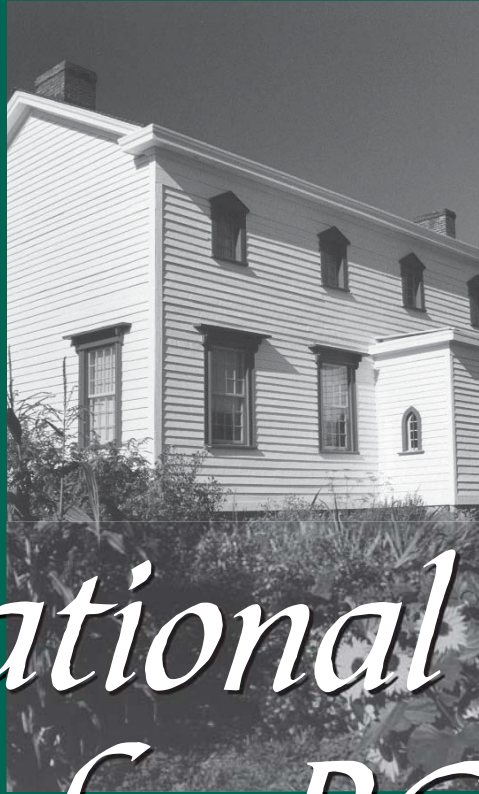
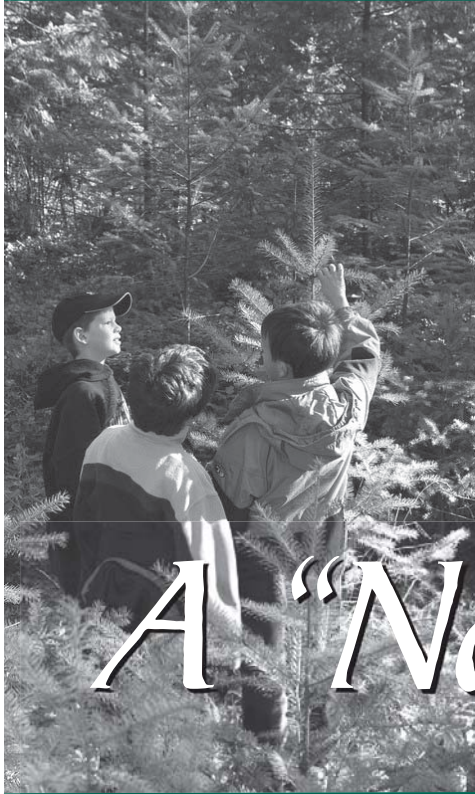
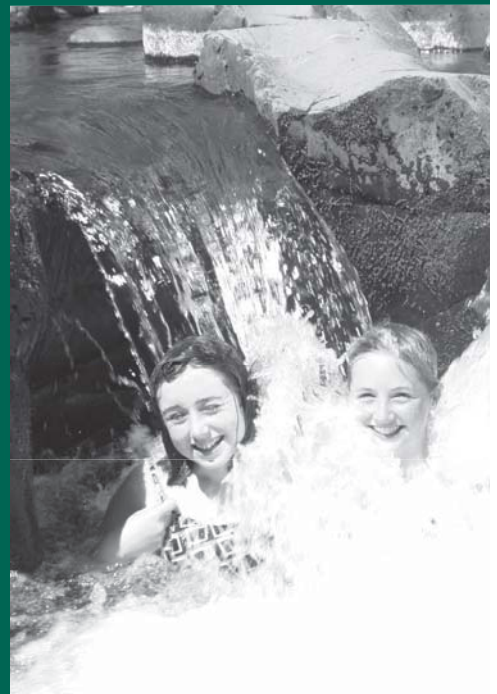


SPRING/SUMMER 2006

NEWSLETTER OF *TLC* THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A "National Trust" *for BC*



Inside: A "National Trust" for BC • Lessons from the Welsh Countryside • Project & Campaign Updates • Talking Mountain Ranch - Where Water Means So Much • Craigflower's 150th Anniversary • and More!



PHOTO CONTEST

(advance notice)

The Land Conservancy is always in need of good quality/high resolution photographs for our promotional materials, our publications and our website.

Do you have good photos we could use? We'd love to have them.

And to make it a little more fun, we thought we should have a photo contest - with prizes and bragging rights and an exhibition of the talents of our members and supporters.

Contest details will be posted soon on our website and will also be available in the next LandMark. But we're letting you know now, so that you can start clicking!

Categories

1. TLC Properties - views and vistas of our sites
2. Features of TLC Sites - plants, animals, structures and other details that can be found on TLC sites
3. People - working and playing on TLC sites

There will be a contest both for adults and for children.

A Message from TLC's Executive Director

Dear Friends,

One of the best things about my job is the opportunity to meet and work with literally thousands of wonderful people who support TLC. The past few months have been an incredibly busy time, and it has brought us into contact with many new friends and colleagues.

From the staff and volunteers from many of the world's National Trusts who gathered in Washington last October, to the artists, writers, schoolchildren and dedicated people of many origins who came to help on the Kogawa House campaign. From the descendants of the original Craigflower settlers who attended the 150th Anniversary celebration, to the people who stop me on the street to say how much they appreciate the work that TLC does. Every one of them is helping to shape TLC into the kind of organization that can truly have an impact, and to bring us to this point that we can proudly identify ourselves as British Columbia's "National Trust."

This is the true strength of TLC, its people. Our members, our volunteers, our supporters, our staff and colleagues...when all of these amazing people are pulling together, to achieve common goals, I firmly believe that nothing can stop us from achieving those goals.

Let me single out three people for special mention:

First, Eileen Palmer. One of TLC's first employees, Eileen has helped to shape and grow TLC from the outset. She is moving on in June, to pursue other challenges and to further her education, and I want to let her know what an incredible job she has done, what a standard she has set and what a contribution she has made.

Next, Joy Kogawa. The chance to work with Joy, during our recent fundraising campaign has been both wonderful and invaluable. Joy's participation went a long way toward making our campaign successful. Her soft-spoken manner and her humility belie a depth of spirit and a determination to persevere that is truly inspirational. All of us at TLC were delighted when Joy was recently named to the Order of BC.

And finally, Norm Isherwood. A Victoria businessman, Norm works quietly in the background and does not seek publicity. Over the last two years, however, Norm (and his wife, Michelle) has been there for TLC when we needed help. Without Norm's involvement, it is unlikely that we could have purchased the Sooke Potholes. Again this spring, in a time of need, the Isherwoods were there to help. Watch for the next edition of the LandMark for more details in a feature story.

