

LANDmark

 **The Land Conservancy**

THE NEWSLETTER OF *TLC* THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Leading Edge Conference

Stewardship and conservation are high on Canada's agenda this summer, thanks to The Leading Edge Conference being held in Victoria in July. This National Conference will bring together hundreds of conservationists, land trusts, stewards, academics, scientists, politicians and many others, from right across Canada, who have taken on the responsibility of caring for the integrity of Canada's important natural and cultural heritage.

The Land Conservancy is extremely proud to serve as one of the hosts and organizers for this conference, and we are delighted that our President and Executive Director, Bill Turner, has been appointed as the Co-Chair of the Conference, along with Dr. Stew Hilts from the University of Guelph.

The Conference is a huge undertaking. The steering committee has been working away on details for well over a year and they have put together a dynamic and comprehensive program which will go a long way toward establishing and implementing a strong stewardship agenda for Canada. It will showcase progressive practices and share the most innovative tools, techniques and visions from across the country. There will be over 80 workshops and discussion sessions on topics covering all aspects of conservation and stewardship work, as well as organizational capacity.

This activity on the national stage is an important step for Canada's stewardship and conservation movements. It follows from the work of the first



ROB KRUYT PHOTO

TLC volunteer Mitchell shows that it's never too young to be a good steward.

Charting a Course for Stewardship in Canada

National Conference, Caring for Our Land and Water, held three years ago in Guelph, Ontario, and will help to define—from a grassroots perspective—a 10 year vision for the development of a stewardship action plan for Canada.

This is also an important step for The Land Conservancy. In addition to Bill's role as Chair, he will also be taking part in a number of strategic discussion sessions. At least four of *TLC's* staff will be *continued next page*

SUMMER, 2003

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Dear *TLC* Members

giving workshops, and several others will be involved in other aspects of the agenda. It's an opportunity for *TLC* to demonstrate its depth of expertise and leadership in the sector.

In his message to the delegates, printed in the Conference Program, Bill Turner says:

"True, effective stewardship is grounded in the everyday activities of ordinary people. It stems from the choices we make in our daily lives and is nurtured by our relationship with the world and the people around us. And it is animated by the actions of those who care about the health of our environment...and who are prepared to take that extra step to do something about it.

This conference is for all those people. We hope we can provide the understanding, the knowledge, the tools and the inspiration to move forward and make a difference.

There are still many challenges ahead, to be sure, but when I look at the registration for this conference and I see the many dedicated, skilled people who are working toward our common goals, I am more convinced than ever before that our future is in good hands." 🌱

Ian Fawcett, Deputy Executive Director

I guess it might seem a bit unusual to get pleasure out of reading an Air Miles statement...but, I have to admit, I find it fascinating. Yesterday we received the latest statement for *TLC*'s air miles—earned by *TLC* members who carry the *TLC* cards and use them when they shop. During this period *TLC* members earned and donated 551 Air Miles.

One of the more fascinating aspects is to look at where these cards were used. Of course, we don't know who used the cards because they all have the same (*TLC*'s) account number. We do know, however, that over this period a *TLC* member earned us 65 miles by shopping at Ultra Food in Guelph, Ontario. We know that 45 miles were earned by members shopping at Sport Chek all over BC. Members shopping at Safeway earned us 263 miles. Three miles were even earned in Quebec City.

Over the same period, we used 800 Air Miles to purchase a return ticket to Cranbrook (retail is about \$900.00). Flying saves at least 3 full days of driving, not to mention the wear and tear on vehicles and people. Normally we just can't afford the cost of flying (at least not often), but using Air Miles makes it possible. It allows us to get so much more work done, so much more effectively. It allows us to bring our Board Members together from various parts of the province (allowing us to have a truly representative Board). It allows us to bring our staff together for training and coordination.

Air Miles are just one of many innovative ways that *TLC* members can help us raise money or keep costs down—without it costing our members. Many members send us Canadian Tire Money and old postage stamps. Other members donate valuable items for sale in auctions. This month, in the *LandMark*, we are announcing a new "Business Sponsorship" program. This has the potential to raise a significant amount of money to help support our programs, without costing our members even a penny. We are always on the lookout for new ideas and new ways of meeting our needs. If you have any suggestions, please be sure to let us know.

While we will always need funds to support our programs, we never forget the thousands of hours of volunteer time and effort that our dedicated volunteers and staff put in to make *TLC* a success. This is your organization and you have a stake in everything which *TLC* accomplishes. In every way it is YOU that make good things happen. Thank you.

Bill Turner, Executive Director

We're Moving!

Head Office
Relocation
Underway

It looks like Bill and Gerie can finally have their basement back. Ever since *TLC* was founded, six years ago, our Head Office has been located in the basement of Bill and Gerie Turner's home. As *TLC* has continued to grow, so have the numbers of staff, the numbers of volunteers and the amount of activity at Head Office. Some days, there have been so many people around it has been standing room only. But through it all, Bill and Gerie—with their customary grace and generosity—continued to put up with the comings and goings, the hubbub and the noise, so that *TLC* could succeed.

But now, we're moving. As part of the arrangement to look after Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse, we have access to a 1960's era two-storey house immediately adjacent to the site. It will make a very functional new Head Office, and we will be moving as of July 5. We'll be working feverishly to get all of our infrastructure up and running as quickly as possible. Our new office will be much closer to downtown Victoria, and accessible by transit, so we're also looking forward to having many more volunteers dropping in to help. If you can volunteer some time, please give Sheila a call at 479-8053. (Our phone numbers will stay the same). Our NEW address will be: 2709 Shoreline Drive, Victoria V9B 1M5.

