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# LANDmark

## Vital Fraser Valley Wetland at Risk

TLC launches campaign to protect site before it's too late

by Heather Skydt  
Communications Officer

### Fast facts:

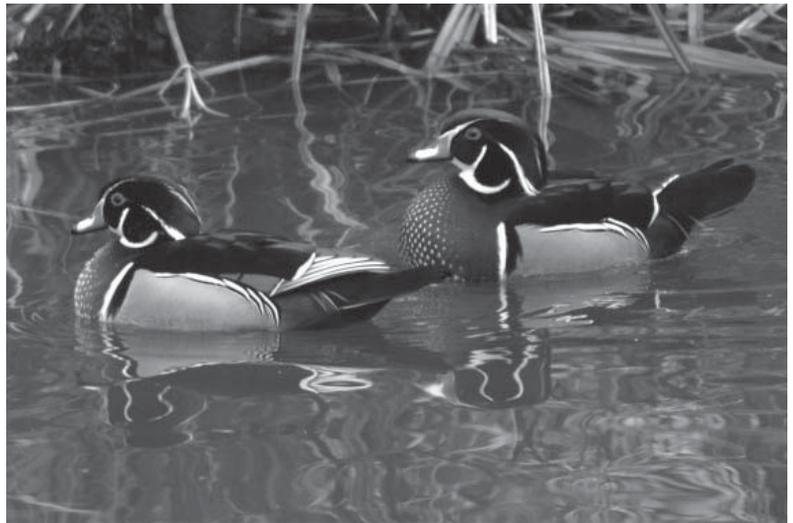
- Two-thirds of the population of BC, over 2.5 million people, live in the Fraser River Basin.
- 80% of the wetlands in this area have already been destroyed.
- Wetlands are essential sources of drinking water and act as natural filters by trapping sediments and contaminants. They also provide habitat to numerous wildlife species.

Not far from the sprawling cities of Langley and Abbotsford in BC's Lower Mainland, hidden away in a lonely patch of forest just north of the Trans Canada Highway, lies something truly remarkable: a large and spectacular series of wetlands undisturbed by human development. Found on a 163 acre property known as West Creek Wetlands, the site is one of the largest remaining wildlife habitat areas in the Township of Langley, and home to nearly 170 different types of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, including 18 threatened or endangered species.

On October 10, 2006, TLC launched

a public campaign seeking donations towards the purchase of this critical ecosystem. If protected, West Creek Wetlands will be managed as a nature park with low-impact facilities such as walking trails, boardwalks, and bird viewing areas, and will eventually provide a valuable site for educating students, families, and citizens about the importance of wetlands to our way of life.

The launch represents the final step in a project that began over two years ago, when TLC began working behind-the-scenes with several local community groups, including the Glen Valley Watersheds Society and the Langley Environmental Partners Society, to raise funds for the purchase. Now – thanks to a very generous donation by the current property owner, and support from the local community – most of the money needed to buy this \$3.6 million property has already been raised. To



Nearly 170 wildlife species depend on West Creek Wetlands for food and habitat, including Wood Ducks (shown here). Photo by Hugh Smith.

complete the sale, TLC needs to raise the remaining \$150,000 by December 10, 2006.

For more details, please contact TLC's Lower Mainland office at (604) 733-2313. If you wish to make a donation towards this exciting purchase, simply call 1-877-485-2422; or visit our website at [www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca) ■

**Editor's Note:** *If successful, West Creek Wetlands will be TLC's fourth project protecting wildlife habitat in the Fraser River system, joining Codd Wetlands in Pitt Meadow, Centre Creek in Surrey, and our Horsefly River property near Williams Lake.*

# Executive Director's Message



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Victoria, BC V9B 1M5

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Charitable Registration #  
88902-8338 RR0001

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Iona Campagnolo,  
Lt.-Governor of BC

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This newsletter is printed on recycled  
paper.

Sometimes I wish that there was a better way to say, “Thank you.” Those two words convey the meaning of what I want to say to you, but fall far short in terms of expressing the conviction with which I write them. Let me explain:

I recently travelled to Trail, BC, for the unveiling of the new Fort Shepherd Conservation Area (announced in this newsletter). For more than 40 years, local residents have been searching for ways to protect this spectacular wildlife area, but were unable to do so until *TLC* came onboard to work with Teck Cominco and other community partners.

