

Spring 2023

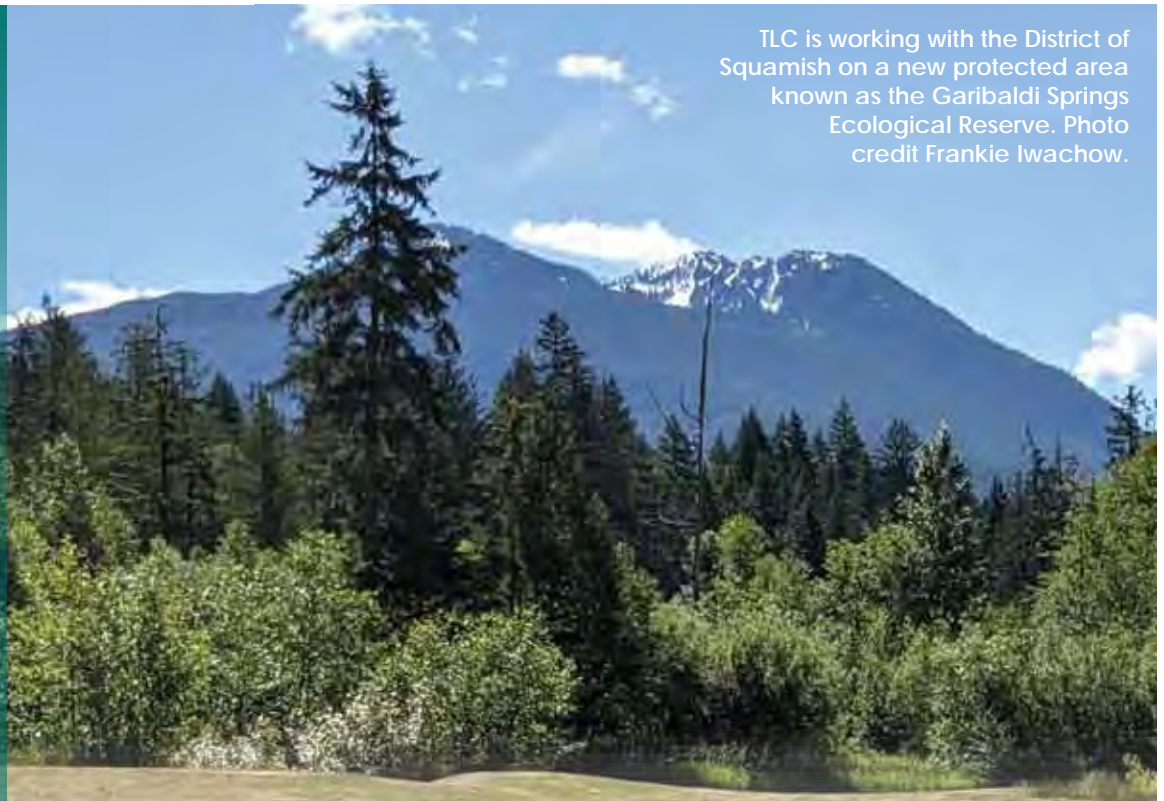
LANDmark

Celebrating 25 Years of Conservation



TLC
The Land Conservancy
of British Columbia

TLC is working with the District of Squamish on a new protected area known as the Garibaldi Springs Ecological Reserve. Photo credit Frankie Iwachow.



We are thrilled to share details of Garibaldi Springs, a new conservation area protected by a conservation covenant co-held by TLC and the District of Squamish. This 36.69-hectare (90.66-acre) area in northeast Squamish protects and expands critical habitat for species including the provincially red-listed Peregrine falcon. You can read all about this exciting project on Page 4 of this newsletter.

On Salt Spring Island we have partnered with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) to successfully protect 15.5 acres of rainforest on the east coast of the island. TLC was able to contribute more than \$100,000 toward the SSIC acquisition thanks in part to a gift from the late conservation philanthropist Susan Bloom.

