

Inspiring People and Places



The Nature Trust of British Columbia
2008 Annual Report

Since 1971, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has been guided by a volunteer Board of prominent scientists and business leaders.



Board of Directors 2008-2009

Robin Wilson, Chair
Ross Beaty
Doug Christopher
Dr. Daryll Hebert (*retired spring 2008*)
Dr. Heather Holden
Stewart Muir
Daniel Nocente
Carmen Purdy
Dr. Geoff Scudder
Rod Silver
Peter Speer
Frances Vyse (*retired spring 2008*)
Jim Walker
John West

Director Emeritus

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan

Advisory Board

Don Krogseth
Hugh Magee
George Reifel
Dick Richards
Kip Woodward



Honourary Patron

The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Front cover photo: Colin Mayer, South Okanagan
Crew Member overlooking White Lake



You Inspire Us

The Nature Trust of BC has been serving the people of British Columbia for 37 years. During this time, we have persevered through good times and bad with an unwavering commitment to conserving nature and its many gifts. This past year was no exception thanks to many individuals and organizations who share our vision and support our land conservation work every day.

One of the most significant conservation accomplishments in 2008 was the ground-breaking report *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia*. This report validates the work of The Nature Trust and provides strategic direction for the future acquisition of critical habitat and management of our properties. The Nature Trust played a key role in this project which involved a consortium of 11 organizations. I would like to thank our Board scientists Dr. Geoff Scudder and Dr. Daryll Hebert as well as Director Jim Walker and our Habitat Ecologist Marian Adair for their remarkable contributions over three years.

Our portfolio of conservation lands continued to grow. Properties were acquired at Squamish, Wigwam Flats, Buttertubs Marsh and on Gabriola Island. We were very fortunate to receive a number of ecogifts including property in the community of Naramata on Okanagan Lake between the Kettle Valley Railway bike trail and Naramata Creek Regional Park in the South Okanagan.

Giving nature a hand is central to our operation. Our four land managers work diligently to enrich the natural values of our properties and their communities at large. Summer employment and training was once again provided by our HSBC Conservation Youth Crews and over 154 sites received on-the-ground work. In addition an ecological inventory crew completed its second of a two year research program on 70 sites. And joining us to care for nature are many stewardship volunteers across the province.

Spreading the word about the good work of this organization has been a commitment of mine. During the past year, I have travelled across this beautiful province meeting many wonderful people at our information sessions and fundraising events. A highlight of the year was our very successful "fun raiser", Generations of Conservation Gala, honouring George Reifel, a past Board member of The Nature Trust and member of our Advisory Board.

Giving nature a hand is central to our operation. Our four land managers work diligently to enrich the natural values of our properties and their communities at large.

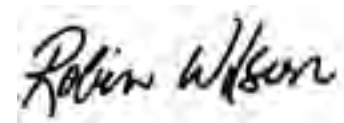
2008 has presented economic challenges unseen before, but this has not stopped our drive to “sustain nature so nature can sustain future generations”.

2008 has presented economic challenges unseen before, but this has not stopped our drive to “sustain nature so nature can sustain future generations”. If anything, it has inspired our resolve. This is why we took the step to launch a \$15 million Nature Trust Campaign over 5 years. In order to continue acquiring and managing property with our enhanced understanding of BC’s biodiversity and to maintain our staff expertise, we must build our financial base. As we knock on doors, share our story and develop new relationships, we are seeking manageable support when the time is right. I wish to thank all of you who have already contributed with a special note of appreciation to the provincial government and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for their donation of \$6 million for land management and a heartfelt thank you for the \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor.

And while we pursue our campaign, I want to express my deep gratitude to our annual donors—individuals, companies, foundations, stewardship groups and all levels of government across the province who every year choose The Nature Trust as a charity of choice and for those who have so kindly “tucked us” into their wills. These gifts are vital for us to continue our work.

As I assume the role of Past Chair, I wish to thank The Nature Trust team for the privilege of serving as your Chair. To our dedicated staff for your passion and skills and to our volunteer Board for your tireless commitment of time and expertise in conservation, business and community. And to all of you who have inspired us to make a difference.

I invite you to read about our accomplishments in 2008. This report profiles some of the many people and organizations like you who have made all this possible.



