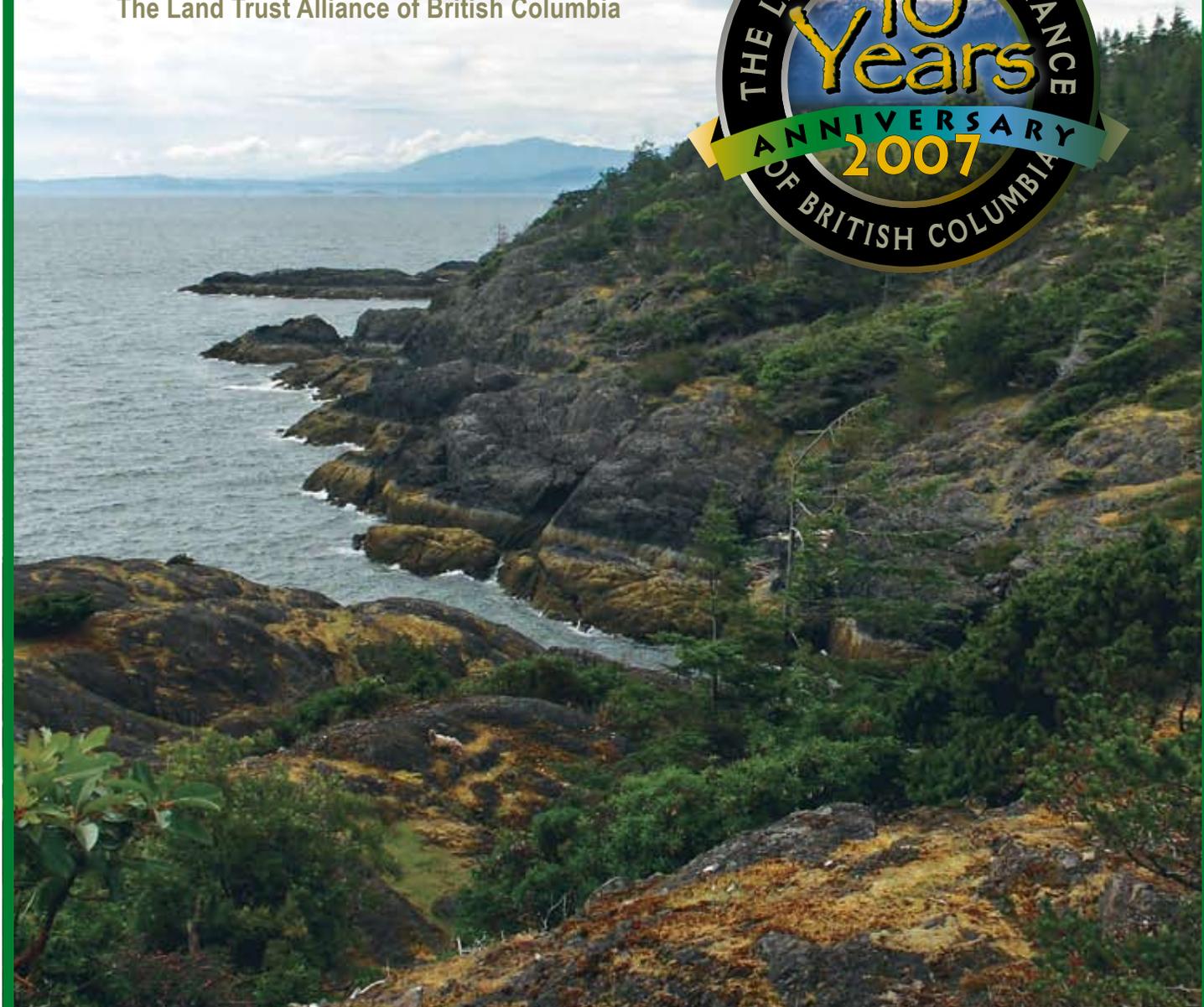




The Kingfisher

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The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia



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

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE ORIGINS AND FUTURE OF LTABC

guest editorial by John Scull, past Councilor of LTABC

The Kingfisher

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

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My own personal connection to the land trust movement began when I returned to Vancouver Island in 1993 after several years away as a CUSO volunteer. Disturbed at some of the changes that had taken place while I was away, I re-joined the Conservation Committee of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society. At that time we were working on the Land for Nature project of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists. In many cases we were documenting special places that were at great risk of being lost, in other cases special places of which we were aware had already disappeared.

Following a workshop in Nanaimo about the recent changes in the land title act permitting private organizations to hold conservation covenants, led by Tyhson Banighan of Turtle Island Earth Stewards (TIES), a group of naturalists and environmentalists in Duncan joined me in creating the Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT) early in 1995. We received invaluable early help and advice from Ron Pither of Coast Islands Conservancy (CIC).

At one of our first meetings we considered a letter from an elderly gentleman in Mill Bay who wanted to protect his waterfront property. Bill Turner of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) was the only resource we could find to help us create a conservation covenant. The property did not fit NCC's criteria and the Habitat Acquisition Trust eventually became the co-holder of the covenant.

CCLT was one of the earliest local land trusts in BC. As a result, we were frequently approached for information, advice, and support by other communities who wanted to protect special places. We barely knew what we were doing, so we thought it would be a good idea to have a provincial resource to support the burgeoning land trust movement.

Working by telephone and email, a committee from TIES and three fledgling organizations -- CCLT, the Nanaimo Area Land Trust, and TLC the Land Conservancy -- organized a provincial meeting at Malaspina College, Nanaimo, in February 1997. Along with presentations and seminars on a variety of topics important to land trusts, it was our first opportunity to network together as a movement. At the end of the meeting a motion was passed to create the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia and a committee was formed to write a constitution and bylaws: Carolyn Stewart, Colleen O'Brien, Ann Richardson, Michael Mascall, Gail Adrienne, Tyhson Banighan, Bill Turner, and Ron Pither. LTABC became incorporated in July, 1997.

Prior to the creation of LTABC, Ducks Unlimited (international), the Nature Conservancy of Canada (national), and the Nature Trust (provincial) -- were already engaged in private land conservation. These larger, older organizations have provided valuable support to LTABC, particularly through educational contributions at the annual Seminar Series, and to local land trusts as partners in acquisition projects.

LTABC has been hugely successful in meeting the challenges and needs of a young and emerging movement. It has exceeded all expectations related to our original purpose of providing resources and support to new local land trusts. LTABC has become a major resource, providing education, technical support, networking, public advocacy, research, and public visibility for BC's land trust movement.

Continued success over the next decade and beyond will depend on the ability of LTABC to carry on with this work while meeting the needs of a more mature and widespread land trust movement. At the age of 10 our movement faces many new challenges -- climate change and other global environmental threats, increased public and political concern for the environment, creation of a centralized national land trust alliance, stresses between land trusts, rising real estate prices, and changing technology, to name just a few. With continued participation by its members, LTABC will pay an important role in meeting these challenges.

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

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NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA PROTECTS THE DAPHNE OGILVIE NATURE SANCTUARY



written by Umeeda Switlo

View from the house including Daphne's red canoe Photo: Ted Boyle

Daphne Ogilvie came to the Cariboo cattle country in 1988. She and her husband Hugh were looking for wide open spaces where they could keep their horses and live in harmony with the natural world. They found that dream west of 59 Mile on the eastern edge of the Gang Ranch where they purchased two small parcels from what was then the biggest ranch in British Columbia and one of the largest in the world.

There was a pond and wetlands with canoe access (built by Ducks Unlimited) to nearby Truens Lake and 59 Mile Creek. There was pine forest and good grazing for horses and cattle. From a rise where they would build their log house there was a breathtaking view of the Marble Range known locally as the Limestone Mountains. The area was and is still a haven for more than 70 species of birds and a breeding ground for Sandhill Cranes. Moose, deer, elk, caribou, beaver, coyotes, timber wolves, wolverines and bears lived in the lowlands, and bighorn sheep grazed the mountain slopes. The Ogilvies who cherished the peace of the country and the beauty of nature had found their home.

Daphne was a telephone operator and manager and Hugh worked in his family's business, Ogilvie Mills,

known throughout the west for products like Purity Flour and Red River Cereal formerly known as Ogilvie Oats. They moved to a ranch in the Okanagan Valley in 1962 and stayed until the valley began to fill with people in the eighties. Daphne became an avid birdwatcher and Hugh pursued his interest in riding and polo. When the Okanagan development boom led to houses appearing on the open spaces around their ranch they sold it and moved north.

Hugh's health began to fail shortly after the move to the Ogilvie Ranch and he died in 1992. Daphne had grown to love the view over the pond and wetlands to the forested slopes and snow-dusted peaks of Kerr and Jesmond Mountains flanked by Starvation ridge to the East and Wild Horse Ridge to the west. She was feeding birds and other creatures. Red Winged Blackbirds, Finches, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Grey Jays, squirrels, and the occasional bear or coyote visited the many feeders around her front porch. She had learned to identify the birds and track the animals. She made regular trips down to the weir and lakes at the edge of the property and frequently went exploring on the back roads. She was a widow living alone in wild country, but the ranch

had become part of her and she decided to stay. Her friends made it possible for Daphne to stay at her beloved ranch right up to the time of her passing in July of 2006.

Over the 14 years that Daphne lived alone at the ranch she shared the natural wonders that she and Hugh had found. She welcomed many friends as well as birders and naturalists to the ranch such as Peter and Bernadette McAllister, Audrey and Nils Hoeg and Monica and Jack Christian and Joyce and Harry Nash. The house was designed to accommodate guests in an upstairs area known to her friends as Noncer's Nest. (North Okanagan Conservation 'ers nest) She collected bird and natural history books and expanded her knowledge of the animals in the area. She documented the rhythms of the seasons and the movements of the birds and animals in a comprehensive slide collection and diary.

In a final act of generosity in her will she honored the agreement that she and Hugh made years ago and left the Ogilvie Ranch to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Ogilvie's gift ensures that the habitats of the many birds and animals that live on the ranch will be maintained and generations to come will be able to share the beauty of this special place.



Daphne Ogilvie's good friends Monica Christian and Audrey Hoeg happy to see their friends wishes come true and celebrate Daphne's gift to Canadians on July 1, 2007, Photo: Bernadette-Mertens McAllister

"We are very grateful for this gift of 480 acres from Daphne," said Jan Garnett- VP Of NCC British Columbia Region. "The Ogilvie Ranch is a special place of extraordinary natural beauty that provides a home for a wide variety of birds and animals. Daphne Ogilvie's legacy is one of caring about this land and sharing it with others. NCC intends to honor her memory by continuing to protect this critical wildlife habitat and ensuring that generations to come will be able to visit the ranch."



Mallard drakes taking flight at Ogilvie wetlands. Common Loons, Sandhill Cranes, Black Terns and many other species share this wetland habitat. Photo: Bernadette-Mertens McAllister

This announcement is 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. Each of the Gifts to Canadians provides habitat for rare or endangered species. Once a property is secured, NCC develops detailed land stewardship plans to ensure that the site's natural integrity is maintained and protected for the long term.

This legacy helps protect precious wetland habitat in the Cariboo and coincides with the beginning of NCC's science research in the region and the launch of its Central Interior Ecoregional Assessment.

The Cariboo region of British Columbia is widely recognized as the ranching and recreational heartland of the province and by the science community as a unique ecosystem worthy of further study and protection to ensure that it retains its unique appeal. That would not have surprised Daphne Ogilvie who was an avid birder and lover of nature.

"The Ogilvies made a decision many years ago to share their good fortune in finding this beautiful place," Garnett said. "Conserving natural wonders for the lasting benefit and enjoyment of all Canadians is what our work at the Nature Conservancy is all about. We are honored to be entrusted with the Ogilvie Ranch."

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is a national non-profit conservation organization that works with landowners to protect Canada's natural habitats. Its plan of action is to build partnerships and develop creative conservation solutions with individuals, corporations, community groups, conservation groups and government bodies. Since 1962, NCC and its supporters have helped to protect more than 1.9 million acres (765,000 hectares) of ecologically significant land across Canada, of which over 450,000 are in BC. For more information visit www.natureconservancy.ca/bc

CUMBERLAND FOREST SEEING THE COMMUNITY FOR THE TREES

by Mary Lynn Desroches



In the summer of 2000, discontent was the predominant feeling in the Village of Cumberland on Vancouver Island. Clear cut logging of 500 acres to the northwest of the village border had villagers upset, and a small group of them gathered in a garden to form the Cumberland Community Forest Society. The goal they desired was the acquisition and preservation of forest and wetlands to the southwest of the village. They imagined holding dances, plant sales, trivia nights and raffles to raise the necessary funds, and they didn't foresee any opposition to their plans.

In the next four years the size of their group grew from 9 members to over 300, and many fundraising events took place. By 2004 they had amassed close to \$200,000.

But opposition had reared up. A very vocal ex-mayor and his mining surveyor friend had formed a minesite committee, which opposed the Society's acquisition of the southwest forest. They wanted the private logging company who owned the forest to give it to the Village so the minesite within could be developed as a tourist attraction, highlighting Cumberland's rich mining history. The ex-mayor encouraged the logging company to clearcut a three acre patch in the middle of the forest and to put a logging road into the minesite to allow access, both of which were done. This horrified Society mem-

bers but they were powerless to intercede. Furthermore, the logging company said they would only sell the property if there was no controversy since they wanted to avoid negative publicity. As a result, the Society was unable to obtain a formal offer of sale for the property.

Saddened but not completely disheartened, the Society pursued a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Village of Cumberland in which the Society promised to acquire the land, and to incorporate the minesite committee's purposes. To protect the forest, a conservation covenant would be drawn up which would restrict the footprint of any future minesite development and ensure that any proposed development would first need to pass the covenant holders' approval. The MOU was finally signed and presented to the logging company in late 2004.

Meanwhile, the summer of 2004 saw an environmental assessment, a timber appraisal, a real estate land appraisal and a legal survey of the property completed. The logging company agreed verbally to sell for the appraised price, and now a formal written agreement was sought. This 35 page document outlined so many easements, right-of-ways and conditions that the Society hurriedly engaged a lawyer familiar with such transactions, and began the lengthy process of investigating all the clauses. The price of the first parcel was established as \$665,000, and the closing date was

set at March 15th, 2005. The second parcel's price was set at \$365,000, with a closing date of June 15th of the same year. This date was later moved ahead to December 15, 2005.

The Society's intention, after purchasing the property, was to gift it to the Village of Cumberland with a conservation covenant registered on the title. So a small group began the writing of the covenant, which was to be jointly held by the Comox Valley Land Trust and TLC the Land Conservancy of BC.

The Society went as a delegation to Cumberland Village Council to ask them to accept title of the land and to adopt the wording of the conservation covenant, and much to the Society's surprise, were immediately successful. (The minesite committee had proposed an eleven acre exclusion and the covenant excluded only three.)

Grant writing to raise more funds was well underway, but no significant successes were achieved until early in 2005, when Mountain Equipment Coop's Environment Fund awarded their maximum grant of \$100,000. This marked a turning point in the morale of Society members, and the provincial government's Coast Sustainability Trust's \$100,000 grant which came only a few months later boosted morale even further.

Loans from Society members were sought to make up the rest of the purchase price, and a major drive to recruit monthly donors to make payments of these loans was undertaken with great success. Over \$4300 each month is raised through these monthly contributions, and additional plant sales, trivia nights, and fair trade coffee sales help make the Society's loan payments.

Today, the Forest Society has 640 members and continues to be a visible force at work here in Cumberland. The Cumberland Community Forest is over 150 acres of protected forest and wetland which forms the view-scape for Cumberland residents. Its trails are used in six major mountain bike races each year. It was recognized as a sensitive ecosystem in a 1992 inventory by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the BC Ministry of Environment. It is a crucial wildlife corridor in an area which is increasingly threatened by commercial and residential development. The doubt and misgivings of the early years of the Society have given way to a sense of pride and accomplishment over a monumental task well done.



Several of the Cumberland Forest Society members that were instrumental in saving the forest. The author (Mary-Lynn Des Roches) is on the far left.

The Cumberland Community Forest is an inspiring example of what passionate and committed citizens can do to create the world that they want; by starting right at their doorstep.

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BC GOVERNMENT AND TLC ACQUIRE GERALD ISLAND FUTURE MARINE PARK

The B.C. government, working in partnership with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, has reached an agreement to acquire Gerald Island near Nanoose Bay for future designation as a provincial marine park.

The 11.65 hectare (28.8 acre) Gerald Island is located in the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago, which is made up of 13 islands and numerous islets located near Nanoose Bay. The island was purchased for \$1,375,000 provided by the B.C. government. Gerald Island is a good example of the rocky coastal bluff ecosystem rarely found undisturbed in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone in the southern Strait of Georgia. It is also home to northern and California sea-lions, bald eagles, and various bird and marine species. In addition, the island is accessed recreationally by small boats, especially kayaks and canoes.

“The purchase of Gerald Island by the B.C. government is great news for the region because it will be a significant addition to the proposed park,” said Ron Cantelon, MLA for Nanaimo-Parksville. “If the park is established, it will increase recreational opportunities in the area for residents and tourists alike.”



Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, Bill Turner and Ron Cantelon, local MLA Photo: Kathleen Gibbard

The Ministry is in the early stages of investigating the feasibility of establishing a marine park in the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago. If this park is established – following consultations with the Nanoose First Nation, Qualicum First Nation and the Te’mexw Treaty Association, and federal and local governments – Gerald Island will be included in the larger park area.

“The Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago is a unique group of islands,” said Bill Turner, executive director of The Land Conservancy. “The acquisition of Gerald Island is a critical step in making the park a reality.”

To improve the province’s world-class parks system, the B.C. government has made a capital investment of more than \$65 million over the past three years to improve park facilities and acquire new lands.

Since 2001, the provincial government has established 46 new parks, 65 conservancies, one ecological reserve and eight protected areas, and expanded more than 50 parks and six ecological reserves, protecting more than 800,000 hectares. Today, 13.8 per cent (or more than 13 million hectares) of British Columbia land is protected – more than any other province in Canada. To learn more about B.C.’s provincial parks, visit www.bcparks.ca.

The Land Conservancy is a non-profit, charitable land trust working throughout British Columbia. It protects important habitat for plants, animals and natural communities as well as properties with historical, cultural, scientific, scenic or compatible recreational value. To learn more about The Land Conservancy, visit www.conservancy.bc.ca.

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LAND TRUST LOVERS WEDDING RAISES \$10,000 FOR GALIANO LAND



On July 28, Galiano Conservancy Association staff member Keith Erickson, was married to long-time partner Kate Emmings of Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). The ceremony was beautiful, but this wedding was not just a regular run of the mill nuptial – the bride and groom decided to turn their special day into a fundraiser for the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island.

