

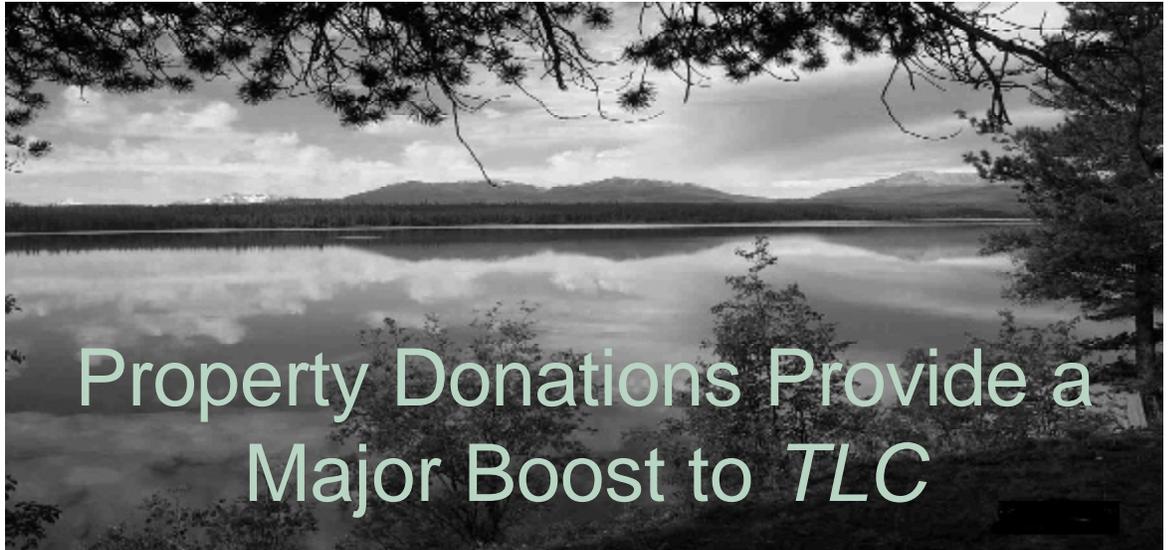
# LANDmark

THE NEWSLETTER OF TLC THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

WINTER/  
SPRING 2004

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View of Nimpo Lake from TLC's Cottage

Bill Turner Photo

## Property Donations Provide a Major Boost to TLC

by Nichola Walkden  
Assistant Executive Director

When people ask me "What does a land trust do?" my immediate reply always includes land acquisitions and conservation covenants. When people ask, however, why I do the work I do my answer comes from an entirely different place. I work for a land trust, and particularly for *TLC*, because I believe in the importance of providing opportunities for landowners to be a part of protecting their lands for future generations.

*TLC* is much, much more than an acquisition body. We invest our time and energy in developing stewardship programs, contacting landowners, building numerous partnerships, attending community meetings and making presentations. We work on education and interpretation programs, conservation holidays and volunteer opportunities. Our aim is to create an open and accessible 'trust' of lands for the public: at the heart of *TLC* we are striving to build support for, and a better understanding

of, the importance of conservation and a willingness to participate.

The past year evidences the benefit of this commitment. More importantly it reflects an organization that is achieving more than simply purchasing acres on the ground; we're bringing people into our work. It also demonstrates how important your contributions to our membership and general funding can be! In 2003 *TLC* received six land donations in the Interior, bringing an additional 575 acres of land to our trust, with a monetary value of over \$1.2 million. Their true value is much higher.

### NIMPO LAKE

Our first donation of the year came from Winnie Bennie, who donated a cottage and lakefront on Nimpo Lake in the Chilcotin. Now in her 80s and less able to travel, Winnie is 'spry, active and a truly wonderful person', says Bill Turner. Winnie and her family had owned the property for about 50 years, and they would go there several times a year to fish, bird watch and

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## Message from Bill



*I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded so generously to our appeal for support during November and December. It is truly rewarding when I see the depth of commitment among our members and your determination to help TLC succeed.*

*Over 900 donations were made during our fall appeal, raising over \$120,000. As wonderful as this was, I'm sure I don't have to remind you that we need to keep it going. TLC does not have high overhead when compared to many other charitable organizations, but we do have many ongoing staffing and operational costs which must be paid for.*

*It's because we are accomplishing so much, and making such an impact that the demands on TLC are continuing to grow. This is something we can all be extremely proud of, but also something we must respond to by expanding our membership and donor base. Your ongoing help to keep TLC moving forward is critical. Thanks for being there.*

**Bill Turner**  
Executive Director

*continued from Page 1*

swim. She has always made the cottage available to members of the Naturalists club to use. The loons are wonderful (so are the bugs, but that is normal for the north). TLC now stewards the property, and we are continuing her tradition of allowing the Naturalists and her family to use the cabin. We also make the cottage available for rent, that support our work at one of BC's best fishing destinations!

### ROBSON VALLEY

The Natasha Boyd Wetland Conservation Area is another special memorial gift that we have been honored to receive. A long-time and well known resident of the Robson Valley, Carl Boyd, sought to find a piece of land that could be protected for the community in his wife Natasha's remembrance. A donation was made to TLC, which was generously matched by the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (BC Hydro), to acquire 160 acres located approximately 15 km south east of McBride. The site contains upland forests of Paper birch, Trembling aspen, White and Black spruce, Lodgepole pine and Western redcedar, that surround clusters of inter-connected wetlands. A celebration with the family and community along with an unveiling of an interpretive highway sign will be hosted this spring at the Dunster Community Hall.

### AVOLA CREEK

The third donation to our Northern Region was made by Weyerhaeuser Canada. Part of a decommissioned mill site, the "Avola Creek Property" was donated to conserve a salmon enhancement project completed by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada and the community in 1999. The donation allows for long term protection of this investment, a project that includes a series of interconnected channels, pools and ponds that were restored to provide spawning and rearing habitat for Thompson River Coho.

