

LANDmark

THE NEWSLETTER OF TLC THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Celebrating five great years...and many more to come!

This year marks The Land Conservancy's fifth anniversary. In looking back over the accomplishments of the past five years, TLC's Executive Director, Bill Turner, said "We all can be justly proud of what has been done in such a short time. It's a credit to our hard work. It's a credit to our ability to work together cooperatively with so many people and so many different organizations. And it's a credit to the support we have received from our members, our donors, our volunteers and the many others who care so passionately about protecting our environment, and preserving those special places that make British Columbia such a wonderful place to live."

TLC has grown dramatically over five years. With 1200 members, over 500 volunteers, thousands of other donors, and many thousands of other supporters, TLC has established itself as one of the leading conservation organizations in the province. Well respected by government, private sector businesses and non-government agencies alike, TLC has demonstrated that when people come together with passion and determination they truly can make a difference.

And that means that – so far – over 86,000 acres of important habitat has been protected forever. Coastal forests, marine waterfront and islands, grasslands and range areas, significant urban green-space, wetlands and riparian areas. Over 100 properties, in most parts of the province, will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Also, significant cultural and heritage properties, like Abkhazi Garden and Ross Bay Villa and Wildwood have



years

been protected and are being restored.

TLC is modeled on the National Trust in Great Britain which, after more than 100 years of operations, has shown what can be accomplished over time. "We, too, are here for the long term", Bill Turner said. "We've only just begun, and we have so much more to do. Many wild areas around the province continue to be threatened, our heritage is under pressure and our quality of life is at risk. But I know that with the continued support of our friends, we will succeed in building a strong legacy for the future." 

SUMMER, 2002

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Awards recognize TLC's contribution to protecting our heritage

TLC and our associates have been recognized with a number of prestigious awards and honours throughout this past year:

The Land Conservancy TLC was awarded the Minister's Environment Award for 2001. This award was presented by the Minister of Water Land and Air Protection for our accomplishments in preserving endangered habitat.

Bill Turner TLC's President and Executive Director was honoured at the CFA-1070 Community Awards, by being named the "Community Leader of the Year", in recognition of his leadership qualities and dedication to community work. This award was selected by the Mayors of the Capital Region municipalities.

Stuart Stark TLC's Vice-President was awarded the Minister's Heritage Award. Presented by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, this award was made in recognition of Stuart's impressive record in preserving and restoring heritage buildings.

Bill Turner was also awarded the 2001 Watershed Eco-Star award in the Capital Region for his work in protecting important watershed habitat in this region.

ORDER OF CANADA two of our colleagues received special recognition:

Vicky Husband a member of TLC's Board of Directors was awarded the Order of Canada, for a lifetime as one of our country's most eloquent and dedicated environmentalists.

Merve Wilkinson founder of the Wildwood Ecoforestry site, and an ongoing partner of TLC, was also awarded the Order of Canada for his lifetime of tremendous accomplishment in ecoforestry.

Congratulations all! You make us proud!

2001/02

An exciting year of accomplishment and change

By xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

There's an old saying that goes: "nothing succeeds like success". That is proving to be very true for The Land Conservancy, as we continue to establish ourselves as one of the most dynamic conservation organizations in B.C. We are rapidly gaining a reputation as an organization that "gets things done"...and with that reputation comes considerably greater opportunities, but also greater demands on our resources.

Whether it's local groups and land trusts wanting us to help preserve areas of significant ecological value, or individuals wanting to ensure their property can be protected for future generations, whether

it's long range planning with our regional and provincial government partners, or simply opportunities that arise due to impending development or property sales, there are an increasing number of projects coming our way every day.

To respond to this, TLC has made some major changes throughout the past year, which will better position us to be able to meet the challenges that are before us.

The major structural change has been to divide our interior region into three new regions (Okanagan, Kootenay and Northern Regions), each with its own staff and each dedicated to focusing on acquisi-



The summer house at Abkhazi Garden ssim assum. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, adip

tion and covenant projects within their geographic area. We have now established offices in Penticton, and Kimberley, and will soon be establishing a new Northern office Kamloops. Along with our Vancouver Island Region (based in Victoria) and Lower Mainland Region (based in our Vancouver office), we are now established in most areas of the province, and able to respond more effectively to local needs and opportunities. As part of this reorganization, our Interior Manager and Deputy Executive Director, Nichola Walkden, has decided to concentrate her efforts on developing TLC's agri-



cultural programs. She will also serve as a special advisor to the Executive Director, working on special projects. Ian Fawcett will take on the role of Deputy Executive Director, looking after day-to-day operations, and thus allowing Bill Turner more time to concentrate on strategic development, acquisitions and fundraising.

It goes without saying, that the most challenging part of our work is to find the financial resources needed to fund our operations, and to make the deals and the acquisitions necessary to protect our environment and our preserve our heritage. This has been a difficult year for fundraising. Since the tragic events of September 11, many organizations – TLC included – have found that their donation levels have dropped dramatically as a result of the downturn in the economy. We now have to work harder than ever to bring in the necessary funding to continue our work.

To address this, we have made a major

organizational change with our development (fundraising) team. This team has been expanded with dedicated fundraisers in the Victoria and Vancouver areas, and we hope soon to expand this across the province.

As the starting point of this much enhanced fundraising strategy, we launched the “Ours Forever” campaign in the Capital Region. This is a 10 year, \$30 million campaign to protect the region's special places. (See page xx for more details)

We have also had some tremendous successes this past year, with major new acquisitions on Salt Spring Island and on the Saanich Peninsula and a deal to acquire Thwaytes Landing in North Vancouver. We expanded the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor near Kimberley, protected Max Lake in the Okanagan and received donations of property along the Cowichan River, Shawnigan Lake and in the Castlegar area. (For more details, see the following regional reports).

TLC's partnerships and influence have also continued to expand. Bill Turner has been reappointed as the Chairperson of the Land Trust Alliance of BC, a coordinating body for all land trusts in the province. He has also been appointed as chair of the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, a coordinating body comprising government, non-government agencies and local groups in the region. TLC was instrumental in establishing a similar group, the East Kootenay Conservation Program, in that area of the province. Both Bill and Nichola Walkden continue to serve on the Board of the Grasslands Conservation Council, and TLC director Bob Peart chairs that group. We have also been asked to play a role on two influential international groups, the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and the Canadian Inter-Mountain Joint Venture, which bring together provincial and federal governments, along with U.S. state governments and NGOs to focus on bird habitat.