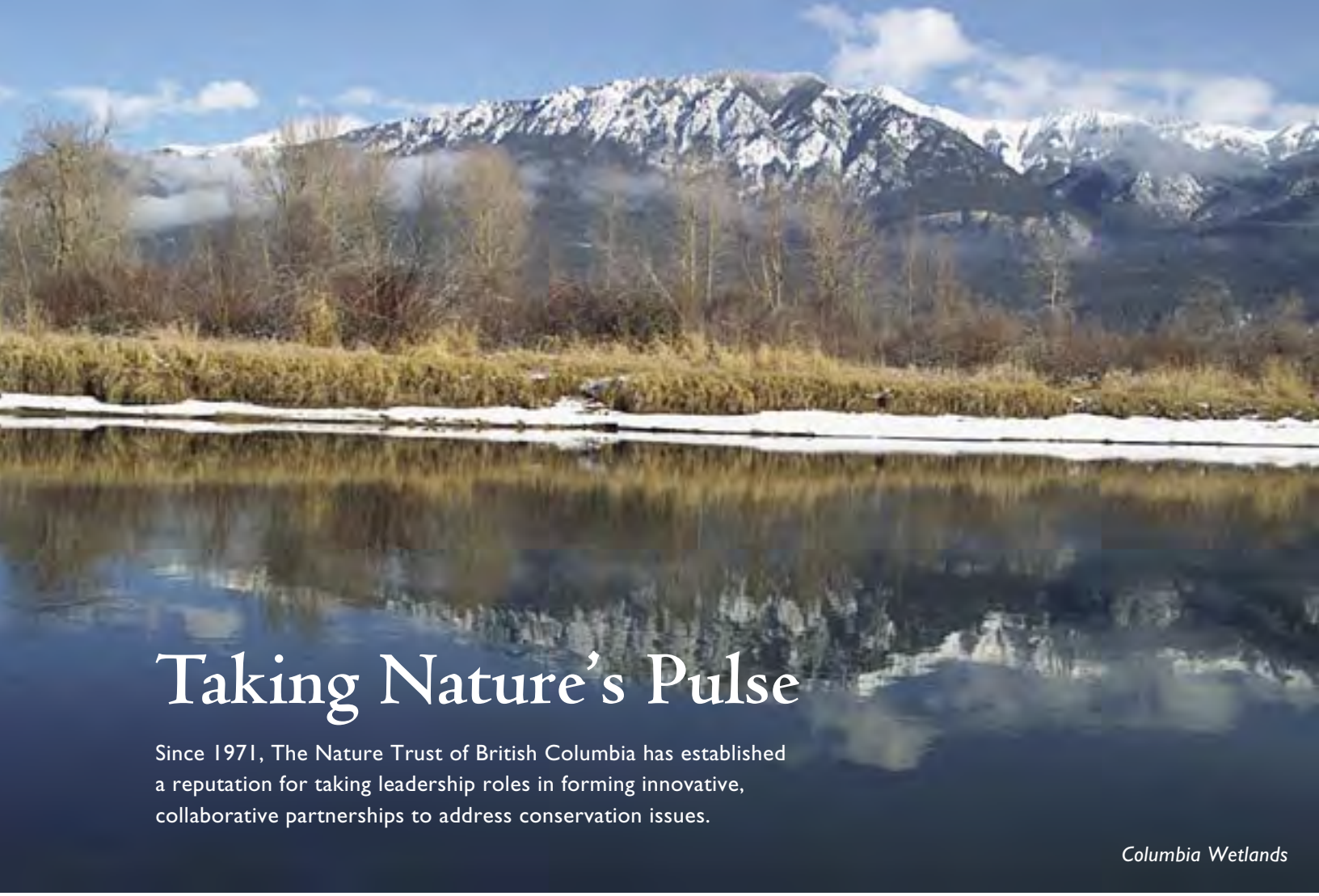
Robin Wilson

I became involved with The Nature Trust because it was this wonderful secret just crying out to be shared with all British Columbians. The oldest and biggest conservation organization in BC and yet still relatively unknown outside of conservation circles. For me, the light went on when Dr. Geoff Scudder overlaid a map of “protected” areas of BC against areas at greatest risk from a biodiversity standpoint. It was startling to see how little overlap there was and it underscored the critical need for a biodiversity strategy for this province.

When I consider the most significant accomplishment of The Nature Trust during my tenure as a Board member, it has been the purchase of the Hoodoos property. The Hoodoos have special significance to me as they were the site of my first field trip. Their breathtaking beauty was unforgettable and underscored the incredible power of nature.



Heart of the Fraser River



Taking Nature's Pulse

Since 1971, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has established a reputation for taking leadership roles in forming innovative, collaborative partnerships to address conservation issues.

Columbia Wetlands

The Nature Trust was again at the forefront of a joint effort by government and non-government scientists which developed a science foundation on which to take action to conserve this province's biodiversity. The Nature Trust's staff and Board scientists worked tirelessly on bringing the Biodiversity BC partnership together and taking a lead role as co-chair of the Steering Committee.

2008 was a landmark year with the release of the milestone report *Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia*. This 268-page report was the result of a collective effort over two years by more than 50 leading provincial and international scientists representing some of the best ecological thinking in BC. Dr. Hugh Possingham, an internationally renowned environmental scientist commented that "as a state of biodiversity report [*Taking Nature's Pulse*] is as good as any I have seen around the world." Of particular significance to Marian Adair, co-chair of Biodiversity BC, was the consensus achieved among the scientific community on the status of biodiversity in BC.

Taking Nature's Pulse provides 23 major findings that highlight the most important considerations for the conservation of biodiversity in BC. The report identifies where the most important elements of biodiversity occur, as well as the most significant threats.

The findings are grouped under six themes: ecosystem diversity, species diversity, genetic diversity, key and special elements of biodiversity, threats to biodiversity, and capacity and knowledge. The findings support the report's conclusion that:

"British Columbia's biodiversity is globally significant because of its variety and integrity, BUT without immediate action is vulnerable to rapid deterioration, especially in light of climate change."

Taking Nature's Pulse provides all of us, including The Nature Trust, with the scientific knowledge to guide our actions and measure our progress towards environmental sustainability. At The Nature Trust we are using this information to refine our acquisition criteria and direct our land management work.

Biodiversity BC is a partnership of government and conservation organizations established under the BC Trust for Public Lands in 2005 to facilitate the development and implementation of a science-based biodiversity strategy for British Columbia.

In 2009, Biodiversity BC will focus on extension and outreach to increase awareness and understanding about the value and importance of biodiversity in BC. The Nature Trust continues to play a key role in this partnership. To view the complete text of *Taking Nature's Pulse* and the major findings please go to www.biodiversitybc.org.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth—of species, ecosystems and genetics, as well as the natural processes that link and sustain them.

Marian Adair

Although I grew up in the city of Calgary, I became very familiar with the natural world at a young age. All my family holidays were spent camping and hiking in the wilds of Alberta and BC. With my strongest marks in biology as I left high school, I chose to do a BSc in Botany at the University of Calgary.

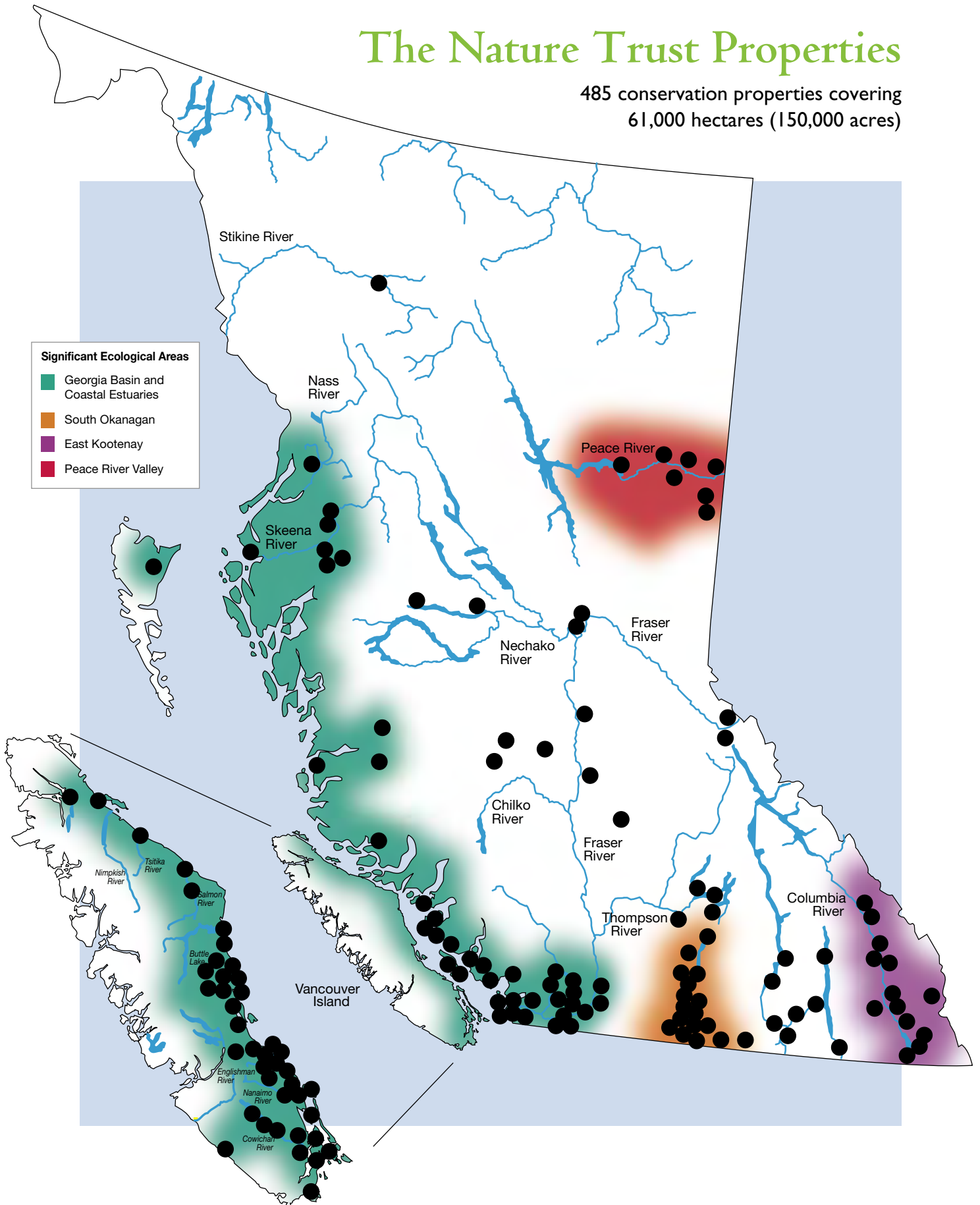
I have developed expertise in integrated resource management, water and land use planning, and environmental impact assessment processes. Aside from five years as Program Director of the Fraser River Estuary Management Program and Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program, I have worked as a consultant specializing in environmental planning and assessment throughout western and northern Canada.