“Our community and Galiano Island’s natural beauty have been a big part of our lives together,” says Kate Emmings, HAT Land and Finance Officer. “We wanted to find a way for our wedding to reflect these connections.”

“While reading through *Green Legacies: A Donor’s Guide for B.C.*, Kate stumbled upon a story about an island couple who asked that donations be made to the Nature Trust in their honour as a wedding gift,” says Keith Erickson, Conservation Coordinator with the Galiano Conservancy Association. “We’ve never had a lot of cash to give to land acquisitions, but we thought that this could be our way of giving back to the community and the land where we live.”

The couple asked guests to consider a donation to the acquisition of the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island as a wedding gift. To encourage donors to be generous, HAT agreed to match donations with its Acquisition Fund. The combined effort raised \$10,000 towards the acquisition of the conservation property.

The Great Beaver Swamp is a 17.5 hectare (44 acre) wetland property on Galiano Island. It is the headwaters of Beaver Creek, the bulk of which is protected in the Pebble Beach Reserve. Its acquisition completes the protection of most of the Beaver Creek Watershed. Of the property, the BC Conservation Data Centre has stated “the site has value as one of the largest of only 19 wetlands mapped on Galiano. Wetlands are under-represented in the Gulf Islands... [the Great Beaver Swamp acquisition] is an excellent example of landscape and watershed-level conservation planning that ensures protection of not just an individual wetland or stream, but the entire wetland complex, stream and riparian areas.”

The Galiano Conservancy Association has successfully purchased the land and is now working to raise funds to retire the debt on the property. All funds raised will go towards the property purchase price. “To us, our wedding was about more than a commitment to each other,” says Kate. “We were thrilled to raise funds for the Great Beaver Swamp in recognition of the role of Galiano Island in our lives.”

The Galiano Conservancy Association continues to raise funds for the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island. To learn more about this important conservation effort, or to donate, visit the Galiano Conservancy Association website at http://www.galianoconservancy.ca/land_acquisition.html.

ISLANDS TRUST FUND TAKES ON TWO NEW ISLAND CAMPAIGNS



SQUITTY BAY PROVINCIAL PARK EXPANSION

The newly established Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy and the Islands Trust Fund are working together to raise funds for a property purchase that will quadruple the size of Squitty Bay Provincial Marine Park.

BC Parks has secured a conditional agreement to purchase a beautiful 38.46 hectare (95 acre) oceanfront property on Lasqueti Island to enlarge Squitty Bay Provincial Marine Park. **The community is now challenged to raise \$250,000 by November 15, 2007.** The owners have generously agreed to sell the property for \$1,340,000. This price is well below market value as the owners want to see the property protected as a park.

This property is a Gulf Island treasure. It features almost a kilometre of coastline with sheltered bays and beaches, older forests, a heritage orchard, a salmon-bearing creek, and windswept coastal bluffs. The property is also a fine example of the endangered Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem which is in urgent need of protection as it is under extreme pressure from agricultural and urban development.

Easily accessible by boat and from Main Road on Lasqueti Island, this is the ideal place to picnic, beach comb, and swim in sheltered bays. One can also wander along the forest paths to the heritage orchard and contemplate the allure of homesteading in such a beautiful location. From the high shoreline bluffs, visitors can admire the dramatic wind-sculpted trees and be inspired by mag-

nificent ocean views of Georgia Strait, the Sunshine Coast, and Vancouver Island. Standing near the edge of the cliffs at twilight to watch the full moon rise over Mount Baker is a breathtaking experience visitors will remember for a lifetime.

BOWEN'S FAIRY FEN

The Trust Fund Board has accepted an offer from the province for an 18 hectare (45 acre) wetland on Bowen Island for a new nature reserve. Known locally as Fairy Fen and by some as Mystery Marsh, the wetland contains red-listed plant communities and other provincially significant ecological values.

*Iversen Property View
Photo: Barry Churchill*

The offer comes after many years of interest by community members and elected officials in protecting the important biodiversity values and after almost two years of persistence by the Trust Fund Board in applying to the province's Integrated Land Management Branch. Minister of Community Services, Ida Chong, sponsored the application, valued at \$797,000. The province is expected to transfer the property to the Islands Trust Fund Board once a Land Act survey is registered. **The board is working with the Bowen Island Conservancy on a fundraising campaign to cover the costs of the survey and future property management.**

View of Iversen Property left, existing Provincial Park - centre and Nature Trust of BC property behind Photo: Sheila Harrington



LAND PURCHASE PROTECTS FUTURE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FOR CRD RESIDENTS AND ADDS TO THE REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM



Greater Victoria's Capital Regional District announced that it will spend \$64.7 million to purchase more than 9,723 hectares of land from TimberWest Forest Corp. to protect the future of the region's drinking water supply and to substantially add to the region's park system.

The Land Conservancy of BC has agreed to contribute 500,000 toward the purchase, which will be applied to a second parcel of two, dedicated for park use. The first parcel will be financed by the CRD's land acquisition fund. **TLC needs support to pay for this contribution.**

The deal includes the purchase of 932 hectares that will be dedicated to parkland. The new land will form part of the Sea To Sea greenbelt, which stretches from the Sooke basin to the Saanich Inlet. The addition will allow people to hike along the east side of the Sooke River from the Sooke Potholes to Kapoor Regional Park.

Homeowners in the Victoria area will have to pay \$23 more each on their annual water bill to help fund a huge purchase of land by the regional government, but officials say the project will save taxpayers money in the long run.

"If we had to build a water treatment plant in the future, it could cost \$150 million, then you're looking at \$3 mil-

lion to \$4 million a year to operate it," said the region's water manager, Jack Hull. "So buying this land now means we don't have to build that in the future."

Bill Turner calls the project visionary. "It just makes so much sense, and thank goodness the region has the wisdom to see that. Helping to secure this land is a source of great pride for all of us involved with TLC and builds on our past financial contributions to the purchase of Sooke Potholes and land in the Sooke Hills for regional parks."

The purchase of the land for regional parks will increase the total regional area to nearly 11,400 hectares. This accounts for approximately 50 per cent of all the protected lands in the capital region. The Leech River watershed parcel will be funded through an increase in the wholesale water rate that will cost the average household about \$23 per year.

Residents can register any objections to the purchase between Sept. 17 and Oct. 26. If 10 per cent of the population does so, a referendum will be ordered.

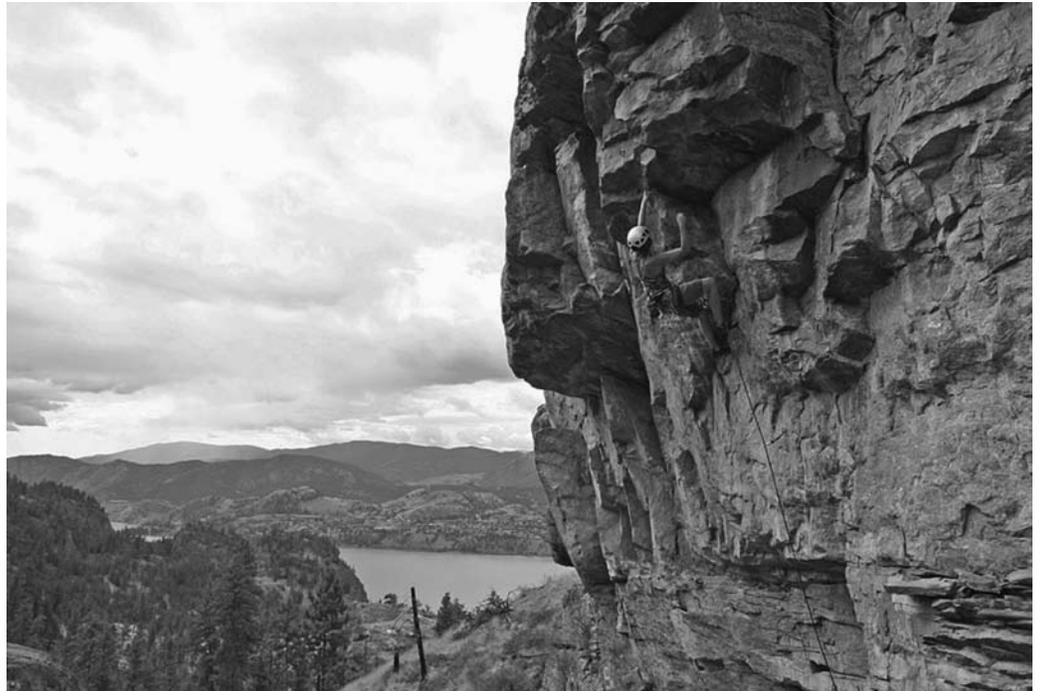
The Capital Regional District is a federation of 13 municipalities — including Victoria, Sidney and Sooke — and three electoral areas.

SKAHA BLUFFS - RECREATION AND CONSERVATION IN THE OKANANGAN

In March TLC announced that it was launching a fundraising campaign to purchase 750 acres of private land adjacent to the Skaha Bluffs. Located in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen area – one of Canada’s four most endangered ecosystems. The Bluffs are believed to be among the oldest rocks in BC. Over the centuries, the Bluffs have been weathered and ground-down, re-compressed and covered with solid ridges and deep ravines making them excellent conditions for rock climbing. Skaha Bluffs is comprised of over 120 cliffs, about 55 of which have climbs on them. The purchase of this property otherwise known as Sub Lot 18, will allow permanent access to the Crown Land known as the Bluffs for climbers, tourists and families in 2008. Thanks to a generous donation by the current property owner, a significant amount of monies are secured.

“Hugh Dunlop has graciously agreed to provide short-term access across his property to the Bluffs for the 2007 climbing season,” says Bill Turner, TLC Executive Director. “Mr. Dunlop opened his parking lot facilities effective March 16th as he has done in previous years.”

On May 11, 2007, Mia Harris, a promising young mezzo-soprano performed at St. Andrews-Wesley in Vancouver, BC in support of TLC’s Skaha Bluffs Campaign. Mia, a UBC graduate recently finished an Artist Diploma at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Mia has many operatic roles to her credit, including Orfeo, Nicklaus, Jo (Little Women), all with Opera Nuova in Edmonton, Idamante, Cinderella, with VAM, and Cherubino with the Burnaby Lyric Opera. In 2004, she won the Eva Bene Scholarship giving her the opportunity to sing as guest soloist with the VAM Orchestra at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. The Skaha Bluffs are near and dear to Mia’s heart. An avid climber, Mia knows the Bluffs well.



Lost in Paradise, Photo: Howie Richardson

On July 6, 2007 TLC was informed that an extension would be granted for the Skaha Bluffs fundraising campaign. TLC has been given a deadline of September 30th to finalize the purchase of Sub Lot 18 as a permanent access route to one of Canada’s premier climbing destinations. The three month extension will allow TLC to secure government, private and foundation funds.

“Thanks to this reprieve I’m convinced we will be able to reach our goal of providing long-term access to the Bluffs for climbers, tourists and families in 2008. The current owner has given us until the end of September as a sign of good faith and we are grateful for this gift,” says TLC Executive Director Bill Turner. “All we need now is for people to show their support by donating. I know we can do this if we pull together as individuals, businesses, and governments.”

Since going public with the campaign in early March, donations have come from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and England, contributed by climbers, outdoor enthusiasts, naturalists, and concerned citizens. Some significant corporate contributions have also been made by TLC’s partners, including \$10,000 from The Access Society and Vancouver’s - Mountain

Equipment Co-op (MEC). MEC has contributed a grant of \$250,000 - the largest land acquisition grant in the outdoor retailer's history - toward The Land Conservancy's Skaha Bluffs campaign.

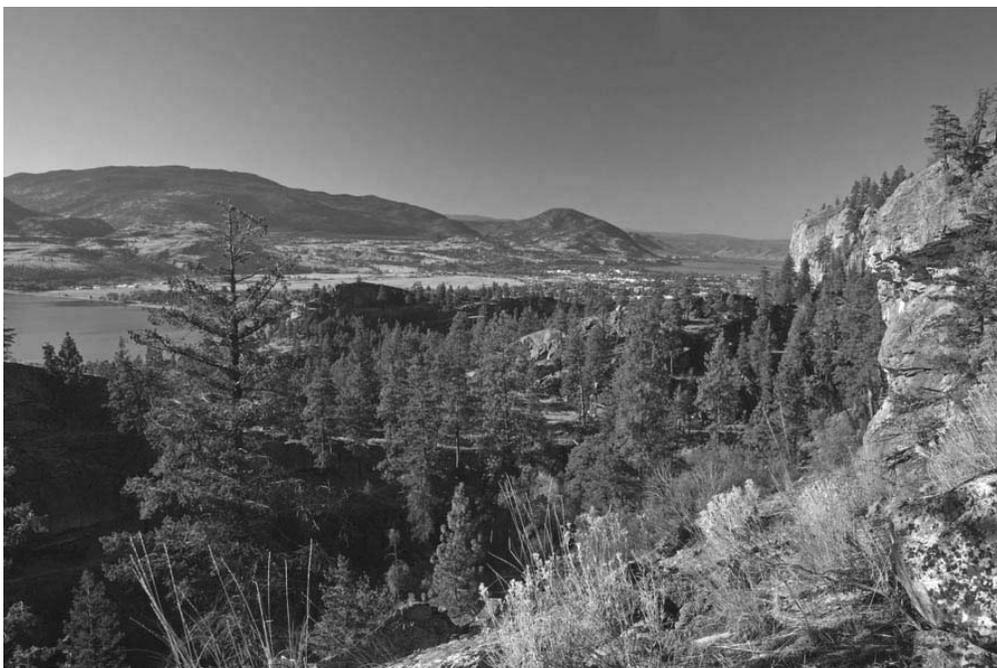
Every year thousands of people across Canada and the United States travel to the Bluffs in Penticton to climb the gneiss rock faces, hike the desert-like grasslands, and admire the wildlife and picturesque scenery. "Skaha Bluffs is a jewel of Canadian ecology and a place of important recreational value—it epitomizes what MEC stands for," said MEC CEO Peter Robinson. "Helping to guarantee public access to it through our \$250,000 grant today is a big step towards ensuring that the Bluffs remain accessible forever."

In addition to the land acquisition grant, MEC also launched a Skaha Bluffs donation program amongst its members. The program encouraged their Co-op members to donate individual gifts with MEC matching them, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000.

"Partnering with MEC to protect Skaha Bluffs is a natural fit," said Bill Turner. "Thanks to MEC's generous contribution to the campaign and the announcement of their matching donation campaign, individual gifts can go much further! TLC is overjoyed with the support of our partners."

Okanagan College biology professor and climbing enthusiast Howie Richardson has said, "Permanent public access to Skaha Bluffs is essential. MEC's financial support is not only good news for climbers but for everyone

Two Lakes, Photo: Howie Richardson



The Kingfisher



Ewe and lamb, Photo: Daryl Stephanik

who has experienced - or has yet to experience - the rugged splendour of Skaha Bluffs."

To finalize the purchase of Sub Lot 18, \$500,000 remains to be raised, of which \$150,000 must be raised from public sources. The balance of the funds are expected to come through various foundations and government sources.

"It is amazing to see people from all over the world with such a desire to save this recreational landmark for its climbing reputation, as well as its desert-like habitat which supports species at risk such as the California Bighorn Sheep. But we still need the public's help to complete the deal," says Turner.

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) is a non-profit, charitable Provincial Land Trust working throughout BC to protect important habitat for plants,

animals and natural communities as well as properties with historical, cultural, scientific, scenic or compatible recreational value. Since 1997, TLC has protected over 100,000 acres of sensitive and threatened lands, involving more than 200 projects. TLC has grown to include over 6,500 members, and is now part of an international network of National Trusts with over 7 million members worldwide.

To make a tax-deductible donation call 1-877-485-2422 or go to www.conservancy.bc.ca. In Penticton, please visit TLC's Penticton Office 262 Main Street, 2nd Floor.

GAMBIER ISLAND - PARTNERS IN PROTECTION

by Peter Scholefield, Gambier Island Conservancy



Surveyors on the side of Mt Artaban, June 12, 2007

The Islands Trust Council has selected the Gambier Island Conservancy for a Community Stewardship Award in recognition of its fundraising to acquire and protect Mount Artaban as a nature reserve.

The Island-wide response to this project has been truly inspiring with significant contributions from many private individuals, businesses, governments and community groups. The Conservancy plans to place a commemorative plaque of donor names in the Gambier Island Community Centre, excluding those who wish to remain anonymous.

The Islands Trust Fund and the Gambier Island Conservancy are partners in the project. By the end of June 2007, the Gambier Island Conservancy had raised more than \$42,000 towards the protection of Mount Artaban. The money raised will pay for a management plan and a Land Act Survey, which are necessary to create the new nature reserve.

Mount Artaban is located on the east side of Gambier Island and its 614 m summit affords spectacular views of Howe Sound and the Sea-to-Sky corridor. The 107-hectare parcel of crown land on the north-east side of Mt Artaban including the summit has been offered to the Islands Trust Fund as a free crown grant from the Province of BC and is valued at 1.2 million dollars. This planned reserve adjoins several other parks and reserve areas that together create a contiguous protected area of 525 hectares, - 25% larger than Stanley Park. With this land protected, it will form the first protected area network on the Island that crosses the full range of habitats, from

shore up to mountain peak and back down to wetlands.

A condition of the transfer of land is that a Land Act Survey be registered by August 2007 and that it be held as a nature

reserve. The survey is costly due to the remote location and extremely rugged terrain. The surveyors started the groundwork on June 12th.

In addition to the survey, funds were raised to provide a management plan to protect the environment and the public. There will be an opportunity for public involvement in the plan, which will address the ongoing maintenance issues and monitoring of the area. The Gambier Island Conservancy plans to continue to fundraise for improvements at the property such as trail repair and signage.

For those wanting more information or to donate to this important project please visit the Gambier Island Conservancy's website at: www.gambierc.ca or call Peter Scholefield at 604-913-9090.

An advertisement for 'THE NATIONAL LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE RALLY 2007' in Denver, Colorado. The ad features a scenic landscape image on the left and text on the right. The text includes the dates 'October 3-6', the location 'The Adam's Mark Hotel Denver, CO', and the website 'www.lta.org'. It also states 'Registration Now Open'.

MARINE CONSERVATION CROSSES BORDERS

by Gordon Scott

Point Roberts, south of Tsawwassen, is one of the more unusual accidents of political geography in North America. It is also located in one of the most ecologically rich marine areas of the Georgia Strait and British Columbia, namely Boundary Bay. Yet the ecosystems of Boundary Bay and Point Roberts don't pay much attention to the international boundary between Canada and the US. What happens on one side of the border can hurt, or can help what happens on the other side. Whatcom Land Trust in Whatcom County, Washington State, is trying to help preserve the wonders of Boundary Bay and Georgia Strait by purchasing 90 acres of upland and 40 acres of tidelands on the southeast corner of Point Roberts, a place called Lily Point.

