



Natural Legacy

A newsletter on how The Nature Trust works to conserve BC's natural beauty

HEART OF THE FRASER: Tom Berry Property

On September 19, The Nature Trust of British Columbia celebrated the acquisition of the 6.09-hectare (15.05-acre) Tom Berry property near Hope as well as the dedication of a research facility.

“Over the decades of ownership, Buck Berry saw his role as a guardian, for he loved the habitat and its wildlife, the river and its gravel bars, and he wanted them preserved and protected forever. The Nature Trust will ensure his philosophy and vision both come true, to be enjoyed by future generations,” declared Robin Wilson, Chair of The Nature Trust.

The Nature Trust is very pleased to be a partner with Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, North Growth Foundation, BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Centre of Excellence to create a complex of properties in the Heart of the Fraser Gravel Reach area between Mission and Hope. This latest acquisition joins others along the Fraser including the 22-hectare (54-acre) Harrison Knob which was donated to The Nature Trust by Canfor in 2006. Negotiations are underway regarding other critical properties in this area.

“This part of the river may well be the

most productive stretch of river in the world,” said World Rivers Day Founder Mark Angelo.

On the Tom Berry property is a building that will become a research centre used by the BCIT Fish and Wildlife Program and other educational institutions for studying the ecology of this region.

“It is my honour to dedicate this research centre to Wendy Thompson—a young woman who loved the natural splendour of British Columbia,” said Doug Walker, CEO of The Nature Trust.

“Wendy was a paramedic with the British Columbia Ambulance Service. She was on a mercy flight to the Queen Charlotte Islands on January 11, 1995 when her aircraft was lost at sea. Wendy’s estate has helped fund the acquisition of this property.”

Other donors to the property include:

- Montrose Development
- North Growth Foundation
- Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel
- BC Trust for Public Lands
- And many individual donors



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ROCK CREEK Donation

Murray LaBrash and Debbie Sharp decided to leave a legacy for the future by donating their land at Rock Creek to The Nature Trust. Located in the Kettle Valley, the 31.9-hectare (78.8-acre) property is on the north side of the Crowsnest Highway 3 between the communities of Rock Creek and Midway. Vegetation includes mixed grasses and scattered Ponderosa Pine with clumps of Douglas fir. Several large wildlife trees, rock outcroppings and small cliffs, and an intermittent stream provide excellent wildlife habitat. This property provides a refuge for wintering ungulates, bears, and other wildlife. The Nature Trust wants to thank Murray and Debbie for their generosity and foresight.

“You come into this world with nothing and you go out with nothing. You can’t take it with you. By leaving habitat for nature, I feel that I am leaving this world a better place.”

Debbie Sharp

Continued on page 3...

SHARING the story

British Columbia is filled with wonderful people who are passionate about our province's unique and rich natural surroundings. Every day we are touched by their stories and inspired by their generosity to continue our conservation of high risk habitat.

You will read in this issue about:

- a loyal supporter who gives in memory of her father
- a financial donation from Gena Perla who captured our hearts with her CD fundraiser
- a covenant on the Cowichan River due to the kindness of the Flemings
- a gift of land in Rock Creek from two people who care—Deborah Sharp and Murray La Brash
- an acquisition adding to our complex of properties in the Heart of the Fraser and in the Kootenays by two caring families
- and special people who have volunteered their time to clean up Boundary Bay.

There are many ways to give. Every dollar is important in continuing our conservation work as land prices



rise and land management becomes more complex.

This year we had 33 young people participate in our summer conservation crew program. As Julie Tyrell so aptly stated, "I liked The Nature Trust of BC's mission and the idea of tangible conservation as opposed to preservation. The Nature Trust properties do encourage respectful public use, and with the continued efforts of The Nature Trust and the conservation crews, these properties will continue to be a part of the community." If you or someone

you know would like to hear about our organization, please give me a call.

