Webster M.A.

Hart and Eve MacDougall came to Savary to visit friends for a weekend in the summer of 1961. They fell in love with the island, and by the end of the weekend were changing their east coast summer vacation plans in favour of staying at Savary. After walking the beach they found a house to rent for the rest of the summer.

The MacDougalls have been returning ever since. In 1963 the vacant property east of 'The Harkness' came on the market. The MacDougalls bought it but continued to rent until 1967 when they proceeded to build on the property. A couple of years later the piece behind them came on the market so they bought it to protect their beachfront. In those days Savary was a sleepy summer retreat; there were only a couple of vehicles on the island and the road was a lovely solid path with grass running down the centre line. Today MacDougall family members travel with their families from Australia, Toronto and Vancouver to spend time together on Savary.

The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) is thrilled to report on the preservation of a 2.5 acre parcel of the island's mature forest. The land is located upland from the Wharf hill and is a lovely gently sloping parcel with salal, dull Oregon-grape, Douglas-fir and western red cedar. Donated by Hart and Eve MacDougall, the new MacDougall Forest will be preserved in perpetuity. SILT Chair Lenore Rowntree said "the SILT board is delighted with this gift and grateful to the MacDougall family for their vision, action and generous support over the years. This is the second parcel that SILT



holds on the east side of the island.

Commenting on what the island has meant to the family Hart said, "Next year will be our 50th anniversary on Savary so this will be our gift back to the island that has meant so much to the MacDougall family."

Hart was among the founding Directors of the Savary Island Land Trust Society, and while serving on the board was a keen supporter, contribu-

tor, auctioneer, and promoter of the efforts of the Trust. The donation was processed through the Ecological Gifts Program administered by Environment Canada. SILT is one of the charities approved for gifts through the Ecological Gifts Program. The Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. For more information on the Ecological Gifts Program visit www.ec.gc.ca/nature.

Ecological Legacy

The grand-fir/dull Oregon-grape ecosystem is critically endangered both globally and provincially while the Douglas-fir/dull Oregon-grape ecosystem is endangered both in BC and globally (see BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer). This gift of land will help preserve two ecosystems at risk and support adaptation as climate change advances. The MacDougall Forest will live on for generations to come while contributing to the preservation of biodiversity in the most threatened Biogeoclimatic zone in Canada. This donation brings SILT's total to 14 acres in nine parcels. Our sincere thanks go to the MacDougall family for creating a legacy for present and future generations.

Fairy Fen on Bowen Island - Now a Safe Haven through Crown Land Grant Transfer

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Islands Trust Fund recently took ownership of its 20th nature reserve, Fairy Fen Nature Reserve on Bowen Island. The Province of British Columbia transferred the 18-hectare parcel to the Islands Trust Fund through the provincial Free Crown Grant program. The new nature reserve protects a rare wetland ecosystem and undisturbed forested area.

Fairy Fen's protection is a success, not just for Bowen Island, but for the conservation of British Columbia's rare ecosystems as a whole. Fairy Fen, also known locally as Mystery Marsh, is described by biologists as one of the most undisturbed, biologically diverse and ecologically rare fens in southern British Columbia. A fen is a wetland fed by ground or surface water and is chemically neutral or alkaline in its chemistry, supporting a high diversity of plant and animal species. The nature reserve protects unique plants such as Labrador tea, bog St. John's-wort, bog cranberry, and a wide variety of sedges and mosses. Western bluebirds use Fairy Fen during migration route.

With sponsorship of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and the consent of the First Nations with interests in the area, the Islands Trust, a local government, may apply to have vacant Crown land transferred to the Trust Fund Board. To receive approval, sponsorship by the Ministry of Community and Rural Development is required, which means that the land valuation must fit within the Ministry's annual budget for Crown land, and the application must meet other criteria set out by the Province.

Efforts to acquire Fairy Fen began more than five years ago when the Islands Trust Fund asked the Bowen Island community to select its highest priority areas for the Free Crown Grant program. Once Fairy Fen was confirmed as the first choice, the Islands Trust Fund partnered with the Bowen Island Conservancy to satisfy the conditions of the transfer, including raising the funds needed to pay for an appraisal, land survey and management plan. The consent of the Squamish First Nation was required; they were consulted and agreed to support the application.

Fairy Fen is the third nature reserve the Islands Trust Fund has protected on Bowen Island. The Islands Trust Fund has also created two other nature reserves through the Free Crown Grant program—Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve on Gabriola Island and Mt. Artaban

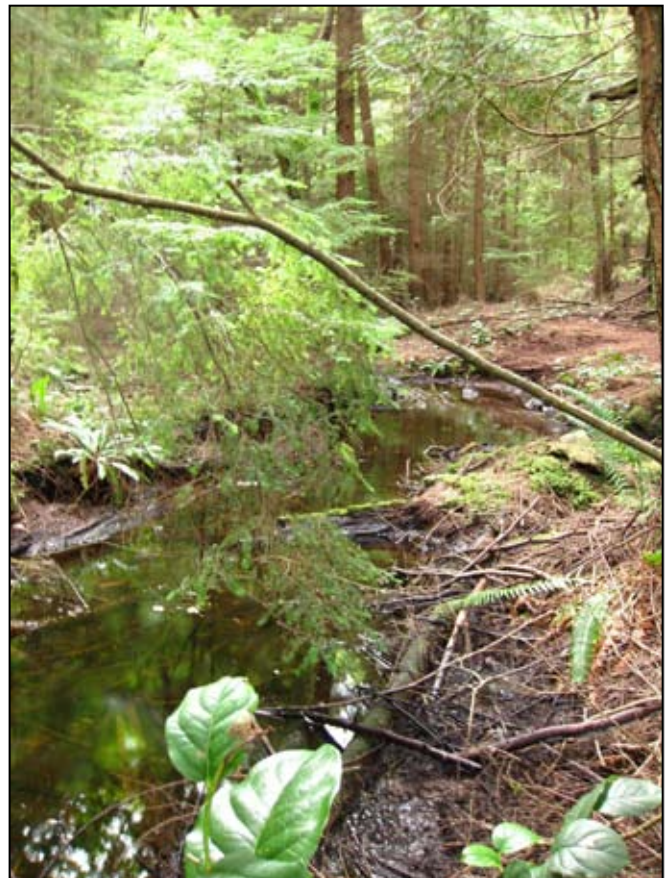


photo: Jennifer Eliason

A fen is a wetland fed by ground or surface water and is chemically neutral or alkaline in its chemistry, supporting a high diversity of plant and animal species.

Nature Reserve on Gambier Island. The Islands Trust Fund and the Bowen Island Conservancy will consult the Bowen community about wise management of the property. The sensitive ecology of the site will require restricting access to some areas as well as visitor education to keep recreation impacts to a minimum. Possible boardwalks and a viewing platform would allow visitors to enjoy the beauty of the fen without trampling and compacting the deep organic soils of the fen.

The Islands Trust Fund is a regional land trust that works with private landowners and island communities to permanently protect the unique environment of the islands in the Howe Sound and Strait of Georgia. Since 1990, the Islands Trust Fund has protected more than 1,000 hectares of natural area.

**PROTECTING THE SHORELINE
TREASURES OF SOUTH PENDER
ISLAND**



Sylvia Pincott,

*Pender Islands Conservancy
Association*

Ten years ago the people of Pender Islands and beyond rallied to acquire two magnificent headlands on the southern tip of South Pender Island. These treasured lands totalling approximately 12 acres, now known as Brooks Point and Gowlland Point, are separated by approximately three acres of privately held land.

Treasured by residents and visitors alike, these properties offer abundant natural values—from the wildflower delights of camas and chocolate lilies, to fascinating shoreline life, with otters playing and seabirds gathering, while orcas or dolphins cruise just off shore—all with the magnificent backdrop of Mount Baker to the east, and assorted islands to the south and west. Professional Biologist Jan Kirkby tells us that “undeveloped coastal woodland and grassland sites such as this are extremely rare in the southern Gulf Islands. This site offers an unusual mosaic of different ecological community types, all of which are considered provincially at risk.”

Since acquisition of these lands 10 years ago, a high priority has been to obtain the connecting three acres, vital for protecting the ecological integrity of the parkland properties—and for providing visitor access between the parks. TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, who have been involved from the beginning, have kept in touch with the situation over the years and have placed an option to purchase on the property at its appraised value of \$1.6 million.

The land is within the CRD Regional Parks system, and we hope that the CRD will approve purchase of this Gowlland Point addition on the basis of financial assistance from the community. It will likely be necessary to raise at least 35% of the cost to ensure that the CRD is able to put the entire parcel into the park.

We hope that “Pender magic” may prevail and that caring conservation funding may be found. For more information, please contact Bill Turner of The Land Conservancy of BC, 250-479-8053.

Mary Lake, Vancouver Island

The Highlands Stewardship Foundation has just launched its campaign to save Mary Lake, a 10-acre parcel connecting Gowlland-Tod to Thetis Lake Park near Victoria, BC.

Mary Lake sits in the midst of a treasured 107-acre parcel of carefully conserved and endangered Dry Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem. Only a very small percentage of the land in the Dry Coastal Douglas Fir Zone is permanently protected. The property is also a critical habitat for numerous indigenous plant and animal species, many listed as endangered or threatened in British Columbia.

Preserving it is crucial to the creation of an important wildlife corridor connecting the Gowlland Tod Provincial Park and the Thetis Lake Regional Park. With its natural trail network established over the past 60 years, the Mary Lake property – if saved – will also provide a key link in the Southern Vancouver Island trail network as a contiguous natural link between Thetis Lake and Gowlland Tod Parks, and on to the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt.

The opportunity to preserve such ecologically valuable real estate comes only once, and if we don't act now, it will be lost forever. Many hands make light work, and this work is truly meaningful. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mary Lake NEEDS to be saved, and we need YOUR help to do it. To protect and conserve the Mary Lake property, the Mary Lake Conservancy must raise \$4.5 million—an incredibly ambitious undertaking given Mary Lake's location in one of Vancouver Island's smallest municipalities.

