

# The Kingfisher

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LTA The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



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

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

*providing education, research and  
services which support land trusts,  
conservancies and other agencies,  
organizations and individuals  
dedicated to the stewardship and  
conservation of our natural and  
cultural heritage.*

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**Cover Photo: Codd Wetland,  
Tamsin Baker,  
The Land Conservancy of BC**



**Message from the Chair –  
Eileen Palmer**

**The Costs of Free Land**

In the Land Trust field, the thought of land being donated free simple is so good! What could make conserving lands easier than having its title dropped in one's lap? No need to furrow one's brow at the two million dollar for sale sign; donation of land makes our jobs easier...or at least one would think.

By now, as we land trusters are beginning to experience, we cannot afford to take on a project without examining it from all angles. We recognize the costs associated with Conservation Covenants for example: baseline inventory, survey, lawyer and registration costs to name a few. However, in receiving a donation of land, not only must we consider these above costs, we must consider the other angles of the donation.

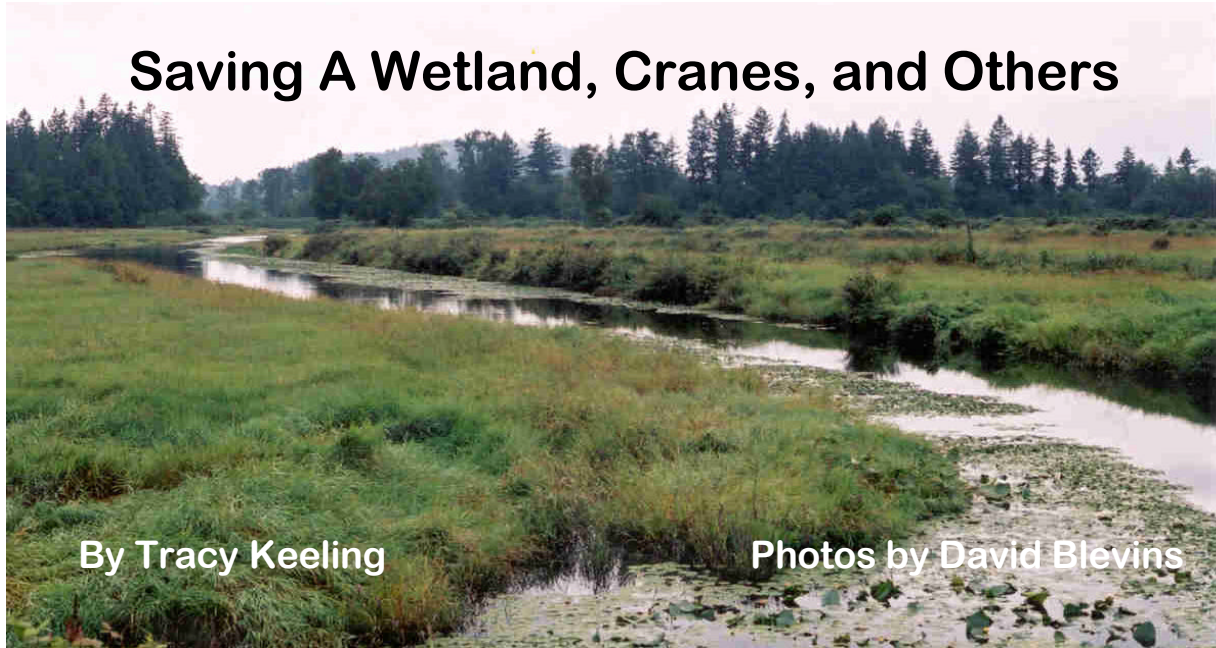
The obvious angle that must be answered is whether the project fits within our mandate. Given that it does, has there been an endowment established to aid in covering operating and management expenses? How can the donor be sure that their land donation will be protected as they intended? It is this last angle which is of most importance to land trusts.

Over time, as members of land trust boards change, it is highly possible that the intent of the donation is forgotten. It is important that the landowner communicates in writing their wishes before the land is donated, a *Memorandum of Wishes*. In this way, the land trust can know whether they'd like the donation and all parties can be sure they can abide by those wishes. This will avoid serious issues, such as selling the land, in the future. Furthermore, by registering the standard covenant (West Coast Environmental Law) held by two land trusts on the land, the future of the land is more certain. Such a covenant could state that the land must never be sold thus ensuring the land trust remains responsible for the land.

The Land Trust Alliance of BC has prepared a set of *Standards and Practices for Land Trusts*, similar to what is used by the US Land Trust Alliance. In the  
**(Continued on inside back cover)**



### Saving A Wetland, Cranes, and Others



By Tracy Keeling

Photos by David Blevins

The applause and cheering was loud as *TLC*'s Executive Director Bill Turner formally announced the purchase and protection of Codd Wetland at a dedication ceremony this past May. The 250 acre wetland is now known as the Codd Wetland Aquilini Conservation Reserve and provides a permanent nesting ground free of human disturbance for over 200 species including the endangered Greater Sandhill Crane of BC. Joining Bill at the podium to make the announcement were representatives from each purchase partner including Premier Gordon Campbell, Les Bogdan of Ducks Unlimited, local MLA Ken Stewart, and Mayor Don MacLean of the District of Pitt Meadows. Sadly, the biggest heroes of this success story were not at the podium but standing out in the pouring rain. Despite the weather, over one hundred project volunteers came to the ceremony to celebrate the protection of the property and share their battle scars.

But wait, how did we get to this rainy day in May? As with any land acquisition project, there is a long story of emotional ups and downs leading to the final purchase. The one of Codd Wetland starts three years ago in a living room in Pitt Meadows. Annette LeBox, chair of a local conservation committee, invited *TLC* staff out to talk about an important area they were trying to protect from development as a commercial cranberry operation. The committee made up of members from both the Alouette Field Naturalists and the Pitt Polder Preservation Society told stories of Sandhill Cranes nesting in an area northwest of Blaney Bog known locally as Codd Island Wetlands. The group explained that they felt the only way to protect the area was to purchase it. They also shared their insights into the politics of the project. They had secured a pledge from their municipality for the purchase, but were not having a lot of luck getting any other financial commitments. They were burnt out from a long campaign to protect Blaney Bog, and they needed *TLC*'s help.

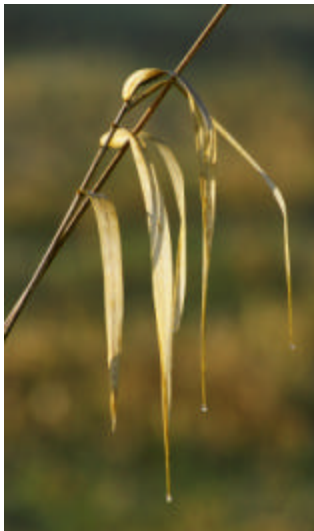
*TLC* has been working very hard to raise funds and awareness for the purchase and protection of the wetlands since shortly after that night in the living room in Pitt Meadows. "On our first site visit we knew Codd Wetland was a very special place," says *TLC* Lower Mainland Regional Manager Tamsin Baker.

“Not only was it breathtaking and beautiful, it was also so quite and serene we could hear the flap of birds' wings as they flew overhead.” The reason Codd Wetland is so serene and quiet is the lowland wetlands are visually isolated from the developed agricultural areas around it. A large mature upland forest stands high above the area to the east, a forested Codd Island is on the west, and a corridor of mature trees run along the northern reaches of the property. The sense of isolation this provides along with the vegetation types and ratio of open water, combine to provide a unique habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.



in the pot to make the purchase. The second win came when the property owners were presented with how much we had collected, agreeing to hold off on any cranberry developments. They graciously gave the campaign partners time to assemble the additional \$3 million necessary to complete the purchase. Both Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of water, Land and Air Protection supported its protection and worked to secure it.

Not long after this agreement was made, it was discovered that an additional 200 species were found or expected to be using the Codd Wetland through an ecological survey commissioned by the GVRD. Some species of note include the red-listed Peregrine Falcon and Long-tailed Weasel, the blue-listed American Bittern and Red-legged Frog. For species like the Pacific Water Shrew and American Bittern the wetlands provide some of the best intact, undisturbed habitats remaining within British Columbia. For other rare and endangered species such as the Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, and the Red-legged frog, the wetlands also provide important breeding habitats.



The wetlands are found within the Pitt Polder region, and being so close to sea level, the wetlands are influenced by the tide through the Pitt - Alouette River system. This tidally influenced fen wetland is dominated by grass and shrub vegetation and open stream channels. The majority of the property is dominated

by Reed Canary Grass and patches of Sweet Gale and Hardhack. Local naturalists tell stories of the first time they found red-listed Greater Sandhill Cranes nesting in the grasses and shrubs of the wetlands and of the resulting annual bird counts to monitor their changing population. Sadly, this endangered species' numbers are estimated to be as low as 10 in the Pitt Polder region. At this critical level of decline, the continued presence of intact nesting sites is essential to their local survival.

The first big win in the campaign to protect Codd Wetland came when the GVRD Parks Board agreed to pledge \$1 million towards the purchase of the wetlands. The District of Pitt Meadows had pledged \$200,000, *TLC* matched this pledge, so collectively there was \$1.4 million

Along with all the birds, mammals and reptiles using the wetlands, there exist significant populations of salmon including the blue-listed Cutthroat Trout, Coho Salmon, and Chum Salmon. These salmon species utilize the wetlands and associated creeks for spawning and rearing. According to Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection staff, two thirds of the Fraser River's 187 wild Coho Salmon stocks rely on habitat found downstream from Hope. The Codd Wetland property is downstream of Hope and it provides ideal rearing habitat for juvenile Coho including a network of low gradient open water channels, temporarily inundated floodplains, a continuous supply of well oxygenated water, lush plant communities and an abundant insect food supply. Excellent rearing habitat is also available for juvenile blue-listed Cutthroat Trout as they have similar habitat requirements to those of juvenile Coho Salmon.

Department of Fisheries staff explain that the Codd Wetland together with the Blaney Bog,

located just 2 km upstream, provide the largest off-channel rearing habitat within the Alouette River watershed and one of the last in the lower reaches of the Fraser River. In 2000 Blaney Bog was protected as a GVRD conservation area; therefore once Codd Wetland was protected, the two areas would provide the largest protected off-channel rearing habitat within the Alouette River Watershed. This connectivity with surrounding protected areas made the ecological integrity of Codd Wetland all the more important!

It was very clear to *TLC* and all the other project partners that Codd Wetland was of the utmost ecological significance in the area and definitely had to be protected. The problem was the owners still wanted to develop the area as a commercial cranberry operation and were standing firm on their \$4.5 million dollar asking price. We needed to raise \$3 million dollars, and do it quickly! *TLC* staff and volunteers worked endlessly to raise awareness for the wetlands and funds for the purchase of the area. Dedicated local groups such as the Pitt Polder Preservation Society and the Alouette Field Naturalists were instrumental in helping *TLC* raise funds and awareness. Members from both these groups stood outside local supermarkets collecting signatures on a petition to be sent to all levels of government demanding the protection of Codd Wetlands. They also helped organize countless fundraising and awareness events including fundraising concerts, dances, slideshows, and silent auctions. All the while *TLC* staff lobbied the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, as well as the provincial and federal governments for a financial contribution towards the purchase of the wetlands.

It was a great day for all the project partners when Ducks Unlimited confirmed they had secured funds for the wetland purchase from the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program. Soon after, provincial government staff confirmed a

financial contribution to the purchase as well. What followed were many months of paperwork, final negotiations, and what can only be defined as 'technical difficulties'. To the heartache of all involved it seemed at times the whole purchase could break down due to some frustrating technicalities with the final paperwork. To the relief of all, the purchase did finally happen and *TLC* was able to contribute \$50,000 of our original \$200,000 pledge towards the purchase of Codd Wetland. The remaining \$4 million of the purchase price came from the Province of BC, the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program through Ducks Unlimited, and the original project partners

the GVRD and District of Pitt Meadows.

So the story ends, or does it? *TLC* staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers are thrilled the wetlands are protected from development, but *TLC* is still responsible for raising an additional

\$150,000 to be re-paid to the GVRD under a special partnership agreement with them. ***Please help TLC complete our contribution to the purchase of Codd Wetlands. Once this is done we can truly end the story of Codd Wetland and TLC on a happy note and move onto the next area in need of our protection!***

To make a donation or to receive more information about this incredible property please contact our Lower Mainland office at 604-733-2313 or check out [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca). *TLC* offers an Adopt-a-Frog program for those wishing to help *TLC* raise funds for Codd Wetland. For \$35 a donor can adopt a Red-legged frog! Donors will receive an adoption certificate, a frog magnet and informational brochure. To date over 150 frogs have been adopted equaling almost \$7,000 in funds for Codd Wetland. To adopt your own frog give us a call toll free at 1-888-738-0533.



Endangered Greater Sandhill Cranes,  
photo Chuck Russell



# The Holland Creek Trail

Trees that Will  
Remain  
Dancing in the  
Wind with their  
River – Forever

*Photos by Iris Churcher*



After nearly two years of hard work, the Friends of Holland Creek (FOH) have successfully protected a section of the South Holland Creek trail from the impacts of development. The trailway follows both sides of the beautiful Holland Creek as it descends through the town of Ladysmith on Vancouver Island. Over the years Holland Creek Trail has been enjoyed by the local residents, school groups, naturalists and hikers and has become a source of pride and ecotourism for the Ladysmith community.