During the event, an incredible number of local residents approached me to express their profound gratitude for *TLC*'s help. They shared with me stories about now-departed fathers who had first recognized the area as a “special place” in need of protection. They told me heart-warming tales about the work local residents had done to help wildlife on the site. And over and over again they said, “Thank you. You made our dreams come true.”

Of course, the credit I receive really belongs to you. ***TLC* only exists because of your support.** So when I say, “Thank you,” to you, I say it not only on behalf of *TLC*, but on behalf of all the local communities across this province that don't get the chance to show you their appreciation.

They are just two simple, but heartfelt words. I hope you know how much they really mean.

THANK YOU!



Bill Turner,  
*TLC*'s Executive Director

## ***TLC* saves special places**

The places you love most in BC – spectacular wilderness areas, fertile agricultural lands, and priceless cultural landmarks – *TLC* works to protect.

**Forever. For everyone.**

*Thank you for making all our work possible. Your support makes all the difference!*



*TLC*'s Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor property near Kimberley, BC.  
Photo by Kathryn Martell

# Historic Site with Critical Elk Habitat Saved

Mining giant partners with *TLC* to protect site of BC's first gold rush; donates \$1 million in land value

by John Keller  
Development Officer

**T**eck Cominco Metals Ltd. has joined with *TLC* to protect 2,200 acres of important ecological and historical land along the western shore of the Columbia River south of Trail. **This exciting project becomes the largest *TLC*-protected property in BC's Interior.**

To be known as The Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area, the land has been recognized for more than forty years as being of critical importance to many species of wildlife, especially as winter range for elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. A number of species-at-risk, including Great Blue Herons and Townsend's Big-Eared Bats, also make their homes on the site.

In addition, the protected area has a significant history as the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Shepherd. This trading post was built in 1857, just north of the Canada/US border, in response to the surveying of the 49th Parallel. The Dewdney Trail led through Fort Shepherd, and it became an important trading and stopping place during the Kootenay gold rush. The Fort was closed in 1870, never achieving the success that had been hoped for due to the lack of suitable land for farming and settlement. Fort Shepherd burned down in 1872 and all that remains on the site today is a cairn erected in 1951 to mark the location.

To make the purchase of this site a reality, Teck Cominco donated

\$1 million of the land value to *TLC*, leaving only \$500,000 of the appraised land value to be raised by *TLC* and its funding partners. *TLC* will manage the site in partnership with the Trail Wildlife Association.

*TLC* and Teck Cominco have been working together for seven years in conserving the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor near Kimberley. The Fort Shepherd project expands the partnership and bodes well for future collaborations. ■

**Editor's note:** *You, as a TLC Member, deserve special thanks for making this protected area possible. Your support helped fund TLC's negotiations with Teck Cominco, without which this deal could not have happened.*



Bill Turner celebrates the creation of the 2,200 acre Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area with Graham Kenyon of the Trail Wildlife Association and Mark Edwards of Teck Cominco. *Photo by Teck Cominco*

## Trail Wildlife Association excited about Fort Shepherd

Excerpts from article by Graham Kenyon

The establishment of the Fort Shepherd Conservancy has been the realization of a dream for the members of the Trail Wildlife Association (TWA). For over 40 years, the TWA has worked hard to enhance habitat on the site, track animal migration patterns, and record and catalogue the habitat and wildlife on this precious property.

“Being in at the creation of a new Conservancy that will be preserved forever is an awesome responsibility,” said Rick Fillmore, who chairs the TWA Wildlife Committee. “The opportunity to work with *TLC* and our local community in building an asset that future generations will be proud of is tremendously exciting. The area has so much potential, from habitat to heritage, from education to recreation. And above all it is a place for wildlife, forever.”

The Trail Wildlife Association and *TLC* will now undertake the creation of a management plan to ensure the site's long-term health and survival. “We want to engage the community in the process”, said Fillmore, “Because that's how people get to understand what's at stake here, and what's involved in building a sustainable ecosystem.”