All in all, it's been a challenging but very successful year. And we're looking forward, with your help, to continuing to build on our success.

TLC would like to recognize our sponsors for their support.

Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Victoria Foundation
 Canada Trust
 Heritage Trust
 Tides-Endswell Foundation
 Stanley Smith Foundation
 Real Estate Foundation
 Donner Foundation
 BC Hydro
 Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation
 Brainerd Foundation
 Coast Capital Real Estate
 Focus on Women Magazine
 CFA and Extreme Radio
 Delta Ocean Pointe Resort
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 Harbour Towers Hotel
 Shaw Cable Victoria
 Victoria Times-Colonist
 Salt Spring Roasting Co.
 North Douglas SYSCO Food Ltd.
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 Victoria Rhododendron Soc.
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 5th Street Bar & Woodfire Grill
 Willie's Bakery
 Lucky /Suze
 Birds of Paradise Pub
 Mt. Douglas School
 Butchart Gardens
 Monkey Tree Pub
 Deep Cove Chalet
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 Tanners Books
 Van Isle Marina
 Muffet and Louisa
 Saturna Island Winery and Vineyard
 Peninsula Gallery
 Ted Harrison, artist
 Telus Victoria – Employee Connections
 Bloomfield's
 Brentwood Bay Nursery
 Victoria Garden Sprinklers
 Victoria Hardy Plant Group
 Jones Emery
 Front Street Pasta Factory
 The Gunbarrel Grill
 The Mouse Pad Cafe
 Joey's Only Seafood Restaurant
 Starbucks Coffee Co.
 Dunstan House Pre-School
 Schooner Cove Marina
 Dragon's Whim Classic Charters
 Frances Litman, Photographer
 Heath Moffat Photography
 Photography by Rob Kruyt
 Murray Gough, Photographer
 Toni Alexander, Photographer
 Suzanne Huot, Photographer
 Mark Nyhof, Photographer
 Consumer's Co-op
 Bread Garden
 Sea Kayaking Association of BC

Deserts and grasslands....

The newly created Okanagan Region, stretching from Manning Park in the west to Trail in the east, and from Enderby in the north to the Canada-US border in the south (four regional districts), is home to a wide variety of rare and unique plants, animals, and natural habitats. Most of TLC's work in this new region is centered around the deserts and grasslands of the South Okanagan and Lower Similkameen Valleys, which are considered to be one of the four most endangered ecosystems in Canada.

TLC has taken on a lead role in the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), and much of our work in this region is done under the umbrella of SOSCP. This is a partnership of 31 non-government and government organizations working together to maintain the rich biodiversity of the South Okanagan-Similkameen area and a viable ecological corridor between the deserts to the south and the grasslands to the north. Recently, Bill Turner took over the role as Chair of SOSCP, after serving as vice-chair since the program's inception. TLC also chairs the Stewardship Team, and in this capacity we have been working with our partners over the last year and half on planning and coordination of stewardship activities, assisting landowners interested in stewardship, implementing conservation covenants and stewardship agreements, accepting donations of land, and operating a storefront stewardship resource and information centre in Penticton. We also play an active role in many of SOSCP's other strategies and programs.

Our staff in the Okanagan Region has been busy working on a number of projects. Last winter we completed and regis-

tered the **Max Lake Conservation Covenant**, TLC's first in the Okanagan, and the first covenant completed under the auspices of SOSCP. Located on the West Bench of Penticton, Max Lake is home to a number of rare species that



Max Lake Conservation covenant, first in the Okanagan.

depend on or use wetland and riparian habitats. One of the first confirmed sightings of flammulated owl in Canada was recorded at Max Lake. Scientists have also recorded thirty-eight different species of dragonflies at Max Lake, including one of only two Okanagan populations of the red listed vivid dancer. No other location in BC has this unusual diversity of dragonflies. It feels good knowing that this covenant will provide long-term protection for this important wetland area. A



second covenant which will protect over 600m of riparian habitat and a small wetland north of Oliver is nearing completion and should be registered before the fall is upon us.

TLC's "**Conservation Partners**" program, piloted last year in the South Okanagan-Similkameen area, continues to grow and receive positive support from farmers, retailers, wholesalers, and the general public. See the article by Susan Wood for more information on this exciting TLC initiative.

The Okanagan Region has also taken on the "**Bottles for Greenspace**" program. So far, six Penticton businesses have signed up to donate their bottles and cans to help fund our conservation programs. Volunteers visit these businesses regularly to pick up their bottles, take them to the depot and turn them into cash. Our staff and volunteers are actively seeking more businesses to join the program, and more volunteers to help out.

In closing I would like to say that TLC's profile and image in the Okanagan continues to grow. TLC's hard work, professionalism, and business-like approach to conservation has impressed everyone we have had the pleasure to work with. It is important that we continue our work in this special region of British Columbia, and that we build a strong base of volunteers, members, and supporters. Please drop by the Okanagan Region office in Penticton at 27A Front Street (in beautiful downtown Penticton). 🌿

Shawn Black, Stewardship Coordinator/Manager

East Kootenay grasslands.....

In the extreme south eastern corner of British Columbia, sit the Kootenays. The area is dominated by north-south valley bottoms containing wide tributaries of the Columbia River, one of BC's largest rivers. Yet, like two sides of the same coin, the East and West Kootenays are as different as they are similar.

In the East Kootenay, spacious grasslands are bookended by rising mountains, the Rockies to the east and the Purcells to the west. Intermingled amidst two large rivers, the Kootenay which runs south and the Columbia which runs north, grassland areas support elk and deer as well as at-risk species such as the badger and the Long-billed Curlew.

Nowhere is The Land Conservancy's commitment to East Kootenay grasslands more evident than in our acquisition of the **Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor**. This 1971 acre property, located between Kimberley and Cranbrook, is a stunning example of Ponderosa Pine grassland habitat. Home to herds of both elk and deer, endangered badgers and Lewis's woodpeckers plus 8 species of rare plants, Wycliffe is a key purchase for TLC in BC's Interior.