### WYCLIFFE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

In the Kootenay Region, Teck Cominco Metals Limited greatly assisted our acquisition of Phase three of the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor, donating a 103 acre portion to TLC. Over the next five years TLC will continue to acquire select parcels from Cominco. Comprising class 1 and 2 ungulate winter range, Wycliffe is home to the red-listed badger as well as 8 red-listed plant species, and the blue-listed Lewis's Woodpecker.



Bunchgrass on Wycliffe Kathryn Martell Photo

### LEHMANN SPRINGS

Naturalists in the Osoyoos/Bridesville area may be familiar with the "Lehmann Springs Conservation Area", an Ecological Gift of 60 acres of old growth Western larch, where white-headed woodpeckers (a nationally listed endangered species) have been spotted by bird watching enthusiasts. This land was originally owned by Dale Lehmann's father who, during the early part of the century, cleared much of the surrounding area for ranching and hay. The donation area was also slated to be logged at the time, but a strike at the

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# TLC Membership Changes

## Promise Major Benefits

Following many requests from our members, and a lot of advice from our partners at the National Trust, *TLC* is going to make a fundamental change in our Membership.

Until now, the full amount of our membership fees has been eligible for a tax receipt. Under Canadian law, that meant we could not provide any other benefit for our members. We are going to change that, beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>, so that the first \$35 of an individual membership or the first \$50 of a family membership will not receive a tax receipt. Instead, we will be providing special benefits for our members. These benefits will include:

- Free admission to all *TLC* sites (and some related sites).
- A reduced “members rate” for our programs and workshops
- Special “members only” programs
- Other benefits such as special promotions through our gift shops

*continued from Page 2*

local saw mill fortuitously stopped the logging activity in time.

The property was never subsequently logged, allowing for this special forest, which is now unique to the area, to survive. In contemplating their retirement from ranching, Dale and Anita consulted with the SOS Stewardship (Landowner contact) Program, and learned about the conservation options available to them. The donation of this land to *TLC* meant that Dale and Anita could ensure that the protection of this stand will continue beyond their family’s tenure, and remain a fortunate forest forever.

Obviously, the value of these benefits will continue to increase as our activities and the number of our properties also increase. They will far outstrip the value of the tax receipt.

We are making this change now for two reasons. First, we want to encourage our members to participate in our activities to the greatest extent possible, and these changes will make that easier. And second, we are embarking on a major membership recruitment program and we believe this change will make our memberships even more attractive to a broader range of people.

### How it will work:

Due to government taxation rules, this change will come into effect when you renew your membership during the coming year. At that point, you will be sent a *TLC* membership card (families will receive two cards). The card will enable you to access the benefits listed above. Should you wish to renew your membership early, to take advantage of

the new benefits, you can do so. Simply contact us at any of our offices or send us an email if you’d like to do this.

For those on a monthly membership plan, your cards will be sent out prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> and you will be able to make use of them immediately.

When you visit one of our properties, please be sure to bring your new membership card with you, in order to receive free admission. Similarly, when signing up for a program or workshop, or other benefit, have your card handy as we will need your card number for eligibility.

Once again, we want to thank you – our members – for your tremendous support. Without you, we could accomplish nothing. We hope that this change will provide a significant benefit for you (and new members)...and it will provide a major boost to *TLC* as well.



Western Larches at Lehmann Springs  
Orville Dyer Photo

### TURTLE VALLEY FARM

Protecting future interests was also a motivation of Marc Theurrillat and Turtle Valley Farms Ltd in their dona-

tion to *TLC*. Located south of Chase, Turtle Valley Farm has 85 acres of land for production and 160 acres of forest, meadow and wetland in complement. The farm has also become a new partner of our Conservation Partners Program. This tremendous donation will become a very significant project whereby *TLC* will own the land and ensure that it remains an active farm, in either organic or biodynamic production in future generations.

We encourage you to visit our website for more details about all of these projects. As well, you can find information about estate planning and conservation options available to landowners.

## Codd Island Wetland

by Tracy Keeling  
Senior Project Officer

For the past three years TLC has been working to raise awareness and funds for the purchase and protection of the 250 acre Codd Island Wetland in Pitt Meadows. Throughout the years a number of partners have joined the campaign, and the property owners have been very patient. Now the purchase is finally within reach! Incredibly, TLC is now only \$200,000 away from ensuring this \$4.5 million purchase is completed. We have until February 15<sup>th</sup> to raise the final funds so that the purchase can complete on March 1, 2004. TLC is calling in all Codd Island Wetlands pledges and is seeking other private and corporate donors who care about wildlife habitat, healthy watersheds and airsheds, to donate funds towards the protection of this property.

Codd Island Wetlands are both provincially and regionally important as one of the last undeveloped fen wetlands remaining in the Lower Mainland. Rivaling Burns Bog in ecological significance, these wetlands are home to hundreds of species of birds, mammals, amphibians and fish including BC's most endangered frog, cranes, and wild salmon. Historically seen as a waste of space, wetlands such as Codd Island are now considered by many to be critical for human health, as well as crucial wildlife habitat.



Old Bridge at Codd Island Wetland

TLC File Photo

*“Greater sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, coho salmon! These are spectacular flagships of the wild as it has been in its richness and purity for thousands of years. What a privilege that we in this modern world still have the opportunity to save an intact and significant piece of our wetland heritage. This chance could have slipped away and now it is within our grasp”*

*- Robert Bateman*

Wetlands are known to act as vital water and air filters contributing to the health of our regional water and air sheds. Protecting the Codd Island Wetlands is not only good for our furry friends but for us as well!

If you would like to help complete the purchase of Codd Island Wetlands please send a donation to TLC's Lower Mainland office at 5655 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5E 2T2, or by calling 604-733-2313. For more information on the Codd Island Wetlands please call us or see TLC's website at [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca).

