



agriculture



heritage



nature

## Every Mile Counts When It Comes to Conservation

### Your Support Helps Add Valuable Land to Valhalla Provincial Park

by Kathleen Sheppard  
Director of Conservation Policy & Programs  
and Regional Operations

Valhalla Provincial Park is now a little bit bigger. Although the overall size of the park only increased by less than 0.1%, sometimes important things come in small packages. The Valhalla Mile - the 155-acre piece of wilderness that is now part of Valhalla Park - lies smack in the middle of the western shoreline of Slocan Lake and in the middle of the Park itself. Had this property been sold to other interests, a resort development may have stood in the midst of the Park.

When Valhalla Provincial Park was established in 1983, Valhalla Mile was not included because it was privately owned. Thanks to the efforts of local champions Wayne McCrory and Lorna Visser, TLC partnered with the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology and Social Justice and the Province



By protecting Valhalla Mile on Slocan Lake, TLC and the Valhalla Foundation saved one of the last stretches of natural lake shoreline in southern B.C. from future development. Now added to Valhalla Provincial Park, the mile-long property is prime habitat for grizzly and black bears, cougars and wolverines. Photo Kathryn Martell; inset TLC Files

of B.C. to purchase and protect this magnificent property.

Protecting the Valhalla Mile could not have happened without Wayne and Lorna's tireless efforts. While TLC worked with funders such as the B.C. Trust for Public Lands, the

Columbia Basin Trust, and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (Columbia Basin), Wayne and Lorna talked to their friends and neighbours to build support locally and across the province. In this way, they raised an amazing \$215,000 in individual donations to complete the project.

The Valhalla Mile contains a spectacular one-mile stretch of foreshore along Slocan Lake. The forest ecosystem protected provides habitat for grizzly and black bears, cougars, and wolverine. As well, visitors to this remote property can explore hidden waterfalls or stroll along the lengthy shoreline.

With assistance from hundreds of individual supporters and donors, the Valhalla Mile was purchased on March 31. The Province of B.C. owns and manages the property as part of the Park, but TLC holds a conservation covenant that provides permanent protection. This is the first time that the Province has allowed a conservation covenant to be registered on lands it owns, making this a historic event for TLC and the people of B.C.

As with many of TLC's projects, a variety of factors are needed to achieve success. Wayne and Lorna's passion, the ongoing support of TLC Members, the contribution of numerous funders, the commitment of the Province and the generosity of the previous owner all played a role in protecting this special place. ■

### Shaw Announces \$250,000 Donation to The Land Conservancy for Parkland at Sooke Potholes

by Heather Skydt  
Manager, Communications

Shaw Communications Inc. is giving back to special places in B.C. In April, Shaw announced a \$250,000 donation to help complete TLC's contribution to the Capital Regional District's (CRD) landmark acquisition of 932 hectares of dedicated parkland located adjacent to Sooke Potholes Regional Park, valued at \$5.8 million.

TLC created the Larry Talarico Memorial Campaign to fulfill its \$500,000 commitment toward the acquisition from TimberWest Forest Corp. Larry Talarico, a well-

respected dentist and member of the Juan de Fuca search and rescue team, loved the Sooke Hills and passed away while hiking in July of 2005. Close to 300 individuals and businesses donated to this campaign.

"In the current economic times, we were struggling to find the last piece of funding for this very important project. Then Shaw came through with this wonderful gift," says Linda Hannah, TLC Chief Operating Officer. "Shaw has been extremely supportive of our work over the years, contributing to both the purchase of the Sooke Potholes in 2005 and our work to improve the park facilities

in 2007. We are deeply indebted to Shaw, and we look forward to growing our partnership."

CRD's Sooke Potholes Regional Park, lying adjacent to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, is one of the most recognized features of the Southern Vancouver Island landscape. It offers many recreational opportunities for cyclists, runners, hikers and horseback riders, in addition to those who come to the Potholes to swim or to just enjoy the scenery. The Sooke Potholes Campground adjacent to the park is owned and operated by TLC. ■

*Editor's Note: TLC's Sooke Potholes Campground is closed for the 2009 season due to ongoing CRD construction for the Sooke Water Pipeline Project.*



Since 2005 Shaw Communications has generously donated over \$600,000 towards the Sooke Potholes area. Linda Hannah, TLC Chief Operating Officer along with TLC Member Tony Gooch (middle) received a \$250,000 cheque from Shaw's Vice President of Operations, Chris Kucharski (right) during a press conference at the Sooke Potholes Regional Park. Photo Brian Slater, CRD Regional Parks

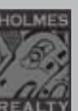
### Visit TLC's latest cottage rental, Monks Point

Located in Tofino, this beautiful 2.5 acre waterfront property can be yours for \$175 to \$295 per night.  
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TLC MEMBERS: 25% of my commission goes to TLC!

