



Annual General Meeting

1 P.M. Saturday, September 23, 2023

Cordova Bay United Church, 813 Claremont Ave

1) Call to Order, Welcome, and Indigenous Acknowledgement

Present (29) included Board members Jeff Sheldrake, Tom Watson, Penny Crawford, Gina Delimari, Paleah Black Moher, Andrew Stewart, Sara Wickham, and Kelly Fretwell; staff members Cathy Armstrong, Dianna Stenberg, Connie Pedersen, Emily Francis, Torrey Archer Anderson, Frankie Iwachow, Lisa Cross, Cherie Miltimore, and Sherry Beauvais; TLC members Richard Konwick, Chris Coppin, Bob McMinn, Rosemary and Sid Jorna, Lori Roter, Jim and Lyn Wisnia, Carmel Thompson, Joan Wenman, Briony Penn; and auditor Larry Beatty from Grant Thornton.

2) Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda. Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Lori Roter. Carried.

3) Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve the AGM minutes of September 24, 2022. Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded Tom Watson. Carried.

4) Business Arising from the Minutes

5) Report from the Chair of the Board, Jeff Sheldrake

This past year TLC partnered with the District of Squamish to protect 37 hectares on the co-held conservation covenant on the Garibaldi Springs Ecological Reserve.

Relationships built by TLC staff and volunteers and trust in our organization meant that TLC was the beneficiary this past year of the largest gift in the history of our organization. This gift from the estate of the late Joan Alston Stewart provided TLC with a bequest worth \$8.8 million and protects an important urban greenspace in the Blenkinsop Valley in greater Victoria.

This year we have further expanded protected areas in the province by working in partnership with other organizations in the conservation community. On Salt Spring Island, TLC assisted with the successful campaign to acquire more than 6 hectares of coastal temperate rainforest known as Creekside Rainforest. Confidence in TLC and its goals was made evident with more than \$100,000 in contributions to support this acquisition.

To the west of Victoria at Otter Point, TLC partnered with the Capital Regional District and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society in the acquisition of 23.5 hectares of parkland known as Admiral's Forest.



While we are proud to have these major donations and highly visible partnerships, we also acknowledge the importance of the many smaller projects as well as the gifts of time and money that are so critical to the success of TLC and the vision that we have as an organization. With this vision in mind, our dedicated staff are hard at work every day supporting members and donors, and working with landowners that want to entrust their lands and their financial contributions to the stewardship of TLC.

Before I close, I would like to recognize our Executive Director. As many of you already know, Cathy has chosen to pursue a new chapter in her life and is retiring very shortly after this AGM. The contribution of TLC's conservation achievements and its success in recent years are due in large part to Cathy's hard work and special talents. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Cathy for her dedication to TLC and her contribution to B.C.'s conservation community. Cathy, we wish you a very happy retirement.

With Cathy happily launching into retirement, I'm pleased to announce to the TLC membership that our currently Deputy Executive Director Dianna Stenberg has accepted the invitation from the Board of Directors to take up the role as Executive Director. Dianna we wish you every success in your new role. Going forward, your board and staff will continue to build TLC's network of support. We have been working to expand TLC's board of directors with new volunteers. New faces seeking to join our team this fall have background and expertise in organizational effectiveness, investor relations, mediation, Indigenous relations, forest ecology, and human resources. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining our team, please do not hesitate to reach out. With the support of our members, donors, and volunteers, this year we have made significant achievements in the name of conservation. I'd also like to recognize that we have board members retiring this year, and we will introduce you to them later and I want to thank them for their contributions. On behalf of TLC's board of directors and dedicated staff, I thank you for your contributions, your support, and for joining us here today. Thank you.

6) Report from the Executive Director Cathy Armstrong

Cathy presented a photo retrospective presentation from her time with TLC. Cathy started in the Gonzales Observatory office in 2014 and was appointed Executive Director in 2015. Highlights included working with Sid Jorna of the Juan de Fuca Community Trail Society; Road trip with staff to visit properties including Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area, Valhalla Mile conservation covenant, and Todd Road. Cathy shared the importance of TLC's network of supporting throughout the CCAA process and beyond: the board, staff, John Shields, Carmel Thompson, Joe Martin, Vicky Husband, Joan Alston-Stewart, Marion Cumming, the Barer family, the Georgian community Canada, Bob McMinn, Ian Bruce and Peninsula Streams, the CRD, District of



Squamish, Dr. Tara Martin, Town of Gibsons, Deertrails Naturalist Program instructors, Indigenous Nations, and partners in conservation including Nature Conservancy of Canada and Salt Spring Island Conservancy, and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association.