# On the Menu: Keating Farm Co-op

by Paula Hesje  
Coordinator, Conservation Partners Program

David Mincey, owner of the acclaimed Camille's restaurant in downtown Victoria, is passionate about locally grown food. His menu is renowned for showcasing the best in local flavours. As President of the Island Chef's Collaborative – a group dedicated to serving local, organic produce and meat – he works with other top chefs from Vancouver Island to promote sustainable agriculture, and educate customers about the dangers of genetically modified and manipulated foodstuffs. Plus, he is a tireless advocate for local farmers, and the need to ensure that BC farmers have continued access to prime agricultural land – very special places that are disappearing daily due to urban sprawl and other pressures.

TLC is thrilled to announce that David has brought this passion to the new farming Co-op at Keating Farm Estate in the Cowichan Valley – an 11-hectare property protected by TLC members like you earlier this year.

**“Keating Farm represents a great opportunity to preserve a part of Vancouver Island’s agricultural heritage** and to help us remember that we once were, and still could be, a farming community. As an advocate for farmers and farming concerns, I often speak about the fragile state of our sustainable foods systems and the rampant loss of vital farmland. Words can be powerful tools, but eventually there comes a time to step up and be accountable for one’s beliefs. It is with great pride that we at Camille’s participate in the Keating Community Farm Co-op,” says David.

In buying a \$5000 Co-op membership, David is helping to ensure that the

Keating Farm land will be used for organic food production and provide opportunities for selected members to farm. The membership ensures his access to food produced on the farm – for himself, or for use at Camille’s – as well as to educational activities and events held at the site. The Co-op currently has mixed vegetables, honey bees, orchard trees, aromatherapy, and agro-forestry farm enterprises.

Thanks to Co-op members like David, Keating Farm provides a model for how a community can come together to preserve local, healthy food production in their area. That’s great news for farmers, chefs, and food-lovers everywhere!

To find out more about Keating Farm Co-op membership, call Ramona at (250) 479-8301. ■



***“The Land Conservancy has been a great inspiration to us and has continually shown how powerful a small but determined group of people can be. They are an ethical, moral organization operating successfully in a world where profits, return on investment and sub-division potential are what drive most real estate transactions.”***

***–David Mincey, owner of Camille’s restaurant in Victoria shown here with friend Laura Matthias of Phoenix Organic Farm.***

## Are you dreaming of a

### Check out TLC’s 2006-2007 Catalogue

This year, show how much you care by “adopting” a wolf for that special someone on your list. They’ll receive the beautiful gift package shown here, personalized just for them.

Place your order today by calling us at 1-888-738-0533. Or, view our complete gift selection – including special camping getaways, lunch at a beautiful garden, or tickets for a relaxing boat cruise – by visiting our website at:

[www.conservancy.bc.ca/catalogue](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/catalogue).

Your family will love these unique and thoughtful gifts. Here’s what Emma, one of our younger customers, had to say about her recent purchase:



## 6 reasons to buy locally-grown food:

- Exceptional taste and freshness
- Strengthens the local economy
- Supports the livelihood of farmers
- Reduces greenhouse gases by reducing food transportation
- You know what you are eating (with respect to modified foods and pesticides)
- Protects natural habitat

# “Green” Christmas?



*“When I saw that I could put my money toward adopting and protecting the Red-legged Frog, I knew just what I had to do with my birthday money. It usually never lasts more than a week, but never has spending it felt so good. When my package arrived, the magnet immediately went up on our fridge. He became part of the family, joining us at every meal.”*

Your purchase will make a real difference for BC’s special places. So don’t delay, make your holiday “green” today. We’ll make sure your gifts arrive on time!

TLC supporter Emma proudly shows off the personalized adoption certificate she ordered from the TLC catalogue. The Grey Wolf, shown above, is this year’s featured adoption animal. *Photo by Kathleen Gibbard.*

## Did you know?

Camas was once a key food staple for several First Nations groups in BC.

Bulbs from the plant – harvested in the fall – could be baked and eaten immediately, or dried and stored for winter rations.

In fact, the plant was actively cultivated by some groups, like the Saanich and Songhees peoples on Vancouver Island, for hundreds of years prior to European settlement. Plots were passed from generation to generation, and managed using controlled burns to remove shrubs and other weeds.



# Help Wanted: Aspiring Young Artists

## Children’s Submissions Needed for Publication

It’s time to produce *TLC’s* annual Eco-Activity Guide for 2007 – a fun and informative activity book for kids – and we’re looking for creative children across BC to help us.

