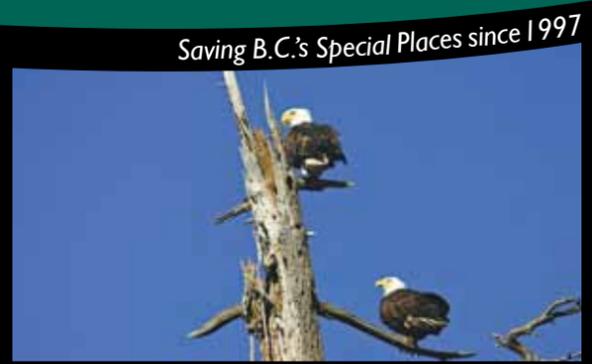




agriculture



heritage



nature

Creating Safe Wildlife Passages in the Clearwater River Valley

By Barry Booth, Regional Manager, North

Corridors, connectivity, linkages: these terms are often used in conservation to describe what animals need to move from place to place. According to many scientists, corridors that link critical habitats together are the key to the continued existence of wildlife populations. Consequently, ensuring the existence of corridors is a major focus of most conservation organizations. TLC is working to do just this in the Clearwater River Valley. Together with renowned lichenologist and naturalist, Trevor Goward, TLC aims to create a permanent wildlife corridor that will connect two parts of Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Over the years, the boundaries of Wells Gray Park have been extended southward. The result has been a considerable enlargement of both the western and eastern sections, such that southern Wells Gray Park today occupies two extensive tracts of land separated by a sliver of private land, referred to locally as Upper Clearwater. Currently, many of the park's large mammals – moose,

wolf, deer, cougar, black and grizzly bear – migrate semi-annually across these private lands. Presently, the movement of animals in this area has been relatively straightforward because a number of private lots are undeveloped. However, this situation is changing: pressures are mounting that will ultimately see the development of these lots as recreational properties.

TLC's Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor Campaign involves the purchase of three properties (38 acres) and also includes two significant donations of land by Goward (10 acres) and his neighbours John and Edwina Kurta (66 acres). When completed, the project will include a permanent wildlife corridor across the Upper Clearwater, the protection of 66 acres of wetlands, and a 10-acre meadow that is home to Canada's most diverse population of Moonwort Ferns (*Botrychium* spp.). This project will also provide access to a portion of the wetlands, as plans are being made to construct trails and a viewing platform that will allow the public



Twelve species of Moonwort Ferns (two of which are threatened, and another two endangered) are located in the 10-acre meadow that TLC will be acquiring thanks to this campaign.

Photo Jason Hollinger

to experience the soon-to-be created Kurta Wetlands Conservation Area.

As people move and settle further into the wild places of B.C., ever increasing pressure is placed on wildlife populations. This pressure strikes at one of the fundamental needs of wildlife: the ability to move safely from one place to another. As a result, creating corridors like this one in the Clearwater River Valley is of critical importance.

TLC and its partners need to raise \$350,000 to secure the first three acquisitions, totaling 38 acres, for this corridor. With the generous donations by Goward and the Kurtas, the total area protected in the Clearwater River Valley will exceed 114 acres. To make your donation visit conservancy.bc.ca or call 1-877-485-2422. ■

In late August, Trevor Goward, two TLC Members, and a staff person toured the Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor and the southern section of Wells Gray Provincial Park. One TLC Member was astonished by the variety of plant species as a result of a fire in 1926, as well as the massive boulders sprinkled on the property from the last glacier retreat. The other member was fascinated by the presence of scratch marks on trees and large excavations dug by bears looking for food. At the end of the day, the tour made each of them realize this special place is truly a wildlife corridor worth saving! ■



TLC and renowned lichenologist and naturalist, Trevor Goward are working together on a major initiative in the Clearwater River Valley, in the southern section of Wells Gray Provincial Park. Not only will this project create a permanent wildlife corridor but it will also protect 66 acres of wetlands, a 10-acre meadow, and will foster research and education for future generations.

Photo Jason Hollinger



Photo Jason Hollinger

TLC's Annual General Meeting on Vancouver Island

Saturday, September 25, 2010

1 - 4 p.m.

St. Stephen's Hall

7921 St. Stephen's Lane, Saanichton, B.C.

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

Executive Director's Message

While on a recent personal trip to the U.K., my wife Gerie and I had the pleasure of visiting many of the special places protected by the National Trust. With nearly four million members, the National Trust is the largest conservation organization in the world. The trip once again reminded me of the successful model upon which TLC is based and of all the connections that are such an integral part of everything we do.

Not only are we working to connect and expand properties like the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area and the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt, but as members of the International National Trust Organization (INTO) we are also working to create networks of special places around the world. The National Trust movement now has over seven

million members worldwide and has been the inspiration for thousands of land trusts, large and small.

