



PLANTING SEEDS

For the Future

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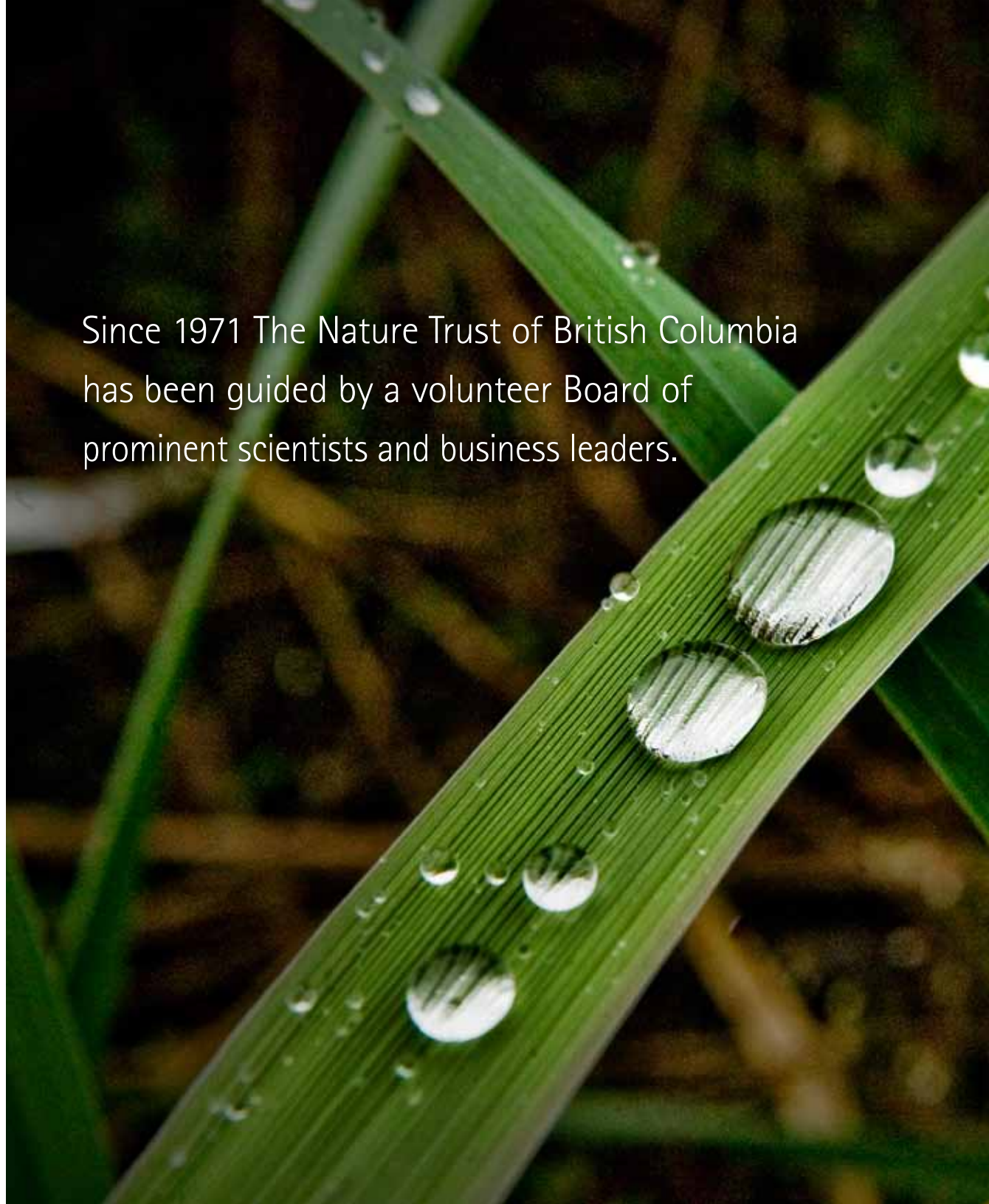
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Since 1971 The Nature Trust of British Columbia has been guided by a volunteer Board of prominent scientists and business leaders.





INSPIRING OTHERS *to Care*

The year 2010 was the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity in recognition of the vital role biodiversity plays in sustaining life.