# Introducing TLC's New Chief Operating Officer: Linda Hannah

Since first arriving as TLC's COO at the end of March, I've spent a lot of time reflecting on what brought me to this position, and what my hopes and long-term plans are for this vibrant organization. I realize that everyone involved with TLC — our members, staff, volunteers, the board, supporters, and donors — share concern about TLC's future.

First of all, everyone should stand up tall and be proud of the tremendous accomplishments TLC has achieved over its young life: conserving natural areas, heritage sites, and agricultural lands — now hallmarks of TLC. Throughout B.C., you can see TLC's footprint from Monks Cottage in Tofino to Madrona Farm in Victoria to B.C. Binning House in Vancouver to the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area near Williams Lake to Valhalla Mile on the shores of Slokan Lake to Skaha Bluffs outside of Penticton.

Each person who donated time, resources, or funds to help foster our projects must realize they made a positive and lasting difference in our province. I believe in the power of land trusts: we can work together from the ground up to achieve what seems impossible.

As to what bought me to TLC — it is the undeniable fact that we can make a difference. I admire the courage that it takes to achieve the impossible and that TLC is looking long into the future. My love for the environment started back in my days as a naturalist in Yoho National Park when I led interpretative hikes throughout Lake O'Hara. I was in awe of the sheer beauty of the alpine, the deep blue glacier-fed lakes and soaring peaks. I thought a lot about the courage it took to establish the park and how I was able to benefit from that vision. When life gets hectic, I often think back to those days and how they shaped the person I am today.

As a senior manager at TLC, I am committed to working tirelessly to develop a solid foundation so that TLC can fully realize its mandate to protect special places, forever, for everyone. With careful planning and leadership, we have the extremely talented professional staff and the



Photo Valerie Jane Watkins

highly committed volunteers to get the job done.

There is much to be done. Please get involved to help me shape the future of TLC by participating in our Extraordinary General Meeting on Saturday, August 8, 2009 in Victoria. In the meantime, please continue to support TLC with your ideas, your hearts, and your financial contributions.

Thank you for being part of this organization that has inspired people, not only in B.C. but across Canada and around the world. ■

# Get Out and Vote at TLC's EGM on August 8

After two weeks of mediated discussions between TLC's Board of Directors, 'SaveTLC' (a group of concerned members) and former TLC Executive Director Bill Turner, it has been decided that TLC will hold elections for a new Board of Directors at an Extraordinary General Meeting on August 8 at 1 p.m. The EGM will be held in Victoria at the Wright Centre, Science Building SCIB150, University of Victoria.

As a member, this is your opportunity to vote for Directors that best represent your values, opinions and concerns. Later this month, you will receive an information package with a list of candidates and their biographies, and position statements from TLC's Board of Directors and 'Save TLC'. You will also be given information on special resolutions that will enable this EGM to take place. If you cannot make the EGM or you wish to cast your ballot for Directors in advance, voting can be done via mail-in ballot. If you can make the EGM, you will also be able to present your vote in person.

The discussions stemmed from

actions taken by TLC's Board of Directors on March 27 to change senior management. The parties have now agreed on a procedure that would see all members of TLC vote to elect a full 11 member Board at the EGM. All Directors of the current board will resign at the EGM and those eligible may stand for re-election. A full slate of candidates will be put forward by TLC's current board and 'Save TLC'.

All parties also agreed that the first priority must be the survival of TLC to continue the urgent work of protecting B.C.'s special places. All concluded that the EGM was the only way to settle the current issues around operating and strategic direction. 'Save TLC' and Bill Turner have also agreed to help address the financial crisis that TLC is facing and have agreed to assist TLC with fundraising leading up to the EGM. All parties are calling on TLC Members to send donations to help support the daily operations at TLC.

For more information about the EGM, please visit [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca). TLC is your organization — please continue our democratic tradition and exercise your right to vote! ■

Want more info on how you can remember TLC in your Will?

