

HEART OF THE FRASER: The Next Priority

The Nature Trust is working to acquire the sixth piece of property comprising the Tom Berry Road complex on the south side of the Fraser River near Hope. This property protects undyked riparian habitat which mitigates the impacts of seasonal flooding and restricts access to the gravel reaches protecting back channels which are important for spawning salmon and sturgeon.

The Fraser River is considered the fourth most endangered river in BC by the Outdoor Recreation Council. Among the concerns are a loss of riparian habitat, excessive gravel extraction, missing sockeye salmon, low summer flow, sewage introduced to the river and the impact of agriculture.

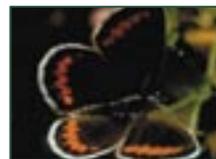
Habitat loss and alteration in the lower Fraser River continues at an alarming rate. The biological and ecological integrity of the river is at imminent risk.

The section of the river from Mission to Hope, known as the Gravel Reach, "may well be the most productive stretch of river in the world," according to World Rivers Day Founder Mark Angelo. And yet the Gravel Reach is under the greatest pressure. Please join us in reaching our goal of \$205,000 for this latest acquisition.

\$35,000 RAISED For Okanagan River Oxbow Property Phase One

Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve our goal and especially the guests and sponsors of the Kelowna Earth Wind Fire event, who enthusiastically embraced this project. We would like to express our gratitude to the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Society which agreed to transfer the Oxbow property to The Nature Trust. This acquisition consists of 4 contiguous parcels on the west side of the Okanagan River—one of BC's top 10 most endangered rivers. We expect title transfer documents in late 2009.

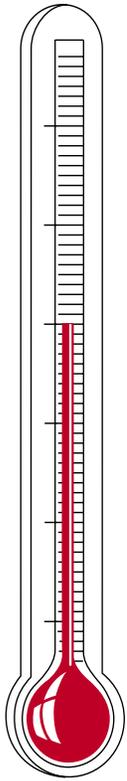
An additional \$50,000 is needed to complete Phase 2—an adjoining property.



Issue #31 Features:

| | |
|--|---|
| A Pledge for Nature | 2 |
| Vancouver Island Land Management . . . | 3 |
| Grizzly Bear Monitoring | 4 |
| Conservation Youth Crews | 5 |
| Where Conservation Meets Community | 6 |

A Pledge for Nature is A Pledge for Future Generations



On Our Way—Thank You!

“I am positively delighted to report that we have reached the halfway mark in our ambitious campaign to raise \$15 million dollars to support the important work that The Nature Trust does for British Columbia,” announced Heather Holden, Campaign Chair. “With people like you generously donating \$7.5 million already, we are fast approaching our goal!”



Visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca to join our new online campaign. You can learn more about biodiversity in BC; send an e-card; get on the map to show your support of nature in BC; join or start a fundraising team; and connect with friends on twitter, various blogs and facebook.

Dr. John Brighton Remembered

Dr. John Brighton was a much loved family physician in the Parksville area and he will be dearly missed. Dedicated to his profession, John had a very busy practice caring for the people in his community. John’s compassion extended to nature. As an avid birder and adventurer he spent many hours walking The Nature Trust conservation lands in the mid Vancouver Island area including the Englishman River and the Nanoose and Nanaimo River estuaries. Here he relaxed and enjoyed viewing his feathered friends.



With the support of the community, The Nature Trust is building a nature kiosk in memory of John. This kiosk will be designed to share John’s love of nature by providing information about local birds for adults and children.

If you would like to donate, please send your cheque payable to The Nature Trust of BC indicating it is for the Dr. John Brighton Kiosk or call toll free 1-866-288-7878 for credit card donations (Visa and Master Card) or donate online at www.naturetrust.bc.ca.