This year’s theme will be “The Best of BC’s Special Places”, featuring *TLC* properties from around the province and showcasing the incredible wilderness areas, agricultural lands, and cultural heritage sites that make BC unique. Drawings, poetry, games, word puzzles... let the creative juices flow in choosing what to send us for inclusion in this year’s exciting edition.

### Here are some ideas for the three sections in this year’s guide:

**Wilderness:** Send us drawings of animals that live on *TLC* sites near you. Tell us about their habitat, or create a

maze for that animal to find its favourite food.

**Agriculture:** Draw us a picture of your favourite locally-grown foods, or farm animal. Tell us some wacky facts about the food or animal you pick. Or maybe send us drawings of your family picking berries or fruit at a farm in your area.

**Culture Heritage:** Tell us about your visit to a *TLC* historic site. Create a word-search for Craigflower Manor or Kogawa House. Or, with your parent’s permission, tell us about your own ancestry. Draw a picture of your family shield, or tell us the meaning or history behind your family name.

Be as creative as you can be; this is your time to shine!

For more information about the Eco-Activity Guide, sample ideas, *TLC* sites, and how you can submit your work for publication, visit:

[www.conservancy.bc.ca/ecoactivity](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/ecoactivity)

The best *TLC* site at which to find camas is Christmas Hill in Victoria. In spring the site’s Garry Oak meadow is carpeted with a dazzling array of wildflowers, with blue camas taking centre stage. It’s a spectacular scene well worth seeing again and again.

### More about Christmas Hill:

In 2000, a housing development threatened the long-term survival of the Garry Oak meadow in Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. With the help of Members like you, *TLC* joined forces with the municipality of Saanich to create a buffer zone for this vital ecosystem.

Within a year, four large housing lots were successfully added to the north side of the Sanctuary. All that remains is for *TLC* to raise the remaining \$250,000 in loaned money that was used to complete the purchase and protect this special place.



Camas (left) produces a beautiful blue flower from May to June. Christmas Hill (above), though still in need of financial support, is particularly rich in this striking plant. *Illustration by Kathleen Gibbard. Photo by Dr. Michael Penn.*

# Investing with Passion

## Financial advisors who can help you make money AND save special places

by Wendy Innes  
Membership Services Coordinator

For most of us the words “passion” and “financial planning” rarely make it into the same sentence. Financial advisors Brian Pinch and Frank Arnold – of the Victoria-based Pinch Group at Raymond James Ltd. – are working hard to change that by showing clients how the value of socially responsible investing (SRI) and an enthusiasm for the natural world can be a winning combination.

For both Frank and Brian, socially responsible investing was an interest that grew from a shared passion for the environment. Frank – who in addition to being a Certified Financial Planner also has degrees in Environmental Studies and Mathematics – shares how he feels their business is making a difference, “Today the world is facing multiple threats. We need to use every tool at our disposal. While SRI won’t save the world by itself, it can be an effective agent of change.”

“Why not?” says Brian when asked about socially responsible investing. **“Ethics are central to the way we live our lives. Why ignore them when it comes to investing?”** Our approach to SRI is to integrate it with the best practices in conventional investing.” With combined industry experience of over 50 years, and a reputation of integrity and results, the Pinch Group can show you how without sacrificing return or increasing risk.

Their dedication to protecting the environment through their work has made the team’s long-term support



Advantage Program partners the Pinch Group make it easy to invest in your financial future and BC’s special places.

Back row from left to right: Michael Higgins, Lori Woytowich, Frank Arnold. Front from left to right: Brian Pinch, Mark Duncan

and involvement with TLC a natural fit. From facilitating gifts of securities to donating proceeds from financial planning seminars to TLC, this group is committed to its beliefs.

Saving the Sooke Potholes, inspired both Brian and Frank to be even more active in their support of TLC. “I have seen so many of my favourite places on Vancouver Island destroyed. They have been falling like dominoes. It would have been terrible to lose this treasure,” Brian recalls. Together he and Frank challenged each of their clients to donate to TLC’s Potholes campaign, and offered to match any donations made.

Today, inspired by the number of properties saved, they are as excited as ever about supporting TLC. They are partners in TLC’s Advantage Program -- an exciting initiative that links TLC, local businesses and members like you together for the benefit of special places – and have offered that, **for every TLC Member that becomes a client, The Pinch Group will make a donation to TLC based on the amount invested or \$200, whichever is greater.**

“Clients receive good investment advice and money is donated back to TLC. The more money we can give TLC the happier we will be,” says Brian.

