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of British Columbia

25th
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Princeton Grasslands - MapleCross Meadow, Princeton, BC. Photo by Graham Osborne

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia supports the 40 community-based land trusts across the province.

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ON THE FRONT COVER

Vaseux Lake,
South Okanagan

PHOTO: Graham Osborne
COURTESY: Nature Trust of
British Columbia



ON THE BACK COVER

Conservation of intact
forests for future
generations.

PHOTO: Natalie Hunt
COURTESY: Islands Trust
Conservancy

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Restoration work on Mt Tuam, Salt Spring Island

PHOTO: Carla Funk | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy



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What is a Land Trust!

Land trusts, also known as conservancies, are community-based, non-profit organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural land, species at risk and wildlife habitat.

Land trusts help landowners and communities protect places that are ecologically sensitive. These properties conserve important biodiversity significant to British Columbia – wetlands, forests, grasslands, shorelines and wildlife. These natural spaces define our communities and geography and provide a perpetual connection to nature.

In Canada, 148 land trusts work in communities, regions, provincially and nationally to protect and steward private lands forever through:

Land Acquisition – Properties are acquired by land trusts through donation or purchase. To date, more than 550,000 acres have been protected.

Ecogifts – Many land trusts work with land owners and Environment and Climate Change Canada to protect properties through this federal government program. (See page 27)

Conservation Covenants – A voluntary legal tool that allows the land to remain in private ownership but permanently limits development to protect the conservation values of the property. The covenant is held by a land trust and monitored on a regular basis. Land trusts have conserved more than 1500 properties in BC.

Stewardship – Lands that are owned and managed by land trusts, and properties with conservation covenants, require long-term stewardship. Land trusts are responsible for the ongoing management and monitoring of these properties to protect their conservation values.

Education & Volunteering – Land trusts provide education to landowners about conservation options and engage communities in the stewardship of protected natural areas while also educating people about the values of conservation, species-at-risk, and climate change. BC's land trusts are active in more than 40 communities.

PHOTO: Carla Funk | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy

Background – Evolution of the Law

Conservation organizations usually want to negotiate a covenant with a landowner that permanently restricts or prohibits some uses of that land to conserve natural amenities. That concept was resisted by 16th century British common law. Those courts reasoned that it was bad public policy to let the “dead hands” of long-gone generations constrain what present-day landowners could do. Therefore, the courts placed complex requirements in the way of covenants, requiring “dominant” parcels that were clearly benefitted by restrictions and “servient” parcels where the restrictions applied. They also required that the land use restrictions had to “touch and concern” (i.e. – be in close proximity to) the dominant tenement. Conservation organizations rarely could meet those requirements – they were unlikely to own land close or adjacent to land that needed conservation, and it was almost impossible to prove that the conservation organization’s bit of land would clearly benefit from conserving natural features on a nearby lot.

A major change. *The Land Title Act* was amended in 1994 to allow government-approved non-government organizations to hold such covenants. Section 219 now provided that:

(3) A covenant described in subsection (4) in favour of... any person designated by the minister... may be registered against the title to the land subject to the covenant... even if the covenant is not annexed to land owned by the covenantee. (4) A covenant registrable under subsection (3) may be of a negative or positive nature and may include... that land or a specified amenity in relation to it be protected, preserved, conserved, maintained, enhanced, restored or kept in its natural or existing state in accordance with the covenant and to the extent provided in the covenant.

Suddenly, a government-designated society could buy or accept a conservation covenant on any parcel of private land. Not only would the cost be much less than outright ownership, a land trust would not have to take on the many risks and responsibilities of a landowner, such as liability insurance and property taxes.

PRE 1997

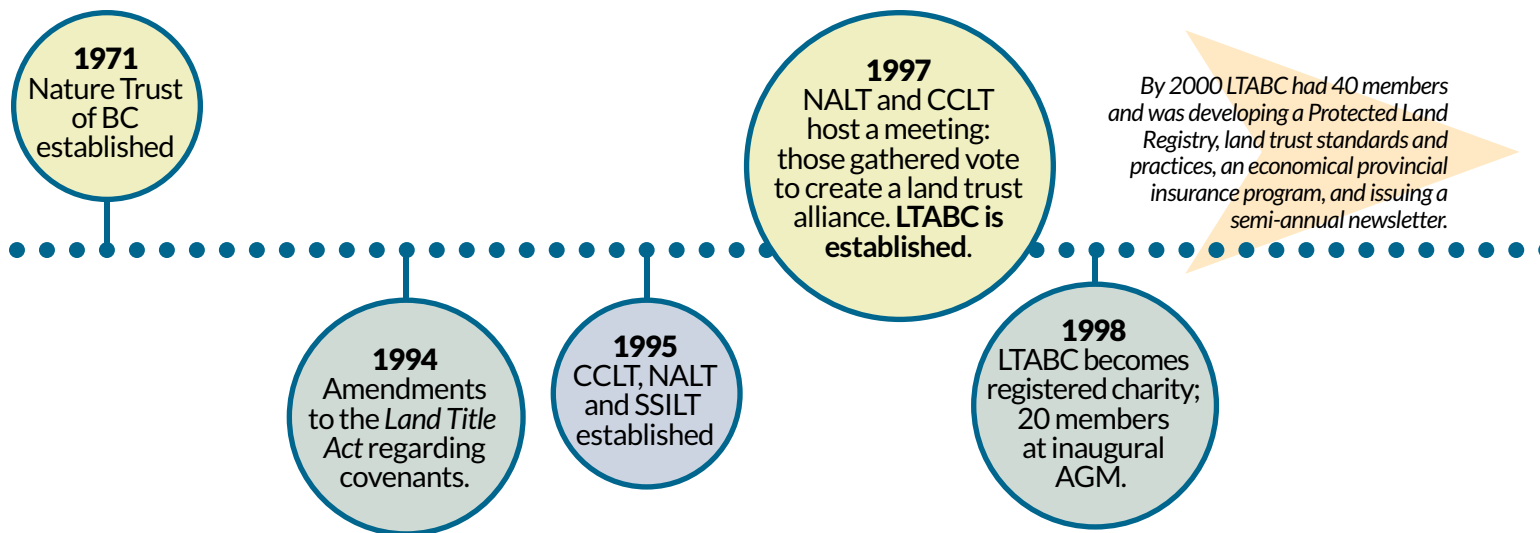
Early Learning

Not surprisingly, conservation-oriented groups such as natural history organizations were initially leery of this new legal beast. None had any relevant experience. However, there was one organization that had land trust experience, albeit from the USA – Turtle Island Earth Stewards. (“Turtle Island” is a name for the earth used by many First Nations; it was picked up by environmental activists.) Turtle Island Earth Stewards (TIES) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1975 “to deepen the sacred connection between land and people”. TIES was familiar with “conservation easements” in the US, and thus understood the concept of conservation covenants.

Meanwhile, John Scull of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists was growing increasingly concerned about environmental conservation. First, he found that one of his favourite hiking areas had been turned into a subdivision. Then the North Cowichan Council converted a municipal park to a municipal forest to allow logging.

In 1994, John was invited to a one-day workshop on land trusts by Tyhson Banighen of TIES and by Linnea Farm, a conservation property on Cortes Island. Thus inspired, John began to organize the Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT), forming a society and obtaining charitable status. By 1995, the CCLT was approved and designated as an organization that could hold a conservation covenant. Concurrently, the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy were established. BC’s land trust movement was under way!

It was one thing to form an organization, but how was one to actually be a land trust? Conservation values would have to be recorded in baseline reports and formally registered in the government’s Land Title offices. Conservation areas would have to be monitored forever, and compliance with complex conservation agreements would inevitably require enforcement. As the CCLT and NALT were getting established, word spread among conservation-oriented individuals in other communities who began seeking advice and assistance.



1997

There was clearly an increasing need for an umbrella organization that could provide information for new and developing land trusts. To that end, NALT and CCLT secured a room at Malaspina College on a weekend in February 1997. That event was hugely positive and energetic. The gathering unanimously voted to create a land trust alliance. A board of directors was acclaimed and set about drafting a constitution and bylaws for incorporation in 1997. The Land Trust Alliance of BC was registered as a charity in 1998 and had 20 members (individuals and land trusts) at its initial annual general meeting, including existing local conservation societies such as the Galiano Conservancy Association.



LTABC's early logo.

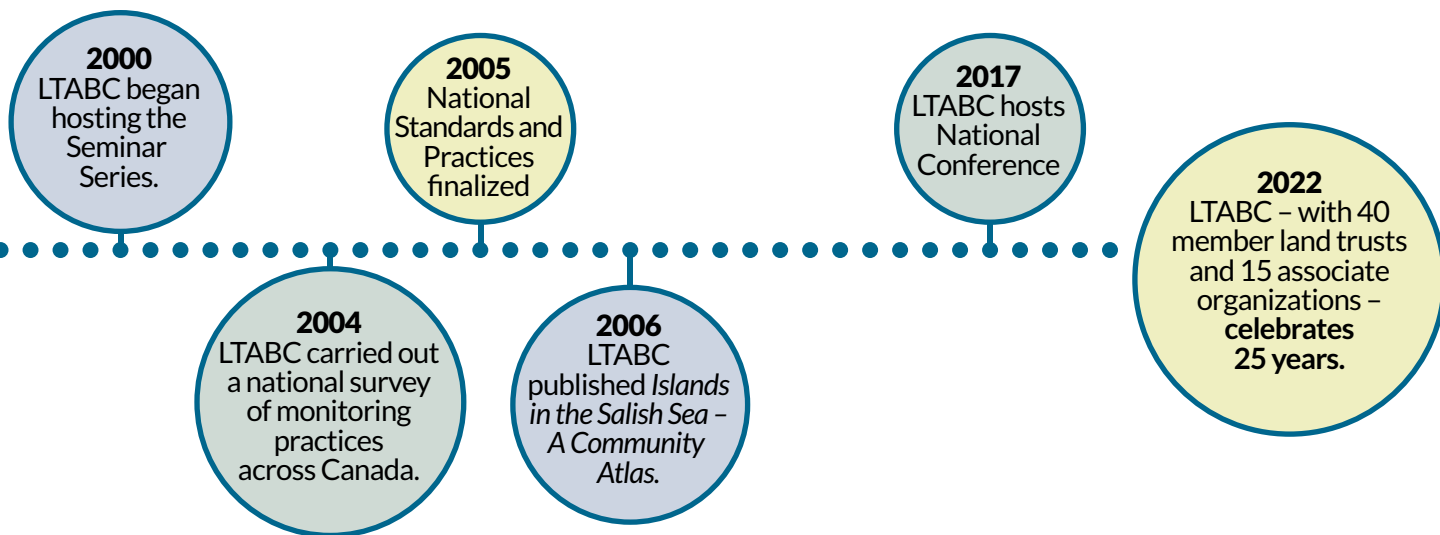
A couple of provincial-scale land trusts were already in place – the Nature Trust of BC had been created in 1971 and TLC The Land Conservancy had been incorporated in 1997. Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy of Canada had an even broader reach – these were national land trusts. BC's land trust movement now included local, provincial and national organizations.

Under Way

LTABC began hosting a gathering of BC land trusts, the Seminar Series, in 2000 to keep its members up to date and informed about engaging landowners, legal requirements around conservation covenants and the technical requirements of land deals, monitoring, mapping and dealing with potential infractions down the road. Each conference was held in a different region or location, featuring visits to local protected areas. By 2000, LTABC had 40 members and was developing a Protected Land Registry, helping to develop land trust standards and practices, developing an economical provincial insurance program and issuing a semi-annual newsletter, *The Kingfisher*.



LTABC's 2019 Speaker Series with keynote speaker, Eli Enns



Land trusts continued to evolve, with activities like an annual summer training program established in 1999. Rather than each small land trust having to provide training, students were offered a week of intensive training at a camp on Salt Spring Island with instructors from various land trusts and professionals in both government and resource sectors.

In 2004, LTABC carried out a national survey of monitoring practices across Canada. That produced improved guidelines for the national Standards and Practices which would be finalized in 2005. Over 800 sample land trust documents were collected, revised and collated. Work began toward forming a national land trust alliance; the Canadian Land Trust Alliance was formed in 2005. Most BC land trusts were on the coast and most of LTABC's activities had been focused on them, so the Seminar Series moved to Naramata in 2005 to link with conservationists in the Okanagan.

In 2006, LTABC published a major community mapping project, the *Islands in the Salish Sea – A Community Atlas*. Other projects included workshops and a guide for conducting baseline inventories. In subsequent years LTABC compiled and publicized case studies involving a dozen successful land trust projects.



Workshops and articles were produced to inform associated professionals, including lawyers, appraisers, accountants and financial planners.