## TLC Comes to the Rescue of a Unique Museum Site

by Ian Fawcett  
Deputy Executive Director

Just outside the Grand Forks city limits, on a hill overlooking the valley, is a unique property that includes a treasure trove of artifacts representing an important part of British Columbia's heritage. The property is known as the Mountain View Doukhobor Museum. It contains one of the last remaining traditional Doukhobor communal village houses, built in 1912.

There were 90 communal villages established by members of the Doukhobor community across western Canada before the 1930's, and the Mountain View site is one of the few that remain in original form. Located on 17 acres of land, the site features four farm sheds and one communal home containing a collection of historic photographs and objects that commemorate the pioneer life of the Russian Doukhobors.

About 7,500 Doukhobors came to Canada in 1899 to escape persecution in Russia for refusing to take up arms for the monarchy. They were invited by Canada to settle in the prairies and did so with the help of the Quakers and writer Leo Tolstoy. Eventually, much of the community moved west to the Kootenay-Boundary region, purchased land, and re-settled in communal villages like the Mountain View site.

The Boundary Museum Society, located in Grand Forks, and many local residents have been trying to find a way to protect the Mountain View property and ensure it could continue to tell the story of this significant chapter in Canada's history. As time was running out on their option to purchase the site, they turned to *TLC* for help. *TLC* has agreed to work with the local groups and the Doukhobor community to acquire the property. Once acquired, *TLC* will enter into a partnership with the Boundary Museum to restore the building and continue to operate it as a museum.

The museum itself was first established in 1972, and was operated by its late owner Peter Gritchen. Following Mr. Gritchen's death last year, his estate has put the property up for sale. There are many who recognize the heritage value of the site, and want to see it protected. Parks Canada, for example, is considering its designation as a National Historic Site. The Heritage Society of BC featured the property in its latest newsletter, and many heritage advocates have contacted us to see if we can help.

Responding to the news that *TLC* would become involved in helping to protect the site, British Columbia's Heritage Minister, George Abbott, said "I am delighted that *TLC* is able to participate in this project in this way. *TLC*'s track record in protecting British Columbia's heritage is exemplary and will go a long way toward helping to secure this site.



Mountain View Doukhobor Museum - House  
Photo courtesy of Boundary Museum

This role played by *TLC* is an important, necessary and central part of our heritage network in BC, and I applaud their efforts."

*TLC* will be working with the local groups to raise the necessary \$121,000 purchase price by March 26. Anyone who wishes to donate to this project or would like more information, is encouraged to contact us at any of our offices, or you can make a contribution through our website at [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)



Farm sheds on site at Museum property  
Photo courtesy of Boundary Museum

# Urgent Campaigns

## South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls Campaign Update

by Shawn Black  
Regional Manager

In December I was reminded how important it is that TLC succeeds in our efforts to save the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls (SORCO). I was told about a Western Screech Owl that had been hit by a car, and was taken to SORCO for treatment. The particular subspecies of Western Screech Owl that lives in the southern interior of BC is listed as nationally endangered, and there are estimated to be less than 250 of these little owls left in BC. I don't know if it was luck or irony, but the vehicle was driven by someone who is actively working to promote conservation and raise awareness about species at risk in the South Okanagan-Similkameen area. It was fortunate that this person also knew that SORCO was there to look

after this injured owl. I am pleased to report that the owl made a complete recovery and was released back into the wild on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

This incident re-affirms the importance of SORCO and why TLC is working to purchase and protect the land where the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls is located. Our fundraising efforts are continuing, and donations are still coming in. We are happy to report that the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has recently contributed \$7,500 to the campaign, and that the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society donated \$500. With these contributions, we now have less than \$150,000 to go. Your support and donations are still needed. Please help save SORCO.

## OPEN SOON - be sure to visit



Open to Members  
March 1st

Geraldine Peet Photo

### Abkhazi Garden

1964 Fairfield Road, Victoria



Grand Opening May 1st

Aaron Henderson Photo

### Craigflower

National Historic Sites

Admirals Rd & Craigflower Rd, Victoria

## 2004 TLC NATURE CRUISES



### Sightseeing Cruises

June to August

Race Rocks  
Islands off Oak Bay

3 hour cruise \$45-\$55 + GST

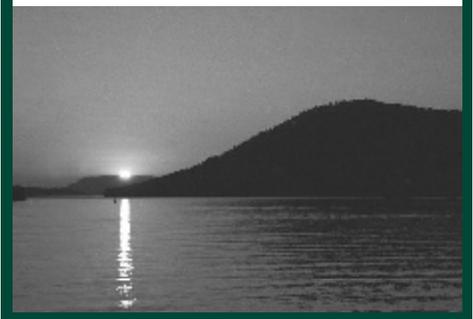
### Dinner Cruises

July-August

Cruising the Bays  
Illuminating the Night  
Saanich Inlet  
Southern Gulf Islands

4 hour cruise \$80 + GST

Come and **join Bill Turner, TLC Executive Director** on a dinner cruise as we dine and view some spectacular sights from the water.





## NORTH regional report

by Barry Booth  
Regional Manager

**B**eginning a job is something that involves a whole host of challenges. Now that I have been with *TLC* for almost a year, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on my transition to life as a *TLC* regional manager.

My first tasks, helping to run the conservation holidays last summer, were a great introduction to life with *TLC*. Once they were over, and I was back in my office just outside of Prince George, the real challenge of sorting out the northern region's priorities began.

One of the main objectives over the past year has been to build relationships and partnerships with relevant Provincial and Federal government agencies, non-government organizations, community groups, and local residents across the region. In many ways this has been relatively simple as the conservation community in BC is a small world. Many of the folks that I am now dealing with as *TLC's* regional manager were contacts that I had in my previous roles as a private consultant and as the Community Conservation Planner for the BC Important Bird Areas Program.

With the help from head office in Victoria, and from old and new contacts, I am starting to get the lay of the land in the northern region from a *TLC* perspective.

The transition from consulting biologist to a *TLC* regional manager has meant a number of changes. Long days in the field doing field research, have given way to more time working with people and their relationship to the landscape. It was a welcome transition, as I believe that people are at the centre of how real change is going to occur. The brief time that I have spent with *TLC* has allowed me to witness just how quickly we can see real, on the ground conservation occur.

