

LANDmark

 **TLC** The Land Conservancy

THE NEWSLETTER OF TLC THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SPRING, 2003

TLC's Growth and Development

KATHLEEN SHEPPARD PHOTO



Let's be very clear about this: TLC has extremely high expectations of itself. Given the magnitude of the challenges before us, we cannot be passive or complacent in our approach. We must continue to push, to develop our skills and our connections, continually seek new sources of support, and build our membership. And—most importantly—we must continue to find the ways to protect and preserve our natural, cultural and built heritage because, as we all know, once it's gone, it's gone.

When we talk about the potential for TLC, we often refer to the success of Britain's National Trust—and with good reason. This venerable institution, now 107 years old, has grown to be the most successful and important Society in Britain. Its membership, over 3 million, is larger than the memberships of all of Britain's political parties combined. Its magazine, provided to all of its members, has a readership greater than the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times of London*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent* newspapers combined. They are the third largest land holder in Britain, (behind only the Forestry Commission and the Department of Defense) responsible for the care of over 200 historic houses, 49 industrial monuments and mills, 612,00 acres of countryside and over 600 miles of coastline. The National Trust is, without a doubt, one of the most respected and most trusted organizations of its kind anywhere.

It's interesting to note that TLC's growth rate

Meeting the Challenge

over its first five years has been far greater than the National Trust's early days. And we look forward to the next hundred years of continued success.

The following series of graphs show how dramatic our growth has been. While we have all been challenged by this growth rate—essentially running at full speed to keep up with ourselves—we all know it has been necessary. And we know it will continue. The threats to sensitive and critical habitat and to our remaining wilderness areas continue to grow. The threats to our historic and cultural properties are mounting every day. And, as our success and our reputation builds, more and more people are coming to us to ask for help with protecting their important properties.

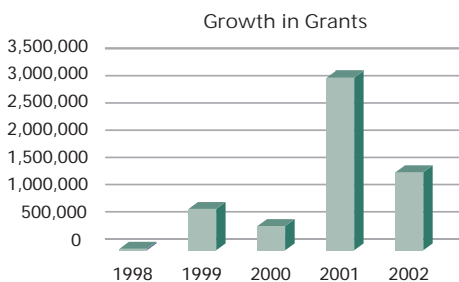
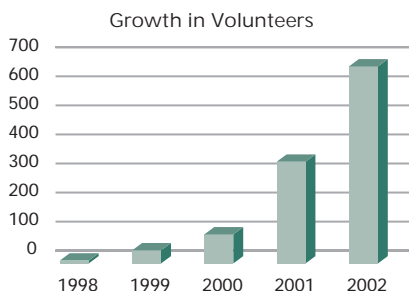
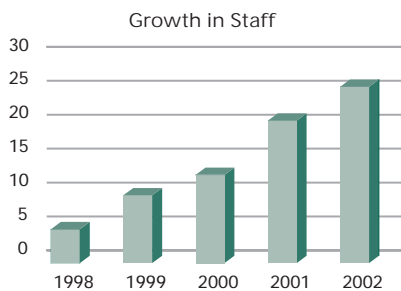
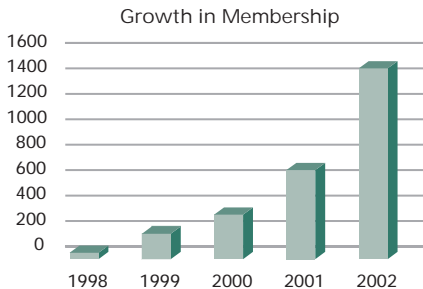
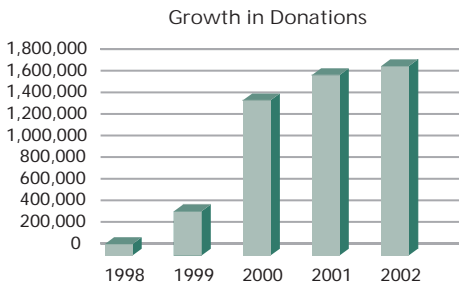
The challenge for all of us is to find the ways to keep on meeting the demands. Much of our future *continued next page*

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 **TLC**
The Land Conservancy
of British Columbia

Dear *TLC* Members



One evening between Christmas and New Years, my wife and I were at Butchart's Gardens looking at the Seasonal lights display. Behind me I heard a voice saying something like "I know him, he's the man who started The Land Conservancy". I looked around to see a very nice older lady with a couple of younger friends. She told me that she was a Member of *TLC* and that she supported our work. I thanked her for being a member and wished her the best for the New Year but, I am so sorry, I did not get her name (she will know).