Biodiversity is the keystone of all healthy ecosystems and has a profound influence on the quality and sustainability of human life. It is essential that biodiversity be measured, understood, protected and enhanced. Our lives and our children's future depend critically on the natural services provided by biodiverse rich ecosystems.

Promoting biodiversity—the variety of life in our Province—is at the heart of The Nature Trust of British Columbia's strategic plan. The strategy's key objective is to prevent further species and ecosystem destruction through conservation. We execute on our strategy through; a) careful scientific analysis of prospective properties, and; b) the subsequent allocation of scarce financial resources to the acquisition of properties that meet our rigorous criteria.

In order to realize on our objectives we rely on partners and the community at large. Our partners include other environmental organizations, governments at all levels, donors and individuals. Education is a key part of our work: instilling at an early age an understanding of the importance of our natural world. We are

grateful for the many hands that have helped craft our work.

In 2010, we acquired the Columbia River–Habart property in the East Kootenay Trench, the Grindrod property on the banks of the Shuswap River and Slocan River Island. We received a covenant on Read Island near Campbell River. In 2011 we are working on acquiring a number of critical properties including Twin Lakes near Penticton, the last piece of Burgoyne Bay on Salt Spring Island, and the Moorecroft Camp property in Nanoose Bay.

The title of this annual report *Planting Seeds for the Future* reflects our mission of involving and educating the community at large. Our community outreach is facilitated through the important work of our Regional Conservation Land Managers. The Nature Trust hosted ecotours at all major wildlife festivals in BC and held fundraising events in priority areas. We hired young people through our HSBC Conservation Youth Crew program to tackle habitat restoration, monitor wildlife and plants, and learn more about their local areas while gaining skills for future employment. We sponsored the Wild Festival for Youth in Kelowna



I am inspired by the visionaries who in 1971 planted the seed of the idea for a land conservation organization.

which is part of the Robert Bateman Get to Know program and Voices of Nature, a children's music program that teaches about bears and birds and conservation through song.

The Nature Trust Campaign to raise \$15 million is ongoing. I want to express my appreciation to all our donors. We are especially grateful to those who have made a gift in their will to The Nature Trust. We take the management of your donations seriously. Our administration and fundraising costs have been on average 10-12% of revenue over the past five years. This is very low relative to comparable organizations. We do not carry debt. An external audit is conducted annually. Our Investment Committee meets quarterly, and with our fund managers semi-annually. The investment policy is reviewed and updated annually. All acquisitions and funding are approved by the Board.

As I conclude my Chairmanship I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board for their generosity of spirit and expertise. Together we

have navigated through the worst recession in modern times and built a stronger organization. I also wish to acknowledge CEO Doug Walker and his team for their leadership in the land conservation business. You have delivered a quality performance in 2010.

In 2011 The Nature Trust of BC will celebrate 40 years. I am inspired by the visionaries who in 1971 planted the seed of the idea for a land conservation organization focused on British Columbia and excited about the tremendous possibilities for the next 40 years.

Daniel L. Nocente



Daniel Nocente



OPTIMISM *For the Future*

This is a story about optimism for our future. When in 1842, James Douglas set foot on the shores of what would later be known as Victoria he exclaimed that he had landed in "a perfect Eden," and "one might be pardoned for supposing it had dropped from the clouds."

Indeed, looking at British Columbia we might think that we too had landed in a perfect Eden. The ancient rainforest, an ocean with whales and seabirds on our doorstep, deserts and alpine meadows, and grasslands all hearken to a land rich in nature. The plight of nature on Earth seems so far away.

If we look at British Columbia in a North American context, we are indeed fortunate. Many of the large mammals have retreated from their former range in North America. The same can be said for Europe, Africa and Asia. The stronghold for many North American big animals has moved north and west to British Columbia.

We pose a great threat to nature on Earth. The human population surpassed 7 billion people in 2010 and it is predicted to grow for another 40 years or so. However, humanity is enjoying the best of times. We are living longer and healthier lives. We are wealthier and our children are more likely to survive to adulthood. Where it took 250,000 years to reach the first billion, it has taken only 12 years to reach 6 billion. But at current rates, it will take 14 years to

reach 8 billion and more than 20 years to reach 9 billion when the population should level. In other words, the growth years are behind us. But 9 billion people is a lot of humanity and it is the source of a great and heroic challenge.