Patrick Oswald, Leadership Giving Manager, and Mary Woods share the joy of giving

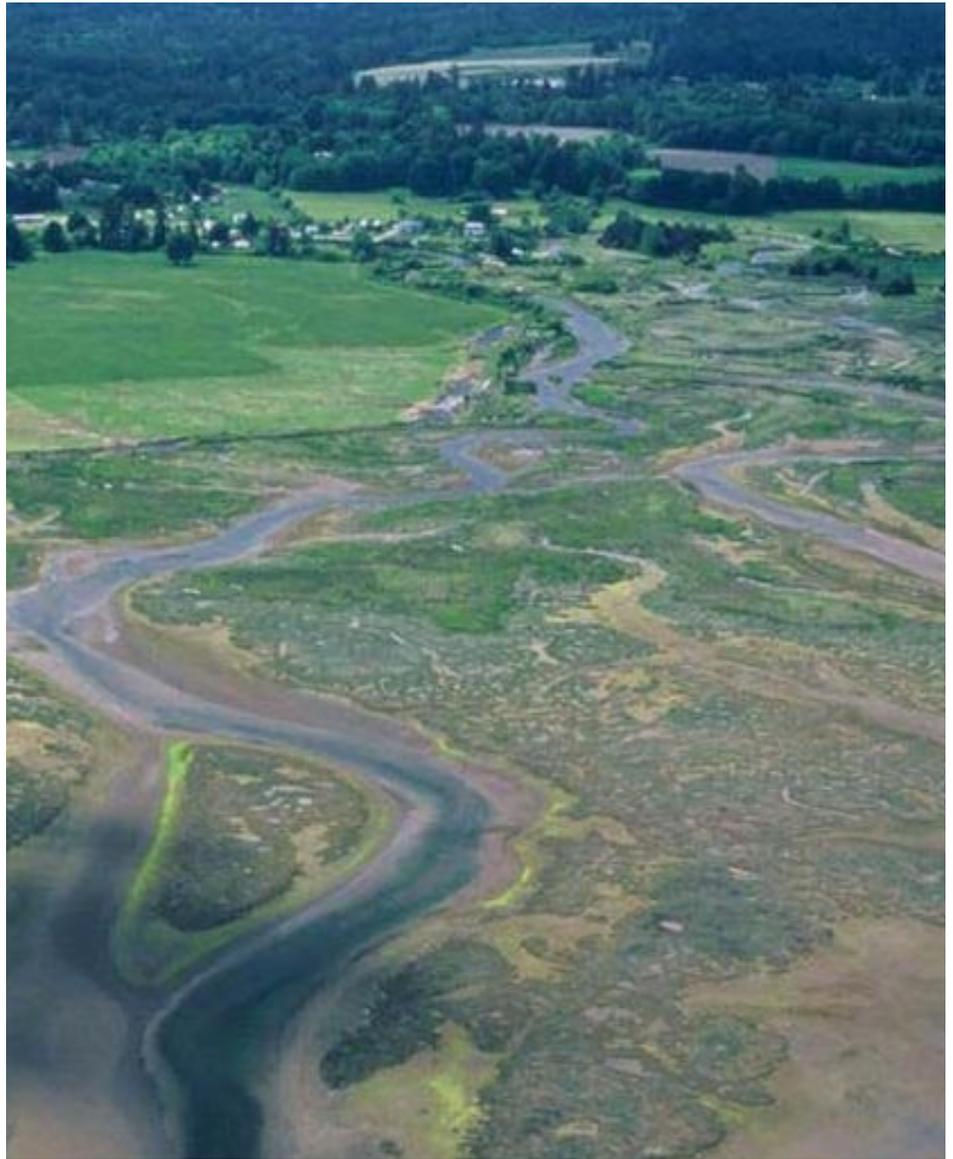
In the Words of a Donor

Mary Woods provided a donation in memory of her husband Frank Woods who passed away in 2005. “Throughout his life Frank always took a keen interest in the wilderness of this Province and the preservation of its natural resources. We have traveled and lived in many areas of BC and have a special attachment to the coastal islands and waterways. He watched your organization and applauded your efforts when you succeeded in acquiring lands to be protected. I know Frank would want this donation to be used in efforts to protect and save our coastal areas, and preserve them for generations to come.”