The 2022/23 fiscal year marks TLC's 25th anniversary of conservation. To celebrate, our board challenged those who care about the ecosystems we protect to raise \$250,000 toward our new 25th Anniversary Endowment Fund. To date we have raised more than \$125,000 toward the endowment fund held with the Victoria Foundation. Gifts to support the ongoing protection of our precious habitats can be made by donating to TLC or the Victoria Foundation.

In this edition of the LANDmark you will read about TLC's current restoration efforts, our 2023 *Passport to Nature*, and much more. We have included examples of creating restoration plans and tips for how you can make an impact in your backyard or neighbourhood.

If you're looking to get more involved in our conservation efforts - volunteering at a specific site in your neighbourhood, assisting with programming, or joining our board of directors - please reach out. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team!

If our work inspires you to get outside and plant native species, restore an impacted area, or identify and support pollinators, we would love to hear about your experiences! Please share your conservation efforts with us via Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook @TLC4BC, or email membership@conservancy.bc.ca. We



always appreciate hearing your stories; your passion fuels our efforts!

Cathy Armstrong
Executive Director

Creating a Native Pollinator Meadow



TLC's Lisa Cross is transforming her family's backyard into a pollinator haven. Photo credits: John Rusk (Woolly Sunflower), Cathy Armstrong (Sea Blush), and Lisa Cross.



TLC's happy meadow maker Lisa Cross planting native species in her family's backyard pollinator meadow.



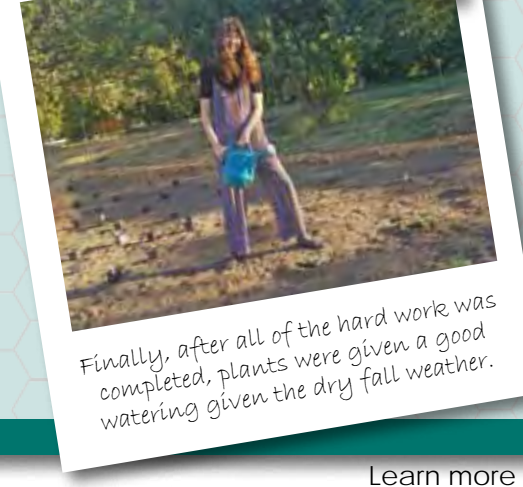
Lisa's pollinator meadow with plant pots laid out to mark their final homes before digging in.



Lisa enlisted a team of helpful family volunteers to aid in the meadow's creation including shoveling mulch.



Getting their hands dirty, the team carefully planted the native species based on height, width, and colour.



Finally, after all of the hard work was completed, plants were given a good watering given the dry fall weather.



Selecting Species for Pollinator Proclivity

In her pollinator meadow, Lisa used a combination of plants that would offer a long blooming season to provide ongoing pollinator resources. After reviewing the site for seasonal changes over the course of a year, she carefully considered which native plants would be best suited and created a custom seed blend and planting program for the project. Species included Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*), Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and Sea Blush (*Plectritis congesta*).

Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*) is known to attract bumblebees, mason bees, hover flies, and lady beetles. This blue/purple flower is in the lily family and has important Indigenous cultural values.



Vibrant Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) attracts various native bees including sweat bees, long-horned bees, and many butterflies such as the Red Admiral.



The magnificent and magenta Sea Blush (*Plectritis congesta*) attracts many pollinators, and is a host plant for the endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly.

It is important to note that these plants are suited to south-eastern Vancouver Island. If you are planning your own meadow be sure to source plants and seeds from your local native plant nursery due to regional genetic variations, and pollinator preferences. Planting native species for your region helps provide floral resources and year-round habitat for native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. If you are looking for more information about plants for your specific region, please reach out.



Connect with Lisa, TLC's Donor Relations Manager & Grants Coordinator, today by calling 1-877-485-2422 or email lcross@conservancy.bc.ca.