Contact Anne at:  
1-877-485-2422 or [aarmstrong@conservancy.bc.ca](mailto:aarmstrong@conservancy.bc.ca)

Saving special places like TLC's Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area near Williams Lake helps protect healthy and diverse ecosystems that are vital to the survival of B.C.'s wildlife. Each year, thousands of salmon make their way up the Fraser River system to spawn at Horsefly River. TLC's work in the area is attempting to balance the needs of the salmon, the bears that feed on them, and the ranchers that work the surrounding lands. Photo Cornelius Iwan

## Conservation Holidays: Do Something Different for Your Vacation This Summer

by Nicole Haddad  
Project Assistant, Conservation Holidays

Conservation Holidays with TLC are a great way to experience special places all over the province. In 2009, TLC's holidays will take you from the agricultural lands of the Blenkinsop Valley to the sweeping views of the Horsefly River.

On South Winchelsea Island, you will scramble over the rocky shoreline to rid it of garbage, or wander under the Garry Oak and Arbutus trees while helping to restore this sensitive ecosystem. On the shores of a small lake nestled within the tall trees of Wildwood Ecoforest, a small cabin awaits much needed help to bring it back to life as accommodation for volunteers and students. Against the dramatic backdrop of the Cariboo landscape, participants will be able to experience the nooks and crannies of

the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area while helping to complete a fence and build duck nesting boxes.

On our farm holidays, participants will learn about organic food production, issues around food security and how the farm works with the ecology of the site. As one past participant says, "These farm holidays are a wonderful 'hands-on' way to learn about farming. I have a greater appreciation for eating locally produced food to support small-scale farmers."

Conservation Holidays are a unique way to get outdoors, see new places and meet new people. For more information or to book your holiday, visit [www.conservationholidays.ca](http://www.conservationholidays.ca) or call 1-888-738-0533. ■





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**Wildwood Ecoforest July 17-19**  
Restore a lakeside cabin

**Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area August 7-12**  
Visit a majestic salmon river

**Madrona Farm Sept. 13**  
Help with the planting and the harvest

**South Winchelsea Island Sept. 25-27**  
Clear shoreline garbage and invasive species

Do something different for your vacation, and have a memorable experience in one of B.C.'s special places

1-888-738-0533 [www.conservationholidays.ca](http://www.conservationholidays.ca)

# TLC Members and Volunteers Celebrate Restoration Progress at Ross Bay Villa

by Deborah Hudson  
Area Manager, Vancouver Island/Coastal Region

Early in May, Ross Bay Villa's busy volunteers stopped briefly to mark the 10th anniversary of TLC's purchase of the Villa, by celebrating with a piece of cake during a Saturday work party lunch break (top right photo). Then, with the dedication typical of their passion for the old house, they quickly and quietly went back to work.

It is impossible to put a value on the care and determination with which TLC Members and volunteers have worked over the years to bring this modest 1860s gothic revival-style building back to life. The group includes many who have been involved for the full 10 years, as well as those who have just recently joined. All are united in their vision to restore the Villa and its gardens back to their former glory.

The Villa has certainly come a long way from when it was threatened with demolition in 1999. Today, the Villa's exterior and its gardens are much admired. The mucky work of fixing everything from the inside out according to the most meticulous standards of historic preservation is now reflected in the historically authentic details of the house. In order to achieve this accuracy, knowledgeable volunteers have carefully analyzed every inch of the house, looking for clues to the original construction and decoration. From the building's foundations and lath and plaster walls, to the fresh coats of traditional lime plaster and the 1860s-style wallpaper carefully reproduced from the original, TLC Members and volunteers have lovingly restored this old building.

A glimpse of what is still to come can now be seen in the completed Drawing Room, which was officially opened just before Christmas in 2008 during a seasonal event for the Villa's many special donors. The vigilantly selected décor of the room succeeds in visually transporting you back to 1865, when the Villa was newly built for Francis James Roscoe and his family. Just as the volunteers sifted through the house for clues of its original construction, volunteer

researchers have uncovered the interesting story of the Villa's first family. You can learn all about these discoveries during tours of the site held on the first Saturday of every month at 2 p.m. Special group tours for other days and times can also be arranged.