I will not need to completely abandon my life as a field biologist however. I hope to assist the Canadian Wildlife



Bill Turner and Barry Booth hook up power from a solar panel installation at Talking Mountain Ranch  
Aaron Henderson Photo

Service and Ducks Unlimited with their waterfowl surveys in the various eco-sections each spring.

My biology background is also useful in my role on the technical committee for the Canadian Intermountain and the

Pacific Coast Joint Ventures. These two initiatives are partnerships of government agencies, First Nations, non-government conservation organizations, universities, industry and landowners that are united in working together to maintain, enhance, restore and manage habitat for the benefit of wildlife, especially birds, and people. Together, these two Joint Ventures form a delivery tool for bird conservation initiatives for almost all of BC. By being on the technical committees, I can both help direct the implementation of these initiatives as well as help *TLC* fulfil its mandate as a signatory to both Joint Ventures.

I have also joined the Northern Caribou Recovery Implementation Group for North-Central BC. This group is responsible for the production of a recovery action plan for the Scott, Wolverine, Takla, and Chase Mountain Caribou herds.

The program in the north is beginning to take shape. We are getting inquiries for covenants from number of different areas, there have been three recent donations of land of high conservation value, and we have also received significant donations from a number of individuals. I am looking forward to the upcoming year. It is going to be a busy one with numerous projects planned, as well as some coming to fruition.

# Regional Reports

## KOOTENAY regional report

by Kathleen Sheppard  
Regional Manager

The Land Conservancy celebrated the signing of a new covenant in the Kootenay Region in the fall of 2003. The covenant, which is co-held by the Kootenay Land Trust Society, protects 2.08 acres that lies adjacent to the Paradise Valley covenant which was signed in 1998.

Together, both these covenants provide secure habitat for a variety of wildlife including black bear, moose, deer, cougar, bobcat and small mammals of

various kinds. The property contains a mature Interior Cedar-Hemlock forest made up predominantly of Lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and Western cedars of approximately 90-100 years of age or less. In 1912, a large fire burned through the valley leaving no legacy trees on the property. However, the predominantly pine forest is beautiful and provides a peaceful, sheltered property for a retreat and healing centre.

In addition to protecting the forest and wildlife values on the property, the covenant also provides a secure location for the Kutenai Growth Society,



a Benailese healing centre that operates on the property. The perpetual protection of the land goes hand in hand with the holistic attitude of the healing centre.

We are once again gearing up for a productive year of riparian stewardship through our East Kootenay Rivers and Waterways Stewardship Program. Special thanks to the Vancouver Foundation and the Eden Conservation Trust for supporting us this year!

## OKANAGAN regional report

by Shawn Black  
Regional Manager

How much habitat do we need to conserve and protect if we want to ensure the survival of the species that depend on that habitat? Is 10% or 12% enough, or should we be trying to protect much more? This is a good question, and one that scientists and researchers looking at the South Okanagan-Similkameen area of BC are pondering. Recent mapping and analysis has shown that we have lost a significant amount of some very important habitat types in the South Okanagan and lower Similkameen valleys. For example, we have lost 97% of the in-stream habitat of the Okanagan River, 87% of the water birch – red osier dogwood wetland/riparian habitat, 61% of the antelope-brush – needle and thread grass habitat, and 56% of the

Ponderosa pine – antelope-brush habitat, to name a few that top the list.

This question of “how much” becomes critical, particularly for habitats that have been diminished to the point where there is so little left on the ground. Currently, scientists and researchers are telling us that approximately 40% of the historic levels for any given habitat is the target that we should be working towards. This has dramatic implications for *TLC* and others working to promote habitat stewardship and conservation in the SOS area. It means for some habitat types we need to protect everything that is left and, for others, we will have to restore and recreate habitat.

This spring, *TLC* will be involved in a number of habitat restoration and enhancement projects. We will be working with landowners, biologists, and volunteers to re-establish riparian



and grassland habitats. For example, our newest Conservation Partner, Tintah Creek Vineyards, is working with us to restore a small antelope-brush grassland, and we will be working with another landowner in the Similkameen to rehabilitate riparian habitat along the river. Although it is something that we do not talk about a lot, habitat restoration and enhancement is an important part of the conservation work *TLC* is a part of in the Okanagan Region. If the 40% level is indeed the target that we should be working towards, projects like these will be required. Acre by acre, we will do our part.

# Regional Reports

## VANCOUVER ISLAND/COAST regional report

by Eileen Palmer  
Regional Manager

2004 is poised to be an exciting and successful year for the region. We have planned many engaging events and programs in and around Vancouver Island designed to highlight *TLC* initiatives and partnerships. This spring and summer a main focus for the southern island region is on restoration programs.

We are very pleased to be working with students at Royal Roads University (RRU) and at the University of Victoria (UVic) on ecosystem restoration programs. RRU students are working on naturalizing a *TLC* property and covenant adjacent to Ayum Creek near

Sooke while UVic students, through the Restoration of Natural Systems program, are responsible for the design and implementation of a *TLC* covenant along the shoreline of the Gorge waterway. Both these projects are designed to provide educational opportunities for hands-on experience in restoration.

Another exciting restoration partnership is our Bioengineering Conservation Holiday set to take place starting mid-February. The aim of this Bioengineering project is to stabilize the hillslope that is eroding onto the only access road to the property. To stabilize the slope we will be harvesting willow cuttings and building wattle fences. For more information, call or see our website.



Regional staff are also preparing to open Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse as well as Abkhazi Garden this spring. Staff and volunteers have spent countless hours working on education and interpretation at these sites and hope to see many visitors in 2004.

Through *TLC*'s Ours Forever Campaign we soon will be announcing an ambitious program to secure several key properties within the Capital Region. This campaign will help protect significant natural spaces important not only ecologically, but for our regional community. We will be asking for your support in the near future.

