

## SPECIAL PLACES Need Your Help

### Fundraising for Final \$300,000

Special places in British Columbia need special people. The Nature Trust of British Columbia and the Town of Comox have partnered with the Bay family to conserve 6.3 acres (2.56 hectares) of land on Vancouver Island.

The property lies between the marine habitat of Comox Bay and riparian habitat along the length of Brooklyn Creek. It is an important link for salmonid species including coho, cutthroat trout, pink and chum. The low salt marsh, riparian and older second growth forest habitats act as natural buffers for each other and also to estuarine and marine habitat to the south of the foreshore boundary.

"When we purchased this spectacular property in 2005 we had initially intended to build a family home and leave a large portion of it in its natural state. When my father passed away, my mother moved to Victoria and we began considering leaving the property. In 2007 we came across The Nature Trust and they explained the benefits of a land donation. We enjoyed working with their people and are very pleased to contribute to their outstanding conservation work," said Greg Bay.

Almost one acre (.36 hectare) has been donated by the Bay family under Environment Canada's ecogift program recognizing conservation of ecologically significant land. The Town of Comox is contributing \$2.1 million and The Nature Trust must raise \$300,000 to purchase the remaining 3 parcels in order to preserve the estuary and

provide a legacy for Comox.

The property is adjacent to an area that is designated as a proposed park in the Official Community Plan as well as Mack Laing Park, which is owned by the Town of Comox. This acquisition provides an opportunity to manage the larger conservation complex and supports the ecological function of Brooklyn Creek as a corridor for fish and other wildlife.



Brooklyn Creek meanders through this spectacular property

## PEACHLAND Lakeshore Preserved

Patricia Ryder donated her land to protect it from development and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and plants. The 5.18 hectare (12.8 acre)



property is located in Peachland adjacent to Okanagan Lake. The terrain is rocky with Ponderosa pine, bluffs and outcroppings and sparse benched areas. There is approximately 1,435 feet of lakeshore frontage.

The forested portions of the property offer habitat for various species of woodpeckers including the Lewis's woodpecker. Several rock outcroppings and bluffs are ideal habitat for snakes and reptiles. Ephemeral streams provide forage, cover and habitat for amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

The Nature Trust is extremely grateful to Patricia Ryder for her generosity.

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**Please consider a lasting gift  
to The Nature Trust during the  
upcoming holiday season.**



# CONSERVING GABRIOLA: A Family Dream

"We now have a very large, ecologically important section of Gabriola Island that's protected under regional park status," says Larry McNabb, Chair of the Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee. "Helping to conserve this property was an opportunity we couldn't pass up."

The Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Regional District of Nanaimo and BC Trust for Public Lands have partnered to conserve a treasure on Gabriola Island—a large parcel of land that will become a new regional park.

The 45.7-hectare (113-acre) acquisition 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.

Long time Gabriola resident Clyde Coats was on the ferry when he saw a Nature Trust sign on a truck. He spoke to our land manager Tom Reid about what we did and how we might help him make his dream to conserve his family



property a reality. "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," said Clyde.

Clyde worked with The Nature Trust

Gabriola Island property and a local Gabriola Island conservation society over a number of months. Rather than selling the property at full market value, he made a significant contribution to conservation by applying for Environment Canada's ecogift program recognizing ecologically significant land.



**Tregilges family plaque dedication May 2008**

From left to right is John's brother Tony Tregilges, John's sister Pam Morrell, John's daughter Tara Tregilges, John Tregilges and John's wife Josephine.

## TREGILGES PROPERTY

The Nature Trust and the Province of BC acquired the Tregilges property in the Wigwam Flats area of the Kootenays. This property will add to a complex of conservation holdings which are important for providing habitat for Rocky Mountain sheep.

Phoebe Tolley Tregilges was born at Cakato, BC in 1921. Phoebe, her sister Mildred and her brother Tom purchased the Wigwam Flats property when they were teenagers. Eventually Phoebe bought out her sister's portion of the land (her brother Tom had passed away). The land was later passed to her children. Phoebe's children have partnered with The Nature Trust to create a legacy for their mother.

### Dedicated to the Memory of Our Mother

Phoebe Tolley Tregilges

May 3, 1921 - May 3, 1997

Who "hung on to the land through thick and thin when all we had was each other". There are no words to tell you how much we loved our mother. There are no words to tell you how much we loved each other. There is only the silence of the land to help you understand.