The purchase of Wycliffe is a multi-phase deal structured over three years with additional parcels added every six months. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2001 and Phases 3 and 4 are due to be completed in 2002 with subsequent phases to follow.

Wycliffe has also given TLC an important opportunity to work with the local community. The parcels that make up Wycliffe are leased to a number of local ranchers and numerous groups including the naturalists and the local fly-fishing club use the area regularly.

Moving from east to west, the grass-

lands of the East Kootenay turn to dense forests in the West Kootenay. Here, increased moisture allows trees such as cedars and hemlocks to flourish providing habitat for moose, wolverine, and black bear.

Part of this habitat is the Woods Family Property, a recent donation to TLC. This 78 acre property, which is adjacent to Syringa Creek Provincial Park, is a beautiful mixture of rich forest combined with rugged rock outcrops. By donating the property to TLC, the Woods Family have an opportunity to leave a legacy for their children while at the same time increasing the value of one of BC's protected areas.

TLC's commitment to the region extends beyond Wycliffe, beyond the Woods Family property and the other



covenants and properties we hold in the Kootenays. In the fall of 2001, The Land Conservancy joined with 28 other partners to form the East Kootenay Conservation Program. This program will provide support and partnership opportunities for land conservation work that is being done in the East Kootenays. Through the East Kootenay Conservation Program, partners will be able to set priorities and work together to accomplish goals. By working together, TLC and the other partners believe we can better protect necessary spaces for all species in the East Kootenays. 🐾

Kathleen Sheppard, Regional Manager

Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor



Setting priorities.....

Stretching northward from the Kamloops area, TLC's Northern Region constitutes a vast territory and a diverse array of habitat types and ecosystems. For the past year TLC's Interior Manager Nichola Walkden has been developing many contacts with landowners in the area, building TLC's profile and helping to assess options and strategies for a number of significant sites in the region which have been identified as potential targets for TLC's involvement. Taking on the responsibility to continue this work is Connie Larochelle, who was recently hired into the new position of Northern Regional Manager. With a working background in grasslands ecosystems, formal education in Natural Resource Sciences and Environmental Management, and a familiarity with the area Connie is well suited for this role. .

In addition to our development work, TLC continues to work on maintenance and restoration activities in our two existing projects in the area. Ecosystem diversity is not lacking in these northern regional projects. The Talking Mountain Ranch, also known as the **Reynolds Ranch**, is nestled high on the grasslands above the Fraser River. Accessible either by logging road near Lillooett or by the Big Bar Ferry near Clinton, this remote cattle ranch and its rustic features meet the expectations of dry grasslands backcountry experiences. Our long-term goals for Talking Mountain Ranch include renewing the Range Use Plan, establishing baseline data and completing a vegetative and wildlife inventory for inclusion in a Whole Farm Management Plan.

TLC's purchase of the 800 acre **Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area** has allowed for the removal of cattle from areas near the riverbanks and has permitted restoration work along the river

channels. The area provides moose winter range and waterfowl habitat. Species include salmon, rainbow trout, trumpeter swan, great blue heron, sandhill crane, wolverine, red fox, river otter, minks, cougar, bobcat and a plethora of other wildlife. Sockeye salmon spawn in the fall attracting black bears, bald eagles and osprey that gather in the area to feed. TLC has been working with a number of community partners including the Quesnel River Watershed Alliance, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Long-term activities for the property include bird and floral surveys, upgrading, repairing or removing ranching infrastructure such as fencing and corrals, and a proactive pesticide free weed management strategy.

With a strong background in working with older youth volunteers, Connie has immediately contacted a number of local agencies in the area to identify land-based projects appropriate for stewardship activities that young people could participate in. Volunteers with all sorts of skills and experience will be essential for successfully managing projects in this region and interested people are encouraged to contact us.

Connie Larochelle, Regional Manager



The push is on for two new Lower Mainland regional parks



TLC's two main Lower Mainland projects could not be more different. **Thwaytes Landing** is a 130-acre waterfront property located in spectacular Indian Arm, a fjord in North Vancouver known for its steep cliffs and forested hillsides. The site supports a wide range of habitats, from mature forest to moss-covered rocky outcrops, cliffs, waterfalls and streams, and an accessible shoreline. The 250-acre **Codd Island Wetlands**, located near Pitt Meadows, are serene and level lands covered by grasses and water. Both have unique reasons for protection.

Historic Thwaytes Landing is one of the last remaining residentially-zoned large oceanfront properties in the Lower Mainland. It is named after Captain Tom Thwaytes who built the original, and still standing, heritage home in 1927 with his wife Anya, a Russian princess. They ran a

chicken farm, ferrying their eggs to the Woodward's store in downtown Vancouver. The property is located half-way up Indian Arm on the west side across from the Buntzen Powerhouse. Only accessible by water, it is a two-hour canoe or kayak paddle from Deep Cove in North Vancouver or Belcarra Park in Port Moody.

TLC became involved in 1999 when the owner approached TLC saying she wished that it would become a park for future generations to enjoy. TLC agreed. In order to prevent any new development on the site, TLC formed a partnership with the District of North Vancouver and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). Both contributed \$500,000 towards the \$1.5 million purchase price. TLC, along with the GVRD's Pacific Parklands Foundation, has until January 2004 to raise the remaining \$500,000.

The public was notified May 2002. Contributions are coming in and TLC is planning fundraising events.

The GVRD will manage the newly created Thwaytes Landing Regional Recreation Area for paddlers and boaters who will be able to use the shoreline as a day-use rest area. Further facilities and use of the land will be unavailable until the site has been fully secured.

In Pitt Meadows, TLC is working to protect the Codd Island Wetlands. This area will otherwise become a commercial cranberry operation. Located in the Pitt Polder, these wetlands are the last remaining undyked floodplain wetlands left within the entire Alouette River Watershed. This site supports hundreds of species of native plants and animals and is an important nesting site for the endangered Greater Sandhill Crane. These wetlands, along with nearby Blaney Bog, provide the single largest off-channel rearing habitat for wild coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout in the area.

