



nature



agriculture



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Special Places. Forever, for Everyone.

“Be The Change You Want to See in the World” - Mahatma Gandhi

For many of us these simple, yet profound words echo throughout our lives. They remind us of the incredible impact we can have on the world around us. As people who care about B.C.'s natural and cultural wonders, we have the opportunity to shape our communities, make a difference, and leave this beautiful province an even better place for future generations. There is no one better to do this than you and me.

TLC began as a group of people with a vision to create a better B.C. and today this holds as true as ever. Thanks to TLC's Members, donors, volunteers, and supporters, more has been accomplished for B.C.'s special places than ever thought possible. The vision of what 'a better B.C.' means has grown and been inspired by TLC's work with communities to protect the places that matter most to them.

Launching this vision into the future

is at the heart of TLC's 'Be the Change' initiative; a strategic \$10 Million campaign that will create the B.C. you want to see. This exciting opportunity will encompass the completion of important projects such as the Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign, Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor, Brooks (Gowland) Point Regional Park, and expansion of the Horsefly River as well as assist in the continued stewardship of the special places already under our care.

The campaign will also see a solid investment in the growth of our membership, and prepare us for the ever-changing land conservation road ahead.

TLC is your agent for change, and by empowering communities and individuals into action alongside us, the impacts are greater, the commitment deeper, and the affects more widespread. The ripples of this work run far and wide to create a

change in consciousness - a culture of conservation.

The first 'Be The Change' gift comes from Lorraine Bell of Richmond. As a long-time TLC Member and donor Lorraine's vision for B.C. includes places like Wildwood Ecoforest on Vancouver Island. With her recent gift TLC will finally retire the mortgage, and the site will continue to enrich the lives of individuals as a learning and research facility.

While Lorraine was honoured to give the closing gift, Wildwood was a project that involved hundreds of people with a common vision to make it a reality.

So tell us - what kind of B.C. do you want? What matters most in your community? When you look

down the road of tomorrow, say in 5, 50, or 100 years - what sort of world do you envision? One with

green rolling hills, pristine beaches, old growth forests, wildlife corridors, salmon spawning rivers, parkland, heritage gardens, fresh produce close to home, and cultural landmarks? One where your children and grandchildren can explore nature?

Allow yourself to dream big because it is possible. If 8,700 TLC Members have saved so much in just 14 short years, imagine what 30,000 members could accomplish.

Together, we can ensure the future of B.C.'s special places. Help define the B.C. you want. Be part of the change and donate to your TLC today. ■

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Message from the Board of Directors