By Lisa Cross
Donor Relations
Manager & Grants
Coordinator

This month I'm excited to share an update on my journey to create a pollinator meadow in my backyard. You may recall from our last LANDmark newsletter, in the fall I was still in the researching and planning stage – now I'm thrilled to report that my meadow has been fully planted and seeded! Here's a snapshot of what's happened since we last chatted:

- After a final weeding of the chosen planting area, we rimmed the perimeter with heavy cardboard to slow encroachment by the remaining lawn.
- To further impede the surrounding lawn, we covered the cardboard in a deep layer of cedar wood mulch.
- Next, we created a windy path through the centre of the meadow to allow easy viewing

of the blooms and visiting pollinators.

- To provide nesting and overwintering habitat, we added an old log and a pile of rocks to the middle of the meadow.
- Then, we put up a temporary wire fence to keep our dog from trampling the tender buds and blooms while they are getting established.

- Finally, I headed off to Satinflower Nurseries (my local native plant nursery) and picked up my order of potted plants and seeds!

The plants and seeds I chose include over 20 flowering species, offering an extended blooming season with a variety of colours and textures. My hope is to attract a myriad of native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators, with floral resources available from early spring through fall.

In mid-October, we carefully laid out the potted plants first, making location choices for height, width, and colour. Then we gave them all a good watering as the summer drought extended well into October, and

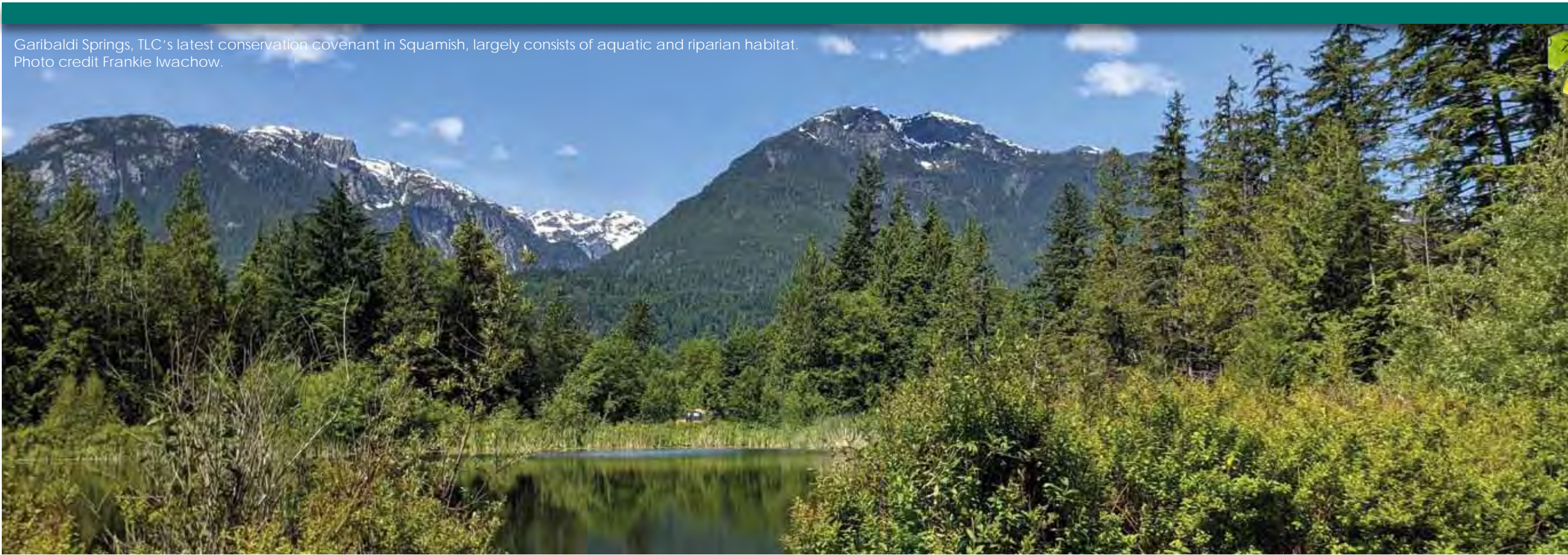
the soil was parched and dusty. A few days later I watered down the entire planting area again before broadcasting the seed blend (mixed with clean sand for easier distribution) throughout the meadow.