## LOWER MAINLAND regional report

by Tracy Keeling  
Senior Project Officer

*TLC*'s Lower Mainland staff are thrilled to be sponsoring two students – Jamie Goodier and Christine Rudd – from the BCIT Geographic Information Systems program this winter. The students are working to produce a “Land and Feature Inventory System” database for *TLC*. Their project will concentrate on our Centre Creek site in Surrey, but it will have much broader application, as they will be developing a database and methodology to enable *TLC* to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to

inventory and track the features for all of our properties across BC.

This is great news for *TLC*. Not only do we have to keep track of a large amount of land across the province, but each property is characterized by different features. As we continue to grow and acquire more land, issues of organization and automation become more pressing. This new tool will be tremendously helpful in allowing us to meet those needs.

By May 2004 *TLC* should have a completed report outlining methodology, software and hardware



requirements, and the programming code authored for the project. We will also receive the Land and Feature Inventory System database which will include the features of *TLC*'s Centre Creek property located in Surrey, and a pilot version of the web application for viewing and editing maps online. Thank-you so much to Jamie and Christine for approaching *TLC* to sponsor them, and for all their hard work.

## TLC Welcomes New Partners

by Ramona Scott and Susan Wood  
Senior Project Officers

**T**LC staff have been working hard to expand our Conservation Partners Program. They have made new connections with a broad range of agricultural producers and associated agencies, to let them know about the program, how it can benefit them and protect important habitat at the same time. Our goal is to collaborate as much as possible with the agricultural community and land stewardship groups so that we are supporting each others' common goals and not acting at cross purposes. This notion has been well received, and there is a lot of interest in our program.

Currently we have 17 Conservation Partners and there are several more in process. Our target for Spring, 2004 is to have 40 new partners. Following are profiles of our two newest partners:

### Valhalla Farm Herbs 'N Things, Cowichan Valley, BC

Valhalla Farm is a 12-acre farm located in the beautiful Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. Pat & Henri Andersen are the owners and operators of this splendid farm and take pride in the appearance, as well as the usefulness of the plants they grow. They are stewarding two forested areas on their farm. A trail winds from their heritage farmhouse and herb garden down through huge maples trees and spring wildflowers, across a seasonal creek, along a pond bordered by willow and native water plants, then up to the far corner of the property where a beautiful cool, Douglas fir forest thrives. The Andersens intend to install self-guiding interpretive signs along the trail to offer information to visitors about the native herbs in their forest.

Valhalla Farm grows an ever increasing variety of familiar and unusual herbs. Everything is grown according to organic methods, including the livestock, which include sheep, chickens, wild ducks, geese and a llama. A display garden located on the farm shows the beauty as well as the function of herb plants. You may visit



Valhalla Herb Farm's Pat Andersen with some of her flock



Kenn Oldfield (left) and Mike Sarell with a snake barrier at Tinhorn Creek Winery

the farm on Saturdays and Sundays from April - October from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Farm tours are available on request.

Products: Fresh cut culinary herbs, herb plants, dried herbal blends, teas, and herbal preserves.  
[www.valhallaherbs.com](http://www.valhallaherbs.com)

### Tinhorn Creek Vineyard Oliver, B.C.

Kenn and Sandra Oldfield, Owner/General Manager and Owner/Winemaker, respectively, have welcomed a multifaceted stewardship approach to their vineyard management. In years past, Kenn and Sandra have, in consultation with a local biologist, restored a disturbed section of their property back to plant species native to the local landscape. Further restoration planting will be undertaken in March on another portion of denuded land, once used for storage of vineyard materials. This past fall, Tinhorn Creek agreed to be a part of a snake barrier fencing pilot project delivered by the South Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Program, with funding from the BC Agricultural Council. Industrial agricultural settings are often sites of high snake mortality, and the snake fence will guide snakes towards adjacent natural areas where they will be less at risk.

In addition, 2.5 acres of hillside at the front of the property and another 0.5 acre at the rear have been left in their natural state, and these areas support a spectacular antelope brush plant community. The antelope brush ecosystem as a whole covers only 0.06 % of BC's land base, so the commitment of landowners like Kenn and Sandra is a very important contribution towards ensuring the long-term survival of this plant community and the species that depend upon it. Where this natural area meets the winery demonstration vines, interpretive signs have been installed introducing visitors to some of the native plants and other natural attributes that are keystone features of Canada's rare "Pocket Desert" in the South Okanagan.

Tinhorn Creek Vineyard is a welcome addition to TLC's Conservation Partners program, as are the energy and commitment that Sandra and Kenn show towards land stewardship.  
[www.tinhorn.com](http://www.tinhorn.com)

# Conservation Holidays

## ATTENTION : ALL OUTDOOR CONSERVATION ENTHUSIASTS!

**Needed:** Volunteers with enthusiastic attitudes, an aptitude for fun, a desire to do on-the-ground work and a passion for exploring incredible locations all around British Columbia.

Do any of these criteria fit you? If you are reading this, the chances are that at least one fits, which means that you are perfectly suited for one of *TLC*'s Conservation Holidays! Read on for more information.

by Paula Hesje  
Vancouver Island Warden

**T**LC protects over 90,000 acres of land. Providing effective management and stewardship for our properties is a huge task, and to help us accomplish this we turn to our volunteers. One of our most effective programs over the years has been our Conservation Holidays. *TLC* has been running Conservation Holidays now for 6 years and it is a tried and true formula with huge results: fences, trails, bird boxes, solar power systems, new friends, belly rumbling laughs, new carpentry skills, satiated hungers, maintained properties and inspired volunteers, to name a few.