Lily Point sits at the intersection of Boundary Bay and Georgia Strait. It is likely the most culturally and ecologically endowed undeveloped property in greater Puget Sound still in private ownership. For 9,000 years people have come to Lily Point because of its biological richness. Long time Point Roberts residents, many of whom are Canadian, have been working for years to preserve Lily Point. The property was slated at one point for a golf course, resort, condominiums and residential development. Whatcom Land Trust hopes to make sure that both the public access and the biological richness remain for the next 9,000 years.

Lily Point hosts a dynamic assembly of ecological processes - reefs and tidelands swept by nutrient filled currents; riparian forests providing shade, perches, and insects to the coastal environment; and eroding cliffs supplying sand and gravel for spawning forage fish and beach replenishment. These processes are essential to the health of Puget Sound - the Orca that patrol the Straights of Georgia, salmon that skirt Lily Point on their way to the Fraser and Nooksack Rivers, bald eagles that scour the beach, great blue herons that stalk the tidelands, and waterfowl and shore birds that visit Boundary Bay. At a low tide in June, a delegation from the Land Trust saw nearly 100 eagles on the beach at Lily Point.

Lily Point's strategic location, its relatively large undeveloped and natural shoreline, and its combination of mature upland forests, riparian vegetation, feeder cliffs, and ecologically abundant tidelands give this project regional and international significance. Providing spawning substrate for forage fish utilized by juvenile Chinook



salmon, Lily Point is identified as a priority protection site in the Puget Sound Action

Lily Point looking northwest towards BC Ferry Terminal at Tsawwassen.

Photo by John Scurlock

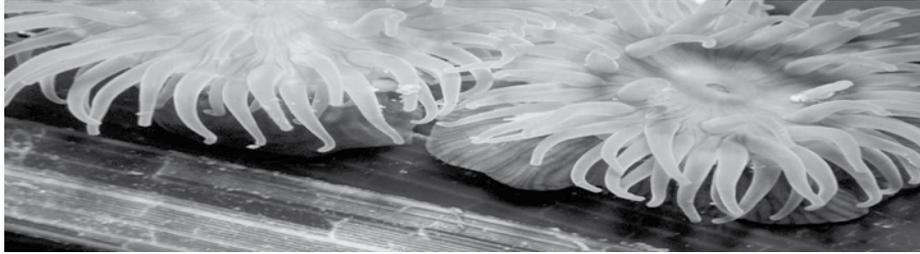
Team Recovery Plan. The Nature Conservancy includes Lily Point as "Priority Conservation Area" because of the site's exceptional and regionally important ecological values. Boundary Bay, whose ecological health is directly linked to Lily Point, is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International, as a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network Site (WHSRN), and as a U.N. Wetland of International Importance especially for Waterfowl (RAMSAR Site).

The history of Lily Point attests to its fecundity. Archeologists date human occupancy back at least 9000 years. For centuries, the Coastal Salish Native Peoples maintained their primary reef net fishery and a summer village for as many as 500 people at Lily Point. Here the Lummi Nation's ancestors each year performed their most important "first salmon" ceremony to assure the annual return of the fish they depended on. An 1881 newspaper reported 10,000 salmon caught by 3 reef nets in 6 hours. The Lummi Nation supports the Land Trust's purchase of Lily Point.

After acquisition, we will transfer ownership of Lily Point to Whatcom County Parks Department, retain a restrictive conservation easement protecting the ecological functions and attributes of the site, and develop environmental education and monitoring programs.

The Lily Point property is appraised at \$4,380,000. Whatcom Land Trust has a purchase agreement with the owner to buy Lily Point for \$3,500,000, 20% below appraised value. The Land Trust has raised \$2,750,000 toward that goal and is seeking donations for the remaining \$750,000 to acquire the property. The Trust is seeking the additional funding from foundations, salmon recovery boards and interested individuals. **If you would like to make a donation to help protect this international treasure, please contact Gordon Scott, Conservation Director, Whatcom Land Trust, P.O. Box 6131, Bellingham, WA 98227, USA, (360) 650-9470. Visit our website at: <http://www.jackex.com/lilypoint/>**

THE NOTION OF SHORELINE BORDERS



by Nikki Wright, *SeaChange Marine Conservation Society*

Photo above: *Brooding Anemone Mark Hiebert*

A few years ago, when our educational work involved many scuba dives to collect marine critters for school programs, I felt a growing urgency to give back to the sea. We dove for sea cucumbers, seastars and crabs, trying to collect enough different kinds of animals to fascinate the audience of school children about to arrive at the beach for a field program. We were in a hurry. Even so, I would come out of the water refreshed, enlivened and impassioned to carry the message that this all was worth saving. I began to pay closer attention to where these critters were living, and noticed the vegetation and types of rocky outcroppings that provided protection and sustenance.

As time went on, the group of us that eventually became SeaChange created real life scenarios for high school students, such as playing the roles of stakeholders engaged in making a fictitious marine protected area on a Gulf Island. Trish, a Coast Salish woman who was one of those creators, related how her community would lay cedar boughs down in the shallow waters of Deep Bay for herring to spawn upon. As she told this story to a group of mesmerized young people, a light flickered. Eelgrass served the same purpose as cedar boughs for spawning herring that traditionally rushed into protected bays and estuaries to produce the next generation.

Shortly after Trish's talk on the shoreline, I observed the intricate mysteries of a large eelgrass bed with a younger crowd of students at Arbutus Cove on Vancouver Island. Finally the light bulb switched on in my imagination: we were witnessing an entire complex web of relationships between animals, plants and water currents right at our toes. Walking gently in the water, we observed minute crabs climb precariously on the slender emerald blades as small sunflower stars crept along the sandy bottom and small perch flitted purposefully within the underwater forest. The same interactions I witnessed in a kelp forest were right in front of us, within range of our gumboots, just in miniature. All those seastars, crabs and fish I knew would be heading into more open water soon.

We were visitors in the nursery. This nursery has no physical walls. Juvenile forms of perch, rockfish, salmon, Dungeness crabs, and seastars pass through no immigration border crossing from eelgrass to the rocky kelp covered reefs. Eighty percent of commercially important species of fish in BC spend some time of their lives in this nursery. These fish provide food for Orcas, Great Blue Herons and Marbled Murrelets, SARA species listed as endangered or threatened. Yet, the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) excludes waters less than six metres deep for critical habitat for Orcas. Most of the critical habitat lies south of the border for the southern resident population. Species such as herring that provide food for Chinook salmon, major prey for these whales, are not part of the larger picture for their Recovery Plan at this time. Such exclusion is significant. What are the consequences of these imagined borders we establish?



juvenile copper rockfish Photo: Sharon Jefferies

Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is a simple enough looking plant, but it has great importance to living systems, both human and non-human. It evolved from fresh water and migrated to the ocean in relatively recent geological time. Eelgrass shoots act like crab grass or strawberry plants in that they grow most successfully by rhizomes, or underground roots. One plant in a large meadow can be the parent of thousands of shoots, as they clone in muddy

sandy substrates in shallow protected bays and estuaries in most temperate marine areas of the world. The intricate weaving of the underwater blades afford shelter for salmon from the hungry foraging of Bald Eagles, and the minute algae on the blades feed the small crustaceans called copepods that swim near the muddy bottom which in turn feed the outmigrating salmon fry from freshwater streams. The plants are so popular with salmon that eelgrass meadows have been compared to salmon highways in the Pacific Northwest.

The high biological diversity available in eelgrass systems provides food for a range of organisms in several ways. In the Trent River delta on Vancouver Island, for example, 124 species of birds have been identified, over 38,000 individuals. Forty-eight percent were observed using the intertidal eelgrass (*Zostera japonica*) of the delta for feeding, foraging or preening at some time during the year (Harrison and Dunn, 2004).

All watersheds end eventually at the shoreline. Thousands of kilometres of rivers, creeks and drainages provide freshwater flows and nutrients to anadromous fish and their habitats, including coastal wetlands and nearshore coastal waters containing eelgrass beds. Trees and lower canopy plants along the upper shore provide shade and insects for shallow water fish, which then

provide prey for larger birds, fish and marine mammals. When we choose to modify the shore with hardened walls to protect shoreline properties from coastal erosion, we create borders that cut off the feeding of shorelines by watersheds. Cutting off the natural flow of nutrients from the land to the shore is akin to blocking an artery in the body. Border making can be dangerous to marine life as well as others living downstream.

What we decide to do within our watersheds affects the quality of nutrients reaching our shores. The pesticide used to kill the aphids on the roses might also inadvertently kill the shore crab; the fertilizer used freely on the lawn might be contributing to the algae bloom blocking the light for the underwater garden of eelgrass in front of a property.

A network of conservationists are working together to locate and in some places restore eelgrass habitats along the coast of B.C. They recognize there are no borders between land and sea. Whether they are in Kitimat or Cowichan Bay, these members of the BC Community Eelgrass Network are making a difference in eelgrass conservation. Twenty-three coastal communities are "giving back" to the sea. For more information on how you can help, please contact the Seagrass Conservation Working Group at seachange@shaw.ca



Pandalus in Eelgrass Photo: Sharon Jefferies

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF SPARTINA

by Jill Peers, Land Trust Alliance of BC

I should keep an eye out for *Spartina* spp., an invasive grass species with the potential to severely impact intertidal habitats along BC's coast. *Spartina* spp, commonly known as cordgrass, are perennial salt-tolerant grasses originating from England, Chile and the Eastern US.

Although these grasses can be highly valued in their native habitats, *Spartina* has had significant negative impacts in the areas it has invaded. These impacts include: competition with native plants, modification of native habitat, and alteration of estuarine sedimentary dynamics (thus altering tidal drainage patterns). As a result, many studies have found that *Spartina* infestations can negatively impact shellfish, fish and waterfowl populations and habitat, such as eelgrass beds.

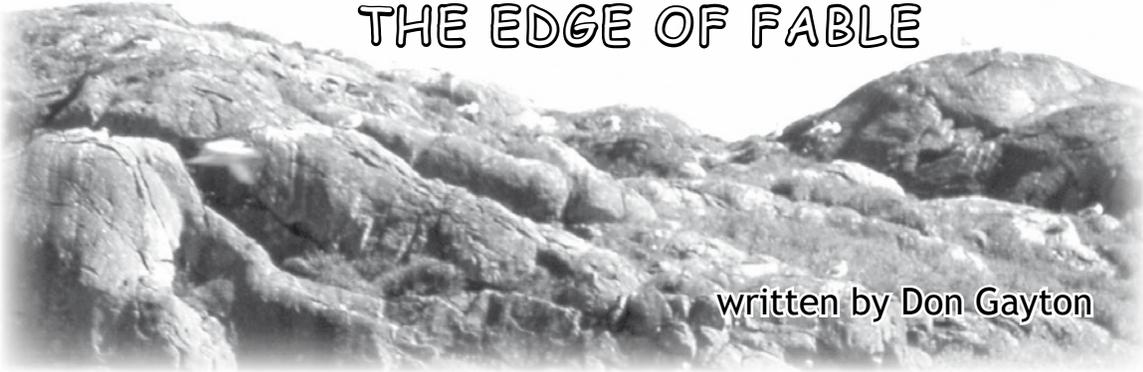
In the Pacific Northwest, *Spartina* was introduced into Puget Sound in the 1960s as cattle forage and to sta-

bilize shoreline sediments. Since then, it has had considerable impact on shoreline habitat throughout the area: out-competing native salt marsh species and disturbing shorebird and waterfowl habitat. In Washington State, significant efforts utilizing a combination of manual, mechanical and chemical removal techniques have been applied to control the spread of *Spartina* (considered a "Class A" noxious weed in the State). Despite these efforts, there are still over 8,500 acres of intertidal habitat that are covered by the grasses in Washington.

(Continued on Page 27)



THE EDGE OF FABLE



written by Don Gayton

All week the tiny island of Mitlenatch called to me, as I taught a writing course on nearby Cortes Island. Seeing a small, uninhabited island, splendidly alone in the middle of British Columbia's Georgia Strait and being unable to reach it, is an excellent prescription for fable. During class breaks I would go outside and stare fixedly at the island. I had heard stories about Mitlenatch, how its small size, together with its position in the middle of an open stretch of water, meant its climate and vegetation were totally different from the coastal rainforest regions that surround it.

Mitlenatch became more and more fabulous to me as the course wore on. In my mind it became an exotic, treeless desert. Next it morphed into a land populated by strange and wonderful beasts, and bizarre flowers of every description. Then it became a shape-shifter, now appearing close, now far off on the horizon.

In class, I volunteered the information that Mitlenatch was a forty hectare ecological marvel and that I, an ecologist from the Interior, had never visited it. Finally, one of my students, Maurice, a grizzled Cortesian oyster farmer, agreed to take me there, but only upon one condition.

"Great. What's the condition?" I asked.

"After the visit, you must bear witness to the Presenting of Arms of the Cortesian Spud Gun Militia," Maurice said, gravely.

"Absolutely," I agreed, having no idea what he was talking about.

Maurice's boat was what you call a working boat, an open eighteen-footer with plenty of gas cans, few frills, and a thin, crunchy layer of oyster shuck underfoot. The seats were eminently practical: legless former bar stools bolted on to plastic milk crates. Maurice fired up the big old Mercury outboard and soon we were in open water, sliding laterally up and over long, rolling swells. The water was not at all rough, but the swells put the boat into a rocking-horse motion highly disturbing to land-lubber ecologists. I fixed my attention on Mitlenatch in the distance, trying to ignore the periodic alarms coming from somewhere near my esophagus.

Maurice said something to me, but he was inaudible over the noise of the engine. I moved closer and leaned toward him.

"The native people called the island Mahkweelaylah, meaning the closer you get, the farther away it appears," Maurice shouted. "Do you want a beer?"

I hastily declined. Looking back to the island, hoping the fixed point of reference would quiet my stomach, I saw what Maurice was talking about. Sure enough, the island which at first looked to be only a few minutes away, now appeared quite distant, with a vast stretch of open, very swollen water between it and us. After an interminable, rocking-horse ride, we finally approached the east shore. I realized the trick Mitlenatch plays on people; with no trees on its horizon, no houses, and no other islands near it, the island gives the eye nothing to calibrate size against. A simple trick of perspective, I told myself.

By now we had rounded the south point, and what I first took to be lumpy black rocks turned out to be a fine herd of massive California sea lions. The air above us was thick with glaucous-winged gulls, harlequin ducks, surf scoters, ravens and crows. Gawky double-breasted cormorants festooned the rocks, and bonded pairs of oystercatchers picked delicately along the shore. An eagle passed overhead, and as it did so, hundreds of nesting birds swarmed, herding the predator away from their rocky nursery. As Maurice gently steered the boat in toward a small bay, we passed a clutch of fat harbor seals.

The incredible biological abundance continued as we stepped ashore. Drifts of pink sea blush, interspersed with yellow monkey flower and blue camas, were strewn artistically across the rocky slopes. What I had labored so mightily to achieve with my own domestic landscaping, hauling rocks and moving soil like a feudal serf, nature had achieved here effortlessly. Slopes of black, primeval rock alternated randomly with small, level depressions where soil accumulated. In these depressions tiger lily, alumroot, saxifrage, brodiaea, chocolate lily and saskatoon and Pacific sanicle were all in flower. Some of the

tinest depressions supported only one plant, like the elegant coastal rough fescue. The shallow and south-facing basins harboured prickly pear cactus, whose fragile yellow blossoms contrasted with aggressive spines. This was the true garden, of lush abandon, of beauty without purpose or audience. The interweavings of color and delicacy against a background of massive, inhospitable stone reminded me of Claude Monet. But if Monet were to have seen Mitlenatch, I believe he would have laid his brushes down out of sheer respect.

Ecologists call these types of habitats vernal pools: the surrounding rock sheds water and nutrients, which collect in the small closed basins. Because of the temporary abundance of resources and the lack of competition, vernal pools tend to develop a very specialized and exotic flora. The one thing that all vernal pool species have in common is a rapid and early, lifecycle. Once the rain stops in the summer, the rocks begin to heat up, and the stored water is exhausted, the once-lush vernal pool turns dry as a potato chip until the rains start again in the fall.



I was reluctant to leave the island, but Maurice reminded me that we had to check his prawn traps, pick up some oysters and return in time for the Presentation of Arms. As we slowly pulled away from shore, I gazed into the blue-green depths, wishing I could explore the underwater abundance as well. Situated at the privileged confluence of Georgia Strait's northern and southern tides, the waters of Mitlenatch are as rich as its land. The island and its foreshore are a provincial park; it will be a measure of us as British Columbians, if we can respect the riches of Mitlenatch forever.

Back at Maurice's snug home, tucked under the cedars of Cortes, we had a delightfully messy feast of fresh oysters, prawns and beer. Utensils were not offered, or requested. By the time we were finally finished, our respective beards were smeared with garlic butter, prawn juice, and cracker crumbs, and neither one cared.

It was time to talk of the Cortesian Spud Gun Militia. Maurice drained one last half-shell, opened another beer for each of us, and began the story.

"You've seen those big yachts cruising by to the east of us, eh? Well, they're all headed for Desolation Sound, which is the playground not for the rich, but for the super-rich. Every now and then one of those millionaire types gets bored with their private island in the Sound,

and starts sniffing around our beloved Island of Cortes. They get the idea they can buy up a big chunk of island property, fence it off, and build a monster mansion, or what we call a starter castle, so they can come up and live in it for two or three weeks every year. Now we Cortesians are pretty much plain folks, nothing fancy. We're fishermen, gardeners, back-to-the-landers, and pensioners, and we aim to keep the island safe and affordable for us.

"Now you're no doubt wondering what this has to do with the Spud Gun Militia," said Maurice, as he settled back in his chair.

"Earlier on, when one of those big yachts cruised by, a bunch of us would go down to the dock and moon them. But then we decided that mooning sent entirely the wrong message--made us look like a bunch of pacifists. So we created the Cortesian Spud Gun Militia. The Militia's ready at a moment's notice, to man the beach-heads as soon as one of those hundred-foot luxury yachts start snooping around our island. And now that you

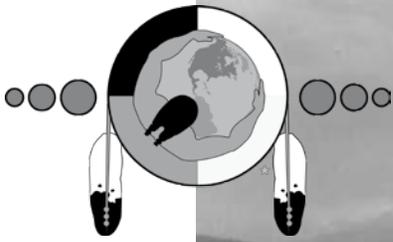
mention it, the time is exactly—eleven twenty three pm—which means it's time to Present Arms."