These three people have made a personal commitment to make a difference and to go that extra step to ensure success. They set a great example for us all, and I know that they certainly inspire me to keep on pushing. The best part of this, however, is the knowledge that within TLC there are hundreds more like them...people who are willing to dig a little deeper. And, as we move forward as British Columbia's "National Trust," that's what we need. Thank you to you all.



Bill Turner

Bill Turner
TLC Executive Director

A “National Trust” for British Columbia

by Ian Fawcett,
TLC Deputy Executive Director

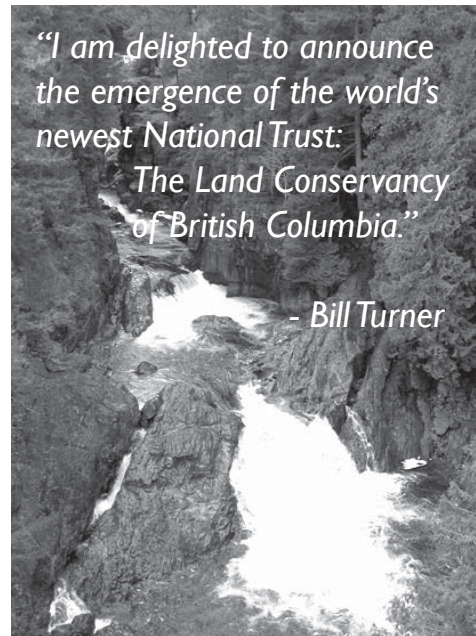
Last October, Bill Turner, Eileen Palmer and I attended the 11th International Conference of National Trusts, held in Washington DC. This conference brought together delegates from 40 countries around the world – most of whom were representatives of National Trust organizations – to discuss issues of mutual interest and to examine the ways in which we may be able to work together, supporting one another to strengthen our abilities to help protect our natural and cultural heritage treasures.

As TLC members will know, The Land Conservancy was founded with the intention of, one day, becoming the “National Trust” for British Columbia. We modeled ourselves after the National Trust in England, adopting many of the same organizational structures and policies, and deliberately embracing a broad mandate to protect “special places,” a term that includes both our natural heritage and our cultural heritage.

The Washington conference was to be an opportunity for us to meet with other National Trust organizations and learn what we could to help us take on the role as BC’s “National Trust.” There were many opportunities. The more well-established Trusts, such as England, Scotland and Australia provided us with various organizational models and examples of how they have successfully grown into national

icons. Australia, in particular, has a great deal to offer as it is structured as a confederation of state-based National Trust organizations, each independent, but all coordinated by a national secretariat. This is the only realistic model that could work in a country such as Canada, with its constitutional authority for land management being a provincial responsibility. In Australia, as it would be in Canada, the term “National Trust” implies the kind of organization it is, rather than its geographic scope.

We also met with a number of smaller



and “emerging” National Trusts, from places such as the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. We all share common challenges in terms of managing the growth and sustainability

of our organizations, and all have tackled these issues in different ways, so we have a great deal to share with and learn from each other. And finally, we met with our neighbours, the US National Trust, to explore opportunities for us to work together in a more practical way, particularly with their operations in the Pacific Northwest and along the West Coast.

An International Voice for National Trusts

It was clear to everyone at the conference that we would all benefit from greater contact with each other and greater coordination of activities, working towards an even larger presence in the protection of heritage around the world. The delegates decided to form an international coordinating body, to be known as the “International National Trust Organization” (INTO), which will facilitate exchanges, joint activities, reciprocal marketing and access programs, and sharing of information between the Trusts. It will also begin to act as an international voice for National Trusts, eventually becoming an advisory body to the United Nations. An eleven-member steering committee was appointed to implement this new organization, and TLC’s Bill Turner was asked to be a part of this group.

Since then, the steering committee has met on several occasions and is working through arrangements for such joint activities as staff exchanges, reciprocal marketing of Conservation

Continued on Page 4...

Holidays and the recognition of each other's membership cards to provide free access to facilities. Already, reciprocal access arrangements are in place between *TLC* and the Australian National Trust, and also with the Cayman Islands. Stay tuned for more details as they emerge.

British Columbia's "National Trust"

The other major impact of this conference, for us, was the recognition that we should no longer be *aspiring to become* a National Trust – because we *already are* a National Trust. Even though we are one of the newer organizations on the scene, in terms of age, we are actually quite well-developed in many respects, even compared to some of the older organizations. We already have more properties under our care, more developed programs to engage volunteers and the public, and deeper community ties than some of the other National Trusts.

"There is no reason to wait any longer," says *TLC* Executive Director Bill Turner. "We are functioning now, in every respect, as a 'National Trust' organization, and I believe it is time that we begin to identify ourselves as such. So, I am delighted to announce the birth of the world's newest National Trust – The Land Conservancy of British Columbia."

This move will not mean any immediate operational changes for *TLC*, but will increasingly provide benefits and opportunities over time. Among these are:

- Opportunities for additional benefits to our members such as free access to National Trust sites all over the world.
- The ability to market our programs and sites to more

than 7 million National Trust members around the world.

- Increased recognition and awareness both from BC residents and from visitors
- Enhanced marketing and sponsorship opportunities
- Increased potential for partnerships and affiliations with other organizations and other sites
- Higher profile and greater potential for fundraising

All of which translates into a greater ability to protect British Columbia's Special Places.

By definition, a National Trust must be completely independent of government. However, the practical reality everywhere is that it is advantageous to have a strong working relationship with government, and that the government recognizes and supports the role of the National Trust. *TLC* has built excellent relationships with all levels of government, and we believe that there is an opportunity to strengthen them even further through this initiative. We are currently in discussions with the Province to develop a framework in which we can work together to protect our heritage resources and that would lead to the Province's recognition and support of *TLC* as British Columbia's "National Trust."

The National Trust in Canada

Several years ago, the federal government launched its "Historic Places Initiative" which contained a number of measures to help protect cultural heritage in Canada. One of these was a proposal to create a Canadian National Trust. There have been preliminary discussions among the federal and provincial governments, but the National Trust concept has not yet developed very far. *TLC* has been in contact both with federal and (BC) provincial officials and others to help

steer this initiative appropriately.