Preserving Our Heritage

British Columbia Heritage Legacy Fund

In another significant step toward the protection of our Province's threatened cultural heritage resources, *TLC* has entered into a partnership with the Heritage Society of BC to create and manage a new endowment fund for heritage conservation.

The new fund will be known as the BC Heritage Legacy Fund, and has been established with a \$5 million initial contribution from the Province of BC. The fund was announced at a ceremony in March by George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, *TLC*'s Executive Director Bill Turner and Maureen Arvanitidis, President of HSBC.



TLC board member Lee McFadyen and Bill Turner meet with Heritage Minister George Abbott at the launch of the BC Heritage Fund. *TLC* FILE PHOTO

The initiative for this fund came from the heritage community itself. *TLC*, HSBC and others have made the case that an endowment fund to support heritage conservation activities would be an important step in achieving success.

The province agreed with this position and came forward with the funds to make it a reality. In acknowledging the government's contribution, Bill Turner said "By putting these resources directly into the hands of the community, this fund will be a tremendous tool that can be strategically used to enable our heritage groups and advocates to better protect and conserve our priceless heritage. We are building a

legacy that will last in perpetuity, and this is a good step forward."

TLC and HSBC will work to create a management structure and determine the details of the fund by October 2003.

The original contribution of \$5 million has been placed in trust with the Vancouver Foundation. *TLC* and HSBC will now get to work to encourage corporate, institutional and private donations in order to build the fund, ultimately to \$20 million. The proceeds from this fund will be used to support a wide variety of community conservation efforts which are focused on the protection of our built and cultural heritage sites around the province. 🌿

Craigflower National Historic Site

To the accompaniment of the bagpipes, about a hundred people gathered on the front lawn of Craigflower Manor on May 1st to celebrate as *TLC* took on the responsibility for the care and operation of Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse. May 1st was specifically chosen to commemorate the date in 1856, when the Manor was first occupied.

Located along the Gorge Waterway in Victoria, these two adjacent facilities are designated as National Historic Sites, important both to the local community and to Canada's heritage. Craigflower has the potential to tell a wonderful story about the settlement of this part of our great country.

TLC intends to interpret the Craig-

Preserving Our Heritage

flower Farm Community of the 1850s as accurately and sensitively as we can. We will be significantly increasing activity on the site, opening the facility to the public on a regular basis, implementing a number of special activities and events, and working with the area schools and others to develop educational programs. Working with many local volunteers, it is our intention to breathe life and energy into

Working with many local volunteers, it is our intention to breathe life and energy into this tremendous community asset.

this tremendous community asset. We are working toward an official opening of the site in mid July.

The handover of responsibility involved MLA Arnie Hamilton who presented the key to TLC President Bill Turner. Graham Hill, Mayor of View Royal, welcomed TLC's involvement in Craigflower, saying "We've been waiting a long time for this." The acting Mayor of Saanich, Carol Pickup, echoed those sentiments as did George Heller, President and CEO of the Hudson's Bay Company, who pledged his company's support to help TLC operate the site.

Ian Fawcett, Deputy Executive Director



LYNNE MILNES PHOTO

Bill Turner receives the keys for Craigflower from MLA Arnie Hamilton.

A Brief History of the Site

Craigflower Farm was established on land purchased in 1850 from the chiefs of the Kosapsom people, who had lived in the area for millennia. Throughout the farm's existence, the Kosapsom continued to live on adjacent land, and many became involved in the farm operations, being employed in land clearing, construction, housekeeping and other duties.

The farm was one of four original farms set up by the Hudson's Bay Company as part of their obligations in settling Vancouver Island. The farms were managed by a subsidiary company, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, with the expectation that they would not only meet their colonizing objectives, but would also reap a profit from the sale of livestock and produce.

In 1853, Kenneth McKenzie and his family along with 18 farm hands and their families arrived in Victoria aboard the "Norman Morrison", following a strenuous six month journey around Cape Horn. They soon took up residence on the farm site, and began clearing land and building accommodations. McKenzie oversaw the construction of the farmhouse, which was modeled after his ancestral home in Scotland. On May 1st, 1856, the McKenzie family moved in.

During the 1850s and 1860s the farm site continued to grow and develop. The school was opened in 1855 with 26 students. The first teacher, Charles Clark, lived upstairs in the schoolhouse with his family and a number of children from outlying areas who boarded with them.

At that time, there were 20 other dwellings on site, as well as a saw mill, a flour mill, a blacksmith's shop, a brick kiln, slaughterhouse and a general store. Seventy-six people lived at the farm during this period, but many of the original farmhands chose not to renew their contracts after 1857. The McKenzie family stayed on at Craigflower until 1866, at which time they moved on to their own sheep farm.

The farmhouse was subsequently rented to a series of tenants, but the farm itself did not succeed. The school was closed in 1911, and was subsequently re-opened as a museum in 1931. Eventually acquired by the Province of BC for protection as historic sites, the farmhouse and schoolhouse were declared National Historic Sites in 1967. 🌿

Preserving Our Heritage

Eagles Estate Heritage House and Garden

Once again, TLC protects the integrity of an important heritage garden in BC! TLC and the City of Burnaby have joined forces to restore, manage, and open up to the public, the historic Eagles Estate Heritage Garden in Burnaby. We are currently putting together a conservation management plan to guide the restoration and maintenance of the garden. TLC will manage the work of garden volunteers from the re-located Lower Mainland office which will be on site in the Eagles Estate House.

