



The Nature Trust
of British Columbia

A newsletter on how The Nature Trust works to keep B.C. beautiful

Issue #22 Spring 2005

Natural Legacy

Towering Giants: Expanding MacMillan Provincial Park

This is the opportunity of a lifetime!" said Don Krogseth, Chair of The Nature Trust, commenting on the plans to almost double the size of MacMillan Provincial Park.

Located on Vancouver Island near Port Alberni, MacMillan Provincial Park is a world renowned site. Cathedral Grove in the park features some of the largest and oldest Douglas fir trees on the planet—more than 800 years old and reaching heights of over 80 metres (270 feet). It is also one of the most accessible stands and over a million visitors stop to walk through the trails each year. Many species of wildlife make the old-growth forest their home including woodpeckers, owls, deer, elk, black bear and cougar. Cameron River, which flows through the park, contains rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout.



Cathedral Grove was a well-known tourist stop on the road to Port Alberni in the 1920s and 1930s. For many years the public encouraged the provincial government to preserve the forest. In 1944 H.R. MacMillan donated land in recognition of the majestic stand of trees. Three years later, it became a Class A provincial park.

The Nature Trust has a unique connection with Cathedral Grove. Bert Hoffmeister, the first chair of The Nature Trust and who led the organization for 20 years, was the CEO of MacMillan Bloedel from 1949 to 1957 and Chairman of the Council of Forest Industries from 1961 to 1968.

With a partnership including the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, the Ministry of Transportation and Weyerhaeuser, The Nature Trust is delighted to expand the existing park and conserve more of these ancient trees. The new addition is 145 hectares (360 acres) in size. The Nature Trust is currently fundraising to meet our \$500,000 financial commitment on this project. We are very pleased with the support from family members of Mr. H. R. MacMillan. If you would like to make a donation to help us reach our goal, please contact us.

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[A Fraser River Sturgeon](#)
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Ancient trees reach for the sky in Cathedral Grove.

East Kootenay Treasure Conserved

“What outstanding news,” stated Don Krogseth, Chair of The Nature Trust of British Columbia, speaking about the \$1.8 million contribution announced by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund towards the Nature Trust’s purchase of the Hofert/Hoodoos Property in the East Kootenay.

“The Hofert/Hoodoos property is one of the largest and most critical wildlife habitat areas in the province,” Krogseth continued. “This investment helps to protect this rich and diverse ecosystem and provides an opportunity to manage habitat on a landscape level.”

The Nature Trust and its partners began the purchase of the \$3.5 million Hofert/Hoodoos Property in 2003, with a lead contribution from the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. We also received tremendous support from the BC Conservation Foundation, the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, local groups and individuals including A Bar Z Guide Outfitters, District of Invermere, East Kootenay Big Game Club, Lake Windermere Rod & Gun Club, Southern Guides Association, and Sparwood & District Fish & Wildlife Association.

The 4,037-hectare (10,000-acre) Hofert/Hoodoos Property features



Looking down from the Hoodoos into the Columbia Valley.

magnificent hoodoo formations and is located on the west side of the Columbia River Valley, between Fairmont Hot Springs and Invermere. The property provides vital winter range, staging grounds, extensive grasslands, forests, wetlands and a migration corridor for a variety of animals including elk and deer. This property is adjacent to a wonderful donation which was made to The Nature Conservancy of Canada, the best recognized portion of the

“Hoodoos” formation, which most people in the area know and love.

“We are honoured to have the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund play such a significant role in conserving this exceptional land in the Columbia Valley,” said Doug Walker, Executive Director of The Nature Trust. “We are extremely grateful for this generous contribution towards this incredible property. Now we can turn our efforts to raising \$350,000 for the land management endowment for this specific property.”



Don Krogseth, Chair of The Nature Trust, Doug Walker, Executive Director of The Nature Trust, Honourable Wendy McMahon, MLA for Columbia River-Revelstoke, Premier Gordon Campbell and Honourable Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection.



Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Chair Heather Lemieux announces \$1.8 million contribution to Hofert/Hoodoos property.