Of course, as independent NGOs, National Trusts can *not* be created by government. Nor, to be successful, can they simply be imposed on a community. Nor should they be focused exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage properties. Rather, they must be grown from the ground up, with strong community roots and dedicated people willing to take a direct and personal interest in protecting *their* heritage, *their* environment and *their* quality of life. In short, that is The Land Conservancy. We have suggested that *TLC* – functioning as British Columbia's National Trust – is the appropriate model for Canada. Over time, parallel organizations can be grown in each of the Provinces and Territories, and be coordinated by a national secretariat. So far, this suggestion is being received well. This approach may take a bit longer, but it will set us on the road to the creation of a Canadian National Trust that will be truly successful.

Changes on Vancouver Island

TLC's long-time Regional Manager for Vancouver Island and the Coast is leaving *TLC* in June to pursue further education and to take on some new challenges. Eileen Palmer was one of *TLC*'s first employees. She came to us as a summer student, then took on the role of Regional Manager after she graduated. She has seen the Region grow from one property under our care to more than a hundred, and her staff grow from one (herself) to 16. She has set a high standard for her colleagues to follow, and we wish her well in her studies

And now, welcome to Lisa Mort-Putland, who will be taking on the Regional Manager's role. Lisa comes to us from the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria, where she was the program coordinator. We look forward to many more great things under Lisa's leadership.

Lessons from the Welsh Countryside

by Kathleen Sheppard
Kootenay Regional Manager, TLC

Two days before I flew home, I attended a meeting – Wales Induction Day – at which new National Trust employees and volunteers received an orientation about their work. It felt rather good when I beat out 12 National Trust employees in a quiz about the history and operations of the National Trust. My prize, a bottle of red wine, matched the satisfaction that I had indeed learned something by spending three months with the National Trust in Wales.

My trip to Wales was the latest stage of an ongoing partnership between *TLC* and the National Trust in the UK, in which the two organizations exchange staff to learn from one another and to provide a broader range of experience for their staff.

I was following in Eileen Palmer's footsteps, mirroring the exchange she made in 2003 with Nick Lawrence, Area Manager in Devon and Cornwall. During my exchange, I was based at Chirk Castle, located a hop, skip and a jump away from the Welsh-English border, in northeast Wales.

Chirk Castle was acquired by The National Trust in 1983 and was built in the 14th century by Edward I. It has been continuously occupied since that time and the Myddleton family



14th century Chirk Castle, Wales, seen from the garden.
Photo: Kathleen Sheppard

(who purchased the Castle in 1595) still occupy the Castle's Bachelor Tower. Chirk Castle employs 22 full-time National Trust employees and is expecting nearly 100,000 visitors in 2006.

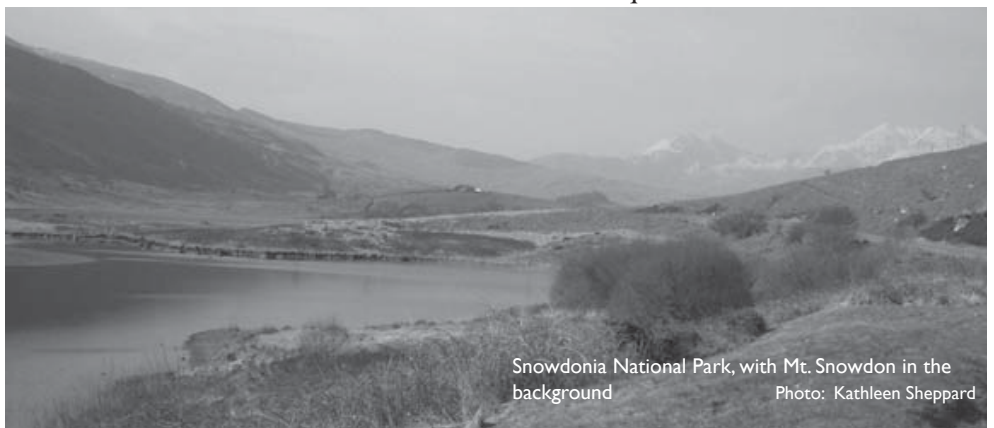
Being based at Chirk allowed me to observe and participate in the day-to-day operations at one of the National Trust's large public properties. I was able to learn from all the staff, including Wardens on the estate, the Membership Recruiters in the ticket office and the Property Manager who oversees the operations of the property.

In addition to the time I spent at Chirk, I was also able to spend time travelling around Wales (and beyond) to visit other National Trust properties, talk

with other National Trust staff and attend other National Trust meetings. I was greatly impressed with the dedication and professionalism of all the National Trust staff whom I met, especially with their commitment to the properties they worked at and their willingness to generate new ideas and to build on successes so that their properties could continually improve. I hope to be able to use the knowledge I've gained to improve my own job and to apply tools that *TLC* as a whole can use.

I was fortunate to be able to see some beautiful parts of Wales, including both Snowdonia National Park and Brecon Beacons National Park. I learned a lot about Wales and was able to tour the Synedd, their new legislature building which opened for the first time in March of this year. I also learned to pronounce a few Welsh place names, such as Llanerchaeron (cthlan-er-CARE-on) and Hafod-y-Llan (HAV-od-e-CTHLAN).

And the quiz questions? Who founded the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty? (It was founded in 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwick Rawnsley; What is the name of the new NT head office? (Heelis); and how much property does the Trust own in Wales? (44,000 ha). The only question remaining is whether you can answer the same questions about *TLC*?



Snowdonia National Park, with Mt. Snowdon in the background
Photo: Kathleen Sheppard

Around the Province

Comings and Goings at *TLC*

TLC Acquires Addition to West Twin Protected Area

In April of 2006, *TLC* secured an additional 64 hectares (157 acres) of important fish and wildlife habitat along the Fraser River near McBride. The property was purchased with funding from Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, *TLC*, the Fraser Headwaters Alliance and the BC Trust for Public Lands, an initiative of the BC Ministry of the Environment.

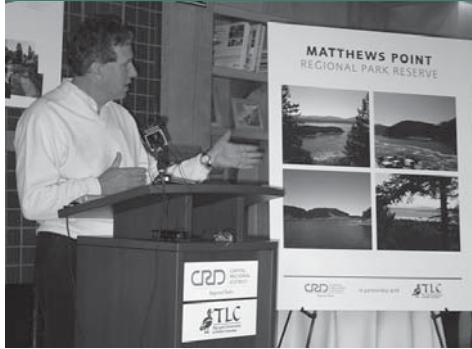
This parcel of land lies within the existing West Twin Protected Area and will help maintain a wildlife corridor across the upper Fraser Trench. The property has 3.2 km of riverfront along the Fraser River and includes a large stand of mature cottonwood, which is becoming increasingly rare in this region of BC. Combined, this property provides vital habitat to many birds and other wildlife species, moose and deer winter range and important fish habitat.