I want her and all of our other members to know how important you all are to the organization. I am one of the lucky members who gets to live and breathe *TLC* every day. Without the rest of you, talking about what we do, attending events, supporting us with donations, believing in what we are accomplishing there would not be a Land Conservancy of BC. When it's tough going, it is chance meetings with members like this lady which help me (and other *TLC* staff and volunteers) keep going.

Yes, I was ONE of the founders. But not the only one...I think you could say that there were eight of us at the beginning. There were the five founding Board Members: Briony Penn, Victor Derman, Don Benn, Bob Peart and me, and 3 supporters: my wife Gerie (who has always believed in and supported *TLC*), Gavin Davidson and Nichola Walkden (Nichola Gerts, then). Those original 5 Board Members were soon joined by Misty McDuffee, Michael Kennedy and Joe Simpson, and there were dozens of other people who joined *TLC* as soon as they heard about what we were trying to do. Now, there are over 1500 members. The Board has grown to 18 strong directors. Misty, Joe, Michael, Vic and Briony have moved on to other challenges; Nichola remains with *TLC* in a senior management role; and Gavin is now working for the City of Vancouver on issues of environmentally friendly transportation. All remain members, cheerleaders and supporters.

TLC is a grassroots organization based on the principle, proven by the British National Trust over the last 107 years, that individual people through membership and by electing their Board of Directors can accomplish miracles. At *TLC*, these miracles seem to happen every month. We are proving that a Trust like *TLC*, can get things done and can provide a perpetual reliability that governments can only dream of.

TLC is nearing the end of its 6th year, but we intend that *TLC* will be here forever...and that is a very long time. However, with members like the wonderful people who give their time to be on our Board, with members who volunteer in so many other ways, and with members like the wonderful lady I met at Butchart's Gardens, I know that we will succeed. THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE.

Bill Turner, Executive Director

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success will come from our members...we rely on them not only to continue supporting us financially, but also to help bring in new members and make contact with new donors. We rely on them to volunteer their time to help out, and to bring in their friends and colleagues to help as well. No-one can help us grow better than someone who has made a personal and passionate commitment to something they believe in so strongly...and that is what our members

are all about.

There should be no illusions that *TLC*'s success to date has been a result of our strong membership base, supplemented by our donors and our volunteers. Our grass roots approach, insisting that our members have a real stake in what we do—and real ownership of the results—is the same approach that has sustained the National Trust for over a hundred years. It will work for us too! 🌿

Bill Turner, Executive Director



STUART STARK PHOTO

Preserving Our Heritage

Building a National Trust for British Columbia

Since our inception, almost six years ago, we have always spoken proudly about our relationship with the National Trust in Britain. We modeled *TLC* after the National Trust because we believe, as they do, that truly caring for the environment in which we live means that we should have concern not only for the protection and preservation of our natural heritage, but our cultural and built heritage as well.

This is largely what sets *TLC* apart from other organizations that do similar work to us—the breadth and depth of our mandate, and our more holistic approach to preserving our quality of life. This view is reflected in the work we do, and the projects we take on. For example:

■ Protecting and Restoring Our Historical Buildings

When Ross Bay Villa, a rare 1865 cottage in Victoria was threatened with demolition, *TLC* stepped in to purchase the property. Led by a team of restoration experts, and working to the highest accepted standards, a group of dedicated volunteers is now hard at work bringing the house and garden back to its 1865 character. Once restored, the Villa will become an interpretation centre for historic Ross Bay Cemetery.

■ Caring for B.C.'s Unique Gardens

When world-renowned, historic Abkhazi Garden was threatened with destruction to

make room for condominiums, it was *TLC* that the community called upon to save this magnificent garden. It is now owned and operated by The Land Conservancy, is well on its way to being restored, and is open to the public seven months a year.

■ Providing a Trust for Our Heritage

Recently, Anny Scoones bought historic Glamorgan Farm, near Sidney. One of the earliest farms in the region, its barns and out-buildings have received heritage designation, and are well recognized for their tremendous value. The farm and its buildings mean the world to Anny and she wanted to make sure that they would always be protected. She contacted The Land Conservancy and has made arrangements in her will to leave the farm in the hands of *TLC*, secure in the knowledge it will be well looked after and well used, forever.