With a broad mandate of saving special places, TLC is able to protect some incredible properties. Whether it's a rare forest like Creekside Rainforest on Salt Spring Island, a unique historic home like B.C. Binning Residence, a vital local food source such as Madrona Farm, or a recreational property like Skaha Bluffs, our properties are better served by bringing them together under one organization which recognizes them for all of their unique values. In fact, numerous TLC's properties combine ecological, agricultural, and historic importance.

There is something magical about people, like you, who care about special places. When I meet our

dedicated volunteers who are carefully restoring Ross Bay Villa or pulling weeds at Abkhazi Garden, the first question they often ask is, "How are things at the Sooke Potholes?" or "What's the latest with the Horsefly River?". They see the big picture and the difference TLC's work makes across the province.

So, who is the best judge of what constitutes a special place? In the National Trust view it is the community, the membership, and the people at the grassroots level. That is why member and community engagement is so important to TLC and to the future of these special places.

The model of protecting special places has proven itself resilient and inspiring. The only thing between us and strong financial sustainability



is the need to triple our membership base. We have recently passed the 8,000 members mark and are continuing to grow significantly with nearly 200 new members joining every month. We are committed to growing our membership as we strive to reach and pass the 25,000 member mark – creating a culture of conservation and connection across B.C. ■

Bill Palmer

More Great Stories at conservancy.bc.ca

Many Hands Make Light Work at TLC's Ross Bay Villa

What do microscopes, scalpels, paintbrushes, dental picks, a sewing machine, and an antique printing press have in common? They all have been used by volunteers to restore the Dining Room of TLC's Ross Bay Villa. Public tours take place on the first Saturday of every month at 2 p.m., 1490 Fairfield Road, Victoria. To get the full heritage restoration details and learn about the individuals behind this exciting project, please visit conservancy.bc.ca. ■

Thanks to thousands of volunteer hours at Ross Bay Villa the once badly deteriorated space has been transformed back into an elegant 1860s Dining Room for all to admire. Don't miss photos of the newly completed room on TLC's website. *Photo Deborah Hudson*



TLC is grateful for the incredible support from community members like Samarpan Faasse, Executive Director Okanagan School of the Arts & Shatford Centre, and Justine Sawicz, President of Green Earth Movement (GEM) shown (above) with the table before its transformation. *Photo Bianka Sawicz*

Community, Art and Science Come Together for TLC

Justine Sawicz, an avid TLC volunteer, is giving second life to an old table, donated by the S.S. Sicamous, in the name of conservation. Art meets science as Sawicz uses material and space donated on behalf of the Okanagan School of Arts, and her creative talents, to illustrate some of the species at risk in the South Okanagan Similkameen by painting them on the table's surface. The finished table will be used by TLC for community stewardship events. See the final masterpiece and read the rest of the story at conservancy.bc.ca. ■

CHEF SURVIVAL CHALLENGE III - QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN BROCCOLI

October 3, 2010 12-5 p.m.
Madrona Farm



At this culinary arts performance of epic proportions, you will watch 20 of the island's best chefs engage in a boot camp style obstacle course, racing over the 27-acre farm to pick the vegetables they need to create masterpieces for auction. Enjoy this afternoon of fun, food, and music with 90% of the proceeds going to TLC's agricultural program, and 10% to the Island Chef's Collaborative. This is a foodie event you won't want to miss.

For tickets and more information visit chefsurvivalchallenge.com



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The McRea-Van & Homer Covenant: Fulfilling a Dream of Conservation

*Kai Peetoom
Project Officer, Conservation Covenants
Vancouver Island/Coast Region*

Patti Homer and Ken Van stand beside their home in Sooke, eyes twinkling as they speak about the conservation covenant that has just been registered on their property. The couple has dreamed of this for a long time, in part to fulfill the vision of their good friend who sold them the property 20 years ago with the intent to protect the natural values of the land in perpetuity.

As dedicated TLC supporters, Homer and Van have a deep respect for nature and are truly grateful for seeing their spectacular forested property saved from any future development. "We have always loved the feeling of living in a forest; it is a privilege that we will always cherish. There is a great feeling of peace that encompasses you when you know that it will be there forever."

This voluntary, legal agreement, led by TLC and co-held by Habitat Acquisition Trust, was placed on their 25-acre property in May 2010. The property is located close to Sooke Potholes Regional Park and other regional parklands, helping to provide a contiguous protected area for wildlife.

The covenant area is undeveloped and supports ecologically diverse and rare ecosystems. Several old-growth Douglas fir trees and tree snags are scattered throughout the property, as well as two Garry oak trees growing near the westernmost extent of their range. The property is also home to a variety of wildlife including black bear, cougar, Roosevelt elk, ermine, and alligator lizards.