The "first" Friends of Holland Creek are the original group of citizens who envisioned, mapped out, and successfully worked with service clubs and local government to complete the 8km loop of trails. A representative of FOH, Gail Wiseman Reed, explained that, "the second Friends of Holland Creek were again ordinary citizens who articulated a vision for keeping the trails and Creek green, wooded and buffered from surrounding development and for the enjoyment of all. The supporters of this vision, once it was articulated, were many and varied, growing exponentially as time passed. They included the banks, businesses and service clubs, school children and their teachers, retirees, young parents, church congregations, artists and performers, naturalists and foresters, environmental groups, hikers, runners, birders and pleasure walkers, the press, visitors from away who sent money to show support, Town Councillors and

paid town officials. Also a friend to Holland Creek was the developer who delayed logging while money was raised and solutions sought and negotiated.

Over two years ago, local residents became concerned about the increase in logging activity that was making way for further development near the Holland Creek Trail. The Friends of Holland Creek soon became active, hoping to protect the threatened riparian areas along the trail.

In negotiations with the Town of Ladysmith and the land developer, a linear parcel between the slated housing development and the steep slope of the riparian area was identified as a potential buffer to reduce the environmental impact of the new development. This buffer zone was appraised at \$130,000 and was offered for sale to the FOH by the developer. This was an enormous undertaking for the small town of Ladysmith, but the FOH were determined to protect the creek and launched a concentrated fundraising campaign. After a couple of public meetings in April of 2002 the FOH began the process of raising public awareness of the importance of the buffer zone. Because of their ongoing conservation work on Vancouver Island The Land Conservancy, Nanamio & Area Land Trust, and the Cowichan Community Land Trust were all able to provide invaluable experience, fundraising strategies and mentorship to the

campaign; TLC and CCLT provided essential (and onerous) receipting, accounting and covenanting support and FOH became a sub-committee of CCLT for official and legal purposes.

Reed said the fundraising "was like climbing Everest. We've got a crazy clip of some extreme kayakers going over Holland Creek waterfall . . . that's what it felt like!" \$87,000 was finally raised, and at this point the Town of Ladysmith was persuaded to pledge \$43,000 to make up the necessary \$130,000. This was in addition to a previous \$70,000 commitment in land trade with the developer to preserve green space identified on the Holland Creek Area Plan. FOH were able to turn over the management of the parcel to the Town of Ladysmith, with a conservation covenant held by CCLT, removing any future financial burden for this piece from FOH.



Wiseman Reed said she hopes the campaign's success, due in part to help from the Cowichan Community Land Trust and The Land Conservancy of B.C., will encourage other communities to do the same.

"We want to celebrate that those trees will remain dancing in the wind with their river... and to thank and celebrate every one of our donors from the smallest school child to the B.C. Hydros, credit unions and TD Banks of this world for their validation of the beauty of nature and the trail," she said.



## Protects Animal Habitat

### and BC's Ranching Lifestyle

For the third year in a row, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) marked Canada Day by announcing the protection of natural areas across Canada.

In BC, NCC has reached agreements to protect three private properties in the Upper Columbia River Valley, to protect endangered natural areas used for animal migration and habitat, while maintaining the ranching lifestyle of the BC interior.

There is increasing pressure for BC's ranchers to sell their land to resort developers and others, after being hit recently by drought, forest fires, and withering demand for Canadian beef exports due to the mad-cow scare. As a result, ranchers who were once at odds with environmentalists are now cooperating with them to promote "biodiversity ranching" – a movement

that allows ranchers to continue their work, while protecting lands used for migration.

One of the three properties is Thunderhill Ranch, a 601-hectare property including a lake, streams, wetlands, forest, and open grassland near Fairmont Hot Springs. It has been purchased by NCC from brothers Brian and David McKersie, who are second generation cattle ranchers. As part of the deal, they will lease back a portion of Thunderhill Ranch from NCC, allowing them to stay in business and continue living there, while the conservation group maintains the key natural features of the property. In addition to the purchase of a large portion of the ranch, the brothers donated conservation covenants on the

"Nature, where we all feel centred, unpretentious and one with something larger than ourselves belongs to all of us. It will be the priceless commodity of the 21st century, and research shows that the pieces closest to our community, the gateway pieces with which everyone young or old can interface, are very important for our quality of life." Gail Wiseman Reed

remaining portions, forever protecting the land from being fractured into small parcels.

“With NCC purchasing the land and leasing it back, the ranching way of life so important to the cultural heritage of BC is maintained by the folks who know and love it best, and all those who value the natural heritage of our province can be sure that this particular property will never be subdivided and developed.” said Jan Garnett, Executive Director for NCC’s British Columbia Region.

Also being preserved is Kootenay River Ranch near Fairmont Hot Springs, a fast-disappearing habitat for badgers, grizzlies, migrating birds, and many other wildlife, plant, and fish species. Kootenay River Ranch shares the natural features of Thunderhill Ranch and has also been identified as a top priority for partnership conservation efforts. NCC purchased this ecologically important property at the beginning of July, and will ensure that it is managed in such a way as to continue its key role in the Upper Columbia conservation mosaic.

The third property is home to the Dutch Creek Hoodoos, visible from Highway 95 near Fairmont Hot Springs. The owners of the property are long time valley residents - Jim and Gae Ashworth of Fairmont, BC. They decided to donate this 25 hectare piece of land to the Nature Conservancy of Canada after seeing an article in Canadian Geographic about NCC’s work. Jim said, “I have watched development change the nature of our valley over the past many years and feel that some important areas need to be set aside for other purposes.”

Famous for their unique erosion-shaped geology, the hoodoos provide an important habitat for cavity-nesting and roosting birds and host rare plant species. They also have cultural significance for the native people of the area, and are part of a mosaic of conservation lands identified by both government and conservation NGO’s.

The entire Upper Columbia River Valley region separates the Purcell Mountain Range from the Rocky Mountains and hosts the longest



contiguous wetland complex still found in western North America. The valley is a crucial area for numerous wildlife species, such as elk, deer and bighorn sheep who depend on the valley for winter grazing habitat; wolf, cougar, grizzlies and black bear who need access to both mountain ranges and have to travel through the increasingly developed valley; and large numbers of migratory birds, whose survival depends on the valley’s wetlands along their annual journeys north and south.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada’s work is based on an in-depth assessment of environmental threats and opportunities in the area, and on very close cooperation with the local community. To balance the communities’ need for development with the need to maintain healthy habitat and wildlife corridors, the NCC is working with the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP) which consist of more than 30 diverse organisations in the region, to conserve the most significant private lands in the area.

To finance this and many other projects in BC and across Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada recently announced the most ambitious **Campaign for Conservation** ever: The group has set out to raise \$200 million nation wide to protect 50 of Canada’s natural masterpiece sites which are under imminent threat. The British Columbia Region of NCC is aiming at 20 million dollars from private funding sources, and has now reached more than 70% of its goal. Special places in seven landscapes in BC are targeted for on-the-ground conservation - **results you can walk on.**



The work in the Upper Columbia River Valley was made possible by a generous gift from a Canadian Foundation, along with support from numerous local groups including the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, Kicking Horse Coffee, Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club, Lake Auto Ford Ltd. and many other groups, individuals and businesses.

“Without strong local support we could not do our work,” says NCC’s Canadian Rocky Mountains Program Manager Dave Hillary. Dave continues to work with the community to identify conservation opportunities with a lasting impact, while his colleagues at NCC are helping Dave to plan the long-term stewardship of Thunderhill



Photo by Carl McNaughton

Traveling through the lower South Okanagan one can see that the muted tones of British Columbia’s native shrub-steppe are sharply contrasted by adjacent orchards, vineyards, other agriculture and residences. Perhaps easily dismissed as “wasteland” by the uninformed, this remaining shrub-steppe habitat is of extremely high ecological value. And it is worth a closer look. Within the driest valley-bottom areas are patches of dark shrubs with a spiky appearance that are noticeably darker green than the fragrant, more abundant sagebrush. This lesser-known shrub is Antelope-brush, also known as greasewood for its oily wood, which made it a popular firewood choice for aboriginal people.

Ranch, Kootenay River Ranch and the Dutch Creek Hoodoos.

This announcement marks NCC’s third annual Gifts to Canadians, part of NCC’s ongoing efforts to celebrate and conserve Canada’s biodiversity from coast to coast and leave a lasting natural legacy for Canadians. In the lead-up to Canada Day, NCC announced a total of 10 Gifts to Canadians across the country, one from each province, totalling just over 123 square kilometres (12,300 hectares or 30,000 acres). Many species at risk or of concern on a provincial, national or global basis, depend on these 10 places. The 10 sites are among the 104 properties NCC has secured over the last year, and among almost 1,500 secured since the organisation’s inception in 1962.

## Antelope-brush Ecosystems: Worth a Closer Look

*by Susan Paczek Conservation Specialist  
The Nature Trust of BC*

This shrub forms the main structure of the “Antelope-brush ecosystems” which host an astounding diversity of unique plants and animals. While Antelope-brush also occurs in the Rocky Mountain trench, it is in the South Okanagan that the desert climate, limited habitat and imminent threat of its loss to land conversion combine to render this ecosystem a hot spot for endangered species. Hosting roughly 22 percent all of British Columbia’s threatened and endangered vertebrates, and hundreds of rare insect and plant species, Antelope-brush habitat ranks in Canada’s top four endangered ecosystems along with Garry oak woodlands of British Columbia, tall grass prairie of Manitoba and Ontario, and the Carolinian forest of southern Ontario.

There is no shortage of fascinating life-history stories to be told about the species that inhabit Antelope-brush ecosystems. For example, the Behr’s (Columbia) Hairstreak is an endangered

butterfly that relies on the Antelope-brush shrubs for its survival, as its larval foodplant. This attractive insect has been the subject of ongoing research in the area. Burrowing in the sandy soils beneath the shrubs one may spy a Great Basin Pocket Mouse. This endangered rodent has a special relationship with the Antelope-brush since it caches seeds; the ones that are forgotten grow into new shrubs. At night, the ecosystem becomes a hunting ground for the rare Pallid Bat, which searches the area listening for crickets and scorpions, hunting by ear rather than by echolocation like most other bats. The insect life is diverse and unique,

including Canada's only native praying mantis. And waiting to catch an insect are a host of migratory songbirds including Western Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow. Other denizens of this habitat include a variety of other birdlife, and reptiles including several species of snakes that are restricted to the dry interior such as Night Snake, Western Rattlesnake, Yellow-bellied Racer and Gopher Snake. Antelope-brush is also a nutritious food item on the menu of larger grazing animals such as Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep.

Antelope-brush ecosystems have plenty to offer the botanically inclined. The sandy understory is dominated by perennial bunch grasses, and a low cover of ground-hugging plants such as prickly-pear cactus. In the spring and summer, this is punctuated by the bright colours of flowering plants including bitterroot, yellow bell, blazing star and mariposa lily. Beneath this vegetation, in undisturbed areas, is an extremely fragile crust formed of lichens and mosses that provides the shrub-steppe with nutrients and moisture.

Perhaps because it lacks the majesty and largess of an old-growth conifer forest, this habitat has gone relatively unprotected and Antelope-brush ecosystems are now in great peril. The same desert climate of the South Okanagan that

supports a diversity of unique species has likewise attracted a rapidly growing human population, and the sandy, sunny soils that support Antelope-brush is the preferred substrate for a booming wine industry. Over the last century, the landscape has been steadily, irreversibly converted to rural subdivisions, orchard and vineyards with the result that now less than nine percent of Antelope-brush ecosystems in the South Okanagan remain relatively undisturbed. What is left is compromised by fragmentation and the invasion of weeds. Securement of the remaining habitat

***Less than nine percent of Antelope-brush ecosystems in the South Okanagan remain relatively undisturbed.***



Photo: Bob Lincoln

poses great challenges to conservation organisations due to

the limited amount that remains and the need to prevent further fragmentation; all in the face of the rising cost of land in desirable valley bottom locations. Furthermore, land that is secured usually requires costly on-going weed control, fencing and other management activities.

Since 1975 the Nature Trust of British Columbia has been actively securing highly threatened, valley-bottom habitat in the Okanagan. 2004 is proving to be a promising year in the struggle to conserve Antelope-brush ecosystems, since The Nature Trust has amassed close to \$1 million for acquisition of this habitat. This welcome injection of cash includes substantial funds from the federal government's Habitat Stewardship Program, FortisBC and from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. This money will be used to secure a portion of habitat in a strategic location that is continuous with existing conservation properties. However, with so much of remaining Antelope-brush in private hands, the effort to conserve this fragile ecosystem is ongoing. To help, you can start by learning more about Antelope-brush ecosystems and promoting awareness of their importance. For further information, please contact Carl MacNaughton, The Nature Trust's South Okanagan Land Manager (250-498-5474) or [info@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:info@naturetrust.bc.ca).

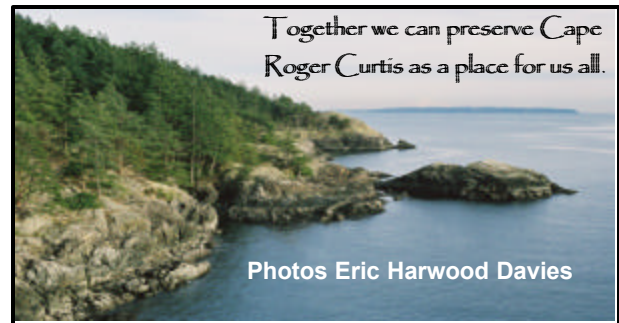
## Current Campaigns

### A Gem So Near Bowen Island's Cape Roger Curtis

It is 649 extraordinary acres of forest trails and nearly four kilometres of pristine coastline at the entrance to Howe Sound. Cape Roger Curtis commands the southwest verge of Bowen Island, only 20 kilometres from downtown Vancouver. Featuring rare coastal-bluff ecosystems and plant species, it remains, for the moment, the only undeveloped ocean side property of this size and splendour so near to the metropolitan area.

