



The Kingfisher

Volume 21 Summer-Fall 2010, The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

In This Issue:

Wild Hills and Beaches
in the Greater Victoria region

The Problem with Bioenergy

Native Gardening, Land Trusts and Local Communities

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



heritage. We provide education, research, communication and financial services which support land trusts, conservancies and others.

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Message from the Editor

Like the Transition Movement, featured in an article this issue, The Land Trust Alliance of BC is transitioning, adding part time staff, changing staff roles and moving our office from Salt Spring to Victoria. Natural developments have led to this evolution, which completes a strategic plan to *diversify* creating *resilience*, qualities that bring long term health and strength to both natural systems and organizations. Further articles share knowledge and inspiration, from the ocean's contribution to our planet's health, current land trust campaigns to conserve southern Vancouver Island areas, BC's First Nation's fundamental truths about stewardship, and two native gardening articles.

Sitting on the dock at Fulford Harbour, awaiting the ferry to take the LTABC office and myself off of Salt Spring Island, I've just said good bye to two of the many dedicated people on this island who keep working so hard protecting and restoring creeks and estuaries. Other articles in this issue celebrate conservation successes on farms and in a BC rainforest. Recently I heard a top scientist tell a public audience to forget about the salmon! What a contrast. From the expert, who carelessly draws down people's inspiration and will to protect species or areas, because he thinks he knows better - to those on the ground who keep working and inspiring others to protect what we can now. No matter how much this climate changes our ecosystems, what we conserve now will be the foundation for adaptation and resilience in the future.

Humans have a powerful capacity to choose, based on a range from fearful to loving actions. The Gulf Oil disaster is bringing home the realization that we have technology, human ingenuity to manipulate physical elements, yet we are still lacking in self awareness and the larger awareness of the consequences of our actions on others. Fear can be disguised as logic, such as "we have to strike a balance." This often means political actions and tax dollars that support corporations with a promise of short term jobs, but resulting in long term loss of the environment—the health of the land. How can the economy be more important than its source—a healthy earth? As we age, we learn that immediate gain or even short term gain is not worth a long term loss, usually of our personal health. The earth and her ecosystems are similar. Somehow the "balance" we need to strike is one where the natural systems of the earth are put first, rather than the technological wonders of human ingenuity and short term gain. The precautionary principle is one that puts the earth first. And that earth includes humans, as one species among many who have a right to a healthy life.

Saying good bye to these tried and true Salt Spring Islanders gives me hope. There are still lots of us who care so deeply, like Philip Grange, the engineer who works with Kathy Reimer on stream restoration. He said, I'm only working for clients who have answered yes to this question, "Do you care about the downstream health of your stream?"

The time has come to devote myself to LTABC's programs, caring about the downstream health of both myself and this wonderful collaborative organization. I'm delighted to pass the leadership of LTABC over to another. Join me in welcoming our new Executive Director Paul McNair, who has said his goal is to increase protected areas in BC. I say Yes! Please see the LTABC update page 35 for more about Paul and our new Office Manager, Cassie Holcolm.

The Kingfisher

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HELP PROTECT OUR WILD HILLS AND BEACHES



By Victoria Haynes

Climbing the Bears near Peden Bluff photo by John Hasell.

Jordan River, Sandcut Beach, and the Sooke Hills occupy a very public place in the Capital Region community on southern Vancouver Island despite being privately owned. All three areas bustle with activity; surfers flock to Jordan River and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds find refuge from city life at Sandcut Beach and in the Sooke Hills. Dr. Nancy Turner, an Environmental Studies professor at the University of Victoria and renowned author, says these are truly some of “British Columbia’s ‘Special Places’ with amazing beauty and infinite educational value.” Thus, we were all deeply concerned when news broke that the Western Forest Product properties were in danger of being sold on the public market. Responding to islanders’ sense of community ownership over these properties, The Land Conservancy of BC and the Capital Regional District are taking advantage of the opportunity to protect 5,800 acres.

The Sooke Hills are a popular hiking and climbing destination for Alpine Club members and other avid hikers as seen in this image hikers are climbing the Bears near Peden Bluffs.

A longstanding partnership exists between TLC, the CRD, and the residents of the Capital Region. Working together for

over a decade, we have protected over 3,000 hectares of spectacular parkland including Matthews Point in Active Pass, Burgoyne Bay and Southwest Salt Spring Island, and the Thetis Lake to Mount Work Trail Corridor. As these acquisitions have come together, they have slowly filled in the pieces to a comprehensive vision in which a continuous network of protected parkland and greenbelts surrounds Victoria’s downtown core. Important additions to this network include the Sooke Hills Campaign in 2001, which was an acquisition of 3,400 acres from a private development company. The 2003 Sooke Potholes Campaign added significantly to our overall vision, including five km. of riverfront property. The Larry Talarico Memorial Campaign helped us to protect 2,300 acres of parkland

acquired from a forest company in 2007. This campaign, in memory of Larry Talarico, was part of a larger CRD acquisition of the Leech River watershed to protect our water supply.

TLC and CRD Parks' next step in the vision, and the first campaign under the CRD's 2010-2019 plan, is to purchase 5,800 acres of critical habitat and magnificent parkland in the Sooke Hills, as well as 3.5 km of shoreline between Jordan River and Sandcut Beach. Once this acquisition is complete, over 90% of our region's Sea to Sea Greenbelt will be protected forever in a way that ensures the continuing ecological integrity of the land. TLC and the CRD made the decision to launch the Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign and purchase the lands in part to continue building the Sea to Sea Greenbelt. We also acknowledge the significance of these properties to the Capital Region community, not only for their recreational importance but also for their historical and environmental values, including their importance as carbon sinks.

The Sooke Hills provide rare sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, displaced by urban sprawl, and functions as part of a wildlife corridor for plants and animals including

large mammals like Roosevelt elk, black bear, cougar and wolves, connecting otherwise isolated fragments of habitat and ecosystems. The rugged summits, pristine woodland lakes and valleys, offer a popular hiking and climbing destination. Drawn by the challenging terrain, the beauty of the landscape, and the rewarding views across Juan de Fuca Strait to the Olympic Mountains, hikers tackle the 5 km main trail, known by some as the Harrison Trail, in just two hours. In the 1920's and 1930's the Sooke Hills were particularly important to the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) Victoria Section (now called Vancouver Island Section). In a 2001 interview between TLC Member, Judith Holm and Alpine Club member, Kathleen Tuckey (then age 92), Tuckey reminisced about her experiences in the Sooke Hills.

"We used to drive to Milne's Landing and then hike on a trail for 2 1/2 hours into the ACC cabin at the lake. Sometimes we had a horse help us carry things in. We did lots of canoeing and singing. At night [one Alpine member] said he could hear the trees talking. One weekend [we] organized an overnight trip to Mount Empress to see the rising moon. We slept outside and when the moon came up it was so big it was almost frightening."



Sandcut Beach - Following the trail down to Sandcut Beach every stump on the forest floor is alive with tiny plants and animals. The beach itself is nothing short of breathtaking; its smooth cobbles and piles of long bull kelp hug the high tide line. This site is an important educational landmark. Photo by Heather Skydt

Historically, Sandcut Beach was a stopover point for the Ditidaht and other West Coast First Nations travelling south by canoe to trade with Salishan peoples around Victoria. This initial trade and camp area is now considered an invaluable educational landmark. The beach and its associated forests and shoreline serve as a perfect outdoor classroom for teaching students of all ages about life in the Coastal Temperate Rainforest environments of Vancouver Island. In the past two decades, dozens of classes of University of Victoria students have traveled to this remarkable place for what some have called "the educational experience of a lifetime." The multi-aged groves of Sitka spruce,

Western red cedar and Western hemlock show all of the relevant features comprising the signature of a thriving forest ecosystem. The area was selectively logged by rail in the early 1900s, but still carries the vestiges of old growth with some of the majestic original trees, and many snags



Jordan River is considered the best wave on south Vancouver Island. Currently, it is a popular site among winter surfers and is becoming increasingly popular for windsurfing. Photo by Heather Skydt

Every acre of forested or undeveloped land that TLC protects acts as an important carbon sink. The Wild Hills and Beaches acquisition is TLC's first project that has factored carbon offsets as a partial funding mechanism. TLC is working with the Land Trust Alliance of B.C.'s Living Carbon venture to ensure conservation offsets used are of the highest standard and transparency.

and large logs that provide important wildlife habitat. Likewise, the naturally occurring second growth has preserved the genetic link to the original forest. Dozens of different kinds of algae, as well as diverse shells like giant California mussels and remains of bryozoans and other marine animals can be seen. Driftwood piles along the upper beach from the winter storms, and in the spring and fall, gray whales can sometimes be seen just offshore.

Located halfway between Sooke and Port Renfrew in Juan de Fuca Provincial Park, Jordan River is approximately 60 km northwest of Victoria. Established as a logging camp in the late 19th century, Jordan River includes Vancouver Island's second hydroelectric power plant. The dam was built in 1911 when Jordan River's population was over 1,000.

Currently, it is known in local surfing circles as the best wave on the south island and, under the right conditions, perhaps the nicest in Canada.

When asked what it would mean to lose Jordan River as a publicly accessible location, surfer Jeff Anderson replied: "Even though not everyone on the west coast surfs, surfing is a part of the unique west coast flavor that makes us culturally unique. It's important to protect

those things that make us culturally distinct." Anderson also stated: "When I envision surfing at Jordan River, no one ride is clear above the rest, but my mind is filled with memories of sitting out on the waves with friends. Thanks to this agreement, my children can have those same memories. Just knowing that is special."

TLC needs to raise \$3.25 million to uphold our part of the land acquisition agreement and save Jordan River, Sandcut Beach, and the Sooke Hills area. Without your support, this rich cultural and natural heritage will be lost forever to future generations. Donate today to the Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign, please visit www.conservancy.bc.ca or call 1-877-485-2422.

SEAGRASS AND SALTMARSH

Coastal Habitats Shield us from Climate Change

By Kim Wright



Photo by Tom Middleton

Most people are surprised to hear that seagrass and salt marsh habitats have anything to do with climate change. It all has to do with carbon and its sequestration. Scientists at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have proposed that 80 percent of these shoreline habitat types must be protected to prevent irreversible global climate change.

Carbon Cycle

The carbon cycle is the movement of carbon atoms through all things on the planet: the atmosphere, living and non-living organic material, our bodies, oceans, sediments (including fossil fuels) and the Earth's core. There is a carbon balance within and between these major reservoirs. The carbon cycle is on the move; however the proportion of carbon that is in our oceans or atmosphere has been relatively steady over the years. Carbon has been stored for millions of years in fossil fuels, for millennia in soils and marine sediments, and for centuries in large trees. This is all changing due to the com-

As we all watch the news unfold about the Deepwater Horizon disaster, many people are concerned about the damage that is being done, both in terms of human and environmental impacts. Another impact is the Mississippi Delta's global importance to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

bined impacts of deforestation, land use including shoreline changes, and the burning of fossil fuels and release of other greenhouse gases. These human activities have increased the relative concentrations of carbon dioxide CO₂ in our

atmosphere and the acidity of our oceans as H₂CO₃. This impacts both the marine and terrestrial species, including humans, that depend upon this critical balance.

Natural Sequestration of Carbon

Sequestration occurs when atmospheric CO₂ is re-captured and stored in a stable

form. When terrestrial and marine plants sequester carbon into the soil or sediments around their roots in a mineral form, it remains captured for thousands of years or more, balancing the amount of carbon circulating in the atmosphere and oceans. Of all habitat types on the planet, marine coastal habitats such as mangroves, salt marshes and sea grass beds do the best job of carbon sequestration. Due to

special chemical processes in marine sediments, half a kilogram of coastal marine plants can sequester as much carbon as 1,000 kilograms of plants on land.

Protecting Seagrass and Saltmarsh in B.C.

Carbon sequestering ecosystems along British Columbia's 25,000 km of coastline are under threat from both development and pollution. Protecting them makes sense in the battle against climate change as well as preserving the ecosystem services these habitats provide. Currently, in the Gulf of Mexico, the oil from the Deepwater Horizon has the potential to destroy the rich habitat and carbon sequestering capacity of the Mississippi Delta, which makes up 40 percent of the United States' coastal wetlands. It is imperative that such a disaster not be allowed to occur here in British Columbia. We need to set aside these fragile habitats in networks of marine protected areas; leave natural systems in place along our shorelines; and insist that our government keep our coast oil free. Combined, these efforts will protect these rich ecosystems and sustain marine and other wildlife, including our children, long into the future.

For more information contact Kim Wright kwright@livingoceans.org, visit the Living Oceans Society website, or read the following reports.

* IUCN: *The Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks*

* UNEP: *Blue Carbon Report*

Did you Know?

Enbridge applies to federal government to allow oil tankers on the B.C. coast

Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline and tanker route would violate the longstanding ban on oil tanker traffic in B.C.'s northern waters. On May 27 Enbridge applied to the federal government for approval of their Northern Gateway pipeline.

The National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will jointly review the project that includes a pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to Kitimat and over 200 oil tankers per year sailing from Kitimat to markets in Asia and the United States. The tankers will travel through important fishing areas, critical whale habitat and the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. For More: <http://www.livingoceans.org/media/news05271001.aspx>

What is puzzling is why, at the very moment that tanker traffic is poised to increase on the B.C. coast, Transport Canada has seemingly weakened Pacific RAC's ability to monitor the shaping of key regulations, advise decision makers all the way to the top, and communicate with a worried public haunted by images of the Gulf oil catastrophe. <http://tinyurl.com/39bbavd>

If the Oil spill hit your home: www.ifitwasmyhome.com/

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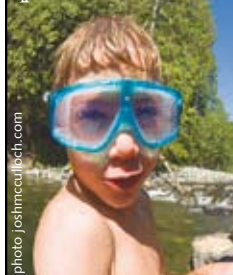
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FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAND

Christine Pritchard, Islands Trust Fund

It is not difficult to be inspired by landowners who protect their land. Those who permanently protect the land that they own now leave a legacy that lasts generations. They walk the conservation talk – demonstrating a level of personal commitment that inspires others to act generously in their own communities and beyond.

Moving to Gabriola Island in the seventies, the McRaes bought an undeveloped property in the eighties which they grew to know and love, sharing a trail area with other Gabriola islanders voluntarily. After owning the property for 30 years, Stanley and Maxine couldn't bear the thought of their piece of wilderness being bulldozed for development. For that reason, they partnered with the Islands Trust Fund to protect their Gabriola Island property with a conservation covenant.

Both artists, Stanley and Maxine McRae draw inspiration from the natural world around them. The McRaes have long captured nature's beauty through their art. By registering a conservation covenant on their property, they leave behind not just an artistic image, but the real thing – a natural

sanctuary for wildlife on the island, protected permanently from human degradation or development. The covenant ensures future owners of the property will leave the land in its natural state as the McRaes have.