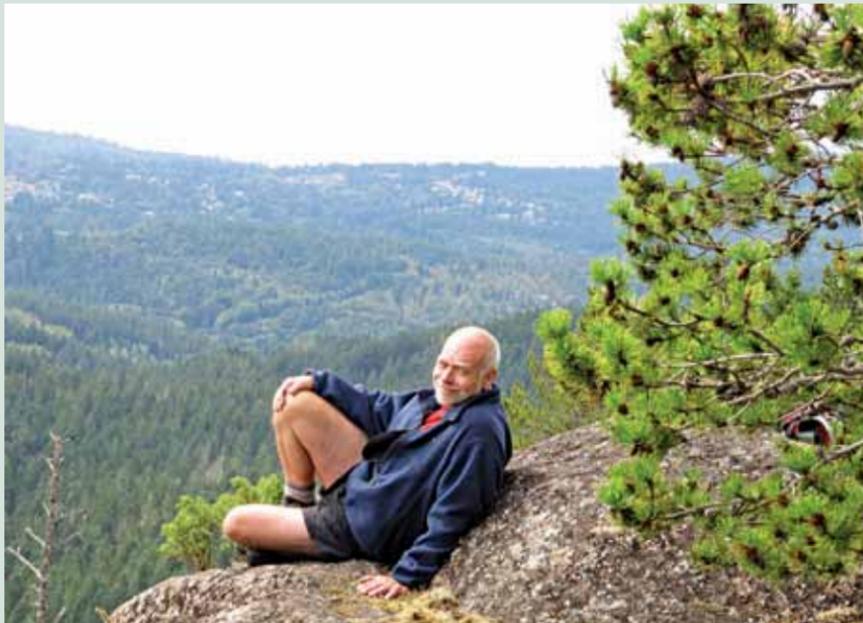
Looking Toward the Future

During the past couple of years, the economic storm that has swept across North America and much of the western world has had a devastating impact on many charities. Some have been forced to make substantial cuts in their operations due to severe cuts in government and foundation funding, along with a dramatic downturn in donations. TLC has not been immune to these challenges. Although our strong membership base and diverse funding sources have helped to dampen the impacts, it has been a difficult time.

As members, you will appreciate that the Board and our amazing staff are doing everything we can to keep TLC intact so we can continue to help protect and care for our province's special places. It certainly has not been easy, and we've had to cut back in many areas. We've had to make some strategic reductions in staffing and postpone a number of activities until we can rebuild our revenues.

But through this time we have had some great support from generous donors who believe strongly in what we are, together, working to accomplish. We've also seen many of our members increase their monthly or annual membership gifts - every dollar makes a big difference.

One of the most inspiring acts of dedication we've experienced is from our staff. Because of their passion and commitment to TLC, those who were able have voluntarily re-invested a portion of their salaries for the short term to aid through a particularly difficult stretch. Typically, January to March



is a low period for cash flow and TLC staff have helped to achieve a 20% reduction in overall payroll costs.

As difficult as these times have been, none of us can allow these organizational challenges to overwhelm us completely. The threat to our natural areas, cultural heritage, and agricultural lands does not stop because of hard economic times. In fact in many cases, the threat increases. While we must be extremely cautious in how we proceed, it's important that we also keep our focus on the future and how we will continue to engage British Columbians in building the kind of world that they want to see.

Even though we are currently working our way through some challenges, many of us feel we are also entering into a new and even more exciting phase of our journey together. As we review and improve our operating fundamentals, we are also developing plans to reach out to people as never before. We

want to grow our membership from its current 8,700 to 30,000 in the next few years and raise the funds and investments to increase TLC's sustainability for even greater success.

As we band together for B.C.'s special places, we are inspired by the quotation from Mahatma Gandhi, in which he exhorts people to be the change that they want to see in the world. We challenge everyone to dream big and imagine what we can achieve together.

As you think about Gandhi's message and about what kind of future you want to see, I ask you to step forward now - help TLC get through these hard times and continue being your agent for change. ■

Thank you.
Alastair Craighead
TLC Board Chair

TLC Gears Up for the International Conference of National Trusts

Delegates from National Trusts and similar organizations in over 40 nations around the world will be gathering in Victoria in October. The 14th International Conference of National Trusts is being hosted by TLC, along with our partners the Heritage Canada Foundation. The conference is also open to members of TLC and Heritage Canada, as well as to other land trusts and heritage organizations across Canada and the United States.

The theme of this conference is Connecting People, Places and Stories: New Strategies for Conservation in a Changing World. It will address our current thinking and experience regarding the impacts of climate change and cultural shifts on the conservation of the world's natural and cultural heritage. The conference will explore new approaches to the protection of special places, as well as our more intangible heritage - our stories, traditions, and languages. Together we will seek new ways to better engage people and communities in this work.

The National Trusts meet every two years, in various locations around the world - Dublin, New Delhi, Washington DC, Edinburgh - and now Victoria. The conferences are coordinated by the International National Trusts Organization (INTO), a growing network of all of the world's National Trusts and similar organizations. TLC was a founding member of INTO, and Bill Turner, TLC's Executive Director, currently sits as INTO's Vice-Chairperson.

To find out more about this conference or to register, please visit www.intoconference.org.