Which is why we need YOU. For just \$10, you can conserve a square metre of what is truly one of the last pieces of land of its kind. Visit SaveMaryLake.com to pick your square metre and leave your mark for the world to see! Where else can \$10 last a lifetime?

You can help protect this lake!



LIVING FOREST COMMUNITIES



photo Garth Lenz

An Innovative Community Land Stewardship Zone

By Kelsey Verboom

Dressed in jeans, a T-shirt, and hiking boots, Doug Makaroff leans forward and grasps the bushy base of a Scottish Broom plant. As he leans back and pulls, the shrub's roots slip from the soil. As president of Living Forest Planning Consultants, a Victoria based eco-development company, you would expect Makaroff to be sitting behind a desk. But today he's ditched his office duds in exchange for outdoor gear to participate in an organized effort to eliminate the spread of Broom—an invasive weed that crowds out natural vegetation—on the property of Living Forest's latest project.

A day spent pulling Broom is one of the ways Living Forest walks the sustainability talk. The group is heading a unique development project on a privately owned 950-acre property in the South Shawnigan Lake area known as Elkington Forest. The forested property features a variety of streams, lakes, and wetlands, and is home to 70 plant

and animal communities, including 11 threatened species. Instead of developing the land into sprawling properties using common industrial-based forestry practices such as clear-cutting, Makaroff's company is using a development model that encourages land conservation and sustainable forest practices combined with low impact clustered housing units.

The model, referred to as Living Forest Communities, is inspired by the work of the pioneer of ecoforestry, Merv Wilkinson, and by a similar project headed by Ann Mortiffee on Cortes Island. On the Elkington Forest property, less than 15 per cent of the land will be developed into low impact village-like housing clusters using eco-friendly building practices. The housing areas will also feature approximately 75 acres designated to food production in the form of community gardens. Income generated from the sale of these housing developments will allow the remaining 85 per cent



photo Garth Lenz

Sustainable Community Land Stewardship Zone

The Trust for Sustainable Forestry pioneered the Sustainable Community Land Stewardship Zone on the 153 acre Everwoods project on Cortes Island in 2002. Ann Mortifee recruited Doug Makaroff to expand on this 85-15 conservation community model: 85% is retained in ecosystem based forestry (single stem selection) to a maximum of 75% of the annual incremental growth. The remaining 15% is designated for agroforestry (food production) and 3 residential hamlet areas.

“When the subject turns to ecoforestry, industrial foresters tend to mock it. They say one can’t make money at it. The problem with short term rotation is that all the money comes in two quarters, then you wait 60 years. Whereas this model takes off consistent revenue over the course of 60 years. The key is the short term to long term revenue flow. That’s why 15% in development makes sense. We need to transition from industrial forestry and suburban large lot development to the next level. We hope developers and planners will think differently and in a holistic way.”

of the property to be placed under protective covenants, permitting the conservation of the most ecologically sensitive areas of the property.

Some forest harvesting will occur on the property, but it will be done selectively and over an extended period of time to ensure sustainability. With careful planning and by harvesting less timber than the forest’s growth rate, the volume of wood on the property will be sustained says Makaroff. “Over the course of 60 years, we are actually taking out more timber than you would in one clear-cut.”

Ultimately, Makaroff hopes his project and others like it will prompt a shift in government policies from the current industrial-based forest practices to more ecoforestry shaped policies. “We want to show the government that there is a sustainable form of forestry with a financial model that works.”

Makaroff explains that there is currently a great range of permitted forest practices from single stem selection harvesting to clear cutting. “The worst end of the spectrum of practices will result in erosion, water contamination and loss of wildlife habitat,” says Makaroff, “but by keeping the forest intact, we are preserving the watershed, the wildlife, and the basis for carbon sequestration.”

The Legacy of the Elkington Brothers

The Elkington pond (left) is one of 35 wetlands on the site. Makaroff completed an ecological baseline assessment which identified 70 plant/animal communities and 11 red/blue listed species. The Elkington Forest is situated in the uppermost headwaters of Shawnigan lake. Makaroff reported that when the surrounding areas were clear cut in 2000-02, a lot of siltation occurred.

Dr. Elkington bought this 1000 acres of forested land in 1946. His brother, sharing the same ethic, donated his Garry oak forest in Duncan to The Nature Conservancy of Canada. In the 90’s when Dr. Elkington died, his family began to look for ways to keep their Grandfather’s legacy intact, including ways of paying the taxes. That is when the family connected with Makaroff and the Trust for Sustainable Forestry to explore a limited development concept – to both pay the bills and preserve the forest that he loved so much.

In the end, Elkington will own 475 acres in the north. The rest is the Living Forest Community, 77 home owners with 475 acres in strata corporation owned as common property. The timber rights (and hiking trails) are donated to the Trust for Sustainable Forestry. This land is FSC certified with a 250 year forest management plan. The Land Conservancy of BC holds a conservation covenant on this property.



In order to achieve this, Makaroff is partnering with the Trust for Sustainable Forestry (TSF), a federally registered charity, in a long-term strategy for funding advances in ecoforestry. A percentage of profits from Living Forest

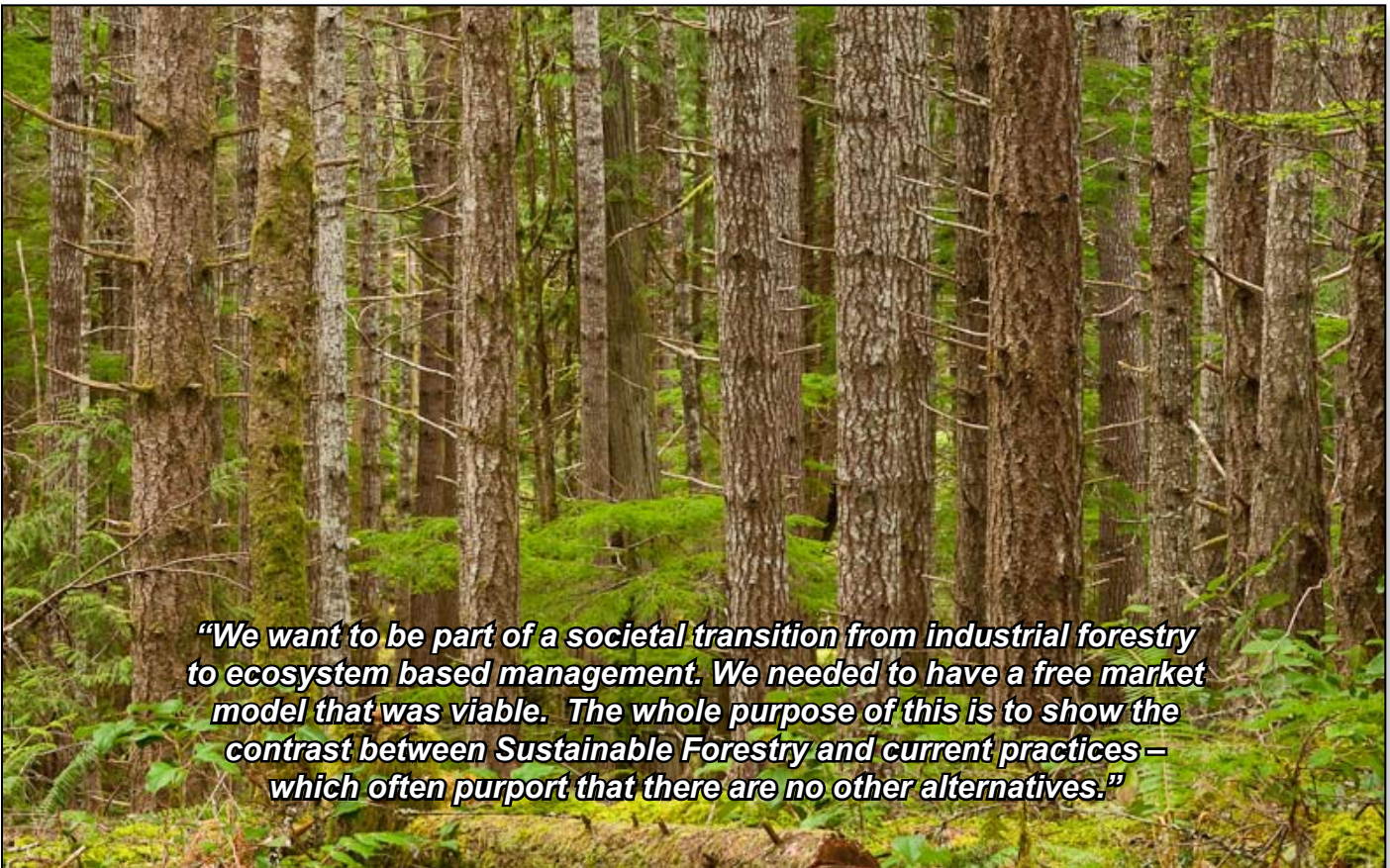
Communities and the Elkington project will provide the Trust with funds to assist a variety of other environmental non-government organizations (ENGO's) working towards like-minded goals. Current partnerships include The Land Conservancy (TLC), the Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy of BC and Royal Roads University.

“We would like the Trust for Sustainable Forestry to advance without being in competition with land conservancies and other groups,” says Makaroff. “We want to have the Trust become an entity that is a funding agency. We would like the various land trusts to be working with us.”

Makaroff anticipates that Living Forest Communities will eventually be able to share \$1.4 million dollars in funding with like-minded groups.

“This is a way to support local knowledge and initiative. Each group has their own skill set, and this is a way to bring them all together to meet a mutual goal,” says Makaroff. “We see this as a multi-year campaign. We are trying to find the best programs that will help the transition from industrial forestry to ecoforestry.”

