



Giving Nature a Helping Hand



Okanagan crew installing sign

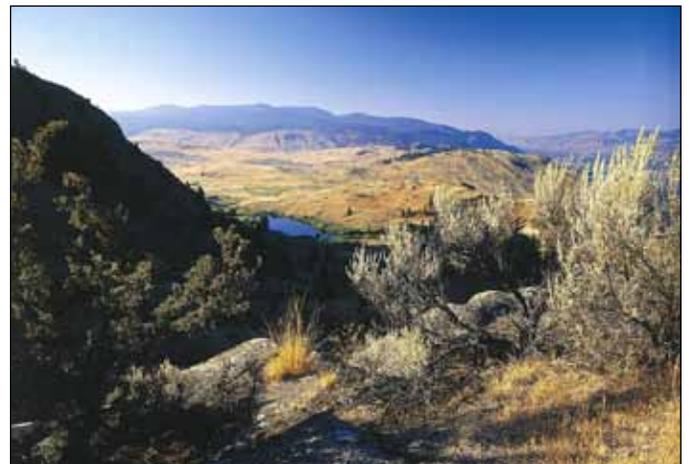
The Nature Trust of BC works with donors and partners to acquire land across British Columbia for conservation purposes. We also manage these properties.

At this time of year, our land management team is busy getting ready for our field season. From May to August the majority of our on-the-ground work is done. Helping to make this happen are our Conservation Youth Crews and local volunteer stewardship groups. And we need your help too.

Funds are required to:

- **hire Conservation Youth Crews** in five BC regions, including Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Kootenay, Okanagan, and Peace River. These crews will gain valuable work experience while performing critical land management activities on our conservation properties.
- **install interpretive signage** at Twin Lakes Ranch Conservation Area, the White Lake Basin, Dunlevy Creek, Chilanko Marsh, and more.
- **restore habitat** to benefit wildlife at Bull River, Columbia Lake, Boundary Bay, Vaseux Lake, and the Englishman River conservation properties.

If you would like to support any of these important initiatives, please donate online, call 604-924-9771 to pay by credit card or mail a cheque to The Nature Trust of BC.
www.naturetrust.bc.ca



Priority Project

Okanagan grasslands contain some of Canada's most imperiled ecosystems. Right now The Nature Trust has great opportunities to protect some of these endangered grasslands. We have property owners ready to sell us this critical habitat. We must build a \$250,000 "Okanagan Grasslands Acquisition Fund" to start capitalizing on these projects.

BC Conservation Foundation

Partnership is key to the success of The Nature Trust. One of our longstanding partners is the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF). This organization was founded to perpetuate the population of fish and wildlife through projects in British Columbia.

In a recent interview with Executive Director Deborah Gibson she acknowledged the significant partnership with The Nature Trust beginning with the acquisition of our Vaseux Lake property in the Okanagan in 1985 and most recently our Twin Lakes property in the Okanagan—their single largest contribution. In total BCCF has helped The Nature Trust acquire 9 properties totaling 5400 hectares (13,338 acres)- the largest of which was the Hoodoos in the Kootenays.

When asked what she has enjoyed the most over her 25 years at the BCCF, she said helping young people who have “book knowledge” to gain practical hands on experience and be inspired to carry on with successful careers in conservation. The Nature Trust would like to thank Deborah and the Board of BCCF for their leadership and support over many years.



Deborah Gibson



Vaseux Lake

A Reflection on Vaseux Lake

Vaseux Lake in the Okanagan is the centre of one of the most ecologically rich areas in Canada. The lake and surrounding riparian area were designated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary in 1923. Above the lake are upland slopes and benches, consisting primarily of open ponderosa pine forest and antelope brush grassland. These benches in turn, give way to rocky cliffs and outcrops, talus slopes, and higher elevation bluebunch wheatgrass grassland and mixed forest. This incredible variety of habitats has been protected by a broad complex of conservation lands surrounding the lake.

The Nature Trust of BC has secured over 437 hectares (1,080 acres) around Vaseux Lake. The lower grassy slopes of these properties provide critical overwintering forage for California Bighorn Sheep, with equally important escape terrain in the rocky cliffs close by. These rocky cliffs also support snake dens, bat roosts and nesting sites for Canyon Wrens and White-Throated Swifts.