■ Preserving Cultural Icons

For over 50 years, ecoforestry pioneer Merve Wilkinson sustainably logged his property, Wildwood, near Nanaimo. When his age would not allow him to continue to maintain this world famous site, he and many of his supporters turned to The Land Conservancy to help protect the site. *TLC* now owns and operates the property, has opened it as a demonstrations site for the public and, in partnership with the Ecoforestry Institute, continues to work the property according to Merve's principles. *continued next page*



Interior, Craigflower Manor



Anny Scoones, Glamorgan Farm



Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse

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This work has made us uniquely positioned in British Columbia. We are the only organization in the province with both the mandate and the ability to take on this challenge—to build the “National Trust” for British Columbia.

Over the coming months, we will be continuing to build awareness and profile among those who care about protecting our heritage. We are looking at a number of properties which are in need of immediate attention, and we are discussing the potential of a number of donations of cultural properties. We’ll provide more information on these projects as they develop.

The Province of B.C. is in the process of devolving the responsibility to care for its heritage sites to community or business groups. *TLC* has, for some time, been extremely concerned about this process, and we have wanted to ensure that the future viability of these important public resources would be adequately protected. We have had a number of discussions, but unfortunately the constraints placed on the process leave us unable to do much to help.

However we have decided to proceed with a proposal on one exciting project,

which we feel has the potential to make a significant difference:

■ Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse

This 1850-era farmhouse and schoolhouse are located along the Gorge Inlet in Victoria. Among the original buildings in the region, both the manor house and school house are extremely important aspects of the early history of British Columbia. Not much has been done with this property in recent years, and it is in dire need of some renewed energy and enthusiasm. *TLC* is proposing to restore the vitality of this property, open it for the public, with appropriate interpretation and programming, and bring back significant elements of the farming operation. At the same time, we will begin to restore the degrading structural elements of the buildings themselves, and secure its protection for future generations to learn from and to enjoy.

We will know early in the Spring if our proposal is accepted, and we’ll provide more details then. 🌱

Ian Fawcett, Deputy Executive Director

KOOTENAY *regional report*

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 1999 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 few months. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2001 and Phase 3 is due to be completed in early 2003 with subsequent phases to follow. Wycliffe has 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

grasslands 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. The Land Conservancy has joined with 28 other partners to form the East Kootenay Conservation Program. This program, which is similar to the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation 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

In the East Kootenays, spacious grasslands are bookended by rising mountains.



KATHLEEN SHEPPARD PHOTO

OKANAGAN *regional report*



When most people think about the Okanagan-Similkameen region of BC they think about sunny beaches, fresh fruit, excellent wine, and spectacular scenery. However, did you know that this incredible part of our province is also a hot spot for species and biological diversity. In fact, the Okanagan-Similkameen area is considered to be one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems. The reason for this is the four R's, and I am not talking about the four R's we learned in school, I am talking about Richness, Rarity, Resilience, and Risk. I have been fortunate to hear retired Wildlife Biologist Bob Lincoln talk about these four R's on a number of occasions and I wanted to share these with our members and supporters.

The Okanagan-Similkameen, and in particular the south Okanagan and lower Similkameen valleys, are RICH in species and biological diversity. There is an

The Okanagan-Similkameen area is considered to be one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems.

incredible concentration of RARE species found here, as documented by the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC) listing of 38 nationally extirpated, endangered, threatened, and special concern species at risk. The provincial red and blue lists for the south Okanagan-Similkameen contain 256 species considered at risk. Many of these species are seen by scientists to be

very RESILIENT because they are found at the outer edge of their geographic range and these populations tend to be stronger and better able to survive adverse conditions than populations found at the centre of the species' range. And finally, this unique ecosystem and the biological diversity it supports is at RISK. Rapid urban, residential, and agricultural development is eating into remaining natural areas, destroying valuable habitats, and degrading ecosystem functioning.

Fortunately, the Okanagan-Similkameen is getting a little TLC. As a partner in the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), TLC is working to help conserve the South Okanagan-Similkameen's rich diversity of species at risk and its role as a biological corridor. With funding support from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, EcoAction Community Funding, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and from you, our members, donors, and supporters, the Okanagan Region office is actively working on a number of projects and programs. We are currently working throughout the region on conservation covenants, Ecological Gift donations of land, landowner contact and stewardship programs (such as the Conservation Partners Program), and land acquisitions. In June we will offer our first working holiday in the Okanagan Region. This promises to be an exciting week of hard work and fun in the sun. For more information on TLC in the Okanagan contact our Okanagan Region Office in Penticton at (250) 492-0173. 🦋

*Shawn Black, Stewardship Coordinator/
Okanagan Regional Manager*



ANTHEA BRYAN PHOTO

LOWER MAINLAND *regional report*



Since the launch of the campaign in 2002, \$30,000 has been raised by TLC towards the purchase of the 130 acre waterfront site known as Thwaytes Landing in Indian Arm. This is in addition to the \$1 million we have secured from the District of North Vancouver and the GVRD. Thanks to various TLC fundraising activities including boat cruises, the Indian Arm Paddle-a-thon, Raven Pub night, mailings and presentations, awareness about this spectacular property is increasing. Most recent donors include Mountain Equipment Co-op and the City of North Vancouver.