I joined The Nature Trust in 2002 as the Habitat Ecologist. I find constant stimulation working with the staff and Board members toward The Nature Trust's role in conserving this province's areas of highest biodiversity value. One of the most inspirational challenges for me has been my work as co-chair of Biodiversity BC; a role I have held since its inception in 2005.



The Nature Trust Properties

485 conservation properties covering
61,000 hectares (150,000 acres)



Georgia Basin & Coastal Estuaries

Although estuaries form less than 3% of the BC coastline, they are used by 80% of coastal wildlife. With our partners, The Nature Trust has acquired critical areas in the Cowichan River, Nanaimo River estuary, Salmon River estuary and Englishman River estuary as well as sections of Cluxewe Salt Marsh and Lazo Marsh. Other projects include marsh and islands in the lower Fraser River as well as key properties between Mission and Hope as part of the Heart of the Fraser initiative.

South Okanagan

The South Okanagan features some of the most rare and sensitive habitats in the country. Together with our partners, we have acquired the Antelope-brush Conservation Area, and properties at Swan Lake, Shorts Creek, Kilpoola Lake, Okanagan Mountain Park, Skaha Lake, White Lake and Vaseux Lake, among others.

East Kootenay

The Nature Trust is active in the Kootenays, particularly the East Kootenay Trench and Elk Valley. With our partners, we have worked to conserve critical wintering areas for elk and other wildlife, and wetlands along the Columbia River. Key lands include the Hoodoos property, Bull River, Bummers Flats, Wasa Slough, Slocan Lake and Wigwam Flats.

Peace River Valley

The habitat around the Peace River is part of the northern extension of the mixed grasslands and wetlands of the prairies. Thousands of bird species migrate, breed and visit the Peace River and surrounding grasslands and wetlands every year. The Nature Trust has acquired a number of critical wetlands in the area including McQueen Slough, Fort St. John Potholes, Dunlevy Creek, Worth Marsh, Comstock Slough and Boundary Lake.

Jason Northcott

I value the work that The Nature Trust has done and continues to do to support the conservation of BC's natural capital. When I visit a potential acquisition or a recently acquired property it really hits home the work that we do behind the scenes to secure ecologically important land.

One of my many duties with The Nature Trust is managing the Geographic Information System (GIS)—GIS can be simply defined as computerized cartography or electronic mapping. I have always been fascinated with mapping from an early age hiking the mountains of Newfoundland with topographic maps and compass. I was introduced to GIS mapping at the University of New Brunswick while studying Forestry but didn't take a hands on approach until completing a Master's in Fish and Wildlife Science at New Mexico State University.

Since joining The Nature Trust in 2005, I have coordinated a project entitled the Conservation NGO Lands Geo-database that maps all conservation lands not currently represented in the BC Protected Areas Strategy (BC Parks, Ecological Reserves and Wildlife Management Areas). But I am not limited to mapping. As a Conservation Specialist I am on the technical committees for the Canadian Intermountain and Pacific Coast Joint Ventures, the steering committee for the Columbia Basin Biodiversity Atlas, and a representative on the South Coast Conservation Program.





Land Acquisitions

The Nature Trust acquires land through purchase, donation, covenant and lease. Thank you to all the individuals, groups, corporations and organizations that made these acquisitions possible in 2008.

McGillivray Slough

Buttertubs Marsh

This .4-hectare (1-acre) property in Nanaimo was a project of the Nanaimo Field Naturalists, the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, the City of Nanaimo and The Nature Trust. Buttertubs Marsh, with a total area of approximately 40 hectares (100 acres), is the last large area of undeveloped land within a few kilometers of downtown. This wetland and floodplain wildlife habitat includes more than one kilometre of the Millstone River. The marsh is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife.

Gabriola Island

The 45.7-hectare (113-acre) property on Gabriola Island features a wetland and rare coastal Douglas fir. Two creeks run through the property and eventually connect to Hoggan Lake. The land kitty corners a large community park owned and managed by the Regional District of Nanaimo. Rather than selling the property at full market value, Clyde Coats made a significant contribution to conservation by applying for Environment Canada's ecogift program recognizing ecologically significant land.

McGillivray Slough

This 7.9-hectare (19.5-acre) property includes seasonally flooded fields and fisheries habitat compensation channels with access to the Fraser River. It is located in the City of Chilliwack and adjacent to the Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area to the west and to the south the property abuts another Nature Trust holding across the CN Rail Right of Way. The property was donated by the Cattermole Group.

Naramata Benchland

Located in the community of Naramata on Okanagan Lake, the 2.3-hectare (5.7-acre) property is between the Kettle Valley Railway bike trail and Naramata Creek Regional Park. The topography is canyon-like with steep sides cradling Naramata Creek which is ephemeral. Half of the property is riparian dominated by a black cottonwood and red osier dogwood while the remainder features ponderosa pine and paper birch.

The property represents an ecogift donation by Naramata Benchland Properties LTD under Environment Canada's program.

Squamish Estuary

With the support of Ducks Unlimited Canada and other partners, The Nature Trust acquired 5.3 hectares (13 acres) near downtown Squamish between the recently established Wildlife Management Area and the District of Squamish. The property was acquired to protect important bird habitat, an area with excellent estuarine values which have been effective in the rehabilitation of Howe Sound, and to provide public access for students at Capilano University to study ecology and for the community to enjoy trails and learn from information kiosks.

Wigwam Flats

Three lots totaling 12.4 hectares (20 acres) are situated above the confluence of the Elk and Wigwam rivers and south of Elko. Commonly described as the "Wigwam Flats", these properties are designated as Class I winter range for elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and mule deer and Class 2/3 for white tailed deer. The properties are also an integral component of the area used by Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep during the fall rut.