As 2007 comes to a close I want to thank all of you for making our anniversary year one to remember. In addition to several well attended regional appreciation events we launched our premier fundraising gala: A Lifetime of Giving Back. Over 280 people helped us raise \$50,000 with \$100,000 pledged by a family. Our Thanksgiving ecotour fundraiser at Telegraph Cove courtesy of Jim and Mary Borrowman of Stubbs Island Whale Watching was a fantastic opportunity to see firsthand Robson Bight, share a turkey dinner and raise \$4,300. Our photography contest was a great hit with over 1,000 entries. Our first Sustainability Speaker, James Hoggan, presented Getting Environmental Communications Right on October 23. The second Sustainability Speakers will be Robert Falls of ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates and Lyn Brown of Catalyst who will look at how Rolling Stone magazine and other organizations are partnering to neutralize their carbon footprint on January 29.

Your support of The Nature Trust is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you in 2008 to conserve BC's natural beauty.

Doug Walker, CEO



Thanksgiving Ecotour Fundraiser at Telegraph Cove

ROCK CREEK Continued from page 1...

“With development increasing on critical habitats, it is imperative that we conserve now as much of this land as possible for the future. This can be easily accomplished by the gifting of these types of properties to The Nature Trust of BC. They are an incredible organization composed of great people who are totally dedicated to the conservation of BC’s special places.

“With a gift of land, you ensure a better future in many ways. The animals, birds, plants and trees need areas that are professionally managed with nature’s best interests in mind. If you admire the work The Nature Trust is doing and you love your land, consider a gift of land to The Nature Trust. The many benefits are truly forever.”

Murray LaBrash



Murray LaBrash at Rock Creek property (Photo by Terry-Lou Kleger)



How to help

Under Environment Canada’s Ecogift program, Canadian landowners may donate ecologically sensitive land to approved conservation organizations such as The Nature Trust of BC to ensure its preservation in perpetuity. To encourage more Canadians to make Ecogifts, the 2006 Federal budget announced that Ecogifts are now 100% exempt from capital gains tax.

PROTECTING the Cowichan River

We want to thank the Flemings for working with The Nature Trust to create a covenant on their property which is situated on the banks of the Cowichan River on Vancouver Island. The Cowichan River is recognized internationally for its highly valuable and productive fish habitat. Species include coho, chinook, and chum salmon and rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout.

“We were delighted to find that, through a conservation covenant, we could protect forever our beautiful forested property along the Cowichan River, while allowing for continued use by our family. The Nature Trust of BC was a logical choice as covenant holder. They are a British Columbia organization with an impressive record of success in preserving environmentally sensitive areas in our province. On a personal note, in the preparation of their baseline report, Nature Trust staff gave us an even greater appreciation of our property by pointing out to us various biologically significant aspects. The whole exercise was carried out in a very professional manner. It is truly a win-win situation with performance monitored and, if necessary, enforced after annual inspections by The Nature Trust of BC. Have we diminished the market value of the property? Probably not. But, have we left something to celebrate? We think so!”

Tom and Andrée Fleming



A conservation covenant is one of the tools that can be used to conserve private land. A conservation covenant is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a designated conservation organization (e.g. The Nature Trust of BC). It is registered on the title to the land and remains in effect after the land is sold or transferred, binding future owners of the land to the terms of the covenant. The agreement ensures that features of the land, areas or uses that you want protected will remain in effect in perpetuity. A conservation covenant allows the landowner to permanently protect specific natural features of the land, while still retaining ownership and use.

AWARD winners

The Nature Trust would like to congratulate Directors Emeritus Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan as well as Director Carmen Purdy who were recently honoured with awards.

Dr. Brink

Dr. Brink was given the 2007 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Conservation for outstanding contributions to wetland conservation and environmental education throughout British Columbia on June 11. As The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant Governor, said upon presenting the award, *"I am very grateful to be here on behalf of every British Columbian in thanks for Dr. Brink's steadfast dedication to maintaining the sacred bargain that exists between the human species and all others."*

Dr. Brink has been a leader or a participant in forming conservation initiatives that include The Nature Trust of BC, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the Federation of BC Naturalists and a host of other key conservation organizations.

As early as 1951, as a Professor of Agronomy at the University of British Columbia, Bert Brink, with a PhD in



Bert Brink (seated in centre) is surrounded by Nature Trust Directors and past Directors with Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo behind.

Botany and Biochemistry, was actively engaged in raising environmental consciousness across this province and country. Today, BC's wetlands owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan is the first recipient of the BC Field Ornithologists Award for Ornithology. He was presented with this award at his home in Victoria on July 8.

Dr. McTaggart-Cowan has dedicated a lifetime to studying, teaching and conserving the natural resources of BC. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1932 and earned a PhD from the University of California in 1935. He is a career biologist with special concentration on the systematics, biology and conservation of birds and

mammals. As part of his amazing career, he has spent over 30 years on the board of The Nature Trust.

Carmen Purdy

Carmen Purdy was awarded the Roland Michener Conservation Award by the Canadian Wildlife Federation on June 2. The award is presented each year to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to conservation through effective and responsible activities that promote, enhance and further conservation of Canada's natural resources.

"As a professional and a volunteer, Mr. Purdy's contribution to the enhancement and conservation in the Cranbrook area and throughout the province make him a most deserving recipient of the award," said Paul Adams, BC Wildlife Federation Executive Director.

Carmen is very familiar with land management and land use issues in the province as he has served as a Commissioner on the Forest Resources Commission of BC and is currently serving as a Commissioner on the Agricultural Land Commission of BC. He believes that the key to conservation is the management and control of the land base, and has therefore either initiated or participated in a myriad of land acquisition and restoration projects.

He is a past president of the BC Wildlife Federation, past chairman of the BC Conservation Foundation, past president of the East Kootenay Association, and president of the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund.



Right to left: Wayne Weber presents award to Ian McTaggart-Cowan while Martin McNicholl looks on

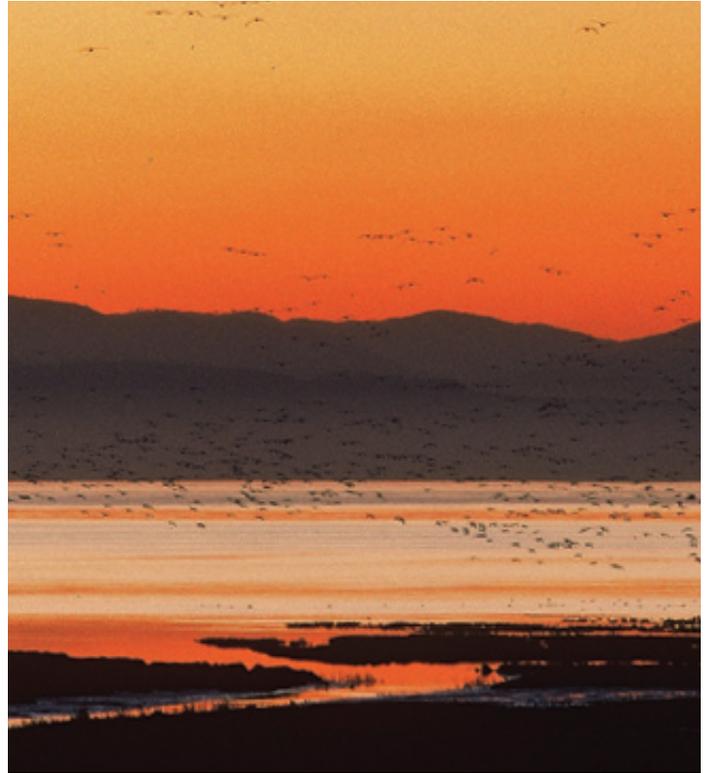
IMPORTANT Bird Areas

by Anne Murray

The international Important Bird Area (IBA) Program aims to identify, conserve and monitor essential bird habitats around the world. Over 100 countries participate in the program, through involvement by non-profit, membership-based groups, coordinated by BirdLife International. In Canada 597 IBA sites have been identified and designated as meeting the program's stringent scientific criteria; 84 of the sites are in British Columbia (see www.ibacanada.com for more details of the program and sites).

This year, the BC IBA Program is re-invigorating with a proactive partnership of birders and naturalists around the province, with the purpose of establishing a network of knowledgeable volunteers who are prepared to be Caretakers for each of our IBAs. They will be the "eyes and the ears" on the ground, watching for any changes in bird population levels or conservation threats. It will be the first such Caretaker Network in Canada, although networks of volunteers and site support groups have been established elsewhere in the world, from Denmark to Cambodia, and Tanzania to Mexico.