However, there is still \$500,000 left to raise. In order to facilitate this, we are creating a Green Syndicate Mortgage for our payments to occur over the next five years, allowing us more time to fundraise.

Over the next couple of months, TLC wishes to raise a total of \$500,000 through a syndicated first mortgage which will replace the current vendor's mortgage in that amount. The interest rate for investors will be 6% and the term will be for five years, with an amortization period of 15 years. The minimum unit size is \$20,000. However, this will qualify as an investment for a Self Directed Registered Retirement Savings Plan, provided that the minimum unit is \$25,000. TLC has established similar syndicates in the past in order to protect the Abkhazi Garden and the Nanaimo River project. For more details, call the Vancouver office at (604) 733-2313.

Centre Creek

TLC is now the proud owner of 20 acres in North Surrey. This urban greenspace is

home to the newly rehabilitated Centre Creek which will provide important salmon spawning and rearing habitat. The remainder of the property is covered in second growth forest. The site is practically next to the GVRD's Surrey Bend Regional Park. TLC would like to extend a big thank you to Northmark Construction Ltd. and Canada Lands Ltd. who donated the land and were instrumental in the rehabilitation of Centre Creek. Over the next few months, TLC will be developing a management plan. Public access to the site will likely be limited in order to protect the sensitive fish habitat. The site will be monitored by the local Fraser Heights Stewardship Society.

Centre Creek



FRAN SAINAS PHOTO

Codd Island Wetlands

Negotiations continue concerning the purchase of this 250 acre wetland in Pitt Meadows and TLC is hopeful that they are in the final stages. The Codd Island Wetlands provide crucial habitat for salmon and the only nesting site for the endangered Sandhill Crane in the Pitt Polder. Organizations that have pledged funds to help protect this site now include the District of Pitt Meadows, GVRD, Province of BC and Ducks Unlimited. Funds are still needed from the public. Pledge your support today! Call Tracy Keeling at TLC's Pitt Meadows office at (604) 460-9996. 🦆

Tamsin Baker, Regional Manager

VANCOUVER ISLAND/COAST *regional report*

Exciting News: TLC's first acquisition, South Winchelsea Island, has now been completed! Since our purchase, in June 1998, we have had bi-annual mortgage payments; a grant through the Canadian Wildlife Service made our final payment possible this past December. This news is extremely exciting not only for TLC staff and the Board, but for our members, volunteers and project partners as well. In celebration of this major accomplishment, we're planning for a festivity on the island in June; call 479-8053 for details. Now that the island has been paid for, TLC is working to raise funds for an endowment for South Winchelsea Island and for the acquisition of other islands within the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago.

New Tofino Project

The Land Conservancy is proud to announce a new project in Tofino. We have been working with a group of Tofino residents to raise funds for the purchase of magnificent old growth rainforest adjacent to Tonquin Park. When protected, this fourteen acre section of rainforest will quadruple the size of the existing park and provide secure habitat for bears, eagles, ravens and migratory songbirds. It includes a sensitive bog and wetland area as well as magnificent old growth and rock bluffs overlooking a gorgeous beach on the open Pacific—all this within a 7 minute walk from the town's centre.

Qualicum Bat House


Townsend's Big-eared bats are at risk (blue-listed by the Conservation Data Centre) and this site shelters one of the few known maternity colonies for this species in BC. These bats have chosen the

attic of the Qualicum house as it contains the perfect roost temperature and dimensions, light quality and air flow factors essential for bat roosting and nesting. The bats (and TLC) are looking for help with ongoing maintenance of this property.

TLC volunteers and staff remain busy at Abkhazi Gardens and Ross Bay Villa. Abkhazi Gardens was visited by nearly 5000 people throughout its open season in 2002, a number we expect to almost double this year. Over 50 dedicated volunteers helped at the garden as docents, gate keepers, gardeners, tea room and gift shop attendants, and at fundraising events held for the Garden. Also, every Saturday and Wednesday a devoted core of TLC volunteers are present at Ross Bay Villa. Now working on the house's interior and back shed, these volunteers are the driving force behind the Villa's restoration process.