This year brings some exciting changes to our Conservation Holiday program. First, the name change from Working Holidays. We feel that "Conservation Holiday" better conveys what the experience is all about. A holiday based around conservation with education, fun and work all mixed in. Second, *TLC* Conservation Holidays are expanding in scope and we are piloting a number of new holiday types this year:



National Trust Warden Dan Delaney examines a bald eagle skeleton found during a Conservation Holiday on South Winchelsea Island  
Aaron Henderson Photo

**Adventure Holidays:** *TLC* has partnered with Ocean River Sports to offer this unique vacation in which participants will spend 2 days doing outdoor conservation work followed by 2 days exploring, by kayak, the 19 islands in the stunning Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago. Ocean River Sports will lead the kayak trip, a wonderful way to view the wildlife and get a closeup look at these magnificent islands. The guides are fully trained and no experience is necessary.

**Family Holidays:** At Talking Mountain Ranch, in BC's Cariboo country, *TLC* will be hosting our first holiday designed to involve those energetic young folk. Children ages 12 and older are welcome to join their parents/guardians on this holiday, which aims to provide a rewarding and educational experience in this distinctive landscape of cactus, grasslands, cattle and swimming holes.

**Leadership Training Holidays:** To help us run Conservation Holidays we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who can be a co-leader with a *TLC* staff member. We are looking for outgoing people who have previously participated on a Conservation Holiday. *TLC* will provide leadership training during this holiday to prepare participants in group coordination, health and safety, menu planning and the facilitation of fun. Leading these conservation and stewardship projects is an enjoyable, productive, and fulfilling experience. Also great on the resume!

**Power To Be:** *TLC* is partnering with Power To Be, an adventure therapy society for young people which integrates nature and experiential learning to enhance personal growth. *TLC* and Power to Be will be hosting this holiday for youth with eating disorders and will involve both work and kayaking. This holiday will provide the youth with a challenging and stimulating experience that will help develop their self-esteem, confidence and restore their optimism with life. This should not be too difficult a task on beautiful South Winchelsea Island!

As well as all of the above holidays we will also be hosting our 'usual' holidays at 8 different locations with varying projects, environments and accommodation. Choose a holiday that best fits your interests, comfort level and location. Come lend *TLC* a hand in managing the incredible properties we have protected and have a wonderful holiday at the same time.

## TLC Regional Manager Works at Cornwall Sites

by Eileen Palmer  
Regional Manager, Vancouver Island

Shortly before Christmas, I returned from my three and a half month exchange with the UK National Trust (NT). I partnered with Nick Lawrence, an Area Manager for Cornwall based at Lanhydrock Estate near Bodmin, to learn how the Trust operates. I have always been convinced the National Trust is an excellent model for *TLC*, and this exchange further solidified that belief. I had the opportunity to really understand NT's structure and strategic direction. Being based in Cornwall, one of the Trust's most diverse and dynamic regions, also provided a tremendous context for understanding how that NT vision is put into practice.

Nick arranged many meetings for me with different groups within the Trust including Catering, Retail, Donor Development, Policy, Community Learning and Volunteer, Membership Recruitment staff, as well as Property and Countryside Managers and their support team for each site (Head Gardeners, Wardens and Site Services). I also sat in on monthly regional meetings and participated in staff training days (I even dug a soil pit in a sheep field in Yorkshire my second week there). The wealth of information, sample documents and the staffs' candid personalities made each meeting a friendly environment from which to learn. The most challenging part of the meetings was getting used to drinking instant coffee!

I also had the opportunity to join the Trust's Housekeeping Study Days: training provided for cleaners of the Trust's historic estates. Three intensive days learning how to care for artifacts such as ceramics, textiles, metalwork, photos, plaster and books.

Like much of England, the Cornish landscape is marked by many centuries of human activity. Cornish mine sites, prehistoric ruins, and countryside estates dot the landscape and land uses such as agriculture have had a major influence on the region. The NT is working on many of these sites and also helping farmers develop Whole Farm Plans. On the Lizard, for example, NT staff are working to encourage a bird important to Cornish culture, the Chough, back from 50 years of extirpation. Loss of well-grazed pastures and egg collection were significant factors in the decline of the species. Through partnerships with farmers, cattle cliff-grazing along the coastline is being reintroduced, which provides the Choughs with a well-grazed field for feeding adjacent to their nesting sites. Currently, six Choughs have returned to the Lizard and are now monitored by a volunteer team.



Cape Cornwall

Eileen Palmer Photo



Lanhydrock Gate House

Eileen Palmer Photo

The Trust has recognized its role and influence as one of Britain's major landowners and works to promote partnerships with government, other charities and other landowners. Organizations such as English Nature, Cornwall County Archeological Unit and the Environment Agency told me about countless programs they were working on with the Trust.

Although I participated in many meetings, workshops and toured many NT sites, I did find opportunities to enjoy "the UK's best autumn since '52". I was provided with a car with which to tootle around the countryside (narrowly missing the many hedgerows), and go hiking on coastside trails, stopping on occasion to munch on Cornish pasties. Cream teas I found quite addictive, as were the many ale varieties.

*TLC* plans to continue exchanges with the National Trust. This spring Bill Turner will visit Cornwall and will meet some of the Trust staff with whom I worked. My exchange partner Nick Lawrence will visit Victoria and volunteer for *TLC* for 2 months, starting in May. We look forward to providing him with amazing experiences in BC.

All the experiences and information I've gathered from the exchange must now be articulated and shared with *TLC* staff, members, volunteers and partners. It is my hope that what I've learned both personally and professionally is shown through *TLC*'s growth and success in years to come.

## National Trust Warden Brings his Experience to TLC

by Dan Delaney



Paula Hesje and Dan working at South Winchelsea Island

Aaron Henderson Photo

I met Paula, *TLC*'s Vancouver Island Warden, when she came over to England to work with our National Trust estate team for four months in 2002. A great ambassador for *TLC*, Paula's enthusiasm to learn from The National Trust's 107 years of experience in conservation, and her clear love of the B.C environment and *TLC*'s cause quickly shone through. The members of our Wardens team were all certainly inspired and rallied to the cause, passing on as much knowledge as we could in our short time together. In our own way, we felt we were contributing to conserving some of this mythical land that, compared to our own country, remained remarkably natural; our very own idea of heaven. Tales of bears, whales, eagles and cougars, deserted islands, rainforests, untouched shorelines and endless mountains... music to the ears of any National Trust Warden.