We stepped outside into enfolding quietness of cedar and starlight, and filled our lungs with night air the texture of velvet. Maurice went to the toolshed and returned with an eight-foot spud gun, a real beauty. The combustion chamber was made of five-inch diameter PVC sewerpipe. It was fitted out with a hard-wired Bic barbecue lighter ignition system, a screw-on, gasketed breach, and ergonomic hand grips. The style, construction and features made this spud gun a true classic of the genre.

"Most of the other Militia guys have gone with a straight three-inch diameter gun, but the five-inch combustion chamber, stopped down to a three-inch barrel, was my invention," Maurice said proudly. "It packs way more punch."

Maurice deputized me as a Militia subaltern, and handed me a large potato he had brought from the kitchen. Following precise instructions, I forced the potato down into the sharpened muzzle, making an airtight, potato-to-PVC seal. Meanwhile, Maurice shook a can of hair-spray vigorously. "Paradoxically, the cheapest brand of

Continued on Page 23



THE FIRST NATIONS LAND TRUST

by J.R. Linkevic, Director, First Nations Land Trust



Osoyoos Lake, 1948 from the south east looking north: Stock Photo in Penticton

The First Nations Land Trust was formed in January 2006 to find new ways to meet the needs of the aboriginal community in protecting land.

As the original First peoples, contemporary First Nations need to develop tools to meet their needs in developing methods of protecting endangered habitat and threatened species. To accomplish this means finding contemporary tools and ways that will continue to meet the age-old preservation of environs as our forefathers have been well-entrusted to do. In terms of contemporary issues, most people do not realize the differences an invisible line makes between Indian reserve lands and non-reserve traditional territories.

While most formal land trusts or conservancies are able to protect land by exchange of value for taxable benefits and the like, such tax receipts do not mean much on federal land that is mostly not taxed, containing peoples who, if their situs for employment or work is on-reserve, are also not taxed. In short, having a tax receipt to enable protection of land in this context, which is a valuable commodity in today's world, is meaningless.

The First Nations Land Trust is centred in the Okanagan, and is a provincial non-profit registered society, working with various First Nations in B.C. and elsewhere. Its primary task is to find ways of protecting lands that have such immense value (and for the most part are undeveloped to any extent) for future generations of Indigenous peoples, and indeed, all Canadians to enjoy. The First Nations Land Trust has applied for charitable status from Ottawa.

Our mandate is to find ways to be able to protect these lands and educate the general populace about the

importance of continuing the knowledge that every element of life is important, not just to humans, but to everyone and everything. This is not to say stop all development -- it is to clearly state development must be carried out in such a fashion as to enable protection of habitat and species while enabling economic development ventures to take place. Too many times there is the "Redwing Resort" being developed, ironically carrying their namesake, where no Redwing Blackbirds live anymore because of the destruction of the very habitat where they used to live!

We eagerly look forward to finding ways to assist other land trusts to take on the same mission as we have, and of finding ways to see how other land trusts can assist us in finding out how to accomplish our goals considering the different tax status of reserve lands and the very different social and cultural conditions. As the original "caretakers" of the land from time immemorial there is much to share.

Our vision is to enable sensitive, considerate developments where the urban meets the suburban, or where the city meets the wilderness and to find ways of allowing the wild to coexist with the developments. Meaningful contemporary urban architecture can be a good thing. There are ways our vision can meet with those who share the dream of a better and more plentiful world for our future generations.

They are, after all, counting on it!

Contact Information:

First Nations Land Trust, RR 3, S 25, C 130

Oliver, B.C. V0H 1T0 Phone: (250) 859-7209

Email: info@fnlt.org website: <http://www.fnlt.org>

MAPPING THE NORTH OKANAGAN



"The North Okanagan Valley is experiencing intense development pressure affecting grasslands, one of BC's most threatened ecosystems"

Photo: Carmen Wong

Maps can be a powerful tool to facilitate change. By simplifying complex information, maps can help people visualize and compare relationships between various elements on our landscapes and in our communities. The classic example of this took place in London in the 1850's when John Snow used mapping to identify the relationship between deadly cholera outbreaks and contaminated water, undoubtedly saving many lives. Mapping is now being used in the North Okanagan as a conservation tool to help guide development away from biologically sensitive areas and build community awareness of environmental issues in the region.

In 2001, the Allan Brooks Nature Centre began a Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) of the North Okanagan, a process that is currently in its final stages of completion. The Coldstream Vernon Hill SEI will complete an Okanagan Valley wide assessment, thereby providing consistent ecosystem data throughout the entire valley. This inventory provides important information concerning sensitive habitats in the North Okanagan by mapping out areas that are important for a number of "at risk" species and combining these individual species habitat needs to create maps showing the most biologically important areas in and around Vernon. The intention is that this information be used to guide development to areas that will have the least impact on sensitive habitats.

To help make the information from the SEI in the Vernon area, as well as similar Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) available to the public, an online map was developed through the Community Mapping Network. The North Okanagan Resource/Habitat Atlas (NORHA) integrates SEI and SHIM information, as well as over 150 other data layers, including orthophotography, hydrological information, hiking and biking trails, bus routes, and official community plan data. One of our goals is for NORHA to be used as a conservation tool for community members, allowing anyone with access to a computer and internet to easily access information about sensitive ecosystems in the area. By making this information available online, community members can easily log on and learn about issues facing the community and gain

important background knowledge to help participate in community planning activities. Users can create and print their own maps based on the information they would like to see. These maps can be used in community planning exercises, such as the revisions of the Vernon Official Community Plan, or to pressure politicians to protect ecologically sensitive areas.

This summer, several projects are being undertaken to help make NORHA both more informative and interactive. The SEI information available on the internet is being expanded to further increase the body of knowledge available and make this information easier to access. Additional trail layers are being created and enhanced with informative photos, interpretive videos and information related to SEI. Another project seeks to visually document historical habitats, landscapes and vistas in the Vernon region by collecting and posting photographs of different areas in and around Vernon to drive home the incremental effects of development on the region. A creek cleanup being organized for September will use NORHA to register volunteers online and springboard them into the map, providing exposure to SHIM data for local waterways and generate greater exposure to information about the importance of creeks and riparian areas and the local impacts on these creeks.

Creating the capacity for citizens to become involved in planning processes is an important way for individuals and groups to affect change in their communities. Given the right tools and knowledge, people can be empowered to stand up for what is important to them, protect the environment, and make their communities a better place to live.

Kyle is an environmental planning coop student working with the Allan Brooks Nature Centre for the summer of 2007. For more information, see the NORHA website <http://www.shim.bc.ca/atlases/nord/index.cfm> call the Allan Brooks Nature Centre (250) 260-4227, or email hillman@unbc.ca.

OKANAGAN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR by Patrick Allen and Bryn White

Balancing conservation that encompasses entire landscapes as well as for specific sites and species is challenging. Developing shared objectives with more than a handful of diverse organizations at the table is equally challenging. In the case of the Okanagan Ecological Corridor, both are happening.

The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) was one of the first Partnerships of its kind – a collaborative initiative of diverse partners working towards shared conservation objectives. Since its inception in 2001, other models have been developed in the East Kootenay and the South Coast, adopting similar approaches that meet the particular needs of the region.

The SOSCP's original mandate has been, among other things, to maintain the ecological corridor between the arid ecosystems to the south and the interior grasslands to the north. Initially, the SOSCP boundaries were delineated to focus conservation activities in the South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys – both nationally recognized for richness, rarity and risk. As the SOSCP matured, it became clear that objectives for sustainability, biodiversity conservation and species recovery would not be attained unless there was cooperation at a larger scale.

In May 2006, the SOSCP, Allan Brooks Nature Centre and Grasslands Conservation Council began to determine local interest in developing a partnership between government, NGO's, First Nations, and individuals interested in conservation initiatives in the North and Central Okanagan. Since then, representatives of over 30 organizations have met on a regular basis to develop a vision and a framework for the Central and North Okanagan that compliments conservation efforts in the South Okanagan Similkameen and effectively establishes a holistic basin-wide approach.

The new conservation program in the North and Central Okanagan is off (and on) the ground – The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP). Like the SOSCP, the intent of the program is to approach shared initiatives through facilitation, education and provision of information rather than through advocacy or regulation. A common goal of the partners is to work together to maintain the rich biodiversity of the area, including species at risk, and maintain a viable ecological corridor between the deserts to the south and the grasslands to the north.



The Badger is one of the 10 threatened species identified in the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory" maps soon to be available on NORHA Photo: Richard Klafki

The OCCP will build on previous efforts and models of the South Okanagan-Similkameen and East Kootenays, as these initiatives have resulted in protection of significant portions of the landscape, successful stewardship projects, informative research, and excellent publications. The OCCP will also draw heavily from resources such as the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Okanagan, Sensitive Ecosystem Inventories for several sections of the region and diverse mapping resources to identify priorities, set goals and targets, and monitor progress.

Each of the conservation programs work to expand community involvement in conservation, encourage community level planning that supports land use decisions, enhance stewardship on private and public land, and negotiate acquisition and protection of key habitats, with attention to species at risk found in the area and ensuring that additional species do not become threatened. Effective stewardship of the landscape will conserve important habitats and the key ecological values that have always attracted people to this area.

On May 16th, 2007 the OCCP celebrated its launch at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre in Vernon with 23 partners representing local, regional and provincial government, NGO's, and diverse organizations focused on conservation efforts in the region, signing a statement of cooperation that recognizes their commitment to work together towards the goals of the OCCP. The SOSCP has expressed support for the new initiative through the development of a special Memorandum of Understanding, and continues to be committed to working collectively on shared biodiversity conservation objectives for the entire Okanagan ecological corridor.

For more information on the SOSCP or OCCP – contact Patrick Allen at pmallen@telus.net or Bryn White at bryn.white@gov.bc.ca.

THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN PARKS AND WILDLIFE TRUST CHANGED ITS NAME TO THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN LAND TRUST (COLT) IN JUNE, 2007.

The Central Okanagan Land Trust formed in 1991, is dedicated to preserving, conserving and fostering nature or wildlife sanctuaries, parks or reserves in the Central Okanagan of British Columbia. COLT owns two properties, and they also hold several conservation covenants.

Hugh Westheuser, a Board member of both COLT and the LTABC suggested that the name change was made to market themselves more directly. He said, "We are the little land trust with a lot of kick!"

The Central Okanagan Land Trust accepts cash gifts, which it uses to promote conservation, and gifts of land for preservation. COLT may also accept covenants on land in the Central Okanagan.

Continued from Pg. 18

hairspray makes the most effective propellant," he said, as he sprayed a long blast into the combustion chamber, and quickly screwed the breech back into place.

Hoisting the weapon to his shoulder, bazooka-style, Maurice yelled "PRESENT ARMS!," and flicked the Bic. A shockingly elaborate cauliflower of purple and orange flame burst from the muzzle. A split-second later came the wet, potato-sounding explosion, like a popgun on steroids, and a humble Russet No. 2 was flung deeply into the starry and cedar-filled night, in the general direction of Desolation Sound.

.....
Someday, I should like to take the word fabulous back from the Hollywood types who stole it, and return the word to its original meaning. Then I could debate whether the ecology of Mitlenatch was more fabulous than the human culture of Cortes, or whether that comparison was even a valid question for debate. Perhaps the important thing--for sanicles, oyster farmers and ecologists--is to live as close as possible to the edge of fable.

Don Gayton is an ecologist and writer living in Summerland. His latest book, Interwoven Wild, is published by Thistledown Press.

THE NARAMATA CONSERVATION INITIATIVE has recently become a registered charity and will soon operate independently from its initial sponsoring agency. An LTABC member since March 2006, NCI has been operating as a project of the Sage Centre, a federally registered charity based in Vancouver that incubates environmental and social justice projects. NCI project director Craig Henderson expects that NCI will become autonomous from Sage now that registered charity status

has been received. Henderson expects that NCI's work in the community will primarily be as a land trust, but much of the activity will involve other environmental and conservation initiatives.

Since the project formed in June 2006, NCI has been active in: promoting environmentally-sustainable housing by opening a green building resource centre and staging an open house at a new off-grid strawbale house; organizing environmental film nights and a xeriscape (waterwise) gardening work-



Another vineyard development climbing up the hills. The Okanagan is experiencing rapid agricultural and urban growth, making its native pine forests, wetlands, grassland-shrub-steppe habitats like the Antelope Brush one of many disappearing spaces within one of Canada's three most endangered ecosystems.

Photo: Bryn White

shop; sponsoring a forum on the South Okanagan national park proposal; organizing and providing facilitation to a new citizen's committee promoting steps to reduce personal greenhouse gas emissions; and supporting heritage projects in Naramata during the community's Centennial year. Henderson is also working on projects to provide Naramata residents with cost benefit analysis for operating a hybrid vehicle, and studying the need for a community-based chipper/shredder machine to reduce the amount of vineyard, orchard and yard debris being burned or going to the landfill. Naramata is a community of 2,000 people, located on the eastern shore of Okanagan lake, 15 kilometres north of Penticton.



SURPRISES OF ECOSYSTEM AND SPECIES ADAPTATION

Photos by Andrew Fyson

written by John Millen, Denman Conservancy

In the later 1990s there was furious opposition on Denman Island to the wholesale clear-cutting of mature second growth forests. Forests, covering one third of the island, in the hands of one of BC's notorious loggers of private land, were cut down and trucked off the island.

In the aftermath Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) sued the logger (4064 Investments Ltd.) and, as a result of settling the legal case, acquired two extensive covenants and a quarter section of logged land (The Settlement Lands). As well DCA purchased Central Park, a nearby 60 hectare property, which had also been logged. See Kingfisher #14, winter/spring 2007, Central Park on Denman Island.

To our complete surprise, a population of the rare Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly was discovered on the Settlement Lands. In April/May of this year, with the aid of a colourful poster requesting sightings on Denman, widespread sightings were reported. Chris Guppy, a leading expert on the region's Butterflies visited the Island and walked transects on several logged properties.

The Taylor's Checkerspot is a medium-sized butterfly (4 cm wingspan) with dramatic colouration and patterning. It is associated with Garry Oak ecosystems and has historically been reported in areas from Victoria to Comox. It is listed as Endangered. A small population had persisted on Hornby Island, but surveys in 2001 and 2003 failed to find any specimens there. In and adjacent to the much loved and heavily used Helliwell Provincial Park there is an area of Garry Oak meadows, presumed to be the necessary habitat for the butterfly. At present the Denman population is the only known occurrence of Taylor's Checkerspot in Canada.

Sightings of the butterfly in May extended to the clearcut lands of Central Park and the Railway Grade Marsh Cov-

enant area, as well as to some other 'old field' locations. This summer and fall further studies will be undertaken.

Subsequently Denman Conservancy will have to consider what vegetation management strategies may be appropriate for these recovering clearcuts, or should we call them 'becoming Garry Oak Meadows'?

This year is the ten year anniversary of the purchase of Denman forest lands by 4064 Investments. Last winter several veteran volunteers were gathered around the Conservancy's battered boardroom table: "I hear some habitat specialists want to come up from Victoria to look at the Settlement Lands."

"Why? What do they expect to learn at this time of year?"

"Well they say they want to see what they might do to create this habitat for the Checkerspot on Hornby."

"Hah, that's simple; just send over 4064 to log Helliwell Park!"

So there is the irony. The clearcutting, which was in many ways truly an ecological disaster, profits at least one rare species. (The deer seem also to be thriving on the clearcuts). Many questions remain unanswered: Where did the Checkerspot come from? Was it always there, surviving in the woodland openings and old fields of Denman? What does it need to remain a healthy population? Do we know enough to even try to meet its needs?

The true significance of the story is in its reflection of the major gaps in our knowledge and understanding of our ecosystems. What other rare and valuable species may have been lost in the logging onslaught? Certainly we lost some red-listed plant communities, for instance from what were cedar-skunk cabbage wetlands, and most likely others.

We have made a good start by securing the lands for conservation in perpetuity; and now the magnitude of that undertaking is becoming apparent. We will need funds for management of the land and now, it seems, for research, planning and preservation of an endangered species.

PENDER ISLANDS CONSERVANCY ASSN.
by Sylvia Pincott



The Purple Martins found us! This is definitely akin to the proverbial needle in a haystack!

In March of this year, as part of the Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program, members of PICA and the Pender Island Field Naturalists, with the assistance of Parks Canada, installed twelve nest boxes on pilings offshore at two Pender locations – Shingle Bay, and between Medicine Beach and the Canal.

Purple Martins had all but disappeared from southwestern British Columbia, until a nest box program resulted in their return to Southern Vancouver Island and a few areas of the Lower Mainland over the last few years. Nest boxes provided on pilings in two Mayne Island bays last year fledged 35 young birds - who would be in the market for housing this year. It seemed rather fitting to offer Pender Island hospitality and invite them to locate here – as indeed they did! Well, at least what seems to be a pair and a spare!

Photographs indicate that these birds are what is referred to as sub-adults (yearling birds, fledged last summer – maybe even on Mayne Island!). There seems to be a mated pair, presumably nesting in one of the boxes, together with at least one unpaired “bachelor” sub-adult male. Martins have the tradition of returning in two groups from their winter sojourn in South America. The adult birds who have nested previously arrive first, laying claim to familiar nesting locations. They are followed a few weeks later by the sub-adults, who are challenged to find suitable nesting sites, and end up becoming established considerably later - as seems to be the case with our Pender birds.

We are told that ours is the only report of a new site being colonized this year. Now that we have been discovered it will be exciting to see how the word gets out next year when the birds return from their sojourn south!



CONSERVANCY'S STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT GROWS
ALONG WITH RARE SPECIES
FINDINGS

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) is grateful to receive \$101,645 in grants to continue its conservation, restoration, and stewardship of the natural values of the island. The grants are from the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Vancouver Foundation, Victoria Foundation (Islands Trust Fund), Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, and the Salt Spring Island Foundation. The funding will continue to fuel the ongoing successful stewardship programs on the island, locating and mapping rare and endangered animal and plant species, educating the public about these species, and contacting landowners who have a high likelihood of rare species on their properties.

One of the rare species receiving more attention by landowners is the sharp-tailed snake. These snakes are at the northern end of their range in Canada, occurring only at a few locations on the Gulf Islands and southern Vancouver Island. All of the known Gulf Islands sites are found on private property and, thus, are unprotected by law. At this time, the fate of this snake relies on good stewardship practices and voluntary protection of habitat by concerned landowners.

