



nature



agriculture



heritage

Teck Metals Ltd. Creates Endowment for Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area

by Emily Nilsen
Terrestrial Stewardship Advisor

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area, one of The Land Conservancy's model conservation properties, features an abundance of ecological, historical, and recreational value. Last February, TLC completed the acquisition with the help of a dedicated community, the government, and corporate support. To top off the success story for this 964-hectare property, which runs along more than 8 kilometres of the Columbia River south of the city of Trail, Teck Metals Ltd. recently created a \$400,000 endowment fund ensuring future management of the land.

"By having endowments in place, TLC can ensure that the ongoing cost of owning and managing land will be covered forever," says Kathleen Sheppard, TLC's Director of Operations. "These site specific funds



The Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area, TLC's largest property in B.C.'s Interior, protects a wide variety of wildlife habitat including vital winter range for elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. Thanks to the collaboration between TLC and Teck Metals Ltd., the new endowment fund will make a big difference for the future management of this special place. Photo Kathryn Martell; inset Cornelius Iwan

are often discussed at the time of purchase or donation."

The interest generated from the \$400,000 will be put towards site management. The funds will enhance the diversity of the flora and fauna,

who grows your vegetables.

Since the campaign began in May 2008, the outpouring of community support has been incredible – making it clear that people are passionate about sustainable agriculture.

Hundreds of concerned citizens and businesses are stepping up to contribute to the cause, often finding creative ways of raising both funds and awareness. Local restaurants hold fundraising events, businesses display donation jars, chefs show their talent and love of local produce at the Annual Island Chefs' Survival event, artists hold auctions, individuals donate in lieu of birthday gifts, and Phillips Brewing Company even brewed a special edition of beer. In addition, a generous donation from the landowners, a significant pledge from the Farmlands Trust, and the enthusiastic support from The Q and the Zone radio stations have brought

and preserve the property's important historical and natural features while also ensuring the land can still be utilized for recreation.

"We are very pleased to make this financial contribution in addition to

us a long way towards our goal of seeing this ecological and agricultural treasure protected forever.

But the race continues. With \$838,000 still needed (as of press time for this LANDmark) to meet the final deadline of January 15th 2010, we need your help. Protecting Madrona Farm not only safeguards a vital source of locally grown food, but

the land already transferred to TLC," says Mike Martin, General Manager, Teck Trail Operations. "Our goal is to see the Fort Shepherd lands protected through this endowment and with the efforts of TLC and the Trail Wildlife Association. This endowment reflects Teck's commitment to sustainability and to the communities in which we operate."

The Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area is unique in B.C. as grasslands, dry forests, rocky slopes, cliffs and caves dominate its geography. It provides habitat to numerous species-at-risk including great blue herons, nighthawks, canyon wrens, Townsend's big-eared bats, and racers. Also, the area provides a valuable winter range for mule deer. The site is named for the Hudson's Bay Company trading post at Fort Shepherd that operated on the site from 1857 to 1870. Today the area is a popular recreational destination. For more information on Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area, please visit TLC's website at www.conservancy.bc.ca. ■

also secures an innovative model for sustainable agriculture, encouraging young farmers to help keep our agricultural roots alive. Join us and make your donation today!

Editor's Note: This holiday season give the gift of food security by making a donation to Madrona Farm in honour of someone you love. For details visit www.conservancy.bc.ca/madrona ■

The Race to Save Madrona Farm

by Wendy Innes
Manager, Member Care

People love food. The fact that locally grown food simply tastes better than the alternative is just one of the many reasons why hundreds of people have joined TLC in the race to save Madrona Farm.

A story waits behind each dollar donated. For some, the staggering rate at which agricultural land is disappearing and the resulting threat to food security motivates their donation. For others, their desire to protect farmland stems from the environmental impact of trucking food halfway across the continent. Sometimes the story is as simple as being able to chat with the farmer



Some of Victoria's finest chefs showed just how far they will go to support local produce during this year's Island Chefs' Survival which raised \$15,000 to help save the farm. Photo courtesy Adrian Lam Victoria Times Colonist

TLC wants to hear from you!