View from Tonquin Park



More volunteers are always needed to help implement TLC's cultural and heritage projects. Please contact our Head Office if you would like to be a part of the excitement. 

Eileen Palmer, Regional Manager



VOLUNTEER BAT SPECIALIST VANESSA CRAIG PHOTO

KATSUYA MASUNO PHOTO

Creating a Legacy

Planned Giving Supports TLC Activities

As a significant component of our fundraising activities *TLC* has developed a booklet called “Create a Legacy for Future Generations”. This booklet is a guide for people who are interested in providing a planned gift to *TLC* as part of their estate. The booklet is available on request from *TLC*. It has already been sent to a great many lawyers, accountants, estate planners and other professionals who provide financial planning advice, so they will be aware of the options provided by *TLC*.

Among these options are:

- **Bequests**—leaving a gift to *TLC* in your will. The booklet suggests several ways that this can be done, and provides an explanation of the benefits of each.

- **Cash and Securities**—gifts to *TLC*, as a charity, can have significant tax benefits. These tax advantages are explained.

- **Insurance**—naming *TLC* as the owner of your life insurance policy is a means of leaving a much larger donation than you ever thought possible. The booklet explains how.

- **Annuities**—an arrangement in which you can transfer a lump sum to *TLC* in exchange for fixed, guaranteed payments for life.

- **Conservation Covenants**—protect important property by placing legal restrictions on how the property may be

developed. *TLC* monitors and enforces these restrictions. There are often significant tax benefits accrued.

- **Eco Gifts of Land**—gifts of ecologically sensitive land can receive extraordinary tax advantages. *TLC* is one of a small number of charities authorized to receive such gifts.

- **Charitable Remainder Trusts**—an arrangement that allows you to retain the income from investment assets, while committing the capital to *TLC*.

These and other options provide significant help for *TLC* to accomplish its objectives. A growing number of individuals have notified us that they will be making arrangements to support *TLC* in their estate.

To recognize these tremendous contributions, we have established the *TLC* Heritage Club, a wonderful group of people who care deeply for the future of our province’s natural, cultural and built heritage.

To join *TLC*’s Heritage Club, or to find out more about making a planned gift, please contact us. We also remind you that if you are thinking of a planned gift you should also consult first with your family and your own lawyer or financial advisor.

Donations of all kinds

Support for TLC comes in many ways

There are many ways, other than cash donations, that our friends and members support *TLC*’s operations. Here are some examples:

- **Collecting Air Miles**—*TLC* can provide you with a *TLC* Air Miles card, so that when you receive points they go to *TLC* to help us offset the cost of travel for our staff and board members.

- **Canadian Tire Money**—We can use this “money” to buy all kinds of supplies and equipment.

- **Donations of Equipment, Materials, etc.**—We always have a list of “things we need”. Check with your regional office, or on our website, for the latest. If you have good quality equipment or materials that you no longer need, please contact your regional office to see if we can put it to use.

Any other ideas? Please give us a call.



Update

Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing

TLC's major fundraising campaign in the Capital Region, "Ours Forever", recently passed its first anniversary. And what a first year it has been. The campaign is now well established, well organized and poised to achieve great results.

Ours Forever is a ten year campaign, with a goal to raise \$30 million to support TLC's work in the Capital Region. There are tremendous pressures in this region, and tremendous opportunities as well. TLC has developed strong partnerships with the Capital Regional District, and its constituent municipalities, to work towards mutual objectives. In 1999 the residents of the CRD voted overwhelmingly to establish a property tax levy which would help finance the purchase of land for parks. TLC is supporting this forward looking approach by raising the additional funds needed and helping to complete the acquisitions.

Our first project was the acquisition of 3400 acres in the Sooke Hills. Of the \$5.3 million cost of this project, we now have less than \$150,000 to go. We have also contributed to the acquisition of an important addition to Horth Hill Park in North Saanich, and completed a major acquisition of property around Burgoyne Bay on Salt Spring Island. There are many other projects in the works.

During the first year of the campaign, funds raised in the Capital Region amounted to approximately \$1.2 million. In addition to this, we have been notified of \$5 million in planned gifts, which will come to us over time. An impressive

start...but it is only a start. There is so much more that has to be done.

The Ours Forever Committee, led by Barrie Hewstan (President of Coast Capital Real Estate) and Mark Horne, QC, (of Horne, Coupar Barristers & Solicitors), is making plans to expand its reach and increase its level of activity in the coming year. We are recruiting some new committee members and look forward to some exciting times ahead.