The acquisition of these Nature Trust lands is important, conserving private lands adjacent to the Vaseux Bighorn National Wildlife Area. Most of these properties were acquired in the 1980's and early 1990's, prior to broad public knowledge of the critical importance of South Okanagan grasslands for species at risk. As such, these acquisitions were very timely, as increased development pressures in the region would have made these purchases even more difficult in today's market.

Having lived next door to these properties at Vaseux Lake for many years, I can personally attest to their importance for wildlife, and for their human neighbours who appreciate its natural beauty, and opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing.

—Carl MacNaughton, Conservation Land Manager



John Holdstock



Stephanie Righi

John Holdstock Scholarship

A scholarship was created to honour John Holdstock after his passing in 2010. John’s commitment to conservation, resources and an outdoor way of life were second to none. He became a member of the Kelowna District Fish & Game Club 30 years ago. He rose up through the BC Wildlife Federation to become president from 1996-1998. He was also a director of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. He became a director of the BC Conservation Foundation in 2002 and held the position of Chair from 2003-2010. In recognition of John’s extraordinary contribution to conservation, a scholarship fund was set up with support of the BC Conservation Foundation, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, The Nature Trust of BC and

the Okanagan Regional Wildlife Heritage Society.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Stephanie Righi from Haida Gwaii. Stephanie holds a Resource Management Officer Technology Diploma and is currently enrolled in her fourth year at Vancouver Island University to achieve a Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection. She has been involved with numerous stewardship programs including a volunteer trip to band Ancient Murrelets and a community streamkeepers’ program where she worked on local impacted fish-bearing streams. Her future plans include returning to university to receive an Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications and working in environmental education. Congratulations to Stephanie!



Arrowsmith Naturalists ready to plant trees

Englishman River Estuary

On November 5th, a number of volunteers, mostly members of the Arrowsmith Naturalists, showed up at the Englishman River Estuary on Vancouver Island to help plant over 150 native trees. They planted Red Cedars, Grand Firs, Alders, and a few Balsam firs which they received from the Friends of French Creek Conservation Society. The trees were planted to

- help restore undergrowth beneath the canopy in areas previously cleared for campsites,
- establish some conifers along the Englishman where otherwise lacking,
- and to shade out some of the invasive plant species that the Arrowsmith Naturalists have been working so hard to remove from the estuary.

The Nature Trust has numerous properties along the Englishman River as well as in and around the estuary. The Arrowsmith Naturalists have been amazing partners and friends to us for many years and have worked tirelessly at restoring this area. Thank you, Arrowsmith Nats!

Estate and Legacy Planning

Many families today view philanthropy as a way to express their values and connect through a shared vision. Planned charitable giving is key to ensuring that the family legacy continues after the first generation passes on.

It is a gift to be able to donate to a cause that is near and dear to you, and to know that your support is making a difference. And in Canada, a charitable donation (meaning a gift to a registered charity or other qualified donee for the purposes of Canadian tax laws) yields a further gift—a donation receipt. The donation receipt entitles you to a donation tax credit, which credit is roughly equal to the rate of income tax you would have paid in respect of the amount donated. You can use the credit to reduce your tax liability for income earned in the year of the gift or a subsequent year (up to five years after the year of the donation). By making a charitable donation, you direct what would otherwise be tax dollars to your chosen cause and organization.

Annual donations during your lifetime provide immediate and ongoing benefits, as you can both reduce your tax bill on a yearly basis and participate in how your donations are put to use. You can take further advantage of donation tax credits by making large donations in high-income years.

You may earn the most income in the year of your death, as accrued capital gains will then be realized (unless you leave your appreciated assets to your surviving spouse). You can offset the capital gain tax by making charitable donations on your death, such as through your will or a beneficiary designation.

If you have a high-income year before you die—such as selling a business or a long-held real estate investment, or cashing in stock options—more planning is recommended. Making a



charitable donation in the same year reduces your tax bill and directs more funds towards your chosen charity. You could make a direct donation to a charity for its general use or for a specific purpose. Or you could create a donor-advised fund with a public foundation or a private family foundation. These latter options can connect you and your family members, as you can collaborate annually to determine which organizations will receive grants.

You should discuss any intended donation with a qualified professional to make sure you are maximizing the tax and other values of your gift—for you, your family and the recipient charity.