It won't be long though before all the walls are painted and papered, and the challenge of the restoration disappears behind the fully decorated period rooms. The restored Villa will also provide much needed office space and an interpretative centre for the Old Cemeteries Society as well as an office for the Hallmark Society. TLC is proud to have seized the opportunity to protect and restore this beautiful building, and to work with partners to assure a meaningful future for the building. Of course, it couldn't have been done at all without your help! ■



*Editor's Note: Before going to print TLC discovered some exciting news about Ross Bay Villa and the Roscoe family. Long-term volunteer Simone Vogel-Horridge recently contacted Robin Barron, the great-great-grandson of Francis James Roscoe (M.P. 1874-1878). Barron, who lives in Chicago, was able to share photographs and a personal diary from Francis and his wife Anna Letitia which has provided new insight into their life at the Villa in the 1860s and 1870s. This information further confirms that Ross Bay Villa is an important historic site in B.C. Photo top Deborah Hudson; inset Stuart Stark*

## What Can You Do To Help Protect Local Farmland?

Dear TLC Members,

For a year and a half, my wife Nathalie and I have been working with TLC to raise money to bring Madrona Farm under TLC's ownership and protect it as farmland in perpetuity. To date, we have secured half the property price, thanks to generous donations from the public and some of the current landowners. However, we still need to raise \$370,000 by the end of July.

Ten years ago, I drove from the Yukon and arrived at Madrona Farm - my grandparents' farm - with a shovel and an open mind. When my grandparents, Ruth and Lawrence Chambers, bought this farm in 1951, there were 25 farms for sale in the Victoria area. When Ruth died in 2002, Madrona Farm was the last of those farms that remained unchanged by urban development.

Last year we produced over 170,000 pounds of healthy, fresh vegetables and fruits to nourish the local community. We accomplished this with 220 litres of propane, 780 litres of diesel and no chemical inputs. We are not working to save a family farm, but to create a community asset.

In the past, farmers bought a piece of land, and then many sold it for a premium as the city developed. They moved farther out from the city to farm or stopped farming altogether. On Vancouver Island, we now import 95% of our food. For those of us on the island, we are vulnerable to the vagaries of weather, earthquakes and B.C. Ferries. Our grocery stores typically stock only three days' food supply! This lack of food security is not only dangerous, but entirely unnecessary. We have some of the most productive soil on the planet, and a mild climate with plenty of rainfall.

Fortunately, we have the opportunity to protect Madrona Farm forever. Under TLC's ownership, not only will the agricultural integrity of the farm be protected, but also its ecological value. The farm currently provides produce to over 3,500 households in the Victoria region and is home to many native species of frogs, birds and other pollinators. Our operation has even left movement corridors and summer water access for wildlife.

Operating Madrona Farm has been an amazing experience, but it is time for us to live a new paradigm. I know what it takes to rebuild a profitable farm, even without having to buy the land. Society cannot expect youth to come out of school and buy farmland at the current prices, let alone build a viable operation. We must, once and for all, remove our farmlands from the real estate game of buying and selling to the highest bidder.

Bringing Madrona Farm into TLC's land trust protection will set a precedent to help protect further farmland. As more land is protected, more opportunities are created for new and young farmers. As we revitalize the farming infrastructure and create diverse 5 to 20 acre model farms, there will be more local food available throughout the year.

Please join us in reaching our next fundraising goal of \$370,000 by July 31 to ensure Madrona Farm remains in local food production, forever. For more information, visit [www.conservancy.bc.ca/madrona](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/madrona) or call 1-877-485-2422.

Sincerely,

David Chambers  
Current farmer at Madrona Farm



Photo courtesy Adrian Lam, Times Colonist



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**Derek E. Ashurst**

BA, LLB

1620 Cedar Hill X Rd.

Victoria, BC V8P 2P6

tel: (250) 477-4143

fax: (250) 477-4451

[derek@salmondashurst.com](mailto:derek@salmondashurst.com)

**A proud supporter of TLC!**

## Community Action Heroes: Coin Drives to Art Auctions

Community Action Heroes are popping up across B.C. From local elementary schools to retirement homes, people of all ages are making a difference for B.C.'s special places.

Recently, Elena Moss, a Grade 4 student at Sangster Elementary in Victoria, held a successful coin drive in her class with the proceeds going to help restore TLC's Craigflower Farmhouse. The farmhouse was damaged in a fire this past January. Elena had visited the Craigflower heritage site on a school outing and was devastated when she heard of the damage. Elena rallied her classmates, and together they raised almost \$100 through the coin drive, showing that a small group can invoke a change.

But it isn't just kids who are the heroes. Earlier this year, Janet Hawksley, a long-term TLC supporter, was leaving her house and moving to a retirement home. As an environmental folk artist, Janet had an amazing collection of personal artwork she couldn't take with her.