This spring the snakes were discovered by landowners at four new sites on Salt Spring Island. One of the new sites was in the Vesuvius area, while two additional sites have been identified in the Channel Ridge area. The fourth occurrence was discovered by observant landowners in the Long Harbour community. The snakes have never been found in the Long Harbour area before, so this represents an exciting new find, extending the known range of these elusive snakes on Salt Spring Island by eight km. Many of the landowners who found the snakes had heard or read about them through information provided by the SSIC through its Species at Risk Stewardship Program.

If you would like to learn more about these snakes and their habitat needs, see Issue 13 of *the Kingfisher*, or contact the Salt Spring Island Conservancy office at 538-0318 or email: ssiconservancy@saltspring.com.



THE POWER OF EDUCATED YOUTH

by *Geoff Huber, Habitat Acquisition Trust*

Travis Nagy and other volunteers collecting water quality data at Rithet's Bog.

Joni Collette is a student of the Restoration of Natural Systems (RNS) Program at the University of Victoria. Joni helped us out by completing a restoration strategy for a degraded creek system on one of our covenanted properties; the project also doubled as her final project for completion of the program. Joni used this project to design a program to rehabilitate the creek system on the covenant property while also providing information to help HAT staff work to reduce impacts to the drainage system upstream. Joni has moved on to finish the RNS program and is currently working with HAT to implement sections of her restoration strategy.

Anna Tran is a student in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Victoria and is helping HAT out with some very important data collection while fulfilling course requirements. She is working on a mapping project that will outline the level of Daphne laurel infestation on our Matson Conservation Lands property. Once we know the varying levels of Daphne infestation and where they occur, we can create a systematic plan to remove the Daphne, helping HAT save our already limited resources and staff time. After finishing her degree, Anna will certainly go on to work on all sorts of other restoration projects.

Eric Kopetski started out with HAT as a paid summer student and moved on to write a report on the restoration of the Galiano Heritage Forest that was burnt by a forest fire in 2006. The Galiano Heritage Forest is a parcel of land that has a shared covenant with the Galiano Conservancy Association and HAT. Eric was also a student of the Environmental Restoration course at the University of Victoria and received credit for the paper he wrote.

There have been many students that came before Travis, Joni, Anna and Eric to help out HAT while gaining valuable field experiences working in our natural systems. I would encourage all conservation groups to pursue this avenue of volunteerism, as it has helped us here at HAT to accomplish goals that may never have happened otherwise. Thanks to all!

Students at the tail end of high school or enrolled in a college or university can fill a unique and useful role in most non-profit, conservation based organizations. Usually between 16 to 28 years old, these folks are thirsty for on-the-ground experience, have solid backgrounds in theory and process and are full of spirit and energy. With a little pre-planning and direction, these students can do countless hours of research, data collection, data entry and analysis and provide another knowledgeable voice in the community. Those interested in finding these volunteers should check out local schools, colleges and universities. Speak to instructors of relevant programs as there may be curriculum projects for students that would also answer your needs. You never know where you may find a potential volunteer! Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) really appreciates a couple of key young volunteers our organization has had.

Travis Nagy is a student in the Camosun College Environmental Technology Program who helped us investigate the water quality of the urban wetland at Rithet's Bog. Travis worked for several months to collect water quality samples and data from incoming and outgoing drainages of this valuable urban wetland. His analysis has shown that in most cases the water quality is within an acceptable range, with the exception of higher than normal levels of ammonia and phosphorus. This data has helped HAT staff in directing its outreach to watershed residents to address relevant local problems. Travis has now moved on to work with a water analysis lab at the University of Victoria as part of his co-op employment experience and will undoubtedly keep working to investigate and educate us all on water quality issues.

IT'S EASY TO SUBDIVIDE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

by Clare Frater, Islands Trust Fund

It shouldn't be hard to do a good thing. This is especially true if you want to donate part of your property to protect its natural features.

Unfortunately, donors who decide to donate part of their land to a land trust often end up in a time-consuming, expensive subdivision process. Sometimes, they even find out that the local zoning, servicing, and/or access requirements prevent them from subdividing to create a new lot to give away.

However, there is good news. The Islands Trust Fund, as a conservation land trust and local government agency, is in a unique position to help private owners and developers in the Gulf and Howe Sound Islands (Islands Trust Area) quickly and easily subdivide their land for donation as a nature reserve.

Two Examples of Section 99 Land Donations

Trincomali Nature Sanctuary on Galiano Island (15 hectares) and Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve on Denman Island (51 hectares) were donated to the Islands Trust Fund using Section 99.

In both cases, the donors kept some of their land and subdivided off the rest for donation without the usual subdivision approval steps.

The donors saved time, reduced survey costs, cut their property taxes, and left a legacy benefiting the environment and the public.

By using Section 99 of the *Land Title Act of B.C.*, the Islands Trust Fund can help donors subdivide and donate their land without going through the usual subdivision approval processes. Donors can decide exactly what part of their land they want to donate without any minimum size restrictions on the lot they donate. Also, Section 99 subdivisions only need a reference plan instead of a full survey. Donors can save time, money, and effort and have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their special sanctuary will be protected and cared for in perpetuity by one of British Columbia's leading land trusts.

Donors who give ecologically sensitive land using a Section 99 subdivision may also reduce their income tax if they qualify for the federal Ecological Gifts program. In addition, donors may have a smaller annual property tax bill after BC Assessment re-assesses their now smaller lot.

The Gulf and Howe Sound Islands are fragile pieces of paradise that have countless special areas that need protection. By donating land, conservation covenants and money to the Islands Trust Fund, landowners can help create a conservation legacy for future generations. Thanks to the generosity and vision of our donors, the Islands Trust Fund now protects more than 900 hectares (2,224 acres) of natural and cultural values on 65 properties with a combined value of over \$20 million.

For more information contact:

Islands Trust Fund www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca
#200—1627 Fort St, Victoria BC V8R 1H8
Phone (250) 405-5151 Toll Free via enquiry BC dial 1-800-663-7867, in Vancouver dial (604) 660-2421
Email iftmail@islandstrust.bc.ca

Spartina - marine invasive: Continued from Page 17

In BC, we hope to have caught the problem early enough to just apply mechanical and manual removal methods. *Spartina* was first found in British Columbia in 2003 in Roberts Bank. Since then, cordgrass species have been found in several places along our coast including Burrard Inlet, the Fraser River Estuary, Ship's Point (near Fanny Bay) and the Comox area. A map of species distribution can be viewed at: www.spartina.ca. To date, there have been three species of *Spartina* found in BC's coastal areas: *Spartina patens* (seacoast cordgrass), *S. densiflora* (dense-flowered cordgrass), and *S. anglica* (English cordgrass). Further background information on these species can be found on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_list/weed_list.htm), and a botanical key for species can be found at <http://herbarium.usu.edu/>.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to learn more about Spartina, and participate in activities to stop the spread of Spartina before it has a major impact on the BC coast. To find out how you and your organization can help, contact River Works at the Vancouver Aquarium: 604-659-3503 riverworks@vanaqua.org; or visit www.spartina.ca.

TLC EXPANDS ITS AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

By Ramona Scott, Manager, TLC Agricultural Programs



TLC The Land Conservancy has made great strides in natural and cultural heritage conservation during its ten-year history. Recently, the need to protect BC's agricultural land has become a major public concern and a growing demand on TLC's resources.

Only five percent of British Columbia is held within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), formally zoned for agricultural purposes. Farms today are threatened by the competing demand for residential, recreational and industrial development. The highest levels of natural biodiversity also occur on the same land¹. High land prices, declining farm incomes, and few new farmers stepping in to replace retiring farmers add up to serious challenges for the future of agriculture in BC.

Conservation as Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture

From its inception in 1997, TLC has recognized many good stewardship practices of farmers and ranchers. In 2001, TLC initiated the Conservation Partners Program (CPP) - a 'butterfly' label that provides recognition for farmers' commitment to conservation of wildlife habitat and biodiversity. The Program is evolving and growing.

¹ G.G.E. Scudder, 2003, *Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in British Columbia*. 'Biodiversity hotspot' refers to regions of high species richness - areas with the highest richness are mostly in the southern half of the province and the Peace - coincident with the agricultural lands.

With over 50 participating farmers and ranchers, and a goal of 50 more by 2009, the CPP is a first step in TLC's mission to protect agricultural land. Through the CPP relationship, farmers have the opportunity to become familiar with land trust tools. To date, two CP farms have registered conservation covenants: Linnaea Organic Farm on Cortes Island and O'Reilly Organic Orchard in Oliver. Others are interested in doing so. Another orchardist in the Okanagan is in the process of donating his land to TLC. This year, a 40-acre farm/forest property on southern Vancouver Island was donated to TLC with a life estate established for the landowner to continue to live on her property - TLC will ensure her farmland will be in food production. As a start, this summer TLC invited a local young farmer who recently completed an entrepreneurship course to plant some crops, and a neighbour has volunteered to help get the well back into use for irrigation by installing a pump donated by a TLC member. Two or three more young farmers may begin farming within the next few years as the community joins in to help prepare a Whole Farm Plan and support the revival of this farm.

Social sustainability is ingrained in the program as well. TLC's Conservation Partners represent a community of exceptional landowners who share a common understanding of their farm or ranch as part of a larger ecosystem. Economic sustainability comes from product

diversification and a large supportive local consumer base. TLC promotes stories about these farmers through its website and external communications. www.conservancy.bc.ca/conservationpartners

Madrona Organic Farm in Saanich Municipality's Blenkinsop Valley is a good example. On a diverse 27 acres, Natalie and David Chambers maintain a mix of 10 cultivated acres of mixed vegetables, open fields, and wooded areas – Douglas fir and a 3-acre restored Garry oak meadow – and two natural ponds. In 2004, to create a wildlife corridor connected to adjacent Mount Douglas Park, they began planting Douglas fir, Garry oak, arbutus, red alder and several other native tree species. Over 130 fruit trees have been planted to stabilize the farm's expansive, southwest facing slope. Madrona Farm is the happy home of many species of birds, including great horned and screech owls, eagles and herons. The farm gate at Madrona has a long line up of loyal customers to purchase freshly harvested produce most Tuesday to Saturday mornings.

A Farmland Trust for BC

While there are land trusts and conservation groups addressing the loss of threatened habitat, and food organisations promoting the importance of buying local food, few are addressing the essential questions related to current threats: "will there be enough farmland", "where is the next generation of farmers" and "how will farmers afford the land?" The health of people and ecosystems depends on sustainable local food systems. As a land trust, TLC is in a unique position to direct more of its efforts to protecting BC's farmland and ranchland where the food is produced and to support farmers and ranchers to produce that food.

The idea of a BC Farmland Trust has been raised many times in the past. It was contemplated at the birth of the agricultural land reserve (ALR) in the early 1970's. In 1998, Moura Quayle then-Dean of Agriculture at UBC recommended establishing a BC farmlands trust whereby citizens would be encouraged to donate land or cash assets to the trust to provide support for "beginning" farmers and for innovation². In 2003 Lawrence Alexander, on behalf of the Growing Green Project presented a paper which proposed various means and reasons for land trusts to invest in working farms, primarily suggesting purchase and leaseback modeled on the National Trust of the UK³. Over 80% of the land in the NT's care is farmed by 2000

² Moura Quayle, 1998, *Stakes in the Ground*. <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/polleg/quayle/summary.htm>

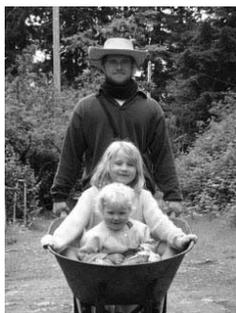
³ Lawrence Alexander, 2003, *Natural Allies: Land Trusts and Working Farms*, Presented to LTABC, July 2003 Seminar Series.

tenant farmers. The NT believes that agriculture can contribute to spectacular and distinctive landscapes, rich and diverse wildlife and wildlife habitat, historic features, public access, and wholesome affordable food.

Like several land trusts in BC, TLC has worked throughout its ten-year history to protect ecological and heritage values on agricultural lands. This year, TLC's Board of Directors went one step further to endorse a resolution which broadens TLC's mandate to include "protection of farmland for farming". TLC, modeled upon the National Trust of the UK, has the broad mandate, knowledge, experience, legal status and established mechanisms to conserve working farmlands. TLC now is engaged in building its capacity as BC's farmland trust by publicly communicating its intention and willingness to acquire agricultural land.

TLC proposes to increase its farmland trust role in order to help:

- ☀ Protect in perpetuity, farmland and its related agricultural, natural and cultural features for the well-being and prosperity of the community for which it serves;
- ☀ Educate, build awareness, and increase understanding within BC's communities about the value of farming and ranching, the urgency of farmland conservation, and the necessity to increase local food supply;
- ☀ Provide current farmers and ranchers with the legal mechanisms to save their farms, and new farmers and ranchers the ability to access farmland and build equity;
- ☀ Address several critical issues: food security; ecological education and biodiversity awareness; estate planning, protection of sustainable farming and ranching traditions and practices; and demonstration of multi-functional farms.



Alan, Ella, Nola
McPhail from Linnaea
Farm Photo: Tamara
McPhail

Community Farms Program

Farmland and farming cannot be protected by one land trust or one mechanism alone. It takes a whole community. Aware of this, TLC is partnered with Farm Folk/City Folk (www.ffcf.bc.ca) in a joint venture to develop, inform and support a network of community farms. The purpose is to combine experience and resources to ensure success on-the-ground. A Community Farms Program aims to expand local food production in BC by securing farmland, publishing lease agreement and other templates for legal tenure arrangements, helping new farmers access affordable land; researching the best practices of existing collectively-owned farms; and creating a network of new farmers, landowners, and community organizations to work in collaboration.

Community farms offer a model which is multi-functional, stable, and economically viable for small-scale sustainable agriculture - land is removed from the real estate market, farm businesses are secure in long term leases and equity, and farmers live on the land, either in owned or rented homes. Small-scale sustainable agriculture is labour-intensive, requiring 1-2 farmers per acre in production in contrast to highly mechanized, large-scale mono-crop farms.

In the past, farm labour depended on large families. Today most farms depend on off-farm labour. Imported seasonal labour is becoming the norm. Community Farms, on the other hand, function as a replacement for the large family, providing on-farm labour that is supportive and flexible to meet the diverse and seasonal requirements of farming.

Small-scale farming systems promote sustainability through crop diversity, specialty products, and healthy soil and ecosystems. Having a diversity of crops is not only more ecologically stable but offers insurance against single crop failure. The challenge of managing diversity (i.e. polycrop systems) is that planting, watering, and harvesting is less mechanized and therefore more labour-intensive. Community Farms have more people and skills to manage these systems.

Having more people on the farm makes raising children, caring for farm animals and taking breaks more realistic. Community Farms also means a larger network that extends beyond the farm to support it through consumer purchases, loans, investment, education, skills, moral support and celebration.

Imagine what the network could look like:

- ☼ Working farms protected forever from being taken out of agricultural production.
- ☼ Farms that are ecology-centered, financially viable, and socially responsible.
- ☼ Communities investing in their foodshed.
- ☼ Retired farmers and ranchers keeping land in production while passing on their knowledge and experience.
- ☼ New farmers and ranchers trained in all aspects of sustainable systems.

There are many tools, expertise and experience to draw from, but these pieces must be brought together in a way that demonstrates practical applications and success stories. To make it come alive we invite farmers and ranchers, other land trusts and organisations, estate planners, and government agencies to join the dialogue

NEW MAPPING RESOURCE - STANDARD FOR MAPPING ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

by Ryan Durand, R.P.Bio.

In December, 2006, the Resource Information Standards Committee (RISC) released a standard that describes how the various existing provincial mapping methods can be used to map ecosystems at risk and sensitive ecosystems. RISC (2006) defines ecosystems at risk as "ecological communities listed as special concern, threatened, or endangered by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) together with the abiotic and ecological processes at a particular site." Sensitive ecosystems are "at-risk or are ecologically fragile in the provincial landscape". The purpose of the standard is to enable users to map ecosystems at risk and sensitive ecosystems in a consistent manner that the CDC can use to track and assess occurrences.

The standard describes two methods to map the above mentioned ecosystems; using existing Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory (SEI) maps to identify potential occurrences and creating a SEI map from Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM), Predictive Ecosystem Map (PEM), or Broad Ecosystem Inventory (BEI) maps.

Descriptions of the above mentioned data sources are described and recommendations as to the most appropriate method based on project objectives and funding are made. The standard also outlines how ecosystems should be characterized, recommends field sampling procedures, proper map legends and symbols, and numerous other map components.

While this standard may be useful for some of the larger BC land trusts, most organizations will find that the resources and expertise required are above their means. As well, as it is based on provincial standards intended for landscape level mapping, it may not produce favourable results on small projects. Land trusts should be aware of the protocol, however, as it may prove to be a useful information source for future projects.

GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEMS RECOVERY TEAM (GOERT)

The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) is one of 54 Recovery teams in BC and one of over two hundred Recovery Teams in Canada. GOERT has been working since its creation in 1999 on identifying strategies to achieve its federally mandated goals. The first three approved recovery strategies are ecosystem-based, multi-species strategies: Maritime Meadows, Vernal Pools, and Woodlands. One single species recovery plan – the rigid apple moss has also been approved. More are in progress. Several Recovery Implementation Groups have been established: Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Plants, Conservation Planning & Site Protection, Restoration & Management, and Research. There are three steering committees that work under the Restoration & Management RIG: Invasive Species, Fire & Stand Dynamics, and Native Plant Propagation.

The Species At Risk Act (SARA) provides mandatory protection on federal lands and voluntary protection on provincial and private lands for listed species. GOERT is responsible for species at risk that are found primarily in Garry oak ecosystems. Landowner contact and consultation is part of the requirements under the SARA. GOERT believes that contact with private landowners should be coordinated to reduce multiple contacts, and it should be conducted locally whenever possible. GOERT's Species at Risk Outreach Specialist, Chris Junck is responsible overall for this work which overlaps with many land trust and conservation group's work.

To help ensure that this work is in collaboration with land trusts, the LTABC facilitated two workshops in 2006 and 2007. In December 2006 and again in March 2007 at the Seminar Series, GOERT held workshops with land trusts and conservancies located within the distribution of Garry oak ecosystems. Further, this spring, LTABC facilitated discussions on Denman Island in response to reported sightings of the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly on one of the Conservancy's properties. Collaborative actions and communications from these workshops and meetings have resulted in GOERT developing a number of products.