As BC’s leading team of investment advisors with a focus on socially responsible investing, the Pinch Group at Raymond James Ltd. is making it easy to invest in our financial future and BC’s most special places, giving us all something to be passionate about. ■

To learn how socially responsible investing can help you, visit the Pinch Group’s informative website at [www.pinchgroup.ca](http://www.pinchgroup.ca). Or call them toll-free at 1-877-405-2400.

### Take Advantage today!

Find out more about TLC’s Advantage Program and how it can benefit you at: [www.conservancy.bc.ca/advantage](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/advantage)



Proud member of TLC’s  
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# The Legacy Corner

## Donating Your Securities is Simple and Tax-Smart!

by *Carla Funk*  
Planned Giving Coordinator

Louise Irwin has always been an avid hiker throughout British Columbia. She has watched in growing dismay as pristine lands have suddenly been developed into housing, golf courses or high-end resorts. "People don't always know that their favourite hiking spots, which they have enjoyed for years, are not parks but actually private land." With land values climbing, the allure of the development dollar has been overwhelming, and these natural lands are quickly disappearing. She noticed one organization which was doing something about that and wanted to support it.

"TLC strategically buys the really special properties while they are still available. If you want to save land and heritage places in BC, this is the obvious choice," says Louise.

Louise has donated to TLC since its beginning nearly 10 years ago, but this year she wanted to do more. A new tax incentive announced by the Canadian government in 2006 spurred her into action. Louise discovered from her accountant that she could liquidate a

portion of her stock portfolio without having to pay capital gains while making a donation to TLC. This was of particular interest because many years ago, she had purchased publicly listed securities for very little. Over the years the investment had grown to a significant amount. She knew that at some point she was going to have to sell the stock, but worried about what that would do to her income bracket for taxation.

Donating the stock to a charity would allow her to receive tax credits based on the value of stock donated, with no income tax implications. Louise was pleasantly surprised to find that donating stocks to TLC was really very easy too. "All I did was make two calls, it was that simple!"

Louise let TLC know her intentions, and then called her broker with the same message. The rest was taken care of by the broker, TLC and TLC's broker. A charitable tax receipt was issued to Louise based on the value of the stock at the close of the trading day when the transfer



By donating securities (stocks, bonds and mutual funds) directly to TLC, rather than selling and donating the cash value, you can avoid capital gains and save special places including your favourite hiking spots.  
*Photo by Alison Spriggs.*

was received by TLC's broker. Louise's receipt will be used against her income tax this year, and any portion of the gift which has been unused can be carried forward for up to five years.

The new tax laws made a big difference in Louise's ability to support a group whose work she truly believes in. "I hope that more people take note of this tremendous opportunity. We want to give to organizations that speak to our heart, but it is not always simple to do that. **Donating stock has been the simplest and most tax-smart way to give that I have found.**" ■

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Photo by Dennis Power

Many accountants, brokers and financial advisors tend to go on holidays over the Christmas season. Don't leave it too late if you wish to make a gift for your 2006 tax return.

For more information call  
**Carla Funk** (shown here with  
son **Nicolei**) at (250) 479-8053

# Your personal TLC contacts:

As a member, you are the driving force behind **TLC**. Without you, saving BC's special places would be impossible. That's why, at **TLC**, we see you as a partner in everything we do.

Your opinions matter. Your comments help shape what we do. And whenever you have questions, or need to contact us about your membership, we're committed to giving you the best service possible.

Tom and Wendy (shown right) lead **TLC**'s membership services team. They are your personal contacts. To reach them, just call **TLC**'s toll-free number, **1-877-485-2422**, or send them an e-mail at [membership@conservancy.bc.ca](mailto:membership@conservancy.bc.ca).



Photo Carla Funk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Tom + Wendy

## Give BC some extra TLC

### Give BC some extra TLC

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

\$35     \$50     \$100     \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

My preferred method of payment is:

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

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My contact details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

Please return completed form to: **TLC**, 2709 Shoreline Drive, Victoria, BC V9B 1M5

TLC respects your privacy. We will never sell, trade, or rent your name to another organization.

Due to CRA Regulations, the first \$35 of your membership gift (\$50 for families) is not tax receiptable. Charitable registration # 88902-8338 RR0001

I-00012

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