To establish more effective communications with our members, we are currently running a survey to better understand your needs. Please take a moment to fill out this important questionnaire online at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

Thanks for your help!



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TLC MEMBERS: 25% of my commission goes to TLC!

Executive Directors Message

Dear members and friends of TLC,

I always find it a pleasure to report to you about what TLC is doing on your behalf and on behalf of conservation in our beautiful province. It is our mission to lead conservation in B.C. now and in 100 years time. We have been more successful than I could have ever imagined in achieving the first part of our mission and we are keenly working towards the future.

Recently, the board and staff initiated a plan to 'Build a Healthy Foundation' at TLC. We set targets to better manage what we do, serve our members and donors better, and make TLC truly sustainable. We gave ourselves four months to establish this important first step towards a healthy foundation at TLC, made up of five key objectives that I have highlighted below.

1. Build functioning teams that work together

To reach our full potential, TLC must do three things well: ensure properties are saved, maintain them, and conduct fundraising efforts to expand our role in protecting B.C.'s special places. We do all these things with a dedicated and hardworking team of staff and volunteers that work on your behalf.

Our two primary teams, one involved in projects and operations and the other, fundraising and development, are both coming together as well as I've ever seen them. Our teams are now working together with a renewed sense of importance and urgency on many exciting new programs. Much of this organizational progress is attributable to the second of our five objectives.

2. Establish effective communications

Over the summer many members, donors, and staff provided feedback on TLC's strengths and ways to improve the organization. As a result, establishing more effective communications became a priority both within TLC and with members and donors.

We invite all members to our monthly board meetings and commit ourselves to providing you with as many ways as possible to communicate with us. You can check out our new website, respond to our member survey, attend one of our events or call, e-mail or visit one of our regional offices. Internally, we foster a culture of input and openness, ownership and accountability. We make it an ongoing goal to provide staff the information and support to excel at their work.

Our third objective addressed some



of the difficulties over the summer.

3. Establish an effective working relationship between Board of Directors and Management

Trust and communication provide a basis for this relationship. The board is taking an active role in fundraising and representing TLC at events in the community. Reaching out to members and donors and helping to meet our fourth objective is the cornerstone of how the board and management are working together.

4. Cover operating costs and create a reserve

In the spring of 2009, we launched our annual campaign to raise \$3.5 million necessary to meet our operational and financial requirements for the year. An uncertain summer and a sluggish economy have made this challenging. Half way through our fiscal year, we still need approximately

\$2 million to reach our fundraising target. We continue to increase our efforts to close this gap. We are confident that, as we enter the traditional season for charitable giving, our members and donors will strengthen their support for conservation and TLC.

As TLC's ultimate strength, our membership constitutes our fifth objective.

5. Reinvest in membership to ensure future growth

TLC is now focussing more on growing our membership base to ensure our sustainability. We aim to quadruple TLC Membership over the next five years, creating an organization much less reliant on individual donations and more on the support of 25,000 TLC Members.

For information explaining how we plan to achieve this goal, see the report written by our Director of Development, John Keller.

Let me once again sincerely thank you for your support over the last 12 years. Much conservation work remains to be done, and I give you my commitment that we will serve you with pride and integrity. We hope to see you at one of our seasonal events over the holidays or in the New Year! ■

Investing in Membership

by John Keller
Director of Development

The Land Conservancy is made up of thousands of members and donors, volunteers, staff, board, conservation and corporate partners, all of whom care deeply about B.C.'s special places. We at TLC want to heartily thank you for supporting the organization and the future of conservation in this incredible province.

As Bill mentions in his article above, there is still much conservation work to be done. As one of our vital partners, it's important that we share with you what we are doing to achieve financial stability and sustainability for TLC, and how you can help us reach this goal.