Squamish Estuary



Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep



Ponderosa Pines

Land Management

The Nature Trust has a BC Conservation Land Manager based in Vancouver and regional Conservation Land Managers on Vancouver Island, the Okanagan and East Kootenay. Managing our properties requires considerable investment of time and money. Over 60% of our annual operating budget goes to land management. The following is an example of a land management project carried out over a number of years.

Developing a Restoration Strategy for Grassland Ecosystems Experiencing Uncontrolled Wildfire

British Columbia experienced one of its most severe wildfire seasons in the summer of 2003 with major catastrophic wildfires at Barriere, Kelowna, Anarchist (Osoyoos) and Vaseux Lake in the South Okanagan. The Nature Trust, with major funding support from Weyerhaeuser Canada and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, used this fire occurrence as an opportunity to monitor and assess how conservation organizations and public agencies should most appropriately respond to wildfire on grassland ecosystems.

The August 2003 Vaseux wildfire burned over 5,000 hectares (12,350 acres) of grassland, shrub steppe (dominated by antelope brush) and forest habitat complexes essential for many South Okanagan Species at Risk. The Vaseux fire began on the grassland benches that run along the east side of Vaseux Lake between Okanagan Falls and Oliver. It then rapidly moved upland driven by winds reaching 160 kilometres (100 miles) per hour through several canyons and continued to burn among ponderosa pine and Douglas fir stands for two more weeks.

This complex of habitat lands is a fire maintained ecosystem and periodically over time has experienced natural and human caused wildfires of varying intensity. Small, spot fires occur annually along the Highway 97 corridor that bisects this area and historically, low intensity surface fires cycled through the area every 5 to 20 years. With the on-set of wildfire control management in this area by the BC Ministry of Forests beginning in the 1940s, it had been decades since a major wildfire of high heat and intensity had occurred within this area. Interestingly, several of the low and mid-elevation areas of the 2003 wildfire had been the subject of a series of controlled burns in the spring of 2001 and 2002 to reduce fuel loads and promote the vigor of the native blue bunch grasses.

The August 2003 Vaseux wildfire burned over 5,000 hectares of grassland, shrub steppe and forest habitat complexes essential for many South Okanagan Species at Risk.

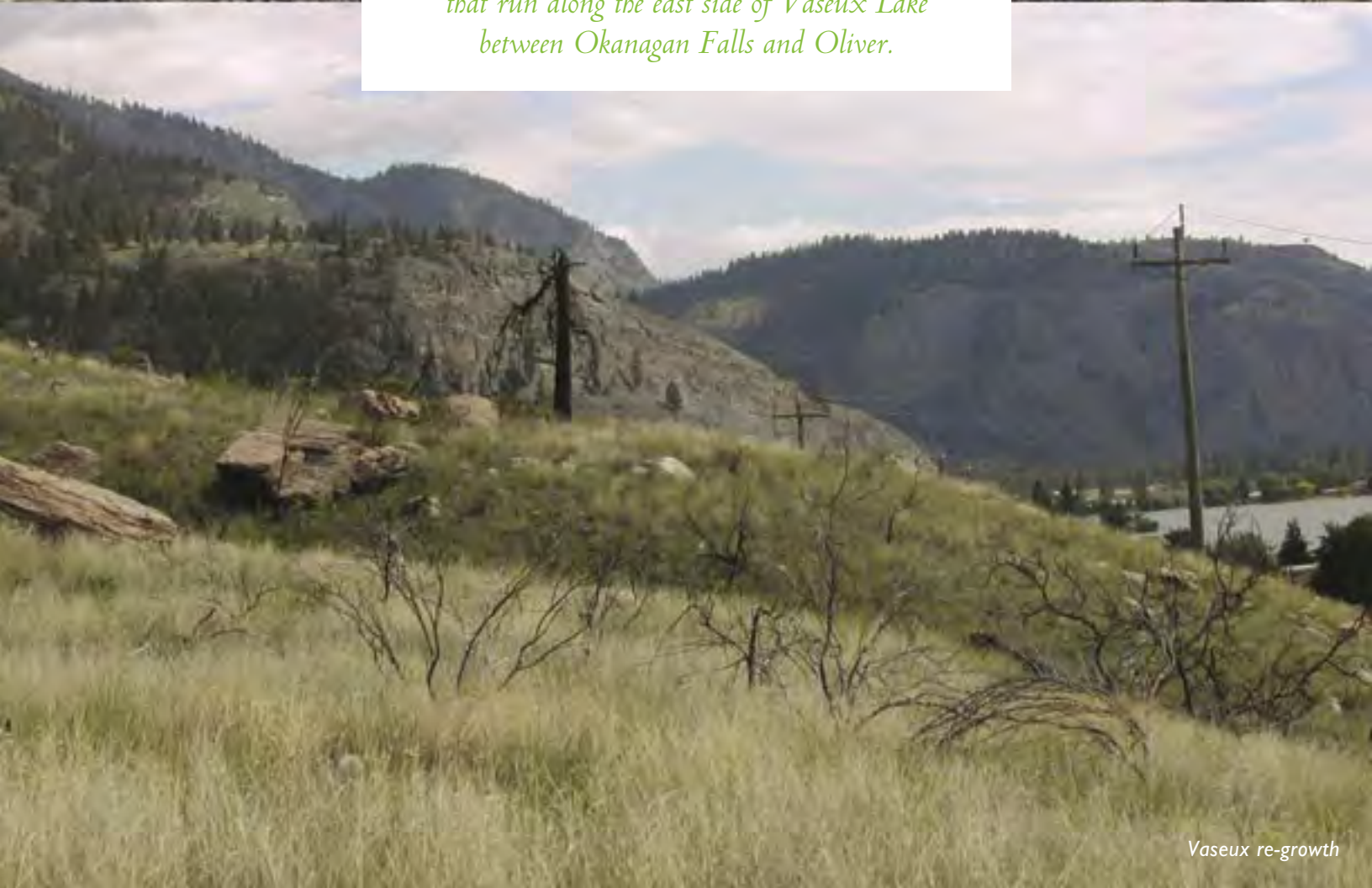
The Project's Objective

The objective of this 5-year applied research project was to implement and monitor a series of ecologically based restoration options following an uncontrolled (and very hot burning) wildfire in one of BC's most important grassland ecosystems.



Vaseux wildfire damage

The Vaseux fire began on the grassland benches that run along the east side of Vaseux Lake between Okanagan Falls and Oliver.



Vaseux re-growth

Seeding trials were placed within selected plots across the burned grassland areas, using a mix of native and agronomic (non-native, drought resistant commercial cultivars) species.

Vegetation transects to monitor post-fire natural recovery patterns were established in 2004 by The Nature Trust's South Okanagan crew under the supervision of consultant Lynne Atwood.

Nature Trust crews provided manual weed control over the grassland areas, targeting mechanically installed emergency firebreaks where there had been considerable soil disturbance and selected portions of the burned areas where land and debris slides occurred following heavy rains during the fall 2003 and the spring of 2004.