This property has a very colourful history. Eagles Estate was purchased by Dr. Blythe and Dr. Violet Eagle (both prominent academics and community leaders) in 1929 for a mere \$1,200. Parties of friends and family converged on the seven acre site to help clear the heavily bushed property adjacent to the lake. Blythe came up with the idea of purchasing two pigs to roam the site to assist with brush clearing. However, the pigs had to be sent for

slaughter shortly after, as they had a habit of roaming to neighbours vegetable gardens to feast.

The house was designed by the Eagles themselves in the Romantic English Cottage style. This style was very popular at the time conveying a proper sense of “upper class living.” The low overhanging eaves, expansive roof and dormers with stucco exterior convey this style directly. Other details such as the rustic door with “forged” hinges and knocker and Arts and Crafts styled exterior light sconces and rain troughs also provide a hand-crafted feel to the home. It incorporated imported English steel and lead casement windows which Blythe had admired while studying at University there.

After construction was completed the Eagles’ attention went to establishing a garden as a feature of the Estate. What resulted was a magical 1.6 acre garden designed by Frank E. Buck, a pioneer Canadian horticulturalist. A special feature of the garden was the use of innumerable boulders to create rockeries. Most of this work was done by Blythe, who directed family, friends and U.B.C. students. Delphiniums were Violet’s pride and joy, and their beds were intensively planted along the north fence line. The delphiniums reached heights in excess of six feet and could be best viewed from the upper terrace. The gardens were first and foremost a place for Violet and Blythe to enjoy. Family and friends remember the ritual of morning coffee that Blythe would serve to Violet on the lower terrace amid the Skunk Cabbage blooms.

In their retirement years the Eagles became overwhelmed with the work needed to contain the garden they had created. Blythe just enjoyed the overgrown vines and shrubs and imagined that one day the “jungle” would overtake the property. But Violet did not share her husband’s romantic notion of an overgrown garden. She would prune while his back was turned. The estate was sold to the City of Burnaby in 1993 and the funds were used to establish a Chair in Agriculture at UBC. 🌿

Tracy Keeling, Project Officer



PHIL HERING PHOTO

View of Eagles Estate, ca 1935

**By becoming an Eagles Estate Volunteer YOU can help restore a world class heritage garden to its former glory!
Please contact the Lower Mainland Office for more details at 604-733-2313 or vancouver@conservancy.bc.**

NORTH *regional report*



I couldn't be happier about the introduction of our new Northern Manager, Barry Booth. Barry lives in Prince George, and has been working as a contract biologist for several years. He is our new "bird person", having worked for years with the IBA Program (Important Bird Areas).

The transition to *TLC* seems a natural for Barry, who is no stranger to conservation. He was a volunteer on a Talking Mountain Ranch Working Holiday a couple of years ago, and has stayed in touch, calling regularly with questions regarding covenants or properties. He has also been working independently to assist his own neighbours with conservation planning. His personality lends itself to the landowner contact work he'll be doing: he is friendly, outgoing and seems always keen to learn.

I do predict a learning curve too! Barry will be officially joining *TLC* later this month, starting up with Wilderness First Aid training, over to Victoria to see our new office and meet other staff, then off to pick up fence posts from Merritt, up to Clearwater to view a potential donation property, then up to the Horsefly River to lead a working holiday.

The fence posts are going to be used by our volunteers to replace an aging fence that keeps cattle out of the restoration area on the Horsefly. The riparian plantings, literally thousands of cottonwood and willow stakes, have taken a strong hold and fast growing grasses have helped stabilize the soil. The off-river channel habitats are now open, and operational.

In 2001, the most recent dominant cycle year for the Horsefly River, 2.4 million sockeye returned to the river and spawned successfully. Approximately 60%

to 70% of the sockeye spawn upstream of the Patenaude Creek confluence, where the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area is located.

TLC's working holiday will supplement the management work done in the area by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. As well as the fence, our volunteers will assist with weed control, inventory and the decommissioning of an existing trail that poses a high risk of bear encounters.

With this break neck entrance to *TLC*, and all of the new muscles Barry may discover in his back, he will be off leading our other working holiday adventures on Talking Mountain Ranch later in the summer.

The second of these work weeks at Talking Mountain will see the installation of our first micro hydro facility. The working holiday will be in the form of a week-long workshop conducted by Energy Alternatives. For the first time, Talking Mountain will have electricity!

In time Barry will also begin to assist

with our work in the Robson Valley, where we are currently negotiating two potential acquisitions. We will have him to the Ludtke Farm in Clearwater—a 300 acre safe haven for spring bear courting; we're getting closer to raising the funds to complete this purchase. Located just 5 km away from a research station operated by the University College of the Cariboo, this has made a wonderful study site for students for years. And we hope it will continue for many years to come.

By the time the snow flies we should be reeling Barry back to his home office, assisting us with site and management planning, promoting conservation covenants, and helping to set them up. We know he's up to the task, and we're delighted he's aboard! 🦆

Nichola Walkden, Assistant Executive Director

Riverbank stabilization along the Horsefly River



CHRIS CHEADLE PHOTO

KOOTENAY regional report

As our regional update for this edition of the *LandMark*, we'd like to pay tribute to one of TLC's most outstanding supporters and advocates. Helen Annis embodied what TLC is all about—dedication, passion, hard work, and a love of the land. She also had an ability to put it all into action. The Kootenay Region and all of TLC were saddened by the news of Helen's passing in May.