Reinvesting in membership growth is key to ensuring future sustainability. TLC has an inspirational story to tell, and we need to tell it by engaging the public in as many ways as possible. We have recently launched the 'Million Reasons' membership campaign and have started a new door-to-door outreach initiative. We are also increasing our presence in the community. You will see us at numerous partnership events including the Victoria Salmon Kings game on March 14, 2010, speaking to local service clubs and community groups, and at our own TLC events.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming holiday gatherings. Through these efforts, and many more, we will reach our goal of increasing our membership base to over 25,000 dedicated people.

As a TLC supporter, you can help by doing any (or all) of the following:

- If you are not already a TLC Member, join us and encourage a friend to do the same.
- Already an annual TLC Member? Please consider switching to a monthly membership.
- If you are a Monthly Member, consider increasing your monthly gift. Every dollar makes an incredible difference.
- Give a TLC Tribute Gift this holiday season.
- Join us as an ambassador,

volunteer, or community leader in any of our upcoming outreach activities.

- Please consider making a tax-deductible donation this charitable giving season. There is still time to make your gift of securities for the 2009 tax year.

TLC's September AGM was a tremendous demonstration of our members' commitment to TLC and our conservation mission together. With your steadfast financial support, we will continue our work and add to the over 300 special places saved forever by you. Thank you again for your continued support. ■

TLC The Land Conservancy

One person, one member, a million reasons why.

There are a million reasons for you to become a TLC Member.

That's because we protect all the special places you care about in B.C. From natural areas to cultural landmarks and agricultural lands to recreational sites, we work to save these places for everyone to enjoy.

To date we have protected over 300 properties throughout the province, but to do even more, we need your help.

Photo taken at Madrona Farm

Find your reason to become a TLC Member at 1-877-485-2422 or www.conservancy.bc.ca/reasons

Editor's Note: Meet the many faces of our new 'Million Reasons Campaign'. A series of ads and posters, such as this, are beginning to appear in publications and on local bulletin boards across B.C.

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TLC Advantage Program Update
Invest in your future and do even more for B.C.'s special places. As part of TLC's Advantage Program, The Pinch Group at Raymond James will now donate to TLC the equivalent of 0.5% of the total value of investments made by TLC Members (new clients) or \$200, whichever is greater.

TLC Signs Dublin Declaration on Climate Change

Earlier this fall in Dublin Ireland, TLC attended the 13th International Conference of National Trusts on the importance of conservation when addressing climate change and came home with a message for Canada's political leaders.

"Historic buildings and natural landscapes all around the world are at risk because of climate change. People are finally waking up to this international problem," says Bill Turner, TLC's Executive Director. "It is extremely important that world leaders including Canada put measurements in place so future generations can enjoy these special places."

The event hosted over 200 representatives from heritage trusts around the globe. Delegates signed a declaration, entitled the 'Dublin Declaration', which sends a clear message to world leaders and those attending the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen this December to prioritize heritage protection in strategies on climate change.

The Declaration specifically calls on world leaders to reach an agreement on greenhouse gas reductions (limiting global average temperature

rise to less than two degrees Celsius). It also asks leaders to agree to promote policy frameworks at national and international levels that encourage investment in low carbon technologies and to support measures that protect heritage sites, both in the natural and built environment.

Eamonn Hayes, a 16-year-old student from Ballina, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, delivered the keynote address opening the conference. He told delegates that the actions of adults were critical in determining the type of world that will be left behind for his generation.

"Melting ice-caps, spreading deserts, and flooding may seem like far-away problems, but if we don't take action now, they will be a reality for every citizen of this world in generations to come. Do you want your legacy to be a damaged world that you pass onto my generation, and the generation after me?"