To make this conference a real success, TLC requires volunteers to help with the preparations and proceedings. If you would like to participate, check out our volunteer section under get involved on TLC's website, or contact Ian Fawcett at ifawcett@conservancy.bc.ca. ■

Introducing TLC's Latest Ecological Gift: Todd Road Grasslands

By Barry Booth
Regional Manager, North

TLC received one final land gift in 2010: the Todd Road Property on the eastern edge of the City of Kamloops. Kyla and Murray Weeres donated the property under the Ecological Gifts Program. The Weeres, having grown up in small towns and on acreages on the prairies, appreciate natural open spaces. This connection to nature prompted them to donate this land to TLC and help to create a protected area in an urban setting.

Although the property is only about 5 acres, it represents one of B.C.'s most threatened habitats: low elevation grasslands. The site has been grazed infrequently in recent years, and as a result remains an excellent example

of a hot, dry, bluebunch wheatgrass ecosystem. With steep hillsides and other varying features, there is also a fair amount of habitat diversity on the small property. There are cooler, wetter areas with Douglas-fir, Saskatoon berry, and snowberry. Rough fescue grasses were noted on north slopes, with large pines elsewhere on the site.

The location also provides potential linkages to adjacent proposed city parks and priority grassland areas. Two species-at-risk, Lewis' woodpecker and Columbia carpet moss, have been spotted in the area.

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the Income Tax Act of Canada, it offers significant tax benefits to

landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient. Organizations like TLC ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity.

For more information about the Ecological Gifts Program, please visit conservancy.bc.ca and click on the nature button for options on how to protect your land with TLC. ■



B.C.'s grasslands are home to a wide variety of plants and animals found nowhere else in Canada and, in some cases, nowhere else in North America. Photo Barry Booth

A Badger a Day Keeps the Ground Squirrels at Bay

By A. Michael Bezener
Senior Stewardship Specialist, South Okanagan-Similkameen (SOS) Stewardship Program



TLC's SOS Stewardship Program assists private landowners in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region to effectively steward wildlife and habitats. For more information, call TLC's Okanagan Region office at 250-492-0173. Photo Richard Klafki

perfect habitat for B.C.'s endangered American Badger.

It was only a matter of time before a family of local badgers moved in and "solved" the course's small mammal problem - free of charge! With help from TLC's SOS Stewardship Program, the golf club voluntarily committed to protect the carnivorous badgers and their natural dry woodland habitat as a Wildlife Habitat Steward. Now the club is reporting a dramatic decline in the local ground squirrel population on site.

Efforts are underway to engage neighbours and the Princeton community in understanding and providing for the needs of badgers and other local wildlife. For more information on B.C. Badgers or to report a sighting, visit badgers.bc.ca. ■

Co-existing peacefully with wildlife is a significant challenge for many British Columbians, particularly when our desires conflict with the natural order of things. Golf courses provide a perfect example. In Princeton, as in other scenic parts of B.C., the lush grass on golf course fairways and greens are very attractive to Columbian Ground Squirrels and Yellow-bellied Marmots looking to fatten their bellies. To the dismay of folks like Ian Elko, superintendent of the Princeton Golf Club & RV Park, these small mammals not only devour meticulously maintained grass, they also set up permanent residences. Extensive networks of burrows and entry/exit holes quickly transform a course into an unsightly mess.

What usually ensues is a costly and ultimately ineffective battle between golf course managers and the resident 'pests'. Fortunately for Ian, the Princeton Golf Club is surrounded by natural open Ponderosa pine forest - the

Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability

By Nathalie Chambers
Agricultural Program Assistant

In every community across the province there are people making an incredible difference for conservation. Planting the way is TLC's newest Conservation Partner Program (CPP) participant, ALM Organic Farm, in Sooke on Vancouver Island. Jan and Mary-Alice Johnson purchased the site over 20 years ago and have been practicing sustainability ever since.

The CPP recognizes the important role farmers play in managing land and ALM Farm is a shining example of how good land stewardship can benefit both agriculture and conservation.

Half of the 15-acre farm is forested by Western red cedars, hemlock, and fir, with a salal and fern understory. It is also frequented by a diversity of wildlife including bears, cougars, martens, owls, ravens, and ducks. King Creek runs through the property and flows into the salmon-bearing Tugwell Creek. Even though ALM Farm is not in the Agricultural Land Reserve, it remains a refuge for wildlife and sustainable agriculture.