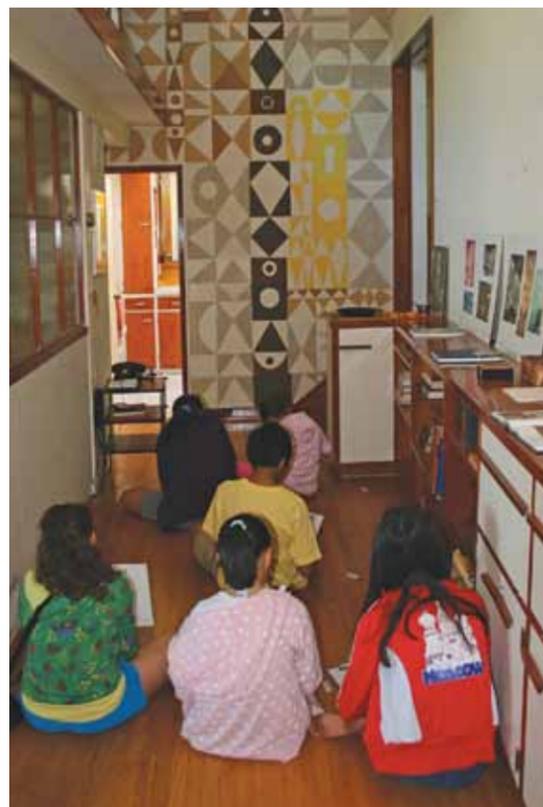
TLC currently holds covenants on over 200 properties across B.C. They are a powerful way to protect special places found on private land - land that may not be available for protection by any other means. Support from TLC Members and landowners allows for the ongoing management and annual monitoring of covenants. This support also helps initiate new covenants and provides more resources for existing projects, such as updating mapping systems and monitoring programs, and creating volunteer work parties to deal with invasive species.

TLC would like to thank all their covenant landowners for their commitment to conservation. For more information on covenants, please visit conservancy.bc.ca. ■



TLC Members Patti Homer and Kenny Van stand beneath two towering Douglas fir trees on their property, now protected in perpetuity by a conservation covenant.
Photo Dennis Kangasniemi

Expanding Young Minds at B.C. Binning



This summer children from the West Vancouver Museum's summer architecture program toured the residence of B.C. Binning and learned about the artistic influences found in the home from eastern and western, to nautical and urban. This group and many others were part of TLC's tri-weekly tours being offered to the public. The response of individuals wanting to experience this West Coast icon was overwhelming. Special tours by donation can be arranged by calling TLC's Lower Mainland Office at 604-733-2313 or emailing tbaker@conservancy.bc.ca. ■
Photo courtesy West Van Museum Camp

Embrace the Passions that Define Your Life

Discover how you can leave a lasting legacy for B.C.'s special places by leaving TLC in your will.

Call John Keller, Director of Development, at 1-877-485-2422.



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A proud supporter of TLC!

Help TLC win up to \$500,000 in this year's Aviva Community Fund Competition. Voting begins October 4, 2010. Stay tuned for more information.

First Phase of TLC's Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign Complete

On August 12, TLC and the Capital Regional District (CRD) completed the purchase and transfer of the first group of Western Forest Products lands on Vancouver Island. The purchase adds critical lands to the Sooke Potholes Regional Park and creates a new Sandcut Beach Regional Park, the first regional park west of Sooke.

Five thousand and eight hundred acres of land are being purchased for a total cost of \$18.8 million, which will be paid and transferred in installments over three years. All of the parcels placed in regional parks will be further protected by conservation covenants held by TLC. Acquisition of these lands includes major additions to the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt, an inspired, grassroots campaign first envisioned and promoted by Ray Zimmerman

and the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt Society. Over the years community groups including the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and TLC have continued the work to create a 28,400 acre corridor of protected wilderness and parkland on Victoria's western horizon. When all three phases are complete in 2012, the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt will be 90% finished.

In March 2010, TLC was instrumental in securing an agreement in principle for the CRD to purchase these lands for future regional parks. With the first phase completed, the CRD will take over management of lands adjacent to Sooke Potholes, parcels surrounding Weeks Lake in the Leech watershed, as well as Sandcut Beach. A second parcel of land at Sandcut Beach will be transferred to the CRD ownership in August 2011. Parcels in Jordan River and remaining land in the Sooke Hills will be transferred in



August 2012.

TLC launched the Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign to fulfill its commitment to raise 35% of the purchase price. "Sandcut Beach, Jordan River, and the Sooke Hills are the definition of West Coast paradise. We would like to thank the Province of B.C. and the co-founder of Thrifty Foods, Alex Campbell, for their donations," says TLC's Executive Director Bill Turner. "With these contributions, plus many others, TLC

Check out TLC's new video and photo gallery at conservancy.bc.ca to see spectacular aerial shots of the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt (like Grasse Lake shown above) courtesy of VIH Helicopters Ltd., Wells Gaetz and Heath Moffat. *Photo Heath Moffat*

now requires just over \$3 million to fulfill its commitment for the next two phases."

