



West Creek Wetlands Saved

Your support helps to protect vital wildlife habitat near Langley

by Heather Skydt
External Relations Specialist

Community building – bringing people together to achieve goals far greater than any individual could alone – is what makes *TLC's* work so successful. The recent protection of West Creek Wetlands is an excellent example.

Your support as a *TLC* Member made it possible to begin rallying support for this critical ecological site in Langley, BC. Because of you, *TLC* was able to reach out to concerned local citizens, naturalist and heritage groups, students, businesses, and governments, and bring them together to create a solution to save this property. With the combined resources of nearly 6,000 *TLC* Members, over 300 donors, government agencies and dozens of businesses, the plan to purchase the site became a reality. Now West Creek Wetlands is protected forever, for everyone.

Of course every community has its leaders, and for this project none were more inspirational than 12-year-old Rhys Krannitz. Rhys is a life-long outdoor enthusiast who grew up next door to West Creek Wetlands.



12-year-old Rhys Krannitz enjoys a winter hike at West Creek Wetlands. Rhys raised \$300 to help purchase the site, which was protected (with your help) in December 2006. Photo by John Gordon, courtesy the Langley Times. **Inset:** Great Blue Herons are among the nearly 170 different wildlife species that depend on this habitat. Photo by Cornelius Iwan

“Having this piece of land behind my house has been like a classroom. I’ve seen the ecology change over the years, and I hated the idea that it might be destroyed due to development,” says Rhys.

His passion for the site led Rhys to speak out to other students in BC’s Lower Mainland. He educated them about the importance of wetlands, and encouraged them to get involved. Selling handmade paper flowers and art, rolling pennies, and collecting spare change from friends, Rhys raised \$300 towards the purchase! He was even interviewed by CBC Radio and various television and print media

as word about his dedication spread throughout the Langley area.

So thank you Rhys! And thank you to all *TLC* Members, for building a community that can save BC’s most special places. ■

Editor’s note: *West Creek Wetlands will now become parkland associated with Glen Valley Regional Park. Due to the environmental sensitivity of the site, there are currently no public facilities at the park. These will be constructed once a park management plan has been created by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, in consultation with TLC and other partners. Tours of the site may be arranged by contacting TLC’s Lower Mainland office at (604) 733-2313.*

Executive Director's Message



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Bill Turner,
TLC's Executive Director

"Why do you do it?"

It's one of the questions that I've been asked a lot lately, particularly in the face of the cash crisis that threatened to halt *TLC's* operations at the end of 2006.

*"Why do you try to protect so many properties, and so many different types of properties? Wouldn't it be better if *TLC* just slowed down or took a break for while?"*

There's no simple answer to those questions, but here are some of the first thoughts that come to my mind.

We do it because the special places that matter to British Columbians are disappearing at an alarming rate. We do it because *TLC* has the experience and expertise that can make a difference. We do it because you ask us to.

Can we protect every property that people call about? No, of course not. Unfortunately, we have to say "no" an awful lot. But when a wilderness area is lost, or a heritage site is torn down, it's gone forever – meaning that our children, and our children's children, will never know these precious treasures. For these reasons, *TLC* works hard to protect what we can.

The conservation tools *TLC* uses – purchasing land, creating conservation covenants, and negotiating deals with government agencies and other organizations – can protect any type of special place, be it wildlife habitat, agricultural land, or historic buildings. That's why our mandate is so broad: if the site is important to you, our members, or the community at large, then it's important to *TLC* to help.

Can we slow down? We could, but at what price? As with so many things in life, often you only get one chance to seize an opportunity.

Why do I do it? I do it because of you. Your dedication inspires me to continue doing everything I can to build a stronger *TLC* that can save the special places that matter to you, and all British Columbians. Thank you for your inspiration!

Sincerely,

Calla lilies at *TLC's* Abkhazi Garden in Victoria, BC. The garden is now open 11AM to 5PM daily, through to September 30, 2007.
Photo by Jon Nightingale.