But now the privately owned Cape coastland is facing the prospect of major development. That could mean an end to public use of this natural treasure, which has been so easily accessible to everyone - everyone who wants to revitalise the senses and the soul amid an island oasis.

The Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society, a non-profit organisation with the support of the Bowen Island Conservancy, is determined to protect the Cape's environmentally sensitive areas and retain and enhance public access to its recreational attractions. This broad coalition of concerned Bowen residents and off-island supporters includes government bodies, environmental groups, hiking clubs, horseback riders, kayakers and canoeists, families and countless other individual users of the Cape. Together we are raising awareness and seeking innovative ways to preserve as much of this parkland as possible. We envision it as the jewel at the end of a virtually unbroken greenway that begins at Crippen Regional Park beside Bowen's village of



Snug Cove. Cape Roger Curtis harbours unusual plant life (including the Rocky Mountain juniper and Menzies' larkspur); large flocks of wintering sea ducks lured to vulnerable mussel colonies; and a remarkable range of ecosystems from sponge beds to lofty Douglas-fir forest and stands of contorted copper arbutus gracing the shoreline. On this, the Island of Walks, nature-lovers hike on the many kilometres of the Cape's old logging trails and alongside excellent examples of endangered coastal bluffs. The trails lead to pebble beaches with expansive views of sea and sky, and Arbutus Point with its dramatic surge channel and rocky intertidal pools.

Now this gem of nature is threatened by development. The long-time owners of Cape Roger Curtis could agree to sell the property this fall to a group led by an island developer, and the Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society needs everyone's assistance to save it. The Society is exploring creative financing options; already identifying \$8 million-plus from potential donors/eco-investors to buy back key portions of the land. It plans to work with any potential developers to respect the Cape's singular biodiversity and historic recreational use.

Whether you are a Bowen Islander, a resident of Greater Vancouver or the rest of B.C., please help us save the Cape by becoming a member of the Society and sending a tax-deductible donation payable to Bowen Island Conservancy with your name, address, phone and e-mail to Cape Roger Curtis Society, Box 234, Bowen Island, BC, V0N 1G0. For further information, call (604) 9479024 or visit the website at [www.caperogercurtis.org](http://www.caperogercurtis.org)



## TLC Campaign to Protect the Sooke Potholes, *by Ian Fawcett*

Immediately north of the Sooke Potholes Provincial Park is a narrow 63 hectare strip of land which runs five km along the Sooke River. Sandwiched between the river to the west and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail to the east, the property protects and provides access to the unique formations of the Sooke Potholes – deep and polished rock pools and carved canyons, linked by picturesque waterfalls and gorges, surrounded by the beautiful forests of the Sooke Hills. This site has, for generations, been well known as one of Southern Vancouver Island's most spectacular and most popular "swimming holes".



**Sooke Potholes photo Al Harvey**

For the past 25 years the site has been owned by a developer – Deer Trails Ltd. – which has made several failed attempts at building lodges, movie studios, restaurants and cottages on the site, and running up millions in debts in the process. Last year, Deer Trails' major creditor – a mortgage company based in the Turks and Caicos – began foreclosure proceedings and was awarded the right to sell the property to recover some of their \$10 million second mortgage.

That's when *TLC* came into the picture. Our broad mandate covers areas of important outdoor recreational value, as well as the unique geological and environmental values of this site. The property has been eyed for many years by both BC Parks and CRD Parks as a candidate for park development, but it had not been available. *TLC* decided that it was high time this incredible natural resource was brought into the public domain and properly protected for all time. We proposed to acquire the site and, in partnership with the Province and the CRD, turn it into a park.

Rather than risking a bidding war in the courts, we opted not to try and buy the property

directly, but to purchase the mortgage company's interests (the second mortgage and all the rights assigned to it by the court) for \$1.375 million, with the intention of then returning to the court to ask for an Order Absolute to transfer title of the property to us. We anticipated no problem with this, as the other major creditor – the first mortgage holder – was the Province, which was owed \$1.26 million as a result of a "Tourism Industry Development Grant" given to Deer Trails in the early 1980s (for work which was

never completed).

Unfortunately, in a move that surprised everyone – including the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection – the Ministry of Revenue sold its mortgage to the property owner's daughter and son-in-law. This then provided them with the opportunity – working hand-in-hand with the owner – to initiate foreclosure proceedings of their own in an attempt to retain the property, wipe out about \$12 million in debts (*TLC*'s included), and then re-start their development objectives. All for a payment of only \$1.26 mil.

*TLC* has the right under the court process to defend our \$10 million mortgage interests by paying off the first mortgage holder. We will be doing just that. Supported by the Capital Regional District and, hopefully soon by MWLAP, we are now continuing this battle through the court. It's unfortunately a more convoluted, more stressful and somewhat more expensive process (court costs, etc.) than we'd hoped, but we remain extremely confident that within a few weeks we'll be successful in protecting this special place, forever, for everyone. For more information, please see our website at [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca) or call Ian Fawcett or Bill Turner.

## Two Knockan Hill Parks?

The most well known Knockan Hill Park in the Victoria area comprises hilltop meadows and forested slopes in the Municipality of Saanich. Next to this park is a new Knockan Hill Park in the Town of View Royal, a hectare of surviving



indigenous greenspace that was purchased by the town in 2001. Its hectare of land, formerly 101 High Street, is an open rocky promontory that supports Garry oaks surrounded by mixed woodland, commanding sweeping vistas over View Royal and the Sooke Hills. Its purchase supported the survival of many indigenous species on Knockan Hill and conserved an area of open terrestrial herbaceous habitat, originally typical of Garry oak woodlands, but now rare in the Capital Region.

The Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society (FKHPS) is a small, neighbourhood organisation whose members, inspired by love and concern for the remaining greenspaces on Knockan Hill, assumed stewardship of them in 1991. They identified the privately owned property at 101 High Street as crucial to the survival of natural habitat on the hill. They encouraged its purchase by the Town of View Royal and diligently pursued avenues to ensure its conservation. They also sought, obtained and coordinated help for the Town from The Land Conservancy of B.C. and the Habitat Acquisition Trust.

## How you can help save View Royal's Knockan Hill Park from subdivision:

1. e-mail ([info@town.viewroyal.bc.ca](mailto:info@town.viewroyal.bc.ca) ) or write the Town of View Royal. Tell the Mayor and councillors know how much you appreciate their purchase of the new Knockan Hill Park, and ask that they keep the park intact Town of View Royal 45 View Royal Ave., Victoria BC, V9B 1A6
2. Make a tax-deductible donation to the '101 Acquisition Fund', c/o Habitat Acquisition Trust, P.O. Box 8552, Victoria BC, V8W 3S2



The Abbotsford Land Trust has two new campaigns. 15 acres of Wetland are to be donated to Abbotsford Land Trust within the next year. The wetlands contain several distinct areas of

swamp, riparian forest, Hardhack/Cattail shrub, and Reed Canary Grass along with several sections of wet channels and portions of Horn and Wilband creeks. Important for its water holding and water cleansing capacity, the wetlands also have signs of wildlife use; beaver, coyote and mink species as well as fish and waterfowl. Sites on the property may also be habitat for the Endangered Pacific Watershrew. Contributions to life long stewardship are needed to ensure proper monitoring and enhancement of this important area.

Secondly the Land Trust is undertaking a membership and endowment drive to increase general support for the Land Trust during its newly funded Natural Areas Stewardship Project. We hope to engage, on a watershed-by-watershed basis, the local community in the creation of a vision and plan for the conservation of historic, cultural and natural areas within the watershed.

Please visit us at [www.abbotsfordlandtrust.ca](http://www.abbotsfordlandtrust.ca)

# Land Trust Success Stories



## **Celebrates 50 Protected Places**

The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) is celebrating 50 protected places in the Trust Area, and we want to thank all of those who have made this achievement possible. We appreciate the generosity and dedication of all our partners and island communities.

The contributions of generous landowners, individuals, foundations and local conservancies have resulted in the protection of over 600 hectares of unique ecosystems. These lands include 13 nature reserves or nature sanctuaries and 37 privately owned properties protected by conservation covenants. The combined value of these properties is over \$10 million.

The creation of the Sharp-tailed Snake Covenant on North Pender Island marks our 50<sup>th</sup> protected place. The smallest of all our protected covenants (354 m<sup>2</sup>), this property is significant as much of the current scientific understanding of Sharp-tailed Snake biology in British Columbia originates from this site. This is the first conservation covenant created to protect the habitat of this endangered species. The establishment of this covenant underscores the value of protecting endangered wildlife habitat, regardless of size.

Other conservation projects in 2004 include the protection of the largest body of freshwater on Galiano Island (Laughlin Lake Covenant), and 22 acres of mature forest on Saturna Island (Old Point Farm Covenant).

We are currently developing a Regional Conservation Plan that will focus on protecting remnant natural ecosystems. We are also working to assist local island groups to create a proposed

network of protected places. However, the success of both projects is dependent on strong partnerships and island conservancies.

The celebration of this milestone is also an opportunity to reflect on our goals for the future. We intend to protect at least 25% of the remaining natural ecosystems in the Trust Area, and a variety of significant cultural landscapes that help preserve the scenic, rural and marine character of the islands. Continuing to build on our valuable partnerships and encouraging the participation of islanders is vital to our success.

## **Opportunity Fund in Development**

As we celebrate the achievements of the last 14 years, the need to support local communities is stronger than ever. The Islands Trust Fund is developing an opportunity fund that will assist conservancies and partner agencies with their work protecting natural areas on the islands. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 toward this initiative.

Local conservancies and stewardship groups will be able to apply for grants for conservation work that matches the goals of the Islands Trust Fund Vision Statement. Details of the application process will be available early in 2005.

Our first major fundraising project is a birthday calendar promotion featuring spectacular photographs of island properties owned by the ITF. This type of calendar can be used year after year, and we hope it will serve as a perpetual reminder of the value of conserving natural places.

The calendar will go on sale this Fall. Partner agencies wishing to help sell and promote the calendar are encouraged to contact us for more details.



## **New Property Tax Exemption Program Coming to CRD in 2005**

The Islands Trust's Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) will be launched for islands in the Capital Regional District in 2005. These islands are Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna and South Pender.

The NAPTEP offers rewards to land owners already protecting their property and provides a strong incentive to others considering placing covenants on their land.

Qualifying owners who place their property under a permanent conservation covenant will see a 65% reduction in property taxes on the protected portion of their land. The covenant must be held by the Islands Trust Fund and meet its minimum standards to qualify.

This fall, the Islands Trust Fund will invite current covenant holders to apply for the tax certificate. In 2005, the tax incentive will be available to those entering into new covenant agreements with the Islands Trust Fund.

The initiation of this program is a significant step toward addressing obstacles to conservation of sensitive ecosystems on the islands. Over 90% of land in the Islands Trust Area is privately owned, and almost all of this land is classified and taxed as residential by the BC Assessment Authority. The market value of residential land is based on its "highest and best economic use", or for its potential for development.

Although no local services such as water, sewage, garbage collection or fire protection are available on most of these properties, landowners may face a tax rate 20% higher than in the city of Vancouver.

By offering incentives to conservation such as the NAPTEP, we hope to address some financial obstacles to conservation faced by owners of natural areas and help prevent the incidence of 'logging for taxes'.



Sharp-tailed snakes are non-venomous and completely harmless to humans. They may be distinguished from garter snakes by the sharply pointed scale at the tip of their tail, and by the distinctive black and white banding on the belly.

They are protected under BC's Wildlife Act.

Applications for the NAPTEP will be available early in 2005, and Islands Trust Fund staff will hold information sessions on the islands at that time. More information about how to qualify and apply for the tax certificate is available on our website at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca).

## **The Islands Trust Ecosystem Maps now available**

The Islands Trust Ecosystem Maps (ITEM) are now complete. These maps provide valuable information to our partners as to the status, quality and quantity of ecosystems on each island.

The project mapped both natural and modified ecosystems across the entire landscape of the major islands in the Islands Trust Area. Information provided by the maps will contribute to the creation of a Regional Conservation Plan that will identify priority conservation areas for the Islands Trust Area and a protected areas network for each island.

The maps are available on the Conservation Planning page of our website at [www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/howtoprotectlands/conservationplanning.htm](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/howtoprotectlands/conservationplanning.htm).



## Celebrates 10 Years of Conservation

"Ten Years Naturally" was a celebratory weekend of events in late May honouring the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's (SSIC) decade of working to preserve and enhance natural values on Salt Spring Island. In the past 10 years, the Conservancy has educated thousands of islanders about good stewardship practices, completed five conservation covenants, established two nature reserves on Salt Spring, and has been a major contributor to the purchases of over 2600 acres of lands for protective management by government and non-profit agencies.

In 1990 Martin Williams indicated that he was interested in selling part of his property to the community for parkland. The property on Mt. Erskine would provide trail access to the crown lands and much needed parkland on Salt Spring's north end. Maureen Milburn and Fiona Flook decided to work for the campaign to buy the Williams property and went to the market every Saturday where they met and talked with many islanders dedicated to conservation. Through a concerted community effort, enough money was raised to purchase the Williams property. When negotiations with existing agencies fell through, it was clear that an on-island organisation was needed to help motivated islanders protect their land. Our neighbours the Galiano Conservancy served as an outstanding model of what could be accomplished. In 1994 the Salt Spring Island Conservancy was founded by a group of committed women: Maureen Milburn, Fiona Flook, Ailsa Pearse, Nancy Braithwaite, Mallory Pred, Heather Martin and Ann Richardson, most still active in the Conservancy today.