This acquisition helps protect some of the remaining low-elevation habitat in the area. This parcel will be owned by *TLC* and will be leased to, and managed by, BC Parks under a jointly developed management plan.



The Fraser River adjacent to the West Twin property
Photo by Barry Booth

Active Pass Greenspace Trio



CRD Parks Committee Chair Christopher Causton announces the creation of the Matthews Point Regional Park Reserve at a ceremony at Abkhazi Garden.
Photo courtesy of CRD

In 1999, *TLC* worked with Galiano Island residents and the Capital Region District (CRD) to acquire 36 acres of Douglas-fir forest, known as Matthews Point, along the north shore of Active Pass. Seen by millions of passengers every year on BC Ferries, the Matthews Point property stretches from sandy beach up through Garry oak outcroppings to top bluffs where there is a commanding view of the Southern Gulf Islands.

Last year, an opportunity arose to acquire an adjacent 33 acres of Matthews Point. CRD Parks took the lead to acquire this parcel, with *TLC* contributing 1/3 of the acquisition cost. Then earlier this year, we were able to secure a third and final parcel of land that links Matthews Point to Bluff Park. Together these four properties create more than 200 acres of greenspace for southern Galiano Island.

But much remains to be done! While we have secured the future of these lands, we must now raise the funds to pay for them. We are seeking \$200,000 to meet our share of the costs. The campaign is underway, and we hope

to be able to complete it by the end of the summer. To find out how you can contribute to *TLC*'s Matthews Point Campaign, please call our regional office at 250.479.8399.

Splashings Around the Cowichan River

It started out with keen eyes of guests who rented *TLC*'s Cowichan River cabin late last summer. They noticed that a five-acre parcel of waterfront property close to our cottage site was listed for sale. When we heard about it, *TLC* moved quickly to settle on a fair price and to secure the financial resources to acquire this strategically important parcel. In January, *TLC* closed the deal with significant support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and two major donors whose contributions made this acquisition possible.

The Land Conservancy has had a longstanding commitment to protect lands on both sides of the Cowichan River stretching from Cowichan Bay to the Cowichan Estuary. Even before *TLC* was incorporated, Executive Director Bill Turner worked with BC Parks and other partners to secure lands along this nationally historic river.

The river is a world-renowned fishing destination for trout (rainbow and cutthroat are indigenous) and salmon (chinook, coho and chum). It is also a popular recreation area for such pursuits as summer inner-tubing. The area provides habitat to mammals from bats to mink to cougars as well as habitat for over 200 bird species such as bald eagles, ravens and songbirds.

“The destruction of the Kogawa home would be a great loss of cultural heritage for Vancouver, for British Columbia and for Canada.”
– Margaret Atwood

The Campaign to Save Historic Joy Kogawa House

Reconciling Past Wrongs & Bringing Hope to New Generations

by Nancy Tiffin
TLC Development Officer



Renowned author Joy Kogawa in front of her childhood home in Vancouver. Inset: the family in front of their home before it was confiscated and the family interned in 1942.
Photos courtesy of Joy Kogawa

A great tragedy occurred right here in British Columbia during the second world war. Over 22,000 Japanese Canadians – most Canadian-born or naturalized citizens – were forcefully evacuated from their homes following the bombing of Pearl Harbour. They were branded “enemies of Canada,” imprisoned and forced to labour on road gangs and in sugar beet fields. Their homes, farmlands and businesses were confiscated, sold and never returned to them. They lost everything except their dignity and their will to endure.

Noted Canadian author Joy Kogawa was one of the many children born in Canada to have their homes seized during this dark time in Canada’s history. She and her family were relocated to a camp in the Slocan Valley. Years later, she captured her experiences in the award-winning novel, *Obasan*, and in other writings.

After many more years, on a trip to Vancouver from her current home in Toronto, Kogawa discovered that her childhood home was still standing. However it was now owned by an off-shore developer who had plans to demolish it and build a larger house on the site. Recognizing the symbolic

importance of this house as a part of Canadian history and culture, Joy’s friends, neighbours and colleagues banded together to create the “Save Kogawa House Committee” to try and prevent its demolition. Last November, with support from other writers and heritage groups from across Canada, they convinced the City of Vancouver to put a 120-day stay on the demolition permit, giving the community time to raise the money needed to purchase the house and preserve it for future generations.

The deadline was tight and the goal seemed insurmountable, and that’s when TLC was asked to get involved. On December 2, 2005, TLC agreed to lead the campaign to raise the \$1.25M needed to save the house from the wrecking ball — \$700,000 to purchase the house, \$50,000 to fundraise, \$200,000 to restore the house and the gardens and \$300,000 to set up an endowment to operate the house in perpetuity.

Once protected, the house will become the home for a writers-in-residence program, in which a new generation of “writers of conscience” from around the world can live and work in the house

and, hopefully, gain inspiration and insight from its history. At other times, the house would be available for rent as part of TLC’s holiday cottages program, and would also be available for school groups and public visits.

Nearly 550 people, so far, have made a contribution to help save Joy Kogawa House, and thanks to a very generous donation of about \$500,000, we were successful in raising the purchase price of the house by the June 1st deadline.

However, the campaign is not over yet. We still need to raise the money to restore the house and grounds and to set up an endowment. Please join us in working to recover this significant symbol of Canada’s heritage, and help us turn the house into a site for healing and reconciliation, enabling new perspectives about human rights and our evolving multicultural and intercultural society that makes Canada unique in the world.

“The light in this corner of the planet continues to shine with a happy glow of hope for this campaign.”

– Joy Kogawa



Learning from the Past Acting for the Future

Photo by Heather Skydt

Volunteers come in all sizes. Our campaign to save historic Joy Kogawa House has brought forward many new volunteers, none more passionate or more eloquent than the Grade 3/4 students from Tomsett Elementary School in Richmond. They eagerly took up the challenge of helping to save this important symbol of their history from demolition. The students, under the guidance of their teacher, Joan Young, and principal, Sabina Harpe, constructed a huge banner to help bring attention to the campaign. In February, they visited the house and were given a personal tour by Joy Kogawa. At this meeting, the students touched the cherry tree, Joy Kogawa's "tree of friendship" in the backyard and felt the energy that flowed from it. The students and the author spent an intimate time together, talking about memories, love and friendship. Inspired by this experience, the students wrote letters to Vancouver's mayor, Sam Sullivan, appealing for his help in saving the house. The students spoke passionately, from their hearts, realizing the importance of saving this historical landmark. In March, the students made a special trip to Vancouver City Hall to make a presentation to the Deputy Mayor of Vancouver in the council chambers. Following are some thoughts that the students have expressed as a result of their involvement with the campaign. If ever we needed evidence of the value of our work, we need look no further.