Negotiating for BC's Special Places

How your membership dollars work behind the scenes to protect land

by Rich Kenny
Membership Outreach

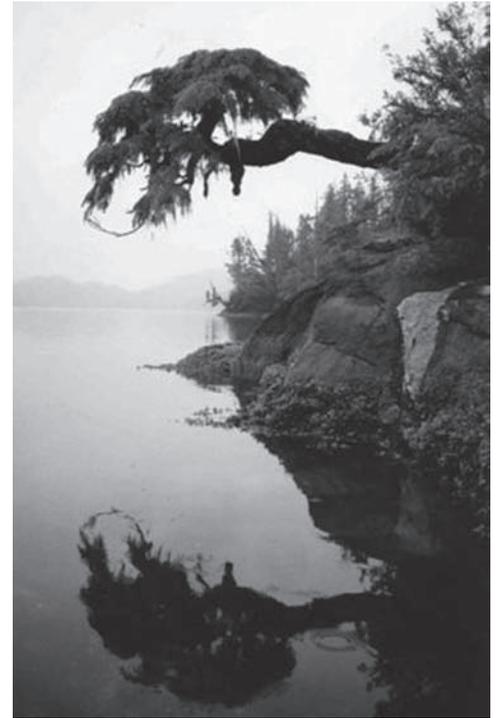
Picture in your mind a warm summer's evening. You are perched on a rocky outcrop at the entrance to a wild and unspoiled bay. Before you is a large old-growth hemlock clinging to the rocks at the edge of the ocean. Sitting on one of its gnarled, lichen-covered branches is a Bald Eagle looking out across the mirror-like surface of the inlet. Vibrant purple and orange starfish cling to the rocks that seem to rise from the depths like huge underwater cliffs. The calm is broken only by the surfacing of a sea otter close to shore.

This area of outstanding beauty and unblemished nature can be found in Allison Harbour, which is a spectacular property on BC's central coast, at the southeast corner of Queen Charlotte Sound. Thanks to your support as a *TLC* Member, it

was recently saved from the threat of development.

You have never heard about *TLC* working to protect this property, and no news stories will ever be printed celebrating *TLC's* role in saving this 200-acre parcel of land. Nevertheless, it is your membership that has made it possible for this precious area to become a BC marine park.

In addition to our public efforts, *TLC* often labours behind the scenes and acts as a mediator to negotiate deals that save threatened sites throughout the province. Because of *TLC's* considerable experience in putting together multi-party solutions – which have included federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as many other non-profit groups – *TLC* is respected and relied upon by many organizations to make land negotiations happen...especially when the timeframes are short! Without your continuing support as a *TLC* member, we could not act in this capacity and save special places like Allison Harbour, BC. ■



Above: Allison Harbour in Queen Charlotte Sound will become a BC marine park thanks to your support as a *TLC* Member

Below: A kayaker paddles through a kelp forest near Alison Harbour's mouth.
Photos by Mac Shelton.

TLC has moved!

Our head office is now located at
**301-1195 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3N6**

This new location replaces *TLC's* office at 2709 Shoreline Drive in Victoria.

Thank you to EDS Investments for providing 19 months rent-free in this new location. Thank you also to Grand n' Toy for donating several pieces of office furniture.



Local Superheroes Save Special Places!

Haven't you always wanted to have super powers? Becoming a **TLC Community Action Hero** gives you the power to save BC's special places in your own unique way.

by Diana Watson
Membership Outreach

Disguised as everyday citizens, Community Action Heroes live in your neighbourhood, work in your office and may even be one of your closest friends. They are raising awareness and building community spirit to save the places in BC that you love most!

What is a Community Action Hero?

At *TLC*, we believe everybody has a superhero spirit resting somewhere inside them – just waiting for a chance to jump into action and save the day. And, it's this belief that gave us the idea to create the Community Action Heroes program; where you – yes, you – take charge of a special fundraising event that will tell the people in your community about *TLC*'s work.

These community fundraisers can be as simple as starting a 'Wild Wardrobe Day' at your office. Ask your colleagues to donate a few dollars to charity for the privilege to wear an outrageous wardrobe item – such as funny ties, shirts, hats, slippers – to work. Or, clean out that old junk from your basement and fire up the barbeque for a neighbourhood garage sale and picnic with a 'saving special places' theme. Whatever you choose, the possibilities are endless. So, let your imagination roam free to discover the variety opportunities that are waiting to turn you into a Community Action Hero.

How to get involved

It's easy to get involved as a Community Action Hero. If you would like to plan a community event, *TLC* is here to help. The first step is to contact us either by phone or email (look for details below) so that we can send you an information package about the program along with the Community Action Heroes registration form.

Then, it's time to set your plan into action. Your event will become a valuable part of *TLC*'s work to raise awareness about conservation and save the special places in our province!

Unleash your super powers today and become a Community Action Hero! Don't worry, we won't make you wear a cape and tights (unless you really want to).

To find the superhero in you, or for more information, please contact us at 1-877-485-2422, or membership@conservancy.bc.ca. ■



TLC Members Patti Homer and Ken Van became Community Action Heroes by hosting a dinner party for friends. In lieu of wine or food, they asked their friends to bring a donation for *TLC*. "It was a lot of fun and a huge success," said Patti and Ken. "We are doing it again this summer." *Photo courtesy Patti Homer.*



Victoria's *oqoqo* clothing store shows that businesses can be Heroes too by donating the proceeds of a recent fashion show to *TLC*. "Including *TLC* as our charity of choice was the perfect fit, and gave us an opportunity to educate guests about this fantastic organization," says Jen Ziebart, store manager. *Photo courtesy oqoqo.*

More ideas....