After that, all that was left to do was close the gate and begin the long winter wait. These past several months the meadow has been rained on, covered in a deep layer of snow, thawed, and frozen again. So far, all I've been able to see are a few rogue bits of lawn grass poking up here and there and I'm wondering what, if any, of my precious seeds will germinate!

Coming up: I will keep you all posted about the latest on my meadow journey via TLC's social media; stay tuned to see what plants germinate, and which pollinators visit this spring and summer.

If you are interested in visiting my pollinator meadow I will be hosting a **Passport to Nature event at the site on June 8th**. Sign up for this event – or any of our 2023 Passport to Nature events - on our website www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport. I'd love to see you there! ■

Garibaldi Springs, TLC's latest conservation covenant in Squamish, largely consists of aquatic and riparian habitat. Photo credit Frankie Iwachow.



Update:
50% of our
goal raised!

TLC's 2022/2023 fiscal year marks the charity's 25th year of protecting B.C.'s critical ecosystems.

Today the organization protects 12,868 acres with conservation covenants, and a further 2,784 acres of sensitive areas where we manage and hold title.

To ensure that the vital habitats protected over the last 25 years receive ongoing stewardship, TLC's Board launched a challenge to British Columbians to raise \$250,000 towards TLC's 25th Anniversary Endowment Fund with the Victoria Foundation.

You can make a lasting impact for our most sensitive ecosystems by supporting their ongoing stewardship.

Donate today by visiting www.conservancy.bc.ca

New Conservation Area Restored to Expand and Protect Habitat in Squamish

TLC and the District of Squamish are pleased to announce the creation of a 36.69-hectare (90.66-acre) conservation area known as Garibaldi Springs Ecological Reserve. The centrally located conservation area protects and expands critical habitat for provincially red-listed species. Stewardship will also include the re-wilding of altered forest and riparian areas.

The ecological reserve was made possible through land dedication and site remediation work by Polygon Developments Ltd. as part of an overall development plan for this previous golf course site. Polygon is responsible for habitat restoration on the site under plans approved by the District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Province of B.C. for the initial 5-year period. The conservation partnership includes the District of Squamish and TLC as joint signatories to a conservation covenant

registered on land title to protect the Garibaldi Springs land.

Conservation covenants are collaborative and legal agreements, voluntarily entered by a landowner and an eligible conservation covenant holder. The covenant runs with the land in perpetuity and protects against the destruction of natural features and habitat fragmentation.

"Squamish is internationally known for its breathtaking natural beauty," says Cathy Armstrong, TLC Executive Director. "We are proud to partner with the District of Squamish and Polygon in creating a conservation covenant to expand and protect riparian and forest habitat for species at risk and wildlife migratory opportunities."

Garibaldi Springs largely consists of aquatic and riparian habitat, as well as previously disturbed areas that will be

restored to wetland, riparian, and upland forested habitat. The conservation area also contains creeks and wetlands that feed into salmon-bearing Meighan Creek and the Squamish River via Harris Slough. The area neighbours 1.17-hectares of new active community park, Garibaldi Springs Park, in addition to existing nearby wildlife habitat in the South Coast Mountain Range including Alice Lake Provincial Park and Garibaldi Provincial Park. The land will be fully accessible to the public.