Within months of the Conservancy's founding, the largest (160 acres) unprotected stand of old-growth conifers, known as the Mill farm, was threatened with subdivision and fragmentation. A fundraising campaign was



launched resulting in the successful purchase of the land in partnership with CRD Parks and the provincial government in 1996. It was an exciting time as our island became a "can do" place to form private and governmental partnerships to buy and preserve land.

The successful Mill farm campaign was barely over when a 63 ha (158-acre) parcel surrounding most of Ford Lake was placed on the market. A Conservancy director, acting privately with other concerned individuals, bought the land and held it awaiting conservation purchasers. The Conservancy pledged to help with community fundraising if necessary. Ducks Unlimited Canada stepped in to complete the purchase.

In 2001, when the Texada Land Corporation agreed to donate the trees on the 106 hectares (262 acres) of Mount Maxwell watershed land being purchased from them by North Salt Spring Waterworks District in exchange for a tax receipt, SSIC was asked to hold a covenant to protect the land in perpetuity and to issue a receipt for the "ecological gift". In addition to protecting the drinking water that supplies much of Salt Spring, this covenant was the first covenant in British Columbia placed on a public water source.

In 2002, the Conservancy entered into a new phase of land acquisition. At the end of that year, SSIC received a donation of 29 ha (72 acre) of land in the south of Salt Spring by Cordula Vogt and her mother, Oda E. Nowrath of Duncan. The land that has been named the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve is being managed in an environmentally sensitive manner by SSIC to protect the Garry oaks, arbutus and wetland areas. In co-operation with the Trail and Nature Club, SSIC built a trail on the land with beautiful views

of the Gulf Islands, Fulford Harbour and Mt. Maxwell. This reserve was the site of the Spring “Stewards-in-Training Program” in which all of Salt Spring’s grade 6/7 students spent a day on the reserve learning about ecology and conservation.

In 2003, over a decade after the original attempt to purchase a portion of Martin William’s property, the Conservancy acquired 20 ha (50 acres) of his land through a fundraising campaign. The acquisition brought an extraordinary sense of closure along with the recognition that, when it comes to saving land, energy and persistence are the Conservancy’s strongest allies. This land is now protected in perpetuity as the Manzanita Ridge Nature Reserve.

On Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> the Conservancy honoured its seven founders for their work in forming the Conservancy and their dedication to island conservation over the last decade. They were given framed photographs donated by Conservancy member Birgit Bateman. The Conservancy released three Bateman cards at last year’s fair featuring natural images of Salt Spring. These striking cards can be viewed on the Conservancy website at <http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/conservancy/> and are available for purchase at the office, the Saturday market in the park and by mail order.

Internationally famous artist and long-time Conservancy member Robert Bateman shared his passion and knowledge about the environment through a travel and art slideshow entitled “Making Pleasing Places” never seen before on Salt Spring. The evening closed with an entertaining live auction by local entertainer Arvid Chalmers who showcased the best of 75 auction items donated by many of the Conservancy’s 500 members. The Conservancy also auctioned off 50 items during a daylong silent auction. Over \$12,000 was raised to fund ongoing Conservancy programs.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Conservancy highlighted the dedication of some of its members in stewarding their own land with a Tour to Pleasing Places, a self-guided tour to five magical island properties that included two of the gardens featured in the May issue of *Canadian Gardening* magazine. There were also afternoon guided hikes to the Mill Farm Reserve and to the Mount Maxwell lake watershed.

### **The Salt Spring Island Conservancy’s Stewardship Project 2004: Caring for Species at Risk**



Manznita Ridge Nature Reserve, photo Robin Annschild

The SSIC received grants totalling \$50,000 this year from the Bullitt Foundation, Canadian Wildlife Service Habitat Stewardship Program, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, CRD Grant-In-Aid, Islands Trust, and TD Friends of the Environment Fund for the purpose of educating Salt Spring Islanders about land stewardship. This project is modeled on the

Conservancy’s successful South and West Salt Spring Island Stewardship Project completed in 2000.

The 2004 Stewardship Project seeks to focus particular attention on species at risk (SAR) and Garry Oak and associated ecosystems. The initial phase of the project consisted of gathering information from various organisations and recovery teams about known occurrences of SAR on SSI. Several occurrences had not been verified for several years, so spring work consisted of verifying the continued existence of the species in question. The project is targeting five COSEWIC listed species, the sharp-tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*), the yellow Montane violet (*Viola praemorsa* ssp. *praemorsa*), Macoun’s meadowfoam (*Limnanthes macounii*), Austin’s phantom orchid (*Cephalanthera austiniae*), and the Dun skipper (*Euphyes vestries*) as well as



SAR occurring in Garry Oak and associated ecosystems. The exceptional early dryness of 2004 made it challenging to follow up on occurrences of several of the early flowering species associated with Garry Oak ecosystems. The Dun skipper was sighted this spring by several avid butterfly watchers on SSI, but we have yet to capture it on film.

By reaching out to our partners such as the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT), the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team and biologists from the BC Biodiversity Branch we have begun to collect reference materials and resources that SSIC can use to firstly educate our staff and volunteers, and now make available to the public. Gathering as much information as possible about the SAR found on SSI, such as when the occurrences were last verified, who owns the land and what the stewardship options are for each site, is adding a new dimension to our ability to prioritize areas of interest for conservation.

Much of the work of the SSIC Covenant Committee over the last four years has been based on contacts made during the 2000 Stewardship Project. While covenants by their nature proceed slowly, we have found that the personal contact and relationships during the stewardship projects have been critical to our ability to facilitate long-term conservation. The combination of public education events and outreach through letters, mailings and publicity to offer landholders a site visit with conservancy biologists has been very successful. Walking the land together highlights our shared love of the land, whether it is during a guided walk through one of our protected sensitive ecosystems on SSI, or on private land in the company of the owners. This shared love is what allows us to work together to find ways to better care for the land and it's most sensitive inhabitants.

The SSIC would like to hear from those on Salt Spring and nearby islets who have land

containing Garry Oak trees and Species at Risk including sharp-tailed snakes, western bluebirds, yellow montane violets, Austin's phantom orchids, and dun skippers. Please contact Robin Annschild or Karen Hudson at [ssiconservancy@saltspring.com](mailto:ssiconservancy@saltspring.com) or 538-0318.



## Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii* Pursh) – Signs of Trouble?

For the last 10 years arbutus seem to be declining – most often in urban areas. No one is totally sure what's triggering it, a canker or bacteria, increased ozone depletion or atmospheric pollution, but the tree turns black, loses its leaves and dies.

A Symposium on the topic, held in 1995 at the Centre for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington, Seattle, drew 200 people who presented reports, research and discussion, mostly about the effects in urban areas. ***The decline of the Pacific Madrone (arbutus Menziesii Pursh) Current Theory and Research Directions*** Adams and Hamilton, 1999 includes many papers presented at the symposium. (available from Centre for Urban Horticulture, at 206-543-8616)

*"In British Columbia, man-made root disturbance may predispose trees to attack by the native fungus Natrassia mangiferae, which causes canker and dieback (Hunt 1999). Mycorrhizas may play a role in the resistance of some trees to decline (Trudell et al. 1999). Phytophthora ramorum, a new pathogen of unknown origin causing "sudden oak death" in California and Oregon, can also damage arbutus, causing leaf spots and cankers. Since this pathogen is thought to spread rapidly on ornamental plants like rhododendron (DeFrancesco, 2001), especially in wet weather, it may become important for British Columbia in the future."*

From [http://genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfgc/species\\_files/arbumen.html](http://genetics.forestry.ubc.ca/cfgc/species_files/arbumen.html)

# Land Trust Alliance of BC Program Updates

## New Research – Economic Arguments for Conservation

*In order to secure a vibrant and wealthy economy,  
safeguarding Canada's ecosystems is essential.*

**Primary messages from**

***Safeguarding Canada's Wealth: Bringing Stewardship & Conservation into the Economy,***  
*by Linda Horsfall & Sheila Harrington, Land Trust Alliance of BC, June 2004.*

- Canadian policies and economic practices need to include the values of natural ecosystems because our health and wealth are directly based on the use of ever-diminishing natural resources.
  - Scientific research documents the increasing threats and significant changes to the health of species, ecosystems and humans.
  - The Canada West Foundation's report, *Looking West 2004* (February), found that western Canadians continue to rate the environment as one of the top four priorities.
  - The most widely accepted economic methodologies do not include all ecological values. Ecosystem goods and services not included, such as clear air, clean water, healthy forests, soil, and provision of wildlife and recreational habitat are necessary for healthy life.
  - It is profitable for society to conserve and preserve ecosystems. For example, New York City avoided spending the US\$6 to \$8 billion required to build a new water treatment plant by opting to enhance and protect the upstate watershed at a much cheaper cost of US\$1.5 billion.
  - Growing public and private demand for environmental protection suggests that Canada ought to redirect or eliminate economic support systems still in place that favour industries that generate the greatest ecological harm.
  - Over the past decade the stewardship and conservation sector has increased in influence, has grown in size and diversified. Groups have increasing expertise, capacity and activity levels, taking on work formerly done by government. Recent research has found lack of funding for stewardship and conservation work across the board. Increasingly, Canadian communities are depending on the expertise of non-profit organisations as they provide inexpensive and extensive work, such as education, stewardship and conservation.
- Economists have recently estimated that an intact natural ecosystem provides 100 times more value to society than a developed one.**
- Conclusion:**  
Government subsidies largely favour industries with destructive ecological footprints. Support should be shifted to environmentally sustainable industries, and stewardship and conservation organisations, as they safeguard natural assets through conservation and stewardship. They contribute economic, social and environmental benefits to society. They also restore ecosystems thereby ensuring continued production of ecosystem goods and services. Funding is lacking for stewardship and conservation work, and thus an immediate shift in public, private and government support needs to occur. This change would allow all Canadians to incorporate stewardship into their daily activities and make it easier, desirable and economically viable to protect our natural ecosystems – Canada's true wealth. Funding for this research provided by The Real Estate Foundation of BC, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. *For the full report* <http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/research.html>

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## Standards, Practices & New Monitoring Guidelines

*"The work we do is not simply a matter between landowners and land trusts. It is dependent on a suite of laws and policies that will only survive if the general public and its elected representatives understand our work, identify with it, and believe it is serving the best interest of the public."*

*Russel Shay, USLTA*

Professional standards and practices are essential in order to build and maintain public confidence in land trusts. Public scrutiny and expectations are increasing with our success. The LTABC is working both independently and with our counterparts across the country in updating and expanding on our Standards & Practices. If you would like to work with us on this, please contact John Scull at Cowichan Community Land Trust or Sheila Harrington at LTABC. Our Standards & Practices are posted on the website for everyone to view and adopt.

In Ontario, a land trust must agree to adopt the S & P within two years of joining the OLTA. BC has voluntary standards, but we encourage all land trusts to adopt them. Please ask your board to consider these important standards, make a motion to bring your practices into compliance with them, and work toward adopting them. If they would like to work with us on revisions, please contact us! So far, the following land trusts have sent us letters indicating they have adopted, or are currently working toward bringing their practices into compliance:

### **Congratulations for Adoption to:**

Abbotsford Community Land Trust  
Comox Valley Land Trust  
Cowichan Community Land Trust  
Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust  
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust  
Salt Spring Island Conservancy  
The Land Conservancy of BC

### **Draft Monitoring Guidelines for Approval, Revision and Adoption by LTABC Land Trust members**

The following guidelines were created by a network of land trust representatives across the country in order to offer "self regulation" regarding the monitoring of conservation covenants/easements in Canada. Please review these with your board members and pass a resolution to adopt them or suggest revisions to us. To view the cross-Canada report on monitoring practices, please see our website – [www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca)

#### **As Monitoring is an essential component of holding land or interests in land:**

1. Land trusts agree to monitor their land interests regularly at least once a year, or as appropriate to the easement/covenant/servitude, unless a written agreement to monitor is made with another conservation organisation, or another rationale is provided;
2. Land trusts will use a formal monitoring protocol of their own making or that of another conservation organisation or regional Alliance;
3. The results of monitoring visits will be documented in writing;
4. Monitoring documents and records will be backed-up and stored in a secure location;
5. Monitoring of Ecogifts will include confirmation that the present use of the property is consistent with that at the time of the donation;



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6. Monitoring documentation relating to Ecogifts will be made available to Environment Canada upon request.

It is intended that these points be a starting point for the development of minimum guidelines that will be adopted by land trust organisations. As these guidelines are to apply to the land trust community on a national level, input from individual land trusts throughout Canada to improve, add, and/or clarify the above points is seen as an essential component in their development and adoption.

## **Formation of Land Trust Coalition for Canada**

As many of you know, a national coalition for Canada is under development. A committee of representatives from across Canada have been meeting by teleconference since the Leading Edge conference last July 2003 to discuss issues, purposes and goals of a national coalition. So far, the following actions have been undertaken:

### **1. Formation of a national Steering Committee including**

Eileen Palmer, Bill Turner,  
Sheila Harrington (LTABC)  
Jim Smith (Southern Alberta Land Trust Society)  
Bernie Vandenbelt, Dave Walker (OLTA)  
Pierre Valiquette, Louis Gagne (Regroupement  
des organismes propriétaires de milieux  
naturels protégés du Québec (RMN))  
Margo Sheppherd (Nature Trust of New  
Brunswick)  
Bonnie Sutherland (Nova Scotia Nature Trust)

### **With advisors and assistance from:**

Clayton Rubec, Environment Canada  
Craig Lee, independent contractor (formerly with  
Trust for Public Land, US)  
Julie Gelfand (Canadian Nature Federation)

**2. Formation of national survey** – we want your input into how this coalition should work to help your land trust protect and maintain our natural and cultural diversity! To submit – please go to:  
[www.hostedsurvey.takesurvey.asp?<national](http://www.hostedsurvey.takesurvey.asp?<national)  
Survey deadline: August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### **3. Report on status of land trusts in Canada**

This is a contract underway now to research and report on findings and studies done on land trusts and their successes, challenges, goals and objectives – to help with the foundation documents and formation of the Coalition.