—Stephanie Daniels, Tax & Estate Lawyer, Farris LLP
sdaniels@farris.com; 604-661-1749

A bequest is a very special gift—one that we are honoured to receive. By leaving a gift to The Nature Trust of British Columbia in your will, you will be helping us to conserve BC's important natural diversity. We recommend that you consult with your professional advisor to ensure that your wishes are truly reflected. If you would like to discuss how your bequest can make a difference, please contact Deb Kennedy at 604-924-9771 ext. 231 or debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca



A Family's Charity of Choice

"Our family decided many years ago to make The Nature Trust of BC a key recipient of our annual giving. We value the permanence of conserving critical and at-risk lands in the Province of British Columbia. We also like the way every dollar donated is multiplied many times over by The Nature Trust's conservation partners. In other words, our donations are a catalyst that drives much bigger results. Please join us in keeping BC a special place for future generations with a gift to The Nature Trust of BC."

—Doug Christopher, volunteer Chair of The Nature Trust

Philanthropy Speed Dating

Lauri Thompson hosted an intriguing event in the fall to introduce interested donors to vetted and respected charities, including The Nature Trust. The event was hosted by Thoughtshop Creative in North Vancouver and representatives from five charities were each given ten minutes to introduce their organizations to the twenty guests.

Lauri is the founder of Tapestry Philanthropy Partners (www.tapestrypartners.ca), an organization with the mission to connect smart donors to smart charities. As Lauri says, she is trying to make a “love connection” between thoughtful people and high impact charities. With an extensive network of donors and charities in North America and internationally, she is uniquely able to match philanthropic values with high profile as well as lesser-known organizations for effective and monitored results.



Lauri Thompson and Deb Kennedy



Corporate Matching Gift Program

Corporate Matching Gift Programs are a great way to increase the impact of a charitable gift. Recently we were delighted to receive a gift from one of our volunteer directors whose gift was matched by her employer UBS Bank (Canada).

“UBS recognizes the importance of philanthropic work in Canada and the value that our employees place in helping their communities with our matching gift program. We are delighted to support the land conservation work of The Nature Trust of BC with this matching gift,” said Sarah Bevan, President and CEO.

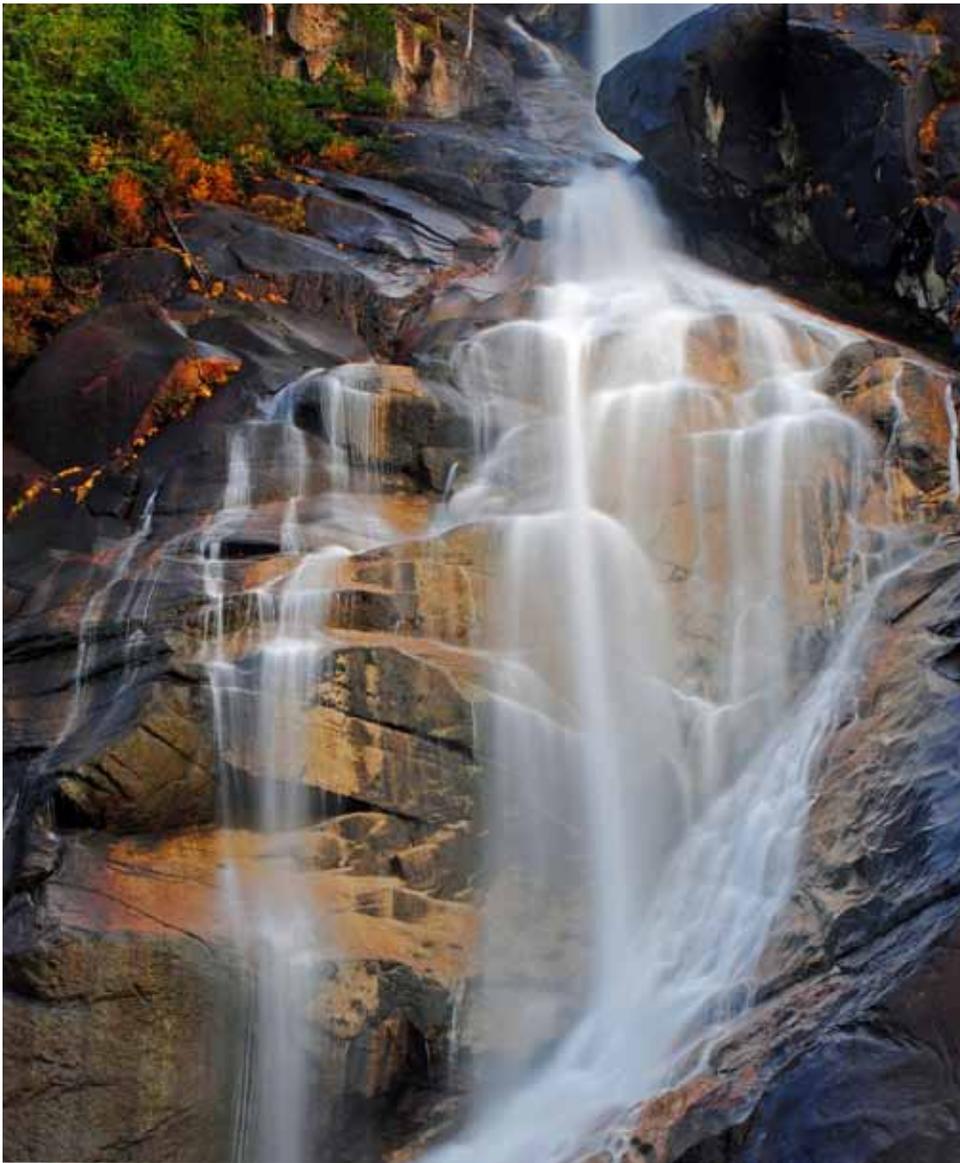
We encourage you to check out your employee or board benefits and see if your gift to The Nature Trust can be matched. For more information on Corporate Matching Gift programs, please contact Deb Kennedy at 604-924-9771 ext. 231 or debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca.