"The Garibaldi Springs Ecological Reserve and Park will benefit the entire community of Squamish and this covenant will ensure its protection for all to enjoy, for many generations to come," says District of Squamish Mayor Armand Hurford. "As the District works to balance a range of objectives from providing housing within our growth management boundary, to protecting greenspace, this project exemplifies how this can be achieved. We

are appreciative of the Land Conservancy of British Columbia, Polygon and all those involved for their work in supporting conservation efforts in our community."

TLC holds, monitors, and enforces more than 250 ecologically sensitive areas with conservation covenants throughout the province, and will continue to monitor and collaborate with the District of Squamish

and Polygon in the re-wilding and ongoing protection of Garibaldi Springs. ■

Join TLC's Executive Director Cathy Armstrong for a **Passport to Nature event at the Garibaldi Springs on June 24th** for a tour of the restoration area. Register today at www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport.



Foam flower (*Tiarella trifoliata*) found in the shady forest habitat at TLC's new conservation covenant in Squamish. Photo credit Frankie Iwachow



Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) thrive in wetland and riparian areas like those found at Garibaldi Springs. Photo credit Frankie Iwachow

Using Permaculture to Restore Your Backyard

By Torrey Archer
Biologist & Land Manager

“Form follows function” is a famous axiom in architecture from Louis Sullivan where the purpose of a building should be the starting point for its design. This can also be applied to ecological restoration where we identify what a functional landscape would look like and support the components to help make that happen. A restoration plan can help guide you in bringing a system back into ecological integrity, where the system is balanced and serving as many species as best as possible.

There are several key steps in any restoration plan. The first step embraces a permaculture view (permaculture derives from the words “permanent” and “agriculture”) by observing the land to see how it is and isn’t functioning before any modifications are made. Ideally, a whole year is taken to observe to see important seasonal changes. What areas get seasonally wet or dry? Water pooling where there shouldn’t be will

impact soil chemistry and dictate what (if any) plants can go there. Conversely, water draining away too fast will result in dry, barren soil that can blow away in summer months without the protective qualities that plants provide. Water is life and should be taken very seriously!

Light is also very important; how many hours of sunlight the land receives and at which aspect (North, East, South, or West). For example, if you have a flat backyard that receives East/West light, you have many more options for plants that will grow compared to a sloping backyard that only receives North light due to a row of tall trees shading the yard out. The amount of light that reaches the land changes in the seasons too. Those tall trees will also impact the direction and velocity of the prevailing winds, other components that impact land. By weaving together what you know about your seasonal wetness/dryness, light and wind you begin to understand your land’s moisture regime.

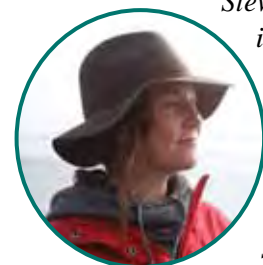
The moisture regime and nutrient regime works synergistically to dictate what types of plants will grow. For example, in Victoria’s moist maritime Coastal Douglas-fir (CDFmm BEC zone) ecosystem, a wet and nutrient dense regime could result in Western Cedar and Skunk Cabbage (aka Swamp Lantern). On the drier and less nutrient rich end of that same zone you will find Douglas-fir and Arbutus. Neither is unhealthy as each species occupies a specific niche. Your job is to observe the land to determine which species will fill the niches in a way that creates ecological integrity.

Unpacking ecological integrity a bit

more reminds us that we must look at the land in a holistic way. No one plant or ecosystem component is better than another. A beautiful landscape is one that is functional as that will invite all sorts of wonderful critters to call it home. By taking the time to truly observe your land, you will also discover what its biggest challenges are. Maybe you already know the soil is too dry as plants just don’t seem to stay and grow. Maybe you already know you need to remove the invasive species that are choking out the native ones. But what you might not know is why that soil continues to be dry (sloping land sheds water before it can sink and spread), or why those invasives have outcompeted the natives (soil is compacted and receives too much full sun). Observing will give you important clues to address the root causes of landscape suffering, rather than simply trying to quell the symptoms.