Peace River Elk Habitat

If Rocky Mountain elk were looking for the ideal spot in the Peace River to live, what would they choose? They want an area with ample food and water, not too much snow, rugged terrain and no roads or development. That's just what the foothills of the Rocky Mountains between Adams Creek and Dunlevy Creek provides, where snow accumulations are relatively low due to the rainshadow effect and frequent Chinook winds.

The Nature Trust has acquired 51 hectares (128 acres) of prime elk habitat along the north shore of the Peace Arm of the Williston Reservoir west of Dunlevy Creek. The property is used extensively by Rocky Mountain elk year round, and by mule deer, white-tailed deer and moose. In addition, Stone's sheep migrate through the property between low-elevation winter ranges at Rainbow Rocks and 20 Mile Point.

“The importance of this property purchase to the integrity of the Peace Arm’s north shore ungulate winter ranges can’t be stressed enough...”

Partners on this acquisition are the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (PFWWCP) which provided funding and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation which sold the property at a reduced cost in order to ensure it is retained for conservation purposes. This latest acquisition is the perfect complement to two other Nature Trust properties totaling 756 hectares (1,868 acres) in the immediate area, also purchased with the assistance of the PFWWCP.

“The importance of this property purchase to the integrity of the Peace Arm’s north shore ungulate winter ranges can’t be stressed enough,” said Mari Wood, wildlife biologist with the



Prime ungulate habitat between Adams Creek and Dunlevy Creek in the Rocky Mountain foothills.

PFWWCP. “These south-facing aspen and grassland slopes are the primary winter ranges for a significant elk population and the most southern population of Stone’s sheep in the province. The slopes adjacent to the reservoir, almost as far as Dunlevy Creek, are now crown or Nature Trust-owned lands and will remain as un-roaded wildlife habitat.”

The PFWWCP is a joint initiative of BC Hydro and the provincial fish and wildlife management agencies. It was established in 1988 to enhance and protect fish and wildlife species and habitat affected by the creation of the Williston and Dinosaur reservoirs in north central BC.

The Williston Reservoir is the largest body of fresh water in the province. It extends 200 kilometres (125 miles) north

from Mackenzie with a 100 kilometre (62 mile) section, the Peace Arm, extending eastwards to the W.A.C. Bennett Dam near Hudson’s Hope.

This property was purchased by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in the early 1990s for the protection and conservation of elk habitat. The foundation sold the property in order to purchase several larger pieces of winter elk habitat.

“The staff and members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are pleased to once again partner with The Nature Trust of BC in the purchase of land vital to the future of wild creatures,” said Len McRitchie, President and CEO of Canadian Operations. “The Nature Trust has always been in the forefront on these ventures and we congratulate them for their ongoing efforts on behalf of wild places and wild animals.”



Doug Walker, Executive Director of The Nature Trust, meeting with Len McRitchie of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



Elk graze on grasses, plants, tree leaves and twigs, shrubs and lichens. They eat about 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds) a day. Photo by Leslie Degner.

HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program

HSBC Bank Canada is contributing \$100,000 over two years to support an innovative environmental education program that will focus on the Fraser River and white sturgeon, aimed primarily at Lower Mainland youth and First Nations communities. The program will be delivered through a partnership agreement between the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society and The Nature Trust of BC. It will use white sturgeon, a culturally and ecologically significant species, to teach and illustrate the rationale for environmental responsibility and ecological conservation in the lower Fraser River.

“At HSBC, we believe that supporting educational and environmental projects will lead to a better future...”

Lindsay Gordon, President and CEO of HSBC Bank Canada, said, “At HSBC, we believe that supporting educational and environmental projects will lead to a better future and benefit the entire community, so we are very pleased to help establish the HSBC Fraser River Sturgeon Education Program.”

“This program is an outstanding example of good stewardship for such an important species which has such historical importance in our province,” stated Doug Walker, Executive Director of The Nature Trust.

Troy Nelson, Executive Director for the Sturgeon Society, has overseen the organization’s environmental and stewardship programs since 1999. “Informing and involving tomorrow’s decision makers and leaders today will provide a better chance for the Fraser River ecosystem tomorrow, which is why the program will target educational materials toward youth and First Nations,” Nelson said.



Nature Trust Chair Don Krogseth and Troy Nelson of the Sturgeon Society accept a cheque from Lindsay Gordon of HSBC Bank Canada.