We have about 40 years of heavy seas ahead of us after which growing demands from a burgeoning human population will ease. So our challenge is whether we will provide for nature to weather that storm.

I want to back up a little here and address why we need to consider nature's future. For me, I cannot imagine a world without wild places and I am sure many readers share this view. But there is another case to be made. We once believed that large predators required a healthy prey base but we now know that the mere presence of predators dictates what other species do in their ecosystem.

A celebrated case is the return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park. In the late 20th century, Yellowstone had undergone profound ecological changes. Images of the park were very different from photos of the same location taken

earlier in the century. Elk numbers had erupted, browsing of willow and aspen was intense and the vegetation had changed. Ecologists at the time thought that the changes were due to forest suppression and climate change. But the answer was to be found in a pack of wolves.

In the late 1990s, the Parks Service re-introduced a handful of wolves into the park in a bid to return key species to Yellowstone. Within a few years the elk, that had up until then had the run of the park, were afraid to go into areas where wolves could catch them. The willows and aspens the elk had relied upon for food were suddenly no longer browsed and began to grow. Beaver, that had been absent from the park for decades, suddenly found new food and returned to build dams behind which flourishing aquatic insects attracted songbirds. The effects of the fear from the wolves cascaded through the park ecosystem. We now know that similar effects are happening in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Large predators are an essential part in sustaining natural environments.

A world-wide movement to cities is underway. We are becoming urban. One result of this exodus of the countryside is that large animals have begun to return to unused lands. Wolves and bears have arrived in parts of Europe where they have not been seen in decades. Closer to home, the recovery of trumpeter swans, eagles and whales is underway. This gives hope that recovery is possible by saving wild places with wild things and it gives optimism for our future.

There is another more personal reason to

want to save nature. For millions of years the forces of nature shaped us into sentient beings. It should be of no surprise then that there are strong connections with nature across cultures. There is growing evidence that being near nature has physical and emotional health benefits. There is also evidence that development is enhanced among children allowed free play in natural areas. A new relationship with nature based on an inherent necessity is emerging in programs such as Robert Bateman's Get to Know.

The next few decades will require innovative thinking and hard choices. But we can start right now. If there was one heroic thing we can do, it is to do everything we can to save large nature. And this is where The Nature Trust comes into play. For 39 years, The Nature Trust has been quietly working to protect precious pieces of nature in British Columbia. We work with partners in many instances to pool resources and expertise so that every precious dollar that is donated is wisely used. Some of our favourite landscapes and parks were established with the foresight of The Nature Trust. The great people in its early days—Bert Hoffmeister, Roderick Haig-Brown, Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Bert Brink and many others—established a conservation ethic for the day. We can see clearly the new challenge ahead of us and the responsibility that reaches beyond British Columbia. It begins with how you choose to live and when you choose to help future generations. A simple way to get started is to support The Nature Trust.