Imagine that you have a big backyard that you need to look after. Now, consider a backyard that covers a large part of Vancouver Island. How could you look after an area that big—covering 9500 hectares (23,465 acres)? The answer is the

Vancouver Island Land Management Program

This program is an innovative partnership which involves the management of over 60 conservation areas from Cowichan Valley to Port Hardy. These properties are mainly coastal wetlands and estuaries owned by The Nature Trust and managed by the Ministry of Environment. Projects are coordinated by the Conservation Land Manager Tom Reid, who assists program partners (including the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service) with land management, restoration/enhancement, inventory and habitat securement.



Chemainus Estuary

Program Accomplishments 2004-2009

- Completed three conservation land management plans
- Implemented seven management plans
- Restored 47 hectares of estuarine/wetland habitat and created/restored over 3.5 kilometres of riparian habitat
- Secured 960 hectares of estuarine, freshwater wetland, riparian and coastal Douglas fir habitat
- Resolved several longstanding trespasses at conservation areas and Wildlife Management Areas
- Engaged and supported volunteers and stewardship groups focusing on public education and community involvement
- Renewed a long-term farm lease to promote sustainable agriculture
- Implemented baseline ecological studies, including amphibian and waterfowl inventories at seven conservation areas
- Assisted in the development of a long-term monitoring program at all estuarine and freshwater wetland sites managed by the program
- Supported the development of the Coastal Invasive Plant Council Spartina Action Group and participated in several Canada/US research projects.



Tom Reid—Vancouver Island Conservation Land Manager

What Bear Hair Tells Us

For the past three years The Nature Trust East Kootenay Conservation Crew has assisted Ministry of Environment Fish and Wildlife staff with the South Rockies & Flathead Valley Grizzly Bear Monitoring Project. Part of a five year study to monitor grizzly bear population trends, the crew was involved in data collection.

The study requires the collection of grizzly bear hair samples, both from baited sites and natural “rub trees”, fences and spawning channels. Once samples have been collected and recorded, they are sent for genetic analysis to identify individuals. This data will be used to estimate population size in the South Rockies, monitor the impact of hunting and other human-caused mortality on population size, and test the relationship between huckleberry abundance and population change.

Training & Work Experience

Ministry of Environment Senior Biologist Garth Mowat and his team of wildlife technicians trained crew members in bear biology, the collection of samples, bait site installation/removal and the identification of rub trees. Crew members were involved in three data collection sessions, lasting between 10 and 14 days. The work was characterized by long days, extensive travel on forest service roads and some remote overnight stays.

In late June, bait sites were installed in areas that contained suitable grizzly bear habitat. Barbed wire was installed around the perimeter of each site at a height of 50 centimetres. In the centre, deadfall and stumps were piled to simulate a



Grizzly bears

buried kill site. The pile was then soaked in 3 litres of horse or bison blood and decomposing fish. The strong odour can attract bears from considerable distances. As bears crawl under the barbed wire to explore the pile, they unknowingly leave a clump of hair.

Each of the bait sites was revisited twice when hair samples were collected and fresh bait was added to the site. In the third and final visit in late July, crews collected any other hair samples and dismantled the sites, removing barbed wire and all warning signs from trees.

Hair collected from “rub trees” was the second and less-frequently employed method of collecting samples. For relatively unknown reasons, grizzly bears often use

trees located along hiking and game trails to rub their backs. Used primarily by male bears, probably as a way of leaving their scent, the bark often traps strands of hair that can be sampled in a relatively inexpensive manner. Wilderness hiking trails traversing areas of high value grizzly bear habitat were identified from maps and aerial reconnaissance. The crew then hiked trails and overgrown logging roads searching for samples and mapping active rub trees.

