



The Nature Trust In Action

Young Property at Okanagan Falls

Thanks to Deb and Wayne Young who generously subdivided and donated 7 hectares (17 acres) of wildlife habitat from their property in Okanagan Falls, through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program. The property contains a variety of habitats, including antelope bush, ponderosa pine forest and grasslands, and is important for many wildlife species.

Macara Lake

A picturesque 52 hectares (128 acres) will be donated to The Nature Trust of BC by Margaret and Jim Little through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program. The property is located 40 km north of Fort St. John and includes a lake, associated wetlands, muskeg and mixed forest.



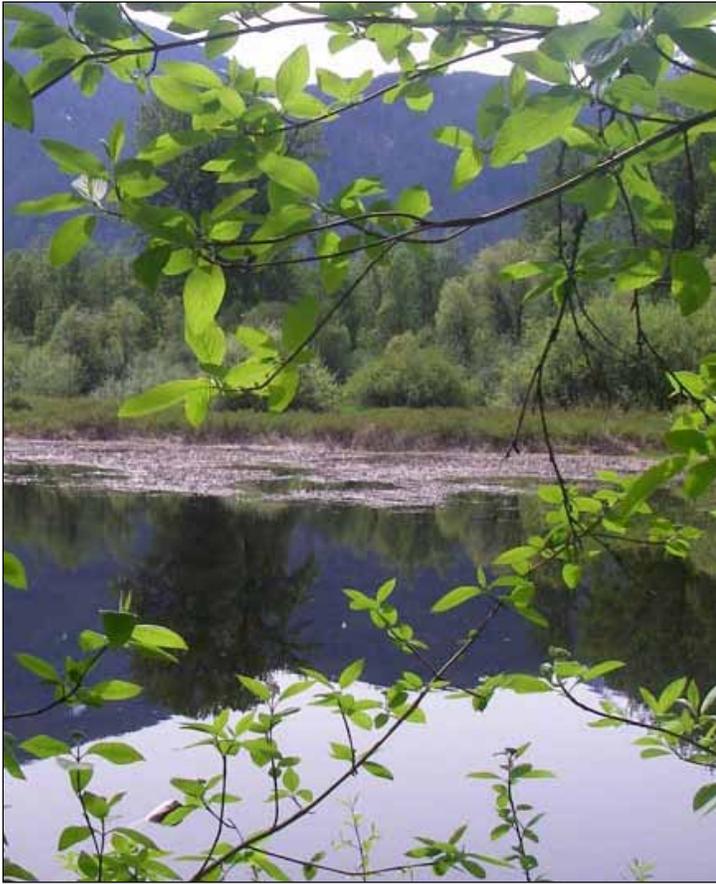
Funds are needed for a land management endowment as well as securement costs for the Young and Macara Lake properties. If you would like to make a donation, please call 604-924-9771 or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca.



Welcoming New CEO
Dr. Jasper Lament



Nature & Water
Annual Gala



Pemberton Wetlands

The Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District celebrated the acquisition of the Pemberton Wetlands property from the Fulton family.

This 26.4 hectare (65.2 acre) property includes a wetland formed by an old oxbow of the Lillooet River, a year-round small creek, moose and deer winter range, and old growth riparian forest. The property will be managed as a park which will be open to the public for non-motorized access.

“Given our deep interest in the environment, our family felt that the best possible use of the land would be to keep it as the largest untouched wetlands in the Pemberton Valley,” says Barbara Fulton. “It will now remain an intact, natural ecosystem for everyone to enjoy. We are extremely pleased that Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, The Nature Trust of BC and the local community had the foresight, will, and optimism to protect this unique property for future generations. Our family had many happy times there and we’re thrilled that the property is in such good hands.”

We would also like to recognize the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada) who contributed funding to this project.

Conservation Youth Crews



“It is my third season with The Nature Trust, and having had amazing summers in the previous years, I was very happy to work on the crew again. I have been honing my skills identifying grasses, maintaining conservation properties and proper functioning condition assessments.”

Joe Strong, Kootenay crew



“Every time we go out and do things like garbage pick-up and general maintenance I think we’re contributing to the local community because most of the properties are open to public use.”

Allison Nichols, Lower Mainland crew

Priority Project

If you would like to support the Conservation Youth Crew program, please call 604-924-9771 or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca

The Nature Trust was pleased to have **HSBC Bank Canada** as the title sponsor of the HSBC Conservation Youth Crew Program for the seventh year.

Other sponsors include BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, HRSDC, and The Tony Cartledge Fund.



Celebrating the new Parksville Rain Garden

The Rain Garden in Parksville Is Now a Reality

As a reminder that good things come to those who wait, a rain garden in Parksville is now complete after years of planning thanks to the hard work of the Mid Island Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MVIHES).