For more information on partnering with Living Forest Communities and the Trust for Sustainable Forestry, please contact Doug Makaroff at (250) 386-6600 or info@livingforestcommunities.com



“We want to be part of a societal transition from industrial forestry to ecosystem based management. We needed to have a free market model that was viable. The whole purpose of this is to show the contrast between Sustainable Forestry and current practices – which often purport that there are no other alternatives.”

Photo Garth Lenz



Story and Photos by Sophie-Anne Blanchette, Galiano Conservancy Association

This past May, with the arrival of warmer, longer days, the binoculars and spotting scopes of Galiano Conservancy staff and volunteers were riveted on our newly installed Purple Martin nesting boxes. In early July (a few weeks later than expected) the first birds were spotted flying around our boxes. A total of 12 Purple Martins were seen flying around and perching on the pilings at our two locations. Two pairs of sub-adult birds eventually built nests and laid eggs. The new residents were closely monitored and their progression followed until the hatchlings fledged in early September. Off they went with the whole family on their 10,000+ kilometers journey south, hopefully to spend a few months resting and then return again next year! These are the first known Purple Martin residents on Galiano Island.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis arbricola*) breed along the west coast of British Columbia up to Campbell River and south all the way down to California. Western Purple Martin, which are genetically distinct from their eastern Canadian cousin (*Progne subis subis*), are a provincial “Species at Risk” in BC (Blue-listed, vulnerable) and a “Species of Concern” in the United States from California to Washington.

Purple Martins spend their winters in distant Amazonia and along the Brazilian coast and begin their extraordinary migration north in the spring. Our target with this project was to attract the younger, less experienced sub-adults (1st years) that would be coming back to the west coast of North America for their first breeding season. The sub-adults usually arrive about six weeks after the fully matured adult birds (2 years and older) who tend to return to the same successful nesting colonies they occupied in previous years. While it is unclear how the first year breeders select their new nesting site, trends show that they are the ones who seem to colonize nest boxes like the ones we created on Galiano.

So why do young Purple Martins need our help? The main cause of their decline is due to the degradation or elimination of their nesting habitat. These birds need abandoned woodpecker holes in older, large diameter trees or snags. Such structures are now a rare commodity on our southern coastal landscape due to the intensity of logging and land development over the past century, leaving the Purple Martins with very limited options. Strong competition for cavities from non-native bird species such as the European Starling and House Sparrow has likely also played a significant role in their decline. The Purple Martin population in British Columbia was down to less than 10 mating pairs at the end of the 1980s.

In response to this decline a small group of volunteers initiated a nesting box program along the Washington State coast in the late ‘70s and here in BC in the mid ‘80s. They built and installed nesting boxes specifically designed for these large swallows on pilings in the marine intertidal and sub tidal zones of bays and estuaries. The project grew and many more volunteers from different parts of BC joined their efforts.

Purple Martins have responded well and their population is recovering. By 2002 there were over 200 mating pairs on the BC Coast, rising to more than 650 pairs by 2007. The initiative, now known as the BC Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program, has a short-term goal to help establish 800 mating pairs by 2012. Given past successes, this might seem like an easy target, but Purple Martins are a highly sensitive species and can be severely affected by fluctuations in climate. For example, in July 2008, a long cold spring followed by a rainy July resulted in a poor year for many of the insect species eaten by the Purple Martin—the food shortage ultimately leading to the loss of many birds, slowing down the recovery progression. The larger the

Continued on page 21

The Species at Risk Act - Critical Habitat

What it Means and What it Doesn't



Dromedary Jumping-slug
Photo by Kristina Ovaska

Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Pacific and Yukon

It's been seven years since the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) stated that all Canadians have a role to play in the conservation of wildlife in this country. In British Columbia, there are 192 plants and animals currently listed under SARA. These species include familiar ones such as orcas and badgers, but also listed are species virtually unknown and equally in need of attention such as the Dromedary Jumping-slug or the Stoloniferous Pussytoes plant.

By law, the Government of Canada is required to undertake recovery planning for species listed under Schedule 1 of SARA. In British Columbia, federal recovery planning is now at the stage of critical habitat identification for a significant number of species. Court decisions have reinforced that critical habitat must be identified in recovery strategies to the extent possible given existing information, and that socio-economic factors cannot be considered in the identification process. SARA compels the federal government to ensure that critical habitat (CH) is protected, and provides numerous options to achieve protection.

Stakeholders are sometimes anxious over the perceived threat of federal intervention on private property interests. Long-term species recovery programs depend on promoting habitat stewardship and building trust among government agencies, conservation organizations and landowners. Let us be clear: SARA gives the Government of Canada no control over what landowners do or don't do with their land. SARA is "results-based"; the final outcome is that critical habitat not be destroyed. How that is accomplished is up to the landowner.

What reassures SARA implementers is the solid reality that the habitats that currently feed, house and provide breeding, nesting and resting areas for threatened and endangered species exist in great measure because landowners are already managing their lands in accordance with the needs of species through good stewardship. Thus, in a great many cases, few if any changes will be necessary.

Identifying critical habitat simply means identifying what kind of habitat is necessary to the survival or recovery of the species (attributes) and determining where it is (geographic location). Decisions around protection and protection mechanisms are a separate process—but the identification of critical habitat gives certainty regarding what will be protected. Critical habitat identification is a process rooted in an information and consultation-based process. Landowners will be informed if it appears their

property may contain critical habitat in order to determine whether the proposed identification is technically accurate. Identification of CH on private land does not automatically nor immediately lead to protection, nor are the timelines and mechanisms for protection strictly prescribed. SARA commits governments to taking a "stewardship first" approach and federal agencies do not anticipate applying unilateral protective mechanisms to achieve CH protection. After CH is identified (on non-federal lands), the Government of Canada will work with other agencies, organizations and landowners to ensure that it is protected through measures to address threats to the CH. In many cases, agencies anticipate that landowners are already "doing things right" to create and maintain habitat for species at risk, or management of the lands can be easily adapted to achieve SARA protection requirements.

Protection will be considered to be in place when there is an instrument of a binding nature—e.g. an agreement, a lease, a covenant, legislation or regulation, that addresses the habitat-related threats identified in the recovery strategy or action plan. These can be blended with stewardship approaches. Environment Canada reports on unprotected portions of critical habitat every six months after posting a final recovery strategy, until protection is in place.

To facilitate stewardship activities, governments provide support and incentives to landowners and non-governmental organizations; examples of federal programs include the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the Ecological Gifts Program. More information on these programs can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/nature. The Government of Canada can also enter into conservation agreements with individuals, organizations or other governments under section 11 of SARA.

SARA is redefining the relationship Canadians have with wildlife and it is expected to do so for the foreseeable future as its implementation continues to evolve. Although government agencies have central roles in implementing this legislation, it's clear that the help of all Canadians is essential if we are to achieve SARA's primary objective: to conserve Canada's truly outstanding natural legacy.

For further follow up contact: Ken Brock or Stephen Hureau at 604-940.4700

MEDITATIVE JOURNEY

Grasslands Reclamation in the Rocky Mountain Trench

By Catherine Pawasarat

After being an environmental journalist in Japan for nearly 20 years, in 2004 I joined my partner, a meditation teacher, to found the Clear Sky Meditation & Study Center in Cranbrook, BC. After cramped, overpopulated and overdeveloped Japan, the East Kootenay range of the Rocky Mountains provided a dramatic and welcome change.

We were delighted by the abundance of natural beauty and spectacular scenery, and more wildlife including Bighorn sheep, grizzlies, badgers than we'd seen anywhere outside of Kruger National Park. Our 310-acre property, an erstwhile ranch, is nestled at the foot of the mountains, with Crown land on two sides, and affords views that coax your heart into flight. I was used to the semi-tropics of Japan, and was excited to learn more about our new, very different surroundings.

It didn't take long to discover that nothing was as it seemed. Surrounding forests are pine-beetle prone and ingrowth, crowding out native grassland-dependent species. Many of the lovely flowers punctuating our property are invasive weeds. Wildlife crowds into shrinking, deteriorated open range, competing with domestic stock.

But what's life without a challenge?

Traditional Buddhism focuses on meditation, an exploration of the 'inner universe'. As Buddhism spreads in the West, it's morphing, in part because Western mysticism espouses more of an "as above, so below" approach. Translation: our inner and outer landscapes reflect one another.

We founded our center on sustainable principles but soon encountered arguments about whether our meager means could actually achieve sustainability, particularly since our core activity is meditation, not ecology. That's when our meditation teacher observed that ecological sustainability and sustainable mindstates (cultivated through meditation) are two sides of the same coin. We could all get behind this holistic view.

Fortune smiled in the form of a Native Plant Society of BC grasses identification workshop by Don Gayton. This provided some terrific content and networking. I paid close



attention when landscape designer Leslie Lowe revealed her native grasslands seeding protocol. In 2009 we discussed Clear Sky's degraded property, concluding that an educational grasslands reclamation course could help turn the tide. Involving the broader public might increase the return on our investment of limited resources and also trigger a healthy-grasslands domino effect.

We'd been so busy getting our center up and running in our first five years that we knew few local people and organizations. Relating through a common interest in a sustainable, healthy environment—crucial for a healthy economy and community—provided a superb vehicle for sharing potential solutions, first with people in our local area, then in our region, and eventually province-wide. It was wonderful that humble bunchgrasses provided this unexpected and precious opportunity.

Our inspirational native plant specialist, Leslie, worked with us to involve Peter Davidson, current chair of the Rocky Mountain Trench Society, an organization renowned for its grasslands and open forest restoration work. We were able to gain support from local companies like Keefer Ecological Services and Tipi Mountain Native Plants Nursery, and organizations like The Land Conservancy of BC, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC and Wildsight. Leslie's work with Bruce Boody Landscape Architects in Montana and Oregon's Sunmark Seeds provided fresh cross-border input appropriate to our bioregion.