On a staffing note, we want to express our appreciation for the work of campaign manager Kari Frazer, who is moving on to other challenges (she will still be helping out TLC with some contract work). Kari is

OURS FOREVER

The Campaign to Protect
Special Places **TLC**
in Our Region  The Land Conservancy
of British Columbia

largely responsible for getting the campaign off the ground and so well established. We will certainly miss her drive and her leadership. I have been asked to take on responsibility for the campaign and I am looking forward to working with the Committee and our supporters to continue building on our success. 🦆

Alison Spriggs, Campaign Manager

Alison Spriggs, Ours Forever Campaign Manager, and TLC members enjoying a hike in the Sooke Hills.



CAMILLA SMITH PHOTO

Celebrating Our Volunteers



People Committed to Making a Difference

Our volunteers are the life-blood of The Land Conservancy; without their participation, we simply could not be successful. *TLC* is a grass roots, membership-based organization, and as such, it is most important to us that we continue to provide every opportunity for our members and supporters to become directly involved in our work. And it is equally important that we continue to celebrate their achievements!

TLC's staff is often overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and high skills offered by our many volunteers, as well as their determination to make a significant contribution. People volunteer for many different reasons, but whatever their motivation we have found that all of our volunteers are driven by a commitment to truly make a difference

The Land Conservancy welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds who wish to increase their knowledge of conservation, non-profit activities or even just add some computer or garden knowledge. We offer a variety of opportunities for different personalities, so that each person can choose the best fit, based on their own interests and personal aspirations. Whether short or long term, seasonal or year-round, scheduled or flexible, expert or enthusiast, everyone can contribute. In the past months, we have met and enjoyed working with students from Japan, summer vacationers,

recent retirees, newly pregnant mothers, newcomers to town, students between studies, recent widow(er)s, and those re-entering the workforce, to mention just a few.

And the work our volunteers have accomplished has been just as varied. Restoring our heritage homes and gardens, conducting garden or house tours, serving afternoon tea, updating databases, stuffing and sealing envelopes, diving into the ocean to repair a dock, recording baseline

eco-system inventories, building fences, pulling broom, maintaining the web site, delivering posters and brochures, and collecting and selling Bottles for Greenspace. These are just some of the important activities that *TLC* volunteers take on.

New volunteers are always needed and always welcome! 🌱

Sheila Braun, Head Office Manager

*Looking
for an
opportunity
to reconnect
with nature
and help
protect our
natural
environment?*

WORKING HOLIDAYS

Come bale hay, mend fences, dig, redirect river channels, go on a cattle drive and much more. You will eat hearty meals, cement new friendships, explore your creative side, observe wildlife, laugh a lot, play a lot and gain valuable knowledge about the biodiversity of BC's landscapes.

Locations:

Wildwood, Nanaimo River, South Winchelsea Island, Cowichan River, Okanagan-Similkameen, Horsefly River, Talking Mountain Ranch, Kootenay

March–October 2003 Weekend or full week
\$50–\$130 depending on duration and location

Reservations (250) 479-8053
www.conservancy.bc.ca

Volunteer Profile

We'd like you to meet one of our most dedicated volunteers...

One of many wonderful volunteers at Abkhazi Garden is Mary Goodspeed. Mary began volunteering in August 1999, after hearing Bill Turner being interviewed on the radio about Matthews Point. As a supporter of the British National Trust, Mary was curious about a British Columbia organization that worked on that same model. The next week she was working at a TLC garage sale. Mary really found her stride when the Abkhazi Garden campaign began. This has been the TLC project that has become her main focus.

Mary's domain is primarily the Abkhazi tearoom and kitchen, which she looks after as if they were her own. She does regular shifts, plus overtime, filling-in for absentees and helping at special events throughout the year. In the tearoom she is professional and friendly, with always an easy anecdote about Abkhazi history to share with visitors. In the kitchen she is fearless—even when facing the darkest corner of the fridge containing that unmarked container left over from some long-past event.

Even though her duties keep her inside the house she never loses touch with what is going on in the garden and is often the first to notice any changes. Herons, ducks and flowers are all recipients of her admiring glance.

Like many volunteers she never fails to surprise us with new skills. It wasn't until this fall that we realized Mary had great



Mary Goodspeed

talents as a bookkeeper. She worked many hours, every week, on the Green Gifts Catalogue doing reconciling and entry. We had not known before this time of Mary's experience at the tax department.

Last month Mary received the "Citation Rose" award from CFA, a local radio station in recognition of "significant community service". Congratulations Mary for receiving this honour and our sincere thanks for all your contributions to TLC. You make us all look good! 🌿

*Valerie Murray, Head Gardener,
Abkhazi Garden*



ALAN MANDELL PHOTO

Conservation Partners Program

Thrifty Foods Supports TLC Conservation Partners

By Susan Wood, Sr. Project Officer



One of BC's major supermarkets, Thrifty Foods, has committed to the further protection of BC's special places by supporting and buying produce from TLC's Conservation Partnering farms. These farmers are protecting, restoring and enhancing natural habitat areas for the benefit of some of BC's most threatened species.

As the season permits, shoppers will find fruits and vegetables grown on the farms of our Partners, as well as information about the farms, the farmers, and the special lands they are stewarding. All the produce will bear the Conservation Partners label to indicate the grower's commitment to good stewardship of their land. Both Thrifty's and TLC recognize the importance of BC's farming heritage and future, and by getting to know these hard working people and the 'fruits of their labours', we know that you will come to appreciate the great conservation work done by the best of BC's agriculture industry! Look for more updates in Thrifty Foods flyers, TLC updates, and in stores near you!

Ven'Amour Organic Farms

A Profile of a Conservation Partner

Steve Venables and Kim Brind'Amour became participants in TLC's Conservation Partners Program in 2002 and their Ven'Amour Organic Farms produce wears our label of endorsement with the butterfly symbol. Our Conservation Partners are farmers who have committed to protect the important natural areas found on their properties, thereby helping to maintain larger collective areas of open space and wildlife habitat. Ven'Amour Organic Farms land encompasses 142 acres, of which only a small part is developed as agricultural land



Continued next page



Burrowing Owl

or residence. The rest of the property includes hillsides of pristine ponderosa pine, sagebrush, and bunchgrass steppe as well as a vast area of riparian cottonwood forest—one of the last remaining sizable stands to be found in the Lower Similkameen Valley, and a vital habitat component of the dry desert areas of the Southern Interior.

With the spectacular beauty of the landscape and its special features in mind, Steve and Kim have also created a peaceful and luxurious getaway with their *Harvest Moon Retreat Guesthouse*, complete with breathtaking views, a huge wrap-around screened porch and tree-ripened fruit from the organic orchards. This incredible location is surrounded on all sides by a unique arrangement of both privately and publicly conserved lands:

- Steve and Kim have signed a *Stewardship Agreement* with TLC to protect the natural areas on their land as an ecological sanctuary;
- To the south, adjacent to the US border, is TLC's *Similkameen River Pines property*;
- Another of TLC's Conservation Partners, Mariposa Organic Farm, is a neighbour, and is protecting another *200 acres of desert grassland*;
- Adjacent to Sumac Road is Chopaka West, one of four components of the BC Parks *South Okanagan Protected Area* (with Chopaka East, Kilpoola and Mt. Kobau);
- Across the Similkameen River to the West are *Snowy Protected Area* and *Cathedral Provincial Park*.

Steve and Kim have further committed to conservation of the spectacular desert ecosystem of the South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys by *donating 2% of all guest fees to TLC*. For more info about the *Harvest Moon Retreat Guesthouse* or Ven'Amour Organic Farms, feel free to call Steve or Kim at tel/fax: (250) 499-2649, or visit their website at www.harvestmoonguesthouse.com 🐾

Wildwood



Land Conservancy members, friends and volunteers along with Merve and Anne Wilkinson recently celebrated TLC's 2nd Wildwood anniversary. This celebration helped spread the news of the work started by Merve almost 70 years ago. Several events and workshops are planned at Wildwood for 2003. Check our website or call our Victoria office for details.

Wildwood Tours

Every Saturday @ 1:30pm
2929 Crane Road, Cedar, BC
(just south of Nanaimo)
TLC encourages group tours
for schools and students of all ages!

Vacation Properties

Escape to one of *TLC's* peaceful lodgings, each in its own unique, pristine setting.