You can help create this world class parks legacy. Call 1-877-485-2422. ■

Building a Conservation Puzzle: TLC Expands the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area

By Barry Booth
Regional Manager, North

One of the most fulfilling aspects of working with TLC is the opportunity to acquire and then manage a property that builds on previous efforts. A new acquisition that becomes part of a larger conservation area is even more valuable from a conservation perspective. In many ways this is like building a puzzle, but instead of placing individual pieces on a blank table, one exchanges unprotected pieces with protected ones, thereby building a picture that shows an ever increasing area of protected lands.

is two-fold. The most obvious is that by buying these lands, TLC eliminates the possible threat of future development along this section of the Horsefly River. We also increase the conservation value of the HRRCA by expanding its overall size, and we link it to Crown Land that has been designated as a key wetland for moose, and an Old-growth Forest Management Area. In essence, the protected area of riparian habitat in the valley would effectively be extended by a further 2km on the north side of the Horsefly River and by an additional 140 acres overall.



With nearly one-fourth of the Fraser River's Sockeye salmon run spawning at Horsefly, additions to the conservation area are invaluable. This year is expected to be the one of the biggest Sockeye salmon returns in nearly a century, just a year after one of the smallest returns on record.

Photos Cornelius Iwan

TLC's campaign to purchase a 56-acre parcel in the Horsefly River Valley is just this type of a project. We are working to acquire the last piece of the old Kroener Ranch that is immediately adjacent to the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area (HRRCA), one of TLC's first acquisitions. This new property of young mixed wood forest, wetlands, and intact riparian habitat along the Horsefly River is of strategic value for wildlife and salmon conservation.

This type of purchase is in many ways the most valuable type of acquisition. It is not a piece of land that is isolated from other conservation lands, but rather is directly connected to them. With this acquisition we are continuing to fill in the pieces of the conservation puzzle in the Horsefly River, one of B.C.'s most important wild salmon rivers. TLC and its partners require \$160,000 to complete the purchase. Donate today at conservancy.bc.ca or 1-877-485-2422. ■

The importance of this acquisition

The Million Reasons Photo Contest Winners

Over the past several months, TLC received photo submissions from British Columbians of all ages telling us why they think it's important to save natural areas, heritage sites, and agricultural lands. It warms our hearts to think that so many people care about protecting special places. We would like to thank everyone for their submissions. A few shining stars stood out from the crowd and we would like to highlight them. 1st place won a \$100 MEC gift certificate, 2nd place passes to Wild Play Element Park's Monkido Course, 3rd place a TLC prize pack and Nate Organics t-shirt. ■



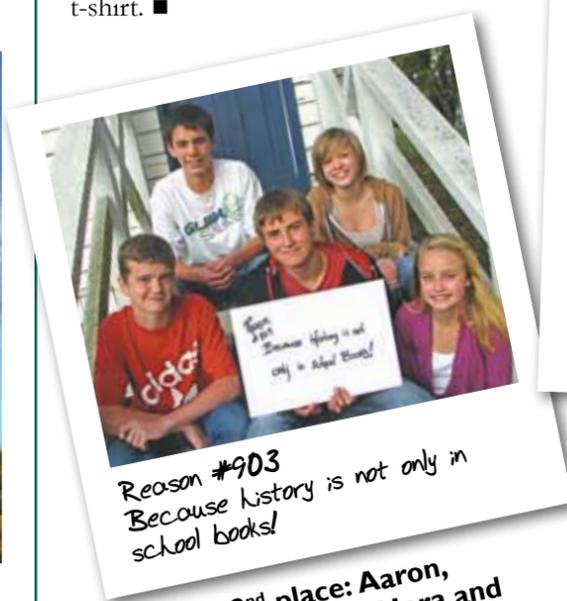
Reason #525
Because being a member is a commitment to my community.
1st place: Kate at TLC's Earth Day photo shoot, Mayfair Shopping Centre Victoria B.C.



Reason #1834
Because the sweet smell of pines is intoxicating.

3rd place: Sarah at Skaha Conservation Area, Penticton, B.C.

A big thank you to Mayfair Shopping Centre for all their support of our Million Reasons Campaign.



Reason #903
Because history is not only in school books!

2nd place: Aaron, Marcus, Scott, Nora and Samantha at Craigflower Schoolhouse, Victoria, B.C. (left to right)

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Nayan Woods
Marion Preston
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Please return completed form to: TLC, 301-1195 Esquimalt Road, Victoria, BC V9A 3N6

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