



The Nature Trust of BC's McQueen Slough property

The View from Our Window

Annual Donation

"I am pleased to be an annual donor to The Nature Trust of BC. I appreciate the fine work you folks do!" — Denny Waggoner

Corporate Donation

"Endeavour Silver Corp. is pleased to continue our support of The Nature Trust of BC with a 3-year pledge. This non-profit organization has a proven track record of land conservation success. We value their work to protect our natural surroundings in British Columbia today and for future generations." — Brad Cooke, CEO

Annual giving is the most effective way to ensure The Nature Trust of BC continues to sustain our special natural surroundings in British Columbia. If you would like to make a donation, you are welcome to do so online or call 604-924-9771 (toll free 1-866-288-7878). Remember a monthly gift allows smaller increments with one tax receipt per year. www.naturetrust.bc.ca

Conservation Youth Crews

The Nature Trust of BC hired young people in four regions this summer: Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Kootenay. These crew members learned about land conservation while undertaking on-the-ground projects such as restoring habitat, installing signs, removing invasive weeds and monitoring wildlife on over 80 properties.

The Nature Trust was pleased to have HSBC Bank Canada as the title sponsor of the HSBC Conservation Youth Crew program for the tenth consecutive year. Other sponsors include BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Canada Summer Jobs (Service Canada), Colin and Lois Pritchard Family Foundation, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Great-West Life, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and The Tony Cartledge Fund.



"One of my favourite activities is experiencing the different microclimates of the Okanagan through hiking. It is an incredible experience to hike into different ecosystems and see what vegetation and animals thrive in that particular region." — Alex Thomson, Okanagan crew

"The main reason I decided to apply for this position was my passion for conservation and preservation of BC. I want to be a part of a positive change in society as well as to pass on environmental knowledge to those around me."

— Sammy Penner, Lower Mainland crew



Priority Project



During the past two years, The Land Conservancy of BC has been in creditor protection and creating a plan to eliminate debts and ensure protection of conservation properties. The Nature Trust of BC is working to secure six ecologically significant conservation properties in our priority areas. The properties include South Winchelsea Island off the coast of mid Vancouver Island, two properties along the Nanaimo River on Vancouver Island, a partial interest in a property in Squitty Bay Provincial Park on Lasqueti Island in the Gulf Islands, Peachcliff Conservation Area in the Okanagan, and Wycliffe Corridor in the Kootenay.

With your help we are committed to ensuring that these properties are protected in perpetuity. These properties have suffered from years of neglect. The next step will be to determine what restoration work is required and to raise funds for their restoration and long term management. If you would like to donate to help cover the \$250,000 cost to secure these properties or for ongoing land management, visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604-924-9771 (toll free 1-866-288-7878).



The Nature Trust of BC's new Salmon River property

Salmon River Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped us secure the 78 hectare (193 acre) property in the Salmon River estuary near Campbell River on Vancouver Island. This new acquisition complements the adjacent 117 hectares (289 acres) already secured by The Nature Trust and its partners since 1978.

“Like many Nature Trust projects, conservation of the Salmon River estuary has been years in the making,” said Dr. Jasper Lament, CEO of The Nature Trust of BC. “This business takes time and patience. We are very grateful to our conservation partners and to the many people who helped make this deal possible.”

Major funding was provided by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program. Additional support was provided by the Barnet Rifle Club, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Campbell River Salmon Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Kingfishers Rod & Gun Club, Parksville-Qualicum Fish & Game Association, Steelhead Society of BC, Totem Fly Fishers, Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association, and individual donors from across BC.

“The Salmon River project is the latest purchase of conservation land made possible through the contributions of the anglers, hunters, guide outfitters and trappers of BC,” said Brian Springinotic, CEO of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. “The securing of this high-value habitat will benefit a variety of species, as well as providing additional recreational opportunities.”

“The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is pleased to support this land purchase,” said Program Manager, Trevor Oussoren. “Strategic land acquisitions such as this play an important role in helping fish and wildlife for generations to come.”

The Salmon River estuary provides critical habitat to numerous species of fish and wildlife, including Great Blue Heron, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Pygmy Owl, Roosevelt Elk, all five species of Pacific salmon and the largest steelhead on Vancouver Island.

If you would like to help support the land management of this important property, visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604-924-9771 (toll free 1-866-288-7878).



The Nature Trust of BC received support from many groups and individuals to secure the Salmon River estuary property.





The Nature Trust of BC's Antelope-brush Conservation Area

Good News: Antelope-brush Conserved

Thanks to many supporters, The Nature Trust of BC has received donations and pledges to complete the acquisition of the last piece of the Antelope-brush Conservation Area in early 2016. We are continuing to raise funds for land management of this property.