Malene Grotrian Design Inc.

“At Malene Grotrian Design, we aim to make a positive impact in our community by supporting charities and non-profit organizations in a variety of different ways. Our philanthropic activities are an integral component of our business. We take pride in our participation and whenever possible, we hope to contribute in ways to make a difference. As a past and continuing supporter of The Nature Trust of BC, we recognize the importance and urgency of establishing and preserving natural places for future generations of British Columbians and Canadians alike. We applaud your ongoing work in creating programs to preserve BC’s biologically diverse ecosystems as well as your support of conservation studies.”

If you would like to hold a soiree fashion night in support of The Nature Trust with 10% of sales donated, please contact Donna Pepin at 604-351-7554. www.malenegrotrian.com





Grand Prize Winner, Rick Robinson



Plants & Water Winner, Jack Pickell



Wildlife & Water Winner, Jim Furey



Landscape & Water Winner, Caillum Smith

Nature & Water Photo Contest

Thanks to all the amateur photographers in BC who submitted images to our contest as well as those who helped to select a winner in each category through our online voting. We would like to extend our appreciation to photographer Graham Osborne for judging and CustomColour Professional Imaging Lab for donating enlargements of the winning photos.

Congratulations to Grand prize winner Rick Robinson for his waterfall image! "This photo was taken at Shannon Falls in the Squamish region during the late summer. At the time, I was still learning to take pictures with my new digital SLR and got lucky with this shot," said Rick.

Jim Furey won in the Wildlife & Water Category with an image he called Piper Parade. "The shot was captured at (appropriately enough) Piper Spit on Burnaby Lake in the middle of the city, using a Nikon D300 with a Sigma 150x500mm lens. The shot was hand-held at 500mm, f/6.3, 1/750 s and ISO 200, taken while I sat patiently on the small pier on the spit, with arms well-propped on knees as I didn't have my tripod. I was at Piper Spit to shoot

wood ducks, but there were a lot of pipers around and this shot just happened in front of me. I didn't pay them to line up - honest!"

Jack Pickell was the winner in the Plants & Water Category. "The image was taken in Minnehada Regional Park in Coquitlam in a flower box near the lodge. The image was shot using a Nikon D-90 camera with a Nikkor 105 mm Macro Lens. The shot was taken at f/18 with a 1/200 shutter speed using ISO 1000 and an exposure compensation of -0.7. It was challenging to take the shot as it was a very windy day and the plant leaf would not remain still."

