

10th
Anniversary
Edition

LANDmark

Climbing the Rope of Success for Skaha Bluffs

Your support is helping to protect a climber's paradise

by Heather Skydt
External Relations Specialist

Thanks to your support as a *TLC* Member, permanent public access to one of Canada's premier climbing destinations is now on the horizon. *TLC* has successfully negotiated a potential solution for the protection of Penticton's Skaha Bluffs, and a public call for donations is being answered from all across North America. The deadline to implement the deal is June 30, 2007.

TLC has negotiated an opportunity to buy 750 acres of private land beside the Bluffs (known as SubLot 18). After the deal is complete, *TLC* will be able to grant permanent access to the Bluffs for climbers, naturalists, tourists, and families in 2008. In addition, valuable habitat for species at risk such as the California Bighorn Sheep will be saved from future development.

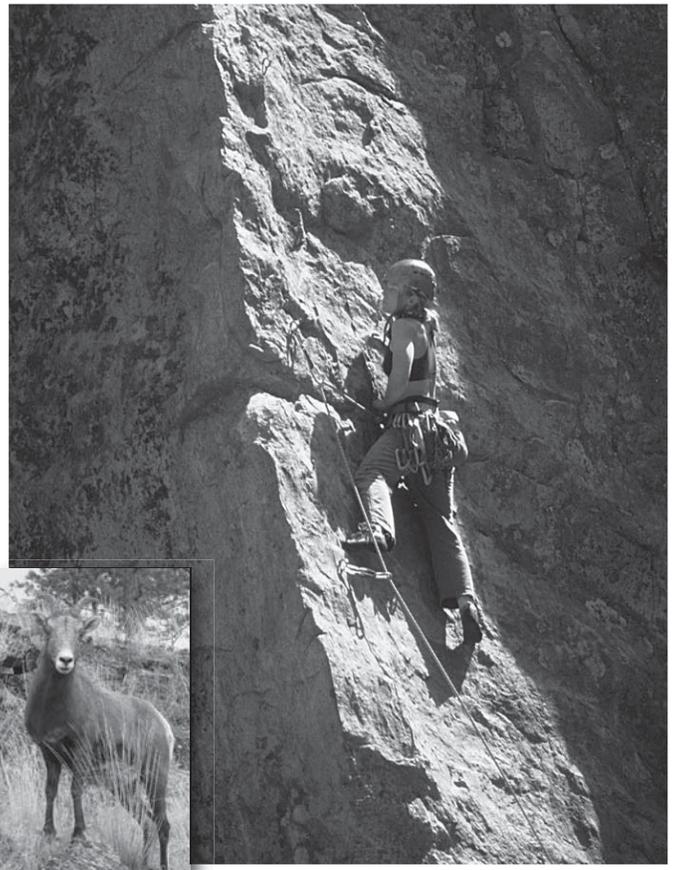
"The Bluffs are one of the best places to climb and they're basically right in my parent's backyard," says 28-year-old mezzo soprano, Mia Harris, who recently hosted a Vancouver benefit recital for the Bluffs. "If *TLC*'s efforts

to purchase the lands are successful, it will ensure access to the bluffs, allowing this area to remain one of the top rock climbing locations, and will safeguard that area from development pressures."

Our partners, Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) and Climbers Access Society of BC, have been invaluable in stepping up to support the campaign with gifts of \$250,000 and \$10,000 respectively. They have also helped spread the sense of urgency for this project to their supporters. In fact, MEC has launched a very special donation program – the Co-op will match its members' individual donations for the Bluffs, up to \$100,000.

Thank you to all *TLC*, MEC, and Access Society Members for your contributions. We are well on the way to reaching the \$1 million fundraising target for this project.

Make your donation for Skaha Bluffs



A climber scales Penticton's Skaha Bluffs. Without *TLC*'s help, access to the site could be cut-off, and habitat for Big Horn Sheep (shown inset) could be destroyed. Photo by Howie Richardson. Inset: Photo by Daryl Stepaniuk

by visiting www.conservancy.bc.ca, or call 1-877-485-2422. Your gift will help protect a paradise. Forever. For everyone.

Executive Director's Message



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paper.

May 1st, 2007, was a very special day for me and all of us here at *TLC*. It was the day that our organization turned ten-years-old – marking a decade of hard work, perseverance, and success in protecting BC's special places. It was a day to reflect on *TLC*'s evolution, and on our future direction.

I know for me personally, these past ten years have gone by in a flash. I am so proud of all that *TLC* has accomplished in that time.