Top priority this summer has been the creation of a GIS database for the 117 important Garry oak ecosystem

sites identified by the GOERT Conservation Planning and Site Protection Recovery Implementation Group (CPSPRIG), which includes members from HAT, TLC, and SSIC. Mapping and data collection on sites

If you suspect there are species at risk at a site, but don't know for sure; GOERT can help by providing specialists to identify and confirm SAR through their Protection Fund, and assist with application for Habitat Stewardship Program funding to manage/protect sites.

is underway, and selection and ranking of priority sites will begin over the next year. Paper files with data, reports and other information have been created for each site, to provide background for those working on land protection projects. The initial mapping, site and species information will be available for review with the CPSPRIG and then shared with land trusts and conservancies on request. GOERT is particularly interested to know of sites that may have been missed in the initial mapping, and what sites have already been protected or have been partially protected, in order to update and add to the records.. GOERT is also working with the LTABC to identify protected Garry Oak sites through the BC Lands in Trust Registry, and to determine the best way to use the Registry to identify associated species that may also be protected.

GOERT met with HAT to discuss the ways in which the HAT Landowner Contact Database (LCD) can be used by the GOERT Species at Risk Outreach Specialist to avoid duplication of Landowner contact efforts. The utility of the LCD hinges on land trusts and conservancies working with HAT to learn how they can use it for their own work, and how they can share LOC data in future.

Other products being developed include a copyright-free image bank and a short power point presentation that can be used by land trusts and conservancies to explain GOERT and species and ecosystems at risk to a general audience.

GOERT has expanded its website (www.goert.ca) with new information, reports and products available for download. Included are a series of information sheets for local government, landowners and developers about "Protecting Garry Oak Areas During Land Develop-



native blue orchard bee in a common camas flower Photo: Elizabeth Elle



stunning Garry Oak, Burgoyne Pay Provincial Park, Photo: Gordon Scott

ment" and "The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook" which will be out in print form in September 2007.

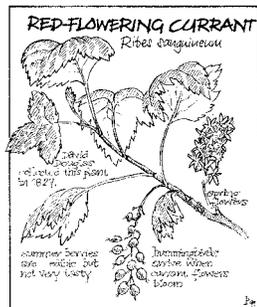
GOERT has created a Garry Oak Ecosystems Protection Fund to help land trusts and conservancies retain the services of SAR specialists to locate, confirm or document

species at risk during the spring field season, or to undertake restoration work related to SAR. As a rule, funds allocated to a given partner group will not exceed \$1,000 each year, although exceptions may be made where warranted. To date in 2007, HAT, SSIC, Islands Trust Fund, TLC and the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society will receive funding from the program. Contact Shyanne Smith at GOERT for more information, or to apply for funding.

GOERT and the LTA will work together on communications, with GOERT passing messages on to be dispersed through LTABC's networks. The Land Trust Alliance of BC is happy to help with any problems using the Protected Lands Catalogue database system or other questions about the BC Lands in Trust Registry. The Registry is being revised this year to accommodate provincial government and other provincial conservation groups' need to identify and map protected sites and their associated ecosystems and protected values.

If you suspect there are species at risk at a site, but don't know for sure; GOERT can help by providing specialists to identify and confirm SAR through their Protection Fund, and assist with application for Habitat Stewardship Program funding to manage/protect sites.

drawing of Garry Oak associated species, Briony Penn



RESTORATION ECOLOGY CONFERENCE:
SAVING THE PIECES-
RESTORING SPECIES AT RISK
held at the University of Victoria, June 15, 2007

*Summary of Relevant Conservation Initiatives
by Jillyayne Peers*

Grassroots Transboundary Ecosystem Conservation Efforts: Wildsight/Yellowstone to Yukon Cabinet-Purcells Conservation Plan
David Quinn (Wildsight Program Manager, Kimberly)

Declining populations of grizzly bears and mountain caribou makes conservation in the Cabinet-Purcells region of critical importance. Currently, habitat fragmentation and potential recreational impacts are drawing attention as key conservation issues in the Cabinet-Purcell area.

In this region, Wildsight and its partners are taking an on-the-ground approach to conservation that involves six core areas. These areas include: acquisitions and covenants on private lands (taking a science-based approach to focus efforts on key land values); community planning for wildlife; recreation access planning (presentations and voluntary actions by user groups); campaign support (for SAR); road mitigation program; research (in collaboration with universities); and outreach and education (conducted through poster and schools campaigns). For more information: <http://www.wildsight.ca/>

**Recovery of Vancouver Island Marmots:
A Progress Report**
Dr. Andrew Bryant

Considered to be one of Canada's most endangered species, the Vancouver Island Marmot has been the focus of conservation efforts for over a decade. Recent field research has indicated that survival rates of the marmot have declined, and the occurrence of high-mortality episodes has increased over the years. Studies using radio telemetry have found that predation kills (by cougars, golden eagles and wolves) account for 70% of deaths.

As such, several key issues need to be addressed in order for the population to stabilize. This includes a decrease in predation; a captive breeding/release program; and restoration of natural systems. At this point, the recovery strategy partners are undertaking a major captive breeding program. As a result of their work, there are now approximately 56 Vancouver Island marmots in the wild, and 171 in captive breeding facilities; resulting in a population growth rate of 1.31. To find out more, go to: <http://www.marmots.org/>.

**The Use of Policy in Restoring and
Protecting Species at Risk**

*Paul Kluckner (Regional Director, Env. Canada CWS) and
Karen Lewis (Director, Ecosystems Branch of MoE)*

In October 2006, the National Framework for SAR Conservation was approved by the federal government. This framework includes the SAR conservation cycle, which takes an adaptive management approach to conservation.

The Province is currently working on the BC Conservation Framework, which is due to be reviewed this year. The aim of the Framework is to be proactive in its approach to SAR, and takes a global approach to SAR in BC. As such, the BC Conservation framework has a planning tool with a prioritization component and a suggested management action component.

**The Bridge Coastal Restoration Program: A Triple
Bottom-line Approach to Restoration, Research and
Conservation**

Andrew MacDonald (BC Hydro)

The Bridge Coastal Restoration Program has 1.7 million dollars in annual funding, with two intakes per year for seed proposals. The Program funds research, basic restoration and conservation initiatives in selected watersheds where BC Hydro is active. BC Hydro is also considering placing covenants on some BC Hydro lands; and is also looking into the potential to support covenants on lands in close proximity to Hydro properties in order to promote conservation. For more information visit: <http://www.bchydro.com/bcrp/>.

**Species at Risk and Local Government: A Primer for
British Columbia**

Mike Pearson (Pearson Environmental)

Species at Risk and Local Government: A Primer for British Columbia, is a tool developed with the aim of aiding planners and local governments to consider SAR planning at the local level. The Primer is searchable according to species, area, and habitat type. It has various management categories which include factors such as the species requirements, threats, and strategies for local government. The Primer will be available over the web (through www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca) and on CD (to be released at the UBCM conference in the fall).

In the last few years there have been a number of Climate Change conferences and research, most focusing on mitigation – reducing the energy and transportation impacts from society on our climate. However, there is growing awareness of the role of conservation in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The LTABC with funding support from Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Real Estate Foundation and the Bullitt Foundation has contracted Sara J. Wilson and Richard Hebda to provide research that will help provide rationale for conservation and assist with planning strategies (through a Decision Support Tool) to help us plan for our conservation and stewardship work over the next decade.

Ecosystems play an integral role in the global carbon cycle by exchanging carbon with the atmosphere through photosynthesis, respiration, decomposition, and burning. As a result, large amounts of carbon are stored in plants, roots, and soils, including peat. Globally, forests and wetlands function as large terrestrial storehouses of carbon on Earth. The rich carbon banks on land and in our oceans hold back increases in the global concentration of greenhouse gases. In effect, they act as a brake against faster and more intense global climate change.

Given that global warming will continue to exert pressure on ecosystems throughout this century, protection of intact natural ecosystem areas and carbon-sensitive planning for land use and resource management will provide corridors, enabling plants and animals to adapt and migrate as the climate changes and their habitats migrate north.

From Sara J. Wilson, *Mitigation of Climate Change through the Conservation of Natural Areas* Report for LTABC to be released October 2007

If you've been wondering about carbon trading and carbon offsets, the Islands Trust Fund has provided us with some initial resources on the concepts:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0110/p13s02-sten.html> interesting article. The last paragraph drives it home. Carbon off-setting is a phase (currently popular) rather than a solution or destination.

<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/ConsumersGuidetoCarbonOffsets.pdf>
CA-CP's "A Consumer's Guide to Retail Carbon Offset Providers" attempts to wrangle a semblance of order from what one industry insider calls the "Wild West." It ranks offsetting companies on factors like transparency, third-party certification, their efforts to educate consumers, and how well they prove they're not selling the same carbon offset more than once.

(continued on page 41)

MUNICIPAL TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION AND MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Municipalities across Canada are beginning to realize their role in climate change mitigation and the need to educate and empower homeowners, businesses, and other organizations working within the district to integrate sustainable practices and processes, as well as conservation. In fact, according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, "Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (350 million tonnes) are under the direct or indirect control or influence of municipal governments."

It is indeed wonderful to see so many folks making lifestyle choices that outline a shift in personal perceptions about the steps we need to take in order to live sustainably with as little carbon footprint as possible. When I first moved to Oak Bay, I have to admit, I wasn't thinking about the area's close proximity to shopping, and how little I would have to drive when in need of a few groceries. I wasn't thinking about the local schools and many parks that would allow me to walk with my child over to the playground – negating the need for a car. And, I definitely wasn't thinking about the fact that I could grow my own veggies, keep bees and chickens, and hang up a clothes line in the backyard. However, nowadays, these 'small things' all matter to me a great deal, as I search for ways that I can reduce my demands on the Earth.

It was only seven years ago that I first moved to Oak Bay, yet so much in the world has changed since arriving to this community. I now appreciate, more than ever, what my community and neighborhood has to offer that allows me to easily reduce my carbon footprint and contribute to the global effort to encourage sustainability and environmental conservation.

A recent move to create a climate crisis task force, supported by the Oak Bay Green Committee, has the municipality evaluating and assessing its role in carbon dioxide reductions and possible initiatives to educate and build awareness within the community around conservation. It is also worth noting that Oak Bay has also launched a 'turn it off' campaign that will run throughout the summer. The goal is to reduce, wherever possible, the energy demands from municipal buildings.

Here are a few other suggestions for municipalities looking to reduce their climate change impact and encourage conservation:

- Implement a ban on pesticide use and encourage homeowners to plant native plant species that are suitable for their growing climate. These plants will grow strong and healthy in an environment that is well suited to their unique needs.
- Encourage municipal guidelines that allow urban

homeowners to keep bees, chickens and plant native plant species other than grass, on their boulevards.

- Institute an idle-free zone policy: place no idling signs in locations that tend to be 'hot spots' for idling such as schools, drive thrus, recreation centres and landfills.
- Start up soft plastic recycling drop off days. These can serve as community gathering locations where people can meet and share sustainable initiatives and ideas.
- Invite a local farmer to set up an organic pocket market – people can purchase healthy, locally grown food and feel good about supporting their local farms.
- Provide incentives for municipal workers to use alternative transportation to get to work: ride a bike; take public transport; or car share. Employees can feel good knowing they are reducing their CO2 emissions, improving their health, and setting a positive example.
- Encourage sustainable community events such as bike parades, luminaries, and paint-ins – discourage vehicle parades, air shows and other events that rely on the use of fossil fuels for entertainment.
- Implement a municipal tree donation program. With the increase in storms and ensuing loss of mature trees, there is a need to educate the community on the necessary role trees play in encouraging biodiversity and improving the over-all beauty and health of our urban neighborhoods.
- When initiating major structural changes in the built environment use smart growth strategies: plan streets that encourage cyclists and pedestrians. Integrate green space and parks in every neighborhood. Limit parking and increase bike locks, safe and comfortable bus shelters and other strategies that will encourage individuals to use sustainable transportation.

• Support tree protection by-laws and the formation and restoration of native ecological systems. It's amazing how much habitat can be created when we shift our horticultural practices to reflect traditional methods. Children can find joy in seeing and learning about the many species that thrive in their urban and rural backyards.

The little things do matter – from the clothes on the line, to the veggies in the backyard. Municipalities can do their part by providing the necessary infrastructure and legislation that supports sustainable living. The efforts by concerned citizens, businesses, and local politicians, make the light at the end of the tunnel a little closer each and every day.

Britt Karlstrom is owner of the environmental education group, GreenGatherings. She works as a climate change researcher, and provides guidance and support to businesses looking to develop in-house sustainability initiatives. You can contact her at 250-598-6506 or email at info@greengatherings.ca

GREEN VALUE

by Tim Pringle, The Real Estate Foundation of BC

British Columbia is abuzz with ideas and enterprises that are green. The Speech from the Throne on February 13 devoted a third of its content to British Columbia's "reputation for environmental leadership." With rhetorical flourish the provincial government noted that "14% of British Columbia's landscape is protected" for nature and people; that "groundwater protection and a drinking water action plan are in place" (Water Act – BC Reg. 299/2004); and that the province will "take action to halt and reverse the growth in greenhouse gases." The speech restated the government's commitment to the "Green Cities Project" that was first announced by the Premier last fall.

Will these declarations lead to something substantial? Indications are positive. The Ministry of Environment now has a Water Stewardship Division – not a water management division. To me, this reads like an invitation for Land Trust Alliance of BC members that focus on watershed, wetlands and riparian issues to offer their services, as consultants and collaborators, to the provincial ministry and to local governments.

In the midst of our wet spring, the Land Trust Alliance of BC made its own declaration of green value by releasing the publication *People Protecting Places*. This inviting compendium offers "inspirational and informative details on the many ways people can protect the natural and cultural diversity of special places in British Columbia." One project example, the Lehman family's gift, now the Lehman Springs Conservation Area, is a wonderful addition to the public trust. Each issue of *The Kingfisher* reminds us that land trusts and conservancies are steadily and impressively at work.

The Real Estate Foundation believes that Vancouver Island offers considerable leadership regarding implementation of green value strategies. For the Foundation, the term 'green value' is not merely a synonym for environmental sustainability; rather, green value refers to the

inseparable connection between the ecology and mans' settlement activities on the landscape.

Practitioners on Vancouver Island are leaders in several ways. There are examples of green infrastructure approaches to development at Dockside Green, Westhills in Langford, and Vancouver Island Industrial Park. Designing with nature (using natural and engineered wetlands) strategies to handle rainwater and, increasingly, grey water occur in the Colquitz watershed in Saanich and at the Hawthorne development in Nanaimo to name just two examples. The Comox Valley Land Trust is pursuing a Regional Conservation Strategy for "long-term conservation of lands for ecosystem health and

human well-being." Several agencies, including the Comox Strathcona Regional District, are funding the project which is a declaration of the value of natural capital.

In view of this innovative context on Vancouver Island, the Foundation has embarked on a multi-year strategy to persuade local governments to adopt a green value approach to considering development permit applications. The goal is to support communities to examine how they might achieve more benefits than liabilities when accommodating burgeoning demands for real estate development. The

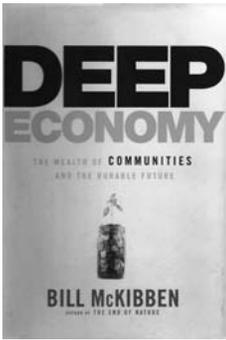
Foundation is receiving a very positive response and building a collaboration of many partners. There will be a detailed report in the next issue of *The Kingfisher*.

Communities in Transition - Update

At the June 2007 Real Estate Foundation Planning and Policy Session the Board of Governors supported the vision, mission and core goals of the proposed CIT 2007-2010 Strategic Plan. The REF Governors have committed funding for the next three years to continue and enhance CIT based on the Plan. Program activities should be moving forward over the upcoming months. The Foundation is working on official correspondence to launch the newly funded program. In the meantime, feel free to check out our new brochure and the Strategic Plan Summary on the new website at www.communitytransition.org.



Lehman's Springs Conservation Area: muskeg bogs and deep pools which "pump out about 300 gallons a minute, year-round - never changes. It flows down into 9-mile creek, which flows down to Osoyoos Lake." (Dale Lehman, donor)



DEEP ECONOMY
*The Wealth of
Communities and the
Durable Future*

By Bill McKibben

**Reviewed by
Sheila Harrington**

As use of the word, “sustainable” has morphed into everything from rabid growth to advancing industry, McKibben’s application of the term “durable” lends credence to an enduring future we might yet create. Speaking at the US LTA Rally in 2006, I heard Bill introduce the ideas documented in his latest book *Deep Economy*, which offers specific examples of societies and communities who have taken their own future in hand. These groups have done so by designing economies not geared to growth, but rather to its underlying goal – providing for human happiness in a healthy world. The good news is McKibben gives examples of HOW communities are achieving happiness, creating durable communities, and reducing impacts on the Earth’s ecology.

Dedicated to Wendall Berry, the book’s primary thrust is that “growth.” and “more” do not result in better. In fact, McKibben, like other researchers, points out that greater wealth no longer makes us happier. One British study he cites among many, shows that happiness is predicated on health, followed by factors such as marriage, political attitudes and feelings about recreation and family, ahead of “goods and services you can buy” which was ranked 12 out of 30 studied factors. A recent US youth poll noted that family, friends and relationships were the key happiness factors, material goods were not mentioned at all.

Our modern society’s ideals of the primacy of the individual, along with the other false god of efficiency, has led to diminishing of human happiness, along with the destruction of ecological and human communities. This can be contrasted with noted global trends such as increasing GNP’s and global temperatures, along with reductions in water, oil, habitats, and healthy soils. McKibben cites studies revealing what makes people happy - creativity and connectivity – a diverse community.

Unfortunately, First World countries continue to pride themselves on technological solutions, rather than seeing the basic error in its foundations. As the former President of Harvard, former chief economist of the World Bank and secretary of the US Treasury purports: “There are no ... limits to the carrying capacity of the earth that are likely to bind any time in the foreseeable future...The

idea that we should put limits on growth because of some natural limit is a profound error.” (Page 24)

Looking to the deeper, or more durable goals that our economy purports to achieve, McKibben, who could be described as an Ecological Economist, measures economic success by levels of human dignity, security and identity - things marketers hope we will seek to achieve through buying material goods. For example, he discusses the Indian state of Kerala, which is in direct contrast to the majority of India, where free trade has brought economic growth – but at a human cost. In Kerala, life expectancy is comparable to America; literacy approaches 100 percent; birth rates are dropping, voluntarily; and almost everyone has land of their own. This occurred after newly elected left-wing governments broke up the industrialized British plantations. Here, sharing of lands means vegetables are sold at market for less than agribusiness imports. Volunteer organizations help map villages, showing where water and soil relate to farms. And as McKibben concludes, “Kerala does little to raise the world’s temperature or to drain its oilfields.”