TLC's partners are the GVRD, who have pledged up to \$1 million towards this multi-million dollar property, and the District of Pitt Meadows, who have pledged \$200,000 and given us office space in the local Tourism Information Centre. Other supporters include the Pitt Polder Preservation Society, the Alouette Field Naturalists, and Ducks Unlimited. Negotiations are still underway with the owner. Donations and pledges are being sought from the public. 🐾

Tamsin Baker, Regional Manager

Thwayte's Landing



Setting priorities.....

It is hard to believe that The Land Conservancy is celebrating its 5th anniversary. It is even harder to believe that in this short amount of time, TLC has protected over 4400 acres of important habitat and properties along BC's west coast. We are proud to be able to say that the lands we've protected on the coast include horticulturally significant gardens, endangered Garry Oak and Douglas fir ecosystems, and a heritage villa and in so doing have also protected many rare and vulnerable species of plants and animals.

Within this past year, The Land Conservancy has celebrated new land acquisitions and registrations of new Conservation Covenants. In late November 2001, in partnership with the Province of BC and CRD Parks, TLC and the Salt Spring Appeal Committee announced the purchase of 665 hectares of land along south and west Salt Spring Island. This land, formerly owned by Texada Logging Corporation, covers an area from Mount Maxwell to the south shores of Burgoyne Bay as well as the slopes of Mount Sullivan, Mount Tuam and Bruce Peak. The landscape is mixed Douglas fir, Garry oak and arbutus forest with scenic rocky bluffs and lush valley-bottom groves of red cedar and ancient Douglas firs.

Also last fall, The Land Conservancy received a donation of a magnificent property along Shawnigan Lake (near Victoria). Donated by Michael Oliver (Eileen is awaiting an email from Michael confirming we can use his name) of Vancouver, this 1 hectare property contains mature Douglas fir and western red cedar plant communities. As the Shawnigan Lake area becomes more populated, it will increasingly more important to protect untouched areas such as the Oliver property.

The Land Conservancy forms strong partnerships with local communities and works with all levels of government to achieve its goals of protecting important spaces in our province. This year we are pleased to have worked with the Comox Valley Land Trust and the Comox-Strathcona Regional District to register a Conservation Covenant on an ocean front property known as Foxglove, near Comox. As well, TLC continues to work with BC Parks to create a corridor of protected lands stretching along the Cowichan River from Lake Cowichan to Duncan. Most recently we have been working on a donation of river front land which will be donated to the Province and categorized as a Class 'A' Provincial Park.

TLC also works with individuals to ensure ecologically and culturally significant areas are conserved. Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood is an excellent example of an opportunity to work with a landowner to accomplish their vision for the land. We have hired one of Merve's **Thwayte's Landing**



apprentices and friends, Jay Rastogi, as Site Manager for Wildwood to help us carry on the education and awareness of Ecoforestry. TLC has increased tours at Wildwood to every Saturday from 1-3pm during the summer season. We are also continuing our fundraising to raise the \$500,000 needed by June 2003 to complete this purchase.

The Vancouver Island region continues to work progressively to protect important spaces and to work in partnership to enhance the quality of life in British Columbia. Please help us to reach this goal.

Eileen Palmer, Regional Manager



Gardening is to a large degree performance art, and like all great music or theatre, gardens need to be constantly reinterpreted to retain their relevance and vitality, while preserving the original fabric.

JOHN SALES, HEAD GARDENER, NATIONAL TRUST

Abkhazi Garden

Devoted to the garden that love built

By Lynne Milnes

Hours

where is it

The major news for the Abkhazi garden in 2002 is that Cyril Hume, the part-time head gardener and leading force in the preservation effort to save the garden resigned in December, 2001 to take on other conservation projects and Valerie Murray was made the new full-time head gardener/site overseer in 2002. Valerie brings a wealth of experience in the gardening community having organized an international hardy plant seminar last year in Victoria and the hardy plant speakers in the city for the last five years as well as having an internationally acclaimed garden of her own. Valerie is reaching out to the gardening community and we have had a great response with offers of plants from local nurseries, seeds and seedlings from gardeners and support from Royal Roads University Gardens, the University of Victoria Gardens, the Victoria Rhododendron Society and the Hardy Plant Group. Local gardeners have come to one of the many evening open garden visits and are impressed by what they see.

The other major news this year is that TLC received a grant from the Victoria Foundation's Orion Fund and the Victoria Rhododendron Society to install a sprinkler system. This will mean hand watering only potted plants in 2002 which will save thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time. TLC also received funding from a private donor to rebuild the summerhouse. The opening of

the restored summerhouse was an event with relatives and colleagues of the original architect present. It was a glorious day and both the media and the guests remarked on the warm feeling of community goodwill that emanated from the garden.

The Abkhazi Garden is part of a network of Vancouver Island public gardens that began an association with joint marketing in 2001. The brochures were sold out in a few months and there



were public demands for more. They are presently being reprinted. The Abkhazi Garden was also part of the first Garden Conservancy Symposium for the Pacific Northwest held at the Washington State Arboretum. Representatives from Strybing Arboretum and Pacific Horticulture were very interested in the progress of the Abkhazi Garden and plan to feature articles about the garden in their US publications.

The Flower and Garden Show gala will take place this summer with funds being raised for the Abkhazi mortgage which was increased when TLC purchased an adjacent lot for parking purposes. This was a necessary expense as TLC required a parking variance, the garden being situated in a residentially zoned neighbourhood. The new zoning was passed in March of 2002 with all the neighbours unanimously agreeing. The mortgage remains a major challenge (over \$900,000) but garden committee members are determined to work at it bit by bit.

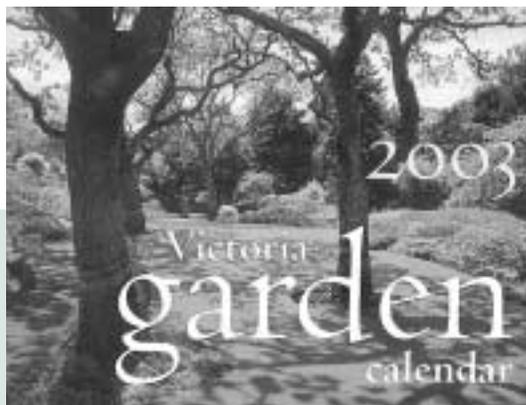
Members of the TLC Board of Directors and the "Ours Forever" Capital Campaign Committee meet regularly at the Abkhazi garden and have watched it slowly transform from a neglected historic site to the outstanding beauty it is today enjoyed by thousands of people. With the view from the newly restored slate terrace overlooking the Sooke Hills in the distance, the Abkhazi garden is a good reminder that with hard work anything is possible.