7) Presentation of Financial Statements (Q&A at end)

Larry Beatty, auditor from Grant Thornton, presented TLC's financial statements.

Financial statements today versus when he started working with Executive Director Cathy Armstrong were dramatically different. Auditors report states that from a true auditing view, TLC's management responsible for putting together statements. Grant Thornton then audits those figures.

Page 3 of the Audited Financial Statements include the Statement of Operations. The snapshot of 12 months shows a huge increase in revenue with a surplus \$5.8 million. This is because of the big Blenkinsop Valley property donation. The properties are added to the financial statement at their appraised values. No real corresponding expense to offset that that revenue. Other revenues and expenses are fairly consistent with the past: statement shows expenses of \$1.5 million this year and \$1.7 million last year. Expenses include the donation line item which are funds going to endowment funds or other special projects TLC has given money to.

Page 5 shows the balance sheet including the assets and liabilities. Shows the financial strength of the organization with \$1.7 million in assets and only \$65,000 in liabilities. Conservation covenants, capital assets, and property owned by society are entered at their appraised value. The big increase is from the large property donation received. Fund balances include the restricted fund which shows funds received from individuals for specific purposes.

Page 6 shows that the cash balance went up by approximately \$400,000. No big capital projects or investments happening throughout the year.

Other pages of the Audited Financial Statements include accounting policies. No major changes or additions.

8) Appointment of Auditor

Motion to appoint Grant Thornton as auditor for TLC's 2023/24 fiscal period.

Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Andrew Stewart. Carried.

9) Nomination of Board of Directors

Motion to ratify the election of Penny Crawford to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Paleah Black Moher. Carried.

Motion to ratify the election of Georgina Delimari to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.



Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Sara Wickham. Carried.

Motion to ratify the election of Jeff Sheldrake to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Moved by Paleah Black Moher. Seconded by Lori Roter. Carried.

Motion to ratify the election of Andrew Stewart to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Tom Watson. Carried.

Motion to elect Tomas Cimolai to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Georgina Delimari. Carried.

Motion to elect Pamela Di Cenzo to TLC's Board of Directors for a three year term.

Moved by Jeff Sheldrake. Seconded by Kelly Fretwell. Carried.

10) New/Other Business

a) Thank you to retiring Board of Directors

This fiscal year bookended by two retirements. Early in the year Lori Roter stepped down from the board and as treasurer. Impressed with her enthusiasm, energy, and ability to keep the board on track on financials and policies. Tom Watson retires at this AGM as a dedicated and long-standing board. Thank you to both.

b) Introduction of new Executive Director Dianna Stenberg

c) Message to retiring Executive Director Cathy Armstrong

Briony Penn paid tribute to Cathy saying she came in at such a critical time. Personally thanked her for pulling the organization through a critical time. Briony has invited John Shields to join the team, and between John and Cathy, they won the public trust back through kindness and steadiness. Showed the importance of relationships with people including donors. Briony gifted Cathy a sketch from Deertrails. Cathy took a dream of nurturing the next generation in the conservation community and made it a reality. Briony wished Cathy all the best in her retirement.

Sid Jorna thanked Cathy and TLC from the Otter Point community. Without TLC's financial backing, they wouldn't have had the ability to take on the Admiral's Forest challenge.

Lori Roter shared that Cathy's time as Executive Director paralleled her duration on the board.

Through hard times and good; we're all going to miss her.

Trevor Goward called in from the upper Clearwater Valley – a place close to TLC and Cathy's heart.

Trevor shared the history of the area with TLC and with Cathy including his 2009 proposal to set aside land in two lobes below Wells Gray Park to keep connectivity for wildlife. Cathy brought with



her the importance of connecting people with nature, and in 2019 TLC put on the first Deertrails. TLC's Kiosk was unveiled in the summer of 2019 attracting 40 locals and celebrating donors. Now up and running, it will be visited by hundreds if not thousands. And everyone who comes by will hear TLC's praises. Gives him enormous pleasure to dedicate the kiosk to TLC and Cathy specifically. Carmel Thompson thanked Cathy for her diligence in lobbying for TLC and Maltby Lake. Even at hard times, like when the Plan of Arrangement and Compromise was brought to the meeting at the Prospect Lake Community Hall, Cathy kept her calm. Torrey Archer performed a Brandi Carlisle song dedicated to Cathy.

14) Adjourn 2:52 p.m. Moved by Jeff Sheldrake.