"I learned that anybody can make a difference. We made a difference by writing letters and donating money." Amar

"The part that I enjoyed the most was when we all went to Mrs. Kogawa's old home. My favourite part of the house was the living room because it has a fireplace and it felt cozy." Matthew

"Saving the Kogawa House was important to me because the house is full of history." Jodie

"I think Joy Kogawa's house is important because there are lots of memories. I learned how the house is so important to her. We read Naomi's Road, wrote letters, got on T.V. and got on the newspaper. I want to do this again sometime." Judy

"We accomplished something big - we saved a house! It was important because if it was torn down it would shatter Joy Kogawa's memories and her childhood home." Morganne

"It's not like anything I've done before. It almost changed every single way I think about every single thing. I think saving Kogawa House is a great way of learning about history. We learned about how people were discriminated against and how we should think more about other people's feelings. I felt very proud of myself when I heard that the Kogawa House was saved."

Carol

"I learned it is bad to discriminate because it hurts forever." Kiefer

"We saved the Kogawa House. We also made a difference by making Joy Kogawa's dream almost a reality by saving her childhood home. We learned from Joy Kogawa that we're on this earth to make friends and when our family is separated or you're alone, think of love and always have faith. I think that 30 years from now Joy Kogawa's dream house will be reality."

John

"We saved the Kogawa House. We've been on T.V. We have been in the newspaper too. We have raised over 200 thousand dollars. The important thing is that we had fun doing it." Alissa



Cherry blossoms at Kogawa House

Photo by Heather Skydt

Continued on Page 9...

Literary Events Support Fundraising Campaign



Author Joy Kogawa reads from her novel *Obasan* at an event to raise funds for the purchase of her childhood home. Photo by Henry Fibich

Last year, Emmy Chahal won a contest – sponsored, in part, by TLC – to travel to Edinburgh and meet JK Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* books. Since then, Emmy has been a TLC volunteer and, most recently, helped out with the Kogawa project. Here, she provides an account of her experiences.

...continued from Page 8

“We accomplished a lot by telling others to save the house. It is important because it is a symbol of peace, love, and friendship. I enjoyed the visit to Joy Kogawa’s childhood home. I felt scared somehow. We made a difference by letting people know that Kogawa House was in danger of being demolished.” Elizabeth

“When I went to Joy Kogawa’s house and felt the friendship tree, I knew that it was very special to her and she did not want it to get destroyed. So our class read her book, watched the opera, donated money, made a banner, wrote letters to the Mayor, went to City Hall, and it worked. We saved Joy Kogawa’s house. But we still need to raise more money to make the house into a museum, to fix it up a bit and to clean it up. We saved the house and I

“Teenagers these days...”

My goodness, I beg to differ! Old sayings were proved wrong once again on February 11, 2006, at the “Save Joy Kogawa House” Street Launch on Robson Street, Vancouver. Helping with the Kogawa Project was something I had a deep passion for – being an aspiring journalist, myself. I’m so thankful I had the chance to be involved with TLC – an organization with so many similar beliefs to Girl Guides (I’ve been a member for 8 years).

Contrary to previous belief, my pathfinders unit (older girl guides) were *thrilled* when I told them about the Street Launch and how they could help. Having a role in this incredible initiative has been a venture full of fun, learning, and empowerment. On February 11 about ten of my friends and I walked along famous Robson Street, spreading awareness about this

had a lot of fun doing it. I hope that I get to do something like this again.” Brenden

“We accomplished saving Joy Kogawa’s house. I think saving Joy Kogawa’s house is important because it tells the history of the Japanese Canadians. We made a difference because we told the mayor it is wrong to destroy the house. The campaign changed my life because I learned that we are on earth to love each other.” So

“Have you ever had the experience of having your most precious thing wrecked or lost? Well that’s what happened to Joy Kogawa’s house. But it was way worst. She lost her house when it was World War II. We helped her by donating money. We also saw the mayor of Vancouver. I wish more people can help.”

Anastasia

worthwhile cause and the event going on at Chapters, which was happening on the same day. Joy Kogawa was having a Reading (organized by the amazing people at TLC in the Lower Mainland) that turned out to be an extremely awe-inspiring and eye-opening event.

Later on, I was even luckier to help organize and emcee a Reading at my own school. Hearing such vivid memories of the Japanese Internment (in *Obasan*) was both appalling and inspiring. Joy’s presentation with the underlying message of social responsibility and learning from history had a huge impact on everyone. I know Joy’s eloquent words of wisdom will stay with us for a long time to come, and we witnessed in one of the most real demonstrations possible, that truly we must learn from our past to better our future.

by Emmy Chahal

VOLUNTEERING AT TLC

There are many ways you can participate directly in TLC’s programs and activities, by volunteering your time, energy, experience and skills. Opportunities include:

Field Work

- on-site maintenance and restoration
- assisting with surveys and monitoring

Site Support

- gardening
- gift shop or tea room service
- interpretation
- site stewardship and monitoring

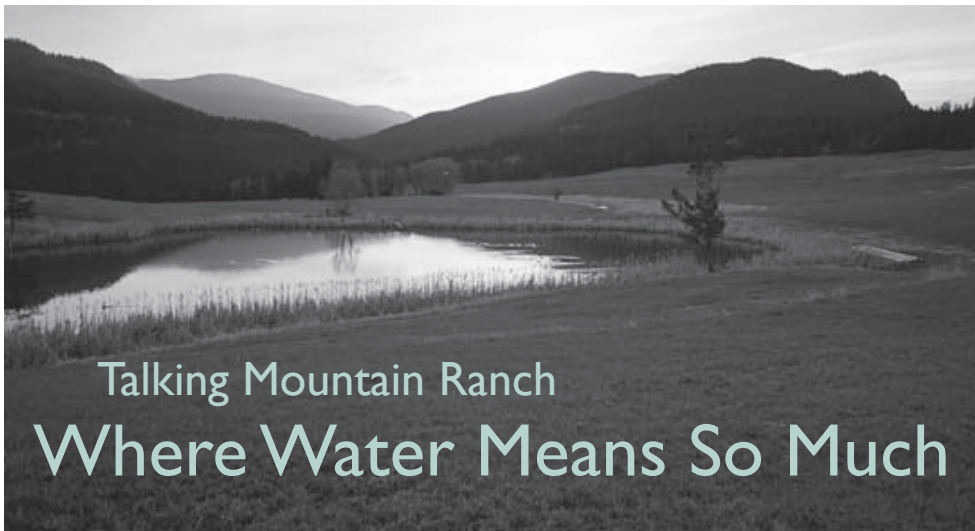
Office Support

- reception and general office work
- data entry
- computer support
- bookkeeping and accounting

Operations Support

- membership recruitment
- displays and outreach
- fundraising
- helping with special events

To volunteer, please contact any TLC office.