The McRaes' seven hectare (18 acre) covenant protects 95% of their property. The covenant area features a beautiful rocky meadow where lichens, herbs and moss thrive in the shallow soils. Camas, fairy-slipper orchids and shooting star bloom on the site in the spring. The covenant also protects a maturing forest where Douglas-fir, cedar and arbutus stand tall.

For many on Gabriola, the permanent protection of the McRaes' property brings peace of mind knowing this iconic landmark will remain natural for the future. The McRaes have long allowed the local community to use the property's trail linking a nearby community to the post office, and will continue to do so as long as they own the property and its use doesn't harm the sensitive meadow ecosystem protected by the covenant.





“We had no idea how many folks use that little path,” said Maxine. “We’re delighted with the wonderful responses we’ve received from people on the island who have enjoyed it as much as we do, and are appreciative that it will remain.”

In a ceremony recognizing the conservation commitment made by the McRaes, Gabriola Island Trustee Sheila Malcolmson said, “In addition to the really beautiful conservation contribution, many of us are familiar with the classic Gabriola rocky meadow with all the amazing wildflowers that come through especially this time of year. It’s a very special landscape on Gabriola. Very rare, very fragile, and not always the obvious target for protection. I think many neighbours have also benefited from the McRae’s generosity in letting them walk on the defined path.”

The McRaes effort to better their local community doesn’t stop here. Having previously donated land to the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society for the Gabriola Museum, Stanley and Maxine are regarded by their peers as community heroes.

“I don’t think there is anyone more deserving of our recognition than Stan and Maxine for all their years of work and commitment to the community,” said Deb Ferens, Gabriola Island Local Trustee.

The McRae covenant was registered through the Islands Trust Fund’s Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP). With NAPTEP, the McRaes will receive an annual 65% property tax exemption on the protected land. NAPTEP is the only program in British Columbia to reduce property tax as an incentive to conservation. The NAPTEP covenant prevents current and future owners from doing anything to the covenant area that may harm its special values.

This includes: removal of native plants, use of herbicides and pesticides, alteration of natural watercourses or water bodies, grazing of animals, and modification of the soil or geological features. A covenant is permanent and will not be removed even if penalties are invoked.



The natural features of the McRaes’ property are central to the special moments Stanley and Maxine have had on the land. For Stanley and Maxine McRae, it’s the wildlife they share their home with; the lush ferns in their forest, the colourful wildflowers in their meadow that are part of the root motivation and deep love and respect they have for the land. Protecting that land for wildlife on the island brings Stanley and Maxine peace – knowing the property will remain as one of the island’s cherished conservation properties. “It’s important that this wildlife continues to have a sanctuary, a safe place to retreat to as our population grows and development continues,” says Stanley. “Through the efforts of the McRaes, we know for a fact that future genera-

tions will have an opportunity to appreciate what they have preserved” said Mary Wohlleben, Gabriola Historical and Museum Society President. “Thank you for the past and thank you for the future.”

The Islands Trust Fund applauds the McRaes for their commitment to their community and to land conservation. We hope their actions inspire other landowners to do the same.

NAPTEP continues to grow

The Islands Trust Fund’s flagship covenant program has landed on the northern Gulf Islands. 2010 marks the first year landowners on Denman and Hornby Islands can apply to the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) to reduce their annual property taxes and permanently protect natural areas. Since 2005, the program has expanded throughout the islands to include Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Mayne, North and South Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna and Thetis Islands. With the program quickly gaining popularity among local and regional governments – hailed as an innovative way to motivate landowners to conserve land permanently – the Islands Trust Fund hopes to expand NAPTEP to Lasqueti and Bowen Islands soon, completing the entire Trust Area.

MADRONA FARM LOVE AFFAIR

by Jill Walker



Farm Holiday at Madrona Farm,
July 2008 photo by K Platt

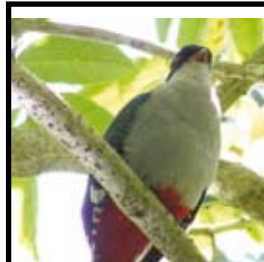
David and Nathalie Chambers' love of farming, a community's delight of local food, and TLC's passion for saving agricultural land culminated into a happy ending when TLC announced the completion of the campaign to save Madrona Farm. Thanks to overwhelming public support and a number of significant contributors, TLC is pleased to add Madrona to its list of "special places" in B.C.

The 27-acre agricultural gem in the Blenkinsop Valley was resurrected as a farm in 1999 and now produces a diverse 105 crops, 12 months a year to over 3,500 customers. The farm is also an ecological treasure with Douglas Fir and Garry Oak ecosystems, four natural ponds, and a wooded corridor of various native tree species. It is a property loved by those who farm it, those who visit, and those who taste its incredible produce.

Without a doubt, community support for this campaign went above and beyond what anyone imagined. The love of fresh locally grown produce was evident as donations came from all across Canada and the USA and as far away as England and Singapore. TLC would like to express sincere gratitude to each and every one of the almost 3,000 donors who supported this inspiring campaign. TLC would also like to give special recognition to some significant contributors: a bighearted, last minute, anonymous donor, the overwhelming generosity of the Farmlands Trust Society, Victoria Foundation, local Victoria residents Ed Johnson, Mel McDonald, 101-year-old couple Helen and Glenn Sawyer, and the Chambers brothers.

The future for Madrona Farm is now very bright indeed. David and Nathalie Chambers will hold the first long-term lease to continue their great work supplying the public and local restaurants with fresh, organic produce. They will also continue to educate young farmers through volunteer programs and school co-op work terms. It is intended that a conservation covenant will be placed on the property to provide further protection.

Saving vital agricultural lands is an important part of TLC's mandate, and together we have achieved a remarkable conservation success. Thank you!



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FRIENDS OF CREEKSIDERAINFOREST

by Maureen Moore



Just over a year has passed since about a thousand of you generously donated in order to save a rare portion of temperate rainforest on Salt Spring Island. It could have been destroyed, but it wasn't. Thank you all. As well we are so grateful to island organizations such as the Salt Spring Conservancy and the Salt Spring Foundation who also contributed, and to the young children who gave from their allowances. Your gift lives on. Thank you.

It seems a good time to report to you—all is well. The forest is even more splendid, arching its green canopy over the cold creek that supports two kinds of salmon. Now, the sound of Swainson's thrush can be heard among the great cedars, broad-leaf maples, feathery hemlocks and other trees within temperate rainforest that exists on less than one percent of the earth's surface.

Vanilla leaf is flowering and soon the trilliums will bloom. It has been a cold spring, not so good for gardeners but wonderfully wet for our own coastal rainforest that stores even more carbon than tropical forests. The endangered red-legged frogs, rough-backed newts, banana slugs and all the wondrous creatures hidden in the leaf litter are thriving. It's also a serene, safe nursery for does who stay close to water while they hide their fawns behind ferns thrusting up from the spongy earth. What a refuge. It's teeming with diverse life.

This nature reserve is protected in perpetuity. Legally, it's owned outright by TLC The Land Conservancy of B.C. and it's also covenanted with two covenant-holders to ensure protection. In a hundred years and long after that, the forest will become even more mighty and beautiful. Our children and grandchildren can know we cared about the earth they will inherit and they can walk this forest's paths.

Special thanks to Bill Turner, Executive Director of TLC, who never faltered during the long negotiation. Though the hard work of the TLC team, 310 properties in BC have been brought under protection along with this one, so precious to us. TLC's modeled on Britain's National Trust and like them, is entirely supported by its membership. When I realized this I became a monthly member of TLC. Thank you all so much for what you have already accomplished. The response was overwhelming. I left the savesaltspringrainforest website up in celebration of the happy ending to our campaign and to inspire others with evidence of your generosity.

Maureen Moore, Creekside Volunteer Warden, was given the LTABC Volunteer of the Year award in 2008. She

worked tirelessly, initially independently, and then with TLC The Land Conservancy of BC and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy to protect the Creekside Rainforest!

Creekside Rainforest is 19.46 acres of stunning natural beauty and biodiversity located within the lower Cusheon watershed on Salt Spring Island. In September 2007, this green, forested valley and salmon-bearing stream was in danger of imminent subdivision, and Maureen (Mo) Moore became the catalyst that coordinated and organized the community (from schoolchildren to artists, scientists, citizens, and businesses) to recognize, raise awareness and funds to preserve this crucial habitat and special place.



COMMUNITY FARMLAND

Pender Islanders Farmland Trust

By Elizabeth Montague

Early in 2009, a group of Pender Island residents came together to discuss global warming, food security, the need to increase local healthy food production and self-sufficiency. The group continued to grow and meet regularly, eventually forming a registered society with the vision of creating a community farmland trust to be held in perpetuity for the benefit of Pender Island.

Pender Island is following many communities in recognizing the need to protect farmland as a vital community asset. However, to produce local food, more farmers and local access to farmland are also needed. The community farm model can provide a way to encourage, cultivate and support new farmers by providing affordable access to land.

Findings from the December 2009 Vancouver Island Food Systems Network (VISFSN) show that Vancouver Island grows 4% of the food consumed, and has 3 days of emergency food supply before supermarket shelves are bare. Local infrastructure for food processing and distribution has been lost.

¹ Michael Pollan is the Knight Professor of Journalism at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC-Berkeley and director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism. Author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (2006) and other books that examine the importance of changing the food system.



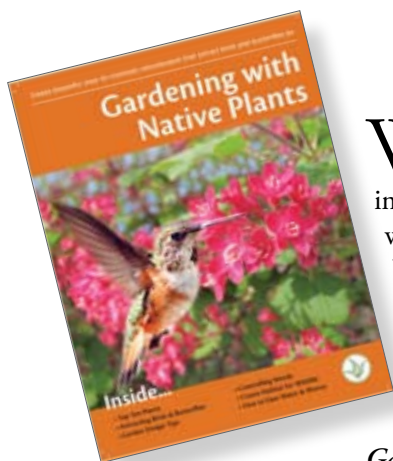
Pender's Community Farm Anna Lundeen shares info at Saturday Farmer's Market

The industrial food system based on high fossil fuel inputs has allowed for the production of abundant, cheap food in North America over the past several decades. Michael Pollan¹ reports that farming based on high fossil fuel inputs allows one farmer to feed 300 people. However, with shrinking fossil fuel reserves, the rising cost of fossil fuels driving up food prices, and the clear need to reduce our carbon footprint, this model cannot survive long. To make the transition to a local, small-scale, sustainable model, more farmers will be needed.

The Pender Island Community Farmland (PICF) Acquisition Project is envisioning a multi-dimensional farm model that provides small-scale farmers with access to land. To encourage young farmers and increase the production of local healthy food, the society plans to offer small acreage land access agreements at an affordable annual price/acre. This model can be applied to any farm property, although particular features of each property require individualized mapping and planning.

With guiding principles of stewardship of the land, sustainable agricultural practices, conservation of ecological values, local farming education and research as well as community-building activities, the model emphasizes mutual support, cooperation and community participation. Other

continued on page 14



Wildly popular Gardening With Native Plants

With over 6000 copies in print, this gardening guide is showing up around our region's nurseries with habitat-friendly homeowners. With this behaviour-modeling publication, HAT is planting the seeds of a growing movement for natural landscapes and sustainable communities.

Gardening with Native Plants packs forty of the best native garden species into eight full colour pages. Find an innovative table for each species in the centrefold: suggested companion plants and icons showing plant functions are very useful. The handy insert page lists nurseries, websites, books, garden designs, and demonstration gardens.

An excerpt from the guide:

"Many Vancouver Island residents want attractive, easy to maintain, drought tolerant gardens that attract birds and butterflies. The best plant choices for gardens are often the native plants that thrive naturally in our region. A native plant includes those species that were here prior to European settlement. Rewarding and dynamic, "naturescapes" are functional gardens that reflect the native richness and beauty of our unique region.



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Why are native plants so good for gardens? South-eastern Vancouver Island is one of Canada's top nature hot spots, but our rare native ecosystems like the Garry oak meadows and Coastal Douglas fir forests are now gone from over 95 percent of their former range due to urban development. Invasive introduced plants escaping from gardens are quickly changing natural habitats for the worse.

Creating a naturescape (native plant garden) on your land is part of the solution to habitat loss. The actions of many individual landowners can make a big difference for wildlife in our region. A changing climate and booming population growth is forcing communities to rethink our prolific outdoor water use. Using showy native plants in your garden can also save you time and money; forget about watering, artificial fertilizers, and toxic pesticides. Because native plants have evolved in this climate for countless generations, they attract local song birds and insect pollinators. The various plants in this guide fit into any type of garden setting. Find a native species to replace invaders and thirsty plants in your landscape."

For copies of this guide, please contact Todd Carnahan: todd@hat.bc.ca or download a PDF version from our website: www.hat.bc.ca

_____ Pender Island Farmland Trust - continued from Page 13 _____
planned land uses and society projects include community-owned fruit, nut and olive orchards, berries, bee-keeping, native plant nursery, food and conservation-related workshops, a walking/running trail, a children's garden and community garden plots. Conservation values will result in protection of forest habitat, healthy soil and water, plant foods for bees, butterflies and wild birds, and inclusion of bird and bat boxes. In addition, there are plans for ongoing food and farming research and education through workshops on gardening, bee-keeping, food preserving, seed-saving, plant propagation, herbal preparations, and green-living innovations. Like other community farms in BC, the Pender Island community farm will be shaped by the unique needs, interests and contributions of the local community.

In May 2010, the PICF Project entered into a cooperative relationship with TLC with the goal of purchasing farmland on the Pender Islands for community benefit now and for future generations. With TLC now acting as charitable receipting partner, donations to the PICF Project administered by TLC are tax-deductible. Community consultation will continue as support and funding build towards the acquisition of an initial property.

RAIN GARDENS TO THE RESCUE

Stormwater infiltration for habitat conservation

by Deborah Jones



Fresh water is our most precious resource.. Miraculously, it falls out of the sky for free as rain or snow – a gift of nature’s hydrologic cycle. And what do we do with this invaluable gift? We whisk it away from us as quickly as we can.

First we create hectares of impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, rooftops), then we install curbs and gutters to corral rainwater or snowmelt and send it down storm drains. These lead into networks of underground pipes that empty directly into the nearest convenient creek, river, lake or shoreline. Within mere hours or days, nature’s gift has flowed off into the ocean.

Our outdated stormwater management system is not only a huge waste of water, it’s also a recipe for environmental damage.

•**Pollution** As stormwater flows across impervious surfaces, it picks up hydrocarbons (from vehicles and asphalt), cigarette butts, excess pesticides and fertilizers, and litter of every kind. These are deposited directly into aquatic habitats.

•**Erosion** Torrents of stormwater runoff scour away creek banks and salmon gravels.

•**Groundwater depletion** Precipitation has no opportunity to soak into the ground, thus ground-water is increasingly depleted.

•**Summer drought** Groundwater depletion means little water left to maintain tree health, water well output, or creek levels during dry summer weather.

Managing Stormwater on Site

Catching stormwater runoff, before it is whisked away, is the first and best way to collect nature’s free water.