She and her family decided to sell her pieces and donate the proceeds to TLC. We would like to thank Elena, Janet and all the Community Action Heroes out there for their wonderful support through unique fundraising events. ■



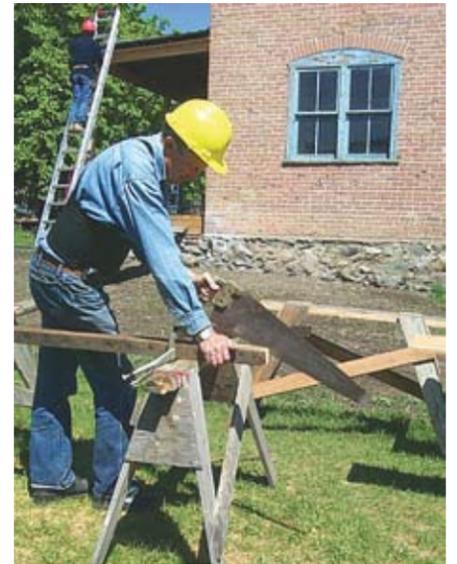
You too can become one of TLC's Community Action Heroes like Elena and her sister Livia (above photo). Send us your pictures and stories about events you have hosted benefitting TLC, and we may feature you in the next Landmark. Photo Sharon Moss

## Hardy Mountain Receives Funding for Restorations

Exciting work is underway this summer at TLC's Hardy Mountain Doukhobor Village Historic Site. With the help of a \$100,000 grant from the B.C. Gaming Commission, much-needed restoration is being done to the brick work, porches, and windows of one of the last traditional communal village houses in B.C. Once restored, this significant home will be filled with photographs and artifacts commemorating the pioneering life of the Russian Doukhobors. A special grant received through the Heritage Legacy of B.C. in celebration of B.C.'s 150th anniversary will help engage the public through plaques, rack cards, and interpretive signs.

Of nearly 90 communal villages established by the Doukhobors in B.C. before the 1930s, the Hardy Mountain Doukhobor Village Historic Site, purchased by TLC in 2004, is one of the last to remain in its original form. Thanks to the ongoing support of TLC Members, stewardship of this unique site will

ensure that the fascinating and colourful history of the Doukhobors continues to be told. ■



Hardy Mountain Doukhobor Village is a 17-acre property containing what remains of the historic Makortoff Doukhobor Village. Built on a hill overlooking the Kettle and Granby River valleys, the village is located near Grand Forks. The main village house was constructed in 1912. The structure is a two-storey wood and brick building set on a stone foundation with an attached front and back porch. Photo Anne Armstrong

## Historic Joy Kogawa House Celebrates Success of its First Writer-in-Residence

by Tamsin Baker  
Regional Manager, Lower Mainland

The campaign to save the Historic Joy Kogawa House in Vancouver brought together individuals from all walks of life with one common goal - to create a place where writers could come to reflect on themes of hope, healing, and reconciliation.

In May 2006, the Historic Joy Kogawa House was purchased by TLC and saved from demolition. During the campaign, it was discussed that the house would be a perfect site for a writers-in-residence program. Thanks to the partnership and hard work

of the Historic Joy Kogawa House Society, this plan has now taken shape.

The very first writer-in-residence, John Asfour, left a trail of inspiration behind as he packed his bags to return to Montreal at the end of May 2009. During his three-month residency, Asfour hosted a number of writers for readings at the house, welcomed visits from writing classes, and coached numerous individual writers. Asfour also presented poetry readings to a variety of audiences, including the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Christianne's Lyceum of Art and Literature, and the B.C. Muslim School. In late May, over 50 students from Killarney Secondary School



Photo Ann-Marie Metten

spent a day practising their creative writing while at Kogawa House (above photo).

Asfour's frequent writing consultations and activities did not keep him from completing a book of poems entitled *Blindfold*, which is partly autobiographical - born in Lebanon, Asfour was blinded at age 13 during the Civil War in 1958. His poems explore feelings of loss and displacement and suggest that the

The Historic Joy Kogawa House first came to TLC's attention in early 2005. On November 30th the City of Vancouver granted a 120-day delay on the demolition permit for the house. In early December 2006, TLC publicly announced they would spearhead a campaign to acquire the house as a symbol of Canada's cultural heritage. Over 550 donors from concerned citizens to literary groups to primary and secondary schools to corporations made this campaign one of the most successful acquisitions in the Lower Mainland Region.

disabled often feel like foreigners in their own land.

Kogawa House will continue to host various literary events over 2009. The writers-in-residence program will officially welcome the next writer in April 2010. In the meantime, a new writer has moved in and will be TLC's caretaker of the site. ■

### Give B.C. some extra TLC

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\$35    \$50    \$100    \$\_\_\_\_\_

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