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Dr. Rob Butler



Georgia Basin & Coastal Estuaries



Okanagan



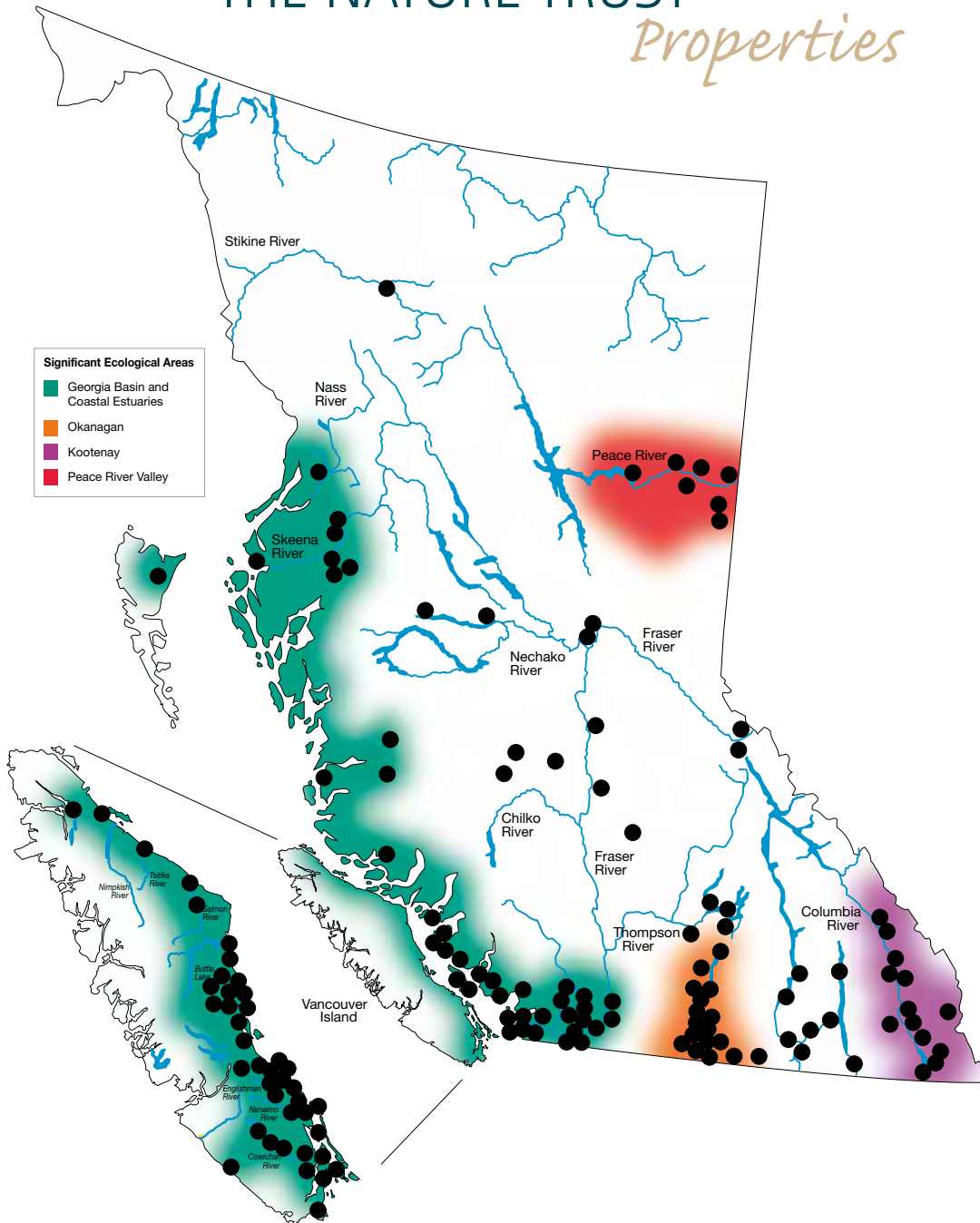
Kootenay



Peace River Valley

THE NATURE TRUST

Properties



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.

Okanagan

The 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.

Kootenay

The Nature Trust is active in the Kootenay, 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.

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 2010.



Columbia River – Habart 2.27 hectares (5.6 acres)

- Located in the East Kootenay Trench
- Property is floodplain forest, riparian and wetland habitats
- Partners include Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program

Grindrod Property 2.72 hectares (6.72 acres)

- Located on the banks of the Shuswap River near Grindrod
- Property will be maintained as a small wildlife refuge

Read Island 1.86 hectares (4.6 acres)

- Located inland from Surge Narrows near Campbell River
- Property will become part of the John Kim Nature Sanctuary
- Partners include Eileen Sowerby and her land partners

Slocan River Island 57.5 hectares (142 acres)

- Located in the Slocan River between Winlaw and Slocan
- Property is riparian and wetland habitats and located in a floodplain
- Partners include BC Conservation Foundation—Land for Wildlife Fund, Columbia Basin Trust, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, FortisBC, The Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, and the Nixon Family Farm Society



Elk in the East Kootenay

A large, leafy tree with a thick trunk and many branches, growing on a rocky shore. The tree is silhouetted against a bright sky and the ocean. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale, clear blue. The tree's leaves are a vibrant green, and its branches are dark and gnarled. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

REPLENISHING *the Earth*

In the past 39 years, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has secured over 61,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of habitat in this province. This is an amazing accomplishment and a critical component of conservation.