It is interesting to recognize the transformation of this heritage garden in two years since The Land Conservancy undertook the commitment to purchase and rehabilitate the property. The financial exposure was and is substantial, not only from the purchase price, but also the initial refurbishing of both garden and buildings, and the annual maintenance. The enthusiasm of the volunteers, the friendly competence of the manager, Selena Blais, and the leadership of the head gardener, our Valerie Murray, reflect a flourishing enterprise. It may provide a certain pleasure to our members, to reflect that the financial support of our Society and of its individual members, has served well, an excellent cause.

JAMES FULLER, RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Abkhazi news

Retail sales have exceeded expectations in the Abkhazi gift shop thanks to the excellent job done by TLC Enterprises. Valerie is now selling exceptional plants and TLC has produced a



Victoria garden calendar featuring the Abkhazi Garden on the cover that has been very popular, as

well as the reprinting of Peggy Abkhazi's book *The Curious Cage*.



Volunteering

Abkhazi Garden and Ross Bay Villa volunteers

By xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Volunteers play an important role in sharing the unique and fascinating story of Abkhazi Garden, and of the lives of Nicholas and Peggy Abkhazi. Everyday our dedicated volunteers are there to help secure the garden's future, and they also help to generate the wonderful spirit that is felt by all who visit the garden.

At Ross Bay Villa, the dedicated crew of volunteers have brought this priceless heritage house back from the brink of destruction. Rain or shine, warm or cold, they have been out there digging, painting, repairing foundations, and the many other tasks associated with heritage restoration.

Without their help – and the help of our many other volunteers – TLC could not accomplish what we've set out to do. We asked a few of our volunteers "what do they get out of it?"



"I share TLC's principles of conservation of our heritage and protection of wild habitat. The Abkhazi Garden is such a wonderful place to spend volunteer hours – it is my pleasure to help TLC and I enjoy every minute of my time here. I'd encourage everyone who cares about the region they live in, to join with TLC in saving our special places."

Joanne Manley

"The reason I like to volunteer is to preserve these special places which are rare and treasured. It is a pleasure to volunteer here."

Elia Rizzo

"I enjoy the whole atmosphere and the people I volunteer with. It's so relaxed and I hope to continue for a long time."

Manon Steer

"I volunteer at Abkhazi because I am

a member of TLC. I only volunteer on a regular basis with organizations that value my membership. I started at Abkhazi because of that membership, and continue because it is such a joy to be involved with an organization so wonderful. I speak with guests from all over the world, people who express pleasure at being in the garden, and gratitude for TLC. It is especially nice to meet people who visited the garden in the past two years, who comment on the work that has been done, and the improvements made. I am truly blessed with such a fantastic job."

Mary Goodspeed

"I am supporting a good cause and enjoy the working environment and fellow volunteers. I am a hobby

gardener and I get expert tips for good growing. I also enjoy the interaction with the people that visit from all over the world."

Why do I volunteer for the Villa, rather than all the other good causes out there?

- "Because I've always loved old things, especially houses (I suspect I was conceived in a 14th Century thatched Sussex cottage!)"
- "Because I don't have a lot of skills, but the Villa can benefit from what little I bring to it."
- "Because it needs all the help it can get."
- "Because it appeals to my competitive instincts: It's good to know that sometimes we can beat the philistines."

- "Because we don't have a lot of ways to make a mark, to leave the world a better place, but this is one."
- "Because the Villa can help educate and change people's attitudes and may actually lead to a small renaissance among its neighbors."
- "Because every day there's something to show for what we've all done: When I drive by it makes me smile."
- "Crucial reason that I enjoy working there: Because I've met so many wonderful peo-

ple, whose good-humored company and selfless work I always enjoy, and many of whom have become real friends."
 Nicholas Russell
 Molly Lane

"I live in the area and it's like helping to look after your own back garden."
 Val Hignett

"It's a very pleasant way to give back to your community."
 Jane Harrison



From the Working Holidays booklet:

"We hope that you are reasonably fit, willing to work as part of a team and are able to live simply in friendly surroundings. Previous experience of outdoor conservation is welcome, but not a requirement as the warden and team leader provide all instructions. Be prepared to take an active role in the 'domestics' (catering and cleaning) back at the accommodation, which is usually a small journey from the work site... Many people come independently, but couples are asked to participate and comply with the separate arrangements. We find the friendly, social atmosphere, task satisfaction and good company attract volunteers back year after year.

Working Holidays

Something for everyone

By Paula Hesje,
 Vancouver Island Warden

Does a Working Holiday sound a bit like an oxymoron to you? Some may think so, but what can be more rewarding than meeting dynamic people interested in conservation, getting your hands dirty while working outdoors, learning new skills and having an absurd amount of fun and laughter?

As a Working Holiday volunteer, you will be at the forefront of The Land Conservancy's commitment to maintain, preserve, restore and safeguard some of British Columbia's finest landscapes. But the properties are not the only beneficiaries; for many volunteers, a Working Holiday can spark the beginning of a lifelong interest in conservation work and landscape management. Opportunities for personal development are also on offer through our Leadership Training whereby you can assist or eventually even lead a holiday!

As a charity, we rely on the support and enthusiasm of people like you, to help play a part in protecting important places in British Columbia for future generations. You can provide invaluable help for TLC staff in the management of our properties and you can select the type of work you would like to do! No experience is needed, TLC staff provide assistance and guidance for tasks such as creating trails, clearing invasive species to restore native plants (that dang Scotch Broom!), fencing, weed and plant inventories, construction of cabin furnishings, hay field improvements, eco-renovation and restoration. Working Holidays are an ideal way to combine fun and relaxation while also making a valuable contribution to TLC's work!

This year we are holding the most holidays in TLC's history! There will be four holidays which will be held at the following locations and dates in the province:

- South Winchelsea Island is one of nineteen islands that make up the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago and the home of one of our most popular holidays. The archipelago is located on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, just off of Nanoose Bay. Accommodation is in a luxurious cabin set up as a Model of Sustainability; solar-powered lighting, rain water collection system and a recycled lumber deck complement the stunning natural beauty of this ecologically significant island. Work varies from light to moderately physically challenging. Dates: September 13-15 & October 18-20.

