

## **Fact Sheet: Parkland Acquisition at Sooke Potholes**

### Land Acquisition

- In 2007, CRD and *TLC* purchased 932 hectares from TimberWest Forest Corp. for regional park purposes.
- 8.65 hectares was added to the Sooke Potholes Regional Park.
- 923 was added to the Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt east of the Sooke Potholes.
- CRD purchased an additional 8,791 hectares for watershed protection in the Leech River valley.
- The park land purchase totaled \$5.8 million. *TLC* agreed to contribute \$500,000 toward the purchase.
- It is one of the largest land transactions in British Columbia in recent years.

### Parkland

- These lands were acquired through an invaluable partnership with local conservation groups such as the *TLC*, and the federal and provincial governments.
- The park lands support a wide range of plant and animal species, protect important ecological areas, offer excellent opportunities for hiking and fishing and provide natural buffer areas to Sooke Potholes and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

### Vision

- The Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt is defined as land from Saanich and Tod Inlet to Sooke Basin (north to south) and from the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve to the Sooke River (east to west).
- The vision is to create a continuous protected area of approximately 10,000 hectares, making it the largest contiguous protected area in the CRD.
- To date than 8,000 hectares, or 83 percent of lands, have been acquired for the Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt.
- The belt includes provincial and regional park lands, including Gowlland Tod, Goldstream and Sooke Mountain provincial parks, Sooke Potholes Regional Park, and Ayum Creek, Kapoor, Sea to Sea, and Sooke Hills Wilderness regional park reserves.
- The establishment of a Sea-to-Sea Green Blue Belt is a significant focus of the CRD Regional Growth Strategy, the Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy and the CRD Parks Master Plan.