Talking Mountain Ranch Where Water Means So Much

In the dry mountains of the Southern Chilcotin, water means everything. At TLC's Talking Mountain Ranch, the summer water supply has been provided for many years by an above ground flume that is aging, leaking and wasting much of the precious water. Along with our neighbours, we needed to construct a new underground pipe irrigation system. Answering the call for help, David Pettigrew took his first trip to Talking Mountain Ranch, and provides his account of the trip here.

*by David Pettigrew
Development & Communications Officer*

I recently had the opportunity to travel some 450 kilometers of the Fraser River, from Vancouver to Talking Mountain Ranch. The ranch is about 57 km directly north of Lillooet, on the west side of the Fraser. With me is volunteer Jon Stoddart and we are responding to a request for help from Barry Booth, TLC's North Region manager, to assist with the installation of a new irrigation system.

After a long drive and negotiation of precipitous sections of the very steep approach road, we arrive at the TLC camp in the early evening. Barry is there to welcome us, and we soon have a cozy campfire warming us against the chilly evening. Barry brings us up to speed on the ranch that is a TLC property purchased in 1999. It's huge, 1000 acres, along with 75,000 acres of Crown range land, secured by grazing rights. TLC acquired the property because of the

grasslands and other environmental features in the area, but by maintaining the ranching operations (through a tenant rancher) we can also demonstrate that conservation and ranching are not incompatible.

Day two is not an early start, and Barry has coffee on by the time I roll out of bed. After breakfast he gives us a tour of this rustic camp, located in a grassy meadow among fir trees and straddling a decent creek.



Digging the trench for a new pipeline that will improve the irrigation system at Talking Mtn Ranch and also for our neighbours.
Photos by David Pettigrew

At the worksite, we meet our neighbours, the Hancocks, who are sharing this project with us,

and there is much discussion about the placement of two large water collection boxes. Once the excavating begins, we're hard at it for the next three days. We learn that it's not just one pipe but two, including an eight-inch pressurized pipe for the TLC ranch, that will be used to feed the irrigation system and also to drive a micro-hydro electrical generator.

On two evenings of the four-day visit we venture up to the high pastures that are irrigated by the water system we're rebuilding. In the falling evening light, zephyrs move across these sloping fields, alternately warm and cool, reminding us that we are at 1,500 hundred meters where the weather can change rapidly. It's mid-May and bird life here is plentiful. Barry's ornithology background allows him to identify every bird we see and many we only hear. On the exquisite pond located in the centre of these high pastures, two pairs of Goldeneye are fighting it out for nesting rights at this otherwise peaceful spot. Barry assures us that there is room for just one pair and the males' charges at each other attest to this fact.

All around us, the native sagebrush and bunch grasses growing in sandy soil clearly mark the extent of the irrigation. It is obvious that it is only through the ingenuity of the water system that makes these high pastures useful for agriculture.

We head back to camp, weary from hot days on the end of a shovel but confident that our work will lead to renewed life for these lush alfalfa mantles, high on the arid shoulders of the mighty Fraser River.

TLC Commemorates 150th Anniversary of Historic Landmark



by Christina Waddle
Site Services Manager

When the McKenzie family arrived at Fort Victoria on a rainy day in January 1853, they were dismayed to find no one to meet them. They were further dismayed to find that the comfortable house at Craigflower farm that had been promised to them did not exist – they would have to build it themselves.

For the next three years, the family of nine lived in a small shack on the property while their house was built. It was modeled after Renton Hall, McKenzie's ancestral home in Scotland, and constructed using the innovative Hudson's Bay Company building style (known as 'pièce sur pièce'). On May 1st, 1856, they moved in, and it was their home for the following decade.

In subsequent years, the Manor was leased to various tenants, some of whom operated the site as a dairy farm. In the 1920s, a camp for girls was operated at the site, and during the 1930s the Hudson's Bay Company operated it as a men's club for their employees. In 1936, it was sold as a private residence; then in 1967 it was acquired by the province of BC and declared a National Historic Site. TLC took on responsibility for operating and maintaining the site in 2003.



View Royal Mayor Graham Hill, Site Manager William Adams and Executive Director Bill Turner unveil the commemorative plaque recognizing the milestone.



Over 200 guests, including local politicians, representatives from the Hudson's Bay Co. and Esquimalt Naval Base and descendants of the original settlers came to help us celebrate.



Scottish Country Dancers provided a link to the origins of the McKenzie family and their farm hands.



Our special guest Tom Pidcock, flanked by Minister of Municipal Affairs Ida Chong, cut the ceremonial cake. Tom's family operated a dairy farm at the site during the early part of the last century. Tom is the last person to have been born in the Manor.

All photos by Sheila Carnegie

Craigflower Manor Gets a New Birthday Suit

by William Adams
Site Manager/Curator

As part of Craigflower Manor's sesquicentenary, much-needed restoration work has been done, to help ensure that BC's third-oldest house will be around for another 150 years, and more.

Unique Larder Roof Reconstructed

Craigflower's larder has a unique coolant system on its roof. It has a metal tank – a reservoir – incorporated into its structure. This tank fills with rain water that, during warm days, evaporates. In so doing, it draws heat from the larder room below, keeping perishables such as milk, butter and eggs at temperatures several degrees cooler than the rest of the house. The tank had been restored during the 1960s, but was now leaking rain water into the larder and damaging the interior of the building. With financial help from the BC Heritage Branch, the roof and the leaky tank have been restored and are now functioning just like they should.