For TLC, Helen was remarkable for signing our first covenant in the East Kootenay, but for Helen, it was simply one in a string of remarkable life-long accomplishments that were well known in the local community.

Helen was born in England in 1914 and moved to Invermere with her parents after World War I. During World War II she commanded the local branch of the Canadian Women's Training Corps and remained a dedicated member of the Ladies Auxiliary throughout her life.

Helen was devoted to the local community and there were few people in the Invermere area who did not know who she was or who were involved with her through one or more local organizations. Along with the Ladies Auxiliary, Helen was involved with the Red Cross, the Windermere District Hospital Association, the East Kootenay Fall Fair, the Windermere and District Farmer's Institute, the Columbia Valley Consumer's Co-op and the Christ Church Anglican Church. Her association with many of these groups lasted until she was well into her 70's and 80's.

Helen's love of her property was an important part of her life. Given to her as a wedding present, Helen never took this



Bill Turner and Helen Annis commemorate Helen's covenant in November 2002.

KATHLEEN SHEPPARD PHOTO

Helen placed her trust in TLC to maintain her legacy. It will be our legacy to maintain the passion she felt for her land.

gift of property for granted. For many years the property provided her with her livelihood, as she and her husband George raised prize-winning purebred sheep. Helen continued raising sheep on the property for 10 years following George's death in 1980.

In 2000, Helen came to TLC with a desire to protect her 60 acres of grassland on the Toby Benches from future development. Because agriculture was such an important part of Helen's life, the



Kimberley Cranbrook

covenant allows agriculture to continue, while restricting subdivision and development.

Helen named her property "Heavenly Acres." Located on the rolling Toby Benches above Invermere, the property contains open grassland, mixed forest and wetlands. The property supports numerous wildlife species including elk and endangered badgers that combine to make it heavenly indeed.

With the signing of her covenant, Helen became a great advocate for TLC and for conservation covenants. The signing of her covenant quickly became local knowledge and many people have inquired about "what Helen did" to protect her land. TLC could not have asked for a better landowner to help promote the work we do.

Helen's spirit and sense of community will be strongly missed by all. Helen continued to drive until December 2002 and the sight of her white Volvo covered in pro-environmental bumper stickers was a regular feature in downtown Invermere.

Helen placed her trust in TLC to maintain her legacy. She has left us a bequest to help us do just that. It will be our legacy to maintain the passion she felt for her land. 🌿

Kathleen Sheppard, Regional Manager

OKANAGAN *regional report*



When we think about large trees in British Columbia, we tend to picture images of the huge old growth Sitka Spruce, grandfather Western Red Cedars, and the giant Douglas Firs found on Vancouver Island and the mainland coast (or at least the few that remain). Most of us do not draw images of large old growth trees in the southern interior, particularly in hot dry areas like the South Okanagan. However, they do exist, and *TLC* is proud to have helped save a stand of trees that includes what could be the second largest known Western Larch in British Columbia.

Up on the highland plateau east of Osoyoos, Highway #3 winds its way through the small villages of Bridesville and Rock Creek as it heads towards Grand Forks and Castlegar. This area, known as the Boundary Country, has a rich history of cattle ranching, gold mining, and forestry. On the eastern edge of the Boundary Country, approximately 20 minutes from Osoyoos, Dale Lehman, his wife Anita, and their children (who have moved on to raise their own families) are the second generation of Lehmans to ranch their land. Adjacent to Dale and Anita's ranch house is a special stand of trees that Dale affectionately refers to as "the bush". This forest is anything but a "bush".

As I write this article, we are working through the final steps required to subdivide the 24 hectare (60 acre) "bush" off of Dale and Anita's land, allowing them to donate it to *TLC* under Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program. The Ecological Gifts Program was established in 1995 to encourage landowners to



Western Larch trees on the Lehmann property. SUSAN WOOD PHOTO

conserve ecologically sensitive land by donating it to a qualified recipient (*TLC* is a qualified recipient). Landowners who donate property under the EcoGifts Program receive enhanced income tax benefits, and the comfort of knowing that their land (or portion thereof) will be protected and looked after forever. Please contact *TLC* if you are interested in more information on the EcoGifts Program.

The forest, which will be known as the Lehman Springs Conservation Area, is ecologically unique in many ways. The large old growth Western Larches are over 600 years old, and the largest of these trees

is 170 feet tall. These Larches provide nesting habitat for the provincially blue listed (vulnerable) Williamson's Sapsucker. This forest is also home to a variety of other wildlife including Red Tail Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Flickers, owls, and deer (to name a few). Recently, there have also been unconfirmed sightings of the nationally endangered White-headed Woodpecker. Another unique feature of this forest is the abundance of natural springs. There are at least nine natural springs within this forest where water can be seen bubbling from the ground. These springs are home to a tiny fresh water shrimp, and in the summer, are the headwaters for Nine Mile Creek (which flows into Osoyoos Lake on the US side of the border).