Retrenchment

By 2009, a global financial crash significantly reduced interest rates which resulted in a significant decrease in grant availability from both private foundations and governments. The effects took a couple of years to be felt, but LTABC and its 30 member land trusts had to work harder to secure funding for projects. Over the ensuing years, LTABC adjusted to tighter times. The Seminar Series went from annual to biennial, the organization produced less documentation while increasing its virtual presence. But LTABC endured, continuing to communicate by e-news, offering group insurance, providing programs for schools and community groups, compiling guidelines for land conservation, encouraging improved tax incentives for conservation and providing workshops and resources to professionals.

THE THIRD DECADE

In 2017, LTABC broadened its scope in anticipation of Environment & Climate Change Canada's awarding \$20 million to community land trusts through the Natural Habitat Conservation Program. Three Alliances – Réseau de Milieux Naturels Protégés, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and LTABC – worked collectively and cooperatively to engage with the federal program to bring capacity-building services to local and regional land trusts across Canada. The Alliances provided for increased education, communications and promotion, and adherence to the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices in relation to that program.



LTABC hosted a National Summit in Victoria BC

Continued on page 29

British Columbia Community Land Trusts *at a glance*

Together BC's 40 community land trusts represent:

200+ staff
(full/part-time,
consultants,
students)

**1/3+ are
volunteer run**

**10,000+
members
3600+
volunteers**

**An average
Board of 9
members**



**Total budgets exceeding \$27 M annually ~
40% government funding, 60% private sector**

100+

**Projects
underway**

**550,000
acres**

(222,000 hectares)

**Covenants &
fee simple**

150K

**Visitors to
conservation
properties**

1600

**Properties
protected**

● **60,000+ reached through e-news and social media**

● **\$50+ M in endowments**

**More than 289,000
British Columbians
engaged annually by
BC land trusts**



www.ltabc.ca

Conservation Options

HOW YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

*The following is taken from LTABC's publication **Saving Your Land**.*

Land trusts and conservancies work with people who are interested in leaving a conservation legacy for the future. You may want to conserve a stream, promote ecologically sensitive agriculture or save a heritage property. Together, the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia LTABC and our member land trusts can help you achieve your plans for your land.

Beautiful British Columbia

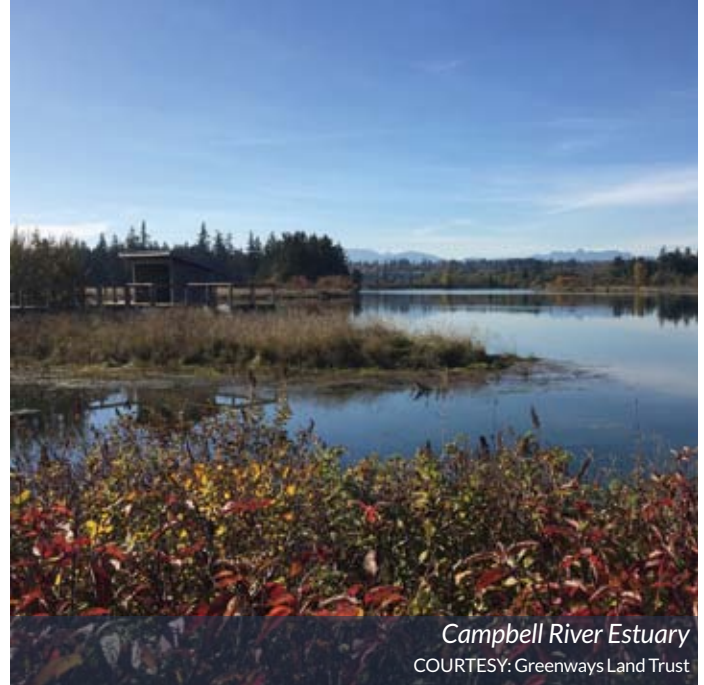
British Columbia has an abundance of natural diversity. However, BC's top scientists have identified that more than 42% of identified species are listed as of provincial conservation concern.¹ The variety and richness of our landscapes, ecosystems and species produce a wide range of ecological "goods and services" such as clean air and water, drought and flood control, natural pesticides, productive soils, regulation of local climate and many other benefits.² Private landowners have an increasingly important role to play in protecting BC's biodiversity.

Caring For Your Property

There is a wide array of stewardship or conservation options that can help you care for and protect the special features of your property. Land trusts can help you review the many options available ranging from short-term voluntary actions to long-term legal agreements that will last beyond your lifetime.

Strategies for protecting your land include:

- selling or donating the land to an organization with a conservation mandate
- reserving a "life estate" when you give or sell the land
 - selling or donating the land and then leasing it (or a portion) back for a certain period
 - subdividing the ecologically significant portion of the land, transferring it to a land trust
- protecting areas or features with a conservation covenant.



Campbell River Estuary
COURTESY: Greenways Land Trust

Transferring Your Property

One of the most permanent ways to protect your land into the future is by arranging to transfer the property to a land trust now or at a later date.

Most land trusts are registered charities, and can therefore offer a tax receipt for gifts of property. The land will need to be independently appraised to determine fair-market value.

If there is no urgency to transfer the property, you could plan to donate the land through your will. To ensure that your objectives for the land are fully realized, the details for such a donation (known as a bequest) are best worked out well in advance through discussions with the receiving organization and your own lawyer.

A life estate involves giving your property to an organization, while retaining the right to use the property for your life or a predetermined term of years.

1 Taking Nature's Pulse, 2007 Biodiversity BC, BC Technical Subcommittee, BC Conservation Land Forum, www.biodiversitybc.org

2 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005 Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. Island Press, Washington, DC – concluded that approximately 60% of ecosystem services are degraded, and these are growing.

Even if your land does not have natural or cultural heritage value, you could still support conservation work by donating property explicitly for the land trust to sell, in order to provide funds to acquire more ecologically significant lands.

Conservation Covenant

Conservation covenants are a voluntary tool which allow a landowner to preserve natural and cultural features of the land in perpetuity, while still retaining ownership and use.

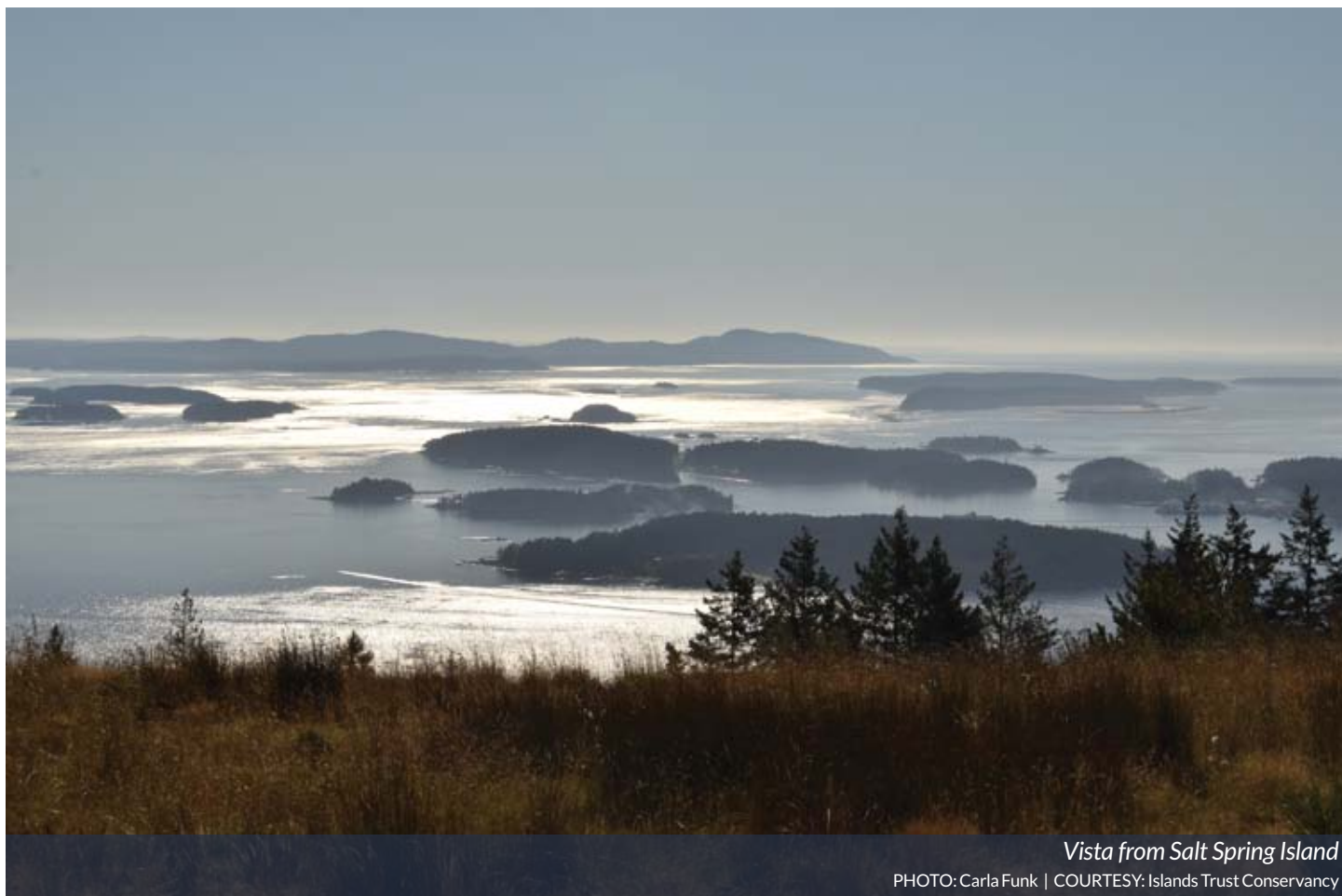
A conservation covenant is a legal agreement made between a current landowner and a designated land trust organization and/or a government agency. It is registered on the title to the land, and it will remain in effect after the land is sold or transferred, binding future owners of the land to the terms of the covenant. This agreement will ensure that features of the land that you want protected will persist in perpetuity.

The land trust or conservation organization that will hold the covenant can help you design the terms, including reserved rights and restrictions.

Financing your property's conservation

There are financial implications to consider. You will need independent legal and financial advice to review the covenant and evaluate the tax consequences. You may also need a survey, and you will likely need to hire an appraiser. Finally, you may wish to consider how the organization holding the covenant will pay for the long-term monitoring of the land. This can be part of your legacy – leaving extra financial funds, called a stewardship endowment, to provide for the costs of maintaining the covenant in the future.

The complete publication *Protecting YOUR Land – Conservation Options: How you can leave a legacy for the future* is available through the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia or your local land trust. Please call 250-590-1921, e-mail info@ltabc.ca or visit ltabc.ca to receive your free copy.



Vista from Salt Spring Island

PHOTO: Carla Funk | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy

Land Owner Profile

Marsden Face–Rixen Creek, Kootenay

In 2020, The Nature Trust of BC was thrilled to receive a donation of 79 acres in the Central Kootenay, 7 km northwest of Nelson. The property has an intact riparian corridor along Rixen Creek with mature Western Redcedar and Western Hemlock trees. It supports a diversity of tree, shrub and grassland species occurring across differing elevations and aspects. Lodgepole Pine is a dominant tree species on-site. Rainbow Trout have been seen in the creek and the land is used by a variety of wildlife species including Cougar, Bobcat, Black Bear, Mule Deer and Moose. In addition, the property features winter range for Mule Deer.

On behalf of the 10 owners, Chris and Val Speed shared the following:

We had purchased this property in 1990 after it had been logged as an attempt to forever protect the Rixen Creek watershed which supplied water at that time to 12 households.

The following year we planted 20,000 seedlings to reforest the land which has returned to its former beauty.

With only six households remaining, and aging, we thought it was time to do something with the property as leaving it to our heirs would be troublesome for them so we looked to Nature Trust BC for a way to solve this problem and still protect this land we love forever.

We like Nature Trust BC's approach to stewardship of the properties that they own and look forward to passing on our property on to them.

We feel as if we've found the right "family" to move into our "home".

As of late 2018 we have been working with them on designing a management plan, touring the property to learn its history and many attributes.

We are all very excited about this arrangement with Nature Trust BC and are glad to know that they will take care of this property in perpetuity.



Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

In 2019, the Government of Canada launched the **Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP)**. The program is a public-private partnership designed to advance privately protected areas in some of the country's most cherished landscapes.

Members of the Canadian Land Trust Working Group (CLTWG), a coalition of community land trusts, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited work together under the Natural Heritage Conservation Program. They are committed to protecting an additional 235,000 hectares (580,700 acres) of habitat across Canada.

Wildlife Habitat Canada provides grant administration services and works with the CLTWG to oversee the \$20 million in funds directed to Canada's community land trusts through the Land Trust Conservation Program LTCF.

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia (LTABC) and The Nature Trust of British Columbia represent BC on the CLTWG.

LTABC is pleased to recognize the 7 land trusts in BC who have received more than \$5,680,000 in the first three years of the program to support 16 projects totalling more than 2,200 hectares of ecologically sensitive land. To support these projects, an additional \$16 million in private funding was also raised.

LTABC is also pleased to recognize LTCF's 4-year contribution to Capacity Building to support BC's 40 land trusts.



PHOTO COURTESY Greenways Land Trust

Giving to Nature

WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT?

A gift, for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act*, is a voluntary transfer of property by a donor to a registered charity without consideration.

The transfer must be made without expectation of return, subject only to the split receipting rules, which provide that, subject to certain conditions, a transfer of property to a charity will be considered a gift even if the donor receives a material benefit in return.

General Description of Tax Aspects of Canada's Donation System Regarding Charitable Gifts

Individuals may claim a tax credit for charitable donations including donations to registered charities and the Crown. Corporations receive a deduction rather than a credit, but otherwise the tax rules applicable to corporate and individual donors are generally the same. The federal tax credit is currently 15% of the first \$200 of charitable gifts and 29% of gifts in excess of \$200, subject to certain limitations.

The maximum amount of charitable contributions made prior to the year of death that can be claimed for credit in any one year is 75% of net income. The contribution limit for in-kind gifts such as real estate that have appreciated in value is 75% of the donor's net income plus 25% of the taxable portion of any capital gains resulting from the gift.

Contributions in excess of the annual contribution limit may be carried forward for up to five years. The donor may choose whether to claim the excess in a particular year, and how much to claim, subject to the annual limit. The contribution limit for gifts made in the year of death (which includes testamentary gifts) is 100% of net income. Any excess can be carried back one year, subject to the contribution limit.

Outright Gifts of Cash

A donor may give cash to a charity. This is the simplest and most common form of gift.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor receives a tax receipt for the full amount given, subject to the calculation of any advantage which would reduce the eligible amount. Individual donors may then claim the charitable donation tax credit. Corporate donors may claim a tax deduction.
- The donor receives the satisfaction of seeing the gift put to work immediately.

Benefits to the charity

- This is an assured and readily negotiable gift when received.
- The charity can put the gift to work immediately.

Outright Gifts of Publicly Traded (Listed) Securities (Including Mutual Funds) to Public Charities

Publicly traded securities include stocks, bonds and mutual funds containing stocks listed on approved stock exchanges. They make excellent charitable gifts.

Many are liquid and are usually easy to value.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor receives the satisfaction of seeing the gift at work now.
- The donor receives an immediate tax receipt for the full fair market value of the donated securities and is taxed on none of the capital gain.
- The donor can use the tax receipt to claim the charitable tax credit. (Corporate donors will benefit from a tax deduction.)

Benefits to the charity

- The charity may sell the donated securities, convert them to cash and put the funds to work immediately, or retain them as an investment.
- The charity, being tax-exempt, is not taxed on the capital gain when it sells the securities.
- If the charity holds the securities rather than selling immediately, the charity will benefit from any further price appreciation. However, many charities sell immediately in order to eliminate stock market risk.



Monitoring work at Lu Carbyn Nature Sanctuary

COURTESY: Edmonton and Area Land Trust

Outright Gifts of Shares of a Privately owned Corporation

Family businesses constitute a high percentage of Canadian businesses and account for the majority of new jobs. The entrepreneurs who started these businesses are often community-minded. Shares in the family business may constitute most of an entrepreneur's wealth, however, and cash in the company may be needed for operating capital. Thus, a gift of common or preferred shares of a private operating company or holding company (or of a debt instrument) has made it possible for donors to make significant gifts while retaining needed working capital in their businesses.

Gifts of shares in private companies are more attractive when given to a public charity.

Public Charity

If the shares are given to a public charity (a charity other than a private foundation) with which the donor deals at arm's length, the charity may issue a tax receipt for the appraised value of the shares at the time of the gift. The charity secures the appraisal. The donor recognizes the capital gain in the shares at the time of the gift and is taxed on 50% of the gain outright. Gifts of Tangible Personal Property (other than Certified Cultural Property) include

art works, books, household furnishings, automobiles, equipment and collections. Investment assets such as real estate, securities and the like are not considered tangible personal property.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor receives the satisfaction of seeing the gift at work now or in the near term.
- The donor receives an immediate tax receipt for the fair market value of the gift, as determined by a qualified appraiser.
- 50% of any capital gains is taxable but the charitable donation tax credit will exceed the tax on the gain, resulting in net tax savings.

Benefits to the charity

- The gift can be retained or sold and the proceeds used for current needs. If the article is certified cultural property, disposition restrictions apply.
- The charity is not taxed on any capital gains when it sells the object.

Outright Gifts by Corporations

Corporations receive deductions for charitable gifts rather than tax credits. Otherwise, the same tax rules regarding donations apply to both corporations and individuals.

Charitable gifts may be made by either an operating or a holding company and may include cash, publicly traded (listed) securities or inventory.

Benefits to the donor company

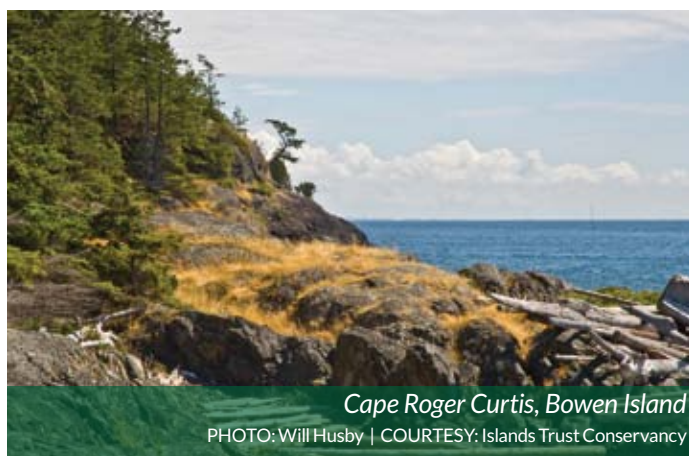
Gifts of cash, publicly traded listed securities

- If a company donates cash, it receives an immediate tax receipt and a deduction for the receipted amount (subject to the calculation of any advantage which would reduce the eligible amount).
- If a company transfers publicly-traded (listed) securities, it receives an immediate tax receipt for the full fair market value of the donated securities. The company can use the receipt to claim a deduction and won't be taxed on any gain.
- The tax-free portion of any capital gain (100% of the gain if the gift is of listed securities) is credited to the donor company's capital dividend account and can be paid to the shareholders as a tax-free dividend.

Gifts of inventory

- A charity may issue a tax receipt for a gift of inventory (CRA Interpretation Bulletin IT-297R2, see especially paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 8).

The donor company must bring into income an amount equal to the fair market value of the item(s) donated. Therefore, there will be no net tax savings, but the company may derive public relations and advertising benefits from having the charity use the product(s).



Cape Roger Curtis, Bowen Island

PHOTO: Will Husby | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy

Gifts of Life Insurance (ownership Transferred to Charity)

When full ownership of the life insurance policy is irrevocably transferred to the charity and the charity is also made the designated beneficiary of the policy, the donor receives an immediate tax receipt for the cash value of the donated policy. The donor will also receive annual tax receipts for any premiums that he or she pays after the transfer to keep the policy in force.

If the policy is purchased with the express purpose of making a gift, the charity may be named as owner on the application form.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor making premium payments need only make small current outlays that will be leveraged into a much larger future gift.
- If the transferred policy has been fully paid, the donor makes no further capital outlays, yet there will be a large future gift.
- As the charity is the owner and beneficiary of the policy, the insurance proceeds at death will be paid directly to the charity. They are not included in the donor's estate, are not subject to estate probate fees and are less susceptible to will challenges.

Benefits to the charity

- After ownership is transferred, the charity has immediate access to the policy's cash value.
- The charity has received an irrevocable gift.
- If the policy is retained, the charity will receive the death proceeds in the future. Insurance proceeds are often received more quickly than gifts from estates.

Commemorative Gifts

People who wish to honour other people or commemorate life's milestones often make donations to good causes in lieu of gifts or flowers. These milestones include weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and the passing of a loved one or friend (in memoriam gift).

These simple gifts, when added together, can result in significant support. Sometimes, a company or other organization will match these gifts, creating an even larger green legacy.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor receives an immediate tax receipt for the full amount given. Individual donors may then claim the charitable donation tax credit. Corporate donors may claim a tax deduction.

- The donor and the celebrants or family receive the satisfaction of seeing the gift put to work immediately.
- The donor knows that the celebrants or family will receive acknowledgment of the commemorative gift.
- When commemorative wishes are included in a will, the donor has peace of mind for the future. The donor establishes a perpetual legacy bearing the donor's name or the names of loved ones.

Benefits to the charity

- This is an assured and readily negotiable gift when received.
- The charity can put the gift to work immediately.

Gifts of Ecologically Sensitive Land – Canada's Ecological Gifts Program

Habitat loss and degradation are the greatest threats to biodiversity in Canada today. Since many important habitats are found on private property, landowners play a vital role in habitat conservation.

This is why members of the public, environmental groups, provinces and municipalities wanted a program to support conservation on private lands. The Ecological Gifts Program (EGP) was created in 1995 to serve this role.

Canada's EGP provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to create a natural legacy for present and future generations. It offers significant income tax benefits to landowners who donate land for safekeeping to qualified recipients such as land trusts and other nature conservation organizations.

These recipients take on the job of ensuring that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved forever.

A proposed gift must be certified by the Minister of the Environment as ecologically sensitive to qualify as an ecological gift. The Minister will also approve the recipient and determine the fair market value of the donation.

Benefits to the donor

Today, donors of ecological gifts enjoy significant tax advantages and the comfort that their gifts are protected in perpetuity. The donors receive a tax receipt from the recipient for the fair market value of their ecological gift and then apply that amount against their net annual taxable income. Corporate donors qualify for a tax deduction while individuals may claim a non-refundable tax credit. Each tax and donation situation is unique and obtaining independent, professional legal and tax advice is strongly recommended.

Other advantages of ecological gifts include:

- No tax on capital gains for capital gifts
- No limit on the total value eligible for deduction/credit in any one year
- A ten-year period to apply the receipt to income.

Benefits to the recipient

The recipient organization receives an outright, irrevocable gift for the purposes of conservation. Land is preserved now for future generations. This benefit is immeasurable.

Gifts of ecologically sensitive land may be donated to eligible environmental charities, which include land trusts and other nature conservation organizations.

Over 130 such charities across Canada are eligible under the EGP. To be approved by the Minister of the Environment to receive ecological gifts, charities must have as a primary mandate the conservation and protection of Canada's environmental heritage.

Gifts may also be made to federal, provincial and territorial governments, Canadian municipalities, and municipal or public bodies that perform a function of government. These groups have the resources and often the experience necessary to manage environmentally sensitive land and safeguard it on behalf of Canadians.

Find more info about the EGP on page 27.

Outright Gifts of Real Estate (Not Certified as Ecologically Sensitive Land)

A donor may give real estate to charity.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor has the satisfaction of seeing the gift at work now or in the near future.
- The donor receives an immediate tax receipt for the fair market value of the donated real estate, as determined by a qualified appraisal.
- 50% of any capital gain on the property is taxable, but the tax credit arising from the gift will exceed the tax on the capital gain, resulting in tax savings for the donor.
- There is no taxable capital gain if the donor donates his or her principal residence (capital gains up to \$800,000 are exempt from tax when qualified farm property is donated.)
- The donor is relieved of obligations commonly associated with real estate. After making the gift, the donor no longer has to pay property taxes, maintenance or property management fees, insurance or other ongoing costs.



View looking north from the 800 acre donation to COLT from Alf and Nancy Johns
COURTESY: Central Okanagan Land Trust

Benefits to the charity

- The gift of the property is immediate.
- In some cases, the charity may wish to retain and use the property. It may be capable of managing it or arranging for management of it.
- In other instances, the charity may sell the property and use the proceeds for purposes designated by the donor. The proceeds are available as soon as the property is sold.
- The charity is not taxed on any capital gains when it sells the property.

Charitable Bequests

A charitable bequest is a gift to a charity made in the donor's will. Such gifts can take a number of forms, including a lump sum of money, a gift of securities, a gift of real estate or personal property, a named percentage or portion of the donor's estate, a named percentage or portion of the residue (amount left after expenses, taxes, and other bequests have been paid) of the donor's estate or any of these subject to a contingency such as the donor not being survived by spouse and children.

Some donors create a trust in their will (a testamentary trust) which pays income to a spouse or other family member for life or for a term of years, after which the trust remainder is distributed to the charity.

Bequests can be made for various purposes. Some donors prefer to let the charity decide how to use the funds according to the most urgent needs of the time. Others prefer to direct the funds to an endowment or specific programs offered by the charity.

Benefits to the donor

- The donor has the satisfaction of creating a significant legacy that will implement the donor's vision of a better future by helping others the donor cares about.
- The donor retains full control of the gifted property while alive and can change the will at any time as long as he or she is capable of making decisions. Only a modest outlay of capital is required for professional fees in planning the estate and preparing the documentation.
- A tax receipt may be issued to the donor's estate for the amount of cash left to the charity or for the fair market value of other property given, resulting in a tax credit on the donor's final income tax return and tax savings to the estate.
- The maximum amount of the gift that can be claimed for credit on the final tax return is 100% of net income in the year of death. Any excess may be carried back one year, subject to the same contribution limit. The preceding year's income tax return is re-calculated and any credit resulting from the carried-back gift will be added to the credit allowed on the final return.
- From a tax standpoint, bequests of publicly-listed securities can be very effective. It's best to empower the executor to select the specific securities to donate. This power is given in the donor's will. This is preferable to naming the specific securities in the will as the donor's portfolio may or may not include the named securities at the time of death. Also, if empowered to do so, the executor could choose the securities with the most capital gain at the time, thereby maximizing tax savings. None of the gain in the publicly-listed securities will be taxed on the donor's final tax return. (If the bequest is paid with other appreciated property, or if the executor sells appreciated property of any kind and pays cash to the charity, then 50% of the gain is taxable on the terminal tax return).
- While some bequests are complex (depending on the donor's personal situation and wishes) others are remarkably simple and easy to establish with professional assistance. Some gifts are large, others small, but almost everyone can participate in this form of giving.

Benefits to the charity

- Bequests tend to be larger than outright gifts made during the donor's lifetime.
- Many bequests have relatively few restrictions.
- Most bequests can be put to use immediately after they are received.
- The charity can expect to receive a future gift if the will is not changed or successfully challenged.

BC Youth Shares Passion for Conservation

In 2021 the Land Trust Alliance of BC launched an initiative to survey and report on the priorities and concerns of young British Columbians; 639 youth between the ages of fourteen to twenty-one answered the call. An infographic on page 21 illustrates the results.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

70% of respondents named the environment and climate change as their top concern. More specifically, they are worried about global warming, ocean pollution, deforestation and habitat loss. 91% believe that governments and society should be addressing global warming with bold and substantial changes, while 92% believe that society in general is not doing enough to protect the environment. These staggering statistics suggest that we have substantial room for improvement and capacity for action-taking, yet 80% of young British Columbians feel like they need more information and better access to resources in order to prevent climate change.

Young people are confronting the climate crisis head-on by creating youth-led and youth-centered organizations. Many youth-led movements are taking a stronger focus on fostering community, creating care and solidifying a movement centered in joy – taking the time for meaningful and conscious engagement with acts that oppose systems of oppression.

YOUTH AND LAND TRUSTS

40% of the survey respondents said they spend less than five hours per month outdoors in nature; with only 25% spending more than twelve. The health benefits of spending time outdoors are well documented, and land trusts can provide a space and opportunity for youth to engage in meaningful and tangible ways with nature. Many of BC's land trusts, as well as the Land Trust Alliance of BC, provide opportunities for youth to volunteer or work with them.



Joelle



Nicole

Joelle Krol was a summer student in 2021, and is now a full-time team member working with the Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC), and **Nicole Gaul** was a summer student working for the Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) in 2020; they each had this to say in response to questions about their experiences:

What kind of activities & work did you do for the land trust?

J: "I was able to contribute to an amphibian protection program, which included trapping for Oregon Spotted Frogs and doing Bullfrog control, as well as a habitat enhancement program, where we removed invasive species and planted in riparian areas."

N: "I worked as an education outreach coordinator running community engagement initiatives and doing French/English translation work for both the LTABC and the Canadian Land Trust Alliance, creating accessible information for all ages."

Why did you think working for a land trust was important & what drew you to it?

J: "The FVC offered the opportunity to work directly with wildlife in the field, which initially drew me to working for them. In addition to gaining hands-on experience, being able to contribute to a project that has the potential to make a positive difference for an ecological community was enticing. Land trusts can make huge differences for the ecosystems, so being a small part of that felt important to me."

N: "I had never heard of a land trust before, and was really curious to learn about them. Once I did, I realized that their mandate to protect and preserve land for future generations was something that I truly valued. The work land trusts do is largely in the shadows of mainstream conservation and I wanted to help illuminate the power and quiet strength of these organizations."

What do you wish others knew about land trusts?

J: “I think it’s important for people to know how much work land trusts do to benefit not only the ecosystem, but also people in the communities adjacent to these ecosystems. Land trusts have so much impact and so much opportunity for absolutely anyone to get involved and contribute to and be a part of this impact.”

N: “I wish more people knew about the existence of land trusts and understood that they are charitable non-profit organizations. Land trusts rely on donations and the support of community volunteers to operate, but most people do not know what a land trust is and that is a huge barrier.”

What was your favourite part of working with the land trust?

J: “My favourite part about working for the FVC has been learning about the ecology of the Fraser Valley from being outdoors and working in the field with supervisors who are willing to share their knowledge about anything and everything that we see.”

N: “My favourite part of working for the LTABC was knowing that I was contributing to something bigger than myself, and that I was joining a community that was working for the benefit of others, generations from now.”

SUPPORTING YOUTH

Youth need spaces to exist, space for agency and space to heal. When looking to engage the youth demographic into an ‘adult’ organization, it is best to find out where the youth are already existing and to ask how the organization can help in those youth-led movements. Adult organizations have power where youth do not, and using that voice to leverage the message of youths is a meaningful way to engage and empower them. Creating spaces for youth to come and heal, to foster community, and to stay grounded in nature is a tangible way for land trusts to care for and support youth.

To learn how you can support your local land trust visit ltabc.ca and check our **Member Directory** to find the land trust closest to you!



A student from a local school at a volunteer planting event at the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary

COURTESY: Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

2021 BC Youth Survey *results*

639
RESPONDENTS

14-17 YRS ~ 60%
18-21 YRS ~ 40%

What are top concerns of young British Columbian?

Environment/ Climate Change	Education	Economy	Employment	Racial Inequality
70%	46%	36%	33%	33%

TOP 3 ENGAGEMENTS IN SOCIAL ISSUES:

70% Change in
Personal Behaviour
58% Sign
Petitions
50% Post on
Social Media

95%

of Respondents are
Concerned about
the Environment
and Climate Change

TOP 3 CONCERNS:

73% Global Warming
50% Ocean Pollution
50% Deforestation/Habitat Loss

TOP 3 SOURCES OF NEWS AND INFO:

35% Instagram
35% TV
24% Family

92%

believe Canadians are not doing
enough to protect the environment

TOP 5 PRIORITIES:

51% Conservation and habitat loss
50% Reduce carbon emissions
40% Reduce plastic waste
34% Clean up ocean pollution
30% Save old growth forest

80%

of young British
Columbians feel
they require more
information to prevent
climate change

TIME SPENT IN NATURE PER MONTH:

29% Less than 5 hours
20% 12+ hours

91%

of respondents believe
governments and society
should address global warming
and climate change with
**BOLD or SUBSTANTIAL
CHANGES.**

(versus 12% who said
little or no change
was needed)

Economic Impacts

Last year British Columbians overwhelmingly reported that the environment was their top concern.

People recognize the importance of our ecosystems not only to protect our geography and animal species but also for the benefits they provide to our day-to-day life – the economic impact of conservation.

Conservation has proven beneficial to communities on many fronts – from attracting investment, boosting tourism, and protecting important eco-systems.

Some of the direct and most important impacts of protecting land include:

- **Increased property taxes.** Homes located near parks and open spaces often have increased values and generate significantly more taxes.
- **Tourism.** Millions of people visit British Columbia for surfing, skiing, hiking – all important elements of a protected environment.
- **Forests.** Protected forest cover lowers the cost of treating drinking water.
- **Parks and open spaces attract retirees.** British Columbia sees more interprovincial retirees locating to the province than any other. They primarily settle in small urban areas or rural settings based on parks, recreation facilities and the outdoors.
- **Education and Employment.** Conservation opens areas of study for students and provides increased employment opportunities in the many related fields.
- **Farmland Preservation.** Protected private farmland that encompasses all regions of the province reduces food transportation costs and offers local community employment.

Looking at specific economic impacts one can see how British Columbia is directly affected by a strong and protected conservation effort.

Tourism employs about **46,400 people**. Over **19,690 tourism businesses** operate in British Columbia. In 2020, the tourism industry generated **\$7.1 billion in revenue**. The tourism industry contributed nearly **\$731 million in provincial taxes** in 2020.



The agricultural sector in BC is a complex **\$22 billion chain** employing over **280,000 people** providing, equivalent to one in every seven jobs in the economy. Agriculture and related food processing together **employ over 57,000 people**.

Thousands of Canadians from other provinces move to BC to retire. The influx of people into retirement communities on Vancouver Island and the Okanagan is significant. On average more than **2500 people per year** relocate and spend an estimated **\$40,000 per year average**. The **\$100 million impact** does not include their investment in real estate and other capital.



Richard Florida in his book *The Rise of the Creative Class* (2002) wrote about a “new economy.” He reported that environmental quality ranked as the most important amenity in high-technology workers’ choices of location, above housing, cost of living, and good schools. Florida went on to discuss that quality of life is a vital component to living in a community. He says that “great” is defined not in terms of size, but in terms of people’s desire to live there primarily based on the quality of the environment.

PHOTOS: Kristine Mayes (left); Will Husby (right)
COURTESY: Island Trust Conservancy

921
RESPONDENTS

22-35 YRS ~ 24%
36-55 YRS ~ 32%
55+ YRS ~ 44%

What are top three concerns of adults in British Columbia?

Environment/
Climate Change

67%

Economy

46%

Health

45%

TOP 5 ENGAGEMENTS IN SOCIAL ISSUES:

67% Change in Personal Behaviour

64% Sign Petitions

44% Donate to a Cause

44% Post on Social Media

27% Volunteer

83%

of Respondents are
Concerned about
the Environment
and Climate Change

TOP 3 CONCERNS:

59% Deforestation/Habitat Loss

58% Global Warming

47% Ocean Pollution

TOP 3 SOURCES OF NEWS AND INFO:

43% TV

32% Newspaper

29% Radio

84%

believe Canadians are not doing
enough to protect the environment

TOP 5 PRIORITIES:

52% Conservation and habitat loss

41% Save old growth forest

37% Reduce carbon emissions

34% Clean up ocean pollution

32% Reduce plastic waste

55%

of adult British
Columbians feel
they require more
information to prevent
climate change

TIME SPENT IN NATURE PER MONTH:

20% Less than 5 hours

30% 12+ hours

82%

of respondents believe
governments and society
should address global warming
and climate change with
**BOLD or SUBSTANTIAL
CHANGES.**

(versus 12% who said
little or no change
was needed)

A FIRST IN CANADA!

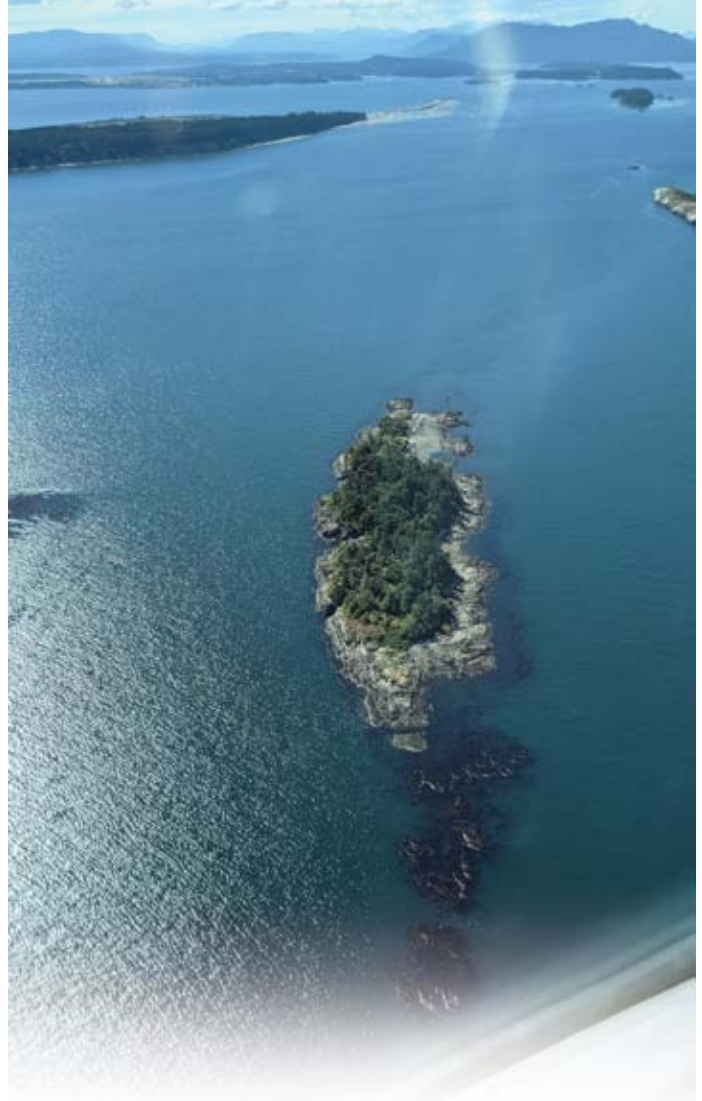
TLC Transfers SISØENEM (Halibut Island) to W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council

In 2021, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) and the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council announced a landmark partnership agreement that will transfer title of SISØENEM, a 9.67-acre island off the east coast of Sidney Island, from the charitable land trust to the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council as an act of reconciliation. Also known as Halibut Island, the island was recently purchased by TLC for \$1.55 million. The transfer will be historically significant as the first of its kind between a land trust and an Indigenous community in Canada. TLC will work together with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council to draft and register a conservation covenant and develop a co-management plan that will incorporate Indigenous land management principles that will provide access for cultural, education, research, and monitoring purposes.



"We believe this is an historic event, the first time a Canadian land trust has transferred title of a conservation property to a First Nation as an act of reconciliation," said Cathy Armstrong, TLC Executive Director. "We will be working with W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership and Dr. Martin to develop an eco-cultural restoration plan. TLC is humbly grateful for the opportunity to facilitate this ground-breaking transfer of title for the benefit of future generations."

SISØENEM is an important cultural place for W̱SÁNEĆ people. Located immediately east of Sidney Island and many W̱SÁNEĆ villages, SISØENEM was a place where W̱SÁNEĆ people would fish for cod, collect traditional medicines, and harvest camas. Most importantly for W̱SÁNEĆ people today, SISØENEM will be a place where W̱SÁNEĆ people can be in peace.



Discussing SISØENEM, W̱SÁNEĆ Elder SELILIYE (Belinda Claxton) reminisced about islands such as this and their importance for future generations: *"I remember, we'd go from island to island. We went to harvest seagull eggs and boxwood and different types of medicine. Or, during minus tide we would get sea urchins and stick shoes (chitons) ... And, the fragrance of those wildflowers. Sometimes I get a whiff of it when I go out in the spring. It brings back such beautiful childhood memories. It was so natural and so pleasant to be able to see that when I was a child. This is the sort of experience I want my children and my grandchildren to have. I don't want them seeing it in the picture. There are not many places like this left."*

The name SISØENEM cannot be easily translated into English as a whole, but each syllable conveys a sense of what the place is to W̱SÁNEĆ people: SISØ means "enjoying the sun," ØEN is a feeling of inner peace, and EM means a place where these things happen. Roughly SISØENEM means sitting out for pleasure of the weather.

TLC was able to acquire the island with the support of one major donor to protect the site's cultural, ecological, and geological significance after the island and donor was brought to the charity's attention by Dr. Tara Martin, UBC Faculty of Forestry's Conservation Decisions Lab Head.

Continued on page 48

Seeking Meaningful Indigenous Engagement for BC Land Trusts

Indigenous Peoples are the original stewards and protectors of the lands, ecosystems, and biodiversity that land trusts across BC strive to conserve. Their connection and relationship with the Earth remains vital and strong to this day, as it has since time immemorial.

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia LTABC has been facilitating a series of Indigenous Engagement Workshops for land trusts. Local land trusts are actively seeking meaningful engagement with First Nations. You can learn more by contacting your local land trust directly. Some engagement techniques include:

- 1 Reaching out to local Indigenous communities, inviting relationship and trust building processes.
- 2 Researching what terminology the local Indigenous communities use to refer to themselves, (Indigenous, First Nation, Aboriginal, etc.).
- 3 Researching and learning about the local Histories and Stories.
 - Researching and applying any Indigenous names to the property (in consultation with local communities).
- 4 Researching and learning about Indigenous Ways of Knowing of the areas where you operate.
- 5 Creating signage that the property is on the territory of the local Indigenous communities.
- 6 Creating a space for communities to engage in sustainable harvests on the property.
- 7 Creating a space for communities to engage in ceremonies and cultural practices on the property.
- 8 Creating a space for traditional and/or medicinal herbs and plants to grow on the property.
- 9 Developing an organization-wide desire for meaningful Indigenous engagement.

Why are Land Trusts supporting Indigenous Engagement?

- Out of commitment to reconciliation and in support of Indigenous place making.
- Indigenous communities hold a wealth of knowledge and experience with respect to stewarding and safeguarding species and ecosystems¹. Their knowledge is complimentary and valuable in tandem with Western approaches.
- There is a legal Duty to Consult on all projects that may impact Indigenous rights or Treaties.

Meaningful engagement goes beyond a threshold response of consultation. It involves the conscious, practiced and continuous efforts by settler organizations and individuals to seek **sincere** relationships and partnerships with Indigenous groups, and for those efforts to be welcomed and reciprocated by the community.

BC land trusts operate on the traditional and contemporary lands of Indigenous communities. Land Acknowledgements are a popular way for settler organizations and individuals to express their recognition of this, and our engagement program moves that acknowledgement to action.

The LTABC would like to thank Gary Pritchard for his support and guidance throughout this process.

¹ McDermott, L. & Bell, A., 2017. Indigenous Perspectives on Conservation Offsetting: Five Case Studies from Ontario, Canada,; Ontario Nature; Plenty Canada; Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program at Trent University.

Land Owner Profile

Iclhicwani – Bella Coola Valley, Nuxalk Territory, British Columbia

In 2018, Bella Coola residents Harvey and Carol Thommasen purchased a property along the Bella Coola River with the intention of seeing it become a bird sanctuary. The couple spent countless hours getting to know the land, with Harvey collecting a vast photographic library of the birds, animals, fish, trees and other species that thrive there. A large portion of the images document the incredible range of bird species that flock to the wetlands and side channels that weave through the low-lying parts of the property.

The Thommasens chose to work with a land trust to secure a conservation future for the land. With the support of the Nuxalk Nation, who are committed to protecting vulnerable ecosystems in their territory, the Thommasens gifted the property to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to care for in perpetuity.

“Carol and I donated this land to NCC mostly to help forest birds, whose populations have declined by 30 per cent since the 1970s,” says Harvey. “This land will also help the salmon and trout, whose populations have also suffered terribly over the past fifty years, and will provide a secure travel corridor for animals like deer, grizzly bear and other large mammals.”

Bearing the Nuxalk name Iclhicwani, this conservation area protects a small but vibrant piece of a coastal temperate rainforest, a globally rare ecosystem that is only found in British Columbia and Alaska, occurring on less than one-fifth of 1 per cent of the Earth’s surface. The conservation area harbours both biodiversity and ecosystem diversity, including an extensive system of beaver-pond wetlands that provide key habitats to freshwater species from salmon and cutthroat trout to amphibians and streamside plants. The forest located on Iclhicwani is still largely intact with mature stands of western redcedar, cottonwood and red alder.

Surrounding the conservation area are public lands conserved under the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, which protects the biodiversity of the coastal temperate rainforest. Donating Iclhicwani for conservation further benefits the surrounding lands, protecting them from development pressures.

This land is located adjacent to the traditional Nuxalk village site of Nutl’lhiixw and the present-day Burnt Bridge Conservancy. Here, a grove of old-growth western redcedar contains numerous culturally modified trees, a testament to the thousands of years of Nuxalk history in the area.

“The Nuxalk Nation has been exercising our rights and title since time immemorial,” says Councillor Iris Siwallace, Nuxalk Nation. “We have given our support to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to manage this area as we believe they will be able to protect this land for our Putl’lt – those who are not yet born.”

This project was supported by many generous donors to NCC. The land donation was made through the Government of Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program.

Harvey and Carol also recognize the support and encouragement they received from their community. *“We wish to thank the Doreen Shepherd family, Cecil Moody family, and Peter Siwallace and Nuxalk Band for supporting this project. Carol and I dedicate this donation to our recently deceased friend George Bradd, who introduced us to the joys of hugging trees and watching birds.”*



Canada's Ecological Gifts Program: A Conservation Legacy

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the terms of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada, it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or an interest in land (such as a conservation covenant) to a qualified recipient. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity.

The Ecological Gifts Program is administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada in cooperation with dozens of partners, including environmental non-government organizations such as land trusts.

Ecological gift donations and the motivations behind them are as varied as the Canadian landscape. What all donors share, however, is the comfort of knowing that their cherished piece of nature will be cared for in the future.

An increasing number of conservation-minded Canadian landowners take part in the Ecological Gifts Program each year. Each donation, no matter how small, makes a substantial contribution to the creation of a network of protected areas in Canada.

Tax benefits

Most people who donate through the Ecological Gifts Program do not do so for financial reasons. However, as an incentive to take part and to assist those who could not otherwise afford to donate, the *Income Tax Act* provides favourable income-tax treatment for gifts of ecologically sensitive land and partial interests in land.

Specific tax benefits include:

- Corporate donors may deduct the amount of their ecological gift directly from their taxable income, while the value of an individual's ecological gift is converted to a non-refundable tax credit. The tax credit is calculated by applying a rate of 15 per cent to the first \$200 of the donor's total gifts for the year and 29 per cent to the balance
- In most provinces, a reduction in federal tax payable will also reduce provincial tax
- While for most gifts the taxable portion is 50 per cent of the capital gain, in the case of an ecological gift it is reduced to 0.
- The carry-forward period for claiming these donations is 10 years
- If the landowner receives an advantage (partial payment) in return for the donation, the provision known as split-receipting is used to assess the amount of the gift which is eligible for a tax benefit.

Since 1995 ecological gifts valued at over \$1 billion have been donated across Canada, protecting over 217,000 hectares of wildlife habitat. Many of these ecological gifts contain areas designated as being of national or provincial significance, and many are home to some of Canada's species at risk.



PHOTO: Renee Langevin

Lands qualifying as ecological gifts

Each donation of land or a partial interest in land must be certified by Environment and Climate Change Canada as ecologically sensitive according to specific national and provincial criteria, before it can be included under the Ecological Gifts Program.

Ecologically sensitive lands are areas or sites that currently, or could at some point in the future, contribute significantly to the conservation of Canada’s biodiversity and environmental heritage. Many properties qualify because they provide habitat for rare species, or protect wetlands and riparian habitat.

Donation options

Although many ecological gifts are outright donations of land with no conditions attached (sometimes called fee-simple donations), making a gift of property does not necessarily mean severing the connection donors have with their land. There are options available that allow donors and recipients to tailor their arrangements to suit their particular needs.

A conservation covenant is a legal agreement that is registered on title and that protects a property’s conservation value by permanently placing terms and conditions on its use. For example, it can place limitations on subdividing, the number and location of structures and the types of land-use activities that can take place. Under the terms of the agreement, the donor continues to own the land and may live on it, sell it, or pass it on to heirs. The recipient ensures that the restrictions put on the property are followed in the future, regardless of who owns the land. **This type of agreement makes up over half of all ecological gifts to date.**



PHOTO: Carolyn Sandstrom

Another option may be for the property owner to donate the land to a qualified recipient, while retaining the right to use the land for a period of time. In common-law jurisdictions, a donor can give away a remainder interest in land but retain a life interest - that is, the right of the donor (or someone else named by the donor) to live on the land for life.

What constitutes a gift

Any individual or corporate landowner may donate land or a partial interest in land through the Ecological Gifts Program. Ecological gifts must be made in perpetuity. In order for an official donation receipt to be issued, the donation must fully qualify as a gift under Canadian tax law. Tax-related questions should be directed to the Canada Revenue Agency, which is responsible for implementing these provisions under the *Income Tax Act*.

Ecological gifts: eligible recipients

Landowners may donate ecologically sensitive land to registered environmental charities and governmental organizations. Charities, such as land trusts, must apply to the Ecological Gifts Program (EGP) to become eligible to receive ecological gifts.

In order to be eligible to receive an ecological gift, a charity must:

- have registered charity status with the Canada Revenue Agency and maintain this status from year to year
- have as one of its primary purposes “the conservation and protection of Canada’s environmental heritage” or some similar statement of purpose
- apply to the EGP by completing the application package and sending it to the National Secretariat, Ecological Gifts Program.

Current summary numbers for BC			
Completed Gifts	Number	Area	Value
Fee Simple	152	62,386	\$240,594,094.00
Partial Interest	51	7,116	\$41,692,350.00
Total	203	69,501	\$282,286,444.00

For more information

The Ecological Gifts Program website, canada.ca/ecological-gifts, has a publications section with a short Brochure, the program Handbook, examples of Donation and Tax scenarios, and other related documents.

Land Trust Alliance of BC members eligible to accept Ecological Gifts include:

- Central Okanagan Land Trust
- Comox Valley Land Trust
- Cowichan Community Land Trust Society
- Denman Conservancy Association
- Ducks Unlimited Canada – BC Coast Office
- Fraser Valley Conservancy
- Gabriola Land and Trails Trust
- Galiano Conservancy Association
- Habitat Acquisition Trust
- Islands Trust Conservancy
- Malaspina Land Conservancy Society
- Mayne Island Conservancy Society
- Nanaimo and Area Land Trust
- Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan Society (NCNO)
- Pender Islands Conservancy Association
- Quadra Island Conservancy and Stewardship Society
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Savary Island Land Trust Society
- Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
- The Land Conservancy of British Columbia
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada – British Columbia
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- The Southern Interior Land Trust Society

LTABC 25 Years, continued from page 8

The same year, LTABC received a Canada 150 grant to boost social media presence; by 2020, there were more than 15,000 people engaged on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

In 2018-2019, partnering with UVIC and researcher K. Kalynka, the organization undertook a comprehensive overview of land trusts across Canada, providing valuable baseline research for future studies. American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (now American Friends of Canadian Conservation) partnered with LTABC on a cross-border conservation study between 2018 and 2020. Resources were published to promote this effort and research was gathered for a future conservation program.

In 2019 the Canadian Land Trust Standards & Practices were revised and the former Canadian Land Trust Alliance, dormant for seven years, re-emerged as the Centre for Land Conservation. LTABC and four BC land trusts are on the Centre's Advisory Board. LTABC updated its on-line standards and practices assessment tool. In 2020, the organization produced *Developing a Conservation Plan: A Basic Guide for Land Trusts*¹ to identify and more effectively conserve the lands that are most important to achieving a particular land trust's mission.

In 2021, in recognition of the then-current covid-19 pandemic, the Seminar Series went on line, with eight one-hour webinars.

LTABC is now providing programs to British Columbia and Alberta and to land trusts requiring programs in the Prairies. Twenty separate guides are collected in a *Natural Legacies Toolkit*² for landowners, land trusts, municipal governments and professionals. LTABC continues to send out a monthly newsletter, E-News, with updates on news, events and funding deadlines for the conservation community and the public.

In March 2021, LTABC launched an interactive tool for Baseline Data Reporting. On behalf of the Alliances in Ontario and Quebec, the organization coordinated a new national website that brought together resources for land trusts on a national basis.

And so the projects continue. The Seminar Series carries on, having been held annually until 2013, then after a brief hiatus, again in 2016, 2017 and 2019; in 2021, it was held online as a series of webinars. By then, LTABC had 36 member land trusts, comprising over 95% of the land trust community in BC. The organization also represented 15 associate organizations, including four land trusts in Alberta.

As of 2022, LTABC has 40 member land trusts, comprising 98% of the land trust community in BC. LTABC also represents 15 associate organizations, including five land trusts in Alberta.

1 https://ltabc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/developing-a-conservation-plan-2020_final.pdf

2 <https://ltabc.ca/resources/natural-legacies-toolkit/information-land-trusts/>

Congratulations

As LTABC marks its **25th Anniversary**, we want to acknowledge the recent, current and near future anniversaries of some of our members. Congratulations to these and all Land Trusts, and the people who support them! Thank you for the work you do.

PIONEERS

- 1938** Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- 1962** Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
- 1972** The Nature Trust of BC
- 1974** Islands Trust Conservancy
- 1974** West Coast Environmental Law
- 1975** Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

2020

25 YEARS

Cowichan Community Land Trust

Founded in 1995 by a group of concerned citizens who wished to help landowners find alternatives to the degradation of natural areas and wildlife habitat.

Gambier Island Conservancy

Founded in 1995 to address mounting concerns about changes in Gambier's natural habitat.

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)

Since 1995 NALT has been working to fulfil their mission – to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area.

2021

25 YEARS

Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust

Since 1996 Greenways continues to support volunteers, initiate projects and foster partnerships that work towards their goals and mission.

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Established in 1996 with a vision to directly conserve land by acquiring titles and covenants, and by working with residents to foster stewardship of natural ecosystems.

50 YEARS

The Nature Trust of British Columbia

Since 1971 NTBC has acquired more than 500 conservation properties in British Columbia.

Purple Martin Nest
Monitoring 2021,
Campbell River Estuary
(l-r: Callie Bouchard, Melody
Fraser, Jacob Junjie Ke)
COURTESY:
Greenways Land Trust



2022

25 YEARS

Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

Established in 1997 to meet the increasing need for an umbrella organization that could provide information for new and developing land trusts.

Bowen Island Conservancy

Since 1997 Bowen Island Conservancy works to protect and preserve the natural environment of the island – from endangered coastal bluffs, to inland lakes, to wetlands and fens.

Savary Island Land Trust Society

When the Savary Island Land Trust began 25 years ago, there was no protected land on Savary Island. Today, 43% of the Island is protected.

Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Formed in 1997, the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association (SCCA) represents local conservation and community groups, and individual members working together to protect biodiversity on the Sunshine Coast.

TLC The Land Conservancy

Founded in 1997, TLC protects important habitat for plants, animals and natural communities as well as properties with historical, cultural, scientific, scenic or compatible recreational value.

40 YEARS

Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society

Since 1982 SSIWPS has been working to protect the water and watersheds of Salt Spring's drinking-water lakes, and also owns and manages 272 forested acres on the slopes west of St. Mary Lake now protected by a conservation covenant.

2023

25 YEARS

Fraser Valley Conservancy

Since 1998 Fraser Valley Conservancy has been working to protect and enhance nature in the Fraser Valley for future generations.

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

Established in 1998, the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology's purpose is to acquire and steward vital habitat for environmental protection.

Tsolum River Restoration Society

Established in 1998 to restore and maintain the ecological features of the Tsolum River watershed by acting to preserve the integrity and stability of the river and its biotic community.



2024

25 YEARS

Comox Valley Land Trust

Incorporated in 1999 with the purpose of maintaining the land heritage of the Comox Valley as a living trust, through long-term planning, co-operation and conservation.

50 YEARS

Islands Trust Conservancy

The Province of British Columbia created the Islands Trust in 1974 in response to the potential environmental effects of dense residential subdivisions that were in development in the Gulf Islands.

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation

Since 1974 WCEL has successfully worked with communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all levels of government, including First Nations governments, to develop proactive legal solutions to protect and sustain the environment.



ON THE MAP

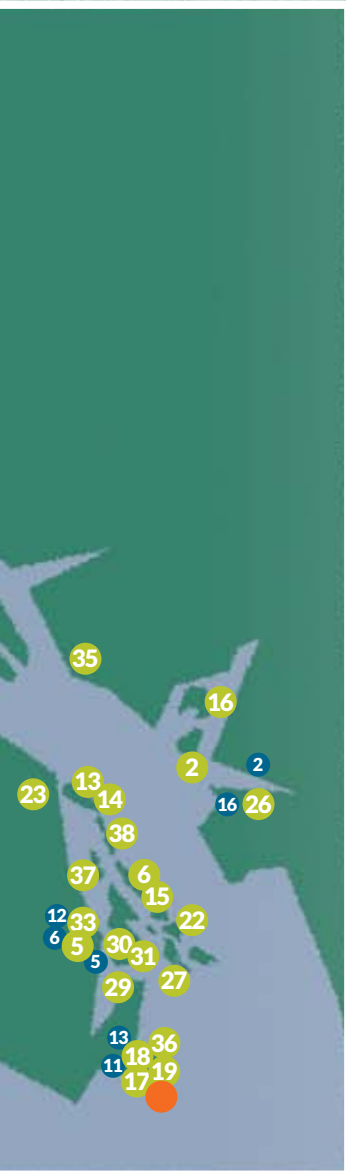
Land Trust Members and Associates 2022

MEMBERS

- 1 American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts
- 2 Bowen Island Conservancy
- 3 Central Okanagan Land Trust
- 4 Comox Valley Land Trust
- 5 Cowichan Community Land Trust
- 6 Crystal Mountain Society for Eastern & Western Studies
- 7 Denman Conservancy Association
- 8 Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust
- 9 Ducks Unlimited British Columbia
- 10 Elk Valley Regional Land Trust Society
- 11 Fraser Valley Conservancy
- 12 Friends of Cortes Island Society
- 13 Gabriola Commons Foundation
- 14 Gabriola Land & Trails Trust
- 15 Galiano Conservancy Association
- 16 Gambier Island Conservancy
- 17 Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
- 18 Habitat Acquisition Trust
- 19 Islands Trust Conservancy
- 20 Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation
- 21 Malaspina Land Conservancy Society
- 22 Mayne Island Conservancy
- 23 Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society
- 24 Nature Conservancy of Canada
- 25 Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan Society
- 26 Nature Trust of British Columbia
- 27 Pender Islands Conservancy Association
- 28 Quadra Island Conservancy and Stewardship Society
- 29 Raincoast Conservation Foundation
- 30 Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- 31 Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society
- 32 Savary Island Land Trust Society
- 33 Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- 34 Southern Interior Land Trust
- 35 Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
- 36 TLC The Land Conservancy
- 37 Thetis Island Nature Conservancy Society
- 38 Valdes Island Conservancy
- 39 Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- 1 Bow River Basin Council
 - 2 Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC
 - 3 Calgary River Forum Society
 - 4 Clear Sky Meditation and Study Foundation
 - 5 Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre Society
 - 6 Cowichan Watershed Society
 - 7 Edmonton and Area Land Trust
 - 8 Elbow River Watershed Partnership
 - 9 Foothills Land Trust
 - 10 Friends of French Creek Conservation Society
 - 11 Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
 - 12 Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society
 - 13 Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
 - 14 Tsolum River Restoration Society
 - 15 Valhalla Wilderness Society
 - 16 West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation
 - 17 Western Sky Land Trust
- Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



Beyond Acquisition & Covenants

Land Trust Stewardship and Restoration

The responsibility of protecting special lands extends far beyond purchase or application of a covenant. Stewardship will be required for generations to come, and can include invasive plant management, reduction of human impacts, species at risk monitoring, and rebuilding entire ecosystems.



Building a burrow

PHOTO: Mike Mackintosh | COURTESY: Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC



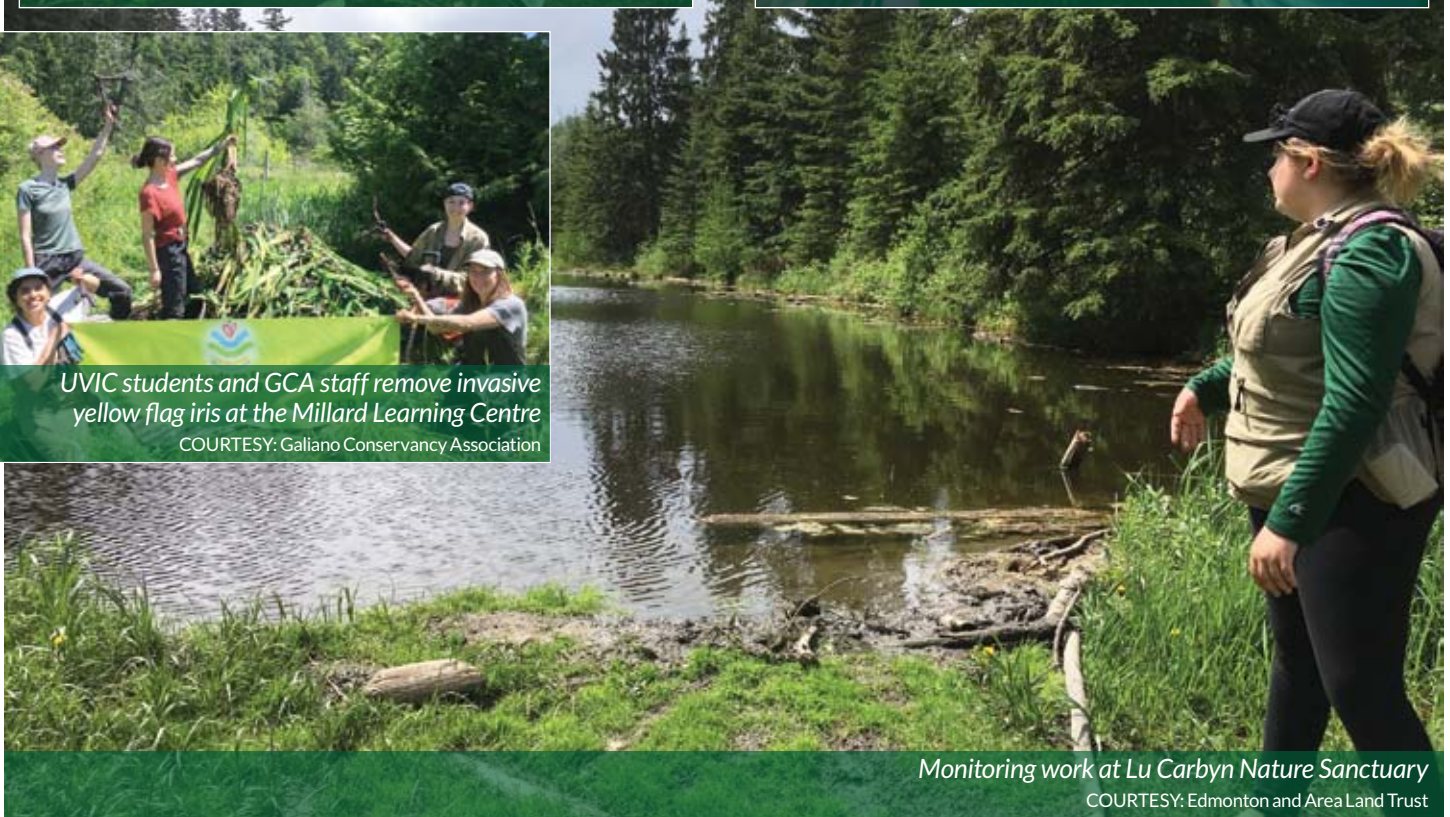
Bio-engineering in the Ghost Watershed

PHOTO: Mike Murray
COURTESY: Bow River Basin Council



Wetland restoration biologist Robin Annschild and crew at Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary near New Denver BC

COURTESY: Valhalla Foundation for Ecology



PEOPLE PROTECTING PLACES



The Land Trust Alliance of BC is a registered charity and accepts donations to support its work in

- Education – programs for land owners, students, land trusts, professionals and the public
- Research – topics related to land trusts and the environment
- Publications – brochures, books and FAQ sheets available free of charge
- Youth Programs – online resources for children, youth, families and schools
- Standards & Practices – program that guides the work of land trusts
- Programs – community outreach, conferences, social media and others designed to further conservation across BC

Donors may opt to:

- Make a One-time Donation
- Make a Monthly Donation

LTABC uses Canada Helps to process on-line donations. This ensures you receive your receipt immediately and costs to process donations maintain administrative costs at only 3%.