Nature manages stormwater on site, with forest cover, understorey foliage, organic matter, soils and groundwater. Together, these free ecological services rival costly engineered facilities in their ability to remove pollutants from water, store it, and deliver a steady and cool supply to nearby aquatic habitats.

Mimicking nature, we too can manage stormwater on site, by integrating rain gardens into our urban and suburban landscapes. Every boulevard, median, traffic circle, parking lot landscape island, and garden presents an opportunity for filtering and absorbing runoff, thus vastly reducing water waste and pollution.

Rain gardens also make ideal locations for re-creating natural habitats. Sword ferns, salal, Oregon grape, kinni-

kinnick, red-twig dogwood, red flowering currant, Douglas iris, sedges, grasses and many other native plants have been used with great success in rain gardens.

Not surprisingly, many BC municipalities now boast demonstration rain garden projects. The more pro-active engineering and planning departments are also working to develop standard designs that incorporate rain gardens along streets and in parking lots.



But beyond these “official” green initiatives, rain gardens also offer a unique opportunity for hands-on citizen involvement in conservation. The technique is simple, the scope for variety is enormous, and the need is everywhere.



Parking lot rain garden at North Delta Evangelical Free Church, during construction and after.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Grants for Rain Garden Projects

Equally inspiring are the micro-projects, created with tiny grants and lots of sweat equity. In March 2010, with just \$800 and 3 days of labour, a church youth group in North Delta jackhammered and excavated the lowest parking space in their church parking lot, brought in compost, and planted a little gem of a sunken garden around the pre-existing storm drain.

As a class of school children trooped by this highly-visible location, one was heard to exclaim, “This garden wasn’t here before!” Another soon replied, after a glance at the interpretive signage, “It’s not a garden, it’s a rain garden!”

The garden will not only help nearby McAdam creek and provide a bit of habitat, it has also educated its creators and their congregation, and introduced the concept of rain gardens to passersby.

The Nature Trust has established an endowment fund to support community rain garden projects. Thanks to our donors, the fund currently stands at \$100,000. The grants that it generates, though modest, have sparked community awareness, discussion, funding partnerships and some very creative projects.

For more information on The Nature Trust Rain Garden Fund, contact Jason Northcott, jnorthcott@naturetrust.bc.ca 604 924-9771

Hands-On Grasslands Restoration & Reclamation Workshop

Grasslands make up less than 1% of BC's land base, but are home to more than 30% of BC's species at risk.

**Saturday, September 11th &
Sunday, September 12th 2010**

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PARKS AND CONSERVATION COVENANTS

Keeping original donor/partner intentions for the long term

by Adam Taylor, HAT

I still remember the day when working at the Goldstream Nature House, I came in to discover a pickup truck stuck in the estuary mud. The night before, some yahoos had driven down the salmon-bearing Goldstream River, because, as they told the local newspaper reporter, they “hadn’t seen any signs saying they couldn’t.” Reports of vehicles damaging parks are distressingly common. Mt Well’s, Mt Work, Gowlland-Tod, the list of parks damaged by “off-highway vehicles” goes on. Much of the damage to flower and plant communities will not heal in our lifetimes. As a matter of policy, all of these parks prohibit motorized off-road vehicles. Park agencies install gates and barriers, but these are often vandalized so that “mudboggers” and “rock climbers” can get into parks.

Recently, however, a group of OHV enthusiasts managed to convince the Capital Regional District’s (CRD) Regional Parks Committee to direct Parks staff to investigate intentionally allowing these vehicles access to parks. Specifically Parks staff were told to write a report on opening the Harbourview Gate in the Sea to Sea Regional Park Reserve, and to determine the feasibility of a designated off-road vehicle area inside the Park. Conservation groups were livid. Fortunately, in this case, most of the land in the Sea to Sea Regional Park Reserve has conservation covenants attached to it that prohibit off-road vehicle use.

Covenants are legal agreements that are registered on a property’s title, and remain with the land permanently. They are an effective way to protect private property from future development, or ensure that governments uphold



conservation promises made when acquiring park land. HAT and TLC, the covenant holders on the Sea to Sea lands, were able to remind the CRD Regional Parks Committee that they had legal obligations to prohibit off-road vehicle use in the Park.

This time there will be no need to enforce the covenants. After hearing from 23 knowledgeable and passionate speakers representing groups like the Victoria Natural History Society, Preserve Our Parks, the Federation of Mountain Clubs, and the Alpine Club of Canada, the CRD Regional Parks Committee re-affirmed its ban on off-road vehicles. However, it was a reminder of the importance that Land Trusts need to be strong and ready to defend their covenants if needed.

Covenants are not a one-time commitment. They require vigilance, monitoring, and sometimes, enforcing.

Adam Taylor, Executive Director, Habitat Acquisition Trust

RESTORATION AT SOMENOS MARSH

By Dave Polster



Jen Morgan is collecting cuttings for planting in areas to shade out blackberries.



Arthur, Dave and Jeff are planting later successional conifers in the former blackberry area along the banks of Bings Creek.

Somenos Marsh is an ecological jewel in the Cowichan Valley as well as an internationally recognized Important Bird Area. However, the marsh and Somenos Lake has had a tumultuous history. A portion of the marsh was once a sawmill site with all the attendant destruction that entailed. The sawmill area was then converted to a boat retail store and yard with larger areas of paving established to store the boats. As business declined and access to the highway with large boat trailers became more difficult, the boat yard pulled out. This area has now been converted to the Open Air Classroom with interpretive signs, boardwalks and viewing platforms. In addition to the sawmill/boatyard site, farm fields and a proposed farm market have intruded on the marsh. Formerly known for its important salmon habitat, there has been local and regional interest in restoring the ecological attributes that supported not only the salmon, but other natural goods and services the marsh provided. The Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, a child of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society devoted entirely to the Somenos Marsh has worked to restore the marsh as well as to provide natural history interpretations.

Restoration activities at the Somenos Marsh have been directed at providing enhanced habitat for large numbers of swans and geese as well as other wintering waterfowl by mowing and in some cases cultivating the agricultural fields where willows are invading and threatening to limit the habitat values. Annual grains have been planted to help attract the waterfowl to the marsh to avoid problems at local farms. In addition, restoration work included replacing in-

vasive species such as blackberries with appropriate riparian vegetation such as willows, red-osier dogwood and cottonwood. Where reed canary grass is choking one of the inflow creeks, planting riparian species such as red-osier dogwood and cottonwood provide enhanced habitat values while suppressing the growth of the grass. Cuttings have been used to establish riparian vegetation as well as to suppress the growth of invasive blackberries. Cottonwood cuttings will grow into large trees that will provide habitat for a variety of birds, including Great Blue Herons.

Invasive species management included efforts to address the yellow flag iris problem. Initially the extent of the iris was mapped. Teams of volunteers armed with GPS machines recorded the location of iris patches. The plan was to then systematically dig out the iris. However, digging out the iris corms proved to be much more difficult than expected and a decision was made to simply remove the flowers and seed pods to avoid further spread of the plants. Cultivation of the field areas may provide an opportunity to destroy the iris corms. Modifying the water levels with a weir at the outlet of the marsh might also provide a solution to both the iris and the reed canary grass. Further testing will be needed to determine an effective strategy for the iris problem.

continued next page

GIANT HOGWEED: BIG, SCARY ALIEN ON THE MOVE

Spreading Invasive Ornamental Plant Causes Long-Lasting Skin Damage

With the International Year for Biological Diversity, the time is right to start focusing on the early detection of invasive alien species—the second biggest threat to biodiversity worldwide. The National Invasive Species Working Group is aiming to increase the number of trained volunteer “spotters” across Canada to help detect new invaders.

The initial focus for this nation-wide initiative is giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), a very aggressive invasive plant with concern to human health and safety. Due to its intentional introduction in the horticulture industry, limited current distribution, potential for spread, and toxicity, members of the working group have agreed that this plant is a key national concern.

“Because of giant hogweed’s ability to grow in moist areas such as British Columbia’s many lakes, rivers, wetlands, valley bottoms, and coastal regions, and its toxicity to humans,



Growing up to five metres in height, giant hogweed stem hairs and leaves contain a clear, toxic sap that can cause burns, blisters, and scarring of the skin. Worksafe BC has issued safety guidelines on giant hogweed removal. Person illustrating height of giant hogweed - Photo: Fraser Valley Regional District

domestics and wildlife, its spread is a major concern for the Invasive Plant Council of BC” said IPCBC chair, Kristy Palmantier.

Native to Europe and Asia, giant hogweed was introduced to North America as an ornamental plant in the early 1900s. It is now present in BC, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, as well as a number of US States.

Its larger-than-life size is not the only reason to fear this plant. A single giant hogweed plant can produce 100,000 winged seeds, crowding out native plants and dominating moist areas. A rare type of invasive plant that threatens human health, giant hogweed produces a toxic sap that causes sensitivity to UV radiation, leading to skin blistering and severe burns. As a result, legal workplace regulations in BC and Ontario have unique implications for working in infested areas, and

there are numerous cases of people being hospitalized due to injuries caused by this ‘exotic’ looking plant.

Borrowing a page from the Australian “Weed Spotters” Program, the National Invasive Species Working Group believes “the more eyes we’ve got, the more invasive species we can spot, and potentially stop!” BC has a growing Spotters Network, coordinated by the Invasive Plant Council of BC and supported by regional invasive plant councils and committees across the province.

“We ask that gardeners take the time to learn what garden and horticulture plants are introduced and invasive to BC and become our ‘spotters’ on the ground. Work with your neighbours to keep invasive plants out of your neighbourhoods and communities,” suggests Palmantier.

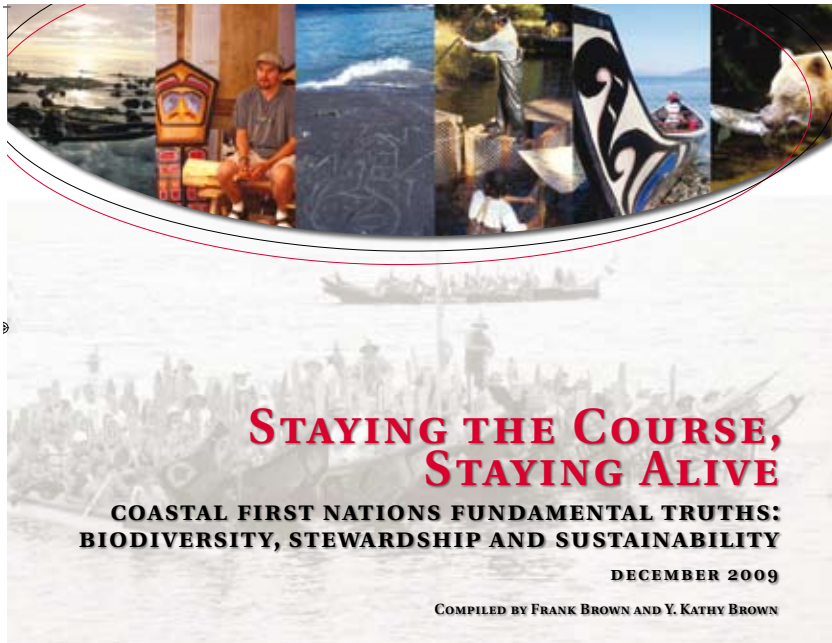
Individuals can report an invasive species in BC by calling toll free 1-888-WEEDSBC. Visit www.invasiveplant-councilbc.ca

Somenos Marsh Restoration - continued from page 18



Iris pseudoacorus management
Somenos Removal of yellow flag iris is one restoration problem that has yet to be solved.

The restoration work at the marsh has been done by volunteers on work party days. Building community is part of the restoration work at the Somenos Marsh. By working together to improve the ecological conditions at the marsh, a community of dedicated volunteers has developed. Work on the restoration of Somenos Marsh provides an opportunity for participants to re-connect with the natural world and to feel personally helpful in the face of increasing environmental degradation.



Staying the Course, Staying Alive

*Coastal First Nations
Fundamental Truths:*

**Biodiversity, Stewardship
and Sustainability"**

**Compiled by Frank
Brown and Y. Kathy**

**Brown, Coordinated and
Published by**

Biodiversity BC

On January 27th, 2010 Assembly of First Nations' National Chief Shawn Atleo, Chief Councillor Marilyn Slett of the Heiltsuk Nation, Chief Bill Cranmer of the 'Namgis Nation, Co-Author Frank "Athalis" Brown and Marian Adair from Biodiversity BC were present for the release of a new Biodiversity BC publication entitled *Staying the Course, Staying Alive – Coastal First Nations Fundamental Truths: Biodiversity, Stewardship and Sustainability*. This report gives voice to ancestral knowledge of B.C.'s Coastal First Nations and serves as a formal contribution to the United Nation's proclamation of 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity.

The idea for this book was inspired by Frank Athalis Brown's experience as an advisor to the Biodiversity BC Steering Committee during its preparation of the milestone report *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia*, published in 2008. After listening to scientists discuss the significance of various threats to biodiversity in BC, Frank wanted to establish a connection between the scientific assessment of biodiversity and the traditional knowledge and practices handed down through multiple generations among his own Heiltsuk people on the central coast. He felt that much of this traditional knowledge could be conveyed as core principles or fundamental truths that would complement current scientific knowledge.

"These seven truths flow naturally from one to another and together form an integrated set of beliefs about the relationships of First Peoples with nature and about the practices our ancestors evolved since Creation to sustain life in all its forms. Living in the same place where our ancestors have always lived, we naturally came to understand

the interconnectedness and equality of all life. That understanding in turn fostered an intimate relationship with and knowledge of nature and its cycles, and an appreciation that the survival of the natural world required careful and constant stewardship. But we also recognize that stewardship by itself is not enough. For our own strength and survival, we must accept our responsibility to share with and support all other beings to keep them strong too and to be prepared to continually adapt to change." (Frank Athalis Brown)

The heart of this report is a set of seven fundamental truths that for thousands of years have guided Coastal First Nations. Frank Brown and Y. Kathy Brown assembled these truths through research and interviews with elders from three different Coastal First Nations: Pauline Waterfall (Hilistis), from Heiltsuk, Gloria Cranmer-Webster (Wikalalisame'ga), from 'Namgis of the Kwakwaka'wakw, and Barb Wilson (Kii'iljuus), from Haida Nation. Each is regarded by her community as a 'Keeper of the Knowledge'.

These 'Keepers of the Knowledge' were asked: "Are there fundamental truths or core values related to biodiversity, sustainability and stewardship?" The unanimous answer was "yes". The discussion then shifted to an exploration of the past, including stories and practices reflecting a connection to nature. The result was a description of seven fundamental truths that evolved through a series of discussions and correspondence among the keepers of the knowledge. Each truth is supported by language, maps, practices and stories from the three Coastal First Nations, and each reflects a different connection to the elements of nature. Collectively the truths convey knowledge, care and sustenance derived from thousands of years of living in direct contact with the

land and sea. These truths are communicated from one generation to another through the types of stories included in this book.