- Cowichan River Cabin is located in a Big Leaf Maple grove on the Cowichan River near Duncan, on Vancouver Island. This rustic log cabin is part of the Cowichan River corridor and a beautiful setting for your holiday. Eco-renovation of this cabin is the task at hand as well as work on our Nanaimo River

property. Work varies from light to moderately challenging. Dates: June 13-17th & July 19-21.

- Reynolds Talking Mountain Ranch is east of Clinton on the Fraser River. The ranch is to serve as an example to the public of environmentally-sound ranching. Grasslands, riparian zones, wetlands, and sub-alpine forested slopes are all represented in this remotely located property. Tenting is the choice of shelter and moderately challenging to challenging will be the ranching duties. Bring your bathing suit and chaps to this one! Dates: July 6-12, July 20-26 & August 24-30.

- Horsefly River is located in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and the Horsefly watershed provides some of the most important fish producing habitats in the Fraser River Drainage. The area is home to big game animals, upland game birds, waterfowl and a variety of non-game mammals and birds. This holiday is a rustic experience with a tent and stars overhead and work varying from moderately challenging to challenging. This is the first holiday at this location. Dates: August 10-16.



All holidays include scrumptious food, accommodation, great leadership and of course – loads of fun! Prices range from \$50 for a weekend to \$130 for a week.

Most holidays are made up of a group of like-minded people, so it's a great way to make friends. It isn't all work - the evenings are yours for exploring or socializing. The holidays are appropriate for almost anyone 19 years or over and if you have special skills to offer in construction, plant ID, wildlife or skills that may apply to your holiday – you are particularly welcome! We are also searching out enthusiastic, motivated individuals to become Assistant Leaders or Leaders of holidays. TLC is pleased to waive the cost for those who help run working holidays.

Now, if you are still wavering on your interest in these holidays here is a little inspiration, thanks to Chris Bullock, a volunteer who came to our last Working Holiday on South Winchelsea Island:

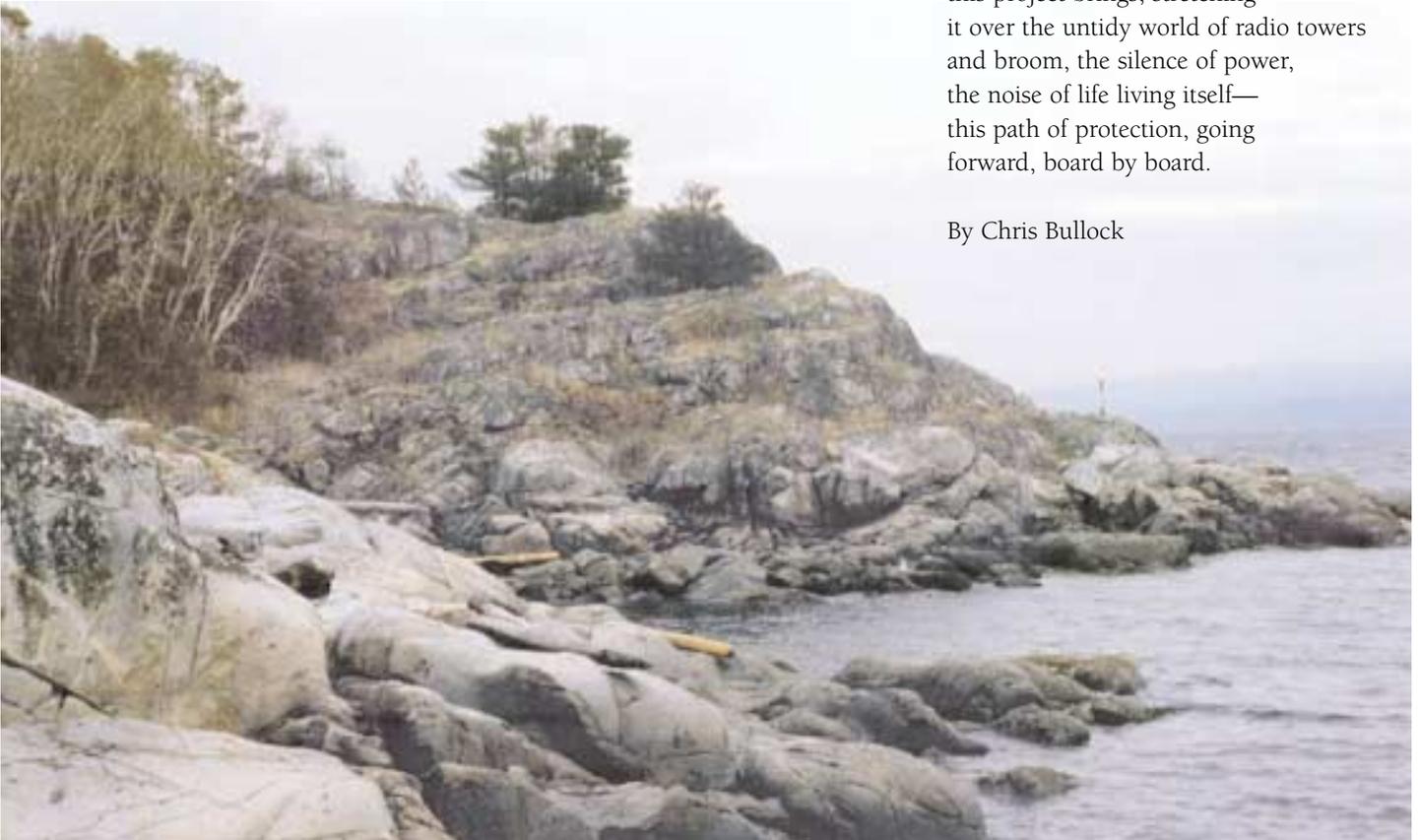
WORKING ON WINCHELSEA

Two of us nailing chicken wire
on the endless outhouse boardwalk —
board after board, four nails,
each nail stretching the mesh,
keeping a straight line
on wood that curves and changes.
Others build a wood box,
a shoe rack, wash windows, pull
broom around boulders glowing
with stonecrop, red and yellow,
the floating blue of camas,
the tracery of reindeer moss.