British Columbia is a large and very biodiverse province with a small human population concentrated in the southwest region. IBAs vary in size and accessibility, and many are remote from communities. Some have severe conservation threats. The challenge is to find Caretakers for every one of the designated IBA sites. We need the help of many conservation organizations, landowners, and concerned individuals to succeed in the protection and monitoring of these critical bird habitat sites. The Nature Trust of BC can be a valuable partner in this program, as a landowner of Important Bird Areas and as a respected leader in the conservation community. Examples of Nature Trust properties and interests with IBA designation include Boundary Bay, Vaseux Lake, White Lake and Cowichan Estuary. Bird monitoring and habitat stewardship within Important Bird Areas contribute to the overall strength of the site network, ensuring the perpetuity of bird populations and



Boundary Bay

diversity in our province.

The BC IBA Program will unfold over the next few years with several elements: creating the network of volunteer Caretakers, outreach and awareness-raising, and renewal of the database and web-resources. Project coordination is being led by BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) with strong support from Bird Studies Canada BC Regional Office, and from the national IBA partners, Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada. The Nature Trust has expressed interest in committing to the program, and will be an active partner in the years to come.

Anyone interested in volunteering as an IBA Caretaker, sponsor or monitor, or for more information on the IBA Program, please contact Anne Murray, BC Nature IBA Coordinator, at sanderling@uniserve.com or call 604-943-0273.



Tregilges Property

The Nature Trust of BC and the Province of BC recently acquired the Tregilges property in the Wigwam Flats area of the Kootenays. This property will add to a complex of conservation holdings which are important for providing habitat for Rocky Mountain sheep.

Phoebe Tolly Tregilges was born at Cakato, BC on May 3, 1921. She was one of 13 children. The Wigwam Flats property was purchased by Phoebe, her sister Mildred and brother Tom when they were teenagers. Phoebe and her siblings raised money to pay for the land during the "hungry thirties" by scavenging the dumps for discarded potato sacks which they repaired by hand and re-sold, collecting and selling scrap metal, berry picking, raising and selling eggs, and any other jobs they could get. As she used to say, "We hung on to the land through thick and thin." Eventually Phoebe bought out her sister's portion of the land (her brother Tom had passed away). The land was later passed to her children. Phoebe's children have partnered with The Nature Trust to create a legacy for their mother.

SPOTLIGHT



Hilary and Patrick Oswald

Thank you for supporting *A Lifetime of Giving Back Gala*

Over 280 people enjoyed
a wonderful evening to celebrate
Patrick Oswald's dedication to philanthropy

Over \$50,000 was raised

Another \$200,000 was pledged



Leon and Eric Bibb performed



Gloria Macarenko was a gracious MC

Family Foundation Pledges \$100,000

The Mary and Gordon Christopher Foundation pledged \$100,000 to The Nature Trust at the Gala and challenged others to match their generosity. The call was answered by 10 anonymous donors who matched it. Another donor stepped forward to donate \$50,000 so The Nature Trust is seeking someone else to match it. For more information, contact Deb Kennedy at 604-924-9771 ext. 231.

Gold Table Sponsors

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Rocky Mountaineer Vacations
Ralph Shaw
Rod Silver
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Sunlinks Marketing
Thomas Hobbs Florist
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Tigh-Na-Mara
Tourism BC
Vancouver Aquarium
Frances Vyse
Westin Resort & Spa Whistler
Jim Walker
Whole Foods Market

CAPTURING BC'S NATURAL BEAUTY photo contest



Deb Kennedy of The Nature Trust presents prize to Tom Middleton

Thank you to all the BC amateur photographers who submitted to our first photo contest. There were over 1,000 entries. We appreciate everyone who voted for their favourites. Congratulations to the grand prize winner and regional winners!