With grants from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Columbia Basin Trust, and TD Friends of the Environment, plus corporate sponsorship from GaiaWorks, last summer Clear Sky sponsored two courses about grasslands restoration and reclamation. *Tools for Change: A*

Holistic Approach,” was taught by Leslie and Peter. Integrating wildlife biology, weed management, agrology and design principles, the courses covered grasslands’ ecological and economic value, planning decisions, Trench history, future trends, native plant and seed design, and hours of hands-on outdoors restoration techniques.

Thanks to collaborative-minded participants, the courses also yielded an experimental reclamation plot populated with native seedlings, as well as a nascent nursery bank – already educational resources for both Clear Sky and the community. The 25 attendees came with professional conservation, business, hunting and ranching backgrounds, including youth and retirees. We received glowing feedback on this new, holistic approach.

Towards the end of our year-long journey from project inception to course completion, attendees discussed how to address challenges like scarce native seedling sources, and economic and policy barriers to ecological restoration in BC. We realized that we’re looking for a new paradigm in grasslands restoration, one that more healthfully integrates economics and community with ecology.

As an international group of meditators, we’re short on ecological science, but we hope to contribute our experience with sustainable mindstates towards our synergetic weaving of this reflective, sacred web of sustainable life. Join us as we continue to explore transformational solutions. As more of us get out in our backyards, gardens and fields to explore this work, many more of us will benefit.

Species Planted:

Grass plugs:

Pseudoregenaria Spicatum (Bluebunch Wheatgrass)
Festuca Campestris (Rough Fescue)

Forb plugs:

Spiraea Betulifolia (Birch-Leaved Spiraea)
Symphotrichum Falcatum (White Prairie Aster)
Eriogonum Umbellatum (Sulfur Buckwheat)
Arnica Fulgens (Orange Arnica)

Shrub seeds:

Rosa Acicularis (Prickly Rose)
Symphoricarpos Albus (Snowberry)

Forb seeds:

Erigeron Speciosus (Aspen Daisy)
Gaillardia Aristata (Perennial Gaillardia)
Heterotheca Villosa (Hairy False Golden Aster)
Lupinus Sericeus (Silky Lupine)
Spiraea Betulifolia (Birch-Leaved Spirea)
Aster Laevis (Smooth Aster)

Grass seeds:

Pseudoregenaria Spicatum (Bluebunch Wheatgrass)

-----Purple Martin Recovery - continued from page 18-----

population is, the greater their collective resilience to these natural events.

The recovery of Purple Martins on Galiano is just one component of the larger Species at Risk program being led by the Galiano Conservancy Association. With the federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funds received in 2009 and 2010 we have been able to establish a foundation for species at risk awareness and recovery. Purple Martins are only one of 22 federally and 9 provincially listed species we are working with. The HSP is part of Canada’s national strategy for the protection of species at risk. It provides funding to various stewards across the country to engage local residents in conservation and restoration. On Galiano, conservation efforts have included land acquisition for protection, habitat enhancement and ecological restoration with species at risk in mind, rare species inventory and monitoring as well as public outreach and education. For more information about the Purple Martin and our Species at Risk initiatives, give us a call (250-539-2424), e-mail conservation@galianoconservancy.ca, drop by our office on Galiano, or visit our webpage at www.galianoconservancy.ca. If you are interested in starting a similar project check out the Western Purple Martin Foundation at <http://www.saveourmartins.org/> or and the Purple Martin page by the Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Recovery Society at <http://www.georgiabasin.ca/puma.htm> for more information.

TK'EMLUPS WETLAND CONSTRUCTION

by Neil W. Fletcher

In late June participants of the Wetlands Institute, a pillar event of BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Program, members of the Tk'emlups Indian Band, and community members joined forces to restore a wetland on Stud Pasture, a piece of property on the Tk'emlups Indian Reserve.



photo: Stud Pasture wetlands, post-rehabilitation

The Stud Pasture wetland has suffered from soil compaction due to livestock grazing. With the help of an excavator and 15 committed environmental stewards, the surface of

the wetland was re-contoured within less than 24 hours, exposing the groundwater to the open air, loosening up the soils and thereby providing more habitat for wildlife species. A fence, with access for livestock watering, was erected around the wetland to prevent future soil compaction.

BCWildlife Federation (BCWF) awarded members of the Tk'emlups Indian Band the main excavation and fence-building contracts for the wet-

land's construction. Participants of the Wetlands Institute observed the rehabilitation from start to finish, and were directly involved in the planting of native species. In addition, two participants of the Wetlands Institute offered to monitor the site for years to come, and plan to provide BCWF with regular updates.

Is wetland restoration actually effective? Absolutely. During the same week, Wetlands Institute participants visited a similar series of enhanced wetlands on a nearby property in Barnhartvale called Tree Flats. Since restoration in 2007, a population of Spadefoot toad, a species at risk in British Columbia, has started using the wetlands for breeding. Although no Spadefoot toads are currently known to exist at the Stud Pasture wetland, the construction activities resulted in potentially new habitat for this species. Discussions are currently underway to explore the feasibility of using the site for re-introduction.

The Wetlands Institute teaches the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to make effective and long-lasting changes in each participant's own community. Empowering individuals and groups to build, monitor and protect their own wetlands is a cost-effective and long-term solution for ecosystem stewardship. For more information or to get involved in future wetland courses, email wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca

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RESTORING FISH CHANNELS IN NANAIMO'S DEPARTURE CREEK

On World Rivers' Day, the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT) celebrated the Departure Creek Project. It was a great day, as the clouds that had drizzled rain all week parted, the sun shone, and adults and kids of all ages joined the NALT for BBQ salmon or veggie burgers with all the trimmings, followed by crafts, storm-drain marking expeditions, guided walks up the creek, fun and games at an interactive watershed model and more.

Departure Creek roughly parallels Departure Bay Road in Nanaimo as it tumbles down through residential areas until it flows through Woodstream Park and alongside Bay Street to the sea. Historically, the creek has recorded populations of resident Cut-throat and sea-run Coho salmon. But in the fall of 2009, people living in the Departure Bay area were pleased to see a new run of Pink salmon coming into the bay. Subsequently, however, they were distressed to observe several Pinks that were trying to migrate upstream to spawn trapped by a man-made barricade at the sediment trap in Woodstream Park. The neighbours approached the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to ask what could be done.

This summer, the City of Nanaimo, DFO and NALT, with funding from the Pacific Salmon Foundation and EcoAction's Science Horizon fund, partnered to remove the fish barrier, so that Pink salmon returning this year and in future years will be able to reach the upper pools in the creek and complete their spawning cycle.

Further elements of the project, which will continue until December 2010, will include the School of Fish initiative. This includes a variety of activities that can be taken to the classrooms of schools in the Departure Creek watershed to



photo Jean-Michel Hanssens



raise awareness regarding the importance of keeping Departure Creek healthy. Students will be given information and interactive demonstrations about the Departure Creek watershed, paint yellow fish stencils on storm-drain grates in the neighbourhood, take a guided walk along the banks of the creek, and plant new vegetation along the banks.

Another component involves inviting local residents to an evening information session. The meeting will be an opportunity for the community to learn more about Departure Creek, and how to get more involved with enhancement and monitoring of the creek and the riparian areas along its banks for the health of present and future fish populations.

For more information about Departure Creek and this project, phone NALT at 250-714-1990 or email Kasia Biegun, Project Assistant, at departurecreek@nalt.bc.ca.

PARTNERING FOR CONSERVATION IN THE OKANAGAN BASIN



Kalamalka Lake. Photo Courtesy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP)

The Okanagan Basin is one of the most diverse ecosystems in Canada, recognized in 2000 by the federal government as one of the country's four most endangered ecosystems. Nearly half of the bird species in Canada are found in this area, and many of the plants and animals exist nowhere else in the world. The warm dry climate and pastoral, grassland landscapes of the Okanagan Basin also attract increasingly large numbers of human residents to the region, resulting in intense development pressures on this sensitive ecosystem. Considering the region's environmental "assets," and how to identify, prioritize and protect them is the focus of collaborative conservation efforts in the region.

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) was formed in May 2006, to share ecological information and fill knowledge gaps between organizations and agencies involved in land use planning and conservation in the region, especially on low-elevation land that is often privately owned. Today the OCCP involves 24 partners, comprised of representatives of all levels of government, First Nations, Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's), land trusts, stewardship groups, outreach organizations and individuals interested in conservation in the North and Central Okanagan. These partners work together on different projects and initiatives in order to protect and maintain the ecological integrity of the Central and North areas of the Okanagan Valley.

Through the OCCP partners have also been sharing ideas on planning tools that can be used to create the kind of communities their citizens want: livable communities nestled in the matrix of a functioning ecosystem, with clean air and water in which sensitive habitats and landscapes are protected. Partners in the OCCP share goals such as: maintaining regional biodiversity; protecting Species at Risk; maintaining ecological connectivity throughout the Okanagan Basin; and balancing regional growth with conservation. The OCCP's mandate is to assist partners in sharing information, collaboration and research to fill knowledge gaps, and set priorities on basin wide conservation issues.

Some of the initiatives the OCCP has developed include: Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI), Sensitive Ecosystem Rankings (SER) maps, Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM) for Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood lakes. And right now partners are collaborating on the following projects:

- ✦ Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM) and development of an Aquatic Habitat Index (AHI) for Okanagan Lake
- ✦ Okanagan Connectivity Corridors Planning
- ✦ Okanagan Conservation Planning (OKCP) web portal (www.okcp.ca)
- ✦ Okanagan Habitat Atlas (OHA)
- ✦ Educational programming on Connectivity Corridors for middle school kids

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

This last project, the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) will likely be the focus for the OCCP over the next five year term. Efforts to carry out the BCS will follow the example of the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program which is in the process of completing a similar study at this time. A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy supports the efforts of planners and decision makers throughout the region to gather and share the environmental policies and information necessary to help protect shared land, water and biodiversity values.