In 1997, we started with only five Members and a mere \$500 to our name (\$450 of which was spent to incorporate *TLC* as a registered charity). From an office in my basement, and a satellite office in an old Ford Ranger pick-up, we set out with little more than a hope and a desire to make a difference.

Ten years later, because of you and the incredible support you've provided as a *TLC* Member, things have changed rather dramatically. *TLC* has now:

- Saved over 200 properties, covering more than 100,000 acres, across BC
- Raised more than \$35 million to protect special places
- Leveraged an additional \$65 million from governments and other organizations

Best of all, because of you, we've grown to nearly 6,500 Members – giving us an even better start for the next ten year's worth of accomplishments.

I invite you to celebrate *TLC*'s first ten years by joining us at our Annual General Meeting and festivity this September 15th in Victoria, or at our Strawberry Social in Burnaby on June 24th. Please visit www.conservancy.bc.ca for details, or call 1-877-485-2422. We'd love to see you there!

Thank you so much for being a part of *TLC*, and for making all of our successes possible. I hope you share my pride in the many special places *TLC* Members like you and I have saved, and in the many more that we will save together in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Bill Turner,
TLC's Executive Director



Sign at *TLC*'s Max Lake covenant area in Penticton – a vital wetland habitat in an area where 85% of all wetlands have been destroyed.
Photo by Laure Neish.

A love for the land, a gift for the future

How TLC Members and landowners are protecting special places - forever

by Wendy Innes
Member Care Coordinator

“I love this land” says Dee Bailin of her beautiful 8 acre property in North Saanich. “I love to be able to walk through the trees on my property, and I have always felt strongly about protecting greenspaces for the future.” So as subdivisions developed around her, she knew she had to find a way to protect her land - forever. For Dee the answer lay in a conservation covenant.

The ongoing support of TLC Members makes it possible for TLC to partner with private landowners to protect over 180 properties, covering more than 6400 acres of some of BC’s most special places using conservation covenants. This

powerful conservation tool allows for the protection of private property all across BC that would not have been available for protection by any other means.

So what is a conservation covenant? It’s a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a covenant holder, such as TLC, in which the landowner promises to protect the land in specific ways. Each covenant is tailored to the landowner’s vision and allows them the right to enjoy, live on, and sell the land. For Dee this meant allowing for the maintenance of pre-existing trails and timber for personal firewood while preserving the forest’s integrity.

For TLC this flexibility means covenants can be used to protect the broad range of values that encompass BC’s special places: from wildlife habitat in the Slocan Valley, to important farming areas in the Okanagan, and lush forests on Vancouver Island.

What makes conservation covenants so powerful is that they are attached to the title of the land, thereby binding current and all future owners to its terms. As a covenant holder, TLC performs monitoring visits to ensure the promises made in the agreement are being kept – ensuring specific features, areas, or uses are protected in perpetuity.

“TLC made it easy for me to accomplish what I really wanted to be doing,” says Dee. “It’s such a personal feeling; I feel that I’m contributing to the solution. I hope that others will join me in working with TLC to protect their land in similar ways.” ■

Dee Bailin and her dog Rusty enjoy the beauty of Dee’s Vancouver Island property - a significant wildlife habitat that will be protected in perpetuity by a TLC covenant.
Photo by Wendy Innes.



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Celebrating 10 years of success...

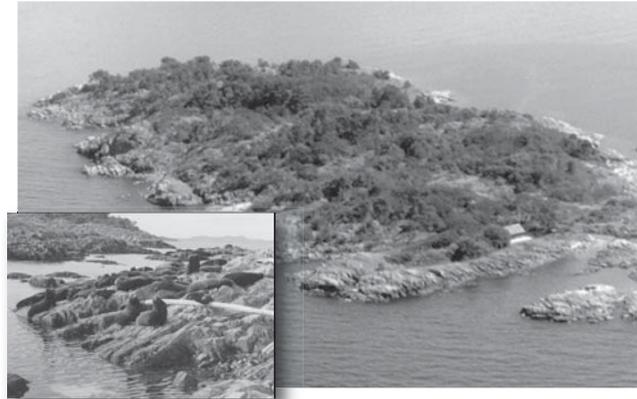
A look back at some of the special places saved by *TLC* Members since 1997.