Of equal importance, however, is the appropriate management of these conservation lands. We need to ensure that the integrity of habitat values identified in long-term management objectives for a particular property is maintained or achieved. To meet these objectives, The Nature Trust of BC employs four Regional Land Managers, and a number of summer youth crews, who plan for and conduct land management activities. Having been in their positions for many years, our Land Managers have a great deal of experience in conducting specific land management projects.

Something to be aware of in relying on personal and professional experience is that there is a tendency to think “inside the box”. This means that we tend to do things the way we always have, which makes us less adaptable to changes in our surrounding environment. The concept of a “best management practice”, while a valuable tool, can be somewhat misleading in title. If we assume that we know what’s “best”, there is no room for improvement. This is why

The Nature Trust of BC encourages a culture of learning and openness to new ideas.

Putting this philosophy into practice, I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Environment & Management degree at Royal Roads University. Effective management in the environmental sector is a key theme in this program; one that I am gradually implementing in my conservation land management programs. A prime example is the implementation of courses on sustainability, governance and systems theory. We are all aware of the “web of life” concept, where parts of nature are interconnected in an ecological system, or “ecosystem”, and impacts to one component can affect all other components. In analyzing governance systems, we are learning that our own organizations and governments are components of a system too, working together for a common ecological good.

Looking back, I can see where agencies involved in land management have not maximized their efficiency in working toward



the greater ecological good. Relying solely on what has worked in the past, and adherence to individual mandates, however, usually does not lead to creative solutions. In tackling challenging issues like ecosystem restoration, sticking to one's own mandate or jurisdictional "silo" is not effective. Ecological processes do not respect borders and must be addressed at the landscape scale. Successes are evident in recent years with the initiation of regional ecosystem restoration programs, where multi-jurisdictional partners work to initiate projects on a broader scale.

A good example of this type of project is the Wildlife Tree Recruitment program in the East Kootenay region. This program involves suitable trees being topped and inoculated with heart-rot fungus to encourage use by cavity-nesting birds such as the Lewis' Woodpecker. Ecosystem restoration projects like this are taking place on a variety of Crown and private conservation lands,

including those of The Nature Trust, in order to meet regional ecological targets across a broad area. This landscape approach is critical in all conservation work, from addressing species at risk to land securement.

This is an exciting time to be involved in land management, as conservation strategies are becoming more innovative and collaborative. The important thing is to find a balance between making the most of our past experience as land managers, while striving to constantly improve and learn.



Carl MacNaughton

Ecological processes do not respect borders and must be addressed at the landscape scale.



2010 Youth Crews

Provincial Statistics

Regions: 5

Crew members: 14

Properties where work took place: 77

Kilometres of fence repaired or built: 46

Hectares of land treated for invasive plants: 107

Other tasks: Planted native seedlings; sign installation; rubbish cleanup; maintenance of bridges, trails, kiosks; wildlife tree inventory; wildlife research; repaired nesting boxes

"I've learned so much this summer without even realizing it. Everyday we do hands-on things that teach me about the Okanagan Valley and how unique and valuable it is."

Nellie Salter

"I think most of the work the crew does is contributing to the local community as we are constantly working to conserve and restore what people love about the Kootenays."

Laura Grant

"Conservation areas are such a good thing and in order to keep areas as pristine as we can, we all need to do our part. I know I appreciate the hard work people do to keep trails maintained."

Kristy Todd





THANK YOU *sponsors*

HSBC Bank Canada
is the title sponsor for the fifth year.

Other sponsors include BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, HRSDC, the Tony Cartledge Fund, the Victoria Foundation and Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program.





"I support The Nature Trust of BC because I admire their positive, effective, and collaborative approach to habitat conservation. As an employee of BC Hydro, I choose to give at work through HYDRECS, the BC Hydro Employees' Community Service Fund. As a biologist I know it is important that The Nature Trust's conservation work is grounded in sound science. As a sportsman, I appreciate that The Nature Trust's work benefits our fish and wildlife resources. Finally, I enjoy knowing The Nature Trust conserves land close to home in the Fraser Delta, the Heart of the Fraser and across BC."