TLC is pleased to have been able to assist Dale and Anita Lehman in ensuring that this special forest is protected. Their generosity and patience in seeing this through should be commended. A formal public announcement for this project is being planned for later this summer. We will keep you informed. 🌲

*Shawn Black, Regional Manager/
Stewardship Coordinator*



LOWER MAINLAND *regional report*

Lower Mainland Regional Office moving to Eagles Estate in Burnaby

At the end of June, *TLC's* Lower Mainland staff and volunteers will be packing up and leaving the Kitsilano office where we have been based for the last four years. The new office will be the Eagles Estate Heritage Garden on the southeast corner of Deer Lake. *TLC* has built a strong partnership with the City of Burnaby which has leased the property to us as our new Regional Office. In return, *TLC* has undertaken to restore the heritage garden, and provide public access to the House. The official Open House, complete with our very first work party, will happen on July 1st.

Our office hours will be Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm. The phone number will continue to be (604) 733-2313. The garden is currently open to the public (there are public trails that already go through the property), and it will remain open under *TLC's* care. We will

Planting trees at Centre Creek



ROB KRUYT PHOTO

also be converting the garage into an Interpretive Centre/Gift Shop.

The garden is magnificent, but in dire need of some “*TLC*”. It will require a lot of work to bring it back to its former glory and, as with all of *TLC's* projects, we are actively working to engage the community to help us do this. Many volunteer gardeners (and would-be gardeners) will be needed during the week and on weekends. Over the coming weeks we will be implementing a major recruitment campaign.

Tree Planting and Stewardship

Staff and volunteers have also been busy tree planting at our most recent acquisition, Centre Creek in North Surrey. In partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada Lands Corporation, and PKI Northmark, we held a celebration to commemorate the creation of this new protected area, and to mark the occasion many volunteers joined us to plant trees. Also, in early May, the annual monitoring of *TLC's* Whistler Conservation Covenants took place. At the same time, we helped carry out a tree planting project organized by the Municipality of Whistler in the Emerald Forest's rehabilitated gravel pit.

Raising Awareness and Raising Funds

Much of what we do in the Lower Mainland involves raising awareness and funds for *TLC*. On May 25, we had our first Bottles for Greenspace drive which took place at Capilano Mall. Another is being planned for the fall, so start collecting your bottles now. Coming up this summer we'll be running our popular Indian Arm

boat cruises again, which include a visit to our Thwaytes Landing property.

In May, the *Eco-Activity for Kids* booklet was distributed to all the elementary schools in North Vancouver. Following from the successful launch of this fun and educational program in the Victoria area last year, the booklets feature rare and endangered species of the Douglas fir and Western hemlock ecosystems. These booklets include a colouring contest that children between the ages of 3–14 can take part in. Contest submissions are accepted and displayed at the Lynn Valley Shopping Centre. The program culminates in an awards ceremony at which the winning entries will be awarded some wonderful prizes donated by local businesses.

TLC also played a prominent part in the popular VanDusen Flower & Garden Show in June. Dagmar Hungerford designed a showcase garden to educate the public about *TLC* and the Eagles Estate Heritage Garden.

Meanwhile, we continue to raise donations towards the acquisition of Thwaytes Landing in Indian Arm and the Codd Island Wetlands in Pitt Meadows. For Thwaytes Landing, in addition to donations, we have also set up an investment opportunity for people to join in a syndicated mortgage to facilitate the acquisition process. Go to www.conservancy.bc.ca to find out more about these two on-going projects. 🌱

Tamsin Baker, Regional Manager

VANCOUVER ISLAND/COAST *regional report*

Get out your crayons, TLC's 2nd Annual Eco-Activity Booklet is out! The Land Conservancy has produced a booklet written and illustrated by local children bringing the concept of conservation and stewardship close to home. Distributed to elementary schools in the Greater Victoria area, the theme of this year's booklet is The Plants and Animals of Garry Oak Ecosystems—an ecosystem endangered in the Capital Regional District and one of the four endangered ecosystems in Canada. In late May, over 550 students displayed their work at Hillside Centre in Victoria. Prizes were awarded for best artwork, write up and colouring in three age categories. Next year's Eco-Activity booklet will feature wetlands and waterways.

BARN OWL BY ANNE



Gorge Waterway Partnership

TLC has a long-term vision and commitment to the ecological restoration of the Gorge Waterway in Victoria. We have partnered with the City of Victoria

in this vision of a progressively naturalized waterway. Our first partnership project began last fall with a purchase and covenant along the waterway. We are now working in conjunction with the School of Environmental Studies and the Restoration of Natural Systems (RNS) Program at the University of Victoria to restore this waterfront property. TLC will also help to facilitate an RNS course that would use this property as a case study for students to do on-site restoration projects. This site may then be used as a model for other properties along the Gorge waterway to undergo similar restoration initiatives.

Wildwood Ecoforestry Site

Tours, work and fundraising events continue for Wildwood Ecoforestry Site near Nanaimo. Owned by TLC since 2000 and originally managed by Merve Wilkinson since 1938, Wildwood's forest has demonstrated the balance between harvesting the forest for timber and maintaining the forest's ecosystem and sustainability. For Merve's work and achievements, he is this year's recipient of the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program Award to be given at the Leading Edge Conference in Victoria.

West Coast Working Holiday season

We're in full swing this season hosting holidays on four different TLC-owned sites. Volunteers have been up to their shoulders in Himalayan blackberry and broom at Wildwood. They enjoyed some music playing at the Cowichan cabin and even a personal meeting with Merve! Holidays at Wildwood, Cowichan River and South Winchelsea Island are filling up



quickly. Join soon and help convert the Cowichan cabin into an eco-house, learn restoration techniques on South Winchelsea, and build floating bridges at Wildwood.