Nature Trust Fundraiser Patrick Oswald, guide Vic Carrao and Rudy North tag a sturgeon for research purposes.

White sturgeon are the largest and longest-lived freshwater fish in North America. A survivor from the age of the dinosaurs, white sturgeon can grow to 6 metres (20 feet) in length, weigh more than 600 kilograms (1,300 pounds), and live for over 150 years. The ancient fish is at the top of the Fraser River food web, and one of the few year-round resident species of fish in the lower Fraser River. It depends on a variety of habitat types and prey including salmon. The status of white sturgeon can be used as a measure of the health of the river.

Arrow Lakes Property

For five years, the Columbia Power Corporation has been working with The Nature Trust and our partners, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection in Nelson, on an acquisition north of the Columbia River and 3 kilometres northeast of Castlegar. Now The Nature Trust can celebrate the completion of this donation. The 52 hectare (128 acre) Arrow property is part of the dry warm Interior Cedar Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Some interesting features of the land include granite rock bluff and cliffs as well as cave and ledge nesting/denning sites. There are old-growth ponderosa pine trees and high quality wildlife trees. The eastern half of the property is located within the Norns Community Watershed. White-tailed deer, elk and moose spend winters here. The property is within the known breeding habitat of the blue-listed Lewis’s Woodpecker and the blue-listed White-Throated Swift is registered in close proximity to the property. We would like to thank our partners for working to conserve this diverse habitat.

“We are pleased to donate this land to The Nature Trust to



View from the Arrow property down to the Columbia River.

ensure that its high wildlife values, especially its importance for overwintering, are conserved,” said Wally Penner, Executive Director of Community and Regional Affairs for the Columbia Power Corporation. “As a company, we strongly believe in supporting conservation and ensure that our activities take into account wildlife and fish habitat.”



Front row: Bert Brink and Tom Northcote; back row: Kamloops/North Thompson MLA Kevin Krueger, Wendy Gardner, Brian Heise, UCC president Roger Barnsley.

Dr. Bert Brink Professorship

On March 18, the Vernon (Bert) Brink Professorship in Grassland Ecology and Conservation was announced at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops. Dr. Brink, who joined UBC's agronomy department in 1939, worked extensively with the federal agricultural range station in Kamloops during his career.

"The fabric of this region has been my life—its waters, its streams and lakes, its grasslands and forests," he said. Dr. Brink is a long-time director of The Nature Trust and currently serves as Director Emeritus.

The professorship goes initially to Wendy Gardner, who recently completed her PhD in ecological restoration. She serves on the board of the BC Grasslands Conservation Council and teaches range ecology and range management in the department of natural resources sciences. Gardner noted the global importance of rangelands and grasslands, which cover 70% of the planet's surface.

The Vernon Brink Professorship and the Thomas G. Northcote Professorship in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation are financed by a \$750,000 provincial grant that stems from UCC's imminent university status. UCC will become Thompson Rivers University in April.

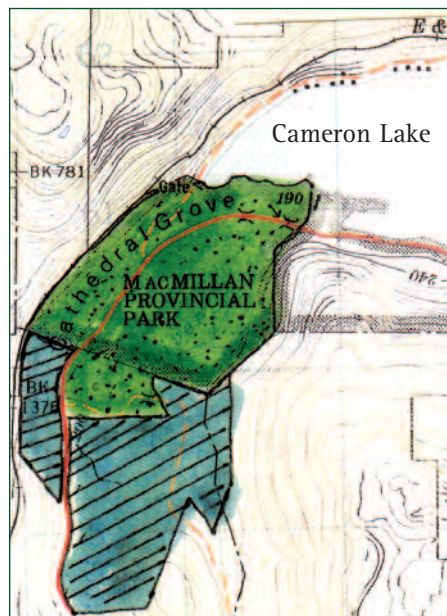
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S message



British Columbia is one of the most desirable places to live and work in Canada. What makes this place so special is the amazing biological diversity. Over 70% of all species in Canada are found in BC. These plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they function are important for sustaining our quality of life and our province's economy.

Our direction at The Nature Trust was established 34 years ago by remarkable people like Dr. McTaggart-Cowan to whom we are indebted. We continue to acquire and conserve the biologically important areas of BC in order to sustain the natural beauty of this wonderful province we call home.