**4. October meeting of Committee** in conjunction with the OLTA annual seminars with a view to set the foundation goals and objectives for the Coalition.

**Lets have your input – how could a national coalition help move your work ahead???**

## **Land Trust Alliance of BC Membership Fee Increase**

As you may know, we have had a membership fee of \$100 since our inception in 1997. Eight years later, we are only now raising our membership fees. We are attempting to align these fees with the Land Trust's ability to pay.

The following fees are subject to approval from the membership. However this is our suggestion for a 2005 membership increase:

DU, TNT, NCC, TLC - \$1000,  
Islands Trust Fund - \$500,  
Staffed Organisations - \$250,  
Un-staffed, no gaming funds \$100  
*The US LTA charges from \$ 225 – 2400*



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## Appraisal Assistance Grants

Thanks again to the Canadian Wildlife Service, The LTABC will once again be administering this grant program to assist with 1/2 of Appraisal costs - this year up to \$3000. See the website for application and procedures.

## Best Practices Manual CD

The LTABC is working to compile a manual of Sample Documents and Templates for your use. In June, we sent you a letter asking for your help by providing your land trust's best sample documents. You may have already been contacted by one of the following committee members who are working together on the project. Many thanks to Lucy Reiss, John Scull, Karen Hudson, Les Bogden, Eileen Palmer and Kathy Dunster for helping with this extensive project. Materials are due in by September 20<sup>th</sup> send or inquire with Sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca. Funding for this project provided by The Vancouver Foundation, The Real Estate Foundation of BC and Canadian Wildlife Service.

## An Introduction to Conservation Covenants A Guide For Developers and Planning Departments

Developed in tandem with the Vancouver Island and Gulf Island land trusts, this eight page information kit is available for download off the website, or by mail order from the BCLTA. As planning departments and developers start to be aware of and use the conservation covenant, many land trusts are being approached with expectations that they must hold the covenant. Of course, every land trust should only accept covenants from willing land owners, and based on knowledge that they can monitor and enforce the covenant.

This information guide, available now, will be contained within the Best Practices Manual. It helps to educate both planning departments and developers on the purposes, costs, and responsibilities of the parties involved in maintaining a conservation covenant. Available for download on the website or contact the LTABC office 250-538-0112 .

## GREEN LEGACIES RAMPS UP GIVING TO STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

Is your organisation's profile and contact information up-to-date on the Green Legacies web-page? If not, you could be missing a valuable opportunity to receive gifts.

Recently, a donor from the United States contacted Stewardship Centre co-ordinator Naomi Mark and said they had just one day to give away a chunk of money in their company's environment fund. They wanted to support conservation in BC but didn't know where to start. Naomi directed the caller to the directory of conservation and stewardship organisations listed as part of the Green Legacies section of the Stewardship Centre's web-site. The donor was able to choose an organisation that fit with her objectives, and the gift went through. Sound like a dream? Don't miss out, make sure your listing is up-to-date, and make sure you're prepared to receive gifts. (Go to [www.greenlegacies.ca](http://www.greenlegacies.ca), the Conservation Organisations section)

Also, if you would like additional copies of the Green Legacies guide to give to your donors in the hope they'll better understand the benefits of green giving and make larger gifts to your organisation, please contact the new Green Legacies project co-ordinator, Lorna Visser of Carmanah Strategies, at 250-358-2722 or [carmanah@look.ca](mailto:carmanah@look.ca)

The Green Legacies project is continuing its outreach and promotion, with the intention of bringing more financial support to land stewardship and conservation organisations. We are continuing to reach out to allied professionals such as estate lawyers and financial planners with the "green giving gospel." We have taken out an ad in the Canadian Donor's Guide, which is used by lawyers and planners to assist their clients in locating charities for bequests and other types of planned gifts. More outreach is planned for the fall and winter.

## Legislative Changes & Updates

### SARA, BC Wildlife Act and Land Trusts – By Lisa Fox

Phantom Orchid, *Cephalanthera austini* is a distinct and beautiful plant, if you can find one to photograph. Listed as 'Threatened' by COSEWIC, this saprophyte contains no chlorophyll in its leaves for food production; but derives nutrients from dead and decaying materials and is thus almost totally white save for a small yellow gland on the 'orchid' lip. It also has periods of dormancy that can last in some cases for years. The plant's close fungal association with certain deciduous trees and poor seed set make it difficult to transplant or grow out of its natural habitat. Forest habitat loss and potential lack of pollinators are also issues for this species. All of these factors serve to make this plant relatively unknown and vulnerable. Known 'populations' exist through out the Fraser Valley and Southern Gulf / Vancouver islands.

In 1996, under the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk, BC pledged to conserve our rich biodiversity. Specifically the province was to prepare recovery plans, designate species and protect habitat. What this has meant has been the long drawn-out establishment of recovery teams, production of some recovery plans and listing of species (red and blue lists). With the recent passing and enforcement of SARA (Species at Risk Act), and its safety net, the province has been put under a deadline to live up to its pledge.

For most provincially listed species, this pressure has meant little, legally speaking, on crown and private land because of definitions in the Wildlife act. For example, even if the provincial political will existed, by definition, the phantom orchid would not qualify under the Wildlife Act.



*Phantom Orchid, photo: Curtis*

**Land Trusts can get involved with endangered species through land owner contact, protection of habitat sites, mapping, and providing / helping recovery teams with stewardship tools like brochures and stewardship agreements.**

Overall, precious few species have been legally protected under BC's Wildlife Act. Because of narrow definitions and some say political interference, there have only been four Wildlife Act species (Burrowing Owl, Sea Otter, Vancouver Island Marmot, and White Pelican) designated. Recently the province introduced Bill 51 to change the Wildlife Act by broadening the definition of species to include among others, plants. On a warm and fuzzy note, any move to improve the legislative framework is a positive move in a province where legal tools for endangered species are notably weak (WCEL, [www.wcel.org/deregulation/bill51.pdf](http://www.wcel.org/deregulation/bill51.pdf)).



We hope many plants and other fauna will be provincially protected under the Wildlife Act. On a more cynical note it is feared that this move to open up the Wildlife Act is just a positioning manoeuvre designed to convey the appearance that the Provincial government is doing something to protect BC's endangered species. An urgent case to watch on this is the Spotted Owl. In a deregulation backgrounder, WCEL ([www.wcel.org/deregulation/bill51.pdf](http://www.wcel.org/deregulation/bill51.pdf)) states, *"Nonetheless, even with these amendments the Wildlife Act falls far short of what is needed to protect species at risk....The failure to require science-based decisions about endangered species, and the wide political discretion left to the cabinet about whether and how to implement these protections, leave species with no guarantee of real protection. Moreover, the legislation may have the impact of actually reducing species protection by delaying federal action to protect species at risk"*.



Codd Wetland, Tamsin Baker

What's a land trust to do? We can keep the provincial and federal government on notice, but we should also continue to do what we do best: secure and protect habitat.

The SARA Public Registry is your source for information and documents relating to the Species at Risk Act (SARA). [http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/newsletter/unsubscribe\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/newsletter/unsubscribe_e.cfm)

### Other sources of info:

Canadian Wildlife Service [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index_e.cfm)

Endangered Species and Ecosystems in British Columbia  
<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/>

International Fund for Animal Welfare  
<http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw/general/>

### NEW CABINET SWORN IN

Prime Minister Paul Martin swore in his new cabinet this year. BC's new Minister of the Environment is Stephane Dion from Quebec. Geoff Regan will remain our Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

For more information on cabinet positions, see: [http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new\\_team.asp](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new_team.asp)  
If you are interested in reading about the changes announced by the Prime Minister, link to his website: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/default.asp>

### DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management will provide local governments across B.C. with up to \$2 million in funding as part of the Provincial Drought Action Plan. The funding, together with a comprehensive

handbook, *"Dealing with Drought,"* will be available to

communities with stressed water supplies and those that need to complete water conservation or drought management plans. The \$2 million in planning funds for communities is being provided as a result of a provincial survey of

local water suppliers carried out last fall. The survey found that approximately 25 per cent of water supply systems were stressed last year and

two thirds brought in water restrictions to ensure continued supply. Of those surveyed, 63 per cent had a viable water supply plan, 57 per cent had a water conservation plan and 23 per cent had a long-term drought management plan.

Land and Water BC Inc., the government corporation responsible for water allocation, provides the funding and the handbook in mid-June. The handbook will include templates for a number of drought-related plans as well as model bylaws. Details on how to access the funding will be available at [www.lwbc.bc.ca](http://www.lwbc.bc.ca). For a list of useful water conservation tips, visit the Government's web page at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).

**The average British Columbian uses litres of water per day, far higher than the national average of 340 litres**

## **WESTCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW UPDATES:**

**Sweeping changes** to BC's environmental laws continue. The third year of the provincial Liberal government was equally, if not more, busy on the environmental deregulation front as the previous two. About one-quarter of the 99 bills passed in the Legislature relate to the environment in some way. They include both new legislation and significant amendments to existing statutes. While some were the subject of public consultation, many were passed in a matter of days with no consultation and very little legislative debate. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/29/03/02.htm>

## **JUDGE RULES IN FAVOUR OF THE PUBLIC OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

In a landmark ruling in the Supreme Court of British Columbia Judge Quijano denied the BC Attorney General's request for an interlocutory injunction that would prevent members of the public from entering publicly owned land in Cathedral Grove, adjacent to McMillan Park.

In her ruling, brought down on Friday May 28, 2004 Judge Quijano stated: "Without question the public interest in obtaining compliance with the law is high, but there is a corresponding public interest in ensuring that individuals are not denied due process under existing legislation solely on the grounds that it would be expedient or convenient to do so. As has been pointed out in a number of recent decisions of the British Columbia Supreme Court, an injunction is a powerful remedy which may transform a dispute between a citizen and the government into a dispute between the citizen and the court and it is not to be used as a first choice remedy except in extraordinary circumstances."

## **TAXING HERITAGE (excerpted from the Heritage Society of BC release)**

For years the heritage community has struggled to fend off arguments that designation of heritage property results in loss of value. While such claims have never been supported by solid information, they are potent nonetheless, and the possibility of loss of value was one reason for the

provision in provincial heritage legislation for a financial compensation mechanism.

Now it seems that the B.C. Assessment Authority (A.A.) has turned the whole argument on its head. The owners of a New Westminster designated heritage home recently discovered that their property tax includes a special levy, increasing the assessed value by 15 per cent, because the house is designated.

In Ontario, Dr. Robert Shipley conducted a couple of landmark studies on the subject in the 1990's. His findings were that, in general, designated heritage residences appreciated in value more quickly than residential property as a whole, and held their value better during market slumps. However, he concluded that the reason for this was extensive care by the homeowner.

The A.A. is imposing a levy on designated heritage homes, apparently on the strength of nothing more than the perception, unsupported by statistical data, that designated homes sell for more. This is a kind of "heritage profiling": some designated heritage homes sell for more, therefore a designated home must automatically be worth more - not on the basis of improvements, repairs, or restoration, but simply by virtue of the passage of a municipal bylaw that places restrictions on alterations to or demolition of the property. The heritage levy is not applied universally, but according to some unspecified set of rules or guidelines.

### **THE VEHICULAR WORLD.**

Stats show there are 34 per cent more trucks, minivans and SUVs on the road today than in 1990. In fact, 2003 saw "light truck" sales outstrip passenger car sales for the first time ever. The average SUV produces about one-third more carbon dioxide per kilometre than the average passenger car. Environment Canada has found SUVs to be even more pollution intensive than airplanes. (Sierra Club release)

The good news is that alternatives are on the rise, too. Check out Toyota's gas/electric [Prius](#) (60 mpg around town) or Honda's [Civic Hybrid](#) (61 mpg city). Or check out Biodiesel!

## News

**Congratulations to Bill Turner and the Land Conservancy of BC for winning gold in the Conservation category at the Canadian Environment Awards ceremony! Also, congratulations to Eliza Olsen of Burns Bog Conservation Society, who shared the silver award.**

### **IN MEMORY OF DIANE MOEN**

I am sorry to tell you that Diane Moen passed away recently after a two-year battle with cancer.

Diane had a long and dedicated involvement with parks and conservation in British Columbia. It would be impossible for me to list all of the parks and protected areas in which Diane played a critical part. Think of Jedediah Island, think of the Gowlland Todd Park, think of the Nature Legacy parks on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy and the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy. Think Churn Creek. The list goes on and on. Diane was the person responsible for bringing the Province into the Mill Farm purchase on Salt Spring Island. I well remember taking her to see not only Mill Farm, but that entire area of Salt Spring Island and explaining to her the vision for its protection. Diane 'got it' immediately and once she was on it she never wavered. She played a significant role in the more recent purchases from Texada on Salt Spring Island.

Diane was a civil servant with a dedication to BC and to Parks and protected areas. She believed deeply in what she was doing and she put her heart and soul into her work. Of course she was not alone in her dedication. There were others within the provincial government who shared her passion and dedication.

Not being a politician, (provincially) she was often invisible at the announcements but without her and a very few others these things would not have happened. Many of the people who benefited from her efforts would not be aware of

the debt they owe her. She has left a splendid legacy for our grandchildren.

Diane did become a politician; she was elected to city council in Central Saanich and served on the Capital Regional District Board. She did so because of her dedication to her community and to her region and she served them very well indeed.