Conservation Covenants and Urban Growth

A constant challenge we face is maintaining our province's beautiful, natural spaces in areas of rapid urban growth and development. The Okanagan, lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island are three such areas where TLC is working to find opportunities to balance development yet retain ecologically important places. In Victoria we are working with the District of Highlands in registering conservation covenants surrounding new housing developments. These covenants ensure that this area of the Highlands retains Greenspace and that the area in future cannot be converted to major subdivision or for further development. In the Victoria region we are looking for volunteers to help with annual monitoring of areas such as these—contact our Head Office to help out. 🦉

Eileen Palmer, Regional Manager

Wildwood Tours

Every Saturday at 1:30 pm
2929 Crane Road, Cedar, BC
(just south of Nanaimo).

Training with the National Trust

Staff Exchange Program Reaps Big Rewards



PAULA HESJE PHOTO

National Trust volunteers on Marsden Moor

The Land Conservancy has developed a strong relationship with the National Trust in Britain. This relationship has blossomed into a staff exchange program, in which TLC staff have the opportunity to live and work at selected National Trust sites, and learn from the expertise of an organization which has been caring for significant properties for over 100 years. We also hope soon to be hosting National Trust staff who are keen to bring their expertise to BC.

First across the pond was our Vancouver Island Warden, Paula Hesje, who has recently returned from a 3 month sojourn...here's her story.

Escapades in England with the National Trust

The train slowed down, the local pub and a National Trust Warden came into view and I knew I had landed in the heart of the English countryside, in a village called Slindon.

I was struck by the significance of this visit—the first staff exchange for TLC. I knew there was much wisdom and experience to be gained from the National Trust programs and the amazing staff that make the organization tick, whirr and forge ahead.

Slindon Estate was an appropriate site for this first staff exchange. It is 3600 acres of farmland, woodland and mediaeval parkland that the National Trust owns and manages. A landscape dotted with burial mounds, hillforts and ancient trackways. I was fortunate to be working alongside a team of four countryside wardens who had wide-ranging capabilities and projects. My days were diverse and full, and I even had the chance to help with an inventory of the local bat population,

where we were lucky to find a Mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*) that was thought to be extinct!

Property management on the estate included trail clearing, brush cutting (lots of bonfires!), veteran tree surveys, litter picking and education through activities such as guided archaeological walks. Rural land management was of a much more intensive nature due to high population pressures and the anthropogenic brush that has painted this picturesque landscape. It definitely made me appreciate the wild beauty that BC has been gifted with and further entrenched in me the serious need and importance of preserving our natural landscapes.

I also was able to check out how Working Holidays are run by the National Trust. I found myself clad in my 'waterproofs', spreading heather bales on the peat moorlands of the Marsden Moor Estate. The deep peat provides a unique habitat for animals and plants capable of surviving in acidic soils with heavy rainfall. Over-grazing and off-road vehicles

have resulted in vast areas of exposed eroding peat which are being restored through this revegetation project.

My next stop was in Wales where I co-lead a holiday in the mountainous Snowdonia region. Here the group of keen volunteers completed trail clearing, tree planting, pruning, fence maintenance and rhododendron bashing (Wales' version of our invasive Scotch Broom). On our day off we went on a stunning hike, winding around lakes and sheep in the Aberglaslyn Valley as well as touring a 13th century Edwardian castle in Conwy. A stop at the pub made for the archetypical English excursion!

All of the Working Holidays at the National Trust are run by dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers. It is great to see how many people get involved in a Leadership capacity for the holidays. TLC hopes to follow this tried and true formula with our Working Holidays. My experience in England was educational, inspiring and now I also know how to brew a brilliant cup of tea! 🍵

Paula Hesje, Vancouver Island Warden

Next Up...Vancouver Island Regional Manager Eileen Palmer will be spending three months at Lanhydrock, one of the Trust's 19th century houses in Cornwall, working with Area Manager Nick Lawrence. In turn, it's planned that Nick will visit BC next spring and give us a hand on various projects while learning what TLC has to offer.

Fundraising Programs

TLC Endowment Funds— Building for the Future

TLC is working very hard to prepare for a successful long-term future. We take properties under our care in perpetuity, and that means we have to ensure that the resources to look after these properties will always be there. We also need to be able to plan our activities over the long term, and a stable, dependable funding base is important to enable us to do this. It's for these reasons that TLC has established several endowment funds with the Vancouver and Victoria Foundations.

An endowment fund provides a guaranteed source of income every year. The way it works is that contributions placed in the endowment fund are invested (in our case, they will be invested by either the Vancouver Foundation or the Victoria Foundation). The fund is managed by the Foundation—they also advertise it and help build the fund through direct donations to the Foundation itself. TLC receives a guaranteed rate of return. Each year, the proceeds from the fund are provided to TLC to be used in our operations and acquisitions, as needed; the principal is reinvested.

We have established four endowment funds:

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia Endowment Fund (Vancouver Foundation)

Administered on our behalf by the Vancouver Foundation, this is a general fund, through which our donors can support all of TLC's activities. Proceeds are used for our day to day operations, as well as for specific acquisitions, based on our needs at the moment.

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia Endowment Fund (Victoria Foundation)

Similar to the previous fund, this provides proceeds for our general activities, including acquisitions. We have set up a fund with both Foundations in order to increase our reach out to the community (both foundations conduct their own marketing and promotions in addition to what we do ourselves).