Findings & Observations 2004-2008

Five seed mixes containing a total of 18 species and three annual cover crops were tested on four sites disturbed by wildfire. Fall rye was the only cover crop that seeded at all sites and although seeded at a relatively intense rate of 25 kg/ha, establishment was very low. The minimal cover resulting after seeding did not reduce weed establishment in the seeded plots. Few agronomic species are adapted to the dry, hot conditions of the South Okanagan and the cover crops utilized were no exception. The only areas with relatively good establishment were plots that were sheltered from the afternoon sun.

The five mixes tested had disappointing results although at least one species in each mix established well at all sites. Seeding rates for this study were markedly higher than conventional rangeland seeding. Between 1050 and 1200 seeds /m² were applied, the equivalent of seeding rates of 15 kg/ha to 45 kg/ha depending on the mix.

Conclusion

This study reinforces The Nature Trust's view that seeding of disturbed soils remains recommended to minimize non-native plant invasion. Seeding intensely burned, bare soils or mechanically disturbed soils is recommended because these areas lack native seed banks and the residual cover vegetation (propagules) necessary for recovery. Invasive plant control should be carried out until the desired plant community is well established.

The Vaseux fire seeding trials had very mixed results. The variable response suggests that site factors and possibly soil conditions resulting from differences in fire intensity influence establishment of seeded species. This highlights the importance of matching seed mixes to specific site conditions.

Based on study results, these species are recommended for seeding conservation lands in Vaseux Lake/ South Okanagan sites with similar habitat attributes following fire: Sand dropseed (native bunchgrass), Bluebunch wheatgrass (native bunchgrass), Dahurian wildrye (*Elymus dahuricus*) (agronomic bunchgrass); and Slender wheatgrass (agronomic bunchgrass). Two additional species are recommended for areas within the South Okanagan where long-lived agronomic species are acceptable: Sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*); and Crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). Copies of the complete final report are available from The Nature Trust (*Vaseux Fire Restoration Project - Final Report*; L. Atwood; January 2009).



Jim Hope

I have a 30-year background working directly with community organizations on a variety of conservation and land acquisition projects in Canada, the western United States, and Botswana in Southern Africa. Past employers have included the American Farmland Trust, the Greenbelt Land Trust of Corvallis—Oregon and the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission. I also have extensive experience with economic and resource enterprise development with First Nations in BC. I hold a Master's of Science in Resource Management from the University of California-Berkeley.



Conservation Youth Crews in Action

"I was first interested in joining the crew when I heard of the job through friends. They described the nature of the work; being outdoors, hiking and traveling to new places in my own region, learning about conservation and putting that knowledge into authentic situations. I instantly thought this was the perfect job for me."

— Colin Mayer
South Okanagan Crew Member





Community Outreach





Inspiring the Next Generation



Matthew Tomlinson

The Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund

Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Alastair McLean dedicated their lives to the conservation of BC, particularly grasslands. This fund promotes applied research, habitat restoration and other stewardship activities that assist in the management of the land, plants and animals of BC's grasslands. In 2008 fund recipients were: Megan Harrison, MSc candidate, for "Defining breeding habitat selection mechanisms for the red-listed sagebrush Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri breweri*)" and Joe Bennett, PhD student, for "Assessing grassland ecosystems of southeast Vancouver Island and adjacent Vancouver Island".

The Bert Hoffmeister Scholarship

This scholarship named in honour of the first Chair of The Nature Trust is awarded to graduate students in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. The award is a joint effort by The Nature Trust, Wildlife Habitat Canada, BC's Ministry of Environment and the Province of BC. In 2008 Matthew Tomlinson was the recipient. His research is entitled "Historical landscape reconstruction and salmonid habitat in the Interior Columbia basin."

The Nature Trust is pleased to support research, education and community projects.

The Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship

This scholarship is named in honour of Director Emeritus Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. It recognizes conservation studies at the University of Victoria and focuses on Environmental Studies. In 2008 Sara Duncan was the recipient.

Rain Garden Fund

The Nature Trust has 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. Thanks to our donors, the Rain Garden Fund currently stands at \$100,000. In 2008 funds were provided to the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society in Victoria for a rain garden to reduce the size of flash floods in winter and fall.

Robert Bateman Get to Know Program

The Nature Trust is delighted to sponsor this program designed to help young Canadians connect with other species which live in their communities. Robert Bateman believes that in order to raise a generation who will care for the planet, we must begin by teaching the ABCs of environmental literacy. He believes that introducing students to wildlife is an important first step towards increasing student empathy and helping them understand why wildlife habitat must be protected.

Dr. Vernon C. “Bert” Brink, 1912-2007

Vernon Cuthbert “Bert” Brink passed away at the age of 95 in November 2007. He was a long time Director and later Director Emeritus of The Nature Trust. His keen insight and passion for conservation inspired many people across our province and he is greatly missed.

Bert dedicated his life to combining a love of science with a deep respect for the natural world. With a twinkle in his eye he would say, “Grass grows by inches but is worn out by feet.”

Born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1912, he spent his early years on his parents’ livestock operations. With his voracious appetite for knowledge, he earned a

at ease no matter how little they knew—leaving them always the wiser for having shared a conversation.

A person with a remarkable sense of community, Bert was a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and was active in many organizations including the Canadian Seed Growers’ Association, the Genetics Society of Canada, and the Society of Range Management. He was President of the Vancouver Natural History Society from 1950 to 1952 and in 1963 he founded the Conservation Committee. Bert played a major role in the founding of the Federation of BC Naturalists in 1969.



Receiving 2007 Lieutenant Governor Award for Conservation

BSA in Agronomy from the UBC in 1934 and an MSc in 1936. In 1940 he earned a PhD in Botany and Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He gained practical experience at the Canada Department of Agriculture Station at Manyberries in Alberta and at the Canada Department of Agriculture Range Station in Kamloops.

Bert was an exceptional communicator and a lifetime teacher. He joined the Department of Agronomy at the University of British Columbia as an instructor in 1939, becoming a full professor in 1951. He served as chairman of the Department of Plant Science from 1954 to 1969, and became professor emeritus after his retirement in 1977. A caring selfless person, he had a way of putting everyone

Bert was tireless in his pursuit of causes he believed were important. He was a leading voice in the BC conservation community to conserve the Fraser River, protect the Interior grasslands and establish a Provincial Park in BC’s Chilcotin region. In 2005 he was quoted in the *Kamloops Daily News* as saying, “The fabric of this region has been my life—its waters, its streams and lakes, its grasslands and its forests.”

Bert worked for decades to accomplish key goals. He left us with this maxim: “Care about the world around you. Care enough to do something about it. It is worth it.” And with his passing he continued to encourage a conservation ethic by requesting that people donate to The Nature Trust (and other conservation related organizations).



Financial Highlights

Cranberry Marsh

In 2008 we secured \$3.6 million in property holdings and spent a further \$2 million on land management. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed \$5.8 million to The Nature Trust during the year.