Western Yellow-bellied Racer

Nearly half of the bird species in Canada are found in this area, and many of the plants and animals exist nowhere else in the world.

In combination with the BCS, partners in the OCCP will be working together to raise awareness among the public of the importance of habitat connectivity in the Okanagan Basin. The loss of habitat that has taken place due to urban and agricultural development throughout the Okanagan Basin has resulted in the region having a disproportionate number of species at risk. Many species such as the Ameri-

can badger, Black bear and Gopher snake require large spatial areas of contiguous habitat, or core areas connected by habitat linkages or corridors to meet their natural ecological and behavioral requirements. Physical barriers such as roadways, fencing, housing and commercial areas prevent wildlife and plants from moving between natural and protected areas across the Okanagan. As a result, the threats to species at risk are increasing and species that are currently common are declining in numbers.

Maintaining connectivity between existing protected areas such as parks and other sensitive habitats throughout the

Okanagan requires partners in the OCCP to use the results of studies such as the BCS to guide collaborative efforts towards implementing consistent planning across the political boundaries of the region. Connectivity corridors are critical to maintaining and/or improving the sensitive flora and fauna found regionally. Connectivity corridors can be continuous strips of land or 'stepping

stones' that are patches of suitable habitat and they provide functional linkages between core protected areas stimulating or allowing species migration between these areas. Creating connectivity corridors within and between communities benefits more than wildlife, plants and insects. Green spaces associated with the corridors are also highly valued by people that live in our communities for the recreation,



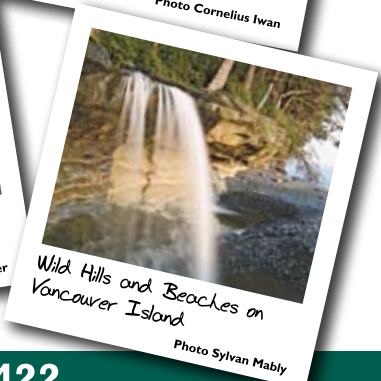
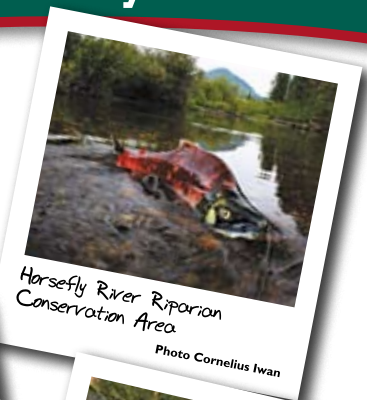
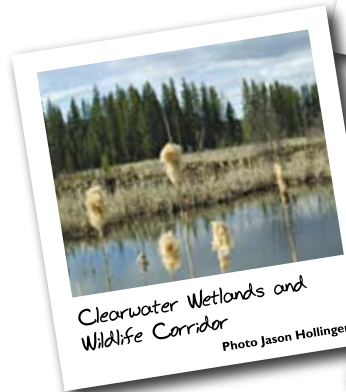
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aesthetic and educational benefits they provide. Cities and regions such as Campbell River, Vancouver and the Capital Regional District have created “greenways” to serve both as corridors for wild species and interlinking routes between rural and urban areas for residents of these areas. Sites such as <http://www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca/examples.html> and <http://www.greenwaystrust.ca/projects>, provide further examples from communities throughout BC.

For further information on the initiatives of the OCCP and to keep track of progress on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy please visit the Okanagan Conservation Planning portal at www.okcp.ca. There are forums provided on the site where we welcome you to share input on issues related to the projects and resources of the OCCP and SOSCP. You can also contact our Program Coordinator: Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo at occp123@gmail.com

LTABC publications available to share in your community:

Property Assessments on Conservation Lands, A Guide for Land Owners, Land Trusts, and Covenant Holders – Case Studies and Resources, March 2010,

Conservation Offsets, A Revenue Tool to Conserve Natural Areas, Watersheds and Community Resilience, April 2010 by Briony Penn

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature in British Columbia, by Richard J. Hebda and Sara J. Wilson, January 2008 (edit S Harrington)

People Protecting Places, 32 page Case Studies booklet describing a diversity of landowners, donors and volunteers who have protected natural and cultural areas

For ordering contact info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Islands Trust Fund releases

Regional Conservation Plan for Islands of the Howe Sound and Georgia Strait

The Islands Trust Fund will start the New Year with the release of its 2011-2015 Regional Conservation for the Gulf Islands and islands of Howe Sound. The Plan will help the Islands Trust Fund and partner organizations focus conservation efforts on protecting the best of the remaining natural ecosystems in the islands. The Regional Conservation Plan outlines goals and objectives for land conservation in the Islands Trust Area, and sets out a strategy for the Islands Trust Fund to meet those goals and objectives.

Release of the new plan concludes more than a year of research, data analysis and community consultation for Ecosystem Protection Specialist Kate Emmings. Terrestrial Ecosystem Maps were developed for the entire Islands Trust Area (13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands) in partnership with Parks Canada and the Ministry of Environment. The mapping, done to the Resource Information Standards Committee (RISC) Standard, formed the basis for Sensitive Ecosystem Maps. Those Sensitive Ecosystem Maps were reviewed by communities online and through public open houses on the 13 major islands. The final data were used to paint an encompassing picture of the state of the region's ecosystems which was then used to identify the natural areas prioritized for conservation. To view the ecosystem maps for the Islands Trust Area, go to <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/sem/default.cfm>.


In addition to using scientific data to create regional priorities, the Islands Trust Fund undertook an extensive community consultation process to draw on the ecological and planning expertise of islands residents. With funding from Vancity, the Islands Trust Fund hosted workshops and focus groups with island conservancy groups, ecological and conservation planning experts and members of the community. Community input refined the Plan's overall regional goals and five-year objectives, and contributed to an action plan for the Islands Trust Fund and, potentially, partner organizations. In addition, staff worked closely with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which was creating the Salish Sea Natural Area Conservation Plan (NACP), to match conservation priorities.

Staff members at the Islands Trust Fund cannot relax yet. Over the next four years, they will work with island landowners and partners to achieve the plan's objectives. At www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca you can view the Regional Conservation Plan and stay current as the strategy rolls out.

Love the Islands?

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The 2010 Real Estate Foundation of BC

LAND AWARDS

By Celina Owen, Manager, Communications & Administration

The Land Awards recognize initiatives which demonstrate leadership, innovation, and collaboration related to the sustainable use and conservation of land in British Columbia. The awards highlight dynamic, forward-thinking people and organizations—leaders in creating sustainable communities and making BC a better place to live.

The Land Awards are a brand new initiative of the Real Estate Foundation of BC. As part of its focus on “leading learning and aligning resources,” the Real Estate Foundation has recognized that private companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations do a lot of good work from which others could learn, and the Foundation aims to be a pivotal connection in sharing that knowledge.

The Land Awards—with its private, public, and non-profit sector categories—was created to recognize organizations leading the way with innovative approaches to the stewardship of land in British Columbia. The goal of the awards is to raise awareness of BC projects which are creating new models for respectfully managing the land, even as population continues to grow and land continues to be developed to accommodate the needs of our changing society.

The Land Awards Gala, held November 18th in Vancouver, is the event where much of the inaugural year’s celebrating and sharing occurred. As part of the Land Awards initiative, the gala was an opportunity for:

- ✦ sharing the award nominees’ good work with a broader audience
- ✦ networking among people from different sectors
- ✦ raising funds for water stewardship through the new BC Water Sustainability Endowment Fund
- ✦ increasing awareness of the Real Estate Foundation and its role.

As well as profiling the finalists and presenting the awards, the evening will feature a keynote speech by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., whose successes with Hudson Riverkeeper and the Waterkeeper Alliance have brought him renown.

In its first year, the Foundation received 50 award nominations; this exceeded everyone’s expectations. While there may be changes to the number of awards and award categories in the future, in 2010 there will be three awards, one in

each sector category. The finalists are:

Private Sector

- ✦ Dockside Green for the Dockside Green initiative
- ✦ Living Forest Communities for the Elkington Forest Project

Public Sector

- ✦ BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for the BC Brownfield Renewal Strategy
- ✦ Coastal First Nations and Nanwakolas Council for the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements
- ✦ Columbia Shuswap Regional District for the Salmon Arm Landfill project

Non-Profit Sector

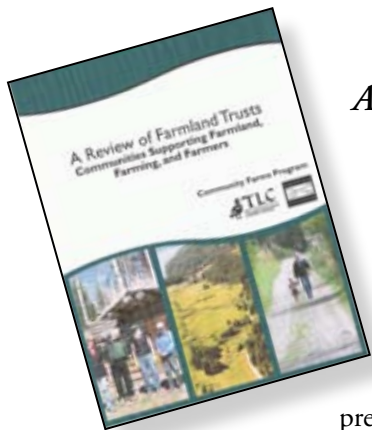
- ✦ Atira Women’s Resource Society for the Maxxine Wright Centre project
- ✦ SFU Community Trust for the UniverCity initiative
- ✦ Stewardship Centre for BC Society for the Green Shores program
- ✦ Wildsight for the Lake Windermere Project

(At the time of writing, the winners had not been announced. Visit www.refbc.com/landawards to find out which projects were selected by the judges for top honour.)

Nominations were reviewed by a volunteer selection committee of six members, to whom the Real Estate Foundation is immensely grateful. Michael Geller, Kat Hartwig, Moura Quayle, Hartley Rosen, Gary Runka, and Jack Wong (also a Foundation governor) were the inaugural year’s judges.