ALM Farm has been at the centre of the organic movement. It has attracted over 1,000 visitors and trained over 200 farmers. Sustainable building,

greenhouse growing, chicken and bee keeping, cooking classes, wine/beer brewing, and wildcrafting are some of the activities that characterize the farm.

Produce grown on the farm is sold at markets and to restaurants, caterers, and a weekly box program. Mary-Alice also has a thriving organic seed business, Full Circle Seeds, which sells



Thanks to your support, TLC works to empower B.C.'s agricultural and conservation communities to preserve farmland for its critical environmental, economic, and social benefits. Photo Nathalie Chambers

at local farmers markets and Seedy Saturday events in Victoria.

TLC is proud to work with farmers like Mary-Alice who are true leaders for conservation. Mary-Alice has worked to promote sustainable agriculture and food security locally, nationally, and internationally. She has worked with farmers as far away as Asia, served as president of the Canadian Organic Growers, co-founded the Moss St Market, and is active in the Sooke Region Food CHI Society, and other food security and farm mentorship groups.

Visit almfarms.com for more details. ■

Enhancing the Environment One Frame at a Time

By Torrance Coste
Senior Outreach Officer

"I'm a self-confessed tree-hugger, and TLC lets me put my money where my mouth is," says Frances Litman, one of Victoria's most talented and well-known photographers, and ardent supporter of TLC. Through her business, Frances Litman Photography Inc., she is a long-time participant in TLC's Advantage Program, by making monthly contributions and giving TLC Members a five percent discount on her rates.

Frances explains that TLC's work is a natural fit with her profession. "As a photographer I am a lover of beauty, and nature is the most beautiful art

form. TLC is working hard to not let people forget, that when it's gone, it's gone."

Frances says it is TLC's resilience and action-oriented approach that has retained her confidence and support since 1997. "The organization has been through the good, the bad, and the ugly, and I think this is a testimony to how solid it really is."

Above all, it is B.C.'s special places and some of the properties TLC has saved that resonate most deeply with Frances. In a vivid recollection of time spent at Madrona Farm, she described it as a magical place that "just oozes with life."

As one of the first participants in the expanding Advantage Program, Frances believes that the business and professional communities have a role to play in conservation. The Advantage Program, free for all TLC

Business Members to join, aims to strengthen community among TLC supporters, by building relationships and bringing like-minded people together.

Frances encourages other local artists who profit from their passion to donate time and resources

to worthwhile causes. She says there are so many ways to contribute, and that doing so brings positivity into your own life. "I'm so proud to contribute," she says. "I will support TLC for the rest of my life."

To find a participating Business Advantage member near you, visit the Membership page on TLC's website at conservancy.bc.ca ■



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Green Burial: Giving Back to the Planet

By Erika Schade
Project Assistant, O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE

For many of us, being surrounded by British Columbia's natural beauty helps reinforce our environmental consciousness. When we reach the end of our lives, we hope to put these values into practice one last time. Now, through TLC and O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE's Green Burial Program, individuals can leave a final gift to the planet by choosing a ritual that will protect a special place.