The seed of a return visit had certainly been sown in my mind, and the lure of *TLC* and BC quickly became irresistible.

Indeed, it only took six months from Paula's return to Canada for me to contact *TLC*, and become the first NT Warden to come and work alongside *TLC* staff. I wanted to be able to directly contribute my 5 years of experience as a Coastal Warden with the National Trust, to foster the spirit of an international exchange between the two organizations and to explore some of the fabled rugged natural beauty of the province. It has turned out to be every thing that I had hoped for and indeed, the greatest adventure of my life.

In my time with the National Trust it has been my great pleasure to have worked within the most beautiful and natural places to be found in the British Isles. I have spent the last three years working on a gorgeous sandy beach and sand dunes within an estuary system regarded as one of the most natural and beautiful in the whole region. Never more than two minutes from the rolling ocean, the phrase "life's a beach" had very real meaning.

Even so, when I arrived in Canada in October, I was immediately struck by the wildness of the landscape compared to the UK. The residents of BC have a very precious resource entrusted to their care. The landscape here is clearly modified by human activity, but it possesses a sense of nature stronger than any I have seen. BC residents are very fortunate to have the opportunity and the ability to conserve areas of natural heritage before they are irreversibly changed. Such natural diversity and rugged beauty is a truly precious resource, and should be treasured. I knew I would be touched deeply by the landscape and nature of B.C but I did not realize just how much.

In West Sussex, we are conserving small, isolated, remnant sites that have been heavily modified by human activities over the last few millennia, and which are perhaps used to excess by the public. Millions of people live within an hour's drive of any given property and increasingly, people are searching for some green space as a refuge. We spend a vast amount of time purely managing our visitors. At times it feels as if we are more Shepherds than Wardens! We constantly guide the flow of visitors through our properties and minimize the impacts of their many activities. I believe our main success is our ability to balance the varying interests of public access, conservation and sustained economic activity.

I have been very impressed with *TLC*'s successes, scale and structure given its relative youth. The organization strikes me as very tenacious and professional and in many ways it is just like home away from home. *TLC*'s staff are very similar to those I work with in the NT; many like minded and professional people committed to conserving their heritage and building an organization that provides security for the future. It has been my greatest pleasure to trade my experience and knowledge of Wardening in The National Trust for five months in this amazing place working with such a great team. I will continue to do all that I can to assist *TLC* in their efforts of becoming a "National Trust" for British Columbia.

## How the New Privacy Legislation Impacts *TLC*'s Operations and the Information We Collect About You

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, new legislation was enacted in BC and across Canada to help protect people's privacy by setting rules for the ways in which businesses and organizations can collect and use personal information from the people they have contact with. One of the main impacts of this legislation is to prevent (or at least to put stricter guidelines around) the selling or trading of mailing lists from one organization to another. It also is intended to make sure that organizations collect only the information they need, that they only use that information for the purposes they collected it for, and that they have protections in place to safeguard the information once it has been collected.

*TLC* has always treated the information we collect with great respect and with appropriate consideration for the privacy of the individuals involved. As a result of the new legislation, we are scrutinizing all of our practices to make sure that we handle personal information with the highest level of care, and that everyone who provides us with information about themselves understands why we collect the information and what we do with it.

### What information do we collect and why do we collect it?

*TLC* gathers contact information about our members, donors and supporters, as well as keeping track of their donations, specific interests within *TLC* (for example if they are a volunteer, if they've been on a conservation holiday or rented a cottage, etc.), limited financial information for our monthly

donors, and other specific information people may tell us to help us better serve them. This information is kept secure and can only be accessed by a few designated, trained personnel. Everyone who has access to this information has taken an oath of confidentiality.

This information is important to *TLC* for three main reasons:

- we must, by law, keep records of our members and our donors, and provide them with receipts for their contributions;
- we must provide our members with information about our meetings, bylaws and elections and provide the opportunity to vote and participate in the operations of *TLC*;
- it allows us to provide information to our members, donors, and supporters about the activities and programs of *TLC* and *TLC* Enterprises, including our need for support.

### What do we do with the information we collect?

*TLC* does not sell, trade or share any personal information with any other organization or business. That is a firm policy.

In addition to legal requirements, we use the information we have to stay in touch with our members, donors and supporters, to keep them up-to-date on our activities and programs. This includes sending out our newsletter, notices about upcoming events, our catalogue and, periodically, a request for support. We try to keep this

information coordinated and keep it limited. We believe that this is reasonable and would be expected by anyone providing us with their support.

### What if you don't want to receive this information?

Simply contact us, by phone, mail or email and let us know what you do and do not want to receive. We will be happy to accommodate your wishes.

### Any more questions?

To learn more about the legislation, you can go to the government's website at [http://www.mser.gov.bc.ca/FOI\\_POP/privacy](http://www.mser.gov.bc.ca/FOI_POP/privacy) or call their hotline at (250) 356-1851.

For more information about *TLC*'s privacy policy or our practices, contact any of our regional offices or head office, or check out our website.

**For specific issues and problems, you can contact our Chief Privacy Officer, Ian Fawcett, at (250) 479-8053 or by email: [privacy@conservancy.bc.ca](mailto:privacy@conservancy.bc.ca)**

### ***TLC*'s policy is founded on the Ten Principles for Protection of Personal Information:**

- 1. Accountability - take responsibility for compliance**
- 2. Identify the purposes for collecting the information**
- 3. Acquire consent for the collection and use of personal information**
- 4. Limit collection of information to only what is necessary**
- 5. Limit use to only what has been indicated**
- 6. Ensure accuracy of the information collected and used**
- 7. Ensure safeguards are in place to protect the information in our care**
- 8. Openness - provide information about our policies and procedures**
- 9. Provide access for individuals to their own information**
- 10. Develop procedures to handle complaints and challenges.**

# Business Partnerships

## Celebrating Partnership...and Celebrating British Columbia

The Land Conservancy has developed a major new partnership with British Columbia Magazine. The magazine, which is owned and operated by Tourism BC is a magnificent celebration of all that is wonderful about our Province. It is sold across BC, across Canada and around the world.