It was important to the Foundation that committee members be knowledgeable, respected men and women with diverse backgrounds in the broad land use sector. Together, these individuals have a wealth of experience in real estate; environmental assessment and integrated resource management; urban and rural land and water stewardship; urban planning, design, and architecture; and agricultural issues.

continued on Page 29

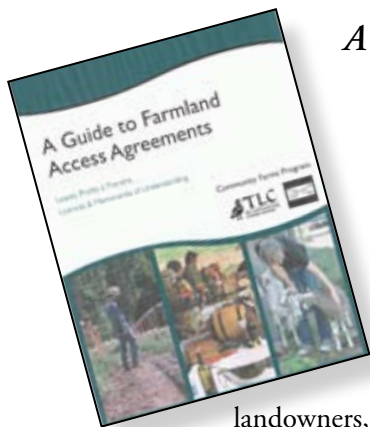


A Review of Farmland Trusts Communities Supporting Farmland, Farming, and Farmers.

Ramona Scott, Wanda Gorsuch.
April 2010. 113pp.

Many communities in BC are concerned about farmland preservation, farm viability, and local food sovereignty. This report discusses the role that land trusts can play in addressing these concerns.

A Review of Farmland Trusts is comprised of information gathered from survey and study of 31 successful farmland trusts; their roles, activities, structure, governance, mandates, fundraising and success. This information is compiled to help groups in forming a farmland trust or adapting mandates to include preservation of agricultural land.



A Guide to Farmland Access Agreements

Leases, Profit à Prendre,
Licenses and Memoranda of
Understanding.

Wanda Gorsuch. April 2009.
65pp.

A publication designed to help landowners, land trusts and professionals who are involved in creating access or shared uses of farmland. The purpose of this guide is to explain different types of farmland access agreements and to provide samples. These agreements can be used to give farmers tenure similar to that of owning land, and include terms for environmentally supportive farm practices. This guide provides information to understand the basic legal background of agreements; help select the agreement that suits the individual situation; know when and where to seek information and permissions; and draft a basic agreement (templates) that can be legally reviewed.

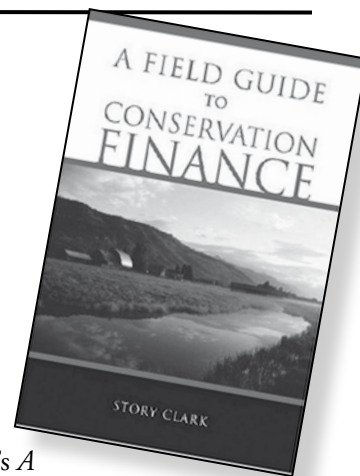
These can be downloaded from TLC Agricultural Programs page at <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/agriculture/publications-2/>.

Special thanks to The Real Estate Foundation of BC, The Law Foundation of BC, and the Notaries Foundation of BC for their support.

A Field Guide to Conservation Finance

Story Clark

reviewed by Paul D. McNair



I cannot recall the last time I read a self-help / how-to book worthy of four stars! Story Clark's *A Field Guide to Conservation Finance* is both testament to her knowledge and experience working with land trusts but also her ability to communicate wisely and effectively sound advice for land trusts of any size and scope.

A Field Guide to Conservation Finance provides essential advice on how to tackle the universal obstacle to protecting private land in America: lack of money.

The book is written keeping in mind that all land trusts are not equal—small, volunteer run organizations will find as much useful information in Clark's book as will large staff driven agencies. She uses real life examples and case studies to illustrate how financing works, what kinds of campaigns are successful and how land trusts can use tried and tested programs to further their work.

Clark discusses candidly how land trusts must be ready to address properties that may become available unexpectedly by developing sound financial plans and protection funds. Her section on traditional fundraising plans and sources is a great overview of the types of fundraising possible—individual gifts, corporate funding and events. Clark uses this chapter to launch into sections on innovative funding which includes voluntary surcharges, bank loans and seller financing. She really broadens the discussion about opportunities land trusts have to secure sound sources of funds for a multitude of projects.

To complete her book, Clark looks at possible cost reductions and ends with a section on putting it together—the case studies here illustrate how land trusts can look at a possibility and provide alternatives to donors and land owners. Referenced in *A Field Guide to Conservation Finance* are sources such as The Chronicle for Philanthropy, AFP's Advancing Philanthropy and the LTA website. Land Trusts should know that many of these resources are available online or through LTABC. However, Story Clark's book is a must read for a great overview on this crucial topic.

Member Workshops

LTABC joined with the Islands Trust Fund for a workshop in October with the Bowen Island Conservancy Association. We spent the morning reviewing the Bowen Island Conservancy's past activities and future goals. The conservancy has focused on trail building and corridors between regional parks, working with the Islands Trust Fund on the recently protected Fairy Fen project and participating in planning for other protected areas on the island. The past achievements of this voluntary association are immense. LTABC staff, Sheila Harrington, shared in some strategic discussion, reviewed the new Land Trust Standards & Practices Collection and Assessment tool and LTABC's many publications and other conservation resources.

Over lunch we were joined by Jennifer Eliason of the Islands Trust Fund and reviewed potential strategies for conserving some targeted areas. Then in the afternoon we were joined by four staff from the Bowen Municipality to review details surrounding conservation covenants. With eight avid directors, the Bowen Island Conservancy is considering how to increase its capacity and protect more of this island's fabulous natural areas so that future generations can benefit from Bowen's natural and cultural legacy.

In October Sheila was joined by Paul McNair, our new Executive Director and fundraising specialist to meet with the Malaspina Land Conservancy, MLC, BC's newest land trust. *"The mission of the Malaspina Land Conservancy Society is the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic and scenic lands in our region through the use of conservation covenants, land acquisition and education."* With a specific land trust mission, and fairly extensive geographic area—from Lund south to areas near Pemberton, including Texada Island, this group has the potential to provide some significant conservation achievements over the next decade. Within the current context of a small logging town that has downsized considerably, continued timber extraction on private lands and IPP projects affecting riparian areas and public access, they have challenging and exciting goals to meet. After our strategic discussions, we were lucky enough to tour Eagle Creek, pictured right, which is the Powell River Regional District's number one conservation priority site. This waterfront property is private land, with a salmon bearing stream. This is an absolutely spectacular cultural and natural site. We hope the MLCS will find partners to help protect this amazing area.

"I think you and Paul helped to put this conservancy in the context of other groups, to ground the ideas, and to suggest actions to pursue. I know I left feeling inspired," said Nola Poirier, Board member.



Conservation Assistance Fund

Thanks to a review of the Habitat Stewardship Program applications submitted last fall, LTABC received notice in September that we would receive funding for the Conservation Assistance Fund. This helps our members to cover legal costs of covenants or acquisitions. LTABC issued a call for Expressions of Interest and received requests totaling almost \$40,000. We are currently reviewing these expressions of interest, and land trust members will be contacted shortly about funding. A total of \$10,000 is available under this program. This funding program was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of the Environment.

LTABC also worked with the Ecological Gifts program and requested Expressions of Interest for projects under the Eco-gift guidelines. Five land trust members will be receiving \$12,700 through this initiative again thanks to funding provided by the Government of Canada.

-----The Land Awards continued from page 27-----

The selection committee applied the lens of the three key qualities, which were requirements of each project or program that was short-listed as a finalist: that is, leadership, innovation, and collaboration.

One tricky part of the exercise was that, especially in the non-profit category, nominations demonstrated wide-ranging organizational size and capacity, project scope and budgets, and subject matter. There were many more worthy initiatives than the number of awards (three) or even the number of spots on the short-list (nine). The Foundation will be publishing information on all nominated projects and programs so others can learn about them, and perhaps learn from them as they undertake similar projects in their own communities.

It is noteworthy that three land trusts and two regional conservation programs submitted nominations. While they were not short-listed, the Foundation will profile the work of these groups, along with the other nominees, to spread the word about some very forward-thinking efforts to address land and water stewardship, sustainable local agriculture, collaborative land use planning, green building, and other timely topics which are engaging BC communities.

Living Carbon Investments - Update

by Briony Penn

In the last six months, Living Carbon Investments, with the services of Brinkman Earth Systems Team and now Ecotrust, has maintained its trailblazing role through the rapidly changing forest conservation carbon offsets landscape. The implications for land trusts are that we are finally getting closer to seeing provincial protocols for forest conservation. The first drafts of the protocols will be available for public review at the end of November and the first pilot projects could come to fruition by spring of next year. It has been a long process for the protocol in-the-making as the Pacific Carbon Trust, the Climate Action Secretariat and the various ministries of the provincial government figure out how to resolve all their own agendas with these protocols. Living Carbon and LTABC continue to be an important voice in insisting on the highest standards for biodiversity, climate and communities and meeting tests of permanence through conservation covenants. We continue to be supported by our funding partners Coolworks who will be one of our major buyers in years to come.

The obstacles we have encountered with such a new process mean that we are not as far along with a pilot as we had anticipated and most of our energies are going to negotiating and advocating for high-quality protocols. We have set December 2011 as our first target of delivering credits on a pilot. At press time, the Capital Region District finally got the go ahead from their Corporate Leadership Team to develop their ecosystem offsets. With a contribution agreement in place between the CRD and The Land Conservancy of BC to share the offset development, the details of the next steps with the relationship between TLC, CRD and Living Carbon will be sorted out. Living Carbon has played a major role in providing the CRD with the background preliminary analysis of the project, and we hope to continue to play a major role as this project moves through the regional government process.

We are also now planning to move ahead assisting the Trust for Sustainable Forestry to develop their carbon potential at Elkington Forest. We are also now looking at other smaller carbon projects with other land trusts to hopefully aggregate. Once the protocols are in place, projects can start to test some of the big questions we are having about how big projects must be to be viable (right now quite large—1000 acres) and how to aggregate smaller projects. It seems that the real economy of scale will be providing an open source and transparent system that is easily replicated.