In 2009, The Nature Trust and the Pacific Salmon Foundation provided funding to MVIHES to help construct a demonstration rain garden at Parksville Elementary School. Nigel Gray of MacDonald Gray Consulting drew up plans. Principal Mary Beil was enthusiastic. Deborah Jones, Rain Gardens Coordinator with Cougar Creek

Creek Streamkeepers (North Delta/Surrey), visited Parksville to review potential sites. All was going well until the last minute when the maintenance department at the school district vetoed the project because of fears it would involve too much extra work for their crew.

Not being the type of group to give up, MVIHES then approached the City of Parksville. It took a while but a good site was chosen, centrally located and highly visible—the newly renovated fire hall. The rain garden could be installed when the landscaping was being completed.

On June 15, the City of Parksville hosted a celebration beside the new rain garden. City councilors attended as well as MVIHES board members and guests, including Tim Clermont of The Nature Trust, the Fire Chief and the media.

The Nature Trust greatly appreciates the determination of the MVIHES in working for years to realize their dream of having a rain garden in Parksville.

Thanks to our donors, The Nature Trust established an endowment fund to support community rain garden projects. This initiative addresses the environmental and economic advantages of getting stormwater back into the ground, as well as the desirability of raising citizen awareness and supporting local involvement in aquatic habitat protection.

Rain garden projects funded include

- the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society in Victoria,
- Alouette River Management Society at their hatchery site,
- Burnsvie Secondary School
- Victoria West Elementary School
- Seaquam Secondary School
- and North Delta Evangelical Free Church

If you would like to discuss a potential rain garden project or volunteering, e-mail rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604-924-9771 ext. 226.

Priority Project

If you would like to make a donation to rain gardens, please call 604-924-9771 or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca

nature & water

fall gala



We would like to thank all of our Nature & Water Gala sponsors, guests and donors for helping us celebrate 41 years of land conservation and raise funds for projects across the province.

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Tom Kennedy, Heather Holden
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CTV MC Keri Adams

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Honourees Sheila and Robert Ross and Jane McLennan
with Goh Ballet Academy dancers

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If you would like to sponsor an upcoming event, please call 604-924-9771 or e-mail info@naturetrust.bc.ca

Step Up and Make a Difference

Passing of Nature Trust Founding Director

By Judie Steeves

John Woodworth was a visionary who loved the Okanagan Valley, where he grew up and grew old.

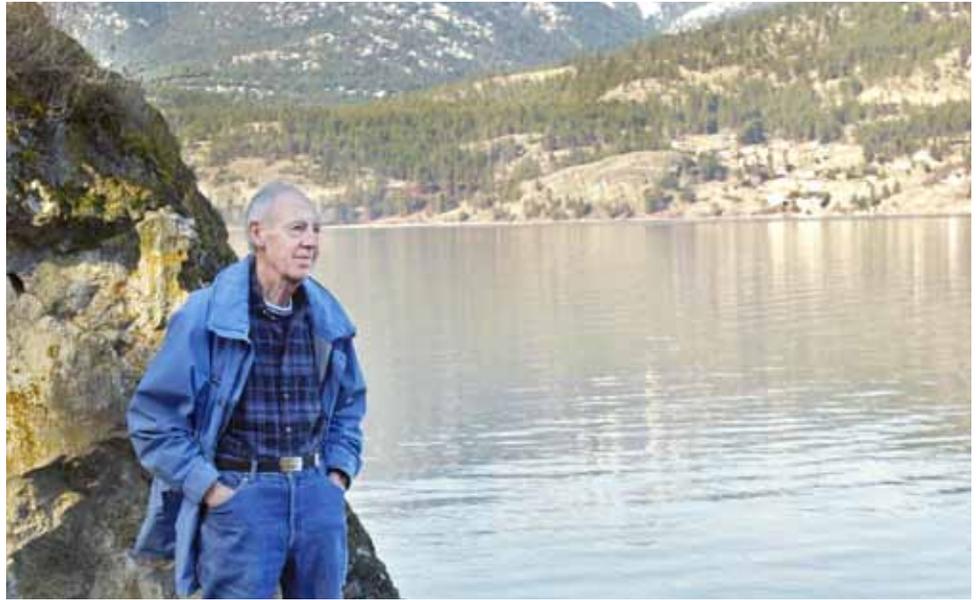
He always told me that he figured it was because he was a pilot who flew small planes, as well as an architect, that he could see things as a whole from overhead and had a “broader view” of the landscape. That larger view translated into his vision for conserving wild lands by protecting them in provincial parks like Okanagan Mountain and Cathedral Lakes—two gems in our crown of parks in this province.

John died September 8 so I won't be receiving any more calls from him asking if I might be interested in his ideas for parkland along Kelowna's waterfront (restoration of Sutherland Park and its formerly sandy beach, south where the Tolko mill sits still today); or for an elevated access to the new Bennett Bridge across Okanagan Lake, to ease congestion without taking up any more of City Park or other land in Kelowna's congested downtown area.

It was he and Art Hughes-Games who got together and encouraged the city and Rotary to join with a number of other organizations, from Ducks Unlimited to the Central Okanagan Land Trust and Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club, to restore what had become a lakeshore waste dump at the outflow of Brandt Creek.

Today, more than \$1 million later, Rotary Marsh is still not quite the “wild spot” those two envisioned, but at least it's a marsh again, purifying the water from what John used to call the little “son of a ditch,” or Brandt Creek, as it discharges Glenmore and north end runoff and wastewater into Okanagan Lake.

He had a delightful, droll sense of humour, but like the ideas he constantly



Former Nature Trust Director John Woodworth. Photo by Gord Bazzana, Kelowna Capital News

came up with, it was original and insightful. He did not suffer fools gladly and he was quick to identify them. John was not shy about saying his piece, and he had no shortage of informed opinions on a wide variety of topics.

He also had a long memory of Kelowna and its early days, growing up on Manhattan Point in the 1920s—one that pre-dated that of most of us.

For a reporter, such a contact was invaluable because he remembered the roots of this city and this valley better than most of its residents knew them and such recollections are invaluable sources when a fact needs to be checked or a story corroborated.

John served for 25 years on the board of The Nature Trust of BC, after Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him a founding director, and in recent years he was awarded the Order of Canada.

He was justifiably proud of his achievements and the recognition fought for space in his home office, but he

always had a new passion; a new project that he was working on. I never saw him doing nothing.

When we lose someone like this, it's a reminder that we need young blood to step into those shoes and take on with passion the conservation of our special wild spaces; the restoration of others that were special once; and to champion causes.

Don't think you can stand by and watch the world go by without losing something of it for lack of action.

(This article originally appeared in the Kelowna Capital News in the outdoor column Trail Mix).

The Nature Trust offers our deepest condolences to John Woodworth's family on his passing. We were deeply touched to receive gifts in memory of John at the request of his family. If you would like to make a gift in memory, please call 604-924-9771 or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca.

The Nature Trust shares conservation story in Victoria

Join The Nature Trust of BC and new CEO Dr. Jasper Lament, as well as Russ Lazaruk of Macquarie Private Wealth Inc. and Bruce McFarlane of Odlum Brown, at the Union Club in Victoria on November 6 from noon to 1:30 p.m. for a complimentary luncheon presentation.

RSVP to John Keller at
1-866-288-7878 local 232 or
email: jkeller@naturetrust.bc.ca

Recap of Nature Trust Events



Earth Wind Fire 2012

This fundraiser for the Conservation Youth Crew program and other land conservation work in the Okanagan at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna in June started with a sparkling reception.



Sizzling local chefs and members of Culinary Team BC demonstrated their talents while guests also enjoyed a selection of Okanagan wines and other beverages. We greatly appreciate the support of sponsors, including The Great Wall of Okanagan Wine, guests, donors and our outstanding volunteer committee.



The Tastes of Land & Sea



Thank you to all our guests, sponsors, artists and donors for supporting The Nature Trust fundraiser for Moorecroft Regional Park, especially Trish and Kim Mauriks (pictured above) who hosted the event at their wonderful Northwest Bay Ranch. Special thanks to the Moorecrofters for all their help!



Emma Bellovics and her mom Timea very kindly made 7 dozen wild animal cookies to help raise over \$80 for Moorecroft Regional Park. And the cookies were delicious!



Installing fencing to protect aspen trees

Big Ranch Will Stay Beautiful

By Jenna Jensen

In a combined financial and physical effort from the Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association and The Nature Trust of BC, aspen on Big Ranch will continue to be restored ensuring the Valley will always have an area of unsurpassed beauty, untouched nature as well as be a crucial and important conservation property. Big Ranch, along with the Musil Estate and the Rankin property are areas in the Elk Valley that have been purchased to conserve wildlife habitat and to ensure elk have a much needed winter and spring range. It is home to black bears, cougars, moose, grizzly bears as well as many other types of animals and birds.

Big Ranch, little known to most, is an area of over 325 hectares. It is set upon a backdrop of mountains on the Lower Elk Valley Road and is always open to the public for non-motorized use. “We really encourage the public to enjoy all attributes of Big Ranch. To come out and take a walk or horseback ride and to learn more about the conservation and social significance of these types of properties is something everyone can and should do,” says Rob Neil, R.P. Biologist, Kootenay Conservation Land Manager of The Nature Trust of BC.