Diane was a member of the Board of TLC The Land Conservancy. She will be greatly missed.  
**Bill Turner**

### **OKANAGAN NATION RETURNS SOCKEYE TO SKAHA LAKE AFTER HALF A CENTURY**

After almost a century of habitat destruction and blocked migration for the Okanagan wild salmon, their chances of being able to move more freely up the Okanagan River were greatly increased this Summer. In June, the Okanagan Nation reintroduced sockeye fry back into the Skaha Lake. Approximately 350,000 sockeye fry were raised from eggs collected from the Okanagan River last fall and released near Penticton in the Okanagan River upstream of Skaha Lake. This pilot project is part of a 12-year initiative of the Okanagan Nation to reintroduce sockeye back into their historic habitat.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) has been involved with salmon restoration within the Okanagan Basin portion for many years. ONA has been involved in fostering and developing partnerships for fisheries stock and habitat restoration with Colville Confederated Tribes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection (MWLAP), and local interest groups since its fisheries department was established in 1995.

For more information, contact:

Deana Machin, ONA - (250) 707-0095 ext 105

Cell (250) 308-8641

Jillian Tamblyn, ONA - (250) 707-0095 Ext 110

[jtamblyn@syilx.org](mailto:jtamblyn@syilx.org)



## **FIRST NATIONS AND PROVINCE SIGN FORESTRY PACTS**

In the largest forestry accommodation deal signed in B.C. the BC provincial government has committed \$13 million in forest revenues to the Cowichan Tribes over the next six years. The agreement involves \$13 million over six years as a share of provincial forestry revenues. A further \$600,000 in economic development funding from the province's Treaty Negotiations Office will go toward forest-sector training in engineering, silviculture, harvesting and geographic information systems mapping as well as to a forest development and stewardship plan. The agreement provides the Cowichan Tribes with a share in forestry revenue in exchange for the government being able to make decisions with certainty on use of land that is claimed by the First Nation as its traditional territory. The agreement is the seventh signed so far by the provincial government, part of a pledge made a year ago to commit a total of \$95 million in forestry revenue over three years to First Nations. Agreements have also been made with four bands in Vancouver. So far, \$28 million of the \$95 million has been committed through such agreements.

The Cowichan Tribes live on nine reserves covering almost 2,400 hectares in the Duncan and North Cowichan area.

**WEST COAST AND ST'AT'IMC** pioneer new ways to protect forests. The St'at'imc people are committed to protecting the forests of their territory, including species like grizzly bear, mule deer and salmon, to sustain the land, water and St'at'imc culture. When decisions are made about these and other forests, Courts have said government must not only consult with First Nations like the St'at'imc, but also seek workable accommodations of their Aboriginal Title and Rights. But how does this work in practice? Full article: [www.wcel.org/4976/29/03/03.htm](http://www.wcel.org/4976/29/03/03.htm)

## **GATHERING PLACE FIRST NATIONS**

A Gathering will take place on Lady Mt. Cheam, August 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> with several groups to publicly perform spiritual work on the mountains in the Pilalt Territory as pressures to develop the mountain rise. These mountain ranges have been

a part of traditional living, learning, and connection to the earth, protection, and well being since time immemorial. Visit: [www.gatheringplacefirstnationscanews.com](http://www.gatheringplacefirstnationscanews.com)

## **PROTECTED AREA "GAP ANALYSIS" PUBLISHED IN *NATURE***

Hundreds of IUCN scientist collaborated on a survey analysing the effectiveness of the global protected area network in representing species diversity, referred to as the "global gap analysis." The paper recently appeared in the high profile science journal *Nature* and is one of the most comprehensive peer-reviewed analysis of its kind.

After the World Parks Congress in South Africa, September 2003, it was concluded that the global network of protected areas now covers 11.5% of earth's surface. This surpasses the 10% target proposed 10 years earlier at the Caracas Congress. However, the global gap analysis finds that approximately 300 Critically Endangered, 237 Endangered, and 267 Vulnerable bird, mammal, turtle and amphibian species have no protection in any part of their habitat ranges.

The analysis compared a map of over 100,000 protected areas to maps of 11,633 species ranges from four species groups. Places where species live without any protection were identified, and analysis showed where the highest priority gaps in protection existed.

The study's findings indicate that it is no longer sufficient to consider the building of protected area systems in terms of the percentage of particular ecosystems that are covered by the system. If protected areas are to be effective in conserving biodiversity, they need to be designed in relation to the distribution patterns of species.

The results of the study were released at the World Parks Congress in September 2003: See: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/pdfs/newsevents/day5/prciiucngaps120903.pdf>

## **B.C.'S COWICHAN RIVER DESIGNATED TO THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM**

In April 2004, the Federal Ministry of

Environment announced the designation of British Columbia's Cowichan River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS).

Located near the community of Duncan, on southeastern Vancouver Island, the river flows 47 kilometres easterly from Cowichan Lake to Cowichan Bay on the Georgia Strait. The Valley is home to the Cowichan First Nation, a Coast Salish people who have lived there for thousands of years and maintain a strong connection to the Cowichan River and surrounding areas. The name Cowichan is derived from the Coast Salish word 'Khowutsun,' which means "land warmed by the sun".

### **THREE WILDLIFE SPECIES CHOSEN FOR TRINATIONAL PROTECTION**

In the first agreement of its kind, the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States have agreed to protect the leatherback turtle, humpback whale and pink-footed shearwater, setting a precedent for future intergovernmental cooperation.

Selection of the three species was based on a range of factors, including a common understanding of the threats faced by each species, their geographic location, profile and feasibility of success. Final action plans will be presented to the public for comment in the fall.

The leatherback turtle is frequently entangled in pelagic longline fishing gear, which can stretch 40-60 miles in a single set. Humpback whales are also threatened by fishing gear entanglement and ship collisions, although there are new concerns are arising regarding food availability and noise pollution. The pink-footed shearwater, which migrates from Chile to Alaska, is vulnerable to longline entanglement and potential food source depletion as a result of fishing practices.

For more information, please contact: Spencer Tripp at (514) 773-6237.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Tel: (514) 350-4300; Fax: (514) 350-4314, [info@ccemtl.org](mailto:info@ccemtl.org)  
<http://www.cec.org>

### **AN END TO THE WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE**

There will be no legal implementation of the BC Liberals' proposed Working Forest Initiative.

"...This is the first big victory the conservation movement has achieved under the BC Liberal government. This goes to show it is always the sheer force of numbers of concerned citizens that makes the difference in the end," states a jubilant Ken Wu, WCWC Victoria Executive Director.

"The fight is not over. Minister Abbott has informed me that sometime in the future, they may still attempt to establish legally binding Timber Targets, that is, the guaranteed logging zones of the Working Forest. In other words, they've backed down for now, but may try to slip in some of it in the future."

Under the previous Working Forest proposal (BC Government's "Working Forest Discussion Paper, Jan. 2003), the government would have: -

- Rescinded the Provincial Forest, thereby eliminating the Ministry of Forests from most decisions regarding Crown land sell-offs to private real estate developers (ie. streamlined the sell-off of public lands), and also nullified the legislative barrier in the Forest Act that forbids the sale of Crown lands for forestry purposes.
- Established a Cabinet order in council which would legally designate the Working Forest in the place of the Provincial Forest. This order in council would define the purpose of the Working Forest as to provide "land base certainty for the forestry sector" and ensure all land use decisions included economic assessments of the "highest and best use" of the land (a proposition that could undermine endangered species and water quality protection in many parts of the province).
- Establish guaranteed logging zones, know as Timber Targets, through Cabinet orders in councils.

Under the current plan: - The Provincial Forest will remain. - There will be no Working Forest order in council. ie. it will not have any legal implementation. - Timber Targets that arise from regional land-use plans will remain policy. There are no current plans to make them legally binding through Cabinet orders in councils, although the government reserves the right to implement the

Timber Targets in the future. N For more info  
call: Ken Wu: 250-388-9292  
Article provided by WCWC

### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA AND PARTNERS COMPLETE CANADA'S LARGEST PRIVATE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, together with John and Barbara Poole of Alberta, and Waterton area landowners, announced the successful completion of the single largest private conservation initiative in Canadian history.

The seven-year project, involving more than 25 different landowners, has resulted in the protection of more than 100 square kilometres (27,000 acres) of key conservation and ranching lands adjacent to Waterton Lakes National Park in the southwest corner of Alberta, without taking the land out of production.

### **STOWAWAY ALIENS: THE OVERLOOKED STORY OF BALLAST WATER**

Many invasive species, such as zebra mussels and mitten crabs first arrived in coastal North America and the Great Lakes in the ballast water of ocean-going ships. With increased global trade, ballast water has become by far the primary route for the transmission of invasive animals, plants, and microorganisms.

On Feb. 13, 2004, the UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO) adopted a new ballast-water management convention that requires procedures, record keeping, and testing to ensure that ships shed as many hitchhiking organisms as possible. This convention will take effect globally 12 months after being ratified by 30 nations (representing 35% of the world merchant shipping tonnage). IMO Global Ballast Water Management Program (including text of convention, backgrounders, and a useful list of links).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SOURCES:**

- World Wildlife Fund, info on ballast water and aquatic invasives in North America: Cliff

Curtis, 202-861-8379.

[http://www.panda.org/news\\_facts/newsroom/press\\_releases/news.cfm?uNewsID=11022](http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/press_releases/news.cfm?uNewsID=11022)

- Oceana: Jackie Savitz, 202-833-3900.
- Northwest Envl. Advocates: Nina Bell, 503/295-0490. [Ballast water & exotics info.](http://www.northwestenvironmentaladvocates.org/programs/KK.htm)

### **MORE ON FISH FARMS**

#### **Fish Farm Protest in the Broughton Archipelago**

A diverse group of people and boats cruised near the Burdwood Islands Fish Farm on July 10<sup>th</sup> to express their concern for the state of the wild salmon in the Broughton Archipelago. This area is well known as a significant feeding and rearing area for salmonids and now it has the highest concentration of Atlantic fish farms in BC. About 250 people on 45 boats traveled to this remote area to express their concerns.

Representatives from Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council (MTTC) and from the Klawock in Alaska, commercial and sport fishers, local residents, and tourists from all over the world came with a collective message summed up in a banner unfurled by a Green Peace vessel, "Keep it wild - no fish farms."

Pink and Chum runs have dropped dramatically since the first sea lice outbreak in 2000 and many believe the source of the sea lice is high-density open-net Atlantic fish farms located along the migration routes within the archipelago.

#### **"Possible Factors Contributing to the Low Productivity of the 2000 Broad Year Pink Salmon," recently released.**

Ian Williams, a professional biologist with over 35 years of experience in fisheries research in BC, wrote this new independent report. It reviews and discounts possible factors leading to the extremely low levels of Pink salmon returning in 2002 and strongly suggests that sea lice from fish farms in the area are the only explanation for the severity of the observed crash. Sea lice infestations of juvenile wild fish during their seaward migration and the subsequent decline of



these populations have been associated with fish farming in Europe. The dominant feature that overlaps this near-shore habitat is fish farms. Sea lice from commercial open-net salmon farm operations in the archipelago are being singled out as the most likely explanation for the striking collapse in wild stocks.

<http://www.envirolink.org/external.html?www=http%3A//www.davidsuzuki.org&itemid=200309221816120.694473>

### **Over a million farmed Atlantics escape in Chile**

On July 1st, a heavy storm hit the south of Chile resulting in a massive escape of farmed Atlantic salmon in Chile's Region 11. Over a million salmon were reported escaped from 22 floating cages in Acatilado Bay area in Puerto Aysén.

. For more information, go to  
<http://www.intrafish.com/print.php?articleID=45779>

500 tonnes of Krill or euphausiids are commercially harvested each year in British Columbia. The fishery occurs in the Strait of Georgia and several Mainland inlets in the late fall and early in the New Year. Fishers use fine mesh plankton trawl nets that are towed several metres below the surface after dusk. The catch is either frozen at sea, or iced for transport to a land based facility for further processing and freezing. Most of the krill harvested in B.C. is use for food for the fin fish aquaculture industry. For more information on krill as a colourant in farmed Atlantic fish food, see DFO's Aquaculture web site:  
[http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/topics/colour\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/topics/colour_e.htm)

### **Conservation Council of New Brunswick recommends salmon farms move onto land to control the spread of a contaminant that can cause "dead zones" in the ocean.**

The United Nations Environment Programme has identified "creeping dead zones" caused by high nutrient loading in coastal waters the biggest environmental threat to fish stocks.

Once in the ocean, nutrients, specifically nitrogen, can cause the growth of algae blooms that starve the area of oxygen, creating "dead zones". Fish that swim into these dead zones "just go belly-up, because there's no oxygen in them,"

said Ms. Milewski. Nutrient pollution not only causes toxic algae blooms, it also damages biological diversity, degrades water quality and destroys habitat. They are asking that immediate action be taken before these dead zones worsen.

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick proposed that the fish-farming industry be given five years to move their operations out of the water and onto land because of their significant contribution to excessive nitrogen levels through uneaten food and fecal matter. Ms. Milewski said the contamination has become so severe in some parts of the East Coast that it has begun to come off the ocean in the form of gas.

"Industry needs to be put on notice by the federal government and the province that this is not acceptable. There are things that the government can do now. Stop the discharge, put in place the technology," she said. "If the consumer has to pay more for farmed salmon, so be it. Having cheap salmon at the expense of the environment is just not acceptable."