1997



Barnfield Farm in Whistler – part of a vital corridor for black bears and other mammals – became the first property protected by *TLC* with a conservation covenant.
Photo by TLC.
TLC Members: 5

1998



2000



At almost 1000 acres, Talking Mountain Ranch near Clinton covers an incredible range of vital ecosystems, and is an excellent example of *TLC*'s creativity in protecting land. Sixty head of cattle were included in the purchase allowing *TLC* to manage 75,000 acres of crown land through grazing tenures. *Photo by Barry Booth.*
TLC Members: 650

2001



Elk are just one of many species that rely on grassland ecosystems – one of BC's most endangered habitats – like the one found on *TLC*'s Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor between Kimberley and Cranbrook.
Photo by RD Sherwood.
TLC Members: 1040

2004



Originally purchased in 1998, *TLC* added 445 acres to the Horsefly River property near Williams Lake in 2004 to improve

the protection of the most significant salmon spawning grounds in the Fraser River system (and making some Grizzly bears very happy). *Photo by Cornelius Iwan.*
TLC Members: 2950



Also in 2004, *TLC* purchased Mountain View Doukhobor Museum in Grand Forks. This is one of the last pre-1930's Doukhobor communes still in its original form, and a vital piece of BC's history. *Photo by TLC staff.*

2005



Thank you for making it possible!

1999

South Winchelsea Island – a 25-acre island near Nanaimo – became TLC's first acquisition. Important habitat for stellar sea lions (inset photo) and several migratory bird species, TLC has also been successful in restoring the island's native wildflower populations in the years following the purchase. *Photos by TLC.*
TLC Members: 113



Spectacular Abkhazi Garden in Victoria was created by Prince and Princess Abkhazi following WWII. In 1999, TLC worked to save it from becoming a townhouse development, finally purchasing the site in early 2000. *Photo by Robin Farquhar.*
TLC Members: 275

2002



Thwaytes Landing in Indian Arm was facing enormous development pressures when TLC bought the site in 2002, preserving an important gateway to two nearby Provincial Parks. *Photo by TLC staff.*
TLC Members: 1200

2003



In 2003, TLC took over the operation of Craigflower Manor (shown here) and Schoolhouse in Victoria. Built in the 1850s by the Hudson's Bay Company, both are National Historic Sites and exciting places to explore the history of European settlement in BC. *Photo by Cornelius Iwan.*
TLC Members: 2003

2006

In 2005, TLC celebrated the opening of Sooke Potholes Regional Park and the protection of one of Vancouver Island's most popular summer getaways. Nelly Furtado (inset) was a key figure in raising national attention for this campaign. *Photos by Dennis Powers and Carla Funk.*
TLC Members: 4515



Author Joy Kogawa, with children from Tomsett School, celebrates the protection of her childhood home in Vancouver that was seized by the Canadian Government during WWII. The home was nearly demolished in 2006. *Photo by TLC staff.*
TLC Members: 5427

Come celebrate all the successes you've made possible since 1997 at TLC's 10th Anniversary AGM, Saturday, September 15, 2007. Visit www.conservancy.bc.ca for details.

**TLC Members today:
6350**

Accessible Potholes

Making BC's Great Outdoors Open to Everyone

by Marc Dugas
Ecotourism Manager

This summer marks TLC's 3rd season of operation at the Sooke Potholes Campground, located approximately 45 minutes from Victoria. We're excited to tell you about some of the new developments that will allow more people to enjoy this very special place.

TLC has developed wheel-chair accessible toilets, as well as a special river-viewing platform, thanks to help from Shaw, the Province of BC (through the Act Now Initiative), Home Depot, and Mountain Equipment Co-op's Victoria store.

Also new this year is a bicycle-dedicated, group campsite that will

include a bike shelter/lock up and common cooking area. With easy access to the Island's Galloping Goose Trail, this new campsite will encourage more visitors to use environmentally-friendly pedal power to visit the Potholes spectacular rock canyons.

So what are you waiting for? Come experience one of BC's Natural Wonders at the Sooke Potholes Campground! ■

A cyclist enjoys a scenic viewpoint at the Sooke Potholes. *Photo by Nick Westover.* **Inset:** A new bicycle shelter under construction at the Potholes campground promises to improve accessibility for human-powered visitors. *Photo by Deb Martell.*



Badgers Return to Heavenly Acres

TLC Covenant allows endangered animal to reclaim habitat

With excerpts from an article by Nancy Newhouse, East Kootenay Badger Project

Badgers are highly intelligent carnivores – but who knew that they could read? Last fall a badger arrived on the Toby Benches (near Invermere) and dug several burrows right beside the sign that states, in part: “Heavenly Acres – This land is dedicated by Helen M. Annis (Young)

to the preservation of the environment and for the use of wildlife and domestic animals”.