Across the channel, sea lions
honk, lie in the water, flippers up,
splash as they chase after fish.
Behind them the radio tower
gleams silently in afternoon sun.
The military hut below has a dome
the colour of mouldy cheese.

In the evening, in the cabin powered
by sun and rain, someone is reading
Buddhist Joanna Macy's *Widening Circles*,
the book a part of the widening
circle of conversation, words
nailing down the mesh of hope
this project brings, stretching
it over the untidy world of radio towers
and broom, the silence of power,
the noise of life living itself—
this path of protection, going
forward, board by board.

By Chris Bullock



Agricultural Programs

BC farmers working with TLC in Partnerships for Conservation

By Susan Wood, Senior Projects Officer



Participating farms:
Rolling Sage Orchards
Forbes Family Farm
O'Reilly's Farm
Ambrosia Apiaries
Vialo Orchard
Mariposa Organic Farm
Ambercott Acres
Dust Farm
Summerhill Winery
Harker's Fruit Ranch
Venamour Organic Farm
Talus Farm
Maitri Organic Farm
The Nugteren's
Bluenote Farms
Muckabout Orchard
Dumpling Dale Organic Farm

This project receives support from Environment Canada's Ecoaction Community Funding and Habitat Stewardship Program.

Farmland can provide environmental values in addition to agricultural products when stewardship practices are included in land management decisions. Seventeen growers and land stewards in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys of the BC Interior are forging a relationship with TLC that provides these dedicated farmers with the recognition they deserve as conservationists. A natural extension of other consumer information delivery models such as organic labelling, the TLC Conservation Partner label, with the Viceroy butterfly symbol, tells the consumer that the farm of origin has made a commitment to be involved in habitat protection, restoration or enhancement projects for the benefit of wildlife and ecosystem health.

Last year's pilot project involved 8 trend-setting farms that were collectively responsible for the protection of approximately 210 acres of special Southern Interior habitat, from bird-rich wetlands to locally rare cottonwood riparian corridors, to expanses of our rapidly disappearing shrub-steppe desert, home to many of BC's species at risk. This year, shoppers will begin to see Conservation Partner products in stores such as Thrifty's Foods as well as other smaller marketplaces. By purchasing food carrying this label, concerned consumers will know

that they are supporting both the protection of natural spaces and the best of BC's agricultural community!

Fundraising Activities

Fundraising remains the greatest challenge for all of us at TLC. Without adequate resources we simply are unable to do the work that we all are here for. Whether it's the funds to purchase a critical piece of threatened habitat, the ongoing maintenance, development and restoration costs for properties under our care, or the necessary resources to sustain our organization – wages for our staff, insurance premiums, telephone bills, printing costs, and the like – we depend on our members and our financial supporters to keep us going. This has been a difficult year for fundraising – all charities have felt the pinch – but TLC is fortunate to have a number of very dedicated supporters who have dug especially deep this year to help us out.

In spite of the difficult economic times, our fundraising activities have expanded. In the Lower Mainland and across the province, we have worked hard to increase our membership and our donor base. We have created a number of special events and activities designed to raise our profile, involve our members and others interested in TLC, and to raise funds. Our “member-get-member” contest, for example encourages our members in the Lower Mainland to sign up new members, and in so doing become eligible for special prizes which have been donated to us. We have also developed a series of bus tours to from the Vancouver area to Abkhazi Garden and Wildwood, that help raise funds, and provide added interest for our supporters.

Our most focused fundraising, however, has been in the Capital Region where, last fall, we launched a major fundraising campaign. OURS FOREVER is a ten year, \$30 million capital campaign with a vision to purchase, protect and enhance properties essential to maintaining this region for all time as the very special place it is today.

OURS FOREVER campaign update

By Kari Frazer

Ours Forever — The Campaign to Protect Special Places in the Capital Region, has completed its first successful parkland acquisition. The campaign raised \$60,000 by an April 30 deadline toward the purchase of a twelve-acre addition to Horth Hill Regional Park located in North Saanich.

The property was purchased in partnership with CRD Parks. TLC, through its Ours Forever campaign agreed to raise \$60,000 toward the purchase price of \$382,650. The balance, \$322,650 will come



from the CRD Parkland Acquisition Fund established to assist with the completion of the regional parks and trails system in partnership with organizations like TLC.

Horth Hill is a much-loved regional park with forest trails, Garry oaks, spring

Horth Hill



wildflowers and panoramic views of the peninsula and Gulf Islands. We are very grateful to the Bodine Family and the many, many caring individuals who stepped forward to help us protect this local park. Horth Hill is the first of many new acquisitions aimed at protecting the very special quality of our region under the banner of TLC's Ours Forever Campaign. We're off to a great start!

The Ours Forever committee is also working very hard to complete a major acquisition in the Sea to Sea Greenbelt. This 3400-acre Sooke Hills property was purchased last year, prior to the launch of Ours Forever. Since then TLC has incurred transfer fees, taxes and interest on the remaining mortgage such that \$400,000 was needed to complete funding for the project. Help in the form of a \$200,000 (US) grant from The Paul G.

Allen Forest Protection Foundation was received in May 2002. TLC must now raise the final \$150,000 before interest begins to mount. One donation of \$50,000, two donations of \$25,000 and ten donations of \$5,000 in cash, securities, artwork or real estate will enable us to reach our goal.

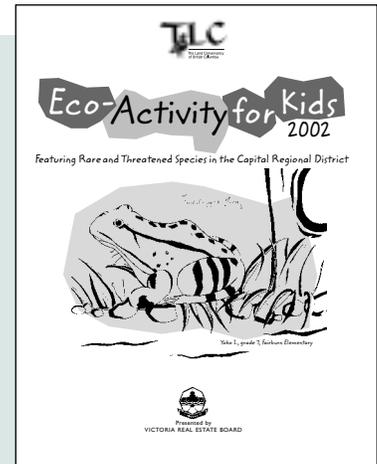
OURS FOREVER speaker's bureau

Since the launch of Ours Forever last fall we have been invited to speak to over twenty business, professional and community organizations and many school groups. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteer speaker's bureau coordinator, Joanne Manley for arranging these speaking engagements. If you belong to a group or know of one that we should speak to please give us a call.