Hayes' concern over the natural and cultural inheritance of future generations highlights the importance of TLC's mission to preserve and protect our province's special places. TLC's voice will be represented at the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen as part of the International National Trusts Organisation delegation attending from Europe. To see a copy of the 'Dublin Declaration', please visit TLC's website at www.conservancy.bc.ca. ■



The signing of the 'Dublin Declaration' is just one of the many ways The International National Trust Organization (INTO) is advocating for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage around the world. INTO also develops best practices and helps establish Trusts where they do not presently exist. The next conference, in October 2011, will be hosted by TLC in Victoria. *Photo TLC files*

Leveraging Greenspace with the Parks Land Acquisition Fund

by Heather Skydt
Manager, Communications

Nothing beats walking through a park on a brisk Saturday morning. Parks provide citizens with countless recreational opportunities, enhance their quality of life, and protect vital wildlife habitat. Vancouver Island is known for its lush green landscape, and the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Parks Master Plan plays an essential role in keeping that space green.

In April 2000, the CRD established the Parks Land Acquisition Fund. For 10 years, the Regional Parks Master Plan has generated about \$1,700,000 annually for the fund to purchase land for regional parks and trails. The public supported establishing

the plan by a public poll in 1999, and the cost to property owners in 2008 was approximately \$10 per home. Assisted by TLC, the CRD has added almost 3,000 hectares of parkland for Vancouver Island residents since 2000. TLC partnered in 12 of the 21 acquisitions and contributed an additional \$5,893,500 to the fund. Now the CRD would like to extend the fund for another 10 years. TLC strongly supports the CRD's vision for conservation and is committed to continuing to leverage the work this partnership provides. A decision regarding the continuance of the fund will be made in early 2010. ■

Celebrating Conservation: A Review of Properties Your Support Made Possible

by Mike Murray
Development Officer

This past year, TLC's many members and partners showed just how much the landscape of British Columbia means to them by championing a number of vital projects. Three of these projects, now under TLC's protection, represent a unique cross section of the province's geography.

Valhalla Provincial Park became even bigger in March with the purchase of the Valhalla Mile, a 155-acre piece of wilderness that lies in the middle of the park. The Valhalla Mile contains

a spectacular stretch of shoreline on Slokan Lake where the surrounding forest provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife. Through the tireless efforts of TLC Members, the Valhalla Foundation, and a strong partnership with the B.C. government, we have ensured that this spectacular property will be protected forever.

With over seven hectares of fish and wildlife habitat in the heart of Squamish, Squamish Mamquam Blind Channel is another exciting addition to TLC. Sitting on an undeveloped flood plain near the Adventure and Tourism Center, this property possesses potential for future educational opportunities. The acquisition represents three years of hard work by TLC and the Squamish Riverside Watershed Society (SRWS) and will be managed in part by the District of Squamish and the SRWS.

The Kinghorn property, nestled in Mount Work Regional Park, is a valuable example of TLC's 2009 efforts. In the Vancouver Island Highlands, this 63-hectare parcel of land features lush meadows of arbutus, manzanita, and an array of spring flowers. Its high rocky outcrops provide expansive views of the surrounding landscape. Through the generous contributions of the land



The Squamish Mamquam Blind Channel is just one of the many properties TLC was able to protect in 2009, thanks to the organizational support of TLC Members. With your continued help, 2010 will be another exciting year of conservation with TLC. Inset: The rocky outcrops of the Kinghorn property are now protected forever. *Photo Tamsin Baker; inset Vicky Husband*

owner, Victoria's Capital Regional District, and an anonymous million dollar donation, we were able to help protect this property and save it from encroaching development.

From the Kootenays to the Lower Mainland to Vancouver Island, these three very special properties represent the diversity of our province, the dedication our members, and the growth of our organization. They also indicate the increasing strength of our conservation message and ability to protect the province's threatened areas. As we move into 2010 we look forward to maintaining and building upon these many successes. ■

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Property Highlight: Texada Island Conservation Covenant

by Tamsin Baker
Regional Manager, Lower Mainland

Conservation covenants are one of the powerful tools used by TLC to protect some of B.C.'s most special places found on private land across the province. To ensure the terms of these legal agreements are upheld, TLC performs regular visits to monitor these sites. Although covenanted properties are not often highlighted at the forefront of our work, the strong support of TLC Members and the landowners enables TLC to undertake and manage over 217 such agreements, thereby protecting more than 10,200 acres of land.