2008 Results & Future Work

Hundreds of samples are collected each year, entered in a data base and submitted to the lab to be analyzed over the winter. In 2008, for instance, 937 individual samples were collected.

The involvement of the crews from 2007 to 2009 has provided invaluable job experience, particularly for those who are interested in pursuing a career in wildlife biology. Working closely in the back country with Ministry of Environment staff has created a unique environment where crew members have had an opportunity to ask questions and seek career advice from government staff. The work has proved to be a lot of fun as well. Many crew members considered the study to be the highlight of their work experience.



Bear hair on a wire



Bear hair in a tree

South Okanagan Project

The Nature Trust of BC is into its 10th year administering the Riparian Habitat Rehabilitation for Species at Risk in the South Okanagan and Similkameen Project. This project is funded by Environment Canada through their Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. Environment Canada has contributed over \$780,000 to this project, to protect and restore riparian habitat through fencing and alternate livestock water developments.

Due to extensive human development, only 10% of the historic riparian habitat remains in the South Okanagan, so it is critical that we protect and restore as much as possible. Over the course of this project, over 50 kilometres of fencing have been installed at 45 project sites throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen. This has resulted in the protection of over 385 hectares of habitat, benefiting a broad range of riparian species, including Yellow-breasted chat, Western Screech-owl, Tiger salamander, and Great Basin Spadefoot Toad. An annual program of bird and vegetation monitoring is in place to measure progress over time on past project sites.



McLean Creek Ranch

Conservation Youth Crews Summer 2009

In the summer of 2009 The Nature Trust operated Conservation Youth Crews in the East Kootenay, Peace River, South Okanagan, Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland. Title sponsor of the crews was HSBC Bank Canada. Other sponsors included BC Conservation Corps, BC Conservation Foundation, BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Trust for Public Lands, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program—Columbia Basin, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, HRSDC, Talisman Energy and The Tony Cartledge Fund.



Chainsaw training in the Peace River region



East Kootenay crew



Tree planting in the Okanagan

Where Conservation Meets Community



Thanks to HSBC Bank Canada employees and community volunteers for helping with the **Boundary Bay Cleanup**



Earth Wind Fire in Kelowna was presented by the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort



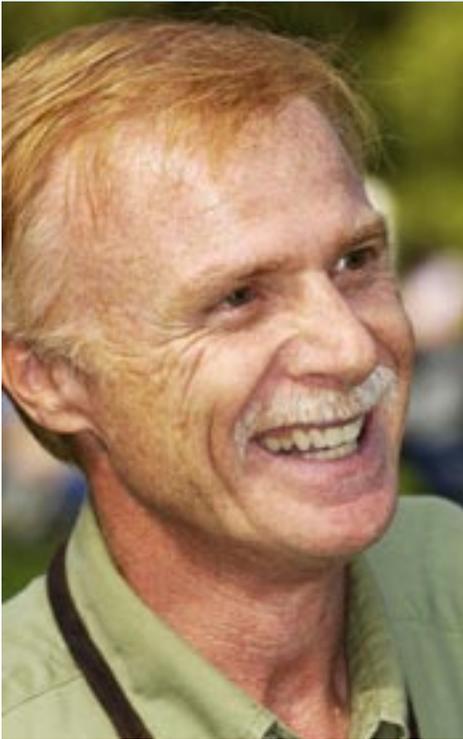
The McGillivray Slough wetlands complex near Chilliwack was renamed the **Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area** this spring



The first **Fore The Nature Trust Golf Tournament** was held at Riverside Golf Course thanks to Fairmont Hot Springs Resort



The **Hoodoos Wetlands Hike** was a big success thanks to everyone who participated, the hike leaders and the Shaunessys for hosting the picnic lunch in their barn.



Conservation Champion Dinner

The Nature Trust will be honouring Mark Angelo's dedication to conservation on Wednesday, October 21.

Mark received the Order of Canada for his river conservation efforts in Canada and around the world. He is the Chair of the newly established Rivers Institute at BCIT and founder of World Rivers Day.