This property is located in one of the most arid areas in British Columbia. The soil composition of sand and gravel means what little water falls to the ground slips away quickly. “Antelope-brush,” Nick Burdock, Okanagan Conservation Land Coordinator explains, “is well adapted to these conditions with a long tap root which reaches deep into the ground for moisture.”

In the spring the bright colours of flowering plants including bitterroot, yellow bell, blazing star and mariposa lily transform the land. Beneath this vegetation, in undisturbed areas, is an extremely fragile crust formed of lichens and mosses that provides the shrubsteppe with nutrients and moisture.

“Antelope-brush provides a protective cover from the sun and nesting and feeding opportunities for a diverse community of living things—many of them rare,” Nick says. “In fact, over 20 endangered and threatened species have been documented on this property.”

One such animal likes to burrow in the sandy soil; this is the Great Basin Pocket Mouse. This mouse plays an important role in the survival of the antelope-brush because it caches seeds from this plant in the soil and if not eaten these seeds grow into new shrubs.

Another intriguing member of this community is the Pallid Bat—a pale ghostly creature known to exist in Canada only in the South Okanagan. It hunts by night for crickets and scorpions by listening for its prey rather than using echolocation like most bats.

The insect life is varied and interesting, too. The Behr's Hairstreak butterfly depends on the antelope-brush for survival. This is the only plant that they can use for laying their eggs. Behr's Hairstreak travel just over a kilometer away from its chrysalis during its lifetime, making it unlikely that it can relocate if its

habitat is not protected.

And waiting to catch an insect are a host of migratory songbirds including Western Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow and Lark Sparrow. Other denizens of this habitat include a variety of other birds, and reptiles such as several species of snakes that are restricted to the dry interior such as the Night Snake, Western Rattlesnake, Yellow-bellied Racer and Gopher Snake. Antelope-brush is also a nutritious food item on the menu of larger grazing animals such as Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep.

With this acquisition, The Nature Trust of BC will conserve the largest private holding of antelope-brush in the Okanagan outside of First Nations land. To donate to management of the Antelope-brush Conservation Area, call us at 604-924-9771 (toll free outside Vancouver 1-866-288-7878) or visit our website www.naturetrust.bc.ca.



“I am very glad that I am in a position to further the aims of The Nature Trust and in particular those for the antelope-brush habitat and other areas of the South Okanagan which are especially dear to my heart. My admiration is boundless for the enthusiasm and dedication of The Nature Trust staff which has contributed so much to the preservation of BC's biodiversity.”

— Eve Szabo (pictured above with CEO Jasper Lament on the left and her daughter Ildiko on the right)

CELEBRATING NATURE AND SCIENCE

Thank you to all our sponsors, guests and donors who helped raise funds at the Gala on Oct. 6 for our land conservation projects



Nature Trust staff welcome guests



The Nature Trust's Deb Kennedy with Patrick and Hilary Oswald



The Nature Trust's Steve Housser as MC



Sitka Foundation table



Silent Auction Tables

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Nature Trust CEO Jasper Lament and Goh Ballet dancers

Conservation Champion Award 2015

The Nature Trust of BC recognized Dr. Sarah (Sally) P. Otto as a Conservation Champion. She is a professor in the Department of Zoology and Director of the Biodiversity Research Centre in the Beaty Biodiversity Centre at UBC. A highly acclaimed scientist, she received the coveted MacArthur Fellowship in 2011—popularly known as the Genius Award.



Nature Trust Chair Dr. Peter Arcese and Dr. Sarah Otto

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Photos by Contrast Studio

Ian McTaggart Cowan Is “The Real Thing”

By Rod Silver, past Director of The Nature Trust of BC

When two MPs, a scientist and a school principal were walking in Kamloops one afternoon in 1971, the conversation turned to the wise investment of the unused portion of Canada’s second century centennial gift to British Columbia. The balance was \$4.5 million.

That discussion led to the eventual establishment of The Nature Trust of BC and the creation of an endowment in trust that exists to this day.

Ralph Shaw, the school principal, recalls a “...discussion on the importance of using the funds in a way that would be scientifically sound and at the same time using good business practises in spending and securing suitable (ecologically significant) sites. There was to be a Board of Directors appointed from recognized conservation-minded scientists and equally dedicated conservation-minded business people.”

Alastair McLean, with impeccable credentials as a range specialist, provided a solid plant science research presence on the founding Board of Directors. Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, widely recognized as the father of wildlife conservation in Canada, was soon appointed as a Director. He added wildlife expertise to greatly expand the science-based credibility of the new organization. He would serve as a Director for over 30 years.

Ian, it seems, was an integral part of many organizations. As well, his insatiable thirst for knowledge about the natural world took him to every corner of the province.