Caillum Smith won in the Landscapes & Water Category. "A heavy overcast sky pauses for a brief moment before laying a white blanket over the Okanagan Valley. It was another cloudy day in Naramata when I happened to see a dismantling sky through the window so with a morning brew in hand, I hopped on my bicycle and peddled down to Wharf Park for a better view of what might be a sunny day. However, shortly after composing this image, the clouds closed in and dropped a foot of snow overnight."

| upcoming events



Celebrating Nature

This year's Brant Wildlife Festival celebrating the migration of Brant geese and other wonders of nature will run in March and April in Parksville and Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island. The festival features a Herring Spawn Boat Tour on March 16, Community Celebration & Reception on March 22 highlighting local food, live music, and nature art displays. Other events include Brant in the Bay, Eagle Release, Spring Beauties and Voices of Nature. Visit brantfestival.bc.ca for details or e-mail rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca or call toll free 1-866-288-7878.

The Nature Trust is coordinating the festival with the City of Parksville, Parksville Chamber of Commerce, PQB News, and Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association. Thanks to the Mid Island Co-op for sponsoring the festival.

Earth Wind Fire 2013

Kick off a great summer by joining us on Friday, June 21 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna for an evening of fabulous food, sensational wine and fun dancing. You will sample extraordinary dishes prepared by sizzling chefs and sample fine wines and other beverages from the Okanagan Valley. Local jazz singer Anna Jacyszyn will add sparkle to the opening reception. Enjoy a live auction including The Great Wall of Okanagan Wine and other great items. Rock it on the dance floor with Cover-2-Cover! This fundraiser will benefit the land conservation work of The Nature Trust in the Okanagan.

Tickets are \$175 and reserved tables for 8 are \$1,400. Sponsor tables are also available: Earth table \$10,000; Wind table \$5,000; Fire table \$2,500. Tables of 10 are available upon request. E-mail rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca or call toll free 1-866-288-7878 to reserve your spot.



Wild About Nature Gala

Our fall Gala will be held on October 2, 2013 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver with live music, extraordinary food and wonderful auction items. Please contact Deb Kennedy to discuss sponsorship opportunities at 604-924-9771 ext. 231 or debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca



Roadside clean-up

White Lake Basin

In October the South Okanagan Naturalists' Club organized a roadside clean-up along a 4 kilometre stretch of road through The Nature Trust of BC's White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch. The White Lake area was recently designated as one of Canada's Important Bird Areas. It is part of a global system of more than 11,000 sites worldwide. There are nearly 600 Important Bird Areas across Canada that provide habitat for threatened birds, large groups of birds, and birds found almost nowhere else on Earth.

The White Lake Basin is not only an Important Bird Area, it is home to 33 Federally Listed Species at Risk – as stated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and many more Provincially Listed species. For over a decade The Nature Trust has worked with its ranching partner, Clifton Ranches, to

operate the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch. This ranching model considers species at risk protection, habitat conservation and livestock management in an integrated manner.

Community care of local habitats is essential for the health of these ecosystems and for protecting the environment. The roadside clean-up is an important part of the care required to keep these areas as pristine as possible. A recent fire at White Lake exposed beer and soft drink cans, bottles, and other items such as paint cans which had been hidden in the tall grass prior to the fire. A thorough scouring of a 4 kilometre stretch of the road harvested 4 large bags of trash along with one large bag full of recyclable bottles. A big thank you to the South Okanagan Naturalists' Club for their dedication and community spirit!



Rob Neil of The Nature Trust receiving a cheque for \$3,000 from Carmen Purdy of the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund and past director of The Nature Trust for site rehabilitation and habitat restoration on conservation lands in the Kootenays.



The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
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staffnews



After working on the Lower Mainland Conservation Youth Crew in 2011, Jenna Cook began work as a GIS Technician in April 2012. This is a shared position between The Nature Trust and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Her job consists of managing the Geographic Information System (GIS), property information, and spatial conservation information; conducting GIS analyses for conservation planning research projects; and collecting spatial data in the field. An important component of her role is being the technical coordinator of the BC NGO Conservation Areas Database, which is the NGO conservation lands GIS dataset for the province. This involves working with partners, including Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Nature Conservancy of Canada.