Alternately:

- Call our office to make a donation – we accept Visa, MC, Amex
- Send a cash gift (cash or cheque) using the form below
- Donate online through our endowment fund with the Vancouver Foundation.

For more information and helpful links visit:

ltabc.ca/donate



NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

E-MAIL

Amount Enclosed: \$

Please mail to:

201 – 569 Johnson Street, Victoria BC Canada V8W 1M2

Champions of Conservation

Land conservation is only possible with passionate, dedicated people.

LTABC salutes everyone who gives their time and energy to conservation: staff and board members, volunteers, educators, First Nations, scientists and specialists, visionary landowners, and donors.

One such person is **Wayne McCrory**, winner of the REF Land Champion Award for 2022. Thank you, Wayne, and congratulations!

VALHALLA WILDERNESS SOCIETY PRESS RELEASE

Professional biologist, conservationist and environmental advocate Wayne McCrory has received the prestigious Land Champion Award from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. The award was presented on June 9 at the 2022 Gala Ceremony of the Real Estate Foundation of BC in New Westminster, in recognition of McCrory's significant contribution to protection of wilderness and wildlife in BC.

McCrory, who just turned 80, grew up in a mining family in the 1950s. As one of the founding directors of the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS), he spear headed campaigns for the Khutzymateen and Spirit Bear protected areas, as well as Goat Range Provincial Park. He was part of the VWS team that successfully protected Valhalla Provincial Park.

As the founder of a separate land trust, the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology (VFE), McCrory and his partner Lorna Visser and their Board achieved the acquisition of a number of private land parcels with wetlands and other high ecological values that have been protected and restored.

In addition he has worked extensively with a number of First Nations. He initiated the grizzly bear viewing programs for First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest, and his independent research led to the Tsilhqot'in Nation creating a large wild horse preserve and a large Tribal Protected Area.



Wayne McCrory with wife and fellow director of the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology Lorna Visser at Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary

PHOTO: Cheyenne Bergenhenegouwen



Wayne with his granddaughters on a grizzly bear viewing trail developed by the Valhalla Wilderness Society in the Selkirk Mountains

PHOTO: Lorna Visser, 2005

"What has been collectively achieved in terms of the new parks and protected areas in BC – protection of wetlands, ancient forests and grizzly bears – that I have been involved with is really a tribute to many decades of work by my hard-working colleagues with the Valhalla Wilderness Society, the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, First Nations and many others."

Wayne McCrory, excerpt of award acceptance speech

"I first became aware of Wayne's work in the late 90s when I learned that this guy would travel all the way from his home in New Denver BC and travel to what we now call the Great Bear Rainforest. That is when I learned of Wayne's passion for wildlife, old growth forests and of course its people. I was able to see firsthand his dedication and commitment to conservation and stewardship. I watched Wayne in countless meetings and negotiations, campaigns and fundraisers, all for my home."

Muqvas Glaw (White Bear), aka Douglas Neasloss

VOLUNTEER

With Your Local Land Trust

Your unique skills may be invaluable to a land trust! As charities, land trusts rely on volunteers for many activities. You may be a photographer, teacher, retired lawyer, student, or family – land trusts often have needs on an ongoing basis or as a one-time opportunity. Look for a volunteer page on your local land trust's website to explore their current volunteer opportunities.

Volunteering for a land trust in your community is a great way to help protect our natural environment and conserve BC. Whether you want to get outside and enjoy a hands-on experience at a land trust property or offer your time in a skills-based capacity, there are many ways you can donate your time.

Across BC, land trusts provide many ways for people to be outdoors or help with projects in areas like administration, education and fundraising.

Some of these activities include:

- Board Member
- Event Helper
- Field Data Collection
- Fundraising
- Naturalist Guide
- Trail & Field Work
- Project Management
- Property Monitor
- Publicity/Media Relations
- Invasive Species Removal
- Staffing Booths
- Office Help

Become
a Volunteer

Our 40 land trust members are listed in our directory available at ltabc.ca/land-trusts/directory

Some examples of recent volunteer opportunities include:



And that's just a small sampling of the many opportunities available from land trusts!

PLEDGE



British Columbia is home to some of the world's most treasured natural habitats – support the land trusts of BC as they work to conserve the lands we love for future generations!

Bryan Adams

The Land Trust Alliance of BC invites you to pledge your support for the preservation and conservation of our environment. The lands and waters of British Columbia are home to some of the most diverse and delicate ecosystems in the world. We want to do everything in our power to make sure they stay safe and protected for years to come!

JOIN US TODAY!

I pledge to:

- Respect and care for ALL wildlife, ecosystems and habitats in my environment and beyond.
- Make decisions that support sustainable land and water conservation efforts in BC.
- Understand how my actions today will affect future generations.
- Share my knowledge and passion with others, to inspire change and to make a difference.
- Encourage governments, at all levels, to financially support land trusts in their efforts to protect the natural habitat of BC.

Take the pledge online at

change.org/landtrustsBC



PHOTO: Owen Plowman | COURTESY: Bowen Island Conservancy

Walking down to the coastal bluffs at the Cape Conservation Area, Bowen Island

Land Owner Profile

Small Land Trusts: Big Impact – Life on a Covenant-protected Property

When a property protected by conservation covenant goes up for sale, the owners of the covenant hold their breath. How will the purchaser view the restrictions, abide by the covenant and work with the land trust?


In August 2012 Martin Rossander, a well-known local to Powell River, died. For the few years leading up to his departure, Martin had been working with Malaspina Land Conservancy Society over what to do with his land. He wanted it to be conserved in some way, and options came up, were discussed, and were replaced time and again as he sought to find comfort before his days ran out. Eventually, he hand-wrote his own final wishes, leaving the rest of us to pull it all together.

They were the first two covenants MLCS was involved with, and so we worked with the executor and lawyer and all learned a lot from West Coast Environmental Law's *Greening Your Title* (revised by LTABC 2014). It provided a "Cole's Notes" to the legalese of the covenant contracts. The land was then offered for sale.

We were delighted when the family, which included Justin Frazer and his partner Rachel LeBlanc, along with Justin's parents Neil Frazer and Pauline Mac Neil, bought the smaller of the two properties, an acreage within the Powell River city limits. Two-thirds of the property is forest, protected by covenant, while the front of the property holds two homes and garden area free from conservation restrictions.

"We have been living on our covenanted land for six years now and appreciate it more with every year that goes by," said Justin.

"From the moment the cedar branches brush your shoulders as you enter the covenanted area, when you take a deep breath of fresh air and notice that the external town sounds have become muffled, when you look up at the swaying tree tops against the sky and experience instant meditation, when you become enamoured with the cycles of the ferns and fungi on the ground, you begin to naturally understand that you're a part of something greater than yourself," Rachel added.



Justin Frazer with his dog Duchess and one of the elderly chickens he and Rachel LeBlanc look after on the residential portion of the property.

PHOTOS:
Rachel LeBlanc



As Justin and Rachel have got to know the covenanted area over many seasons, they recognize the health and stress of the forest, delight in the bumper crop of mushrooms or research and agonize over disease affecting some of the trees. They have become guardians of the land.

"The covenant means the beautiful woods in our backyard cannot be developed, and we could not be happier," said Justin. *"We feel very lucky to be part of something we had no idea was an option for property owners."*

Upon purchasing their property, Justin and Rachel became board members of MLCS, now serving as vice-president and secretary respectively and adding enthusiasm and the knowledge of living within a covenant to the table.

LTABC Members

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts

conservecanada.org

Bowen Island Conservancy

Charity #: 867-261-299

PO Box 301, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0

604 612 6572

info@bowenislandconservancy.org

bowenislandconservancy.org

The Bowen Island Conservancy works to preserve and protect the natural environment of Bowen Island, for present and future enjoyment. We protect Bowen's special ecological areas of significance, through gifts, covenants, and purchases, for the benefit of all who enjoy the peace and beauty of the Island. As well we provide and sponsor public education activities several times each year.

Central Okanagan Land Trust

coltrust.ca

Comox Valley Land Trust

Charity #: 87259 0278 RR001

Address: PO Box 3462, Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

250 650 9561

info@cvlandtrust.ca

cvlandtrust.ca

The Comox Valley Land Trust is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that works to protect and conserve the ecologically significant land and wildlife habitat of the Comox Valley region. The Comox Valley Land Trust operates three programs: the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership program; the Land Protection Program; and a Conservation Science Program.

Cowichan Community Land Trust

cowichanlandtrust.ca

Crystal Mountain Society for Eastern & Western Studies

crystallmountain.org



Outing to Apodaca Provincial Park – September 2019

PHOTO: Owen Plowman | COURTESY: Bowen Island Conservancy

Denman Conservancy Association

Charity #: 137698700 RR0001

PO Box 60, Denman Island, BC V0R 1T0

250 335 2868

info@denmanconservancy.org

denman-conservancy.org

Denman Conservancy Association is a volunteer organization formed to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the human and natural environment of Denman Island. We engage the Denman Island community in the protection of natural ecosystems on the island through education, enabling nature experiences and acquiring, managing and stewarding lands.



Railway Grade Marsh covenant area, Denman Island

PHOTO: John Millen | COURTESY: Denman Conservancy Association



Greenways' Watershed Restoration Crew 2021
Tyee Spit, Campbell River
 (l-r: Katrice Baur, Melody Fraser, Callie Bouchard, Jacob Junjie Ke)
 COURTESY: Greenways Land Trust

Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust

Charity #: 88899 2534 BC0001
 PO Box 25063, Campbell River, BC V9W 0B7
 250 287 3785
info@greenwaystrust.ca
greenwaystrust.ca

Greenways is a registered charity and conservation organization in Campbell River, BC. It has been fulfilling its mission since 1996 to restore, sustain and protect natural areas and critical habitats, particularly ecological and recreational greenways, for the benefit of the community. Volunteers form the heart of the organization.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Charity #: 11888 8957 RR0001
 101 – 12080 Nordel Way, PO Box 84664, Surrey, BC V3W 6Y7
 604 592 0987
du_surrey@ducks.ca
ducks.ca/places/british-columbia

To conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

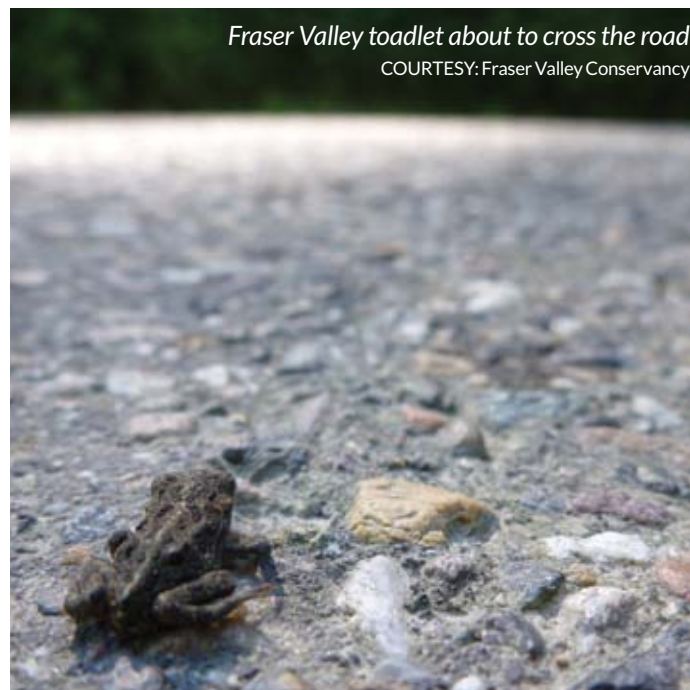
Elk Valley Regional Land Trust Society

elkvalleylandtrust.org

Fraser Valley Conservancy

Charity #: 879282762RR0001
 PO Box 2026, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8
 604 625 0066
info@fraservalleyconservancy.ca
fraservalleyconservancy.ca

We are the only locally-based land trust in the Fraser Valley. Our vision is to protect and enhance nature in our valley for future generations. We endeavour to work collaboratively with communities to protect and steward our shared land.