- Bake sales
- Charity sports games
- Photo contests
- Walk-a-thons
- Book fairs and sales
- Comedy shows
- Bottle drives
- Pancake breakfasts
- Car washes

Be sure to send us pictures and stories from your Community Action Hero fundraiser by September 15, 2007, and we'll share the best ones in the December issue of the *LandMark*.

Why Nina Ate An Ant

Dedicated local hero takes a big bite to protect TLC's Wildwood

by Wendy Innes
Member Care Coordinator

Nina Rastogi would do almost anything to see Wildwood protected forever. From initiating TLC's purchase of the Eco-forestry site in Ladysmith, to organizing a benefit concert for the site, Nina has been working tirelessly to save the place she loves. And this fall she was challenged to a fundraising idea she could really sink her teeth into.

It all started when Site Manager Jay Rastogi showed a group of visitors Wildwood's massive western thatching anthill. Since Nina often joins Jay in giving tours she wasn't too surprised when he popped an ant into his mouth and ate it. While Jay claims they are tasty Nina wasn't keen on the idea at all. She had never eaten an ant, nor did she ever intend to. But suddenly, one of the participants turned to her and said,

"I'll eat one if you eat one!"

Although she didn't really want to, Nina found herself contemplating this friendly challenge. "Even if just for his sake as he seemed to both want to and yet was apprehensive." But luckily, her thoughts were interrupted when a friend cried out,

"No don't! You should wait until someone dares you, like for \$1000 for Wildwood!"

Nina's challenger was quick to respond and offer her those very terms if she ate an ant right then with him.

"So I thought, for \$1000 for Wildwood... here goes nothing!"

But before she could even pick one up her friend jumped in again and convinced her to wait for an even bigger dare, or for more people to join in and increase the stakes. This time her challenger agreed.

So Nina watched on as her challenger ate his ant wrapped in a little Minor's lettuce (a native plant). He reassured her that his terms were still good even though he had

already eaten his end of the bargain.

When a few months went by and no other dares were placed, Nina stepped up to claim the \$1000 for Wildwood. And so, accompanied by a few key witnesses, she rolled an ant in a little lettuce and chewed! What do ants taste like you might be wondering?

"It tasted like salad dressing," Nina reports. "Rather vinegary!"

Inspired by Nina's act of bravery to help protect Wildwood forever, Merve Wilkinson, Wildwood's 93 year old founder, has volunteered to be next to take on the challenge. How much will you pledge to see Merve eat an ant? Let's find out, shall we?

****To place your challenge today call us at 1-877-485-2422, and look for ant eating updates in future Landmark issues. ■**



Bon appetit! Nina Rastogi munches on an ant to win a \$1000 dare for Wildwood as Merve Wilkinson, Wildwood's founder, cheers her on. Will Merve be next to take on the challenge? *Photo by Jay Rastogi.*



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Special Places. Forever, for Everyone

Protecting a Climber's Paradise

Mountain Equipment Co-op to join forces with TLC to secure public access to Penticton's Skaha Bluffs

by Anne Armstrong
Regional Manager, Okanagan

Every year, thousands of people from across Canada, the United States, and abroad travel to the Skaha Bluffs to climb the gneiss rock faces, hike the desert-like grasslands, and admire the wildlife and picturesque scenery.



Located in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen area – one of Canada's four most endangered ecosystems – the Bluffs are believed to be among the oldest rocks in BC. Over the centuries, the Bluffs have been weathered and ground-down, re-compressed and covered with solid ridges and deep ravines making them excellent conditions for rock climbing.

These same nooks and crannies mixed with the dry climate have also made the Bluffs ideal habitat for species at risk such as the California Bighorn Sheep, Pallid Bat, and Desert Night Snake. The Bluffs and the surrounding grassland, forest and wetland are vital to wildlife

diversity as a source of water, food, shelter, nesting habitat and as movement corridors.

Unfortunately, there is no permanent public access to this spectacular site, and current development plans could spell disaster for local climbers and wildlife enthusiasts. That's why TLC is working with Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Climbers' Access Society of BC, and local landowners to find a solution before it's too late.

"The Bluffs are such a unique recreational landmark in the Okanagan as well as in Canada. The surrounding region is vital

Penticton's Skaha Bluffs are a popular destination for thousands of climbers every year but, without TLC's help, public access to the site could be cut off.

Photo by Howie Richardson.

habitat for species at risk. It only made sense for us to get involved because both of these issues are closely connected to TLC's mandate," says Executive Director, Bill Turner.