A New Old Coat of Paint

You probably know Craigflower Manor as a large white house with red trim. Not any more! Craigflower's new paint job started in the BC Archives, with the study of old photographs from the 1860s. Then it moved on to a detailed analysis of paint samples taken directly from the building. This analysis, done by conservator Richard Linzey, along with heritage consultant Stuart Stark discovered that beneath various layers of red paint was a base layer of khaki green. This colour was then confirmed by historical references in the letters of pioneer Robert Burnaby, who had visited Craigflower in the 1860s. Finally, we needed to do some preparatory carpentry work to replicate and replace some rotted exterior features: window sills, baseboard siding and the front stairs. Only then were we ready to give the house its new look with its original colours – white and green.

More celebrations to come: Join us on July 22 for the **150th Anniversary Celtic Festival with guest act "Tiller's Folly."** SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO GET TICKETS.

Keating Farm Estate

Innovative Cooperative Farm Model to Protect Valuable Heritage Site



Heritage farmhouse at Keating Farm, built in the 1880s.
Photo by Sheila Carnegie

by Ramona Scott
Manager of Agricultural Programs

In June 2005, *TLC* acquired Keating Farm Estate, near Duncan. The primary motivation for this acquisition was to protect the 1880s-era farm house that contains an architectural feature that is unique in BC – a remarkable 28' x 38' Great Hall, which the *Victoria Daily Colonist* in 1894 called “a faithful reproduction of one of the ancient English Dining Halls.”

Once we became familiar with the site, we realized that there were many other features that were also worthy of protection: the 32-acre farm itself, and the outbuildings, have sound agricultural viability; there is a nursing colony of rare Townsend's Big-eared Bats roosting on the property; there is a wetland that provides summer water for a salmon-bearing stream; and there is a direct connection to a section of the Trans-Canada Trail.

Due to time pressures, Keating Farm was purchased with a mortgage, provided by a number of investors who wanted to help us protect the site. However, now we must pay off that mortgage as quickly as possible by raising the necessary acquisition funds (about \$700,000).

To help raise these funds, we are looking toward the agricultural potential of the site. We have come up with a model for a community-operated farm that will not only protect and use local farmland, thus guaranteeing a source of locally grown food, but it will also raise the funds to secure the property. To achieve this, *TLC* has founded the “Keating Community Farm Cooperative.” This will involve 150 people or businesses, each of whom will purchase a \$5000 membership share in the co-op. About six of these members will be organic producers, and the balance will be consumers such as neighbours, families, schools, restaurants, grocery stores and others who will have preferred access to purchase the farm's fresh foods and products as well as preferred access to the site and facilities. The co-op will then use these funds to acquire from *TLC* the rights to farm the property - thus providing *TLC* most of the funds it needs to pay off the mortgage.

“It's a win-win-win situation,” says *TLC* Executive Director Bill Turner. “Several young farmers will get access to the land at a nominal cost. Co-op members will get guaranteed access to a secure, healthy, local food supply – food grown in a way that they control through their co-op. And *TLC* gets the funds to protect the site in perpetuity.”

The Co-operative was legally incorporated on April 12, 2006, and to date, there are over 130 membership pledges in the works.

Work is currently underway to complete an Environmental Farm Plan for the property, which will help us set the standards for the site's operations.



Environmental Farm Plan advisor Dave Tattam (left) and organic farmer John Erlich check out one of the outbuildings at Keating Farm. Photo by Ramona Scott

Farming activities at the site will be confirmed by the co-op, but will include an organic market garden (by John Ehrlich who lives close by), honey production (by beekeeper Earl Kearley), fruit, nut, flower and herb growing, a goat or sheep dairy, chicken and egg production and native plants. Interest has also been expressed in associated activities such as willow furniture-making and educational programs.

Keating Farm will become the first project of its kind on Vancouver Island. It is also a first for *TLC*, which hopes to be able to replicate the model throughout the province as a viable solution to protecting farmland in perpetuity and making it available to new farmers without the barrier of exorbitant land costs.

“Hats off to *TLC* and the innovative work they are doing in taking farmland out of the speculative market and making it accessible to the people who want to grow food. They are contributing directly to the creation of a local, sustainable food economy,” said Heather Pritchard, Executive Director, Farm Folk/City Folk. “Membership in the new co-op is open to the next generation of hardworking, innovative and tenacious young people who choose to become farmers,” Pritchard said.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Keating Farm Cooperative?

More information about the Co-op, its rules, plans and legal documents can be found on TLC's website at www.conservancy.bc.ca

Click on "Places to Visit," then click on "Keating Farm."

To purchase a membership share in the Co-op, or for more information about membership, please contact Ramona Scott at (250) 479-8301 or rscott@conservancy.bc.ca

Don't forget...

Your TLC Membership Card provides free access to TLC sites:

- Abkhazi Garden
- Craigflower National Historic Site
- Wildwood Ecoforestry Site

Is it time for a visit?

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

Correction

In the previous LandMark, incorrect figures were included for the Consolidated Statement of Operations, Expenses. Below are the correct figures. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2005	
2004	(000's)	(000's)
REVENUE		
Memberships	133	98
Donations	5,015	3,990
Grants	1,010	1,086
Other income	327	224
TOTAL REVENUE	6,485	5,398
EXPENSES		
Operations	2,540	2,073
Debt servicing	369	261
Property transfers	1,922	1,293
Fundraising	237	173
TOTAL OPERATING EXP.	5,068	3,800
Surplus invested in land	1,417	1,598
Fund balances, start of yr	10,337	8,740
Fund balances, end of yr	11,754	10,337

CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM



Do you like what you see here?



If you do, then you'll want to support TLC's Conservation Partners Program by purchasing products with this "butterfly" label.

There are many farmers in BC who are providing working examples of habitat stewardship and sustainable agriculture. For their active involvement in conservation on their farms and ranches, TLC Conservation Partners (CP) are recognized and rewarded with a TLC "butterfly" label to place on their produce boxes and products. TLC promotes the label in the marketplace with information about the program, the products and the producers.

TLC now has 51 Conservation Partners around the province who produce a wide range of agricultural products. These products can be found in local stores or at the farm gate or in specialty stores. Our website (www.conservancy.bc.ca/conservationpartners) lists all of our partners, their products and where you can find them. And more partners are coming on board all the time!

Conservation Partner products include:

Fresh Vegetables, Fruit and Herbs: sold at the farm gate, farmers markets, grocery stores, by box delivery and at restaurants

Meat and Poultry: there are 12 meat producers. Most are beef, chicken and lamb, one is bison and one is turkey. Meat can be bought frozen – order directly online from the rancher listed on the TLC Conservation Partners website, and it will be delivered directly to you.