Ours Forever Endowment Fund (Victoria Foundation)

This fund is set up as part of TLC's "Ours Forever" campaign—a 10 year, \$30 million fundraising campaign to fund acquisitions and property protection in the Capital Region. A portion of the money raised during the campaign will go to fund this endowment, to provide long term support for our work work in the Region. It provides an opportunity for donors to direct their contributions to this particular region if they wish.

Margarete Tumbach Agricultural Stewardship Endowment Fund (Vancouver Foundation)

This fund has been established in memory of Margarete Tumbach, one of TLC's staff members who died a number of years ago in a tragic hiking accident. Margarete was instrumental in establishing our Conservation Partners program, and this fund will go to support our work in agricultural stewardship.

If you would like more information about these endowment funds, or about any of our other opportunities for planned giving, please call our Head Office or one of our Regional Offices. 🌿

Campaign Update

Forging New Links

Thetis Lake / Mount Work Regional Park Connector

This spring TLC's Our Forever Campaign has launched an exciting new parkland acquisition project in partnership with the Capital Regional District. The properties to be acquired are located in the District of Highlands, just north of Thetis Lake Regional Park and include 67.98 hectares of



mixed forest and wetland habitat as well as open ridge top knolls featuring spectacular views of the Saanich Peninsula.

Important for their high environmental values, once protected these lands will link Mount Work and Thetis Lake regional parks and provide a trail connection between them first proposed 25 years ago. This trail was a key objective presented in the 2000 CRD Parks Master Plan so that in future visitors will be able to travel from Mount Work all the way to the Galloping Goose on the trails of their regional parks. The purchase of these linking properties will also tie Thetis and Mill Hill Regional Parks into the spectacular network of connected parklands known as the Sea to Sea Greenbelt.

The project includes a 39.44-hectare property which has been purchased through the CRD Parks land acquisition



Spectacular view from Mount Work

fund at a cost of \$375,000 and two adjacent parcels to be purchased jointly by CRD Parks and TLC for \$560,000. CRD Parks will contribute \$232,750 to the purchase, while TLC will raise \$350,000 to cover its \$327,250 contribution plus costs.

The purchase of these two adjacent properties is subject to TLC raising its share of the purchase price through public donations by July 31, 2003. Through TLC's Ours Forever campaign, public support for such significant acquisitions has been tremendous in the past and we encourage everyone to be generous again. Without public support we cannot protect these special places that are so vital to our quality of life in the Capital Region.

Since 2000 CRD Parks has acquired a total of 1894.23 hectares of regional

parkland, valued at \$11,796,650. Most of these acquisitions were accomplished in partnership with TLC, which has raised \$4,310,000 toward their purchase.

Ours Forever—Special Appeal

TLC's largest acquisition project in the Capital Region is very near completion. Our acquisition of 3,400 acres in the Sooke Hills, as part of the Sea to Sea Greenbelt, had a total price tag of more than \$6 million. We have now have only \$90,000 left to go. With your help, we look forward to reaching this target soon, and then we can celebrate with a grand mortgage burning party! Stay tuned. 🐦

Alison Spriggs, Development Coordinator

Business Sponsorship Program

TLC is launching an innovative new program to financially support our work: the "Business Sponsorship Program". It brings together professionals, other business services and commercial ventures who want to support TLC in a program which is mutually supporting and sustainable over the long term.

The participating businesses will make a specific contribution to TLC every time they do business with a TLC member. The participants will be listed in future *Landmarks*, and also on our website. We encourage all our members to use these businesses when they can. This is a win-win situation: it supports businesses who support TLC (which is good to do anyway), and it directly benefits TLC as well. Just be sure to mention that you are a TLC member—use your new Membership Card if you have it—and they will then send a contribution to TLC.

Organizations like the National Trust in Britain have established similar programs with great success. It's all about being supportive of one another and finding the ways to reach our common goals in a creative and sustainable manner. Watch our website for more details.

We are pleased to introduce the first business who have signed on to our Business Sponsorship Program:

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

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

Heritage House Travel Plus
1521 Main Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5G7
Phone: (250) 493-7171
or 1-800-379-6469

2003 Nature Cruise Series

Sunrise Sightseeing Cruise	June 28, July 26
Saanich Inlet Dinner Cruise	June 28, July 27
Saltspring Island Dinner Cruise	June 29, July 26
Race Rocks Sightseeing Cruise	July 5 and 20
Islands off Oak Bay Sightseeing Cruise	July 6 and 19
<i>(more cruises available in August)</i>	

6-hour Dinner Cruises are \$120 plus GST and
3-hour Sightseeing Cruises are \$45 plus GST

**To reserve please call Mabel at (250) 598-8096
or email enterprises@conservancy.bc.ca**

Vacation Properties

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- Only cottage on a magnificent, 25-acre island near Nanaimo
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COWICHAN RIVER CABIN

- Rustic log cabin nestled along the river
- Perfect "back to nature" location
- 45 minutes 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, 300 km west of Williams Lake
- World-renowned for fly-fishing

Conservation Partners Program



Food that Takes Care of Farms that Take Care of Farmers that Take Care of Habitat

The Conservation Partners Program is coming into its third summer season, and what a summer it promises to be! This project continues to gather enthusiastic support—a vision of partnership and awareness becoming a reality! We can now say “Look in stores for products with this label!” Apples, peaches, cherries, zucchini, squash, honey, spinach, basil: all coming from environmentally aware farms to your table.

With the arrival of this year's produce we look forward to a summer of farmer friendly promotion—spreading the word about admirable farm practices, and what makes our conservation partners special. There are people out there who are doing exceptional work to protect habitat or wildlife values with their farming, and they are deserving of recognition.

For example, David O'Reilly, one of our partners, just received approval from the ALR for a conservation covenant on his farm. Three cheers to Dave, an organic orchardist, who has restored the riparian areas of his farm, and has formally protected wetland areas.

Also, Lee McFadyen, whose family has protected 200 acres of Mariposa Farm (exceptional grassland). An ever ready advocate, with a passionate, friendly heart, she'll be helping us meet new growers and building strong relationships. Lee's most recent ventures have seen her off to India, as part of the Pacific Asia Dialogue, visiting seed keepers and development projects, as a follow up to their discussions at the IFOAM (International Federation of Organ-

ic Agricultural Movements) Conference here in Victoria last August.

With the growing success and appeal of the Conservation Partners program, we are adding an additional staff person—Ramona Scott—to help us build the program on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Ramona seems born into conservation, the daughter of a Parks Canada Superintendent, she began working in Parks herself when she was 16. Since then, she has worked with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, Regional and Provincial Parks, and the University of Victoria. After completing a master's degree in Geo-Justice, she moved into the worlds of eco-tourism and farming. She and her partner have just sold their farm on Salt Spring, moving back to Victoria after working with the Growing Circle Food Cooperative. Perfect timing for us, as her move coincided with *TLC's* plans to grow our partners program.

Ramona will be visiting with farm groups, stewardship organizations, food advocates, farmers and retailers. She will also be assisting us with displays, and helping to promote the farmers' stories about how they grow food and act as good stewards of the land at the same time. So keep your eyes open in the produce isles (and honey, and wine too!), knowing that when you buy produce with the Conservation Partners label, you are also helping to protect the environment. 🦋

Nichola Walkden, Assistant Executive Director

Volunteer Profile

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



Stewart Boddy

Stewart Boddy is one of those people who likes to keep busy. And *TLC* is the beneficiary. Stewart is a volunteer *par excellence* who can always be counted on to lend a helping hand when necessary, or to take on a significant responsibility when that's needed too. At first, Stewart's modesty didn't want us to write this article, but when we pressed and told him that his example would help *TLC* by encouraging more people to volunteer their time, he quickly relented.

His first connection with *TLC* was at a Folk Club, about five years ago, where he ran into *TLC* Board Member Katie Stewart. Katie told him all about *TLC* and what we're trying to accomplish. She also told him about our Working Holiday program. Sometime later, due for a vacation, Stewart remembered the conversation, got in touch with us and signed up for a working holiday on South Winchelsea Island. He had such a wonderful time, he says, that he was hooked...and he's been working with us ever since.

Following the working holiday, Stewart offered to help out at the Ann Mortifee benefit concert for Wildwood, held at the University of Victoria. Shortly after, he volunteered to help at Karel Roessingh's benefit concert at Alex Goolden Hall. Not content with helping out at the odd event now and again, he explored other options with us and that's when we discovered that he's a "computer guy". We asked him to take on responsibility for our web site maintenance (at least in part), and he's been a regular weekly volunteer ever since. "You quickly come to depend on a person like Stewart", Head Office Manager Sheila Braun says. "He's an absolutely critical member of our team, and we just couldn't get along without him." In addition to his ongoing responsibilities with the web site, Stewart is always among the first to sign up for mall displays, bottle drives, and special events.

Stewart has become one of our Working Holiday veterans. Since his first holiday at South

Winchelsea, he has also been on holidays at Talking Mountain Ranch and the Cowichan River. As this article is being written, he is on the first working holiday in the Okanagan Region, helping out on a number of properties in the area. He says that he truly values the opportunity to see places and do things that most vacationers would never have the opportunity to do. He also appreciates the chance to meet and work with people from all over, with a wide range of backgrounds, ages and abilities—all of whom are motivated by a desire to make a difference (and who want to have some fun doing it).

Having been around for a number of years, Stewart has learned a lot about *TLC*, and has also been able give a lot back. He's always willing to share his expertise and his knowledge, and *TLC* is richer because of his participation. Thanks Stewart! 🌿

*Sheila Braun, Head Office Manager and
Ian Fawcett, Deputy Executive Director*

WORKING HOLIDAYS

Come bale hay, mend fences, dig, redirect river channels, go on a cattle drive, learn about micro-hydro 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
\$75–\$195 depending on duration & location

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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 (credit card or enclose a void cheque)

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

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

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

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

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

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Card number

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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

2709 Shoreline Drive, Victoria, BC V9B 1M5

Telephone 250.479.8053 Fax 250.744.2251



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 Phone: (604) 733-2313
 Fax: (604) 736-7115
 vancouver@conservancy.bc.ca

Are you a *TLC* member yet?

New Membership Cards...Out Soon

As part of our membership awareness campaign, you will soon receive a Membership Card and a new Window Sticker. We hope you will proudly display your sticker in the window of your car, or in your home. Your new membership card will signify the critical role you play as a *TLC* member...it means that you share in our success.

Because *TLC* provides a tax receipt for membership fees, we cannot also provide direct benefits for our members (discount on *TLC* products, or reduced admission fee to Abkhazi Garden, for example). But we can provide special "membership programs" and we'll be letting you know about these as they are developed. We've often said that it is our membership that makes us effective. The larger our membership, the more effective we are...so please help us build our membership base.

Talk to your family, your friends and neighbours, your co-workers. Tell them about the work we are doing, and ask them to join us. With your help, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.