GRAND PRIZE WINNER
Coast Region: Tom Middleton



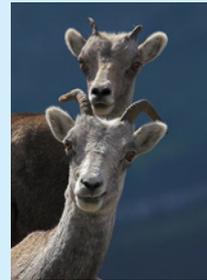
Okanagan Region
Grant Mattice



Rockies Region
Mark Gaudio



Cariboo Region
Michael Hammond



Northern BC Region
Scott Mawson



Islands Region
Tim Ennis

JUDGES:

Michael Eckford, *Urban Rush*
Don Millar, The Element Agency

Fiona Forbes, *Urban Rush*
Graham Osborne, Nature Photographer

Andrew Klaver, Nature Photographer
Robin Rivers, The Nature Trust



View the winning photos at Science World during November as well as Nature Trust sponsored exhibit called Seedy Science. Join us Dec. 6 at Science World to hear Graham Osborne speak "Behind the Scenes: A Wildlife Photographer's Tour of BC" (\$35 per person including wine and cheese)

RAIN gardens

Congratulations to the Alouette River Management Society. Their Allco Hatchery project has been selected to receive \$4,000 in funding from The Nature Trust of BC Rain Garden Fund. The Allco Hatchery Rain Garden is an excellent demonstration of controlling run off and filtering sediment before water enters a river.

Congratulations to the Urban Rain Garden Project which will be receiving \$300 from The Nature Trust of BC Rain Garden Fund. The Victoria West Elementary project is a wonderful demonstration of teamwork to create a rain garden and connecting children with nature.



DONORS



"I donate annually to The Nature Trust in memory of my father, Leo Lannon, who was a helicopter pilot. In 1951 he was one of the first helicopter pilots trained by Okanagan Helicopters. He flew extensively throughout BC and the Northwest Territories for Okanagan Helicopters and later for his own company from 1952 to 1968 when he retired. He loved the natural beauty of British Columbia and the far north and so I want to support the environmental well being of this province."

Joyce Beveridge



Robin Wilson
Chair of the Board

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Stewart Muir
Daniel Nocente
Carmen C. Purdy
Geoff Scudder, D PHIL
Rod Silver
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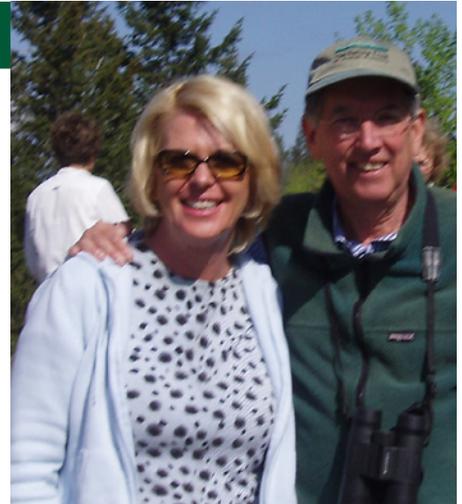
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BOARD news

Robin Wilson

The Nature Trust welcomes Robin Wilson as the Chair of the Board of Directors. Robin is a life-long North Vancouver resident and a well respected marketing and communications consultant with 30 years of experience with local and national clients. She has extensive Board experience in the health and education fields, and is currently Chair of Canada Place Corporation. Robin has been a Director of The Nature Trust since 2003.



Robin Wilson with past Chair Peter Speer

STAFF news

Tracy Loewen

We welcome Tracy Loewen as the Fundraising and Special Events Coordinator. She has over ten years experience in marketing and over five years planning events. She has recently graduated from Malaspina University-College with a Bachelor of Business Administration concentrating in Marketing and a Diploma of Business Administration concentrating in Management.



SPOTLIGHT

Gena is a rising star in Vancouver's music scene. At her CD release party she asked her friends to make a donation to The Nature Trust.

"As a singer songwriter I get the opportunity to bring people together and play music for them--something I love to do. One thing that has always been important to me is community, feeling as though I'm part of something bigger. Having said that, I have chosen to give back to the community at every show I produce in one way or another. So, when I was planning my CD release party for my debut solo album "this ain't pretty" instead of charging cover at the door I created a Nature Trust of BC donation box where everybody could donate. We raised just over \$200.

I chose The Nature Trust because it happens to be our very own backyard. It's not only tangible for people here in BC but it's also something everybody cares about. I look forward to doing more in partnership with The Nature Trust and raising more money for our beautiful landscape. Special thanks to all those who work for The Nature Trust to keep BC healthy and beautiful."



Gena Perala