A leading example of the incredible areas protected by conservation covenants can be found on Texada Island. In 2003, TLC became the covenant holder of 348 acres of spectacular waterfront on the island. The restrictions of the covenant safeguard the ecosystem of the property, while still allowing for some limited residential and educational use.

To visit the site from the Lower Mainland, TLC staff travel up the Sunshine Coast to Powell River, hop a short ferry across to Texada Island, and take a quick drive over to the western side of the island. Once there, it is easy to see what makes this property so special. The entire area is a relatively undisturbed example of the endangered Coastal Douglas-fir zone. Less than 1% of

this zone remains undeveloped and unlogged in Canada.

The Texada Island property contains habitat types ranging from mature and old growth forests to rocky cliffs, and wetlands. The water bodies and creeks on the site play a key role in the health of the watershed of this area. The rocky bluffs are sensitive areas since they have poor soil development, are very dry, and do not recover easily from disturbance. In addition to the ecological values, the property also contains the remains of old homesteads from the 1920s and 1930s.

The previous owners, Alice-Jean MacKay and Lothar Mauch, and the current owner, James Mack, feel passionately that the important ecological features need to be protected for future generations. By choosing to place the land under the protection of a conservation covenant, they are making a true gift of conservation. ■



A beautiful arbutus tree reaches out into Georgia Strait from a property on Texada Island. Although the property is privately owned, it will be protected in perpetuity by a conservation covenant held by TLC. Photo Tamsin Baker

Artefacts, Soot, and Cotton Swabs

by Cuyler Page
Craigflower Site Service Manager

The subtle smell of smoky soot pervades the air of the quiet work room as several pairs of blue gloved hands manipulate custom-made cotton swabs moistened with distilled water over various historic plates, cups, and glass lamp shades.

Every one of the 2,000 items in the Craigflower Farmhouse are being cleaned and conserved with loving care after a small fire broke out late last January. Not only did the fire damage a portion of the hallway and closet, but it also left a significant layer of grimy soot on every surface of the building's artefacts, furniture, curtains, and wallpaper.

The first stage in the conservation process focuses on the hundreds of pieces of historic tableware, cookware, books, games, room decorations, and personal care items that have been on display since the building was restored in 1968.

Professional conservator, Simone Vogel-Horridge, leads the way in treating the objects, training staff and volunteers, and working with the most vulnerable items. Angelica Pass, a University of Victoria Masters student, assists on contract through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations Program administered by the Canadian Museum Association.

The cleaning begins with a soft brush and a vacuum nozzle fitted with nylon gauze to prevent any micro-chips from being sucked away from the artefacts. Then, in addition to cotton



While the fire at TLC's Craigflower Farmhouse was contained thanks to the quick action of local fire fighters, a team of dedicated staff and volunteers are currently working to conserve the many artefacts affected by the soot and smoke. Photo Deborah Hudson

swabs, small disposable pieces of professional chemical sponges gently remove soot from surfaces and special acidic mixtures are applied to restore the beautiful patina of cast iron items. As they are handled, each piece is documented with a condition report and photographs for the permanent artefact record.

As with so many TLC projects, the work at Craigflower Farmhouse would not be possible without the help of a diverse group of incredible volunteers. The techniques can be learned by anyone with patience and good hand-eye coordination. If you have an interest in history and would like to contribute your skills as a volunteer, please contact TLC's Vancouver Island Regional Manager, Deborah Hudson at 250-479-8053 or dhudson@conservancy.bc.ca. ■

You are Invited...
Please join us in celebrating the season at a TLC Holiday Open House near you.

Victoria - Wednesday, December 9
Abkhazi Garden
3:30 - 7:30 p.m.
1964 Fairfield Rd
250-479-8053

Penticton - Saturday, December 5
TLC's Okanagan Office
4 - 6 p.m.
201-262 Main St
RSVP 250-492-0173

Burnaby - Friday, December 11
Eagles Estate Heritage Garden
3 - 8 p.m.
5655 Sperling Ave.
604-733-2313

Hope to see you there!

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