



The Habart Property in the Columbia River flood plain is the latest property acquisition.

Funding Priorities

Puntledge River

The Nature Trust of BC is working with a family to secure three properties covering 4.6 hectares (11.3 acres) on the Puntledge River in Courtenay on Vancouver Island. There are approximately 500 metres of riparian habitat along the river.

This project will involve an ecogift and requires \$145,000 for developing a 5-year management plan and ongoing stewardship.

The Nature Trust will work with the City of Courtenay to develop a greenway. Management activities will focus on maintaining the riparian habitat as well as inventorying, monitoring and removing invasive species. Consideration will be given to establishing a back channel to enhance fish habitat.

Pemberton Wetlands

Situated on the east bank of the Lillooet River near Pemberton there is a picturesque 26 hectares (64 acres) waiting to be conserved.

This property deserves our attention. It provides a range of habitat including a wetland formed by an old oxbow of the river, a year round creek, moose and deer winter range and old growth riparian forest. We need your help to raise \$145,000 to complete this acquisition and to cover stewardship and land management.



Pemberton Wetlands at Lillooet River

Tis the Season to Give the Gift of Nature



Having trouble finding that perfect gift?
How about giving a gift that will last a lifetime?

When you donate to The Nature Trust of BC on behalf of someone special you are helping us conserve habitat for wildlife and birds.

What better than a gift to nature!

Brrrr!

For more information about donating on behalf of someone special call us at: 604-924-9771 or 1-866-288-7878



Photo by Tom Middleton



Willie Macgilliv

Tribute to Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan

“Ian was a great communicator with encyclopedic knowledge, a contagious and passionate fascination with the natural world and a style that made everyone so comfortable with his vast knowledge and many experiences.”

— Rod Silver, director of The Nature Trust of BC

On April 21, Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan died at the age of 99. An original life board member appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada, Ian worked hard to establish the reputation and conservation legacy that The Nature Trust enjoys today.

Born in Scotland he moved with his family to North Vancouver when he was three. Here his passion for the outdoors began and created the foundation for his life’s work.

A graduate from UBC, he earned his PhD from the University of California in 1935. A career biologist his work focused on the systematics, biology and conservation of birds and mammals.

During his 35 years at UBC, Ian guided the research of some 100 graduate students. He became known for his extensive travels to 6 continents and publishing numerous articles. He also recognized the power of educating through new media, creating 110 television programs and 12 films.

Ian was at the forefront of many environmental initiatives. He served on the National Research Council of Canada, the Environmental Council of Canada, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Board of Governors of the Arctic Institute of North America.

In recognition of his accomplishments Ian received many awards including the Order of Canada and the Order of BC. He was a life member of BC Nature. Several scholarships are named in his honour at BC universities as well as a chair at the University of Victoria. He will be greatly missed.

Throughout his life, he was always passionate about nature. The essence of his enthusiasm is captured in this quote.

“I find (being outdoors with nature) very satisfying. I think if you spend part of your life alone out in the wild, you are changed forever. You have a chance to really experience the extraordinary wealth of the creatures around you, and get a heightened sense of imagination and sensitivity to a living community. It doesn’t mean that you can’t cut a tree or eat a venison steak, it is just understanding the role of each of our lives and how we all fit in.”



Getting Your Hands Dirty

The Nature Trust of British Columbia hires crews each summer to tackle a wide variety of conservation activities on properties across the province and learn valuable skills for future employment. Training includes First Aid and Bear Aware as well as the safe handling of power tools. The crews perform on-the-ground work as well as attending workshops from specialists in the field on topics such as bird counts, and forest and wetland ecology. Crews worked on Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland,

Okanagan, Kootenay and Peace River region this summer.

The Nature Trust is pleased to have HSBC Bank Canada as the title sponsor of the HSBC Conservation Youth Crew Program 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 (for the Kootenay crew).



"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."

Kristy Todd, Vancouver Island



"The crew position interested me as it presented an opportunity to develop a more intimate knowledge of the nature found within the Kootenays."

Laura Grant, Kootenay



"We take so much out of the environment and this is an opportunity to give back."

Bill Chunick, Lower Mainland



"Everyday we do hands-on things that teach me about this valley and how unique and valuable it is."

Nellie Salter, Okanagan

Ways You Can Help

In Lieu of Wedding Favours

Sherry Frohlick and Charles Halliburton decided to donate to The Nature Trust in lieu of favours at their wedding on June 19, 2010 at the West Coast Wilderness Lodge in Egmont, BC, near Skookumchuck Narrows where the Sechelt and Jervis Inlet meet.



Funds Raised In Memory

We celebrated the life of Dr. John Brighton at the Englishman River estuary on Vancouver Island at the end of April. Family, friends and community members gathered at the kiosk to share stories of a passionate birder, dedicated physician and caring man who passed away in March 2009. Funds were raised to install new signage in memory of John highlighting the importance of the estuary for birds and wildlife. It was one of his favourite places. Volunteers planted trees nearby after the sign dedication. New benches were donated by Aquila Cedar Products Ltd.



Photo by Tony Markle

Nature Lover

Phyllis Edsell loved nature. She recently died at age 92, following a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Her will provided for donations to several animal welfare funds and nature trusts, including The Nature Trust of British Columbia. Phyllis used to say we've taken so much habitat away from the animals and adversely affected so much of our natural environment that the least we can do is make an effort to restore some of it.