For reservations or more information contact us at (250) 598-8096 or visit www.conservancy.bc.ca



SOUTH WINCHELSEA ISLAND

- Only cottage on a magnificent, 25-acre island near Nanaimo
- Water-taxi provided



COWICHAN RIVER CABIN

- Rustic log cabin nestled along the river
- Perfect "back to nature" location
- 45 min north of Victoria

SOOKE RIVER COTTAGE

- Private Tudor house on 2 acres
- Near ocean, Galloping Goose Trail and the Sooke Hills.
- Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts

CHILCOTIN CABIN

- Waterfront cabin along Nimpo Lake, 300km west of Williams Lake
- World-renowned for fly-fishing

Bottles for Greenspace

Recycling Provides Funds for Habitat Protection

By Aaron Henderson, Coordinator

The pop of champagne corks on New Year's Eve was followed by the clink of thousands of bottles and cans at this year's public bottle drop off. On January 4th and 5th the Bottles for Greenspace Program set up bottle drop-off stations at Elk Lake and Thetis Lake for people to donate their recyclable drink containers to *TLC*. The response was enormous (evidently Victorians had a very festive New Year's!) and it has encouraged us to hold bottle drop-offs on key weekends throughout the year. CRD Parks has given us their support for this initiative and we will continue to work together in the future by raising funds to help purchase and retain important lands for parks.

Our program continues to grow, with more restaurants, pubs and hotels signing up to donate their recyclable drink containers to us. Our current clients include: Il Terrazzo, 5th Street Bar and Grill, The Butchart Gardens, Bird of Paradise Pub, Solstice Café, Chateau Victoria, Willie's Bakery, Belfry Theatre, Canadian Springs, and Sol Foods Café & Deli. We are actively looking for more clients. If you own a business and go through a lot of bottles, please contact us and find out more about the program and what you can receive in return.

Bottles for Greenspace is a bottle recycling program designed to contribute to the protection of natural areas in the Capital Regional District. We are also working on building the program in the Lower Mainland and the Penticton area. 🌿

The Abkhazi Garden Gift Shop

TLC website shopping has arrived! A wide variety of unique, specially selected items from the gift shop are now available through our website.

New products will be added regularly.

Visit the gift shop on the web at www.conservancy.bc.ca

Currently featured:

Peggy Abkhazi's remarkable life journey in the new release "A Curious Life".

Stunning sterling silver jewellery by Stuart Duncan, who reproduces the beauty of the natural world.

At the Garden:

View our new lines of garden gifts to compliment any home or garden décor.

Don't miss our continuous sale of exceptional plants carefully selected by the head gardener.

Email us with your requests at enterprises@conservancy.bc.ca

Grace us with your presence at the Garden.

Our welcoming, friendly staff and volunteers await!

Make your donation today

Yes! I want to protect special places

Name(s)
Address
City Postal Code
Telephone Fax
Email

Become a member

I/we wish to join *TLC* The Land Conservancy of British Columbia. (Choose a membership type.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior/Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Classroom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Corporate/Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Low Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron |

Monthly membership

- \$10/mo Supporter \$30/mo Sustaining \$90/mo Patron

Make a donation

I/we wish to make an investment in the future of our region.

- \$30 \$60 \$100 \$500 \$1000 \$.....

I have enclosed a cheque in the amount of \$.....

Please charge \$..... to my credit card

VISA MasterCard

Card number

Expiry date

Name on card

Signature

I would like more information on:

- Monthly giving program
 Covenants to protect sensitive ecosystems on my property
 Tax benefits of planned giving to support *TLC*
 Named endowments

Please make cheques payable to:

TLC The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

TLC is a registered charity: #88902 8338 RR0001.

Please clip and return this panel to:

TLC The Land Conservancy of British Columbia

5793 Old West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC V9E 2H2

Telephone 250.479.8053 Fax 250.744.2251



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Contact Information

**TLC Head Office & Vancouver
Island Regional Office**
5793 Old West Saanich Road
Victoria, BC V9E 2H2
Phone: (250) 479-8053
Fax: (250) 744-2251
admin@conservancy.bc.ca
www.conservancy.bc.ca

Abkhazi Garden Office
1964 Fairfield Road
Victoria, BC V8S 1H4
Phone: (250) 598-8096
Fax: (250) 598-8076
abkhazi@conservancy.bc.ca

**Lower Mainland Regional
Office**
2150 Maple Street
Vancouver, BC V6J 3T3
Phone: (604) 733-2313
Fax: (604) 736-7115
vancouver@conservancy.bc.ca

Pitt Meadows Office
12492 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows BC V3Y 2J4
Phone: (604) 460-9996
Fax: (604) 465-1106
coddisland@pittmeadows.bc.ca

Kootenay Regional Office
251 Spokane Street
Kimberley, BC V1A 2E6
250-427-4711
grassland@conservancy.bc.ca

Okanagan Regional Office
27A Front Street
Penticton, BC V2A 1H2
Phone: (250) 492-0173
Fax (250) 492-5275
penticton@conservancy.bc.ca



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