The Tolley Tregilges Family



# THE STATUS of Biodiversity in BC

BC's biodiversity is in pretty good shape but the time for action is now.

*Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia* is a recently published science-based assessment of the province's natural environment. The report was prepared by Biodiversity BC, a partnership of government and non-



government organizations established in 2005 to produce a biodiversity strategy for British Columbia.

"BC is a spectacular place, known worldwide for its natural beauty and diverse landscapes," said The Nature Trust's Marian Adair, co-chair of Biodiversity BC. "This natural endowment not only serves

as a foundation for our economy, but also supports a wide range of recreational, spiritual, and cultural pursuits."

"But BC has much to lose in all of these areas unless we reverse some of the threats to biodiversity that are stated in this report. For example, the cumulative impacts from resource extraction, development and human settlement have negatively affected ecosystems in some areas of the province. The report also states that climate change is already occurring in British Columbia and is the foremost threat to biodiversity."

*Taking Nature's Pulse* is the result of an unprecedented, collective effort by more than 50 reputable scientists—representing some of the best ecological thinking in BC—who contributed to its development and validated the importance of this province's natural

biological diversity. One of our directors, Dr. Geoff Scudder, was one of the five editors of *Taking Nature's Pulse*.

Among other things, the report points out the vulnerability of wetlands in the Columbia River and Fraser River basins, the rarity of Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone and low elevation grasslands, and the potential risk to wetlands and other ecological processes from human activity.

"People now realize it's no longer a case of environment versus economy, but that the environment is the economy," said Dr. Fred Bunnell, professor emeritus, Department of Forest Sciences, UBC and an expert on conservation biology. "*Taking Nature's Pulse* is an important scientific foundation. What is now important is how to take action on its findings."

[www.biodiversitybc.org](http://www.biodiversitybc.org)

## 2008 Conservation Champions

The Conservation Champion Awards recognize the voluntary and professional contribution of individuals to the conservation of biodiversity in BC and specifically to the work of The Nature Trust.



**ALEX MCLEAN** Professional

Alex McLean (pictured in the middle with The Nature Trust's Carl McNaughton on the left and Jim Hope on the right) has demonstrated outstanding conservation leadership to both The Nature Trust and the South Okanagan community. Alex is an amazing grassland restoration advocate.



**RAY MYLES** Volunteer

For over 35 years Ray Myles has been an active and committed proponent of conservation initiatives in the Elk Valley. He has been instrumental in the acquisition and habitat restoration of the Big Ranch, Musil Estate and Rankin properties.



**GRANT TROWER** Volunteer

Grant Trower (pictured on the left with The Nature Trust's Rob Neil), through his involvement with "Friends of the Lardeau", has been a strong and active proponent of conservation initiatives and property acquisitions in the Duncan-Lardeau area for decades. Grant is also an active member of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program: Columbia Basin Steering Committee.

## EVENTS Across the Province



### Boundary Bay Cleanup, Delta

40 volunteers from HSBC Bank Canada, The Nature Trust, and local naturalist groups removed garbage from this internationally renowned location on the Pacific Flyway. Thanks to everyone who participated.



### Wild Festival for Youth, Kelowna

Over 300 students participated in this special event encouraging young people to connect with nature sponsored by The Nature Trust.

### Celebrate Nature's Splendour, Kelowna

Over 100 people attended an introduction to The Nature Trust. Thanks to Geby Wager and Alex Marriott of Woodland Hills on the Ridge for providing the venue.

**Live Auction Donors:** Adams River White Water Rafting, Rod Charlesworth, The Fine Art of Catering, Summerhill Pyramid Winery. And thanks to Alex the auctioneer.



### Hoodoos Hike and Picnic, Invermere

Thanks to Rob Neil, Dr. Bill Ayrton and Kari Stuart-Smith for leading the hike. We greatly appreciate our neighbours, Bob and Barb Shaunessy, opening their newly renovated barn on the K2 Ranch for the picnic afterwards. And thanks to all the people who attended and donated.