BC Magazine has signed on as part of *TLC's* Business Sponsorship Program. For every magazine subscription purchased by a *TLC* member or supporter, or purchased through *TLC*, the magazine will make a donation of \$5 to *TLC*.

As well, *TLC* will be advertising our programs and projects in each quarterly edition of the magazine, and will be distributing our Green Gifts Catalogue to BC magazine's 80,000 subscribers later this year. This partnership presents a significant opportunity for *TLC*, as the magazine's readership – those who appreciate the beauty and the

value of our province's natural and cultural heritage – is exactly the kind of people we want to reach with our message as well. In fact, several feature stories over the past few issues have included properties and projects – such as the Sooke Hills and the grasslands of ~~the South Okanagan – that~~ *TLC* is working on.

To get your subscription, and benefit *TLC* as well, you can check out our website, or contact BC Magazine directly at 1-800-663-7611 or 604-713-0400. Be sure to quote "Special Offer TLC04" when you subscribe, so that *TLC* will be credited.

## Business Sponsorship Program

This innovative program continues to grow with more professional services signing on as *TLC* Business Sponsors. These sponsors have agreed to make a donation to *TLC* every time one of our members uses their service or buys their product. Our sponsors:

### REALTORS

#### Barry Bowes

Bowes Properties  
1535 Westall Ave., Victoria V8T 2G6  
Phone: (250) 595-6388

#### Richard Hughes

Royal LePage Duncan Realty  
481 Trans Canada Highway, Duncan V9L 3R7  
Ph: (250) 746-6621 or 1-800-933-3156

#### Dirk Loedel

Royal LePage Prince George  
1625-4th Ave, Prince George V2L 3K2  
Phone: (250) 564-4488

#### John Pinchback

Sutton Group Westcan Realty  
103 – 4400 Chatterton Way, Victoria V8X 5J2  
Phone: (250) 479-3333

#### Heather Holm

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484 Main Street, Penticton, BC V2A 5C5  
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Phone: (250) 642-6361

#### Dave Secco

Coast Capital Real Estate  
110-4460 Chatterton Way, Victoria V8X 5J2  
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#### Colin Lagadyn

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#### Norma Campbell

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### LAWYERS

#### Derek Ashurst

Salmond Ashurst, Notaries & Lawyers  
1620 Cedar Hill Cross Rd, Victoria V8P 2P6  
Phone: (250) 477-4143

### TRAVEL AGENTS

#### Heritage House Travel Plus

1521 Main St., Penticton V2A 5G7  
Phone: (250) 493-7171  
Or 1-800-379-6469

### FINANCIAL PLANNERS

#### Mike Cochran

HSBC Securities (Canada)  
2nd Fl., 102-771 Vernon Ave, Victoria V8X 5A7  
Phone: (250) 405-7260 or (888) 391-9311

### CONSUMER SERVICES

#### Energuide Home Assessment Program

City Green  
12 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC, V8W 1P7  
Phone: (250) 381-9995

### MAGAZINES & PUBLICATIONS

#### British Columbia Magazine

PO Box 2682, Vancouver BC, V6B 3W8  
Phone: (604) 713-0400 or (800) 663-7611

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

#### Frances Litman Photography

Victoria, BC www.franceslitman.com  
Phone: (250) 383-0206

*More information about our Business Sponsors is available on our website*



## Board of Directors 2003 - 2004

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Kate Stewart Shannon Williams  
Dave Zehnder

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### KOOTENAY REGIONAL OFFICE

251 Spokane Street  
Kimberley, BC V1A 2E6  
Phone: (250) 427-4711  
Fax: (250) 427-4711 (call first)  
grasslands@conservancy.bc.ca

### NORTH REGIONAL OFFICE

Phone: (250) 564-2064  
Fax: (250) 564-2064 (call first)  
north@conservancy.bc.ca

## LEAVING A LEGACY

A gift to TLC as part of your estate can help protect our heritage forever. If you would like more information about:

- ESTATE PLANNING
- WILLS
- BEQUESTS
- ANNUITIES

or other planned gifts, please contact TLC or check out our website.



## VACATION SUGGESTIONS

### TLC Cottages Available for Rent

For those who want to enjoy a relaxing vacation in a "close to nature" setting, consider renting one of TLC's four cottages. South Winchelsea Island, Ayum Creek (Sooke), Cowichan River or Nimpo Lake locations.

### TLC Conservation Holidays

If you want a more energetic vacation, with lots of fun, good friends, good food and a chance to make a worthwhile contribution, then give some thought to signing up for a Conservation Holiday. South Winchelsea Island, Wildwood, Cowichan River, Talking Mountain Ranch, Horsefly River, South Okanagan and East Kootenay locations.

*Check out our Website, or call our office for more details or to make a reservation.*

## Are You a Member Yet?

TLC currently has about 2,000 members. We would like that to be 20,000! To build our membership we are asking everyone – our current members and our supporters to help with this recruitment. First of all, if you're not yet a member, please consider joining. Also, we are asking everyone to speak with their family, their friends, neighbours and co-workers to encourage them to join TLC as well. There is nothing more persuasive than direct personal contact and the good recommendations of our members and supporters. If your friends understand how strongly you feel about supporting TLC's work, and about the satisfaction you receive in knowing that your help is allowing TLC to protect so many special places around our province, we're sure they will want to help as well.

TLC provides a range of Membership options, so that everyone is able to participate, according to their means and interests. We have the following basic levels:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student |

We also have both individual and family memberships at the following levels:

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporter | or | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10/Month Supporter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$350 Sustainer | or | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30/Month Sustainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron   | or | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90/Month Patron    |

**To join TLC, contact any of our offices, or you can join online at our website.**