Gold Table Sponsors

Canadian Outback Adventure Company Ltd.
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Hancock Wildlife Foundation
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Dinner Sponsors

Canadian Outback Adventure Company Ltd.
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Phillips, Hager & North

Live Auction

Chef's Dinner with Wine Pairing for 8 People

Donated by Joe Fortes, Greg Bay and Cypress Capital.

Langara Fishing Lodge

*All inclusive trip for 2 people to the Queen Charlotte Islands.
Donated by Langara Fishing Adventures.*

Palm Springs Getaway

*Deluxe 4-bedroom accommodation at LaQuinta on PGA West Complex.
Donated by Kim and Greg Bay.*

Silent Auction

2-night stay at Delta Chelsea Downtown, Toronto
Artwork by Christos Obretenov
Artwork by Rebecca Dadson
Artwork by Sergio Toporek
Artwork by Simon Haiduk
Decoy from Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ecomarine Ocean Kayak Centre kayak rentals
Fishing flies from Ralph Shaw
Fraser River Safari voucher
Gift basket from Cinnamon's Chocolates
Gift basket from Whole Foods
Gift box from Edible BC
Gift box from Purdy's Chocolates
Gift certificate from Arbonne cosmetics
Gift certificate from Canadian Outback Adventure Company Ltd.
Gift certificate from Cobbs
Gift certificate from Current
Gift certificate from Discovery Spa & Salon
Gift certificate from the Keg Steakhouse & Bar
Gift certificate from Kidsbooks
Gift certificates from the Pilot Pub, Toronto
Gift certificate from the Sassafras Restaurant, Toronto
Gift certificate from The Shore Club
Gift certificate from Starbucks Coffee
Gift certificate from Tapastree Restaurant
Gift certificate from the Village VQA Wines
Kingfisher carving by Ed Raaflaub
Painted hand saw from Sara Jane Connal
Pottery bowl by Gillian Paynter
Return airfare to Vancouver Island for 2 from Harbour Air Seaplanes
Salmon gift packs from Natural Gift Seafood
Silk plant from Trims
Vancouver Aquarium certificate
And other items from generous donors



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The Nature Trust Board



Daniel Nocente is the new Chair of The Nature Trust of BC. He is a Vice-Chairman of National Bank Financial. Daniel is a Director of the Providence Health Care Board and Canada Line Rapid Transit. He previously served as Chairman of the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation and as a Director of the Arts Club Theatre Company. Daniel also sits on the Dean of Arts Advisory Council at the University of British Columbia. He has a BA from UBC and MBA from George Washington University. Daniel is pleased to introduce two Directors.



Dr. Peter Arcese is Professor and Forest Renewal BC Chair of Applied Conservation Biology, and co-Director of the Centre for Applied Conservation Research, in the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia. He earned a BA in Zoology at the University of Washington, and MSc and PhD degrees in Zoology at UBC.



Greg Bay is the President and CEO of Cypress Capital Management and has over 25 years of experience in the investment industry. He is a director with the Mullen Group Income Fund, Lions Gate Hospital Foundation and the UBC Industry Liaison Board. He has a Chartered Financial Analyst designation and holds a B Comm in Finance from Brigham Young University.



Special thanks to the Squamish Credit Union Legacy Fund for donating \$15,000 to help The Nature Trust acquire the Squamish Estuary property. The Fund was established as a living reminder to commemorate the rich 60-year history of the Squamish Credit Union and the loyalty of the many members that contributed to its success.



Over 300 trees were planted in the Okanagan in honour of the 2008 Generations of Conservation Gala recognizing George Reifel

Upcoming Events

Wild Water, Wild Earth

An amazing audiovisual presentation spanning seven continents.

October 14
Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

Eagle viewing and activities taking place from Mission to Chilliwack
November 21 and 22

Voices of Nature December 3, Vogue Theatre
A celebration of nature through the songs of children

For more details about these events,
call 604-924-9771 or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca