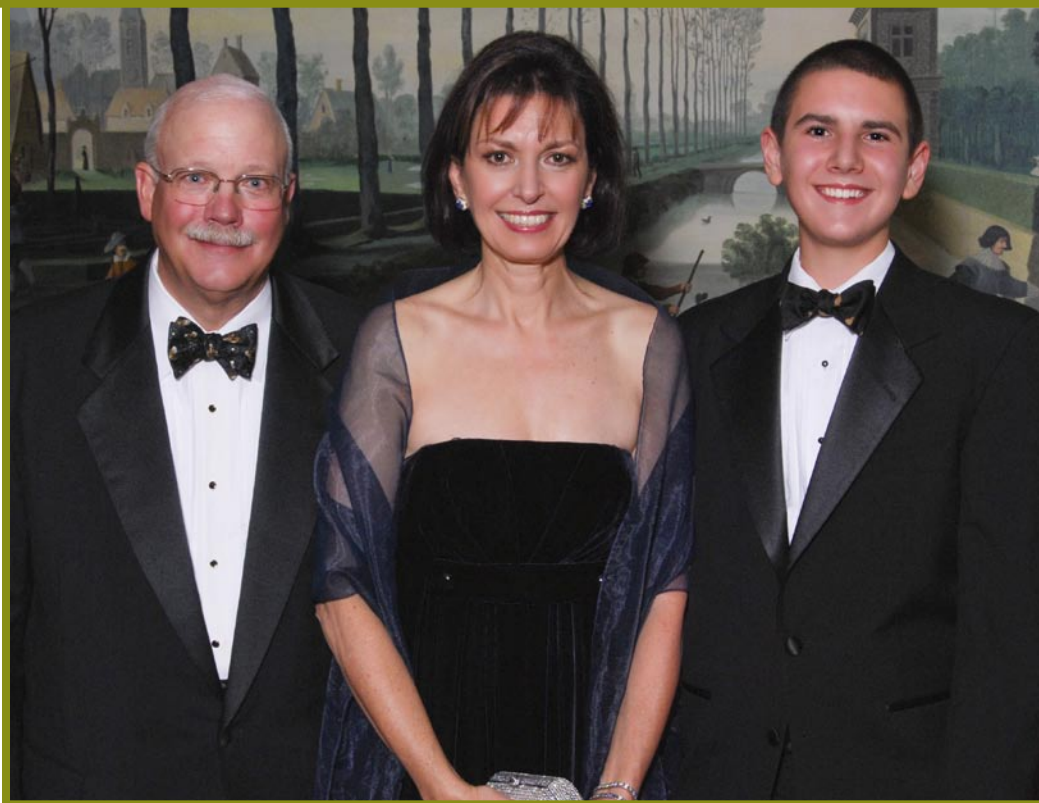


### Commodores' Cup, Vancouver

The Nature Trust is a key sponsor of this youth regatta. Now in its 24th year, the program is very proud to have given several of Canada's Olympians their first taste of sailing. (Photos by Carolyn Matthews)



## GENERATIONS OF CONSERVATION GALA



George, Wendy and George Jr. Reifel

Thank you to all the attendees and donors  
Over 330 people enjoyed a night to honour George C. Reifel's contribution to conservation



Brian and Jennifer Burke were wonderful MCs



Leon and Eric Bibb performed with Lisa Maxx, Jane Mortifee and pianist Bill Sample

### Special Appreciation

Best Entertainment for *Wings Over Canada* footage  
KJM Country Gardens for native plant displays  
Graham Osborne for landscape photographs  
Andrew Klaver for photographs

*"I have learned that communication with the public is very important as well as education about the lands The Nature Trust owns. I have also learned that it is important for these properties to be maintained properly in order to ensure they are conserving what they were meant to."*

East Kootenay crew member Eric Pegura



*"If I were to say what I had learned so far, I could write a novel! I have learned to recognize and describe hundreds of local flora and weeds, understand the true reasons behind conservation efforts and why it is vital not only to our region, but everywhere in the world."*

South Okanagan crew member Colin Mayer

## CARING for the Land



For four years, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has been working with the Ministry of Environment's BC Conservation Corps and the BC Conservation Foundation to hire conservation crews. These crews do a wide variety of activities and learn valuable skills for future employment. This year 32 young people were trained, and then sent to tackle on-the-ground activities on conservation properties and parks across the province.

In 2008, crews operated on Vancouver Island (Nanaimo), Lower Mainland (Boundary Bay), South Okanagan (Oliver), East Kootenay (Cranbrook), and Cariboo Chilcotin (Williams Lake). In addition, there was a special Ecological Baseline and Inventory Crew that collected information on 25 to 30 conservation properties this summer.

The Nature Trust is pleased to have HSBC Bank Canada as the title sponsor of the crews for the third year. Other sponsors include BC Ministry of Environment, BC Trust for Public Lands, BC Hydro, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program-Columbia Basin and Talisman Energy



*"I am a biology girl and love going out into nature, getting my hands dirty and learning new things. When I heard about The Nature Trust and what they do, and then heard about this position, I knew it would be a perfect match for me."*

Vancouver Island crew member Jen Morgen



*"The best part about this job is having the opportunity to explore BC and visit places I would not get the chance to go on my own. Many of The Nature Trust properties are beautiful hidden gems and it feels like a privilege to spend time on them."*

Ecological Baseline and Inventory crew member  
Adria Hussein

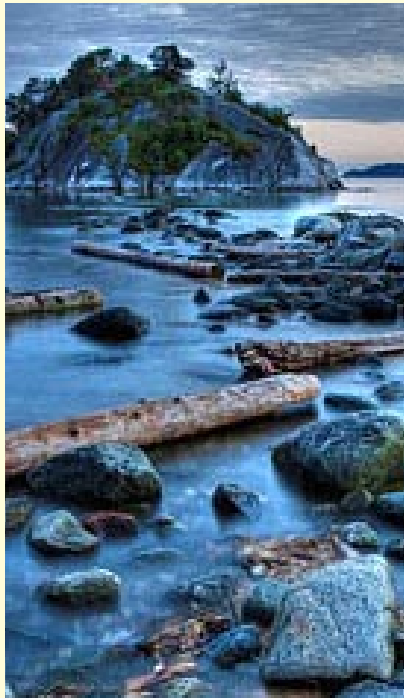


# BREATHTAKING BC Photo Contest

Our 2008 contest invited amateur photographers in BC to capture the amazing beauty and diversity of nature in our province. Over 1,180 photos were submitted from the tops of mountains to backyards. This year the contest focused on birds, mammals, amphibians & reptiles, insects, plants & trees, and landscapes. Here are the finalists and grand prize winner.

*"Photography stands as one of the most powerful influences in conservation today."*

Graham Osborne



**GRAND PRIZE WINNER:** S Mawson



J Chadwick



B Elliot



K Andrews



J Lopez



E Wind

## JUDGES

Andrew Klaver, Graham Osborne,  
Robin Rivers, Wayne Cox of Global BC  
and Johanna Ward of Shaw TV

## SPONSORS

**Lens & Shutter** **Nikon**

## RAIN GARDEN FUND Recipients

Congratulations to the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society. The society has been involved in the restoration of Douglas Creek in Victoria for more than a decade. The society received \$4,000 from The Nature Trust Rain Garden Fund to create a showcase for rain water detention and filtration that will reduce the size of flash floods in winter and fall.

Congratulations to the Still Creek Stewardship Society which received \$4,000 for a rain garden project at Cascade Heights Elementary School in Burnaby.





## NEW Director

Dr. Heather Holden is an investment advisor at ScotiaMcLeod. She was formerly with the Fraser Institute, the Vancouver Aquarium, and professor at the National University of Singapore. Heather has a PhD in Environmental Studies. She is a Trustee of the Vancouver Library Board and Commissioner of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.



The Honourable Steven L. Point  
Lieutenant Governor of BC  
Honourary Patron

Robin Wilson  
Chair of the Board

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Chief Executive Officer  
Patrick Oswald  
Leadership Giving

### The Nature Trust of British Columbia

#260-1000 Roosevelt Crescent  
North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3R4

Phone: 604-924-9771 or 1-866-288-7878

Fax: 604-924-9772

Email: [info@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:info@naturetrust.bc.ca)

Website: [www.naturetrust.bc.ca](http://www.naturetrust.bc.ca)  
Charitable Corporation #10808 9863 RR001

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## DONORS

What better way to inspire people than to donate to The Nature Trust in their honour?

Cynthia Crampton donated to The Nature Trust in honour of her friend's 70th birthday. *"I find it's a great way to acknowledge significant occasions in people's lives. Especially for those who seem to have everything!"* Recipients are happy to know they have helped save a piece of this wonderful province for future generations.



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. (Photo by Jennifer Shechter-Balin)



Joani Trickett and Wally Kampen of the Nelson Rod and Gun Club are both pictured here with East Kootenay Land Manager Rob Neil. The club donated \$10,000.



East Kootenay Land Manager Rob Neil is pictured flanked by Westy Benson (left) and Frank Cross (right) of the East Kootenay Big Game Club. The Club donated \$2,000.

*"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



Special thanks to Kokanee beer for auctioning off the Ranger's belongings and donating the proceeds to The Nature Trust.