We are very honoured to receive these gifts in memory. If you would like to learn how you can prepare a bequest and become a visionary for The Nature Trust of BC, please contact Patrick Oswald at 604-924-9771 or e-mail poswald@naturetrust.bc.ca

Spectacular Vancouver Gala

Thank you to everyone who attended our special fundraising dinner in Vancouver at the end of September. Special thanks to our Honourary Patrons, Mary and Gordon Christopher, who shared their commitment to nature:

"We were fortunate to be raised in families that had a great love and respect for the wonders of nature—a philosophy passed on to our children and grandchildren."

MC Christy Clark, talk show host on CKNW, added sparkle to the evening's program which featured Voices of Nature and singers from Woodward Hill Elementary School. The Christopher family pledged \$100,000 which was matched by generous donors.



The Christopher Family



Goh Ballet Academy dancer



MC Christy Clark



Elizabeth Volpe Bligh and Christie Reside from the VSO

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Earth Wind Fire 2010

Sizzling Success!

Thanks to all our guests, donors, chefs, wineries, breweries, sponsors and volunteers of Earth Wind Fire at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna on May 29. We raised \$60,000! It was an amazing night of dazzling food, outstanding wine and beer, The Great Wall of Wine, and live music by Anna Jacyszyn, the Zamboni Brothers and Cat Wells. Our honorary patron was the lively Maxine DeHart, who is well known for her community service. We would like to acknowledge photographers Angela Brooks and Megan Hartridge for the images below.



Honourary Patron
Maxine DeHart welcomes



John McGregor, Stuart Klassen and Steve Pavic serve up culinary delights



Sparkling reception



Cat Wells rocks!



Yamabiko Taiko drummers



Bronwen Fraser and Jocelynn Wells of Valley First

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Tapastree Restaurant
Susan Taylor
Watermark Beach Resort
Whitecaps Foundation
Robin Wilson
World Beat Family Golf

Celebrating 20 Years: Hip Hip Hooray!

The 20th Brant Wildlife Festival on Vancouver Island in March and April celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity. Each year, the festival highlights the spring migration of Brant geese on their way to their northern breeding grounds and hosts a wide variety of nature walks, wildlife viewing adventures, community celebrations, learn to fish and a nature camp for children.

Special thanks to everyone who participated, including festival coordinator Donna Monty and assistant coordinator Lori Lynch as well as all the volunteers who led events. And kudos to Gary and Ronda Murdock of Pacific Rainforest Adventure Tours who guided 8 tours and donated all the proceeds.



Guy and Donna Monty



Nature Trust CEO Doug Walker receiving donation from Ronda and Gary Murdock

The festival is coordinated by The Nature Trust of British Columbia with sponsorship from BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Lohn Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Many local businesses supported events and provided in-kind donations. Visit www.brantfestival.bc.ca this winter for details about the 2011 festival.

Splash of Spring

Splash, the Brant Wildlife Festival fundraiser, was held in Nanoose Bay at the end of April with amazing food and wine. Special acknowledgement to the Pearson family, Pacific Shores and Aviawest for hosting the event as well as Director of Food & Beverage Attila Cimsit, Food & Beverage, Sales & Service Manager Melanie Mattiussi and Executive Chef Andrew Howarth. The evening included live and silent auctions, Phil Dwyer's jazz music and MC Dave Graham who kept everyone on their toes.



Andy Pearson and Dave Graham



Doug Walker presenting award to Dick Heath's wife Cheryl and son
Vancouver Island Conservation Champion award to Dick Heath posthumously. Dick was the Regional Director of Vancouver Island for the Ministry of Environment. As the acting chair of the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management program for almost 10 years, Dick provided financial and in-kind support. Over the years he offered assistance and input in several Nature Trust acquisitions, including the Salmon River.
Dick passed away just prior to the event. His wife Cheryl and son accepted the award on his behalf. We were deeply saddened by his loss but know that his legacy lives on in his conservation accomplishments across BC.



The Nature Trust of British Columbia

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Patricia Etris providing cheque to Doug Walker

10 Year Pledge

Encana Corporation pledged \$750,000 over 10 years to The Nature Trust of BC in 2003. Pictured at left is Patricia Etris, Team Lead, Community Investment, Encana presenting the cheque for 2010 to Nature Trust CEO Doug Walker. Funding from Encana has gone toward land acquisition, communication, conservation education and community events across the province.

Landscape Level Management

The Nature Trust of BC, along with conservation partners in the East Kootenay, are working on a landscape-level management project that will provide measures for identifying how well we are achieving conservation targets in this region. The primary goals of the project are to assess which ecosystems occur in the study area both within and outside of conservation lands, their relative condition, and how much of the ecosystems are being managed for conservation purposes. This information will help conservation land managers to assess priorities for ecosystem restoration on their lands and aid in determining which ecosystems have higher priority for future acquisition. Special thanks to the Vancouver Foundation and The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia for helping to fund this project.



Dr. Rob Butler

New Directors

Dr. Rob Butler is BC Program's Scientist for Bird Studies Canada, President of Pacific WildLife Foundation and an Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

Dr. Susan Hannon is Emeritus Professor, University of Alberta, and recently retired to Salt Spring Island where she is involved in land stewardship and the "Bring Back the Western Bluebird" program.



Dr. Susan Hannon