Observation is the first step in any restoration plan. The next steps include: making a map, understanding the land’s history, identifying challenges and goals, making small changes, monitoring, and evaluating/adaptively managing. If you’d like to read about the rest, you can find the full article on TLC’s website at www.conservancy.bc.ca.

Torrey Archer, TLC’s Biologist & Land Manager, is developing TLC’s restoration plan for the recently bequeathed Alston-Stewart properties in the Blenkinsop Valley. Her work will inform future restoration work and the ongoing maintenance of the site.



Seeing Green: The Shady Side of Being Well

By Frankie K. Iwachow
Environmental Technician
& Land Manager

When I was a kid on long car drives with family, my mom told us to look outside. She said looking at green things would keep our eyes healthy. I would strain to make sure I looked at every green tree, shrub, and lawn wondering if she was telling the truth or trying to keep my brother and I from fighting in the back seat. I’ve since learned she was onto something in more ways than one.

Over the past few decades, thousands of studies have looked at how green exposure impacts our well-being, and the verdict is in: nature is an emotional and physical experience we cannot be well without. Your doctor can even prescribe it for you! Not only does fifteen minutes in nature significantly reduce your stress hormones and inflammation, it can improve your psychological well-being. It also reduces your risk of cardiac illness

and lung infection, and activates tumor-killing cells in patients diagnosed with cancer. The data suggests spending two hours a week exposed to greenspace with a minimum of 20 minutes a session to gain these benefits.

With two-thirds of Canadians living in urban areas, access to green spaces can be challenging. While urban parks are excellent places to spend green time, studies are finding that simply having views of green spaces from your window have positive effects. Tree canopy cover (TCC) is becoming an important green infrastructure tool to help us achieve this. Street trees also improve air quality, reduce cooling and heating energy use, reduce flood risks, and make urban environments more aesthetically preferable.

Urban tree canopy programs are sprouting in several cities across the country to take advantage of these all-encompassing benefits. One study in Toronto discovered a correlation between heat-related illnesses during extreme heat events with TCC densities in neighbourhoods. Areas with less than 5% TCC saw five times as many heat-related ambulance calls than those areas with TCC greater than 5%. And nearly 15 times as many heat-related calls than neighbourhoods

with 70% tree canopy cover. Climate models are projecting more extreme heat events impacting urban centres for the foreseeable future making urban greenspace development a no-brainer solution.

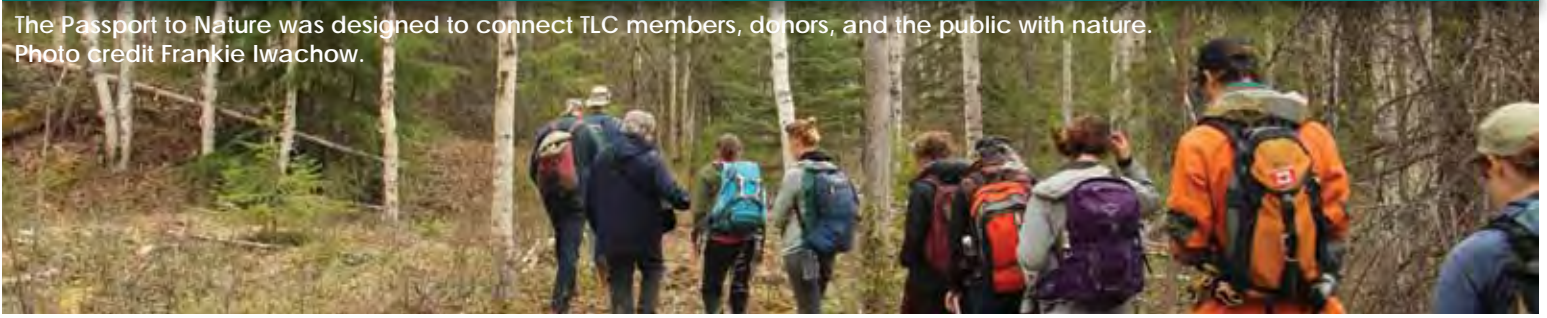
With my eyes attuned to seeing green, I feel good knowing that walking down a shady tree-lined street is contributing to my community’s well-being. Small acts of nature conservation can be profoundly empowering. You can grow your own slice of green space by:

- Introducing a tree or shrub to your balcony or backyard;
- Learn about your district’s urban tree programs (some areas offer plants to take home!); or
- Supporting your local land trust’s urban nature initiatives. ■

Have you implemented any greening strategies in your area? We would love to hear your ideas, projects, and results. Reach out to Frankie to share your success story via kiwachow@conservancy.bc.ca.



The Passport to Nature was designed to connect TLC members, donors, and the public with nature.
Photo credit Frankie Iwachow.



Explore B.C. from Forest to Sea with Passport to Nature 2023!



*By Emily Francis
Communication
Coordinator*

This year marks the sixth offering of TLC's Passport to Nature Program.

Curious to learn more?

Read on to learn more about this year's program and how you can get involved.

What is Passport to Nature? TLC's Passport to Nature is a collection of events that are hosted throughout the year by TLC staff, board, and some of B.C.'s best nature experts. Each event connects participants with the natural world by taking a deep dive into the lives, relationships, and natural cycles of B.C.'s species and habitats. This year features both online and in-person events held across the province.

Who can attend? TLC aims to provide equal access to nature and environmental education. All Passport to Nature events are FREE to attend. Events cater to a wide range of abilities and are family friendly. Given some events are more physically demanding than others, we recommend that you review each event's details before

you arrive. If you have any questions about event accessibility, please contact us.

What will I gain from attending? So many things! Explore new places and concepts, make new friends, network with professionals in environmental fields, gain skills in environmental stewardship and restoration, and much, much more!

What's new in 2023? With nine events scheduled for 2023, there is so much to look forward to! Here's a preview of what's to come:

May 27th Bioblitz at the Millstream Creek Watershed property in the District of Highlands (In-person): Engage in citizen science while you go on a live scavenger hunt for plants and animals using the iNaturalist phone app. The data you collect will help TLC establish a baseline study for the area. A scientific spin of the mobile game "Pokemon-Go", this event is perfect for families.

June 24th Garibaldi Springs Ecological Reserve in Squamish (In-person): Join TLC Executive Director Cathy Armstrong to learn about species at risk protection and habitat restoration plans for TLC's newest 90-acre conservation covenant.

October 19th The Confluence of Sod & Sea: Crucial Role of Dead, Washed Ashore Seaweed on Pacific Northwest Food Webs (Virtual, Zoom): Sara Wickam, PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo, enlightens listeners to the importance of death and decay in feeding B.C.'s famously stunning coastal ecosystems.

How do I get involved? Read through the Passport to Nature booklet on TLC's website and register for the events you are interested in. Advanced registration is required for each event. Booklet and registration can be found at www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport-to-nature. Stay tuned to TLC's social media channels @TLC4BC for reminders about upcoming Passport to Nature events.

Have any questions? Please contact us! Toll free at 1-877-485-2422 or email membership@conservancy.bc.ca. ■

Emily joined TLC in early 2023 with a background in environmental science and education. She has taught thousands of youth and adults hands-on, skill-building programming in marine, wetland and forest ecology, ecological restoration, sustainable food, solar energy, and climate action. As TLC's Communication Coordinator, Emily uses her passion for environmental education to tell the stories of B.C.'s wild spaces and illuminate TLC's work to protect them.

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TLC is honoured to be the recipient of donations in the memory of:
Carlo Felice Bezio, Colleen Coppin, Peri Coppin, Florence Hanson, Alan, Hugh, and Morag Irvine, Ann Kingerlee, and Philip Manders
To remember your loved one with a special gift call 1-877-485-2422