J. Jasper Lament, PhD



Wings Over the Rockies

SPREADING *Our Roots*



Oswalds and ballerinas at Gala



Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival



Wild Festival



Brant Wildlife Festival



Splash



John Brighton Sign Unveiling



Earth Wind Fire



Unconference



Christopher family at Gala



Boundary Bay cleanup





TREES, TNT *and Me*

When I say the word "nature", the first image that enters my mind is that of an ancient, tall and stately evergreen; commonly known to most as a tree. I have walked in ancient forests, stood amongst these very old giants and felt their grandeur.

Here at The Nature Trust of BC we love our trees. Not only do we work to conserve them, we also work to plant them. I feel both pride and a sense of relief when I know key habitat is protected and allowed to continue to nurture nature.

My particular role in this tree conservation cycle begins at the North Vancouver office. As the database manager and executive assistant, I wear many hats. I am usually the first person at The Nature Trust to receive your phone calls and the mail you send to us. Quite often, if this is not your first contact with us, I will recognize you by name. It is my job to know who our donors are and where they live.

I manage all of the data which applies to our donors, our visionaries, our Board, our volunteers and the many people who support and partner with us. I ensure donors receive our newsletters, annual reports, their charitable tax receipts and thank-you letters, planned giving and bequest material, and any and all material available on our properties and potential acquisitions. We receive many donations in memory of loved ones and friends, and I notify their families. These are the nuts and bolts of the administration side of the donor and The Nature Trust relationship.

The real reward for me is hearing from you. Your personal notes and phone calls are encouraging and very welcome. If it were not for your feedback and your interest in our mission, we would not enjoy what we do nearly as much. If you attend our Gala dinner or any number of Nature Trust community events on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland I will quite often be one of the first people you see at registration.

Another reward as a staff member at The Nature Trust is the hands-on work. I have planted quite a number of trees on Nature Trust properties and even helped install a rain garden in front of our office. I know the importance of planting trees and the significance of the nurturing process once they are in the ground.

I hope as a Nature Trust supporter you feel as valuable to us as the trees we protect and conserve. Thank you for being there as we begin our 40th year of conservation in BC.



Janice Dale Dixon





GROWING *Our Business*

In 2010 we secured \$638,000 in property holdings and spent a further \$1.2 million on land management. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed \$3.6 million to The Nature Trust during the year. We were also able to increase our net assets by over \$2.5 million, while contributing almost \$1.2 million to our endowment fund.

December 31, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and receivables	487,000	570,000
Investments	12,637,000	11,061,000
Capital assets	628,000	620,000
Properties	71,278,000	70,700,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,030,000	82,951,000
LIABILITIES		
Current	186,000	224,000
Deferred revenue	379,000	703,000
Promissory notes	120,000	220,000
Net assets	84,345,000	81,804,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	85,030,000	82,951,000
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	2,541,000	6,377,000

This statement has been derived from the complete audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009.