For more information see:

<http://www.conservationcouncil.ca/index.html>

**BIODIESEL SHOWS SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL** Prepared by the WISE Energy Co-op for Eco-Literacy Canada, "Biodiesel in British Columbia: Feasibility Study Report" was released in May 2004. Biodiesel is a non-toxic, biodegradable, renewable fuel produced from recycled bio-oils that can be used to replace conventional petroleum diesel. Because of its economic and job creation opportunities, and human and environmental health benefits, biodiesel production globally is increasing. The use of pure biodiesel as an alternative fuel source results in extensive emissions reductions, including reductions of:

- 73% lifecycle carbon dioxide
- 100% sulphur oxide (acid rain)
- 51% methane
- 67% unburned hydrocarbons
- 48% carbon monoxide
- 47% in particulate matter, and-
- 80% in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (linked to cancer and emphysema)

To view the report and media release, please visit the City Green web site at: [www.citygreen.ca](http://www.citygreen.ca)

## Events

### SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY EVENTS:

August 19: Butterflies at Risk on Salt Spring. Slideshow and talk by Jennifer Heron, BC invertebrate species at risk biologist. 7pm, Lion's Hall, 103 Bonnet Ave. Stewardship Project 2004 is sponsoring this free event.

September 3: National Trust Talk. Find out why 3 million people are members of this organisation that cares for 612,000 acres of beautiful countryside in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus almost 600 miles of coastline and 200 buildings and gardens of outstanding interest and importance. Suggested donation: \$7.50, Members: \$5. 7pm, Lion's Hall.

October 1: Sharp-tailed Snakes on Salt Spring. 7pm, Lion's Hall. Slideshow and talk by Christian Engelstoft, scientific advisor to the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team. Learn how to identify these rare snakes and why it is important to do so. This free event is sponsored by Stewardship Project 2004.

October 4: CBC Entertainer Todd Butler. "Guaranteed to entertain with a stunning combination of musical parody, whimsical wit, outstanding musicianship, and outrageous political satire." 7pm start at Fulford Hall. Co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Folk Club.

October 24: Talk on Mushrooms of Salt Spring. Slideshow by Rob Countess. By donation: \$7.50, Members: \$5. 7:30pm, Lion's Hall.

October 25/26: Mushroom Walk and Cultivation Workshop. Pre-register at 538-0318.

November 19: Rare plants and ecosystems of Salt Spring. Slideshow and talk by Dr. Terry McIntosh, who is as entertaining as he is knowledgeable and passionate about the unique plants growing here. 7pm, Lion's Hall. This free event is sponsored by Stewardship Project 2004.

November 20: Mt. Maxwell Ecological Reserve exploration. Join us from 10am-1pm for a rare chance to explore this area. You must pre-register at 538-0318 for this walk, as space is limited. This free event is sponsored by Stewardship Project 2004.

### GALIANO CONSERVANCY & SILVA FOREST FOUNDATION PRESENT

**October 25-28, 2004** Galiano Island, British Columbia  
Registration Deadline: September 10, 2004 The Galiano Conservancy Association, in partnership with the Silva Forest Foundation, is pleased to offer a three-day workshop in the scientific, cultural, and spiritual basis for eco-cultural restoration.

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- The scientific and spiritual basis for culturally-centered restoration.
- Ethnoecology: What is it? How does it provide the basis for management systems that maintain fully functioning ecosystems, while meeting peoples' needs? How can it be applied to "modern" restoration needs?
- How indigenous management systems, like fire and cultivation, can be reintroduced as part of restoration programs, and as part of long-term, ecologically sustainable management systems.
- How to carry out field analysis to determine restoration needs.
- How to plan and implement eco-cultural restoration, considering different cultural and ecological situations.
- What are the economics of eco-cultural restoration? How to make it work financially.

### INSTRUCTORS

**Dennis Martinez**, an Indigenous Person from the Pacific Northwest, has decades of experience in "hands-on" study and application of a variety of eco-cultural restoration techniques. Dennis is the Director of the Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network of the Society for Ecological Restoration.

**Herb Hammond**, forest ecologist and forester, is a

founding director of the Silva Forest Foundation, and has worked with Indigenous People for nearly 30 years to develop ecosystem-based forest use as a practical tool for protection, restoration, and responsible use of forests and associated ecosystems.

### **PROPOSED WORKSHOP OUTLINE**

An important part of the workshop will be to develop a restoration planning framework. The planning framework will be a practical tool for participants to develop eco-cultural restoration in their territories or communities. We encourage participants to bring information about land and water restoration needs in their areas. This information will help participants to develop a restoration framework that can be applied at home. Valuable information includes traditional ecological and management system knowledge, skills of people in your community, the extent and type of past and planned industrial development, (eg. logging & mining), the condition of fish and wildlife habitat and populations, the condition of foods and medicines.

This workshop will be of interest to First Nations, rural communities, foresters, biologists, and anyone interested in using ecosystem-based approaches to restoration.

### **FEES AND CANCELLATION**

**POLICY:** Workshop fee is **\$850 (CDN)** and includes tuition, accommodation, syllabus, use of field and office equipment, as well as all meals from Tuesday breakfast to Thursday lunch

**CLASS SIZE** is limited to 20 people  
**Registration deadline is September 10, 2004.**

### **LOCATION AND**

**ACCOMMODATION:** The workshop will be held at Bodega Lodge on Galiano Island, British Columbia.

**SYLLABUS AND SUPPLIES:** A detailed syllabus will be distributed at the workshop and will provide additional references and

background information. The course fees cover field and classroom supplies.

### **For more information contact:**

#### **Galiano Conservancy Association**

RR#1, Sturdies Bay Road, Galiano Island, B.C. V0N 1P0  
Phone/Fax: 250-539-2424 Email: [galiano\\_conservancy@gulfislands.com](mailto:galiano_conservancy@gulfislands.com)

### **HOLLYHOCK EVENTS**

#### September 9-12: **The Soul of Money**

Hollyhock. All non-profit organisations spend significant amounts of time developing financial resources. A big piece of cracking the fundraising nut is dealing with one's personal, attitudinal and organisational relationship with money. This workshop will examine our culture's dominant mindset of scarcity, and explore the alternative "domain of sufficiency". If you are interested in shifting your relationship with money so it becomes a tool for achieving the change you want to see in the world. See [http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3423](http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3423)

#### October 13-16: **Spiral Dynamics in the Global Village with Don Beck**

Hollyhock. This three-day intensive will introduce a common language and framework for understanding conflicting values, based on Clare W. Graves' model of Spiral Dynamics and Ken Wilber's Integral Theory. This framework will be used to explore issues surrounding diversity, social change and complexity in today's global village.

This workshop is for leaders, innovators, and change makers seeking a comprehensive matrix—a tactical, strategic and compassionate viewpoint from which to engage in life, work, and world. Don Beck comes highly recommended by our Program Director, Darcy Riddell. See [http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3419](http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3419)

#### October 16-19: **Activist's Rejuvenation Retreat.**

Often in the work of social change, stress and overwork can dull our passion and effectiveness. Join us this fall at Hollyhock, and return to your work better able to handle challenges, and to act from a place of greater peace, better judgment, and increased creativity. The retreat will include opportunities for exploring the larger context of our work for change, spirituality, new models of activism, and other issues and questions that people bring to the gathering. We will share challenges that we are working with, and



build strategies and support for moving forward. There will be also be ample time for reflection and self-care.

Join us to rejuvenate, re-think and re-inspire! See

[http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=3449](http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=3449)

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST:**

**Sept 12-15: 'Restore America's**

**Estuaries'** 2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. Seattle.

<http://www.estuaries.org/2ndnationalconference.php>

### **September 16: Calling all Air Pollution sufferers and Clean Air advocates:**

A group of citizens and advocacy groups from across the province are in the planning stages of a Clean Air Summit in the community of Duncan/Cowichan on Vancouver Island on September 16th. The date and location coincide with a Clean Air benefit concert by Neil Young, the Barenaked Ladies, and Randy Bachman to support local people in pursuit of health studies regarding the local pulp mill. The Clean Air Summit will build on the opportunity that this concert presents to put provincial and federal air issues in the public eye.

The day is anticipated to have 3 parts: 1) sharing of stories between activists and concerned citizens from across the province to establish the character and extent of the problem, both by region and by issue (e.g. smog, indoor air, industrial pollutants, etc); 2) expert panels on human health, regulatory barriers, and potential innovations and solutions and 3) an evening social for more networking and sharing of stories. Contact Jill Thompson [s16summit@yahoo.com](mailto:s16summit@yahoo.com)

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Burns Bog Conservation Society, Vancouver –Westview Park  
We invite you to participate in our annual **Jog for the Bog** event on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at Westview Park.

Your participation includes a delicious pancake breakfast, a Jog for the Bog t-shirt, live country and rock'n'roll music, and loads of prizes. Our route runs along Davis Creek and through the Delta Nature Reserve and spans 5 or 10k. You are welcome to walk or run the distance. To register, simply click on the following link: [www.burnsbog.org/events/jog.shtml](http://www.burnsbog.org/events/jog.shtml) or call the Society at (604) 572-0373.

**Oct 2-6: One Forest Under Two Flags.** The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Society of American Foresters Joint 2004 Annual General Meeting and Convention. Edmonton. <http://www.cif-ifc.org/agmpage.html>

**Nov 3-5: North American Lake Management Society, 24th International Symposium.** Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC.  
<http://www.nalms.org>



## **Resources**

### **NEW - LAND TRUSTS: MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS**

By Katie Paris, Prepared for the Nature Conservancy of Canada, May 20, 2004  
Available through LTABC office –  
[info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca](mailto:info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca)

### **COASTAL SHORE STEWARDSHIP GUIDE (FROM THE STEWARDSHIP SERIES)**

This guide provides information on the biological and physical processes that shape our shores and provides planners and developers with information on how they can help to protect coastal areas. It also introduces best practices for development on our varied shorelines and landscapes and summarises some of the complex legislation governing our coastal areas. View it from [http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc\\_bc/main/index.asp?sProv=bc](http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc_bc/main/index.asp?sProv=bc)

### **MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DATA WAREHOUSE.**

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/gis/GISdata.html>  
[http://www.esri.com/mapmuseum/mapbook\\_gallery/volume17/index.html](http://www.esri.com/mapmuseum/mapbook_gallery/volume17/index.html)

You create a custom map either by repeatedly clicking on the map to zoom in and panning to centre over your area of interest, or by looking up a mapsheet, lat-long,

etc. Then select a layer and press "refresh map" button.

### **URBAN HABITATS.ORG**

This electronic journal focuses on current research on the biology of urban areas. Papers topics include urban botany, conservation biology, wildlife and vegetation management in urban areas, urban ecology, restoration of urban habitats, landscape ecology and urban design, urban soils, bio-planning in metropolitan regions, and the natural history of cities around the world.

Urban Habitats is a peer-reviewed, fully indexed scientific journal, aimed at researchers, restoration ecologists, park and preserve managers, government officials, and naturalists. They welcome papers that take advantage of the unique possibilities of the e-journal format, such as colour illustrations, animated models, video, sound, downloadable databases, and interactive discussions. <http://www.urbanhabitats.org/>

### **NATURE CHALLENGE CALCULATOR**

The Nature Challenge Calculator is an interactive web site that shows how your daily activities affect our natural environment. It also suggests ways of conserving resources, and the effects of doing so. Try David Suzuki's Nature Challenge...  
<http://challenge.davidsuzuki.org>

### **THE GLOBAL FOOTPRINT NETWORK**

supports a sustainable economy by promoting the Ecological Footprint, a tool that makes sustainability measurable. We coordinate research and develop methodological standards so that decision makers have robust resource accounts to ensure that we live within the Earth's budget FYI: got an e-mail newsletter from the new Global Footprint Network:  
<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/index.htm>  
l

### **CANASIA ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING**

A new international resource website for businesses and individuals involved with the environment and engineering industry. This includes architects, engineers, banks, financial lenders, private land owners, land developers, property purchasers/investors, home builders, insurance firms, legal firms, real estate companies, government agencies, suppliers and much more! The old company website has expanded to accommodate cutting edge features that are designed to provide information on engineering specific news, contact directories, job bids, employment and employee resources. See: <http://www.canasia.net>

### **THE CONSERVATION & ECOLOGY NEWS**

<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/cwg/NewsandEvents/cen.html>  
This is an electronic compilation of environmental, conservation and sustainability issues that relate to our local (Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Eco-Region) and global communities. Hosted by the Como Watershed Group (CWG) of Coquitlam B.C. It is issued free of charge Bi-weekly for the majority of the year. Contact Pamela Zevit, Editor for the CEN at [cwg@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:cwg@vcn.bc.ca)

### **MEDIA AND ELECTIONS: AN ELECTIONS REPORTING HANDBOOK**

Produced by the Media and Elections Response Centre, IMPACS. The handbook is the result of ongoing consideration about the role that professional training for media organisations and reporters can play in emerging democracies. Topics include democracy and the media, good journalism in election reporting, campaign strategies, voter voice, and more.

Distribution of this publication is free of charge. Organisations and individuals interested in receiving copies of the handbook should send an email to [international@impacs.org](mailto:international@impacs.org). The PDF version of the handbook will be available to download from the IMPACS website in the near future. Review [www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group\\_ID=2681](http://www.impacs.org/index.cfm?group_ID=2681) for updates.

### **SMALL FARM CANADA**

This magazine, published 6 times a year, includes current research on animal and plant health, trends in direct marketing, financial advice etc.  
[www.smallfarmcanada.ca](http://www.smallfarmcanada.ca)  
[info@smallfarmcanada.ca](mailto:info@smallfarmcanada.ca)

**B.C. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION** (BCSEA). A wonderfully interesting website, please

check it out at <http://www.bcsea.org>. You can sign up electronically, or print the form off our website and mail us your membership.