Over the years, the trembling aspen on the Ranch have been in constant decline. A combination of factors such as browsing, disease and clone root regression have been a problem, although the primary cause has been browsing by the herd of 700 elk. “Without implementation of a habitat management intervention program that will enable aspen stands to regenerate successfully, much of the flood plain area of the property will revert to open grassland habitat. From a wildlife management perspective this is not desirable. In the opinion of The Nature Trust staff, the loss of aspen stands would decrease habitat diversity on the property which in turn would be detrimental to ungulate, small mammal and bird species that utilize the aspen communities for nesting, security and food requirements,” says Neil.

Since the property was purchased, the Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association has been supportive of a number of habitat enhancement projects. Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program respectively contributed \$10,000, as well as Sparwood

club members contributing many hours towards the project. “The money we raise through our fundraisers goes towards projects such as this,” says Matt Huryn, President of the Fish and Wildlife Association. “It is so important for clubs such as us, and like us to always participate in habitat enhancement for all types of wildlife. People tend to think we are just a hunting and shooting club, but conservation and habitat enhancement is huge for us and a big part of what we do. Big Ranch is a really important property in the Valley, you need to always improve those lands to ensure it is maintained for the animals and all wildlife in general,” says Huryn.

Members of the club and staff from The Nature Trust put up new fencing on a treed area of Big Ranch to allow new growth to occur. “By putting up elk fence around the aspen, and cutting down some old trees will allow new growth to come up and survive without the elk grazing it to nothing,” says Raymond Myles, Sparwood Fish and Wildlife Association Big Ranch Project Coordinator. The primary goal of the project is to encourage the regeneration and succession of trembling aspen and to maintain and enhance biodiversity values through the retention of viable and functional aspen communities.

“From my perspective, the significance of acquiring conservation properties where the management focus can be directed at maintaining a diversity of habitat types that will support a wide spectrum of wildlife species cannot be underestimated. The public can practice and be aware of good land use ethics when using the property for their respective recreational pursuits and they could also contribute funds required by The Nature Trust of BC to manage the Big Ranch conservation complex or direct funds towards the purchase of similar conservation lands in the area,” says Neil.

The principle management problems that The Nature Trust is continually confronted with relate to motorized trespass, which has caused considerable soil degradation in several locations and vandalism of fences that encompass much of the perimeter of the property. Costs related to addressing these problems are high both from a financial and habitat degradation perspective.

Big Ranch is a place that when taken care of can be enjoyed by humans and animals alike for many, many generations to come.

(This article originally appeared in the The Free Press)

...Big Ranch will continue to be restored ensuring the Valley will always have an area of unsurpassed beauty, untouched nature as well as be a crucial and important conservation property.



New CEO

The Board of The Nature Trust of BC is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jasper Lament as CEO. Jasper brings two decades of biology, conservation and non-profit experience to his new leadership position. He was most recently a Senior Environmental Coordinator at BC Hydro where he focused on fisheries and species at risk compliance. Prior to returning home to BC, he was a conservation program manager at Ducks Unlimited's National Headquarters in Tennessee. He has also managed numerous wetlands restoration projects in California and field research in the Florida Everglades.



New Director

The Nature Trust is pleased to welcome Ron Anderson to the Board. He is the President and founder of Tallinn Capital Corp. His prior work experience includes President of Macdonald Capital and running the Corporate and Commercial Banking groups of National Bank in BC. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of British Columbia and is a Certified General Accountant.

Donor Notes



The Gift of Nature

I chose The Nature Trust to send gifts to my brothers and sister because I believe in the work the Trust does. Twin Lakes was a favourite place to stop for a first swim as we made our way from Vancouver to the Okanagan along the Hope-Princeton Highway. The Columbia Wetlands was an early childhood memory for my father who visited the area by train in 1917. The family owns property on Salt Spring Island and our involvement there over the years makes Robert Bateman and support for his work a no brainer. It is not just these projects that attracted me to The Nature Trust. I have met the people involved and have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and integrity. I know the money will be used thoughtfully. I know our small contribution will be joined with others who are like minded and all of our children, grandchildren and many others will benefit. Thank you for making it such an easy process to contribute.

Vicki A. Green, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Faculty of Education
University of British Columbia Okanagan

A Gift in Memory

My dad was a lobster fisherman in Atlantic Canada and boy did he preach sustainability to his children, even before it was popular.

Atlantic lobsters were not abundant even in the 1960's and 70's. My dad and sister and I would be on the ocean at 4 AM hauling in our traps and many times you could haul in 100 traps before you would catch one lobster. The gentleness with which Dad picked up each lobster, keeping those he could and returning the spawn and baby ones back to the ocean remains a vivid memory. That love and respect is something my sister and I have passed on to our children.... also nature lovers and supporters. Thanks, Dad!

I honour his memory every year on his birthday with a gift to The Nature Trust of BC.
Janice Dale Dixon



At a celebration of the Burgoyne Bay property on Salt Spring Island, Nature Trust Director Dr. Susan Hannon is flanked by Ian Barnett from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and John Keller from The Nature Trust.



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of British Columbia

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