Living Carbon and Land Trust Alliance of BC will be holding a half day webinar in early February to provide

an overview of Living Carbon and what we can offer land trusts. We will be approaching each one of our members for Memorandums of Agreement to strengthen our business competitive edge as we advance to phase two of building our business plan. It is becoming more and more clear that conservation forest offsets are viable only with community ownership through covenants and ongoing monitoring with the bulk of the carbon revenue coming back to communities who are committed to the task for the next 100 years. Stay tuned for contact from myself or Living Carbon Board members: Kathy Dunster, Lisa Fox, or Frank Arnold. Give me a call if you have any questions. penn@saltspring.com

Canadian Land Trust Alliance - Update *by Ben van Drimmelen, Council member*

LTABC and the Canadian Land Trust Alliance were kind enough to cover my costs to attend this, the fifth national land trust conference, September 29-October 1 at Banff National Park. Hard fiscal times severely constrained attendance this year, but more than 80 were able to attend, including at least one representative from each province except Newfoundland, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. My attendance also allowed me to replace Kathy Dunster as the CLTA director from BC.

Having only recently rejoined the LTABC as a board member, my emphasis was on getting up to speed on current land trust initiatives across Canada, financial matters (investment funding, tax law changes and ecogifting). I therefore attended workshops on those specific topics, missing other workshops on topics such as board development, communication and fundraising, strategic planning, field operations and carbon offsetting.

Paul McNair went over the LTABC activities—the Standards and Practices Assessment for BC, the BC member survey results (which requested help on fundraising and communication, but don't advocate or push the Standards and Practices too much). There is also a common pressing need to make the public aware of what we do. Ontario and Alberta are wrestling with similar issues. In addition, Ontario is having trouble funding both monitoring and stewardship (i.e. – maintenance) of the 30,000 hectares of land members there have acquired. Endowments have to be created (funds raised by local communities, which are then matched by each local land trust) for such long-term work. Robin Telasky of Alberta LTA explained how, without using social networking like Facebook, land trusts are missing almost all younger potential contributors.

Ecogifts were described in detail. If land can be certified as ecologically sensitive, the federal ecogifts program offers

a conservation legacy for the elderly and tax benefits for the wealthy—no capital gains assessed (as of 2006) on disposition of the property. The full appraised value of the gift is receipted and the donation can be spread over six tax years. Split receipting is also allowed, as long as at least 20% of the value is actually donated. Note that Environment Canada is now starting to want an approved environmental charity to operate under a provincially and federally-recognized set of Standards and Practices.

Disbursement Rule Changes:

The main news is that the 2010 federal budget has created huge changes for land trusts. Formerly, land trusts had to spend 80% of their charitable funds on charitable activities each year, leaving only 20% for fundraising and administration. It was impossible to accumulate funds. Now, there will be no such requirement. If the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) allows it, funds can be accumulated for charitable purposes. Also, if the gifting agreement allows it, CRA now allows encroachment on 10-year gifts (not allowed previously), so there is no longer any need to structure long-term gifts as > 10 years.

Fundraising - Charitable Status:

I also learned about new rules on fundraising. It isn't a charitable activity. Therefore, it used to be important to keep a record of which activities were costs for fundraising and which are not. Now, things are more flexible. If a land trust has < \$100,000 per year in revenues, it is too small for the CRA to worry about. If > 90% of a land trust's costs (including staff time) are not fundraising, no problem. If that doesn't apply, there is still a 4-part test that might make a larger component of fundraising costs acceptable to the CRA—the land trust's activities are not primarily fundraising, it uses no on-going repeated solicitations, does no audience selection geared to likely donors, and pays no one a commission based on donations. Basically, if fundraising costs are less than 35% of receipted revenue, it is unlikely to be of concern to the CRA. If 35-70% of the costs are for fundraising, expect a close look by CRA on whether the 4-part test is met.



Conservation News

The provincial government announced the protection of 750 hectares of private and Crown land, comprising approximately 15 per cent of Denman Island. The new protected area is made up of 258 hectares of former Crown land and 492 hectares of former North Denman Lands Ltd (NDL) land. Its reforestation will be managed by Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc (ERA) to restore it to its Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone. ERA, a Canadian company, purchased the carbon credits for \$1.23 million.

Denman landowner Henning Nielsen reduced \$1.4 million towards the \$6.7 million purchase price of several parcels of land for conservation. The BC government contributed \$232,000 and transferred development rights on Crown land worth \$3.9 million to Nielsen's company. NDL will have development potential for up to 13 farms and 40 residential lots.

Sheila Malcolmson of the Islands Trust Fund gave this press announcement:

Today's announcement represents a very unusual and welcome conservation opportunity for the Gulf Islands. And it results from the cooperative efforts of a unique combination of parties. Our role in the Islands Trust was at the level of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee, which is the local government zoning authority.

This was a complicated density transfer that involved rezoning the land in the new park, and several Crown parcels elsewhere on the island. The Denman LTC approved transferring the development rights to another location, so there's no net density increase for the island.

The park land was heavily logged in the late nineties by a past landowner. Designating the land as a provincial park and protecting it with a covenant is a win for everyone -- for the landowner, for the community and for all British Columbians. The new provincial park will ensure the long-term recovery of land that falls within a small, threatened ecosystem - the coastal Douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone.

Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series

April 1-3 - Victoria, BC - Contact info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca for details

Don't miss this once a year opportunity to

- ✿ visit restored, protected sites and share inspiring stories, photos and strategic discussions
- ✿ network with others working on land conservation and stewardship
- ✿ update knowledge, best practices and effective tools from respected land use professionals

The American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, (AFOCOLT) announced that they have received “designated status.” On September 23 the Canadian Government accepted the application to be designated a “prescribed donee” under the Income Tax Act regulations. That means that gifts of land or easements to AFOCLT (American Friends) will now not only provide a U.S. income tax benefit, but will be exempt from Canadian capital gains tax! Our cross-border land conservation is therefore in full gear, and we look forward to working with many of you to protect significant lands across Canada! This means that U.S. donors would not only be able to avoid the Canadian capital gains tax, they would also be able to claim the gift as a charitable donation on their U.S. tax returns. The AFCOLT will launch a national campaign to encourage donations of land. The new organization says there is plenty of pent up demand from U.S. landowners.

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts was formed by a coalition of conservationists on both sides of the border to facilitate preservation of high priority natural areas in Canada. The organization achieves its preservation mission by supporting Canadian land trusts, government agencies and other entities that permanently conserve natural, historic and scenic resources. These Canadian entities needed AFOCLT in order to remove the major financial obstacles to protecting land owned by U.S. taxpayers. More information can be found on their website www.nsnt.ca/af/.

Moorecroft - Nanaimo: The Nanaimo Regional District (RDN) board emerged from a closed-door meeting in November to vote unanimously to submit a joint bid with the Nature Trust of BC to acquire the Moorecroft property, used as summer church camp since the late 1950s. With 884 metres of waterfront, the 34-hectare forested property was identified by Nanaimo Area Land Trust and the RDN as having environmental and recreational values worth preserving. The property is listed at \$7.95 million, but neither RDN staff members nor politicians will say what the bid will be. The RDN has about \$2 million to buy park land.

Nanaimo's Linley Valley is one of four tracts of coastal Douglas fir ecosystem on Vancouver Island now under a new land use order that will protect them from development. Pat Bell, minister responsible for the Integrated Land Management Bureau, made the announcement. In total, 1,598 hectares of the globally recognized high-priority ecosystem will enjoy increased protection after months of public consultation. Get the full story at <http://bit.ly/aCAh65>.

Agreements to protect the world's species and ecosystems from pollution, overexploitation and habitat destruction. Delegates to the 10th meeting of the United Nations Con-

vention on Biodiversity agreed to protect 17 per cent of the world's land areas and 10 per cent of oceans by 2020, one of 20 targets, participants said.

One of the conference's key goals is to set measurable targets that will slow or halt the rate of extinctions and damage. Scientists warn that unless action is taken to prevent such biodiversity loss, extinctions will spike and the intricately interconnected natural world could collapse with devastating consequences, from plunging fish stocks to less access to clean water. For more info: <http://bit.ly/cXEjng>

In Nagoya, a UN-backed report estimated that damage to natural capital including from wetlands to coral reefs totals \$2-trillion to \$4.5-trillion annually. Such losses are not included in economic data such as GDP. Under usual accounting, a nation could at least briefly boost GDP by felling all its forests for timber or dynamiting reefs to catch fish. A revision including the value of natural capital would reveal a sharp decline in GDP.

“Bioindicators” are used by many nations, such as the United States to assess nature. The Netherlands, Britain and other European Union states, Mexico and Uganda are among those that have set up indicators to track diversity.

“Few countries have attempted to aggregate their indicators into a single index,” said Tristan Tyrrell of the British-based UN-backed Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. Norway has now gone furthest in giving full official endorsement.

Good Feedback - Nature's Backbone at Risk The most comprehensive assessment of the world's vertebrates confirms an extinction crisis with one-fifth of species threatened. However, the situation would be worse were it not for current global conservation efforts, according to a study launched today at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan. <http://bit.ly/dDoVNk>

BC Government Changes: Prior to the announcement of his resignation by Premier Gordon Campbell, on October 25th, the premier shuffled his cabinet. Long time Minister of Environment Barry Penner was replaced by Saanich and the Islands MLA Murray Coell. Coell can be reached by email at murray.coell.mla@leg.bc.ca or by phone at either his legislature office 250-356-6348 or his constituency office 250-655-5711. Announced along side the shuffle was the creation of several new ministries including the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations which will be separate from forests, mines and lands. Steve Thomson, MLA for Kelowna-Mission, will be responsible for the new ministry and can be reached via email at steve.thomson.mla@leg.bc.ca or by phone at his legislature office 250-387-1023 or constitu-

ency office 250-712-3620. Read more about the creation of this new ministry on West Coast Environmental Law's blog at www.wcel.org.

The Cohen Commission began evidentiary hearings in Vancouver and will continue sitting through December. Mr. Justice Cohen, of the BC Supreme Court, who was appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to investigate sockeye declines on the Fraser River, listened intently as two academics, a writer and a fishing industry executive gave their perspectives. Senior commission counsel Brian Wallace identified the panelists – John Reynolds, David Close, Terry Glavin and Rob Morley, who had been invited to discuss conservation, a key word in the terms of reference for the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River. More on this story: <http://bit.ly/bQTMDO>

Rehabilitating Our National Parks, Dave McGinn's article from the Globe and Mail discusses the drop in visitors to Canada's national parks and what is being done to lure Canadians back. Read it at <http://bit.ly/aS4a14>.

“Managing cereal grasses as waterfowl lure crops: investigating planting dates and waterfowl feeding ecology.” The Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust has produced a report which examined the habitat preferences for over-wintering fowl on the Lower Fraser River Delta and determined the efficacy of winter cover crops as alternative feeding areas for waterfowl. Access the full report at www.deltafarmland.ca.

Grasslands in British Columbia: a Primer for Local Governments is a new publication and companion to the *Green Bylaws Toolkit* - The Primer discusses the ecosystem services provided by grasslands, summarizes the status and trends of grassland ecosystems in BC, and describes some of the legislation being used in different parts of BC to protect grasslands. Download this document at <http://bcwetlands.ca/tools/>.

World Wildlife Federation (WWF) recently released their Living Planet Report for 2010. The new report shows the Living Planet index has decreased 30% in past 40 years. This report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our only planet and the impact of human activity. The results of the report are shocking and provide a clear case for preserving the long-term health of our Earth. For more information or to read the report, go to <http://bit.ly/cKJyGm>.

New Report Released - October 2010 “Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010” biodiversitybc.org

Best Management Practices: an annotated bibliography and searchable data base. Launched on the Stewardship Centre web site, the database is an easily accessible and searchable bibliography and database of existing information sources that provide guidance on how to manage for a wide-range of environmental values. Go to www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca for more information.

Environment Canada Releases Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010 Assessment. It is the first assessment of Canada's biodiversity from an ecosystem perspective. It presents 22 key findings derived from technical background reports. This 2010 assessment is a collaborative project of the Canadian federal, provincial and territorial governments. It forms part of Canada's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Authors and reviewers include hundreds of experts from across Canada. Visit www.biodivcanada.ca to access key findings of the assessment and background information, including lists of background technical reports, authors and contributors.

An Estimate of the Public Amenity Benefits and Ecological Goods Provided by Farmland in Metro Vancouver found that residents across the region identified local food, greenspace and wildlife habitat as the top three benefits of farmland. The study conducted by Fraser Basin Council and SFU Public Policy Program found that members of the public across Metro Vancouver place a high dollar value on the multiple benefits local farmland offers. Metro Vancouver residents were surveyed to find out what they would pay if invited to preserve 1,000 acres of local farmland. When factored across all households in the region, the public value worked out to \$58,000 per acre each year, as much as ten times the land's annual market value for food production. Read the full report at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

BC Ministry of Environment releases Urban Ungulate Conflict Analysis summary report for municipalities - Some BC communities are experiencing increased conflict with habituated urban ungulate populations. Addressing urban ungulate conflicts must involve all stakeholders: the public; concerned wildlife organizations; provincial, regional and municipal governments. Collaborative, community-based processes will likely provide the most open and transparent way to arrive at community-specific solutions. Read the report at <http://bit.ly/bdhAW9>.

A new report says the government lacks the plans necessary to protect nature in BC's parks and protected areas. The Auditor General says that despite a sound vision of parks protection, the BC government falls short in actual plans for protecting its parks. Read the report at <http://bit.ly/98LIRR>.

The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) and the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) are inter-governmental partnerships established to coordinate the environmental management of two significant aquatic ecosystems in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia - Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River Estuary. The BIEAP office has a list of reports, studies and publications that are available to the public at no cost. They have just released Biodiversity Conservation in the Metro Vancouver Region Forum which can be accessed, along with their other publications, at www.bieapfrempp.org.

FORREX Forum for Research and Extension in Natural Resources is a British Columbia-based charitable non-share corporation, founded in 1998 to help people develop science and knowledge-based solutions to complex natural resource challenges. Through the contributions of staff, partners and donors, FORREX links people to knowledge, and facilitates continuous innovation and improvement in natural resource policy and management – practices that greatly influence the ecological, social, and economic well-being of our communities. They have an informative e-news and great tools and publications. Their website is www.forrex.org.

Real Estate Foundation establishes Water Sustainability Endowment Fund - At the Real Estate Foundation's request, the Vancouver Foundation has established the "Water Sustainability Endowment Fund." The income generated from this fund will support non-profit activities in water sustainability that use innovation and collaboration, and creating a model approach to land and development related activities. Further details at www.realestatefoundation.com.

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is a joint project of Island Press and EcoAdapt. It is aimed at building a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change. CAKE brings together EcoAdapt's recognized leadership in developing the concepts and practices of climate adaptation with Island Press's 27 years as the leading publisher of solutions-based environmental information to offer the most valuable, up-to-date, and authoritative materials on the subject. Visit them at www.cakex.org.

Community Foundation of the South Okanagan launches Environmental Funding Strategy - The CFSO is kick-starting the Environmental Legacy Fund by allocating \$100,000 as initial capital to a fund that they hope reaches \$2 million. The CFSO will work with environmental NGOs to promote the creation of Agency Endowment Funds, which would be part of the Legacy Fund. The goal is to make annual grants to environmental projects in excess of \$60,000. For 2011, CFSO anticipates allocating \$10,000 to environmental initiatives. Details available at <http://cfsone.net/>.

Society Guide for British Columbia - Produced by the Law Foundation of British Columbia, and written primarily for small non-profit societies who offer benefits and/or services to the public, this guide provides step-by-step procedures for incorporating a Society in British Columbia and maintaining financial records. Find it on Community Legal Assistance Society's website www.clasbc.net.

Questions and Answers for BC's Public Service Bodies regarding the newly implemented Harmonized Sales Tax can be found at <http://bit.ly/cGiPee>.

Looking for a "Green" Job or a place to post your "Green" Job announcement? Head to GoodWork Canada at www.goodworkcanada.ca. With "pay what you can" pricing, this is a great place to post any upcoming positions in your organization or to browse opportunities.



Kudos to these Members

Congratulations to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Stewards in Training program! They have won this year's Award of Recognition from the British Columbia School Superintendents Association. The program offers a hands-on ecological immersion experience to as many as 700 elementary and middle school children every year. Get the full story at <http://bit.ly/caC1tL>.

Fifty members of the Galiano Conservancy Association joined the international climate action movement working and investing in a better future for youth. A resounding "YES!" vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting has launched the organization's latest and boldest initiative: to purchase land to create a permanent "Restorative Learning Centre" that will benefit people throughout the region, especially youth in need from our urban centres. For more information about the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre, please see their website at www.galianoconservancy.ca.

The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) announced a four year contribution agreement with Parks Canada Agency at their October Annual General Meeting. This agreement provides a total of \$852,500 over four years to support the charitable society's work to protect and restore habitat for species at risk. Get the full story at <http://bit.ly/aO8SGI>.

Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust will receive \$33,000 to create farm fields as winter and potential breeding habitats for Barn Owls and Short-eared Owls, and winter foraging grounds for Great Blue Heron. The Government of Canada is investing in community action to preserve local habitat and species at risk in BC's Delta-Richmond Area.

Land Trusts & Associated Organization Members

Bowen Island Conservancy	www.bowenislandconservancy.org	Alberta Land Trust Alliance
Central Okanagan Land Trust	www.coltrust.ca	Allan Brooks Nature Centre
Comox Valley Land Trust	www.cvlandtrust.org	Brinkman & Associates Reforestration Ltd.
Coquitlam Land Trust C/o Coq. Foundation	www.coquitlamfoundation.com/funds.html	Burrowing Owl Conservation Society BC
Cowichan Community Land Trust	www.cowichanlandtrust.ca	Clear Sky Meditation and Study Fdn.
Denman Conservancy Association	www.denmanconservancy.org	Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust
Fraser Valley Conservancy	www.fraservalleyconservancy.ca	Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust
Gabriola Land & Trails Trust	www.galitt.ca	Fraser Headwaters Alliance
Galiano Conservancy	www.galianoconservancy.ca	Friends Of Cortes Island Society
Habitat Acquisition Trust	www.hat.bc.ca	Gambier Island Conservancy
Islands Trust Fund	www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca	Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team
Kootenay Land Trust Society	www.malaspinaland.ca	Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
Malaspina Land Conservancy Society	www.conservancyonmayne.com	Grasslands Conservation Council Of BC
Mayne Island Conservancy	www.naramataland.org	Hornby Island Conservancy
Naramata Conservation	www.natureconservancy.ca	Island Stream & Salmon Stewardship Soc.
Nature Conservancy Of Canada	www.nopnat.com	Nanaimo and Area Land Trust Society
North Okanagan Parks & Natural Area Trust	250-629-6797	Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society
Pender Islands Conservancy Association	250-285-3582	West Coast Climate Equity
Quadra Island Conservancy & Stewardship	www.quamichanlake.ca	West Coast Isl. Stewardship & Conservancy
Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society	www.saltspringconservancy.ca	Western Sky Land Trust
Salt Spring Island Conservancy	www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca	Living Forest Communities
Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society	www.silts.ca	D.R. Coell & Associates Inc
Savary Island Land Trust Society	www.silvafor.org	Peter Mason Land Surveying
Silva Forest Foundation	www.conservancy.bc.ca	Pinch Group (Raymond James Ltd.)
The Land Conservancy Of BC (TLC)	www.vws.org	Real Estate Foundation of BC
Valhalla Fdn. for Ecology & Social Justice		Salish Sea Consulting
		Taara Environmental
		West Coast Environmental Law Fdn.
		Land Sense Ltd

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Professional Consultant	Non-voting	\$50.00 plus \$50 for website listing	
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