### **THE LULU ISLAND BOG INVENTORY--RICHMOND NATURE PARK SOCIETY**

An inventory of the bog is presently underway, with the help of group of volunteers. Sample sections of the report are available from the biophysical inventory web page: (<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/richmond/city/inventory2002.htm>). For those interested, there are a full set of air photos for the site posted on the web: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/courses/klink/g448/2000/rnp/change.htm>

**Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environment Industry** provides services for environmental employers. [www.cchrei.ca](http://www.cchrei.ca)

Our mandate is to provide your organization with a full-spectrum suite of career services that will support your competitiveness and business success. Explore our new website and discover the many resources that CCHREI provides exclusively for environmental employers, including:

- A job board locating potential candidates with skill sets strategic to your company
- Human resource planning, and recruitment and retention tools
- Environmental labour market information for business strategy

### **ONE/NORTHWEST**

This non-profit organisation provides technology assistance to conservation activists and organisations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and B.C. It now has a new Vancouver field office headed by Jodie Tonita. Read about her work at [http://www.actionstudio.org/news/onenw/article\\_1738.cfm](http://www.actionstudio.org/news/onenw/article_1738.cfm)

**The Forest Action Network** has just released a report on the Great Bear

Rainforest Agreement

[www.fanweb.org/resources/reports/threeyearslater.pdf](http://www.fanweb.org/resources/reports/threeyearslater.pdf)

**Land-use planning** that fulfills National Forest Strategy goals will become increasingly important in Canada's northern boreal forests, according to a report released July 29, 2004 by the Sierra Club of Canada. The report compares land-use planning processes in B.C. (Muskwa-Kechika), Ontario (Lands for Life), Saskatchewan (Athabasca) and Manitoba (East Side Planning Initiative). The comparison and case studies are based on the National Forest Strategy commitment to undertake land use planning as part of an ecosystem-based approach to forest management.

<http://www.sierraclub.ca/national/programs/biodiversity/forests/nfs/index.shtml#ilp>

### **Paper Facts:**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF BOOK PUBLISHING**

According to New Society Publishers (<http://www.newsociety.com>, 1-800-567-6772, [info@newleafpaper.com](mailto:info@newleafpaper.com)), for every 5000 books published on 100% post consumer waste, chlorine free, old growth free paper, the following resources are saved:

24 trees  
2196 pounds of solid waste  
2416 gallons of water  
3151 kilowatt hours of electricity  
3992 pounds of greenhouse gases  
17 pounds of HAPS, VOCs, and AOX combined  
6 cubic yards of landfill space.

#### **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU BUY CHLORINE-FREE, RECYCLED PAPER**

Every 40 cases of paper sold through the Buying Club: Saves 17 trees, 4,100 kWh of energy, 20,000 litres of water and 3 cubic yards of landfill; Reduces air pollution by three-quarters; and, Lowers water pollution by one third. Order Deadlines Now Monthly Buying Club members in BC\* can choose between Envirographic 100% recycled or New Life 80% recycled copy paper. The performance of both is guaranteed by the mills. Both sheets are acid free and excellent copy paper for all equipment, including photocopiers, laser and inkjet printers. The Buying Club is possible through the charitable activities of Reach for Unbleached! and the efforts of Paper Choice, an independent supplier of environmentally preferable papers. Your prepayment is essential to keep prices as low as possible. Delores Broten, Senior Policy Advisor, Reach for

Unbleached, Box 39, Whaletown British Columbia Canada V0P 1Z0, Ph/fax: 250-935-6992 E-mail: dbrotten@rfu.org <http://www.rfu.org>

## **ZOOM IN ON BC'S PARKS AND WILDERNESS 2004 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

**This summer go visit a BC Park for a chance to win a Wilderness Prize Package worth over \$1000**

This contest is really simple....

1. Go explore any of BC's 800+ provincial parks
2. Take photographs OR find your favourite picture from your last outdoor getaway
3. Submit your image by **October 1, 2004** to CPAWS BC (visit [www.cpawsbc.org/zoom](http://www.cpawsbc.org/zoom) on how to submit your photos)

AND you could WIN the Grand Prize Wilderness Prize Package that includes:  
Olympus D390 Digital Camera  
100 print card from Black's is Photography  
MEC Wanderer 2 Tent  
ARC'TERYX Gore Jacket (Theta AR)  
Serratus Alpine Backpack  
For more prize details, categories and rules of the contest visit:  
[www.cpawsbc.org/zoom](http://www.cpawsbc.org/zoom) or call 604-685-7445

## **USEFUL AND INTERESTING**

### **WEBSITES: GENERAL**

- Environmental Health News: <http://www1.environmentalhealthnews.org/>  
(daily e-mail and RSS feed available)
- Earth News @ <http://www.ecoportal.com/news/>
- Environment Writer see <http://www.environmentwriter.org/dl/index.htm>

### **HANSARD**

#### **Debates of the House of Commons of Canada**

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber\\_House\\_Debates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&Se](http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber_House_Debates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&Se)

#### **Debates of the Senate of Canada**

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber\\_Senate\\_Debates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S](http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber_Senate_Debates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S)

[enate\\_Debates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S](http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber_House_iDebates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S)

#### **Hansard Index (House of Commons)**

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber\\_House\\_iDebates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S](http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/Chamber_House_iDebates.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&S)

#### **About Parliament: A - Z**

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/AboutParl\\_index.asp?Language=E#H](http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/AboutParl_index.asp?Language=E#H)

#### **House of Commons Calendar**

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/process/house/calendar/HseCa-e.htm>

#### **The Canada Gazette**

<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/index-e.html>

#### **Senators and Members**

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/SenatorsMembers.asp?Language=E&Parl=36&Ses=2>

#### **Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery**

<http://www.gallery-tribune.ca/>

#### **CDN Government Phonebook**

<http://direct.srv.gc.ca/cgi-bin/direct500/BE>

#### **Elections Canada**

<http://www.elections.ca/home.asp?textonly=false>

#### **Office of the Ethics Counsellor**

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inoec-bce.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/Home>

#### **Lobbyists Registration System**

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inlr-el.nsf/en/Home>

## **LINKS TO OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES:**

Canadian Wildlife Service [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index_e.cfm)

Endangered Species and Ecosystems in British Columbia

<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/>

International Fund for Animal Welfare

<http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw/general/>

**THE SARA PUBLIC REGISTRY** is your source for information and documents relating to the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/newsletter/unsubscribe\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/newsletter/unsubscribe_e.cfm)

**NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS** Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History has a public web site on North American mammals. The site portrays more than 400 of native species through photographs, watercolor paintings, illustrations, range maps, and concisely written vignettes. Other features include custom field guides created from a GIS map, mammal searches across the continent, by conservation status, ecoregion, state or province, national park, or precise coordinate location, and a



family tree that cleverly unfurls mammalian relationships.

To learn more about the site's offering of features, and to navigate the site, please visit:

[http://web4.si.edu/mna/press\\_release/mammals\\_release.htm](http://web4.si.edu/mna/press_release/mammals_release.htm)

### “THE RELIABLE SOURCE”

IMPACS is pleased to announce the re-launch of “The Reliable Source” *The Reliable Source* is a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting three to five important stories about environmental protection concerns and current events. This newsletter will be sent to BC journalists.

The goal of *The Reliable Source* is to give community voices a chance to speak in the media about environmental issues. We would like to hear about initiatives from individuals not usually considered 'champions' for environmental causes (i.e.: seniors, students, volunteers, business owners).

The idea is to submit a single story idea that meets the following criteria. Your submission should: **Have a headline**. Think of a headline that would sell a good media release. **Provide a short summary**. This is the "why the reporter should do this story" argument.

**Identify the story's messengers**. These are the people affected, upset or doing something... people whose actions or words invoke conflict or an emotional reaction.

**Identify a location**. This is particularly important for television reporters - cameras need visuals.

**Include source contact information**. We need names, titles, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Indicate if this story is time sensitive

**Give a short background to the story**. This can be as simple as a web link, but please include a *short* written summary.

**E-mail your story idea to**  
[helesial@impacs.org](mailto:helesial@impacs.org)

## FUNDING INFORMATION:

### THE CANADIAN SUBSIDY DIRECTORY 2004

edition is available. This publication contains more than 2600 listings of grants and loans offered by government departments, foundations and associations.

To obtain a copy please call: 450-224-9275

**NEW** Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SF PIRG) program - the Action Research eXchange (ARX). This program connects SFU students doing research in classes or directed studies with organisations that need research but have limited resources. We accept project proposals from groups working in the fields of community development, social justice, international issues, the arts, the environment, and health The student researcher receives course credit for their work, and the final product remains under the ownership and control of the community group.

ARX's larger goal is to put community needs and social justice concerns into academic work. If you are interested in participating in ARX:

- Visit our website at [www.sfpirg.ca/arx](http://www.sfpirg.ca/arx) for an extensive description of how the program works. project proposals. **WE NEED APPLICATIONS IN BY LATE AUGUST** (the sooner the better!) in order to have projects up and ready for the SFU Fall Semester. Download an application form off our website, or contact us and we can mail you the form.
- If you have any questions along the way, please give us a call at 604-291-4360 or an email at [sfpirg-arx@sfu.ca](mailto:sfpirg-arx@sfu.ca). We'll be happy to hear your questions, suggestions, or project ideas.

### THE GREEN BUILDING GRANT

The Real Estate Foundation supports sustainable real estate and land use practices. This grant is part of the Foundation's ongoing work of enabling communities to make responsible decisions about the way they use land. Since building "green" uses less energy and water, generates less greenhouse gas, uses materials wisely, and produces less waste, it is more sustainable than building conventionally.

The grant is a further extension of VanCity's long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability and finding solutions for climate change. For more information, or to apply for a Green Building Grant, please visit [www.vancity.com](http://www.vancity.com).

According to the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, energy use has the most significant impact on environmental quality both within and beyond a city's borders. In Canada, commercial and residential buildings account for about 30 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions and 65 per cent of electricity consumed. About one-quarter of all landfill waste is generated by construction and demolition activity. Energy efficient practices, such as natural lighting and ventilation, and the use of salvaged materials could greatly reduce those numbers.

### **SURVIVAL OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP DEPENDS ON NEW APPROACH, SHIFT TO RECOVERY PLANNING**

Stewardship groups have a vital role in the care of salmon habitat, affirms a new report titled *Reality Stewardship: Survival of the Fittest for Community Salmon Groups*.

Today, groups find themselves in a position where federal and provincial funding has decreased substantially over the last decade, while the workload has increased. Those recent cuts have amounted to more than \$50 million in programs that stewards can no longer access.

Limited government funds will shift the focus of salmon stewardship towards recovery planning, as required by the new Species at Risk Act. Creation and implementation of recovery plans will allow volunteers and professionals to work together rather than compete for limited funds, and requires the science-based, planning approach that has been missing from ad-hoc community stewardship. By setting measurable goals, a recovery planning approach is also more attractive to funders.

The report concludes with five recommendations:

- \* Forming consortia with fund-raising and management skills and local political support
- \* Getting on board the recovery planning ship before it sails without them

- \* Raising awareness and becoming vocal advocates of salmon stewardship
- \* For projects aimed at gathering data, defining goals right from the start
- \* For hatchery projects, staying abreast of agency policies

For more information contact: Gordon Ennis Kevin Langlands Managing Director, PFRCC PFRCC Media Liaison 604-775-6070 778-895-6386 Brian Harvey, President, World Fisheries Trust 250-380-7585

Full report available at [www.fish.bc.ca](http://www.fish.bc.ca)  
Commissioned jointly by the Vancouver Foundation and the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC).

### **THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND HIGHLIGHTS**

EDRF continues to support individuals and groups dealing with real environmental problems. This month we feature three new and exciting cases funded by the EDRF in the last few months. Read the full article: <http://www.wcel.org/4976/29/03/06.htm>

### **Thanks to CWS, the LTABC again offers Appraisal Assistance Grants**

**So far this year, we have \$11,000 available for grants of up to \$3000 to assist with the costs of Ecogift Appraisals. See our website for the Application and Procedures.**

**We also will be offering the Baseline Inventory Service Training in 2004-5 contact [info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca](mailto:info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca) for further details**

**(Continued from inside front cover)**

US, most land trusts have adopted the Standards and Practices: they provide a level of credibility, of professional and ethical standards and raise awareness of environmental conservation. I encourage all land trusts to read this document and sign onto LTA BC's Standards and Practices so we may further instil public confidence in the conservation movement.

The costs of free land are far from cheap; they come with financial and moral responsibilities. Through endowments and fundraising the financial component may be reached. Through Memoranda of Wishes, registering a covenant and signing onto the *Standards and Practices*, land trusts can help meet the ethical responsibilities associated with donations of land.

***Funding for the Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Project***

Islands Trust

Islands Trust Fund

Environment Canada,  
Canadian Wildlife Service

Georgia Basin Ecosystem  
Initiative & Action Plan

The Hamber Foundation

The Real Estate Foundation of  
British Columbia

Ministry of Community  
Development,

Cooperatives and Volunteers

The Bullitt Foundation

Habitat Conservation Trust  
Fund

Opus Framing

Robert & Birgit Bateman

**Advertising Rates:**

**\$80 for card size ad for two issues  
or \$45 for one issue**

**\$150 for 3" wide x 4" deep for two  
issues or \$80 for one issue**

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Service Canadien  
de la faune



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OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Endswell Fund**

**The EJLB Foundation**





[www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry)

**A GIS BASED WEB SITE DISPLAYING THE NATURAL AND  
CULTURAL SITES PROTECTED  
BY BC'S LAND TRUSTS AND CONSERVANCIES**

- Maps of British Columbia displaying Lands owned or Conservation covenants held by Land Trusts & Conservancies
- Maps of federal, provincial & regional parks overlaid
- Regional maps displaying a list of properties protected by Ecoregions
- Property summary pages detailing the protected values
- Provincial statistics covering the values, red-listed species and areas protected (now over 180,000 hectares listed)
- Protected red-listed species details including habitats



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