Individuals Making a Difference

Shellie Gudgeon is one individual who follows her heart and knows that her efforts can make a difference for her community and our future. Shellie, her husband Mike and their children have already travelled extensively and realize beyond a doubt that they live in one of the most beautiful regions in the world. "I feel fortunate to live here and enjoy with my family the parks, greenways and wilderness that surround us," states Shellie. "Previous generations had the foresight to create some protected green space for future generations to enjoy. I am grateful to the people who restored and protected our historical buildings and made it the right thing to do. Now it is our turn to leave similar legacies."

Shellie looks for the ways and means to work with TLC programs and her resources to raise money, exposure and memberships for TLC. She has commit-



OURS FOREVER Eco-activity Colouring Book

Elementary school students from throughout the region are helping TLC to protect local plants and animals at risk through the creation of an Eco-Activity Colouring Book. The book's original drawings and researched write-ups from students in Kindergarten to Grade 7, features species that live (or once lived) in Coastal Douglas-fir forests within the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Through its sponsorship of the Eco-Activity Coloring Book, the Victoria Real Estate Board made it possible for 30,000 copies to be printed and distributed to local schools. A community display and contest were held at Hillside Centre this spring with prizes awarded for the best drawing, colouring and write-up, as well as for the most participation from a school and best classroom collaboration. Through projects like this TLC works to provide information to communities in the hope that with this information we can learn to steward the land more wisely and preserve native plants, animals and their habitat.

ted, along with her company, Angel Foods, to raise \$100,000 in sponsorship and donations over the next 3 years. They are raising the funds through an annual gala event, donating restaurant bottles as part of the Bottles for Greenspace program, and by donating restaurant gift certificates as part of our membership drives.

Peta Alexander has been a volunteer at Abkhazi Garden ever since attending one of TLC's popular summer cruises. When TLC launched the proactive Ours Forever Campaign, Peta felt the urgency to do whatever she could to assist TLC achieve its vision of protecting special places over the next 10 years. "I decided to put TLC at the top of my list," explains Peta. "Although I still have other charities that get my time and support, TLC will be on the top of my list until we achieve our goal." As well as joining the fundraising committee and enthusiastically giving her time and expertise, Peta and her husband have pledged 'A Dollar a Day for a Decade' through monthly automatic deductions, and encourage others to do the same.

These are but two examples of creative pledges that help TLC to plan a future of hope for our region. TLC feels that there is less than 10 years to take action to protect, preserve and enhance our region's special places. We need all caring individuals and businesses to follow the lead of Shellie and Peta and commit to a pledge of sponsorship or donations over a period of 3, 5 or even the next 10 years. You will be able to enjoy the results of protected places and know that your grandchildren's grandchildren will have the opportunity to experience the same appreciation.

TLC Enterprises Ltd.

By Irene Ambeault, Assistant Manager, TLCE

TLC Enterprises is a limited company set up by The Land Conservancy of BC in April 2000 to be the revenue producing arm of the TLC. Enterprises is responsible for the overall operation and performance of five separate revenue streams: Gift Shops, Tea Rooms, Boat Cruises, Cabin Rentals and the Green Gift Catalogue. All profits from these streams revert to TLC to help fulfill its mandate. With the dedication of staff, boundless energy and efforts of invaluable volunteers and generous public support, Enterprises continues to make significant strides.

GIFT SHOPS – Our first gift shop is located in the magnificent surroundings of Abkhazi Garden. This year we have significantly increased the selection of gifts, garden, souvenir and Abkhazi and TLC items offered in the gift shop, and we have also begun to sell plants, many of which have been grown from seeds harvested directly in the garden.

We are also enthusiastic about our recent expansion. The Kimberley office has been provided with a selection of items appropriate to the area in anticipation of a busy summer season and plans are under way to do the same for the Penticton office. In the future, gift shops will be opened at other TLC locations as opportunities present themselves.

TEA ROOM – After an enchanting tour of Abkhazi garden, visitors can stop by our Tea Room for a cup of our specially blended Abkhazi Tea (with a hint of lavender) and a delectable, hot tea biscuit with Devonshire cream. Prepared and served by our dedicated volunteers, the menu has been changed and expanded this year, to respond to recommendations by volunteers and guests. Based on our experience at Abkhazi, tea rooms are being planned for other TLC locations in the future.

BOAT CRUISES – The boat cruise program was instituted a number of years ago to provide TLC members with a first-hand view of the projects that TLC was involved in. Last summer, cruises were extended to those who wished to embrace the opportunity to learn about the special places that are important to us all and how we can help to protect them. This summer, May through September, they will be expanded again, to offer shorter yacht cruises in the Victoria area, to Race Rocks and Discovery Island. Also, as well as the traditional 6 hour cruises to Saltspring Island and the Saanich Inlet, we are offering a picnic cruise to view Sooke Hills.

CABIN RENTALS – TLC currently has two cabins which we make available for the public to rent when they are not needed for our stewardship and educational work. **SOUTH WINCHELSEA ISLAND CABIN** offers an ideal setting on a unique private 25 acre island near Lantzville. This 3 bedroom cabin is fully equipped with all the amenities – solar power, wood stove, fully equipped kitchen and bathroom and duvets for all beds. A maximum of six people are allowed per visit. The **COWICHAN CABIN** is nestled in a grove of Big Leaf Maples and Cedars and is a short walk to the Cowichan River. Eco-renovations are to begin within months. These will include a solar power system, skylights to brighten the interior and a rainwater collection system.

Once upgraded, this private gem in the woods will be offered for rent to those who yearn to be one with nature.

GREEN GIFT CATALOGUE – The fourth edition of the Green Gift catalogue was distributed throughout BC in the fall of 2001. Sales have increased over the years and surpassed our expectations this past year.

Items offered in the catalogue have increased each year, and the forthcoming catalogue will have items representative of the various projects undertaken by TLC on Vancouver Island the Lower Mainland and in the Interior. There will be many unique gift ideas, suitable for all ages. It will be available in early fall, well in time for Christmas shopping.

If you are interested in more information about any of the items listed above, please call the TLC Office.

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