Fraser Valley toadlet about to cross the road
 COURTESY: Fraser Valley Conservancy

Friends of Cortes Island Society

friendsofcortes.org

Gabriola Commons Foundation

gabriolacommons.ca

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Charity #: 846205342 RR0001
 PO Box 56, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X0
 250 247 9467
info@galitt.ca
galitt.ca

We protect and restore natural ecosystems, provide opportunities and resources for landholders and the public to explore and learn about the natural environment, establish and maintain a network of trails, and encourage responsible land and water stewardship practices.

Galiano Conservancy Association

Charity #: 88609 2998 RR0001
10825 Porlier Pass Road, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0
250 539 2424
info@galianoconservancy.ca
galianoconservancy.ca

Based at the Millard Learning Centre, a 188-acre hub for ecological restoration, sustainable food production, climate action, and environmental education, the Galiano Conservancy works to protect, steward and restore local ecosystems by creating a network of natural areas where a healthy environment, learning, and a love of nature flourish.

Gambier Island Conservancy

Charity #: 889252862 RR 0001
1005 West Bay Road, Gambier Island, BC V0N 1V0
604 913 9090
gambierconservancy@gmail.com
gambierislandconservancy.ca

We envision a future where Gambier Island's rich ecological diversity is protected and thriving. Our mission is to defend, restore, and strengthen the ecological diversity of our island community by inspiring and empowering people to learn, live, and love the wild spaces of Gambier Island and its surrounding waters.

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

garryoak.info



Arbutus Berries at one of HAT's North Saanich Covenants

COURTESY: Habitat Acquisition Trust

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Charity #: 88962 6545 RR0001
202 – 661 Burnside Road E | PO Box 8552 Victoria BC
V8W 3S2
250 995 2428
hatmail@hat.cbc.ca
hat.bc.ca

Habitat Acquisition Trust is a regional land trust that conserves nature on south Vancouver Island. We envision a future where the full array of natural habitats on south Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands are healthy and conserved.



Nootka Rose at Ruby Alton Nature Reserve

PHOTO: Christine Pritchard | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy

Islands Trust Conservancy (formerly Islands Trust Fund)

Charity#: Qualified donee as a Crown Agent under BC's
Islands Trust Act
200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8
250 405 5186
itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca
islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy

Preserving and protecting land in the Islands Trust Area of the Salish Sea. Totalling over 1,300 ha on 107 private properties through conservation covenants (76) and via donation as nature reserves (31). Land tax reduction through NAPTEP, and work collaboratively with partners on ecological research, mapping, and land restoration support.

Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation

kiyookalandtrust.org

Malaspina Land Conservancy Society

Charity #: 840443899 RR0001

3852 Gordon Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2T5

604 485 0077

info@malaspina.ca

malaspinaland.ca

We work to protect the natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands upon the territory of the Tla'amin Nation through the use of conservation covenants, land acquisition and education. Our vision is of people living within a healthy, diverse region where respect for the natural world is paramount.



Landscape altered by beaver activity, covenant on Texada Island

PHOTO: Janet Southcott | COURTESY: Malaspina Land Conservancy Society

Mayne Island Conservancy Society

Charity #: 871317202RR0001

Box 31, 478 Village Bay Road, Mayne Island, BC V0N 2J0

250 539 2535

info@mayneconservancy.ca

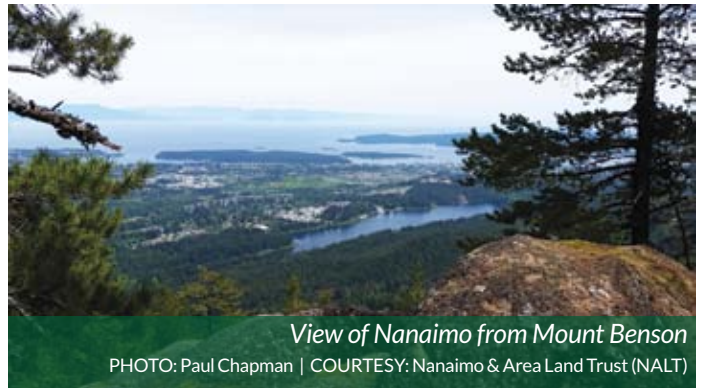
maneconservancy.ca

The Mayne Island Conservancy (MIC) is a multi-faceted organization providing services and expertise related to land trusts, conservation science, ecological restoration and natural history education. MIC has created robust programs in these areas and works with many local, regional, provincial and national partners to deliver them.



St. John Point, Mayne Island

COURTESY: Mayne Island Conservancy



View of Nanaimo from Mount Benson

PHOTO: Paul Chapman | COURTESY: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT)

Charity #: 8931 93771 RR0001

8 – 140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1

250 714 1990

admin@nalt.bc.ca

nalt.bc.ca

Since 1995 NALT has worked in collaboration with the community to fulfill its mission – to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area.

Nature Conservancy of Canada

natureconservancy.ca

Nature Conservancy of the North Okanagan Society

ncno.ca

The Nature Trust of British Columbia

Charity #: 10808 9863 RR0001

500 – 888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3K4

604 924 9771 | toll free: 1 866 288 7878

info@naturetrust.bc.ca

naturetrust.bc.ca

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is a leading non-profit land conservation organization. We acquire and care for BC's most critical habitats for vulnerable wildlife and plants. Since 1971, The Nature Trust with our partners, has protected more than 178,000 acres (72,000 hectares) of ecologically significant land for future generations.



S, DAYES Flycatcher Forest on North Pender Island

PHOTO: Alex Harris, Raincoast | COURTESY: Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Charity #: BC Society number: S-29992;
Business number: 887391068RR0001
PO Box 52, Pender Island, BC V0N 2M0
info@penderconservancy.org
penderconservancy.org

The Pender Islands Conservancy has been actively committed to land protection, ecological research and restoration, and public education for 28 years on Pender Island. We operate a Nature Centre that welcomes 6000 visitors per year, and recently purchased a 13-acre wetland and forest in partnership with Raincoast Conservation Foundation.

Quadra Island Conservancy and Stewardship Society

quadraislandconservancy.ca/joomla

Raincoast Conservation Foundation

Charity #: 889643565 RR0001
PO Box 2429, Sidney, BC V8L 3Y3
250 655 1229
greatbear@raincoast.org

raincoast.org

Raincoast's mission is to protect the lands, waters and wildlife of coastal BC. Led by a team of conservationists and scientists, our projects are rooted in science and informed by community and cultural engagement. We are a registered land trust and own conservation property on Pender Island.

Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Charity #: 89006 3977 RR0001
265 Blackburn Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2B8
250 538 0318
info@saltspringconservancy.ca

saltspringconservancy.ca

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy protects and enhances the natural values of the island and its surrounding waters by acquiring land or covenants, and by educating landholders and the public toward improved land use and water stewardship.

Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society

Charity #: 1191 33577 RR0001
Box 555 Ganges Post Office, BC V8K 2W2
250 537 4877
ssiwps@gmail.com

ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca

SSIWPS advocates for preservation and protection of drinking water sources and watersheds on Salt Spring Island, through acquisition and stewardship of significant properties, research, field data collection, our citizen-science Freshwater Catalogue project, public education, collaboration with other environmental groups, and communication with government representatives regarding issues related to drinking water.

Savary Island Land Trust Society

Charity #: 89858 6425 RR001
Box 141, Lund, BC V0N 2G0
604 483 4743
silts@telus.net

savaryislandlandtrust.org

The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) protects nature on Savary Island. When SILT began in 1997, there was no protected land on Savary. Today, 43% of Savary is protected. Excessive subdivision and development continue to threaten rare ecosystems on the Island. Donations to SILT support stewardship, education, and land acquisition.

Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society

somenosmarsh.com

Southern Interior Land Trust Society

Charity #: 11924 8276 RR001

521 Vardon Lane, Vernon BC V1H 1Y4

250 258 2394

office@siltrust.ca

siltrust.ca

The Southern Interior Land Trust is an active, volunteer-run land conservancy with diverse properties among its holdings, from river frontage and Ginty's Pond in Keremeos, to grasslands near Grand Forks supporting a herd of wild sheep. SILT was formed in 1988 to purchase land for wildlife, by members of the Okanagan Region of the BC Wildlife Federation.



SILT's 109 hectare Grand Forks Grasslands property is within one of the rarest ecosystems in BC.

PHOTO: Al Peatt | COURTESY: Southern Interior Land Trust

Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Charity #: 873220446 RR0001

PO Box 1969, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

250 661 8716

info@thescca.ca

thescca.ca

The SCCA is an association of individuals and groups dedicated to protecting the biodiversity and integrity of the Sunshine Coast. We endeavour to conserve lands and marine areas – from Howe Sound to Bute Inlet – in their natural states, and to protect ecological values and restore biodiversity.

TLC The Land Conservancy

conservancy.bc.ca

Thetis Island Nature Conservancy Society

Charity #: 852196047RR0001

PO Box 13-3, 254 North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC V0R 2Y0

250 246 8176

info@thetislandnatureconservancy.org

thetislandnatureconservancy.org

Thetis Island Nature Conservancy (ThINC) is a registered charity located on Thetis Island in the Salish Sea off the coast of British Columbia. Our goals are nature education, conservation and stewardship of natural ecosystems, and promotion of community food security.

Valdes Island Conservancy

valdes-island-conservancy.org

Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

Charity #: 868475641RR0001

PO Box 207, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

250 358 2722

valhallafoundationforecology@xplornet.ca

valhallafoundationforecology.org

We save wild places for wild things. The Valhalla Foundation for Ecology is a registered charity and ecological-conservation land trust. Your support will help fund the acquisition, restoration and stewardship of nature sanctuaries. Our purpose is to acquire and steward vital habitat for environmental protection in the province of BC; we fill an important regional niche not covered by the larger land trusts in Canada.



Seeding a restored area at Snk'mip with a native grass blend

COURTESY: Valhalla Foundation for Ecology

LTA BC Associate Members

Bow River Basin Council

brbc.ab.ca

Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC

burrowingowlbc.org

Calgary River Forum Society

calgaryrivervalleys.org

Clear Sky Meditation and Study Foundation

clearskycenter.org

Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre Society

cowichanestuary.ca

Cowichan Watershed Society

cowichanwatershedboard.ca/
cowichan-watershed-society



Edmonton and Area Land Trust

ealt.ca

Elbow River Watershed Partnership

erwp.org



Foothills Land Trust

foothillslandtrust.org

Friends of French Creek Conservation Society

ffccs.ca

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

hctf.ca

Qw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society

journeyoffourgeneration.ca

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

swanlake.bc.ca

Tsolum River Restoration Society

tsolumriver.org

Valhalla Wilderness Society

vws.org

West Coast Environmental Law Research Foundation

wcel.org

Western Sky Land Trust

westernskylandtrust.ca

According to Dr. Martin, “*SISØENEM is an ecological and cultural jewel. There are only a handful of islands like this left in the Salish Sea. When it came up for sale I knew I had to find a way to get it back into the hands of its traditional owners to ensure its stewardship and protection for generations to come.*”

TLC will continue to raise funds this spring to support ongoing restoration and monitoring work on the island.

ABOUT

The W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council Society is a unified, legal governing body comprised of three W̱SÁNEĆ First Nations: Tsartlip, Tseycum, and Tsawout. It aims to promote the interests of the W̱SÁNEĆ First Nations by enhancing recognition of, and respect for, W̱SÁNEĆ Douglas Treaty rights and W̱SÁNEĆ Aboriginal rights and title. The W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council promotes the W̱SÁNEĆ culture, traditional practices, and language, including the original W̱SÁNEĆ management of the environment as it was meant to be. The WLC also seeks to promote sustainable and equitable development of resources within W̱SÁNEĆ Territory.



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Through grants, projects, and partnerships, the Real Estate Foundation of BC works to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices across British Columbia.



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The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia provides Programs and Services to the province's 40 land trusts and British Columbians.

From training programs for Boards, volunteers and staff to research and publications, communications and outreach, capacity building and services such as an extensive insurance program, the Alliance salutes its members who have conserved more than 1600 properties totalling 556,000 acres.

To find out how to support your local land trust by donating, volunteering or conserving your property please visit our member directory on pages 41-47 or on-line at: ltabc.ca/land-trusts/directory



View from Pender Islands

PHOTO: Kristine Mayes | COURTESY: Islands Trust Conservancy



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