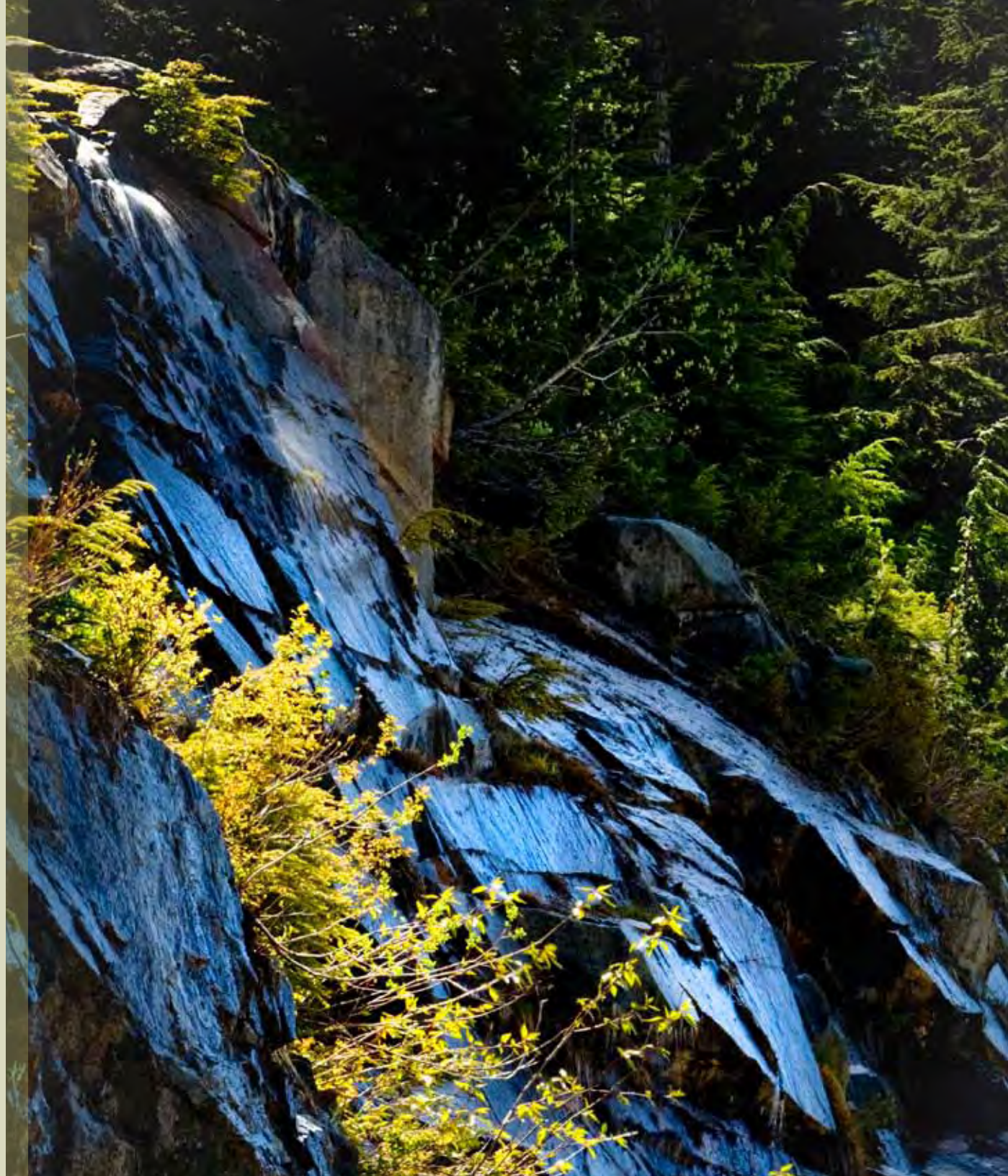
The Nature Trust was very honoured to receive donations in memory and estates from kind donors.

In Memory

Gerd Bell
Dr. John Brighton
Mrs. Joyce Burton
Gladyce Craig
Erla & Murray Duclos
James Heighton Dwyer
David Graham
John Graham
Kristjan Vigfus Guttormsson
Barbara Gyles
Terrance Hankinson
John Husted
Leo Lannon
Hume McLennan
Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan
Scott Moerike
Heather Saaltink
Donald Sedgwick
Mickey Sehmer
Mrs. Patricia Tieleman
Terry VanderSar

Estates

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Phyllis Edsell
Enid Mary Harris
Constance Margaret Hawley
Beatrice Mary Martin
John Ernest Mills
Charles Evered Poole
Gilbert Sage
Terry VanderSar
Leora Ruth Wright
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 2010.

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BC Hydro provided support for the Conservation Youth Crews in 2010.



EnCana Corporation is providing \$750,000 over 10 years. In 2010 EnCana funding went toward communication, education and community events.



Goldcorp is donating \$1 million over 4 years to The Nature Trust Campaign.



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HSBC Bank Canada was Title Sponsor of the Conservation Youth Crews in 2010.



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spotlight



BC Conservation Foundation

is a key partner of The Nature Trust providing critical support for land acquisition including the Slocan River Island



Columbia Basin Trust

is a long time partner of The Nature Trust working on land acquisition and land management



Vancouver Foundation

is a long time partner of The Nature Trust providing support for the Land Management Pilot Project as well as other projects.



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