Looking forward, we will focus on building our endowment in order to meet operating costs and to achieve our conservation goals through land acquisition and management.

Summarized Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2008 and 2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and receivables	347,000	464,000
Investments	9,024,000	12,015,000
Capital assets	641,000	670,000
Properties	66,575,000	63,014,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	76,587,000	76,163,000
LIABILITIES		
Current	276,000	184,000
Deferred revenue	563,000	662,000
Promissory Notes	321,000	522,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,160,000	1,368,000
NET WORTH	75,427,000	74,795,000
INCREASE IN NET WORTH	632,000	6,653,000

This statement has been derived from the complete audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.

We Come This Way Once

I feel very fortunate to serve the province of BC and The Nature Trust. The joy of working with a very talented team, meeting new people and helping this important cause continues to keep the spring in my step after many years in the fundraising business.

Blessed with the best scientists on our Board and staff we are a leader in land conservation in British Columbia. What does this mean? We work to maintain and enhance the amazing variety of life that is unique to our province and so important to all of us.

Nature provides incredible excitement and pleasure for me—sighting a snowy owl at Boundary Bay, releasing fry into a tributary of the Fraser River or watching elk feed at Cherry Creek. BC is filled with inspiring places that need our care and attention. The Nature Trust has secured 485 parcels of land which our scientists have identified as high risk. We must continue to acquire and properly manage these precious places.

We are very grateful for the many inspiring people who support The Nature Trust: individuals, corporations, organizations and governments. You are wonderful partners sharing our commitment and giving us encouragement with your donations.

Raising funds to assist with our daily operation is the most challenging. Yet, we must build sufficient annual income to continue our critical work.

There are many ways you can assist us from annual gifts to bequests. Since 1995, The Nature Trust has received bequests from 32 donors and another 51 have pledged to support our land conservation in their wills. I am so very honoured to work with these valued donors, “our visionaries,” who are helping us to achieve our goal.

We come this way once, and cherish all opportunities to leave this world as good or hopefully a better place. BC is a treasure of a province, and The Nature Trust is committed to helping save it for my grandchildren and yours! Please join me. Give a lasting gift to nature by donating today or in the future to The Nature Trust of BC.

*We come this way once,
and cherish all opportunities
to leave this world as good
or hopefully a better place.*

Patrick Oswald

Born in England, I came to Canada to study at McGill University. Moving to Vancouver in 1960, I helped amalgamate 15 deaf groups into the Western Institute for the Deaf. This was my introduction into the world of fundraising where I discovered the joy of giving back to my community and began a life long career. In 1973, I joined the United Way as the first Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. There I encouraged leadership donors to perpetuate their annual gifts, increasing the endowment from under \$1 million to over \$25 million. I would like to see this example flourish at The Nature Trust where I began working in 2002. My love of birding and the natural world have made this opportunity to foster “Leadership Giving” most exciting and fulfilling.



Estates

The Nature Trust was very honoured to receive estates from the following kind donors

Helen B. Akrigg
Isabel Florence Cox
Enid Mary Harris
Gertrude Anna Kruger
Lorraine Milne
Doreen Elizabeth Tait
Anne M. Yandle



Individual donors

Our achievements are shared with many individuals who care about conservation as much as we do. We want to thank individual donors in 2008.

Lindsay Allen	David Boyd	Dr. Joyce Davies	Margaret Fisher	William Henderson
Muriel Andrews	Anne Boyle	Martin Davies	Stephen Fitterman	Catharine Herb-Kelly
Mark Angelo	Dick & Val Bradshaw	Andrew Davis	Tom & Andrée Fleming	Margaret Herdman
Kathleen Armstrong	Jocelyn Braithwaite	Judith Davis	Joyce Folbigg	Eva Hilborn
William S. Armstrong	Peter Broomhall	Peter Dawe	The Honourable John A. Fraser	Audrey Hoeg
John Ashby	James Brown	Robert Dawson	Francois & Nina Freyvogel	Ronald & Nancy Holcroft
Rick & Libby Avis	Georgina Brunette	Barbara Deleebeeck	Pierre Friele	Heather Holden
W.G. (Bill) Ayrton	Fred Bunnell	Laurie Desrosiers	Kathleen Fry	Ross Holt
Steve & Kanya Baillie	Brian & Jennifer Burke	Katherine Dickinson	Patricia Gardner	Patricia Hood
Joan Baker	Grant Burnyeat	Lawrence Dingsdale	The Honourable Garde Gardom	Jim Hope
Sara Baker	Frank Callaghan	Janice & Thomas Dixon	Timothy Garrish	Gerald Houlden
Gordon & Edith Bannerman	Hazard Campbell	Carolyn Dodd	Peggy Gilmour	Rosemary Howard
Joyce Barker	Alastair & Jean Carruthers	Robin & Suzanne Douglas	Pamela Glen	Jean Hudson
David Barraclough	Dick & Peggy Cartledge	John & Nadean Downie	Huntley & Grace Gordon	Art Hughes-Games
Robert Bateman	Rod Charlesworth	James Duncan	Patrick Gourlay	George & Jane Hungerford
Ken Bates	Dale Chomey	Alastair & Kathy Dunn	Jill Goyert	Eileen Husted
Bay Family	Doug & Eva Christopher	Marilyn Dutton	Connie Graham	David Hutchings
William Beaton	Mary & Gordon Christopher	Mary & Louise Dyer	Michael Graham	Sigbert Huth
Paul Beattie	Edgar Church	Thomas Dyke	Dr. Gillian Graves	Jim Intihar
Ross & Patricia Beaty	Meg Clarke	Laura Edlund	Janet Griesdale	Arthur & Sandra Irving
Paul Beckmann	June Cleghorn	Roger Edwards	Billy Griffith	D & J Isaacson
Dr. Michael Bell	Clyde Coats	Van Egan	Larry Groberman	Ann Ishiguro
Joyce Beveridge	Barbara Condon	Christine Elliott	Mitchell Gropper	Cliff Jackman
Edie U. Bijdemast	Dan & Sara Jane Connal	Shirley Embra	The Honourable Finn Guinness	Stephen & Susan Jackson
Jeremy Black	Pat & Ginger Connolly	Robert Engle	Bob & Judy Hager	Michael Jessen
Verena Blatter	Kenneth Cook	Susan Entwistle	Beryl Hargood-Ash	Deborah Jones
Gerard Bloem	Randy & Alix Cooke	Harry Evans	Merrion Harrison	Thomas Jones
Richard Bocking	Ron Coombes	Suzanne Everett	Christopher Harvey	Robert Kadlec
Dr. Catherine Aczel Boivie	Bill & Mary Corcoran	Maureen Fauman Hyndman	John & Mae Harvey	John Kay
Deborah Bond	Hans Couvreur	Tom & Roberta Feely	Constance Hawley	Brian Keir
Ellen Bond	Bill & Bamie Cowan	Arlene Feke	William Heidrick	Christopher Kelsey
Beryl Borris	Cynthia Crampton	Eileen & John Fiell	Dr. John Henderson	Tom & Deborah Kennedy
Dan & Ursula Bowditch	Beryl Cunningham	Grenville Finch-Noyes		Joan Ketchen
Keith Bower	Lou Davidson	Alan & Joan Finnie		Gordon & Iola Knight