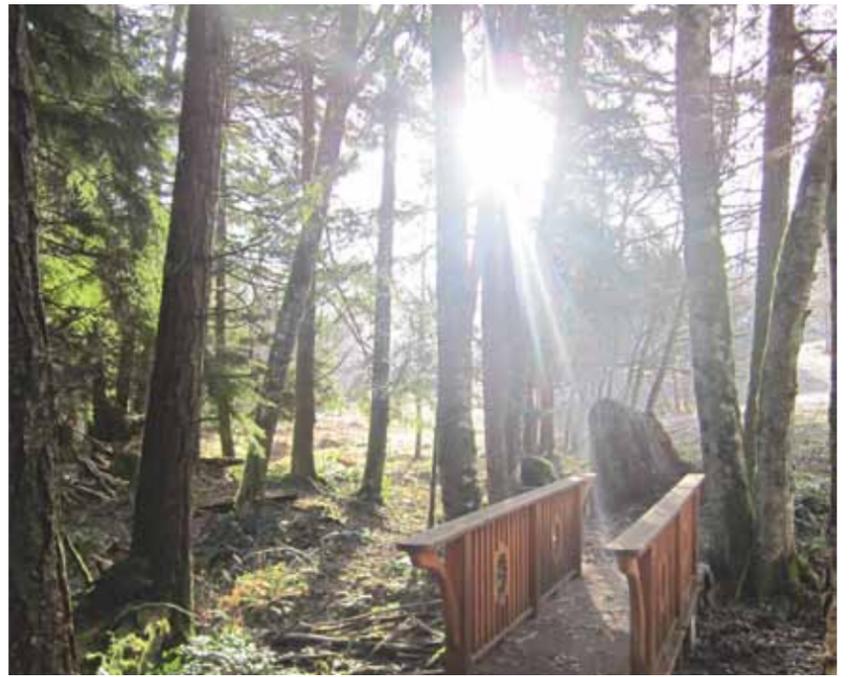
A man named Bill Blount on Vancouver Island is doing just this. As the former owner of the O.U.R. (One United Resource) ECOVILLAGE site, Bill was instrumental in the establishment of the 25-acre model for sustainable living, located in Shawnigan Lake.

Over the past 11 years, Bill has remained connected with the property, volunteering and attending various events. His love for the land will also endure long into the future. Bill is the first individual to sign on with

the Green Burial Program at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE.

"This land is part of who I am and the work at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is part of our collective future," says Bill. "The Green Burial Program is important to me because I want to leave a legacy as an example to other farmers and land owners as to how they can protect wild spaces."

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE's Commemorative Conservation Grounds, reserved for the scattering or burial of cremated remains of loved ones, is part of the Protect O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Forever campaign, in collaboration with TLC. Together, O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE and TLC are organizing a new framework within the Green Burial Conservation movement in Canada. Currently, O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is in negotiation with the Green Burial Council for a full certification as a 'Conservation Scattering Ground'.



The Green Burial Program at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is a Commemorative Legacy Project that encompasses preparations, placement, end-of-life services/celebrations, and other ways to remember and rejoice in lives lived.
Photo Erika Schade

For those who wish to participate in the Green Burial Program or make a donation to the Protect O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Forever campaign, please call 250-743-3067 or email info@ourecoovillage.com. All gifts

will go towards the purchase of a conservation covenant, which will be held by TLC to protect the unique land and values of O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE. ■

New Warmth for the Cowichan River Cabin

By Nicole Haddad
Project Officer

Though winter is beginning to fade away in the Cowichan Valley, we still feel the chill on those wet, blustery nights. A weekend at TLC's Cowichan River Cabin has always been the perfect cure for the late-winter blues, and recent improvements have made it even cozier. TLC's regional staff and volunteers have been hard at work on many projects, most notably the installation of a brand new woodstove.

When TLC approached Pacific Energy about the need to replace the existing stove, the local company generously offered to donate the new one. The stove is a True North model; a new line featuring user friendly operation and a clean, simple design. South Island Fireplaces, the local dealer for Pacific Energy stoves, did the installation and was able to give discounts on both labour and material



To rent Cowichan River Cabin or to attend an upcoming Conservation Holiday on site from April 15-17, please call 1-888-738-0533. Photo Nicole Haddad

costs. In preparation for the stove, TLC installed new tile with custom wood detailing to create a more inviting atmosphere in this rustic off-the-grid retreat.

Other improvements include a new roof on the woodshed, and a permanently mounted propane lamp in the cabin. These projects were made possible by the ongoing support of TLC Members and donors, and

from revenue generated through TLC's Holiday Cottage rentals.

Overwhelmed? Chilly? TLC's got you covered. Curl up by the fire in this cozy little cabin and rediscover what warmth and relaxation are all about. ■



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