Rather than industrialized solutions, McKibben shows how smaller farms produce more farmers and better quality food, and can be more productive, especially if they collaborate on such things as water management, labour, marketing etc. He also dispels the myth of the tragedy of the commons, (based on the idea that individuals would be greedy and take more than their share) which he suggests is a result of hyper-individualism faced with older, more traditional common land practices. He gives examples of societies, codes of conduct, and economic systems where sharing and community systems work. Unfortunately, continued subsidies and funding go to big industrial privatized operations.

McKibben recommends that we move from global to local economies. Like several other recent books and articles suggest, he also recommends that we work less: “The more hours you work, the less satisfied you become with your life, ... the bigger your ecological footprint, too.” And of course, the busier we are, the less likely we will interact with each other, go the local market, or need each other for anything anymore – let alone share our time or give to others - our community.

As global trade leads to reductions in healthy communities and quality of life, global competition increases and “efficiency” threatens to reduce humanity to mechanistic widgets. McKibben is a breath of fresh air. Using his specific down to earth examples of deep economies, where local is paramount, creativity and reuse is cool, just maybe we’ll conserve both our human dignity and habitat for wildlife while creating a durable future for our children.

People Protecting Places – Public Outreach Campaign

Since our launch of this campaign in March of this year, Shaw TV has aired the two-minute PSA's we created, and various papers and magazines have published related articles about the case studies and land trusts in BC. Shaw TV (Duncan) came and interviewed several people at the Seminar Series launch event, in addition to filming a separate story on one of the case studies, the Leader Covenant, held by the Islands Trust Fund and the Salt Spring Conservancy. There were related stories we know about printed in the *Globe & Mail*, *Lake Cowichan Gazette*, *Comox Valley Record* and *Capital News* (Kelowna). The *Watershed Sentinel* put our poster image on their back cover. There was also a story on the *Early Edition* on CBC radio, Vancouver. *Focus Magazine* is doing a series on the Cases (including one printed in their July issue). We are now finalizing a contract with a Communications company to expand the dissemination of this campaign by creating two 30 second PSA's for commercial television, plus additional radio and print psas. We will also try some on-line advertisements. The campaign is designed to raise awareness and support to land trusts in BC, and drive them to our website where they can link to our member's websites. Of course, the ultimate goal is to increase support to BC Land trusts through volunteer involvement, membership, and donations of cash and significant land. Stay tuned!

Outreach to Professional & Environmental Organizations

The second part of this year's Outreach project is focused on land-use professionals, other environmental organizations and associated government agencies. We have attended seminars, mounted displays and networked at various Grasslands Conservation Council events this year. We also gave a 30 minute presentation at the newly formed South Coast Conservation Program held in Burnaby with more than 30 planners and conservation consultants in the spring. In addition to attending the Local Government and the Environment Conference in Richmond in June, we are now preparing a workshop for the Union of BC Municipalities annual conference in September – the focus this year is climate change.

As a result of several meetings with land use professional associations, we are now signing a Memorandum of Agreement to join forces on a combined conference for 2009. We are also scheduling several independent workshops on conservation tools and land trusts for the fall with planners and other land use professionals. Recent meetings with both government and other environmental organizations in BC has led to increased awareness of land trusts, and future discussions on combined approaches to conservation are under way.

Research

Expanding on the focus of Climate change, we are currently contracting with Sara Wilson and Richard Hebda to undertake research and create a report on *Conservation and Climate Change*. The report's purposes are two fold: To help conservation groups primarily and stewardship groups secondarily identify the priorities for focus over the next decade with climate change in mind. The second goal is to provide data and convincing rationale for the protection of nature with politicians, funders, and planning departments (esp. municipal). The initial drafts will be done by September's end. We are grateful to the Real Estate Foundation, The Vancouver Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their financial contributions to this research.

The topic of Water is another important concern. We have received a grant from the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund to contract Deborah Curran to prepare a report on *Options for Land Trusts to Acquire Water Licenses*. Our approach is one requiring initial research on existing protocols and actual practices in BC generally, and with land trusts specifically, with suggested increased use, guidance and costs of acquiring water licences for conservation. Secondly we hope to have opportunities to have an impact on the new BC Water Stewardship Action Plan including dialogue with the BC Ministry of Environment. Through this work, it is intended that an agreement can be reached with the Province to ensure that applications for water licenses with conservation as the main "use" will be accepted without defense, and preferably with little or no annual cost for the transfer or new acquisition of licenses for conservation. The report will be enhanced by additional research support by the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria (Faculty of Law) and the Polis Project on Ecological Governance, Water Sustainability Project.

Best Practices Update: We are updating the Best Practices and Template Documents' Collection. Thanks to the volunteer assistance of Karen Hudson, Kathleen Shepard, Bill Wagner, Kate Emmings, and Lynda Fyfe on our council, we are reviewing the collection, winnowing down some of the documents and updating it with new or revised ones. Ryan Durand and our new wonderful Executive Assistant Jill Peers are working on the overall coordination of the revision including having it available on-line, with the search function and other improvements to its organization more easily accessible. If you have conservation or stewardship policies or sample documents that would be useful for other regions, please contact jill@landtrustalliance.bc.ca.

Conservation and Stewardship Resources Available

In addition to the recent research and report, *Property Assessments on Conservation Lands*, we also continue to distribute the *Introduction to Conservation Covenants for Developers and Planning Departments*. Resources in CD format include the *LTABC Guideline to Baseline Inventories*, and the *Best Practices and Document Templates Collection*.

Islands in the Salish Sea – in its second printing: We are excited about the release of the second printing of our wonderful regional Atlas! A few things have been improved, and we hope that sales of the second edition will be as successful as the first. You could order some to sell within your community or organization as a fundraiser! Individual copies are \$44.95; Member orders of 3 or more are \$30.00 plus shipping.

Workshops and Networking

Our 10th annual Seminar Series at Cowichan Lake was a great success! We had more than 90 people attend this year. We opened with a moving talk by Dididaht Cultural Liaison Ralph Edgar (Halakwi), followed by an informative and supportive speech from Environment Minister Barry Penner, warmly presented by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Nancy Wilkin. Other treats included wonderful, informative presentations by Bill Merilees and Bob Pyle. The site visits and workshops were very useful and the evening entertainment by Todd Butler was nothing short of hilarious! Some of the overall comments on the evaluations included: *Great spirit, many happy people clearly buoyed by the support. This was the most useful seminar series I have attended. An excellent conference and good information, good connections and good food. Thank you and Happy Anniversary.*

Seminar Series 2008: April 11-13 we will host our annual education and networking event at Manning Provincial Park. Proposals or requests for Plenary speakers, workshops or site visits – in the snow – are welcome now. Please contact jill@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

The BC Land Summit – May 20-23 Whistler: We have signed an MOU with five other land professionals' provincial associations to co-host an extensive conference in 2009. They include: The BC Society of Landscape Architects, the BC Institute of Agrologists, the BC Association of the Appraisal Institute of Canada, the Planning Institute of BC and the Real Estate Institute of BC. The BC Land Summit will bring together these land professionals with BC's conservation professionals and their volunteer boards to network and learn from each for mutual benefit. We hope this multi-disciplinary conference will provide an opportunity to green and improve land use practices in BC for the protection of natural and cultural diversity.

Strategic Planning and other general assistance is offered through our office: If you need specific help, networking or assistance, or wish a facilitator to assist in your Strategic Planning, we do have funding for this.

Provincial / National Government Outreach:

In 2004 the provincial government created the BC Trust for Public Lands and the Conservation Land Forum. To date, these initiatives have helped secure many important properties in BC, reported in previous issues of *The Kingfisher*. The organizations involved to date include Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, and The Land Conservancy of BC in addition to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and the Integrated Land Management Bureau, the Canadian Wildlife Service, The Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Union of BC Municipalities. Thanks to an excellent presentation given by out-going Councilor John Scull in April, the LTABC has been approved to join the board, as a non-voting member.

The BC Conservation Land Forum's purpose was to create a provincial umbrella organization that:

1. facilitates the securement and management of lands and waters for biodiversity conservation
2. develops a conservation planning framework to guide activities, including the securement of conservation lands, to protect biodiversity values;
3. follows a science based process and agrees to share data in support of the above;
4. builds on the strengths of regional partnerships;
5. improves overall coordination of private and public sector efforts to secure and manage lands for biodiversity conservation; and
6. is the sole delivery agent for the BCTFPL.

The purpose of the British Columbia Trust for Public Lands is to support biodiversity conservation in BC by:

1. Strengthening public/private partnerships
2. Enhancing coordination and efficiency among conservation oriented organizations, including government
3. Supporting a science-based approach to conservation planning
4. Facilitating the acquisition and management of ecologically significant land
5. Encouraging matching donations from the private sector towards the Trust Purposes

We look forward to working with this group on various initiatives over the coming years.

BC Lands in Trust Registry and Modification of the Protected Lands Catalogue: We have started working with the Conservation Land Forum to adapt the BC Lands in Trust Registry and its associated database

program. The goal is that all conservation agencies (e.g. NGO, government & land trusts) have a consistent accuracy of protected land parcel boundaries and a basic level of detail. We realize that initially several land trusts have rejected the idea of mapping their protected sites other than at a scale that cannot be located directly, such as appears on the BC Lands in Trust Registry. However, in the past few years, agencies have needed, and sometimes requested, information from us about the locations of protected lands for various reasons.

For example, right now in Courtenay Lynda Fyfe is working late nights to transfer endangered Western toadlets across the new island highway, as the highway was put in crossing their breeding grounds. The Ministry of Transportation is willing to install toad tunnels, to assist with their preservation, but they need to know these locations, in advance of development.

In order to support a science-based conservation planning approach, the LTABC is now working with the BC Conservation Land Forum to develop a method to ensure there is a consistent and accurate map of properties and share data between agencies through MOU's that include confidential agreements to protect the information. Thus we are working with the province-wide conservancies to adapt our system and add an on-line mapping element that is pass code protected. We will still maintain our public BC Lands in Trust Registry on our site with no reference to locations. However their locations will be available with confidentiality through an on-line system that is still being developed. Keep tuned for further details.

Canadian Land Trust Alliance- update from LTABC

The LTABC had been working with others across the country for several years to form the Canadian Land Trust Alliance. For the past year, we have not had a BC representative on the newly formed Board of the CLTA, due to several differences in approach.

Our concerns are in several areas:

Accountability and transparency of the Board - who are the Charter Members, the only voting members and do not represent the provincial alliances.

Membership - The membership categories do not currently include the provincial alliances, nor do Member land trusts have a vote. Further the member rates are significantly greater than our own rates, causing a potentially competitive and costly situation.

Goals and Purposes: The CLTA goals and purposes primarily duplicate the goals and purposes of the four existing provincial alliances in Canada.

Another difference between our two organizations is that CLTA requires adoption of the Land Trust Standards & Practices. The LTABC has developed and recommended the BC and then the revised CLTA Standards & Practices. For various reasons, mandatory adoption has never been approved by the membership of the LTABC.



Western Toadlets being transferred across highway near Courtenay,

The new board and staff of the CLTA recognize and acknowledge that there are differences to be resolved. However they are at this point, unwilling to consider changes to the governance structure. Members of the LTABC Council will be attending a facilitated meeting with other provincial alliances in Ottawa in conjunction with the national conference in October to try to work out satisfactory agreements that will benefit our BC members and be compatible with the four existing provincial alliances successful programs and services.

The CLTA is hosting a national conference in Ottawa - October 18-20. See www.clta.ca for registration and program details.

Opinion

(The LTABC council has agreed to print this letter for members' information and feedback. It refers to a recent NCC (national) background paper on the recent announcement of federal / NCC conservation funds. Feel free to contact our office if you would like to refer to this document.)

Dear LTABC Council:

LTABC has, from its inception, been a grassroots organization, created by land trust activists with the goal of providing mutual support within the movement. Since its beginning, LTABC has continued to be responsive to the needs and interests of its members. With a voluntary voting membership, annual gatherings, open processes, and an elected council, it is clear that the organization is accountable to the member land trusts.

For land trusts in Canada, the province is the most significant political organization both in terms of ecology and the regulatory environment related to land. However, income tax policy, many other policies, and a great deal of environmental funding are responsibilities of the federal government.

Provincial organizations such as ours have had some success in affecting federal policy, but it has become clear

that there would be benefits from having a national voice for the land trust movement. Some years ago a national conversation began envisioning a staff person in Ottawa to facilitate contact with government and national organizations, accountable to the land trust movement.

While the conversation began with land trust workers from across Canada, leadership quickly shifted to federal government civil servants who offered to provide funding for the new organization. Rather than opening a land trust office in Ottawa to facilitate two-way communications between land trusts and the federal government, the money was used for a national survey, the development of national standards and practices, and hiring a consultant to recommend the form of the new organization.

As far as I know, none of these expenditures were priorities for the land trust movement -- they were government initiatives. The consultant recommended an organizational structure with a self-appointed board with no accountability to the land trusts of Canada.

From the beginning, then, the Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) has been a top-down effort, representing government to the land trust movement rather than representing us to government. CLTA has been more committed to regulating land trusts than to promoting them. I do not see any sense in which CLTA is an "alliance" in any normal sense of the word.

Definitions of alliance on the Web:

- the state of being allied or confederated
- a connection based on kinship or marriage or common interest; "the shifting alliances within a large family"; "their friendship constitutes a powerful bond between them"
- an organization of people (or countries) involved in a pact or treaty
- a formal agreement establishing an association or alliance between nations or other groups to achieve a particular aim confederation: the act of forming an alliance or confederation

The contrast between LTABC and CLTA is striking. LTABC was designed by a committee of land trust activists and is responsible to its members. CLTA was designed by a consultant supported by the Federal Government and is accountable only to itself. One of CLTA's objectives, according to their website, is "To act as a united voice for land trusts across Canada." The land trust movement needs a strong voice in Ottawa, but I believe this voice needs to be our voice, not someone speaking for us or speaking to us on behalf of government.

The recent background paper from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) suggests that government (not NCC) is trying to use an offer of money to encourage membership in CLTA. NCC reports that: "There are essentially two ways that land trusts can be engaged with NCC and participate in this program. First, NCC and the land trust can undertake a cooperative or partnership project. In such cases, NCC is generally the "lead" on the project, though sometimes the land trust may take on responsibility for ownership and/or long-term stewardship. In keeping with our general approach, NCC anticipates many such partnership projects under the program." As far as I can tell, this is business as usual for acquisition projects involving NCC.

The backgrounder continues, "Second, a land trust can propose a qualifying land securement project at a Priority Site and request financial support from NCC from its federal funds." As funding is still limited to NCC priority sites and under NCC management, I cannot see how this method has any advantages over the first method -- a partnership with NCC.

The only role I can see for this funding method is its use as a lever to build CLTA membership: "potential recipients [under option 2] must be: ... a Charter or Associate Member of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance." Under either program, funding will only be available for NCC "Priority Sites," thereby ensuring, with or without CLTA, that both programs will "direct funds at science-based, "landscape-scale" conservation projects (i.e., planned land assemblies) versus a multitude of independent or unrelated projects." We will need to find other sources of funding for projects of interest or relevance outside of the NCC conservation priorities.

In summary, I see CLTA as an attempt to use funding and the offer of future funding to control and centralize the grassroots land trust movement. I see no benefit in joining an organization over which I have no influence and whose main function seems to be to make sure that land trusts adhere to government policy. Unless there is some new or significantly altered approach, I suggest that the LTABC Council consider ending its association with this undemocratic alliance, as what we truly need is an office in Ottawa which is accountable to us rather than to itself. - sincerely past Councilor, John Scull

Member feedback on any of these concerns and issues would be beneficial to receive by October 12th, so that we can bring our members' needs and desires to the table. Send your comments to sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Continued from Page 33

At the moment, people can buy carbon credits from a variety of organizations offering green-friendly projects outside of Canada over the Internet that involve, for example, tree planting or investing in renewable energy projects.

The BC Government is considering setting up its own trading system. Premier Campbell told the Victoria Times Colonist in May this year that the system is being developed with a carbon-trading registry that B.C. is setting up in conjunction with five western U.S. states, led by California's governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Stay tuned for the release of our report in October

Kerala village relocated from elephant corridor

Reprinted From correspondents in Delhi, India,

A village in Kerala's proposed elephant corridor has been successfully relocated by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), an NGO here, to put an end to the man-elephant conflict and protect the wild animals as well.

The six-km-long Tirunelli-Kudrakote corridor connects the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala and the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in neighbouring Karnataka and forms an important pathway for the elephant population in the Western Ghats.

The 30 residents of Thirulakunnu village were rehabilitated with their consent and the keys to their alternate homes were handed over to them Monday, a WTI press release said here.

They have been provided with new houses, cultivation land, drinking water and other civic facilities near Anappara village by WTI with support from the World Land Trust, Britain, and the IUCN Netherlands Committee.

The Thirulakunnu settlement, one of the five settlements in the corridor, has been an obstacle for initiating conservation actions. The remaining four settlements - Pulayankolli, Edayurvayal, Valia Emmadi and Cheriya Emmadi - will be relocated in the next phase of the project.

'This is the first successful attempt by WTI to relocate people from an elephant corridor adjacent to a wildlife sanctuary, and we thank the villagers for their willingness to join in the conservation efforts,' P.S. Easa, senior director of WTI, said in the release.

The Gowda community had been living in the region for four generations.

The human-elephant conflict had been on the rise in the region and villagers had to live in constant threat as wild elephants used to frequently destroy their crops and houses.

Extensive farming, timber collection, cattle grazing and construction of roads in the corridor had contributed to the increase in conflicts in recent times.

To minimize conflicts, the forest department had dug trenches, installed electric fences and built stonewalls, but these measures had not been foolproof.

'In 2006, discussions on the relocation were initiated with the villagers and within a record time of one year, the entire village has been relocated,' said Sabu Jahas, senior field officer of WTI.

'WTI has compensated them with equal value of their land - with land rights to all the relocated families,' he added.

Call for PROPOSALS
SEMINARS & PLENARY SPEAKERS

SEMINAR SERIES 2008
AND
THE 2009 BC LAND SUMMIT



THE LTABC IS REQUESTING WRITTEN PROPOSALS FOR SEMINARS AND PLENARY SPEAKERS FOR THESE TWO EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING EVENTS. AN INITIAL LETTER OF INQUIRY SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A) NAME OF ORGANIZATION
- B) NAME OF INDIVIDUALS PRESENTING
- C) TOPIC
- D) PRIMARY MESSAGE
- E) TYPE OF STEWARDSHIP/ CONSERVATION OR PLANNING TOOL OUTLINED
- F) INTENDED AUDIENCE
- G) DESIRED LENGTH OF PRESENTATION
- H) 60 - 100 WORD DESCRIPTION
- I) CONTACT DETAILS INCLUDING EMAIL, PHONE, AND MAILING ADDRESS

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30TH, 2007

SEND YOUR PROPOSALS TO:
JILL@LANDTRUSTALLIANCE.BC.CA

OR MAIL TO
204-338 LOWER GANGES ROAD
SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC
V8K 2V3

Environment Canada Posts Nine Recovery Strategies.