In Memory

The Nature Trust was very honoured to receive donations in memory of the following people

Ivy Addie	Leo Lannon
Vernon (Bert) Brink	Bob Lim
Len Brown	Virra Lindroth
David Buchanan	Halvor Lunden
Tony Cartledge	Patricia McQueen
Brian Melville Dore	Ken Peterson
Ronald Fielding	Grant Rombough
John Husted	Joe Smith
Wyatt Kent	Tom Spicer
Peter M. Ketchen	Lee Straight
Donald Norman King	Frank Woods
Jerry Koutnik	Frank Wright

Daniel Kroeker	David & Siu Li McLean	Peter & Penny Pearse	Charlie Sanderson	French & Mary Tickner
Don & Jeri Krogseth	Louise McLean	Dennis Perry	Donna Sanford	Mark Trueman
Irene Lambert	Victor McLean	Howard Petch	Steven Savitt	Brian Turner
Carol-Ann Lang	Virginia McLean	Mrs. Patricia R. Phillips	& Mary Lynn Baum	Ray Turner
Bill & Denny Lang	Fred McMechan	Dirk & Karen Pidcock	Doreen Scantland	James Turpin
Laird Law	Sidney Mendelson	James Piper	Annette Schroeder	Frances Vyse
Russ Lazaruk	Herbert & Maria Menten	Ebie & Ian Pitfield	Abby Schwarz	Doug & Judy Walker
Norman Leach	Joan Michel	Ian Plenderleith	Jean Seaton	Jim Walker
Ed G. Legg	John Mills	Jack Poole	Don & Barbara Sedgwick	Roger & Sandra Watts
Blair Leonoff	Guy & Donna Monty	Bryan & Anne Prentice	Rachel Shephard	John & Bette Weber
Gordon & Mae Lindemere	Richard Moore	S. J. Proctor	Frank & June Shoemaker	John & Gail West & Family
Anna Linsley	& Zohar Fiszbaum	Norman Pursell	Rod Silver	June West
Penny Lobdell	John Morita	Dr. Roy Pursell	Roger Simms	Graham & Jacquie White
Tracy Loewen	Cecil Morrow	Kelly Rae	Bob & Susan Sinclair	Lee Whitehead
John & Nancy Love	Mr. & Mrs. G. Edward Moul	Jim Rainer	Kreg O. Sky	& Pegeen Brennan
Larry & Maureen Lunn	Stewart Muir &	Sunipa Rassameeuthai	Daphne Sleigh	Elizabeth Whittaker
Terry Lyons	Athana Mentzelopoulos	Sheila Reynolds	Jeffrey Sluggett	Lorne Wickerson
Mary Macaree	Sherry Mullen	The Reifel Family	Dave Smith	& Rona Tattersdill
Stuart & Leslie MacDonald	May Murray	George Richards	Marion Smith	Doreen & Lieuwe Wierenga
Mackay Family	Judy Myers	R.L. (Dick) Richards	Peter Speer	Mary Wight
Hector MacKay-Dunn	Tilman & Mae Nahm	David Richardson	Ronald Speller	Roger Wiles
Sherri & Hugh Magee	Bill & Lindy Newman	Diane Richardson	Richard Stace-Smith	David & Jennifer Wilkinson
Bud MaLette	F. Newton	Sylvia Rickard	Art Stauble	Gwynneth Wilson
F.P. Mannix	John Nichol	William Riedl	Rowena Stern	Jennifer Wilson
Eric Martin	Daniel Nocente	Ralph Ritcey	Rick Stevens	& Cameron Prentice
Mervin Martin	The Marquis & Marchioness	Robin Rivers	Jennie Stevenson	Robin Wilson
Doug Mason	of Normanby	Dr. & Mrs. W. A. Rivers	Ian Stirling	Mary Woods
Ted Mason	Rudy North	Mary Roberts	Beverley Straight	John & Lisa Woodward
Henry Mayer	John Norton	Caroline J. Robertson	Joan Straight	Robyn Woodward
Jane McCutcheon	Alf Ogilvie	Wayne & Patricia Robertson	Robert Straight	Wynn Woodward
Dorothy McDonald	Michael & Brenda O'Keefe	Bea Robson	Sandra Suffiad	John & Nancy Woodworth
Margaret McGeary	Stanley Olson	Noel and Val Roddick	Betty Lou Sully	Janet Wright
Bob & Brenda McGill	Claire Oppenheim	Elsie May Ross	Eve Szabo	Laura Yates
Michael McGrenere	Brian & Janice O'Sullivan	Robert & Sheila Ross	Isabel & Robert Taylor	Mike Yip
Robert McIntosh	& Family	Bradford Rowe	Irene Teske	Linda Yorke
Joan McIntyre	Patrick & Hilary Oswald	Mr. & Mrs. Denzil Rowlands	Sabine Thoering	Ed Zacharuk
Clarke & Debbie McKeen	Russell Patrick	Tom Rust	Louise Thompson	Ann Zielinski
Rick McKelvey	Patricia Patterson	Patricia Ryder	Neil S. Thompson	Private individuals who wish
David & Jason McLean	Alisa Pearse			to remain anonymous

Straight From The Heart Testimonials

"This is a dream come true; creating a lasting legacy to nature. I am very grateful to the many people who helped make this possible and encourage other land owners to consider doing the same. I believe we can make a difference."

—Clyde Coats, Gabriola Island



"We wish to do our part to assure preservation of unique and environmentally fragile areas in our beautiful province. The Nature Trust of British Columbia has demonstrated outstanding ability to identify projects, leverage their funds effectively and manage sensitive lands. We feel certain that our contributions are well applied and can truly 'make a difference'."

—Harold and Joan Copping

"My wife and I are birders living on Vancouver Island. We wanted to name a non-profit organization as a potential beneficiary in our Wills and decided on something relevant to our interests. We have visited several ecologically important areas on Vancouver Island that were acquired by The Nature Trust (TNT) so we know they are active locally. We wanted a BC focused organization and one that had been in existence for long enough to establish a history of sound management. We especially appreciated the scientific basis of TNT activities and have been impressed with TNT website information and our personal contact with their staff."

—Rhys Harrison

Grade 7 students from Vancouver Talmud Torah School put the mitzvah of giving back into action. This was a fabulous learning opportunity. Based on their research, personal interviews and presentations, the students worked together to decide how to allocate their donation dollars. The Nature Trust was honoured to receive a gift of \$550.



Corporate Supporters

Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang LLP

Aviawest Resorts Inc.

BC Bearing Engineers Ltd.

BC Hydro

BC Plant Health Care Inc.

Beach Acres Resort

Benson Salloum Watts LLP

Best Entertainment Corp.

British Pacific Properties Ltd.