Wines: There are six CP vineyards in the province and they are all sold at government liquor stores, restaurants and at the wineries.

Processed Food such as Cheese, Preserves, Baked Goods: sold at the farm gate, farmers' markets, grocery stores and restaurants.

Eggs, Honey, Nuts, Flowers, and Plants: sold at the farm gate, farmers' markets, grocery stores and at restaurants.

For more information about the Conservations Partners Program, please contact the Program Coordinator, Paula Hesje, at (250) 479-8301.

TLC MEMBERSHIP

SOLD! on TLC

How a well-known Victoria realtor is making a real difference for BC's special places

by Tom Arnold
TLC Manager of Membership Services

"It all began with a picture," he says.

For more than 25 years, Barrie Hewstan has been a leading sales agent and manager in Victoria's booming real estate industry. His passion for helping people find their dream homes has earned him awards and praise from other industry professionals. But, to the residents of the Capital Region, he is probably best known for his tireless dedication to the local community.

"Many years ago I saw a picture in the newspaper. It showed a little girl sitting next to a rhododendron with a caption that read, 'My grandfather helped protect Beacon Hill Park.' My first thought was how fortunate we all are that a small group of people had the foresight to create and preserve Beacon Hill Park for future generations. My second thought was that I wanted to be able to say that I'd been part of a group that had made a difference like that."

In 1998, a phone call from TLC's Executive Director Bill Turner gave him an opportunity to do just that.

"It was when TLC was working to protect the Sooke Hills," Barrie recalls. "I knew the owners of one of the key

properties...Bill called me and suddenly I was facilitating the deal."

After that initial contact, Barrie began to learn more about TLC, soon becoming a leading advocate for the organization. In 2000, he joined TLC's Vancouver Island fundraising committee. By 2002, he was the committee's chair, helping TLC with several key campaigns including the recent acquisition of the Sooke Potholes.

Today Barrie continues to be one of TLC's leading representatives through his promotion of the TLC Advantage Program – an exciting initiative that brings together TLC members and local businesses for the benefit of special places (*see inset for details*). Through the program, when a TLC member or supporter uses a participating real estate agent to buy or sell their home, the agent will donate a portion of their standard commission to TLC. With BC's active real estate market, Barrie has high hopes for the potential revenue from this program. Plus, there are a number of benefits to both the agents and home buyers/sellers involved:

"It's just so simple," he says of the program. "It allows me to share something that I believe in, to give back to the community, and it benefits my business. It works for my clients too: as a buyer or seller, I would know that I'm paying a commission anyway. This gives me the opportunity to have it go towards something that I really care about."

For other agents, he shares this: "It's easy to be passionate about the environment. This program makes it just as easy to take an active role."

Someone with a vision making a difference...now that is a pretty picture!



Through the Advantage Program, Barrie Hewstan is encouraging more BC realtors to join him in giving a portion of their commissions to TLC.

Photo: courtesy of Barrie Hewstan

Check out the TLC Advantage Program!

At TLC, membership isn't just about giving money. It's about building communities and saving special places. The TLC Advantage Program is one of the ways that we bring together TLC members and local businesses to do just that.

How it works: Show your membership card when you purchase goods or services at participating businesses, and you'll receive a discount and/or a gift will be made to TLC as a result of your purchase. It's that simple. With more businesses signing on all the time, the TLC Advantage Program is a great way save money and special places with the things you buy every day.

Check out our current Advantage Program partners on our website at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

The Legacy Corner

A Legacy Gift to TLC Honours and Protects the Places You Love

by Carla Funk
TLC Planned Giving Coordinator

A short while ago, I received a call from the executor of a will which contained a bequest to *TLC*. A young man passed away suddenly; the executor was his mother.

Peter likely did not expect his last will and testament to be put into effect quite so quickly. Quite the contrary; he had just received a generous scholarship and had driven for four days to Penn State University in order to start a master's program. His future looked particularly promising. No one could have predicted his sudden death.

We are deeply honoured when a bequest has been made to *TLC*. This person has reached from beyond life to let us know that they appreciate the work we have done in the past, and they trust us to make proper use of the gift that they left behind. We in turn strive to honour that trust and do the utmost to find out what that person was most passionate about and what motivated the bequest. According to his mother, Peter loved the ponderosa pine habitat found in Rock Creek, BC. A package has been sent to her that outlines the work that *TLC* does with land owner stewardship, covenants and land purchases in that area. As the executor of his will, she will select the most suitable *TLC* project to support with Peter's gift.

It saddens me that we did not know Peter during his too-short lifetime. I



Peter Schaub indulging in his love of cycling and the outdoors.

Photo courtesy of Schaub family.

wish that we knew more about him as a person. How did he come to leave *TLC* a bequest at such a young age? What is it that inspired him? How can we best honour his life and the gift that he made to this organization? Every life has a story to tell. When a bequest is made it becomes one of the final chapters of that person's life story. We want to get the chapter down right; we don't want to be guessing. In years to come, we will wish that we knew more about all of those people who had the vision to support saving special places in this beautiful province.

As *TLC*'s Planned Giving Coordinator, I am inspired to collect as many life stories of our bequest donors as possible. The "who, what, when, where, why and how" questions that arise need to be addressed so that we can best write one of the final chapters of our most generous supporters.

Have you made a bequest to *TLC*? Please let us know; we'd be honoured to meet you.

Peter Schaub (1979-2005)

Peter was a 26-year-old cartographer at UBC. He passed away as he was about to embark on intensive studies in Geography. He enjoyed kayaking, cycling, hiking, and snowshoeing, and was involved in live theatre as actor, assistant director and set designer.

He grew to love the ponderosa pine habitat when, as a child, he visited his grandparents in Rock Creek, BC. A bicycle trip for several weeks on Vancouver Island may have been his introduction to the work of *TLC*.

We offer our deepest condolences to Peter's parents Jack and Barbara, to his younger brother Jurgen, and to Caroline Slivinski, as well as other family and friends. *TLC* is grateful for Peter's legacy supporting ponderosa habitat in BC's interior.

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Our thanks to Chew Excavating Ltd.



Cleanup work at the Sooke Potholes continued over the past few weeks with the removal of several rotting buildings. This was made possible by the generous donation of equipment and staff by Chew Excavating. Their help made a difficult job go very quickly and easily, and made it possible for us to get the Campground ready for the summer.

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