The seven truths, which also affirm current concepts of biodiversity, stewardship and sustainability and provide an important balance for scientific knowledge, are as follows:

Fundamental Truth 1: Creation We the coastal first peoples have been in our respective territories (homelands) since the beginning of time.

Fundamental Truth 2: Connection to Nature We are all one and our lives are interconnected.

Fundamental Truth 3: Respect All life has equal value. We acknowledge and respect that all plants and animals have a life force.

Fundamental Truth 4: Knowledge Our traditional knowledge of sustainable resource use and management is reflected in our intimate relationship with nature and its predictable seasonal cycles and indicators of renewal of life and subsistence.

Fundamental Truth 5: Stewardship We are stewards of the land and sea from which we live, knowing that our health as a people and our society is intricately tied to the health of the land and waters.

Fundamental Truth 6: Sharing We have a responsibility to share and support to provide strength and make others stronger in order for our world to survive.

Fundamental Truth 7: Adapting to Change Environmental, demographic, socio-political and cultural changes have occurred since the creator placed us in our homelands and we have continuously adapted to and survived these changes.

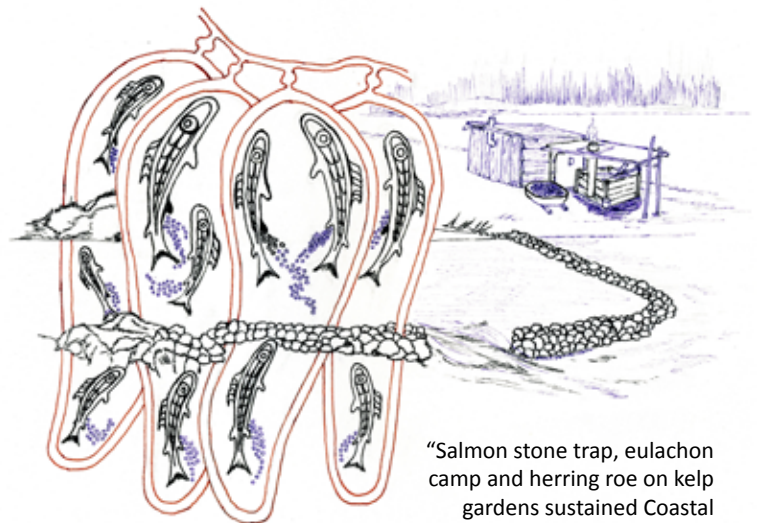
The report has a Foreword written by A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo), Assembly of First Nations National Chief and a Preface written by Nancy Turner, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria.

“The marine metaphor “staying the course, staying alive” is a powerful symbol that acknowledges our long-term connection to the land and sea. It affirms the wisdom of our elders for holding on to our truths that have sustained us as first nations people while moving forward into the next millennium. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Haida, Heiltsuk and Namgis First Nations for sharing their insights and practices and contributing to enhanced relationships with one another and with the living environment around us.” A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo) Assembly of First Nations National Chief

BC’s biodiversity is globally significant because of its variety and integrity, but without immediate action is vulnerable to rapid deterioration, especially in light of climate change.

The “Staying the Course, Staying Alive” report can be downloaded from the Biodiversity BC Website at www.biodiversitybc.org. For more information on the next phase of this project, please contact Frank Brown at the Heiltsuk Tribal Council at fbrown@heiltsuknation.ca

In March 2010 Biodiversity BC also completed a poster called BC’s Natural Treasure: Will It Still Be Here for Your Children? The Major Findings from Taking Nature’s Pulse: the Status of Biodiversity of British Columbia are depicted on the poster with the intent of promoting greater awareness of the threats to the province’s biodiversity and the urgency to move to action to protect BC’s natural treasures.



“Salmon stone trap, eulachon camp and herring roe on kelp gardens sustained Coastal First Nations throughout the millennia.” Artwork: Shirl Hall

Over the past five years, Biodiversity BC, a partnership of government and non-government organizations, has brought together science experts to determine the main threats and concerns facing biodiversity in the province. The resulting reports, *Taking Nature’s Pulse: the Status of Biodiversity of British Columbia* and *the Biodiversity Atlas of BC*, are a comprehensive, science-based assessment of the state of the province’s natural environment. The 23 Major Findings support the conclusion that BC’s biodiversity is globally significant because of its variety and integrity, but without immediate action is vulnerable to rapid deterioration, especially in light of climate change.

The poster and other science foundation reports completed by Biodiversity BC are available by contacting us at info@biodiversitybc.org.

THE PROBLEM WITH BIOENERGY

by David Neads

Most people would not support building a coal fired power plant in their community these days. One would anticipate that such an installation would increase CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere, violating global agreements and utterly failing to meet provincial, national and international targets for the reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Yet, amazingly, provincial policy sanctions building wood fired power plants instead of electrical generation using natural gas. This is perplexing, because burning wood produces twice as much CO₂ emissions per unit energy produced than a natural gas generating station.

Provincial regulators justify emissions created by burning wood as 'carbon neutral'. This is surprising, because the atmosphere can't discriminate between molecules. CO₂ is CO₂, whether it comes from a tailpipe or a 'carbon neutral' stack.

The crux is the definition of carbon neutrality. To put it simply, when trees grow, they take CO₂ out of the atmosphere to make wood fibre. When this fibre is burned, that CO₂ is released back into the atmosphere. As new trees regrow they pull this CO₂ back out of the air, so, in theory, the CO₂ just goes around and around in a Biogenic Carbon Cycle.

Fossil carbon is labeled non neutral because it is locked deep within the earth and is millions of years old. Left in the ground, that carbon will not reach the atmosphere. If it is released into the atmosphere, it is additional to the carbon already circulating in the Biogenic Carbon Cycle. That increases greenhouse gas emissions – the crux of our climate change problem. Since the industrial revolution, with its



reliance on burning coal and natural gas brought from far underground, additional CO₂ has been released, causing a large portion of our current climate change.

In theory, a switch from fossil carbon to biogenic carbon would be neutral and could help reduce climate change by reducing the input of new carbon into the planetary budget.

Unfortunately, this theory doesn't fit reality.

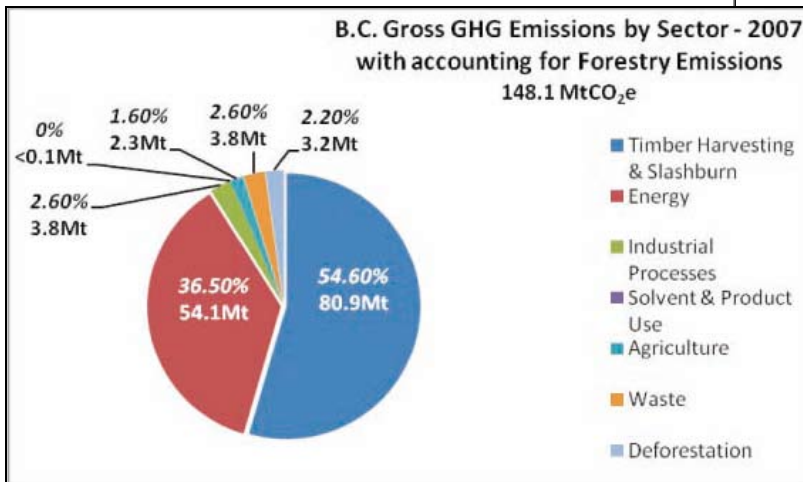
Present CO₂ levels are around 390 ppm and rising, with no reduction in sight. Once amounts increase beyond 450 ppm, scientists project that major disruption to the global climate system is likely. Predictive models anticipate significant sea level rise and dramatic temperature and rainfall shifts. These are likely to cause major diebacks and extinctions of many species, including humans. In order to reduce these consequences, a 33% reduction of CO₂ emissions is needed by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. That is just forty years from now.

The Biogenic Carbon Cycle takes more than a century to complete in interior temperate forests and much longer in coastal ecosystems. Under the best growing conditions, new forest will only be able to ab-

sorb approximately 80% of the CO₂ released by the logging and burning of trees because additional CO₂ is released by logging equipment, soil disturbance, transport, milling and shipping.

Wood has a very low energy density. When it is substituted for natural gas in fuel switching operations, there is an immediate doubling of CO₂ release per unit energy pro-

This urgent problem requires a real and immediate reduction of CO₂ emissions. Burning wood to replace fossil fuels will increase CO₂ output for several decades. And there is no assurance that energy from wood-fueled power would replace energy from gas-fired plants; it may just all be additional to the CO₂ loading.



above chart from *A New Climate for Conservation*, April 2010, Jim Pojar, available at www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

duced. In other words, if a switch is made today from natural gas to wood, CO₂ emissions will be doubled, adding more GHG to the system than if the facility had continued to burn natural gas.

So far, this fuel comparison leaves out inclusion of the essential natural values that the conversion of these areas entails: habitat loss due to forest removal; loss of adaptation options for species of all kinds; ecosystem alteration; and loss of ecosystem services that nature provides to people.

All these facets of Bio Energy fuel production are cumulative, adding to the existing CO₂ footprint. In summary, fuel switching from natural gas to Bio Energy using forest wood will likely double CO₂ emissions; contravening all agreements and making it impossible to reach government legislated GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2050.

Government policy needs to reflect the real emissions from fuel switching to wood in their tracking process and bring this accounting into the legal framework of GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2050. We need to immediately and dramatically reduce CO₂ emissions, and substituting wood for natural gas will instead increase these emissions.

As a society, we can no longer gamble with the reality of climate change. Faulty accounting needs to be replaced with a complete analysis, that gives a true picture of B.C.'s energy production profile. CO₂ emissions can be reduced immediately and dramatically only with policies that encourage non carbon sources of energy such as wind, tidal, solar, geothermal and, most importantly, energy conservation.

More detailed information and references/citations available on request. Contact Dave Neads <precipice@xplornet.ca>

Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error

528 23 OCTOBER 2009 VOL 326 SCIENCE www.science-mag.org

The accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in the Kyoto Protocol and in climate legislation contains a far-reaching but fixable flaw that will severely undermine greenhouse gas reduction goals. It does not count CO₂ emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when bioenergy is being used, but it also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown. This accounting erroneously treats all bioenergy as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions. For example, the clearing of long-established forests to burn wood or to grow energy crops is counted as a 100% reduction in energy emissions despite causing large releases of carbon.

Several recent studies estimate that this error, applied globally, would create strong incentives to clear land as carbon caps tighten. One study (2) estimated that a global CO₂ target of 450 ppm under this accounting would cause bioenergy crops to expand to displace virtually all the world's natural forests and savannahs by 2065, releasing up to 37 gigatons (Gt) of CO₂ per year

Last year the state of Massachusetts suspended licenses for new wood-burning power plants and commissioned a study on the environmental impacts of burning wood for electricity. That study, conducted by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, has just been released and it shows that, per unit, wood releases more climate-damaging gases than coal.

Coal is considered one of the chief culprits of greenhouse gas emissions.

"The sobering conclusion is that Massachusetts cannot produce very much new energy from forest resources while also protecting the health of our forests and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Sue Reid, a staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation.



Order the Silva Forest Foundation's new book by Herb Hammond, *Maintaining Whole Systems on Earth's Crown: Ecosystem-based Planning for the Boreal Forest*. This book provides details for ecosystem-based planning from large landscapes to small patches in any ecosystem type and guidance for developing diverse, community-based economies. To order go to www.silvafor.org/publications.

ROBERT BATEMAN

Mentor of Stewards in Training

written by Sarah Bateman

Last April Robert Bateman gave a talk on Salt Spring Island as a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Stewards in Training program. Believing that people are moved to conserve what they know and love, the SSI Conservancy created the Stewards in Training Program. This program invites all students on Salt Spring Island from grades 1-8 (approximately 700 annually) to share a day in nature, learning about the cultural and natural history of our island. The goal is to encourage children to develop a personal relationship with nature. Volunteers help the students develop a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world. This curiosity is expanded through playful, thoughtful and introspective activities. In developing these connections, children cultivate a sense of personal ownership and stewardship responsibilities for the land.

Many of you know Robert Bateman as a world renowned artist and naturalist who is dedicated to preserving the natural world. He also enjoys donating his time and art to environmental causes. In April he not only gave a talk and slide show, but he donated three limited edition lithographic prints for a live auction to support the SSI Conservancy. This was a very successful event that not only raised money for the Conservancy's school programs, but also provided a very enjoyable community experience.



No one would argue that Robert Bateman has been leading an exciting and fulfilling life. I am going to share with you his secrets to success!

All children love being outside, exploring the natural world and doing artwork. Robert Bateman was no different as a child. He played outside and soon took pleasure in studying and sketching the living things that he saw. He was lucky enough to have a mother who had a love for nature and gave him lots of encouragement, soon letting all of her friends, neighbours and anyone else she spoke to know what a talented son she had. He was also lucky to have an uncle who was a skilled artist and who inspired his love of drawing and painting. So, the first secret of his success is having loving mentors as a child.

Many of you may not know that Robert Bateman didn't quit his day job until he was 45 years old. He was a full time high school teacher. He has always done art for the love of it. He encourages other young artists to do the same, even if it is only during evenings and weekends while working. Follow your passion, but don't quit your day job – that is the second secret to his success.

Of course, he still is very excited about teaching and learning. On family holidays, he brings stacks of books and field guides to share with his children and grandchildren – often doing readings from his latest favourite after dinner, currently *Civilization and the Limpet* by Martin John Wells. On a recent holiday, he gave his grandchildren a field guide to fishes that they needed to study on the 30 minute drive to a good snorkelling spot. They were inspired and started shouting out names of



fish they had already seen and looking for new ones. A life long love of teaching and learning is the third secret to his success.

This love of teaching and learning leads to a fourth secret to Robert Bateman's success—nothing is too much trouble if it provides a meaningful experience. Of course we all want to get the most out of the time we spend traveling to new places but Bateman takes it to another level. One of his ideas for a family vacation was to drive across Canada with three pre-teens, two babies and his wife, Birgit. Stopping at “wild camping” places was his favourite thing to do because it was free, quiet and provided new places to explore. It didn't matter that there were no facilities or Park Rangers to warn you of the grizzlies in the area. The Volkswagen van was equipped with a home-made pop-up tent similar to today's Westphalia design so everyone slept up top or inside the van. We drank luke-warm powdered milk and ate lots of peanut butter sandwiches. A grizzly didn't chase us out of the forest, although we did hear something roar. It was all worth it to end up in BC scooting across the water in a zodiac with his best friend, Bristol Foster.

The final secret to Robert Bateman's success is that he loves people. He loves meeting new people, sharing stories, discussing ideas and planning excursions. Now he is filling the mentor role by sharing his love of art and nature with his grandchildren and inspiring other children with his work. Of course all through Robert Bateman's life he has been painting and sketching his adventures. I was in the audience at the April fundraiser and really did enjoy the slides of art and travel and the stories.

This was an example of a very successful fundraiser that provided funds to continue the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's work educating children about stewardship of the beautiful place where they live and perhaps inspiring them to lead a successful life with nature at the centre!

These two prints of Robert Bateman's were auctioned at the fundraising event. Left: Wolf pair in Winter, Above Spirit Bear. Many thanks to Robert Bateman who has donated his time and art to the SSIC and other conservation groups over the years!



Islands Trust Partners with UN International Year of Biodiversity

In March 2010, the Islands Trust Council decided to become a partner with the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), thereby joining a wide group of other partners such as the American Museum of Natural History, Nature Trust and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. As an IYB partner, the Islands Trust will share its success stories in biodiversity conservation with other partners and, ideally, will also learn from others' successes and challenges. The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity after it became apparent that no country had met the biodiversity targets set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992.

There is good reason for biodiversity conservation to be front and centre in thinking about the future of the Gulf Islands. In 2008, a study by more than 100 scientists concluded that biodiversity in BC faces many serious threats. The most threatened area of all is the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, most of which has been lost to housing, agriculture and road construction. A large part of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone falls within the Gulf Islands, so the Islands Trust has a significant responsibility for the conservation of BC's remaining biodiversity.

Fortunately, the Islands Trust does have some great conservation success stories to share with the world – examples such as ecosystem mapping and the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) and extensive protection of areas containing threatened or endangered species. During coming months we'll be sharing these good news stories with the world and reporting back to you on the progress of our IYB partnership. To learn more about the International Year of Biodiversity, explore this website: <http://www.cbd>.

OKANAGAN COLLEGE STUDENTS TEAM UP WITH LAND TRUST

Photos and Story
by Ellen Pederson

A dozen students were spread out in a sunny glade in Benvoulin Woods. Each had a clipboard and a copy of *Plants of the Southern Interior*. All were engrossed in identifying and quantifying the plants around them. I looked out across the clusters of bent heads and quipped "You do realize you are being used". A half dozen bright young faces popped up and, with a wide grin, one replied "Yeah, we know. We think it's great." This comment confirmed the value of the exercise for me.

I had recently been assigned to teach an introductory ecology course at Okanagan College in Kelowna, B.C. and was trying to find meaningful exercises to help the students recognize the importance and relevance of ecological studies. Believing in the importance of hands-on experience I jumped at the chance to utilize Benvoulin Woods, a property held by the Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT). Benvoulin Woods, a Black Cottonwood forest, has valuable ecological significance. Black Cottonwood forests are among the rarest of Okanagan plant communities with some of the highest biodiversity. In the hot, arid Okanagan they provide a refuge for many species but unfortunately have been reduced to small fragments. It is very important to protect what little is remaining.

A baseline inventory of Benvoulin Woods had been done in 2004 and COLT was interested in ongoing monitoring to detect any changes in vegetation. I had met Hugh Westheuser, a member of the Board of Directors of COLT, a few years earlier and, thanks to him, we already had some enthusiastic faculty members and work-study students involved in monitoring another property. This was the first time we had involved a whole class in a monitoring project. In academic parlance this comes under the umbrella of Community Service Learning (CSL). In this model student do volunteer work within the community, combining experiential learning with classroom learning.

Studies have shown that CSL has positive effects on academic performance while promoting ongoing community involvement.

I cannot report on the success of promoting ongoing community involvement, or even of increasing academic performance as this was not a controlled study, but I can give anecdotal evidence about the students' enthusiasm. They were excited and very proud to be part of a "real" project, rather than simply performing the cookbook exercises that are the usual fare in undergraduate education. They were all fully engaged in the project. One student, who had previously proclaimed that he hated plants, spent a great deal of time and effort identifying specimens he found. He later told me that he thought plants are "actually kind of cool." Another asked to see our herbarium collection to confirm that she had identified an aster correctly. At the end of any exercise I ask students to drop off or e-mail me their data so I can collate it for the class. This sometimes had limited success, but on this occasion all of them sent me their data within twenty-four hours.

In addition to the students learning about sampling methods and local plant species, the field trip spawned a great deal of discussion around the effects of constraining waterways, invasive species, and other human initiated environmental challenges.

I plan to continue this as an ongoing project and hope that our students will provide COLT with some useful data. I know that COLT is providing them with a valuable, relevant, and fun experience.

I am a college professor and chair of the Biology Department at Okanagan College in Kelowna, B.C.. I strive to foster a passion for biology in our students while pursuing my personal goal of getting out in the field as much as possible. I have been helping COLT with monitoring for a couple of years and became a member of the Board of Directors this past winter.

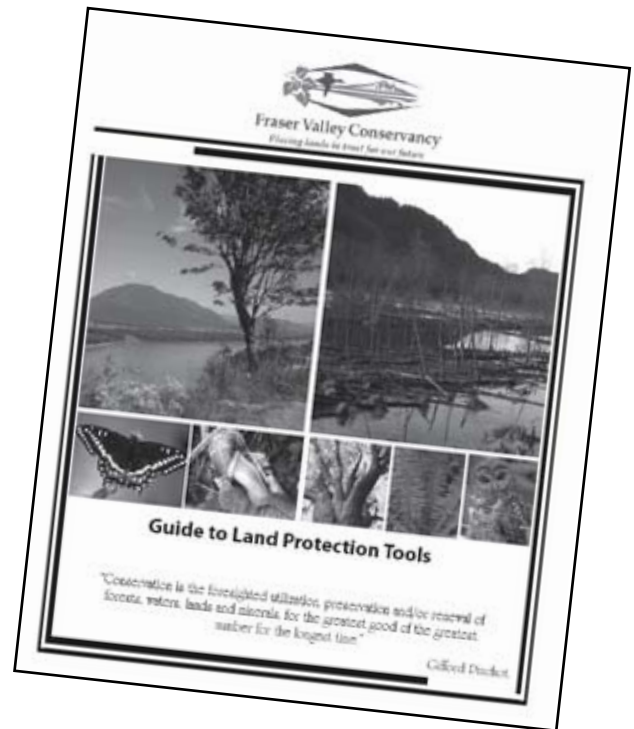
LAND TRUST WORKSHOPS FOR MUNICIPAL STAFF AND COUNCIL

By Lisa Fox

The Fraser Valley Conservancy provided half day workshops to municipalities within the Fraser Valley, with funding from the 2009/2010 Federal Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. We selected 'champions' within each municipality to coordinate the event, deliver pre-workshop questionnaires, and provide feedback afterward. We also hired Paul Skydt as a secondary facilitator to provide information on the Green Bylaws Toolkit and insight into the work of municipal and regional district staff. Ducks Unlimited funded the printing of the toolkit for the staff. Hiring a secondary person with credibility and knowledge of the audience was essential and acted as a drawing card for workshop attendance. All totaled, 98 people attended the six workshops, held in Chilliwack, Mission, Kent, Maple Ridge, FVRD and an additional workshop for the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition participants (FVWC). Workshops for Harrison, Abbotsford, and Langley are in the works for the future. The majority of the workshops were attended by primarily staff, except for more rural communities which drew council members as well.

The Fraser Valley Conservancy's component of the workshops consisted of promoting the services we offer such as Land Owner Contact, Wildlife Reports, Watercourse and Ecosystem Mapping, Covenants and Donations and an overview of Species at Risk issues. A donation booklet was created and presented to the workshop participants.

The workshops were well received and opened several new doors for FVC to provide services to municipalities and promote Species at Risk awareness. We also collected a lot of information on what municipalities are doing and obtained some excellent showcase pieces for other municipalities. We are now in the follow up stage, including starting a historic site protection program, stream / ecosystem mapping, continued and increased municipal support of our programs, and collaboration and promotion of park acquisition sites within both Metro and Fraser Valley Regions. I encourage all of you to get out and talk with your municipal staff about what services you can offer them.



** We have a copy of our presentation and our Land Donations booklet available for other land trusts or planners upon request.

Resources for local government:

- *Stewardship Bylaws: A Guide for Local Governments*
www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/cdirs/st_series/
- *Wetlands Ways: Guidelines for Wetland Protection*
www.bcwetlands.ca/tools/wetland-ways/
- *Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit*
www.obwb.ca/groundwater_bylaws_toolkit/
- *Green Bylaw Toolkit* www.greenbylaw.ca
- *Conservation Offsets, A Revenue Tool to Conserve Natural Areas, Watersheds and Community Resilience*, www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca
- *Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature* www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

TRANSITION MOVEMENT: prescription for a positive post-carbon future

By Leslie Wallace

The Transition movement is a community-based movement for responding and adapting to the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. Started in the U.K. less than five years ago, there are 301 officially designated Transition Towns, cities, districts and islands, even a Transition forest, formed in 14 countries around the world, with many other communities “mulling” it over. Of the 17 official Transition initiatives in Canada, 8 are in British Columbia.



Salt Spring Islanders testing an Apple Press, Photo Peter Lamb

The transition movement invites us to learn about the challenges that we will face in our communities as a result of climate change and the declining availability of cheap energy, and then imagine the best possible future for our community, given those challenges. According to Transition Movement founder Rob Hopkins, climate change is only half the picture. In *The Transition Handbook*, Hopkins makes the case that our lives have been shaped by 150-plus years of cheap oil, that the end of this age is just around the corner, and that there “is no adequate substitute for those [cheap, energy-dense fossil fuels] on the scale we use them.”

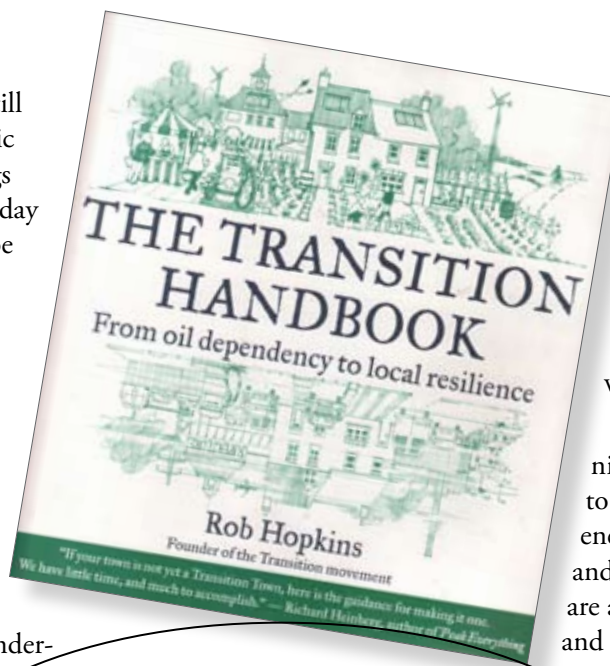
Hopkins suggests that creating an “irresistibly” compelling vision of a powered-down future will help communities identify the steps they need to take to create a future that is more connected and more enriching than the present. Bringing a wider community together to create a positive vision for their shared future, with a transition timeline for realizing it, can succeed where conventional environmentalism has so often failed: galvanizing ordinary citizens to be-

come part of the process. “Unleashing the creative genius” of a community is what happens when we reach beyond existing groups working on climate change and sustainability issues to include an ever-widening circle of community members.

Increasing community resilience, Hopkins believes, is the only protection against the certain impacts of an energy-scarce future. Resilience is defined by Rob Hopkins as “the ability of a system, from individual people to whole economies, to hold together and maintain their ability to function in the face of change and shocks from outside.” Ecologists such as C.S. Holling identify resilience as one of the key properties of healthy systems. Building community resilience involves “re-localizing” - producing more of what we need locally, such as food, energy, housing in our own communities, and “re-skilling” - teaching and learning the basic practical skills such as growing and preserving food. “With that resilience in place,” Hopkins writes, “if computers and

toilet brushes stop coming in, we'll still have sufficient food, shelter, fuel, basic goods and medicines to get by. Things would not be ideal from our current-day perspective, but neither would they be catastrophic."

Writing an Energy Descent Action Plan is an essential goal of each Transition community. The emphasis at the outset, however, is on raising awareness, connecting with existing groups, forming working groups on how to build resilience in food, energy, transportation, health, the local economy, etc. and initiating projects aimed at building people's understanding of resilience, carbon issues and community engagement. Transition invites us to move in the direction of a future we choose for ourselves, rather than one we are forced into,



Transition encourages us to do more of what makes us happier: spending more time with family, friends and neighbours, and spending more time in nature and on creative projects – and to reclaim our identities as citizens.

initiating projects that come out of our passion and energy. Hopkins argues that when communities set the agenda for energy descent, and reverse the trend of increasing energy consumption to reflect the reality of declining supplies, governments will eventually follow their lead.

The Transition paradigm recognizes that the transition we need to make in order to adapt to an energy-scarce world is both inner and outer. The challenges we face are a direct result of our world view and belief systems: "more is better," "progress is inevitable," or "commercial / industrial is better than local or hand-made." Transition encourages us to do more of what makes us happier: spending more time with family, friends and neighbours, and spending more time in nature and on creative projects

– and to reclaim our identities as citizens. In the words of author Francis Moore Lappe: "To revitalize ourselves, our communities, our homes and our planet is not a question of sacrifice. It's a question of listening within ourselves to discover what really makes us happy. It's about finding our power."

To find out more about the Transition movement, start a group, or to find out if there is a group in your area, go to <http://www.transitiontowns.org>. For information on Transition training in Canada, go to <http://www.cedworks.com/transition.html>.

Leslie is a member of Transition SaltSpring, part of the growing international network of transition communities. Their mission is:

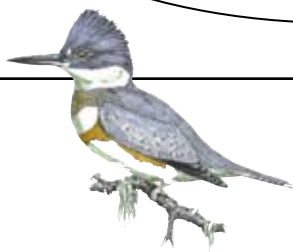
1. To raise public awareness of the challenges, and opportunities, of climate change and peak oil,
2. To explore and support practical actions that will reduce our carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels,
3. To rebuild the island's resilience, that is, its ability to withstand shocks from the outside, through being more self-reliant in areas such as food, energy, transportation, jobs and local economy.

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STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION

Collaborations Deliver Performance

By Tim Pringle



The environmental sector in British Columbia is known for its strong roots in advocacy – the birthplace of Greenpeace, conservation in the Carmanah Valley, and the recent success of the Rainforest Solutions Project. The results of this work has helped protect some of BC's unique and ancient ecological systems.

The stewardship and conservation (S&C) sector comprises another leading group of organizations that have proven their beneficial capacity to influence management of settlement change in the province. These S&C practitioners work in the local and regional government contexts. Their research, mapping, public and professional education, as well as other services wisely support policy and planning to address ecological diversity concerns. In the last 20 years these organizations have become, in several regions, the primary source of expertise about regional and local ecological assets. What has supported this trend and what guidance about successful practices might be observed?

One reason the S&C sector's expertise gains recognition is the commitment of conservancies and stewardship organizations to their values. As non-profit usually charitable societies, their constitutions declare their primary values as does the history of their work. Their missions align with protection of public trust values concerning stewardship and conservation – subjects that often are on the minds of communities. There are a growing number of successful projects, among many. For instance, Darkwoods at Kootenay lake, the "largest single private conservation project in

Canada" (see *Kingfisher*, Vol. 18), was realized by national heavy weight, the Nature Conservancy (BC) and regional collaborators working with an owner favouring conservation of biodiversity.

A second defining characteristic of the sector's expertise stems from the collaborations and networks that these organizations often build to carry out their work. Among the most influential regional groupings are organizations such as the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC, the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, and provincially The Land Trust Alliance of BC, among others which provide education, leadership, convening, and research services. These alliances can produce powerful results as evidenced by the role of the East Kootenay Conservation Program when it spearheaded the recent successful "comprehensive conservation fund tax" (Dec. 2008). BC's largest membership conservation organization, The Land Conservancy, collaborates widely and constantly pursues innovation. Currently TLC is exploring the use of numerous financial incentives to encourage community agriculture.

These commitments to mission and successful forging of multi-partner initiatives with innovative strategies make the regional collaborations unique. Their qualities have attracted a constellation of funders. Federal and provincial ministry programs, foundations based in BC and elsewhere, local governments and businesses have provided financial support. Very importantly, the funding has been accessible

over a number of years, although the amounts rarely have been enough to keep up with the growing need. Over the years funders have occasionally conferred about the importance of the work carried out by the regional collaborations. The repeated funding commitments confirm that the funders have valued the services delivered.

These groupings focus on regional biodiversity and working with all relevant land practitioners to fulfill their mandates. The Real Estate Foundation has funded six S&C collaborations, some for several years, to support their development and services for regional communities. This long-term involvement has made clear a third key strength that they have. Like most of their colleagues in the S&C sector, the regional collaborations focus on outcomes. This is a performance-based bias and it can be a very effective fit in the local government context.

In contrast, local government agencies carry out their operations with a “regulatory bias,” which stems in part from specific statutory responsibilities under the Local Government Act, Community Charter, and other laws. At the same time, local governments also see the advantages of employing performance-based approaches to deliver their mandates. With their attention on outcomes, the regionally-focused S&C collaborations can work effectively with local governments that may be seeking expertise to support planning, inventory, and management of ecological assets in the broader land use context.

Nonetheless, a number of local governments engage in performance-based, creative strategies to manage use and conservation of land. The City of Victoria accessed internal leadership to encourage the Dockside Green project and reach a planning and management process that served both the developer interests and those of the city. The City of Langford has taken a performance-based path with several development areas. The District of Maple Ridge engaged in a “Smart Growth on the Ground” planning charrette program to achieve a community-supported plan for redevelopment of the urban core. The plan contains a number of performance-based criteria.

Inevitably, any performance-based negotiation will differ considerably from what has been the usual development review process. Risk increases because the number of actors tends to be greater; outcomes have to be mutually defined; all parties need to access expertise to support their case in

the negotiations. And, some subject matter may be unfamiliar to one or more of the actors involved.

The Province of BC has espoused a *green cities* agenda, including the “Climate change Action Charter” which requires local governments to commit to plans to reduce the carbon footprint of operations. In response to these and other indicators, cities and towns want to accommodate green buildings –including LEED certified; they value “design with nature” strategies and local/urban agriculture projects now capture their attention.

Increasingly, local governments in particular welcome joint ventures where S&C organizations may be cooperating agents to help carry out research, provide public and professional education, and work on new or revised policy concerning protection of the ecology. The regional col-

laborations in particular have considerable ability to enable and support performance-based strategies in the local government context of managing development and conservation of land. Certainly this is a trend that merits support.

There are several examples of effective joint-venture strategies employed by regional stewardship and conservation partnerships. The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, which has 50 partners, is a collaborator with six local governments to enhance planning services concerning the

regions ecological values. Three of the government partners contribute to the funding that provides a shared “environmental” planner and supports a roundtable for implementation of performance-based strategies.

In the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, the Comox Valley Land Trust (CVLT) and its partners in the Sustainability Centre have researched and published the report *Nature Without Borders*. The quality of the research supporting the report’s recommendations has enabled the CVLT to act in an expert capacity in the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) process. Presently, the local governments in the valley are pursuing a joint implementation strategy concerning the RGS. The CVT is a collaborator in this process as well.

As a final example, Wildsight based in the East Kootenay region (reported in Kingfisher Vol. 19), offers a five-year success story in the “Healthy Lake Windermere” Project.

Having credible stewardship and conservation expertise available to measure the condition of ecological and environmental values in the local government context as well as more widely, supports holistic approaches to planning for sustainable use and conservation of lands. This intelligence exposes the weaknesses of historic land use strategies, which tended to discount the value of natural capital.

GIFTS OF INVESTMENT RETURNS — A CAPITAL IDEA!

There are many options when it comes to supporting your favourite land trust or conservation organization, often in ways that can provide enhanced benefits to both the donor and the charity.

The most common alternative to writing a cheque is giving securities like stocks, mutual funds or income trusts (more on the special case of income trusts below). The average donor may not have \$10,000 sitting idle in their bank account, but they might have \$10,000 worth of securities that they can donate. Being able to receive those securities directly removes the middle step of the donor having to sell them and then mail the land trust or other organization a cheque. But the crucial benefit for donors giving appreciated securities is that the donor receives the full tax credit for the donation, but avoids all the capital gains tax. Let's look at an example.

Say Mrs. Donor is in a position to donate some stocks valued at \$10,000, for which she originally paid \$3,000. Let's also assume she is in the middle tax bracket in BC, about 30%, which means her income is roughly between \$40,000 and \$70,000. If she sold the stocks, she would have to pay tax of about \$1,050 on the capital gain. By donating the stocks instead, she'll save this capital gains tax as shown in the following table.

The example shows that if she donates cash but keeps these shares with embedded capital gains, the after-tax

cost will be **19%** higher. The donor is effectively giving up on more than \$1,000 in tax savings. Conversely, she could donate 19%, or **\$1,900 more to a charity for the same out of pocket cost**. Even if she felt that she already had enough cash in the bank to make a donation now without having to sell any investments, or even if she wanted to keep holding those shares, it is still worth considering. Eventually all shares will be sold, and eventually tax will be paid on any that are worth more than their original cost. A better solution in this case is to use gifting as an opportunity to donate securities that can reduce current or future capital gains tax. If Mrs. Donor still wants to own those shares, she can buy them back with a current (higher) cost price which will mean less tax when the shares are eventually sold.

The notion of donating securities should be of particular interest to holders of income trusts, *especially in 2010*. Income trusts are securities that pay out large amounts of income, with some or all of it being classed as "return of capital". You don't need to worry about the mechanics of "return of capital", except to know that it reduces your cost price over time, which means a lower tax bill for as long as you have held it, but a higher tax bill when you sell it. Of specific concern to income trust holders should be that 2010 marks the final year before trusts are subject to a rather punitive tax by the federal government. As such,

- continued next page

Original cost of shares = \$3,000 Value at donation = \$10,000 Marginal tax rate of 30%.	Sell Shares & Donate Cash	Donate Shares
Donation	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Charitable Tax Credit	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400
Capital Gains Tax	\$ 1,050	0
After-tax Cost of Donation	\$ 6,650	\$ 5,600
Advantage of Donating (\$)		\$ 1,050
Advantage of Donating (%)		19%

Wild Wonders: Selections from the International Wildlife Film Festival-

reviewed by Emily Neilson, Kootenay Office, TLC



This past April, The Land Conservancy of BC hosted Wild Wonders: Selections from the International Wildlife Film Festival in Vancouver, Victoria and Nelson.

The festival involved three films originally screened at the 2009 International

Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana. When asked to review my favourite film from the festival it was an easy choice: BBC's *The Great Salmon Migration*.

Narrated by David Attenborough, this Planet Earthesque film documents the perilous journey of salmon as they travel thousands of kilometers in an attempt to reach their birthplace to spawn and die. We are taken from the open ocean to the coastline where freshwater rivers, creeks, and streams lead the fish inland.

The Great Salmon Migration was the festival crowd's favourite, and for good reason. The opening scene provides an aerial view of a mother grizzly and three cubs rousing from winter slumber amidst snow-caked peaks. Leaving their den on the mountain's steep incline, the family heads towards the lowlands in search of food.

From here, the film draws the viewer ever farther into the intimate world of nature. The camera captures the

muscular twist of the salmon as they hurl themselves over ledges and continue upstream, the underwater shuffle of a bear's paws trying to grab a salmon, and the splendid plunk of raindrops on creeks.

However, more than the aesthetics resonated with me. The film took the basic life cycle of the salmon and cinematically overlaid visuals and narrative to show that salmon play an integral role for many plants and animals, importing large amounts of essential nutrients into coastal watersheds. The Great Salmon Migration demonstrates the cinematic concept of 'show, don't tell' to illustrate that salmon are the backbone of our coastal ecosystem.

As The Great Salmon Migration was being viewed by Nelson residents, a migration of another sort was taking place hundreds of kilometers west on Vancouver Island. On April 23rd Alexandra Morton and friends began a journey, first by boat and then by foot, from Echo Bay to Victoria to highlight the impacts salmon farms are having on coastal ecosystems. On May 8th, over seven thousand people gathered at the legislature buildings in Victoria, supporting the science that outlines the negative impact and serious decline offshore fish farms are inflicting on wild salmon populations. To learn more visit www.salmonaresacred.org

Tax Tips - continued from Page 32

most all remaining income trusts are in the process of merging, converting to corporations, or going private. This means a lot of capital gains will be triggered this year, which can of course be avoided by donating the trust units *before they restructure*.

Obviously, one pre-requisite for receiving gifts of securities is having a brokerage account with an institution that has experience in receiving these donations. The Pinch Group at Raymond James has been receiving donations of securities on behalf of some of BC's best-known land trusts and environmental groups for over a decade and we do this without charge. By performing this service pro-bono, we've saved these groups tens of thousands of dollars in costs and facilitated the donation of over \$2 million in gifts. We would be thrilled to help many more land trusts and environmental groups with their planned giving needs.

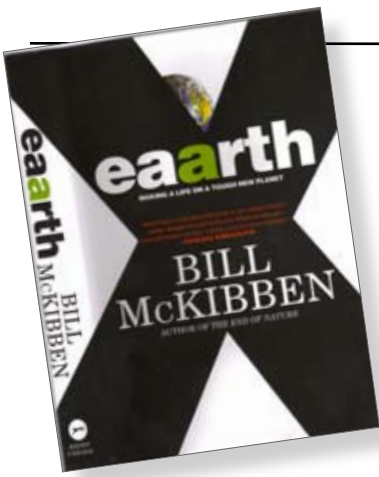
Frank Arnold is a financial advisor with The Pinch Group at Raymond James Ltd. a Victoria-based investment and financial planning firm that focuses on socially responsible investing, retirement planning for seniors and enhanced charitable giving strategies. He can be reached at 1-866-515-2420 or frank.arnold@raymondjames.ca. The opinions expressed are those of Mr. Arnold and not necessarily those of Raymond James Ltd.

Collaborations - continued from Page 31

This venture includes science and development of methodology to support community stewardship of this important recreational lake in the Columbia Valley. Other regions now use the Lake Windermere model to engage stewardship on lakes providing key ecological and recreational values.

These critical partnerships demonstrate the need for collaboration between S&C organizations and local governments, use of performance-based approaches in planning for management of the built environment, and protection of the natural areas with their ecological goods and services. This provides an effective fit with local and regional government needs in the context of community and regional planning.

The S&C sector has grown rapidly since enactment of the Land Title Amendment Act, 1994 (Bill-28), which made use of conservation covenants possible in BC. Publication of Stewardship Bylaws: A Guide for Local Government, 1977 (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and Department of Fisheries and Oceans) encouraged protection of sensitive ecosystems. In 2007, publication of Green Bylaws Toolkit (Wetland Stewardship Partnership) recognized that "many local governments now work towards allowing the landscape to shape the design of new development....The Toolkit brings together examples of local government best practices and points to specific bylaws that can help communities contribute to this rapid evolution (to achieve) sustainable land development in B.C."



“Eaarth” by Bill McKibben

Reviewed By Dorothy Cutting

Bill McKibben’s short new book, *Eaarth: Making Life on a Tough New Planet* is written for everyone alive today - you, your children and your grandchildren. But it’s especially for you. Bill is writing to you from his home in Vermont, telling you to stop thinking of saving the world for your grandchildren, or even your children. Unless you’re in your eighties, our planet has been altered so much that your own lives will be profoundly affected. He’s added an extra “a” in the title to help us understand just how different our world is today.

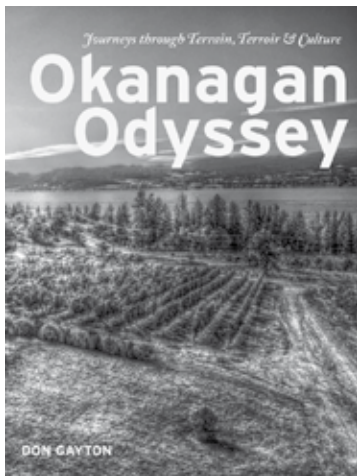
In the first half of his book, he sketches what these changes are. If you’re a climate scientist with a PhD, you should already know much of this. But if you’re not, you’ll find much to surprise you, even shock you. In just a hundred pages, Bill gets you to stand back, look at our planet as a whole and become completely aware of the profound influence humanity has had on our climate and our biosphere.

Then, in the second half of “Eaarth”, Bill describes his vision of how we can invent our future; how we can survive and nourish each other by building small, sustainable communities, always with respect for the natural world around us. He emphasizes the importance of beginning our descent from a growth economy to one where we’ll live frugally and more modestly, using trading, sharing and neighbourly networking.

Once you start this book, you can’t put it down. Bill’s easy style of writing and brilliant use of image makes it a page-turner. His love of humanity and nature shines through like a beacon to guide us to a new life, to show us how to live “lightly, carefully, gracefully.”

In short, Bill is a stunningly good writer, and “Eaarth” is simply the best teaching tool available.

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Land Trust Alliance of BC hires new Executive Director



Paul McNair, LTABC's new Executive Director, was born in Halifax and holds a Bachelor of Public Relations and a Master of Arts in Philanthropy and Development through Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Paul's thirty year career in the nonprofit sector has included work with heritage, health charities, educational facilities and the arts.

Most recently he served as CEO of the Parkinson Society Maritime Region and as National Associate Director, Events for Parkinson Society Canada.

During the past three decades Paul has served on countless Boards and committees including the Volunteer Resource Centre, Victoria Dance Series, Open Space Art Gallery, MS Society, Canadian Association for the Advancement in Education, National Association of Cooperating Associations, Canada Day Committee, the Halifax Natal Day Committee and AFP NS. He has spoken at dozens of conferences across Canada on fundraising, special events and leadership. He is currently a Trustee of the Greater Victoria Public Library.

He has received the Association of Fundraising Professionals Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year Award and his special events have won awards at both the provincial and national levels.

Last summer he relocated back to Victoria with his partner where they live in the heritage development, Dragon Alley.

Welcome Paul

Other Changes with LTABC

Cassie Holcolm has recently been hired as Office Manager. She has been working in the non-profit sector for the past three years including time with both TLC The Land Conservancy and the BC Sustainable Energy Association. At both organizations, she specialized in communications and membership development.

Before working with the non-profit sector, Cassie worked at the Centre of the Universe in Victoria providing astronomy programming for kids of all ages. She attended UVIC and has a background in biology with a focus in entomology.

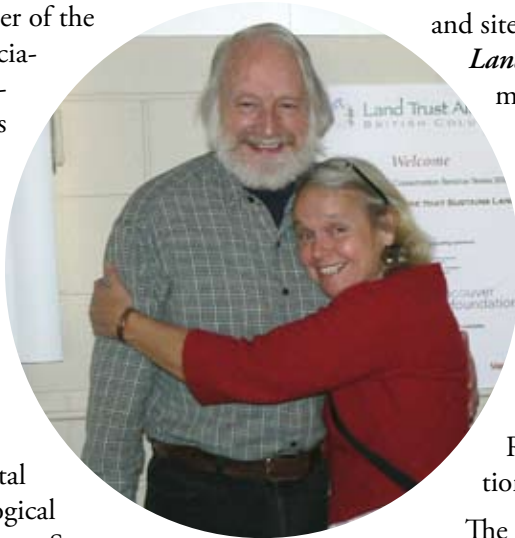
In her free time, Cassie can be found poking through farmers' markets and antique shops, enjoying time with friends and family and staring at the night sky.

In October 2008, the LTABC went through an extensive Strategic Planning where we identified that after 13 years, the organization needed additional staff to take on the growing work of LTABC. With the economy coincidentally taking a downturn at almost the same time, it's taken a while for us to come up with some creative strategies to realize this plan. The result is a splitting of the E.D. job with Paul working full time and Sheila and Cassie both working part time for the present. Sheila Harrington will continue to serve the LTABC in her new role as Program Director.

This expansion and diversification of staff will enable the LTABC to move to the next level. We have brought the conservation sector into the public eye, with our People Protecting Places print, radio and video campaigns; given dozens of presentations to land use consultants and associated professionals; partnered on the national 2003 Stewardship and Conservation conference in Victoria and the 2009 BC Land Summit at Whistler. Our members still rate our annual Professional Development Seminar Series, with *The Kingfisher*, as the most important and helpful service we provide. Our improved insurance rates last year were a big hit as well. The number of original reports and resources we now offer has grown from a few case studies of lands protected in partnership with land trusts to Property Tax Assessment reviews on conservation covenanted lands, to the most recent soon to be launched, Living Carbon initiative to amalgamate, value sequestered carbon, and broker conservation offsets on managed and protected lands. The *Islands in the Salish Sea Atlas* was a multiple award winning book, still available to inspire conservation here and elsewhere across BC. Thank you all for your support!

Ken Millard Receives Award Conservation Volunteer of the Year 2009

For over twenty years Ken has been a non-stop, full time volunteer of the Galiano Conservancy Association, one of British Columbia's first conservancies. His dedication and hard work have grown the non-profit charity from an all volunteer land trust to an organization with as many as ten employees working on different projects. Through Ken's efforts we now have Mapping Projects, Environmental Education Programs, Ecological Forest Restoration Programs, a Species at Risk Program, and several interns helping out regular staff and getting other things done that we don't have specific funding for. Ken is to be found at the office most days or in the field working along with the staff and supporting them in their roles. Due to his efforts we also have interns from European universities volunteer for up to six months each year. They do special research projects while they are here and write reports before they leave. Essentially Ken acts as an unpaid Executive Director and reports to the rest of the board at their monthly meetings. Ken is also a Director of TLC The Land Conservancy of BC and is a retired Physicist and Luthier.



Professional Outreach:

As part of LTABC's strategy to support and build a culture of conservation we provide articles and presentations on land trusts and associated stewardship and conservation organizations' tools, successes, legal options to protect lands and case studies. We offer these to associated professionals who are associated with land conservation. So far this year we've presented to two local government conferences (the Vancouver Island and Coast Region, and the Central Interior and the North region) and recently to the annual Planners conference as well. Bill Turner gave a workshop on LTABC member's behalf in the Okanagan to estate and real estate lawyers as well. We have two articles coming out in professional journals this summer – the Real Estate Institute's INPUT and Planning West.

Stewardship and Conservation Seminar Series 2010

We held our province-wide annual series of workshops and site visits this year *Building a Culture that Sustains Land* at the Naramata Centre on Okanagan Lake. Comments and evaluations received indicate that participants really found it a useful program. The absolute top rating went to Kim Klein's full day workshop *Funding in Unreliable Times*. Not only did the evaluations rate her session highly, but the recent success of raising \$50,000 in a very short time to help with the appeal on the Savary lands was due to the workshop. High ratings also went to seminars held on Conservation Covenants, Land Acquisition Assessment Protocols, Attracting and Retaining Volunteers, Tax Implications on Conservation Lands and the Mapping workshop.

The 2011 Seminar Series will return to the coast once again. Please contact us if you have suggestions for next year's program, or if you'd like to help organize it.

Mapping Conservation Lands and the BC Lands in Trust Registry:

Just a reminder that the LTABC is no longer directly receiving new property data from land trust members. We have split off the data input role through the new private pass-code protected Conservation Lands database – now hosted on the CMN site, through Tammy Tam at Ducks Unlimited – the current data custodian for the protected lands data. We will be asking land trust members for new representative images to go with any new listings you have for our own public BC Lands in Trust Registry, once we update it to the new format and receive the new data annually from Tammy. If you have new conservation properties not listed there, please contact t_tam@ducks.ca.

***Submission to the Government of British Columbia
Ministry of Environment, Water Policy Branch
By the Environmental Law Centre, University of Victoria
and The Land Trust Alliance of B.C. on a Modernized BC
Water Act.*** April 2010 This report was primarily written by Deborah Curran and students at UVic, with assistance by Ben van Drimmelen, on the Board Council of the LTABC. **This report and our other resources are all available on our website at www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/resources.**



Updated, Revised and Reprinted!

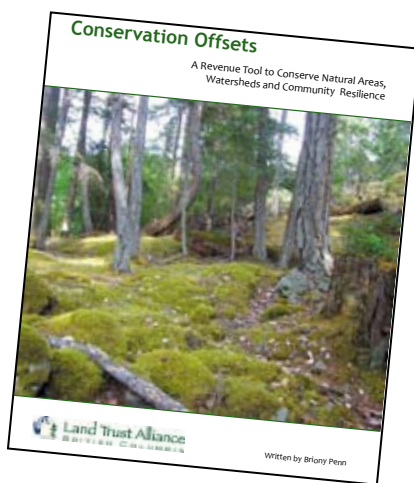
Property Assessments on Conservation Lands, A Guide for Land Owners, Land Trusts and Covenant Holders Case Studies and Resources

Written by Alan Kotila, Appraiser and Sheila Harrington, LTABC

Program Manager with assistance from the BC Assessment Authority. This version provides several new case studies of properties with covenants. The website version includes a bibliography of research on conservation land values, revised March 2010. Printed copies are available for \$5.00 each plus shipping (discounts on multiple copies or for members)

Conservation Offsets, A Revenue Tool to Conserve Natural Areas, Watersheds and Community Resilience

This new booklet is an introduction to Conservation Offsets, directed primarily to planners and local governments. Published, April 2010, written by Briony Penn. Printed copies are \$5.00 each plus shipping (discounts on multiple copies or for members)



Still Available:

Credible Conservation Offsets - Full report on the rationale, methods, standards, and opportunities for using Carbon Offsets to help acquire or manage conservation lands, by Richard Hebda and Dirk Brinkman, edited by Briony Penn - \$20 plus shipping

Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through the Conservation of Nature in British Columbia, by Richard J. Hebda and Sara J. Wilson, edited by S Harrington, January 2008 Hard Copies: \$20 plus shipping

The Kingfisher

Living Carbon, Update

On April 30, LTABC registered a new conservation carbon enterprise arm, called Living Carbon Investments Ltd. ("LCI") with directors Kathy Dunster, Frank Arnold and Lisa Fox, managed by Briony Penn with partner Brinkman Earth Systems Team.

LCI's purpose is to enable land trusts (and other land owners and managers) to structure their conservation and restoration carbon credit projects, and to arrange for potential investors to purchase these credits. Goals include to:

1. meet all the needs of the land trusts (big and small) of delivering credits (cash) back for them to do their work of acquiring and protecting land;
2. provide a competitive service with the commercial brokers so that land trusts are getting good value from their lands/carbon ;
3. provide an attractive market for the socially responsible investor as we need to have working capital on an ongoing basis...as well as start up;
4. provide an attractive product for the socially responsible buyer...high value/high quality that is tied to the reputation of the land trusts, ENGOs and all their social capital;
5. maximize tax advantages of non profits;
6. be simple and easy to set up so that legal fees don't exceed savings through a non profit structure;
7. be arms length to valuation contractors and perhaps management for long term stability.

Next steps for LCI are to move to Phase 2 of developing our pilot project with member land trusts, specifically the Western Forest Product Lands Project with The Land Conservancy of BC and the Capital Regional District and our investment partner, Cool Works. On May 19th, we met with the Pacific Carbon Trust to discuss the new Project Procurement Process that would allow us, as Project Developers, the opportunity to propose our own forest carbon activities and BC-adapted standards. The advantages are that we can now put forward our forest conservation projects and propose our own standards. Unfortunately, the development of standards will be not be assisted financially by the province. Nonetheless, Brinkman Earth Systems Team have already put substantive time and effort into this process with our own BC-adapted CAR standards which will allow us to guide the process as originally proposed. Next steps are to get formal MOUs from all our partners, firm up our business plan, get the go ahead for Phase 2 from our investment partners and start the project procurement process with the Pacific Carbon Trust. For all land trusts, local governments, or others interested in this process, we are developing a website livingcarbon.ca with Q's and A's including an easy 'how do we get involved' process for you.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Canada's first deep sea national marine conservation area

- After two decades of discussions with the federal government, the long-awaited legislation was introduced in the House of Commons by Environment Minister Jim Prentice on June 7, 2010, to finalize Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve. This 3,000 km² rich ecological area is nestled off the shores of B.C.'s much-revered Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, on Haida Gwaii (formerly Queen Charlotte Islands). For the full story, please visit <http://cpaws.org/news/archive/2010/06/parliamentary-breakthrough-for.php>.

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement covers more than 72 million hectares of public forests licensed to FPAC member companies across Canada. The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement covers northern wilderness areas stretching from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador. Under the agreement, 21 forestry companies, all members of the Forest Products Association of Canada, will halt logging on 29 million hectares of wildlife habitat while plans for new protected areas and caribou conservation are developed. This habitat is critical to the survival of woodland caribou and other endangered species. The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement includes 21 forest companies, who are members of the Forest Products Association of Canada, and nine leading environmental organizations: Canadian Boreal Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canopy, David Suzuki Foundation, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy, Pew Environment Group International Boreal Conservation Campaign, and Ivey Foundation. Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement - Environmental groups surprised many people recently by joining with the logging industry to unveil the largest forest conservation agreement in history. For information on the agreement go to: <http://canadianborealforestagreement.ca/index.php/en/the-canadian-boreal-agreement/>

B.C. Expands Parks and Conservancies The B.C. government introduced legislation that will establish seven new "Class A" provincial parks and one new conservancy, as well as make land additions to 12 existing provincial parks, Environment Minister Barry Penner announced April 27th, 2010. http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010ENV0022-000476.htm

Greenways Loop: The Jubilee Connector Campbell River's Council has endorsed the southern portion of the Greenways Loop, the Jubilee Connector, to be implemented and managed by Greenways Land Trust. This 2.5km trail will link the Rotary Seawalk with the Beaver Lodge Forest Lands along Jubilee Parkway creating a 25km greenway around Campbell River. Construction is projected to start May 2010. This project will employ displaced forestry workers, offer recreation and alternative forms of transportation to residents, as well as reduce invasive plants and increase tourism offerings. www.greenwaystrust.ca

Okanagan – Oliver area – 80 acres to be conserved: When Bruce Brownstein and Linda Sheehy-Brownstein moved from Vancouver to the Okanagan at the end of 2007 it was its beauty and the landscape that brought them here. They purchased 80 acres of land in the rural hills west of Oliver, and have decided to leave 97 per cent of it undeveloped. The only buildings on the property are their house and guesthouse, the High Chaparral Guest House. On Earth Day — April 22 — the Land Conservancy of B.C. South Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Program recognized Bruce and Linda for their decision to conserve their land. They signed a stewardship agreement to voluntarily steward and manage the natural grasslands and open forest the High Chaparral Guest House sits on.

Conservation Partners Working to Restore the Okanagan River - The Nature Trust of BC and Ducks Unlimited Canada along with partners of the BC Trust for Public Lands and Habitat Stewardship Program are pleased to announce that 2.25 hectares on the banks of the Okanagan River near Oliver have been conserved as part of a restoration plan to restore original oxbows to the river. All parties wish to express their appreciation to the Schafer family. Additional funding for this initiative was leveraged through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, a Government of Canada partnership that secures ecologically sensitive lands in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

NALT and the Nanaimo Regional District poised to protect Moorecroft Camp. The Regional District of Nanaimo is ready to buy the Moorecroft Camp property at Nanoose Bay from the United Church in a partnership agreement with Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT). A summer camp has operated for decades on the 34 hectares of forested waterfront land in Nanoose. The RDN is looking to help buy the property using money from its regional parks acquisition fund, but the project will need broad support to succeed. A major fundraising campaign is poised to launch soon. For more information, visit www.nalt.bc.ca

LULUCF - Forestry rules and Carbon Reductions “According to the Climate Action Network (CAN), a coalition of more than 500 environment and development groups around the world, the revision of the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) rules would falsely exaggerate emission reductions.

Rich countries led by Russia, Australia and the EU have been accused of trying to cheat their way out of reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by creating “dishonest” forestry accounting loopholes. By seeking to change the rules that govern the offsetting of emissions from planting trees and ignoring those that are created by felling them, these nations would give the impression that they were acting to prevent climate change – but a growing number of developing countries and environmental groups say that in reality they would be undermining genuine cuts. The row surfaced at the resumption of the UN climate negotiations in Bonn became a major point of contention between rich and poor nations “(THE UK Guardian, June 8th, 2010.)


Let's clean up natural waterways first. By Celia Brauer: Rip rap—that rock that suits engineers but not animals—lines the seawall. Big boat marinas, occupy most of the north shore and more are planned. Sewage still enters the creek from combined sewer overflow during winter storms. At every major fete, firework shells continue to fall unfettered into streams and harbours to the sound of the oohs and aahs but with little thought to marine life. In April, on the lawns of Vancouver City Hall, experts and city councillors discussed the possibilities of “growing your own food” in backyards. While the general idea of growing local food is commendable, there was a bitter irony in the inclusion of aquaculture in this discussion. The sad reality is that we have continued to grossly pollute and ignore the needs of the vast honest-to-goodness wild fish-bearing waters that surround us on three sides. <http://tinyurl.com/2cx5g3u>



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

In March 2010, the Charities Directorate of CRA announced that the 80% disbursement quota will be removed. This will result in changes to the Registered Charity Information Return form (T3010B). For more information about this change please visit: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2010/chrt-eng.html>

New BC Guidelines for Forest Carbon Offsets Released. The April 15 \$3 million Request for Proposals targets the forest-based activities of afforestation (tree-planting on non-forested lands), select seed (better quality seeds) and fertilization projects, on Crown and private land. BC's forests have some of the highest carbon storage per hectare on the planet. The Pacific Carbon Trust's goal is to buy offsets to help BC achieve a carbon neutral government by 2010. Forest carbon credits for conservation, missing from this protocol, would allow for a financial incentive for offset projects with immediate emission reductions and allow species a better chance to adapt to a changing climate.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Vancouver Island stands up to dirty coal. BC is quietly the second largest exporter of coal in the world, shipping over 20 million tonnes of coal a year and the BC government are supporting plans to expand coal exports by opening new mines across the province. Burning coal creates more climate changing pollution than either oil or gas, which makes it the obvious target for immediate action. Learn more about coal mines in BC including the proposed Raven Mine on Vancouver Island www.wildernesscommittee.org/coal.

Bridgette Clarkston titles new Seaweed Genus = Salishia. Clarkston, 29-year-old UNB doctoral student from Comox, plans to name her new genus Salishia, after Salish Sea, the alternate name proposed for the waters of the Strait of Georgia, Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where the new genus of seaweed species is found. Though still rare, according to Clarkston, new species discoveries such as these are made increasingly easy to verify thanks to initiatives like the Barcode of Life project led by researchers at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

Kettle River and “sacred headwaters” jointly top BC's most endangered rivers list for 2010. The Kettle River runs through BC's southern interior near the towns of Midway, Rock Creek and Grand Forks. This river suffers from seasonal low flows and high water temperatures. To see the whole Endangered Rivers list and report go to http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_endangered.htm

Caribou threatened by wind farms, expert says. By Larry Pynn: Ecologist warns building turbines in wintering habitat would jeopardize efforts to allow recovery of B.C. herds. The wind-farm industry is putting threatened woodland caribou herds at increased risk by seeking to put their

projects on the same windswept alpine ridges that represent critical wintering habitat, a provincial caribou expert warns. <http://tinyurl.com/2dbyzhz>

Projects go ahead despite unknown risk, biologist warns: B.C. government approves independent wind, hydro power developments, then monitors for environmental problems after construction. <http://tinyurl.com/22tc7c8>

US Fed wind farm rules may not save birds: The American Bird Conservancy says it fears proposed voluntary guidelines for wind farms will not prevent the deaths of birds by the turbines. <http://tinyurl.com/2fzrtve>



ACTION ITEMS

National Marine Conservation Area for the Southern Strait of Georgia – The Salish Sea. There are ongoing efforts at the present time by a coalition of conservation organizations to see the NMCA become a reality. This will protect our unique marine ecosystem - critical habitat of the Southern resident Orca's, marine mammals such as Sea Lions and Harbour Seals, sponge and coral reefs, many species of fish, the approximately two million shorebirds and seabirds using the region's waters - and the little "forage fish" that we learned, at our recent PICA presentation, are such a vital part of the food chain up to the Orca's. The NMCA proposal has been in process for a number of years now, with a comprehensive feasibility study by Parks Canada completed. It now rests with the Provincial government, who hold rights to the seabed, to sign off on the proposal and come to an agreement with the Federal government. This needs a push from the people of BC to see it into reality. Send below for a list of ministers to send your letter.

Enbridge applies to federal government to allow oil tankers on the B.C. coast Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline and tanker route would violate the long-standing ban on oil tanker traffic in B.C.'s northern waters. On May 27 Enbridge applied to the federal government for approval of their Northern Gateway pipeline.

The National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will jointly review the project that includes a pipeline from the Alberta tar sands to Kitimat and over 200 oil tankers per year sailing from Kitimat to markets in Asia and the United States. The tankers will travel through important fishing areas, critical whale habitat and the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. For more: <http://www.livingoceans.org/media/news05271001.aspx>

Vancouver/Coast Salish Territory - Several First Nations peoples on the Central and North Pacific Coast and Haida Gwaii issued a Declaration banning Tar Sands crude oil tankers from their territories, citing the potentially devastating risk of oil spills associated with the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline project and related tanker traffic for the environment, culture and communities. A legal commentary about the Declaration released today by West Coast Environmental Law concludes that the Declaration significantly increases legal risks and uncertainty facing the Enbridge project. <http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/gathering-nations-kitamaat-against-pipelines-and-oil-tankers>

Imagine if the BP spill hit your home place: Google has created a map to view the equivalent impacts: <http://www.ifitwasmyhome>.

Environment Canada is seeking input on the structure of a government-wide strategy that incorporates environmental considerations into policy and program decisions in departments and agencies. Due 12 July 2010 <http://www.ec.gc.ca/dd-sd/default.asp?lang=En&n=F93CD795-1#suggestions>

Opportunity to say: "stop cutting ancient forests." The provincial government and BC Ministry of Forests and Range is inviting input and suggestions to help British Columbians achieve zero net deforestation by 2015. We want to hear your ideas on how to avoid or minimize deforestation. For more information and/or to review a copy of their March 22, 2010 discussion paper go to www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/znd Submissions are open until July 9th, 2010.

Environmental Groups Nationwide Demand that Parliament Remove Attacks on Environmental Protection from Budget Bill By: MiningWatch Canada. Sixteen environmental groups from across Canada are urging the House of Commons Finance Committee to cut provisions from the 2010 Budget Implementation Bill that would significantly weaken the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act ("CEAA"). <http://tinyurl.com/2ajl32n> <http://www.facebook.com/SaveCanadasEnviroLaws?v=wall>

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
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Fax: 819-953-0279
E-mail: Minister@ec.gc.ca

Premier Gordon Campbell
Province of BC
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
Fax: 250-387-0087
Premier@gov.bc.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

Good Neighbours at Island View Beach, Victoria - Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has partnered with the Tsawout First Nation and CRD Parks, to engage landowners and park visitors in the stewardship of sensitive natural areas at Island View Beach including endangered sand dunes and marsh. This summer HAT will provide over forty free and confidential property assessments for landowners in the neighbourhoods along Island View Beach. They will also be hosting some great family activities including Eelgrass mapping with Nikki Wright (SeaChange) with intertidal touch tank on July 11, Birding at Low Tide (featuring the ScallyWags Dog Agility Training Group performance) on July 25th and Super Dog Day (featuring Wonder Dogs training company show) on August 14. To book your property assessment or for more information on this summer's events, please contact Todd Carnahan at 250-995-2428 or todd@hat.bc.ca.

The Columbia Mountains Institute is offering a course in Revelstoke August 24th and 25th to introduce users to R Software. You will learn to perform statistical analysis and plot graphs on your own. For this and other upcoming courses/conferences - including Statistics For Biologists, Ecological Approaches To Invasive Plant Management, Soil Bioengineering, Public Participation Skills For Natural Resource Managers and Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management - phone 250-837-9311 or CMI at www.cmiae.org.

ClearSky Meditation Centre is offering a Hands on Grassland and Reclamation course September 11th and 12th. Gain tools to evaluate your property and take action; understand Rocky Mountain Trench ecology and native plant design with Leslie Lowe and Peter Davidson. For more info visit <http://www.clearskycenter.org/> or call 250-429-3929.

Conservation Connection - Friday, Sep 17, 2010
HAT's annual forum convenes the conservation community of researchers, managers, educators, business, and government for a fully-catered professional development day of networking, workshops, and collaboration. Some highlights from our forum in 2009 included Naomi Klein's fundraising workshop and a fine organic lunch on the patio at Royal Roads. Stay tuned for details including pre-registration, speakers, workshops, and venue at <http://conservationconnection.bc.ca/>.

World Rivers Day is rapidly approaching, and many people and organizations are preparing events for the millions of participants who will be celebrating with us on Sunday, September 26th, 2010. Please let us know about your event and we'll help you promote it in future updates, and on our Web site --- www.worldriversday.bcit.ca

2010 Canadian Land Trust Annual Conference - The Canadian Land Trust Alliance invites all land trust supporters to join us in Banff September 29 through October 1, 2010 for the fourth annual Canadian Land Trust Conference. Details to be announced soon at <http://www.clta.ca/en/events/>.



RESOURCES

Environmental Best Management Practices: An annotated bibliography and searchable database - commissioned by the Lands Management Committee of the BC Conservation Lands Forum. The goal of the project was to provide an easily accessible and searchable bibliography and database of existing information sources that provide guidance on how to manage for a wide range of environmental values - often these practices are termed 'best management practices'. The document provides an annotated bibliography and the excel file is a searchable database of best management practices and guidance for those interested in managing land with an emphasis of maintaining or restoring conservation values. The primary intended audience is land managers of private lands managed primarily for conservation (e.g. land trusts and conservancy organizations). The report was completed by Rachel F. Holt and associates (Veridian Ecological Consulting Ltd.) and was prepared for the BC Conservation Lands Forum: Land Management Committee in December 2009. http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/index.php/best_management

Okanagan Basin Water Board: Okanagan Supply & Demand Project Phase 2 Report Published

The results of Phase 2, which examined 15 different growth and climate change scenarios, show a need for more careful management and choices on development, the future of agriculture, and environmental protection. Overall, the results of the scenarios do not point to a sudden, dramatic decline in water availability. Risks of water shortages for human use and environmental needs are increasing, but it is possible to compensate for many of the consequences through land use planning, careful water management, and by reducing demand. http://www.obwb.ca/fileadmin/docs/100326_key_findings.pdf

Get Out Migration shows people care about saving wild salmon. By Celia Brauer: A crowd of up to 7,000 people gathered on the lawn of the B.C. legislature on May 8. They did not come to hear a rock band, run for the cure, shout out for social justice, or cheer the Olympic flame. Instead, they brought a unique message <http://tinyurl.com/399yltw>

Review and Assessment of Canadian Groundwater Resources, Management, Current Research Mechanisms and Priorities. CCME has published a report on groundwater: Please click on the following link for details: <http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/water.html>

Plight of Fraser sockeye a 'science issue,' salmon authority says. By LARRY PYNN: A member of the scientific advisory panel for the Cohen commission of inquiry into the decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon questions whether the exercise is necessary to resolve what is a science issue. <http://tinyurl.com/232uocv>

Organic Seed Alliance: Organic Seed Alliance supports the ethical development and stewardship of the genetic resources of agricultural seed. We accomplish our goals through collaborative education, advisory services, and research programs with organic farmers and other seed professionals. <http://www.seedalliance.org/Home/>

PLAY AGAIN: One generation from now most people in the U.S. will have spent more time in the virtual world than in nature. New media technologies have improved our lives in countless ways. Information now appears with a click. PLAY AGAIN explores the changing balance between the virtual and natural worlds. www.groundproductions.com/

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Vancouver Foundation

Grants and Community Initiatives Program: Environment supports a broad range of environmental projects. Letters of intent are due by July 23, and if the letter is accepted, grant applications are due September 15, 2010. For the goals and more information, please visit <http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/grants/environment.htm>.

MEC Community Contributions

Application deadline is September 10, 2010 for applications for Land Acquisition, Capacity Building, Research, Advocacy and Education, and Access. Urban Sustainability and Grassroots Product Donations are accepted anytime. For more information, please visit <http://www.mec.ca>

The Salish Sea Natural Areas Conservation Program has made it through the NCC review and approval process! The full version is available from Tom Swann, after signing of a confidentiality agreement. Tom.Swann@natureconservancy.ca Funding from the Natural Areas Conservation Fund is available to support specific land securement projects that meet requirements under the Program, both those in the Agreement and additional requirements put in place by NCC's Board of Directors and/or Executive Management. In enabling sub-granting to land trusts, NCC and the Government of Canada are aiming to widen NGO engagement in the Program, support key projects and further advance conservation at Priority Natural Areas across southern Canada.

Pacific Pilsner and Pureian Springs Create \$20,000 "BC Waters Clean" Up Challenge Community groups or individuals are invited to apply for funding by sharing their story and clean-up plan. Established in 1957 in Prince George, BC, on a fresh water spring, Pacific Western Brewing Co. is Western Canada's largest and longest established independent, Canadian-owned brewery. Pacific Western Brewery is committed to brewing consistently high quality beers, responsibly stewarding our shared resources and environment, and participating in programs and initiatives that benefit our local community and province. For more information or to download an application form, visit www.pacificpilsner.com or www.pureian.com

In 2009/2010, Wildlife Habitat Canada provided close to \$1.2 million in support of 26 grants. For more information on wildlife habitat conservation projects, please visit <http://www.whc.org/en/conservation->

VanCity - EnviroFund - Funding guidelines and criteria will change from year to year. Please check in July to see the new 2010 guidelines, criteria and application deadlines. The next application intake will be in the fall, 2010.

VanCity Community Grants - Deadline is September 15. <https://www.vancity.com/MyCommunity/NotForProfit/Grants/CommunityProjectGrants/>

VanCity Community Foundation - Core Grants and Community Lending The Foundation's core program focus is to provide grants and community lending in the following areas: Non-profit social enterprise, Affordable housing and homelessness, Community asset building Please contact the Vancity Community Foundation's, Manager, Community Programs at 604 877-7515 or by email at irene_gannitsos@vancity.com to determine your projects' eligibility for support from the Vancity Community Foundation, or fit with another Vancity program.

THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
THANKS OUR MANY FINANCIAL AND
IN-KIND SUPPORTERS WHO GENEROUSLY HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

Please support the members of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia.

*These organizations are protecting BC's natural and cultural diversity
in your communities and across BC.*

*If you enjoy reading the Kingfisher magazine,
please subscribe or become a member of LTABC.*

*We need your support to continue to provide our education, communication, outreach,
financial and other services.*

*For a list of members and the LTABC's services and resources
go to www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca
or call us at our office 250-477-4766*

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

Member Structure and Annual Rates

Land Trust Organization (sliding scale: suggested rates)	Voting	voluntary org.	\$125
		staffed org.	\$250
		regional/provincial	\$500
Business or Corporate Supporter	Non-Voting		\$500
Associate Organization	Non-voting		\$100.00 plus \$50 for insurance option
Professional Consultant	Non-voting		\$50.00 plus \$50 for website listing
Individual	Non-voting		\$30.00 (includes <i>Kingfisher</i>)

☐ Membership ☐ Charitable Donation ☐ Subscription

Please Send me a charitable receipt for the non membership amount enclosed
as a donation to help continue your programs:

Membership

Donation

Subscription

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/city/island and Postal Code: _____

Phone/email: _____

Amount enclosed - \$_____ Please include email and phone if membership requested



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At the Pinch Group we combine a passion for social and environmental issues with the best practices of sensible investing. And we've been doing it successfully for more than 20 years. For a confidential, no-obligation consultation, please call 1-866-515-2420.

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The Pinch Group

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