Bushnell

Canada Place Corporation

Canadian Mortgage Strategies & Investments (cmsi)

Canadian New Ventures

Cattermole Group

CCL Properties

Clark Wilson LLP

Concert Properties

D.G. Wallace Land Surveying Inc.

David Hellman MD Inc

Dogwood Pavillion

Enbridge Energy Company Inc.

EnCana Corporation

ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates

GIS Innovations

Graham Osborne Photography

Great Northern Land Co LLC

Grip Limited

HSBC Bank Canada

Timothy J. Huntsman Law Corp.

Huron Energy Corporation

Island Timberlands LP

LGL Limited

Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.

McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Natural Gift Seafood

North Growth Management Ltd.

Odlum Brown Limited

Pacific Coastal Airlines

Rainbeau's End Guesthouse

Pacific Shores Resort & Spa

Palladian Excavating Ltd.

Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd.

Pottinger Gaherty Environmental Consultants

Sunlinks Marketing

Talisman Energy Inc.

Teal Investments

Texada Quarrying Ltd.

Tidal Property Corp.

TimberWest Forest Corp.

Tree Island Industries Ltd.

Urban Arborist



BC Hydro provided support for the Conservation Youth Crews in 2008.



EnCana Corporation is providing \$750,000 over 10 years. In 2008 EnCana funding went toward property acquisitions, communication, education and community events.



HSBC Bank Canada was Title Sponsor of the Conservation Youth Crews in 2008.



Talisman Energy provided support for our Peace River Conservation Youth Crew in 2008.



Tree Island Industries provided in-kind support for land management carried out by the Conservation Youth Crews.

Conservation Partners

Community & Conservation Groups

Arrowsmith Naturalists
Arrowsmith Watersheds
Coalition Society
BC Nature
British Columbia Waterfowl Society
BC Wildlife Federation
Concord Lodge No. 79
Ducks Unlimited Canada
East Kootenay Big Game Club
Fish & Wildlife Compensation
Program — Columbia Basin
Friends of French Creek
Conservation Society
The Kootenay Wildlife
Heritage Fund
Lake Windermere District
Rod & Gun Club
Nanaimo Field Naturalists
Nature Vancouver
Nelson District Rod & Gun Club
North Island Wildlife
Recovery Association
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Peace/Williston Fish & Wildlife
Compensation Program
Scout Island Nature Centre
Shell Environmental Fund
Sparwood & District Fish & Wildlife
Association
St. Catherine's Church, Capilano
Swan Lake Christmas Hill
Nature Sanctuary
TELUS Community Engagement
Wreck Beach Preservation Society

Education

University of British Columbia
University of Victoria
Vancouver Talmud Torah

Foundations & Trusts

BC Conservation Foundation
Brooke N. Wade
Charitable Foundation
Caritate Foundation
Columbia Basin Trust
Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation
Habitat Conservation
Trust Foundation
Hollington Habitat Trust
Joan Ford Charitable Society
Joseph Segal Family Foundation
Kaatza Foundation
Lagnappe Foundation
Lohn Foundation
The Mahon Rowland Foundation
Mark and Susan Torrance
Foundation
The Mary & Gordon Christopher
Foundation
McCarthy Tétrault Foundation
North Growth Foundation
The Real Estate Foundation of BC
TD Friends of the Environment
Foundation
Tony Cartledge Fund
Vancouver Foundation

Government

BC Conservation Corps
BC Ministry of Environment
BC Ministry of Transportation
Canadian Wildlife Service
City of Courtenay
City of Nanaimo
City of Parksville
Comox Valley Regional District.
Cowichan Valley Regional District
District of North Cowichan
District of Port Hardy
Environment Canada
Metro Vancouver
Provincial Employees
Community Services Fund
Regional District of Nanaimo
Summer Career Placement
Program (HRSDC)
Town of Comox
Town of Qualicum Beach



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited Canada has been an outstanding partner of The Nature Trust since 1971. Collaborative projects include land acquisition, land management and watershed projects as well as educational events and key support for the Brant Wildlife Festival. Ducks Unlimited Canada has also been involved with The Nature Trust in the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, the Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture and Pacific Coast Joint Venture.



HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Habitat Conservation Trust

Foundation is an amazing supporter of The Nature Trust contributing over \$6 million to land acquisitions and \$1 million to land management to date. Projects that have benefited from

the support include the Hoodoos, Wigwam Flats and O'Grady property in the East Kootenay, Englishman River, Somenos Marsh and Buttertubs Marsh on Vancouver Island, Antelope Brush Conservation Area and Vaseux Lake in the Okanagan, and Tom Berry—Heart of the Fraser near Hope. In 2008, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation established a \$6 million endowment for Nature Trust operation and management projects.

The Nature Trust of BC

North Vancouver Office

Marian Adair	Habitat Ecologist
Laurie Desrosiers	Finance Manager
Janice Dixon	Database Manager
Jim Hope	BC Conservation Land Manager
Deborah Kennedy	Development & Communications
Tracy Loewen	Fundraising & Special Events Coordinator
Jason Northcott	Conservation Specialist
Patrick Oswald	Leadership Giving
Sunipa Rassameeuthai	Finance & Office Assistant
Robin Rivers	Communications Manager
Doug Walker	President & Chief Executive Officer
Leanna Warman	Ecosystem Specialist

Cranbrook

Rob Neil	East Kootenay Conservation Land Manager
----------	---

Nanaimo

Tim Clermont	Crown Land Securement Coordinator
Tom Reid	Vancouver Island Conservation Land Manager

Oliver

Carl MacNaughton	South Okanagan Conservation Land Manager
------------------	---

Head Office

The Nature Trust of British Columbia
#260—1000 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3R4
Telephone: 604-924-9771
Toll free: 1-866-288-7878
Fax: 604-924-9772
E-mail: info@naturetrust.bc.ca
Website: www.naturetrust.bc.ca

Branch Offices

East Kootenay
The Nature Trust of British Columbia
205 Industrial Road G
Cranbrook, BC VIC 7G5
Telephone: 250-489-8549
Fax: 250-489-8506

South Okanagan
The Nature Trust of British Columbia
RR #2, Site 42, Comp 17
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
Telephone: 250-498-5474
Fax: 250-498-5475

Vancouver Island
The Nature Trust of British Columbia
2080 A Labieux Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9
Telephone: 250-751-3218
Fax: 250-751-3103

Charitable Corporation #10808 9863 RR0001

Graham Osborne donated the use of his photos on inside front cover (tree), page 3, page 4, page 9 (lower), page 20, inside back cover.

Bird photo (Varied Thrush) on left side of page 14 by Tony Markle; bird photo (Brant Goose) on right side of page 14 by Ralph Hocken; bird photo (Ferruginous Hawk) on page 15 by Guy Monty; photo of girls on page 22 (lower) by Jennifer Shecter-Balin.

All other photos by Nature Trust staff, crew members and conservation partners.

www.naturetrust.bc.ca



#260 — 1000 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3R4
Telephone: 604-924-9771
Toll free: 1-866-288-7878

