

TLC

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1999

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1999

The fiscal year from May 1st 1998 until April 30th 1999 was certainly an exciting time. This report will touch on some of the accomplishments in our second fiscal year.

Listed in chronological order are some of the events of the last year.

May 1998. Eileen Palmer, Conan Phelan hired under a 16 week E-Team grant as our first staff.

June 1998. Purchase of South Winchelsea Island on June 25th (\$595,000 +). Negotiations with owners of the Elkington Property near Duncan arrange for a market value appraisal. Appraisal is funded by TLC in partnership with the Friends of Ecological Reserves and completed in the summer. Negotiations for purchase turned over to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

July 1998.

August 1998. Negotiations for the purchase of Black Creek Ranch.

September 1998. Tamsin Baker hired under a 16 week E-Team grant in Victoria office. Mark Krause hired under a 16 week E-Team grant based in Vancouver and seconded to the Stewardship Institute for 4 days a week. Annual General Meeting.

The Board is increased from 9 to 12 members Clint Abbott, Richard Hebda, and Katie Stewart join the Board.

Bylaws are amended to provide for "protection of property". This very important change to our Bylaws establishes a mechanism to declare land inalienable. Once this is done for a particular parcel of land, that land can not be sold or mortgaged. The first property declared inalienable was South Winchelsea Island. (In September of 1999 the Board declared Reynolds Ranch inalienable and will likely do the same thing with Black Creek Ranch in the near future). Declaring a property inalienable requires us to place a conservation covenant on the property to ensure that we do not sell or mortgage it. The covenant on South Winchelsea Island is held by the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust and by the Islands Trust Fund.

October 1998. Purchase of 800 acres "Black Creek Ranch" on the Horsefly River, (\$700,000 +) October 20th.

November 1998. Nichola Gerts hired as first regular employee, Manager of Interior Programs and Deputy Executive Director. Funded by a donation designated for staffing interior programs.

The Second edition of Landmark published.

Ayum Connector property near Sooke BC purchased.

December 1998. First mortgage payment on South Winchelsea Island (\$68,000) made on December 24th.

Donation of the "Elizabeth Lake Property" Cranbrook (\$35,000).

Donation of partial interest in important lands in the Highlands (\$135,000).

Part of the Ayum Connector transferred to the Capital Regional District Parks for addition to the Ayum Creek Nature Park. A covenant is registered in partnership with the Habitat Acquisition Trust to ensure the perpetual protection of the property as a park.

A contribution of \$2,500 made to the McFadden Creek Heron site on Salt Spring Island.

January 1999.

Darlene Schneider, Half-time bookkeeper hired, after having worked as a volunteer for 9 months.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Harper Property, South Okanagan.

February 1999.

Negotiations for the purchase of 140 acres on the Nanaimo River.

March 1999.

April 1999. Purchase of "Ross Bay Villa" in Victoria (\$310,000 +) on April 1st in partnership with the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society.

Purchase of 1000 acre "Reynolds Ranch" (\$420,000 +) near the Churn Creek Protected Area. This ranch controls another 75,000 acres through grazing permits.

TLC membership approximately 275.

THE NEW FISCAL YEAR:

May 1999. Eileen Palmer hired as Manager Coastal Region under a one year Federally funded intern program. Tamsin Baker hired as Manager Vancouver Region under the same program. Clint Abbott hired as Manager Special Projects under a Provincially funded, 11 month intern program.

Alison Spriggs joins staff as Communications Officer. Alison brings her very important skills in media and campaign organization. Position funded by a foundation grant and specific private donation.

Four 16 week summer E-Team staff hired, 2 for Victoria, 2 for Vancouver. Vancouver Office established in basement of the SPEC building, 2150 Maple Street.

June 1999. Mortgage payment #2 (\$62,000 +) on South Winchelsea Island paid on June 25th 1999. TLC provides \$5,000 to the CRD for extension of the Brooks Point option.

Cranbrook Landowner Contact program office opens sponsored by BC Hydro and EcoAction 2000 (a Federal program). 2 E-Team positions hired.

Option of the Harper Property near Cawston BC in the South Okanagan.

July 1999. The very successful program of Nature Cruises began. These cruises provide an opportunity for members and the general public to learn more about projects which TLC is involved with. The program will be expanded in 2000 to include the Lower Mainland and Okanagan areas.

August 1999. Linnea Farm covenant on Cortes Island is registered protecting over 300 acres. Covenant registered on the Johnson property near Comox.

September 1999. Purchase of parcel #1, Nanaimo River (\$250,000 +) completed on September 22nd. Purchase of Ayum Creek house #2 (\$195,000 +) completed on September 24th. Purchase of Townsend Bat House, Dashwood BC (\$47,000 +) completed on September 24th. Purchase of Matthews Point (\$175,000 +) scheduled to occur on September 30th.

Two 20 week E-Team positions, funded by the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks are hired, one for Victoria and one for Vancouver.
TLC Membership approximately 340.

It has been a busy year with tremendous growth in the amount of projects and in the organization in general. It would have been impossible for me to have coped without the constant support of our small staff and the dozens of dedicated volunteers. The three area managers, Eileen, Tamsin and Nichola have each taken on the challenge with enthusiasm and dedication. Nichola has the added task of being the Deputy Executive Director, in that role she is of incalculable assistance to me and of huge value to the Conservancy. And now we have Alison Spriggs who brings complete dedication to her work and her unequalled ability to work with all types of media to get our message to the public. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Clint Abbott on any of our special projects know what an asset he is.

The members of your Board give selflessly of their time. Vic Derman was the inspiration and coordinator of the Bottles For Greenspace program. Katie Stewart the driving force behind the Giant Garage Sale. Don Benn the Secretary is always there when we need him and a constant worker on a number of projects including our Nature Cruise Series, the Ross Bay Villa, and the Nanaimo River. Briony Penn has donated many hours of her time and talent to the affairs of The Conservancy.

I will be proposing a number of improvements to the structure of TLC when the Board meets in October. These changes will include the establishment of Regional Committees for the Okanagan, Greater Vancouver, Williams Lake, Vancouver Island and other areas, which will provide opportunities for members in these areas to play an even greater part in the work of TLC in their communities.