“Heavenly Acres” is a 60-acre property that has been protected by a TLC covenant since 2001, thanks to the dedication and vision of the late landowner, Mrs. Helen Annis. Badgers – whose populations are being threatened by urban development and habitat loss – hadn't been spotted on the property in over 16 years, making their return a very exciting development. ■

“We don't really own land. In the end, we are all just tenants with a responsibility to look after it.”

- Helen Annis



Active badger burrows at TLC's “Heavenly Acres” covenant site near Invermere. *Photo by TLC.* **Inset:** American Badgers help control squirrel, mice and vole populations in grassland ecosystems. *Photo by Tim McAllister.*

Who was Ron Gordon?

Piecing together the story behind a very generous gift to TLC

by Carla Funk
Donor Relations

Ron Gordon was not a member of TLC, nor was he a volunteer. He never made a donation or even visited a TLC site, as far as we can tell. Yet Ron Gordon – who passed away in 2005 – chose to remember TLC in his Will.

Who was Ron Gordon? What inspired this most unexpected and generous gift?

In trying to uncover his story, we've learned that Ron lived his entire life on Vancouver Island, and left only once to visit Vancouver. His favourite stories were about helping a friend build a cabin on the Cowichan River back in the days when the Malahat Highway was a dirt road. A trip to the Cowichan River was quite a pioneering adventure back then, and encounters with bears and other wildlife would have been common.



We speculate that Ron's gift was his way of giving back to those things that gave him the most joy in his life – the land and wildlife that surrounded him throughout his life. He structured his bequest to allow TLC's Executive Director to allocate the funds from his Estate to best protect the special places that Ron cared about. As a result, Ron's legacy will help purchase wildlife habitat, support ongoing covenant monitoring (protecting wildlife on privately owned lands), and enable discussions with other land owners concerned about the future protection of their beloved farms, islands, and forests.

Although we wish we could have known Ron Gordon better, he will always be gratefully remembered by TLC. We will honour him by using his funds to make a real difference – one we hope he would have been proud of. His legacy will live on. Thank you Ron! ■

Editor's note: *To each of you who have made the very personal decision to remember TLC in your Will, THANK YOU! If you would like to make your wishes clear to us, please call Carla at 1-877-485-2422 for a confidential conversation or visit.*

This photo of a Trillium was taken on the banks of the Cowichan River. It is believed that Ron Gordon's love of this beautiful area led to his generous bequest to TLC. Photo by TLC.

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Community Action Heroes – save special places your way

You can become a Community Action Hero by organizing a local fundraising event – it's a lot of fun, and is a great way to help TLC protect the places that matter to you. This summer, why not give your garage sale or neighbourhood barbecue a 'Saving Special Places' theme?

Be sure to send us pictures and stories of your Community Action Hero event before September 15, 2007 and we'll showcase the best ones in the December issue of the LandMark. For more information on how you can become a Hero, call us at 1-877-485-2422, or e-mail membership@conservancy.bc.ca.



Harjeet Jassal (right) proudly wears the Canucks hockey jersey that she won in a fundraising raffle. The raffle was organized in conjunction with Seon Mobile Surveillance's summer barbecue to raise funds and awareness for TLC.

Photo courtesy Robin Thorneycroft.

Your personal TLC contacts:

A SPECIAL NOTE TO YOU:

You deserve to get real value for your hard-earned money. That's why at TLC we work hard to keep our fundraising and administrative costs as low as possible. Over the past five years, an average of 84.6% of every gift you've given to TLC has gone directly towards saving BC's special places.

We also believe in being open and honest in everything we do. Our complete, audited financial statements are available to anyone at any time just by calling 1-877-485-2422, or by visiting our website at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

We appreciate the trust you show by partnering with TLC to save the special places you care about.

With thanks,

Tom + Wendy

84.6% goes directly towards saving special places.

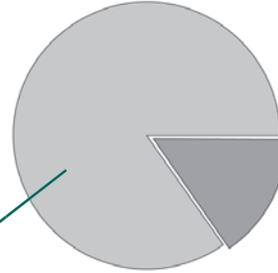


Photo Carla Funk

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.

Give BC some extra TLC

To help save even more special places, I'd like to make a donation of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

With this gift, I would like to renew my TLC Membership.

My preferred method of payment is:

Visa MasterCard Cheque. *Please make payable to The Land Conservancy.*

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My contact details:

Name: _____ Member # (if known): _____

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Thank you!

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

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