His biography, *The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan*, by Briony Penn will be published by Rocky Mountain Books in November (visit cowantherealthing.com). Penn writes: “Cowan wanted his biography to be a shameless showcase for the natural history of BC. The book follows his formative years as he painstakingly recorded in his journals what lived in the regions of the province, the Rockies and the north.”

Though Ian was well known in conservation circles, by the time I



(courtesy of UBC Archives)



(courtesy Debra Brash, Times Colonist)

arrived at UBC in 1968 he had moved from teaching and was Dean of Graduate Studies. Everyone in earth sciences knew who he was and his legendary reputation as a zoology lecturer. And, we were rarely without the wildlifers’ bible—a copy of the *The Mammals of British Columbia* by Cowan and Guiget.

“In the opening pages of his 1956 field guide The Mammals of British Columbia, Ian McTaggart Cowan encouraged his readers to join him in ‘unraveling the innermost secrets of the lives of mammals.’ His biography is a continuing invitation to explore not only the innermost secrets of the lives of mammals, but of the man himself who with his gentle, paradoxical and radical cohort of naturalist/scientists had an extraordinary influence on the

conservation of wildlife in North America.

He engaged people through an infectious enthusiasm for the natural world and accessible, robust science, whether it was writing field guides, broadcasting the first nature television shows or packing community halls with his talks.”

In 1971, my Master’s degree supervisor, Dr. Bert Brink (also a long-serving, respected Director of The Nature Trust of BC) thought it best to add zoology-related directed studies to my list of courses and sent me off to Ian’s office. For 8 months, I had the marvelous experience of regular one-on-one sessions with Ian. We covered a wide range of conservation topics and I learned great respect for him.

Ten years later, a rookie BC cabinet minister, Stephen Rogers, wisely appointed Ian as the first Chair of the Board of the Habitat Conservation Fund (now Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation) and I was the government staff person assigned to help establish and administer the new fund. I had the privilege of working with Ian for over 12 years of his 19-year tenure as volunteer Chair of the Fund. We became good friends.

Ian brought instant credibility to the new fund. He was instrumental to its success.

“He had long recognized the importance of a strong organizational infrastructure whether it was universities or non-profits that provided a platform and a political voice to rural and urban people for the protection of wildlife, subsistence lifestyles or just the sanctuary of nature.”

Ian was a special mentor to me. He went out of his way to make anyone comfortable with his impressive knowledge. He was a patient, considerate educator who engaged people personally with enthusiasm for the natural world. I think it was important to write the biography to let the world know of his remarkable contributions to science and education. In his words: *“All my life I have tried to explain to colleagues, family, students – anyone who will listen to me – the beautiful, fascinating things that I see!”*

Earth Wind Fire 2015

Thank you for a fabulous evening filled with wonderful memories and for supporting our land conservation work in the Okanagan.



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 visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca



Photos by Chris Stanford

| new board members

The Nature Trust of BC is delighted to welcome two new Board members.



Norman Embree has spent a lifetime working as an entrepreneur. His career began in securities and he eventually joined his family's machining business, Embree Industries Ltd. of Hamilton, Ontario, which was founded by his grandfather in 1913. At the age of 34, he bought the company and became President and CEO, expanding it to an international company. He moved to Salmon Arm in 1996 and served as a Board member of the Salmon Arm Economic Development Advisory Committee, Shuswap Hospice Society, and the College of Pharmacists of BC. He was the Chair of the Interior Health Authority Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014 and Chair of the Board of Governors as Okanagan College transitioned from Okanagan University College.



Jane Macdonald has over 25 years of experience at the international, national and local level with non-government organizations. As a program director, she actively managed and evaluated granting programs in the health, cultural and social service fields. Working with volunteer boards and organizations, she has provided advice on strategic planning, governance, fundraising, program development and government relations. She grew up on the side of the North Shore mountains and spent her childhood hiking and camping throughout BC.



Leah Yauck and Dennis Frederickson are two special people, who are partners in Aslan Project Management and in life. In lieu of wedding gifts, they asked guests to make a donation to their favourite charities. We are honoured that they chose The Nature Trust of BC and we wish to send our congratulations on their recent marriage.



Donating Shares

A gift of publicly listed securities (including stocks, bonds and mutual funds) makes an excellent gift to The Nature Trust. Donations of such securities receive the charitable donations tax credit and are 100% exempt from capital gains. Visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604-924-9771 (toll free 1-866-288-7878).



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"We live in a spectacular part of the world. Working to keep this place special is The Nature Trust of BC. They are protecting our natural surroundings by acquiring and managing habitat for plants, fish and wildlife. I hope you will join me in supporting this very worthwhile cause."

— Larry Tataryn
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