For more information, call Anne Armstrong, TLC's Okanagan Region Manager, at (250) 492-0173, or check out www.conservancy.bc.ca for our latest news releases. ■



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Pickled Beets and Pollution

Remembering Laurel Ann Doersam, a local leader who helped customers with problems big & small

by Kathleen Gibbard
Manager, External Relations

“Pickled beets!” you hear someone exclaim, “You will never get that stain out.” But you just smile to yourself knowingly, for you know exactly how to treat it; you are one of the fortunate individuals that have been introduced to Elite Earth-Friendly Dry Cleaners in Victoria, BC.

Elite is a small family business known for providing the very finest in garment care. Under the guidance of co-owner Laurel Ann Doersam, however, this local enterprise was transformed into so much more: a model of sustainable business and environmental stewardship.



Laurel Ann Doersam, pictured here with husband Rick Nathorst, will be remembered for her incredible contributions to TLC and BC's business community. Photo courtesy of Chelsea Chenery.

Establishing Elite as a solvent-free dry cleaner, Laurel -- with her husband, Rick Nathorst -- took pride in Elite using natural cleaning agents that wouldn't pose a risk to staff, customers or the future of our planet. As a result, their hard work and dedication to the environment have been recognized again and again. In June 2006, Elite received the prestigious Award for Pollution Prevention from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

It was Laurel who in 2005, decided Elite should be a Member of TLC's Advantage Program. She recognized the Advantage Program as being just one of the ways to bring together TLC Members and local businesses to build communities and to save special places. Laurel knew that giving TLC Members a discount on dry cleaning services was not just a great way to grow her own business. It was a great way to help TLC save special places.

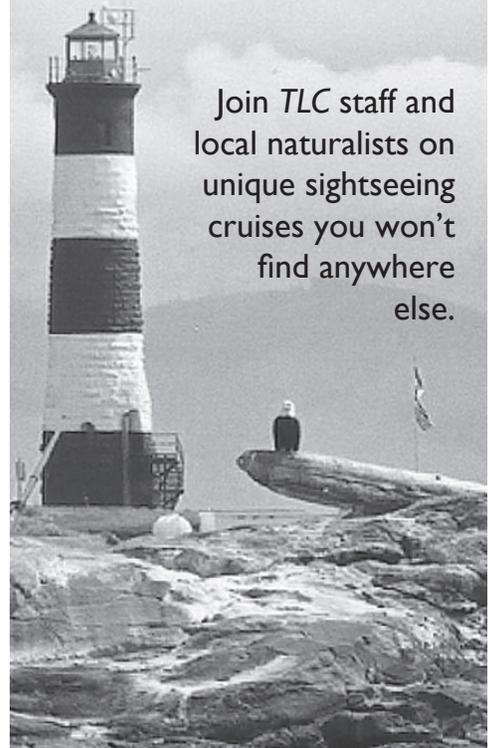
Sadly, on October 23rd, 2006, at just 52 years old, Laurel passed away after a long battle with cancer. She will be remembered by her friends and family for the enthusiasm she brought to everything she did, as well as for her unwavering generosity and kindness. Even at the time of her passing, Laurel was putting the people and organizations she cared about first. “In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Land Conservancy” read Laurel's obituary.

TLC has lost a true friend, but through that friend we have gained so much more. Thank you Laurel. And thank you to her family and the staff of Elite Earth-Friendly Dry Cleaners for keeping her legacy alive. ■

Editor's note: Gifts honouring Laurel's life can be made by visiting the In Memoriam page in the donation section of TLC's website at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

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Discover how you can leave a lasting legacy for BC's special places by remembering TLC in your will. Call Carla (shown here with her son Nicolei) at 1-877-485-2422 for details.



Photo by Dennis Power

Your personal TLC contacts:

A SPECIAL NOTE TO YOU:

Sometimes Members ask us, "Do you really read all the notes and letters that I send?"

Absolutely! Your letters are important to us, and we read (and appreciate) every single one. Whether it's words of encouragement, questions, comments, or concerns, your feedback is critical for letting us know how we're doing and where we can improve.

During TLC's financial crisis this past fall, we were especially touched by all the letters of support for TLC's work. Many letters were shared with the entire staff, and that boosted the spirits of TLC employees right across BC. Thank you to everyone who took the time to write.

As always, thank you so much for your continuing support as a TLC Member, and keep those letters coming!

Tom + Wendy

Tom and Wendy, your TLC Member Care contacts, can be reached anytime by calling 1-877-485-2422 or by e-mail at membership@conservancy.bc.ca.



Photo Carla Funk

TLC is honoured to be the recipient of donations in memory of:

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