As of July 23, 2007 Environment Canada posted 9 new recovery strategies for public comment. This includes the Whooping Crane and Burrowing Owl. For more information: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/plans/default_e.cfm

DFO announced \$175 million to support more integrated, environmentally and economically sustainable Pacific commercial fisheries in BC on July 16, 2007. The funding will be over a 5 year period and includes fishers, First Nations and ENGOs in the plan. Conservation, enforcement and accountability are to play a key role in this plan. Source: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/news-rel/2007/hq-ac38_e.htm

Province Funds Conservation Studies: The Province of BC announced that they will fund conservation research by contributing \$213,000 to projects in BC running through the Canadian University Consortium project. The press release, from June 25, 2007 stated that the funding will focus on projects pertaining to “unknown species of Canada’s plants, fungi and insects, and improving environmental management of the country’s biodiversity”. Source: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007AE0048-000850.htm

Recovery Strategy for Killer Whales. In June, the federal government released the recovery strategy for BC’s endangered Southern resident killer whales and threatened Northern resident killer whales. The recovery strategy release was prompted by the threat of a lawsuit by environmental groups who have expressed ‘cautious praise’ as the strategy includes critical habitat maps which can be protected under SARA. Source: <http://www.georgias-trait.org/Articles2007/orca-recovery.php>

Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture calls for an end to open-net cage salmon farming in BC: The report, available from, <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/38thparl/session-3/aquaculture/index.htm>, calls for a transition to closed containment for existing farms and a ban on any salmon farms north of Vancouver Island. More information can be obtained from the Georgia Strait Alliance at: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/aqua/salmon-news.php>

BC Government passed Bill 24: the Parks and Protected Areas Statutes Amendment Act (2007), on May 3rd, 2007 to establish 41 new conservancies and three new Class A parks, while making additions to 16 existing parks and three conservancies. The area to be protected under this legislation includes 161,618 hectares of land and 3,412 hectares of marine foreshore along the North and

Central Coast. Sources: press release and backgrounder: <http://www.mediaroom.gov.bc.ca/DisplayEventDetails.aspx?eventId=360>

Bowie Seamount to be established as MPA: Located 180 km west of the coast of Haida Gwaii, the Bowie Seamount has a high level of biological diversity compared with other areas in the deep ocean- the result of warm currents carrying high levels of nutrients and plankton into the N. Pacific. The MPA is to be planned and managed jointly between the Haida Nation and the DFO. Source: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/news-rel/2007/pr10_e.htm

Species Status Re-assessed: In April 2007, the conservation status of 48 species in Canada was assessed by members of COSEWIC. Both the Sea Otter and Peregrine Falcon recovery are considered to be no longer threatened with extinction in Canada. Many other species were identified as declining on both national and international scales. For more information and updates: http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct7/sct7_3_9_e.cfm

Nahanni National Park Reserve August 2007 CPAWS announced that Prime Minister Stephen Harper has agreed to expand protection of nearly 29,000 km² of land to the Nahanni National Park Reserve, a renowned World Heritage Site in in Canada’s Northwest Territories. The August 8th announcement by the Prime Minister protected a further 5,400 km² of land within the South Nahanni watershed from the amount placed under protection in 2003.

US Navy Sonar Banned off of California Coast: A federal US judge ruled that the Navy is not permitted to use mid-frequency sonar equipment during training exercises off the southern coast of California until the end of 2009, due to the harmful effects on marine mammals in the area. The lawsuit was brought against the US Navy by the NRDC and several animal welfare groups. For more information: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6934715.stm>

Climate Change Reports: The IPCC will be undergoing the final government review of the 4th Assessment Report, Climate Change 2007 this fall. The Technical Paper on Climate Change and Water will also be undergoing Final Government Review later on in the autumn. These documents will provide comprehensive and up-to-date information on climate change. For updates and information: <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.html>

Gateway Project: Over 30 groups in BC's Lower Mainland have banded together to stop the Gateway Program proposed by the BC government. The idea behind the Program is to expand transportation infrastructure (including highways, ports and rail yards) in order to increase trade with Asia. Concerns have been raised by groups regarding the loss of prime agricultural land, increased air pollution and impacts on neighbourhoods. For more info. <http://www.stopgateway.ca/members.htm>

Concerns Over Mining Proposal on Sunshine Coast: Pan Pacific Aggregates has staked a claim on a major limestone deposit, with an environmental review for two open-pit mines currently underway. Several community and citizens groups have raised their concerns over the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operations. To find out more information visit: <http://www.fospfriends.com/> and <http://www.thescca.ca/a11.html>

BC Mourns the Loss of Colleen McCrory: As one of the most well-renowned environmentalists in British Columbia, Colleen McCrory made incredible contributions to the preservation of natural habitat in the province, including playing a role as a founding member of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and Canada's Future Forest Alliance. Her work has been recognized widely, and she was the recipient of many high-level awards and received global recognition for her conservation pursuits.

Bert Brink Honoured: One of the originators and leaders of the conservation movement in BC, 94 year-old Bert Brink, was recognized for over 60 years of contributions to environmental work in the Province. He was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Conservation Award at Government House on June 11th. Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/story.html?id=f074998d-994b-48f9-ab46-a315f6ce63ca&k=11362>

Salt Spring Island Eco-Weekend a Success! Salt Spring's Community Energy Strategy Task Force held its first ever transportation fair, Getting Around Salt Spring, (GASS) Fair on Saturday, June 16, which was followed by the Eco-Home Tour on June 17, which showcased ten unique ecological and sustainable homes. To find out more about the events: <http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org/index.htm> and <http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca/>

First Climate Change Lawsuit Against Canada: Friends of the Earth Canada along with the Sierra Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the Government of Canada on May 28, 2007. The suit claims that the "federal government is violating Canadian law by failing to meet its binding international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions". Source: <http://www.foecanada.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=318&Itemid=135>

Stewardship Works! meeting was held in BC on May 23rd at the Stewardship Centre for BC. The meeting goal was to address the core funding challenges faced by local stewardship groups in BC. The final report from the meeting can be viewed at: <http://www.stewardship-works.bc.ca/sites/ecostewardship/documents/media/34.pdf>

Comox Valley Land Trust Regional Conservation Strategy Moving into 2nd Phase: The Regional Conservation Strategy Phase 1 Report by the Comox Valley Land Trust was completed in April of 2007. The group is now working on setting up a community-wide working group that will be tasked with moving the project forward. For more information: <http://www.cvlandtrust.org/index.htm>

LNG site proposed for Texada Island: Georgia Strait Alliance is monitoring the issue and are researching the potential environmental impacts from the LNG import terminal and the natural gas-fired power generation plant. Among other things they will be looking in particular at the forthcoming zero emissions regulations, which the Province says they will be using to determine the environmental impacts of this project. Watch our website for updates: www.georgiastrait.org See Related story: <http://www.businessedge.ca/article.cfm/news-ID/15959.cfm>

Sustainable Seafood Choices: Vancouver Aquarium's Ocean Wise program expands to the Okanagan. The conservation program, which works with restaurants and market partners to incorporate sustainable seafood choices onto their menus, now has over 65 participating members at over 80 locations in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Okanagan. To find out more about locations serving sustainable seafood near you go to: <http://www.vanaqua.org/conservation/oceanwise/home.html>

Take Back the Power: The BC Citizens for Public Power are expressing concerns over the Provincial government's recent encouragement and alleged support for private groups obtaining water rights for future power generation. To find out more about their concerns: <http://publicpowerbc.ca/sites/default/files/bccfall06.pdf>

Municipal campaigns against bottled water in favour of tap water consumption in several American cities, including New York City have recently appeared in the news. These campaigns take environmental, economic and health-related approaches to convince residents to reduce their consumption of bottled water.

Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Burials: A number of articles have recently been released on the environmental impacts of various traditional burial methods. To find out more about low impact burials visit: <http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk/>

Steelhead tag from Columbia River found in New Zealand bird: Fisheries scientists from the US NOAA and New Zealand are investigating how a tag from a steelhead put in the Columbia River in 2005 ended up two years later, 7,700 miles away in the stomach of a chick in New Zealand. The transponder tag was found in the stomach of a young chick harvested by a native Maori as traditional food.

Print Resources

Farming in a Changing Climate: Agricultural Adaptation in Canada is available through UBC Press. The book is based upon 20 years of research on agriculture and Canadian climate, and provides wide-ranging perspectives of what climate change means for Canadian agriculture. To obtain more information or order online: http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=5209

Information on water resources issues in Canada can be found in two publications from UBC's Program on Water Governance. For more information, look at the program website: <http://www.watergovernance.ca/Institute2/index.htm>

New book on mariculture: *Clam Gardens: Aboriginal Mariculture on Canada's West Coast* by Judith Williams is available from: <http://www.newstarbooks.com/view-book.asp?id=1554200237>

Book reprint on the *Community Land Trust model*: The Community Land Trust: A Guide to a New Model for Land Tenure in America reprint of the 1972 book is now available through the E. F. Schumacher Society: <http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/publications.html>

The 100 Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating: At the vanguard of the local food movement James and Alisa document their adventures with eating locally in this classic, often humorous history of their struggles and triumphs. Alisa Smith's articles have been printed in *Utne*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Readers Digest*, and the *Globe and Mail*, and featured in the books *Liberalized* and *Way Out There*. James MacKinnon is also the author of the prize winning bestseller *Dead Man in Paradise*, which won the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-fiction. His journalism has earned three national magazine awards, and he is a senior contributing editor to *Explore Magazine* and a past editor of *Adbusters*. <http://100milediet.org/book/> <http://100milediet.org/why-eat-local/>

Links

WWF Reports on Arguments for Protection. An example of these reports is the recently released *Food Stores: Using protected areas to secure crop genetic diversity*. An interesting report arguing for protected areas as a means for in situ conservation strategies of agricultural genetic diversity. Available from: http://assets.panda.org/downloads/food_stores.pdf

The UN Population Fund has released the 30th edition of their Annual Report, which focuses on urban growth issues. To view the report, go to their website: <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/>

Adapting to Climate Change: An Introduction for Canadian Municipalities. A free online report released by C-CIARN in 2006. The network has a large amount of information on climate change issues on their website: http://www.c-ciarn.ca/index_e.html

The David Suzuki Foundation has a number of recently released documents related to biodiversity conservation, agriculture and climate change. For more information, check out their online publications: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/>

WCEL Resources: Find out more about smart growth, green design and green infrastructure through resources provided by the WCEL through their website: <http://www.wcel.org/resources/publications/>

The Sustainability Network has many online resources that are regularly updated and are pertinent to small environmental NGOs: <http://sustain.web.ca/cbt/cbt.htm>

Voluntary Sector Knowledge Network, based out of Victoria, has many resources to support non-profit organizations. See their website for more information: <http://www.vskn.ca/>

Canadian Geographic Online features articles, maps and discussion forums on Canadian environmental issues: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/intro.aspx?lang=En>

Tools and Services

New and Improved Islands Trust Fund Website
The Islands Trust Fund has recently updated and improved its website. Please visit the website at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca> to see the new look and view other valuable information.

Sustainability Purchasing Network: Resources, workshops and learning opportunities to promote sustainable choices. To find out more: <http://www.buysmartbc.com/>

Whole Village Listserv: Get information on the Whole Village community activities as well as news relating to ecology, simple living, social justice, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and other topics related to Whole Village's mission. To join the list, contact: info@wholevillage.org

Forrex provides a range of extension-related services to individuals working in natural resources management. For more information: <http://www.forrex.org/default.asp>

Planning an event that you want to be green? A new guide to planning and promoting green events in Canada will be launched in August, 2007. For more information: <http://www.greenmeetingguide.com/>

Search the web using a 'green' search engine. Green-search, developed for the thegreenpages.ca network is specialized search engine that searches Canadian environment-related web sites. Try it out! <http://thegreen-search.ca/>

ECO Canada has a range of services that provide support for both employers and environmental job seekers. Visit <http://www.eco.ca/>

New employment service available for green employers and organizations to find employees who want to work or volunteer for green businesses, government departments and environmental organizations. Visit <http://www.workcabin.ca/> for more information.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Shell Environment Fund: One-time grants of up to \$5000 are awarded through this fund. Applications are due in on September 30, 2007. For more information: http://www.shell.ca/home/content/ca-en/society_environment/environment/protect/support/environment_fund/sef_apply.html

HCTF Project Applications. Letters of intent for new project and seed funding are due on October 1st. For more information: <http://www.hctf.ca/app/index.html>

VanCity Community Foundation: Community project grant applications with a focus on protecting the environment, helping people build assets and/or strengthening communities are due on October 1, 2007. For more information: <https://www.vancity.com/MyCommunity/Community-Funding/CommunityGrants/ProjectGrants/>

Pacific Salmon Foundation grants are available through The Community Salmon Program due October 15th. Projects should promote the conservation, rehabilitation

and enhancement of Pacific salmonids. For details, visit: <http://www.psf.ca/04programs/04salmonprograms.html>

Victoria Foundation: For groups in the Greater Victoria Regional District applications to the Victoria Foundation environment fund are due on October 19. For more information: <http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca/grant-apps/overview.htm>

Green Building Grant Program: The Real Estate Foundation of BC and VanCity have funding of up to \$50,000 for projects that include: building renovations or retrofits to existing buildings; regulatory changes that advance green building or smart growth development and practice; and education to increase the understanding and use of practical green building strategies. Applications are due in on November 1, 2007. For more information: <https://www.vancity.com/grants>

The Bullitt Foundation is accepting grants from BC groups that work to protect, restore, and maintain the natural physical environment of the Pacific Northwest for present and future generations. The next application intake is November 1, 2007. For details: <http://www.bullitt.org/grants/grantseeking>

WHC Grants for 2007/08. WHC is accepting grant applications for 2007/08, funding decisions are made by the Board of Directors as required during the year. Details for grant funding submission procedures can be found at: http://www.whc.org/EN/grant/project_submission.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Applications for projects that protect and preserve the Canadian environment, contain environmental education components, and enhance cooperation among environmental groups are accepted on an ongoing basis. Applications must be submitted 3 months before the anticipated start date of the project. Details: <http://www.td.com/fef/project.jsp#eligibility>

HSBC Sponsorships and Charitable Donations. Charitable donations by the bank focus on education and environment. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. For more information: <http://www.hsbc.ca/1/2/en/about-us/in-the-community>

Capers Grassroots Giving. For groups operating in the Vancouver area, there are opportunities for funding. For more information: <http://www.capersmarkets.com/article/our-grassroots-giving-policy?from=community>

Additional Funding Resources: Information on other potential funding sources for non-profits is posted on the Charity Village website: <http://www.charityvillage.com/cv/ires/fund.asp#ggfound>

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup: From September 15th-23rd 2007, join a group or form your own to help clean up a river, lake or ocean shoreline near you! For more information: <http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/home.php>

Source Water Protection: Making It Work In B.C. The workshop will give information and tools for professionals engaged in drinking water source protection specific to British Columbia. To be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 in Richmond, BC. For more information: http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/sourcewater_sept.html

Community Participation and Community Economic Development Course: September 21-22, Victoria, BC. This workshop-style course will include strategic community participation models to integrate social, economic and environmental goals into projects. For more information: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/regional_BC.asp

BC Rivers Day: Sunday September 30, 2007. To find an event near you: http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_bcridersday.htm

Transboundary Issues in Water Resource Management: Joint Conference of American Water Resources Association (Washington State Branch) and Canadian Water Resources Association (B.C. Branch) to be held from October 4-5 in Seattle, Washington: http://www.cwra.org/About_CWRA/CWRA_Branches/British_Columbia/2007TransBorder/2007transborder.html

Federation of BC Naturalists Conference and AGM: October 11-14, 2007. The event will be held at the Executive Hotel in Harrison Hot Springs, BC. For more information, see their website: <http://bcnature.ca/>

Ecological Restoration in Southeastern British Columbia: Grasslands to Mountaintops. Held by Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology October 11-13 in Cranbrook, BC. For more information: http://www.cmiae.org/conferences.htm#Ecological_Restoration

Mad Hatters Ball – Join HAT and some fantastic musical guests for a spectacular evening of entertainment. Saturday, October 20th at 7:00 pm at the White Eagle Hall in James Bay. Tickets go on sale October 1st. Contact HAT for more info 250-995-2428 or hatmail@hat.bc.ca

Canadian Land Trust Conference will be held from October 18-20, 2007 at the National Conference Centre in

the heart of downtown Ottawa, Ontario. For more information: <http://www.clta.ca/clta/events.htm>

Canadian Environmental Leadership Program (CELP) workshop, October 24, 2007 on bringing about skills for sustainable change. Held at the Hollyhock Institute on Cortes Island: <http://www.hollyhockleadership.org/programs/programpostingfolder/celp2>

RCEN 2007 Annual Conference on the Environment will be held from November 1-4, 2007 in Ottawa. This year's conference theme is Environment and Health. For more information: <http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/projects/2007conference/index.html>

Managing Environmental Impacts of Linear Corridors and Infrastructure held by the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology from November 7-8 in Revelstoke, BC. For more information: http://www.cmiae.org/conferences.htm#Linear_Corridors

14th Annual A.D. Latonell Conservation Symposium: Your Watersheds, Our Great Lakes, will be held from November 14-16, 2007 in Alliston, Ontario. For more information: <http://www.latonell.ca/index.html>

27th Guelph Organic Conference: this year the conference will focus on Building Sustainable Organic Business will be held from January 24-27, 2008 in Guelph, Ontario. For more information: <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>

Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Americas: February 25 – 29, 2008, Panama. Environment Canada Adaptation and Research Impacts Division and Smithsonian Institution, will be hosting the symposium to provide a forum for leading scientists to present the results of research and monitoring activities of climate change and forest biodiversity throughout the Americas. For more information: <http://www.climatechangeandbiodiversity.ca/>

Ongoing lectures and workshops on culture: Keep an eye out for lectures and events relating to culture and environment in BC through The Archaeological Society of BC: <http://www.asbc.bc.ca/index.html>

Ongoing green buildings lectures: The Light House Guest Expert Speaker Series features seminars with green building professionals speaking on their area of expertise each Saturday from 2-4pm, at the Light House Resource Centre on Granville Island. Please contact info@sustainablebuildingcentre.com to RSVP and for details on the upcoming speakers.

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