Since our last newsletter in Fall 2004, The Nature Trust has concluded with our partners several key acquisitions: including 145 hectares (350 acres) of old-growth Douglas fir almost doubling the H.R. MacMillan Park on Vancouver Island, 51 hectares (128 acres) of prime elk habitat in the Peace River Williston area and



New addition to MacMillan Park.

52 hectares (128 acres) with diverse wildlife values at Arrow Lakes near Castlegar. We have made significant progress with land management initiatives, specifically the development of a management plan for the Hofert/Hoodoos with local community groups and extensive post-fire restoration work in the South Okanagan, and a number of critical financial goals have been reached.

With the help from our supporters, our financial commitments on the acquisition of the Hofert/Hoodoos and the Englishman River Blocks 564 and 602 have been concluded. However, our fundraising continues on these properties for land management endowments which are vital to carry on important habitat restoration work.

During the next few months our summer conservation youth crews will be hired, trained and perform on-the-ground work including installing signage, removing noxious weeds and fences, located in Nanaimo, Oliver, Williams Lake, Dawson Creek, Cranbrook and Invermere. This is an essential program and we would like to see it expanded to other areas of the province. Your help can make this possible.

Our fundraising team has developed a planned giving booklet. If you would like to see how you can make a lasting gift to conserve BC's natural treasures, please give us a call. Our organization has been built on the confidence of British Columbians like you.

Please stay tuned! Our web site www.naturetrust.bc.ca is scheduled for a redesign launch in late Spring. You will find everything we had before and more. Feel free to drop us a note and let us know what you think at info@naturetrust.bc.ca.

2005 is shaping up to be a busy year of conservation efforts for the team at The Nature Trust. There are several very significant accomplishments completed, and I look forward to reporting our successes on pending initiatives in the Fall. Until then, I wish you all the best for the coming months.

Yours in conservation,
Doug Walker
Executive Director



Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan with Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Advanced Education, at the University of Victoria's Faculty Club.

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Professorship

We are delighted to announce the Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Professorship in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Restoration at the University of Victoria.

"I'm honoured, delighted and more than a little humbled at the creation of this professorship," said Dr. McTaggart-Cowan. "This is an absolutely fascinating country and an equally fascinating province. I've had more fun exploring the wilder areas of this province and guiding graduate students through their exploration than you can well imagine."

The provincial government contributed \$500,000 to the professorship in March. The university still needs to raise another \$500,000 in order to create an endowment to fund the teaching position.

"I hope the professor who teaches it will have the experiences I had and that they will enjoy every minute of it," said McTaggart-Cowan.

Dr. McTaggart-Cowan has dedicated a lifetime to studying, teaching and conserving the natural resources of British Columbia. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910, he immigrated with his parents to Canada at the age of three and settled in North Vancouver, BC. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1932 and earned a PhD from the University of California in 1935. He is a career biologist with special concentration on the systematics, biology and

conservation of birds and mammals.

He was the biologist at the Provincial Museum in Victoria from 1935 until 1940 when he joined the Faculty of the University of British Columbia. During 35 years there he established and taught courses in vertebrate zoology, undertook research in ornithology and mammalogy and guided the research of some 100 graduate students. In the ensuing years his studies took him to six continents and resulted in more than 26 publications, 110 television programs, and 12 teaching films.

He served on the National Research Council of Canada for 7 years where he was the first Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Wildlife Research. He also served as the Chairman of the Environmental Council of Canada, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund of the Province of BC, and the Board of Governors of the Arctic Institute of North America.

As part of his amazing career, he has spent over 30 years on the board of The Nature Trust. One of its original life members appointed by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, he has worked hard to establish the reputation and the conservation legacy that The Nature Trust enjoys today. Indeed, we owe much of The Nature Trust's success to his scientific expertise, his critical thinking and his vision of conservation.

"I'm honoured, delighted and more than a little humbled at the creation of this professorship..."

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship in Environmental Studies

"I was both honoured and delighted to receive notice of the award of the Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship in Environmental Studies. I was aware of Dr. McTaggart-Cowan's work many years ago, through viewing wildlife programs on television, and reading of his extensive wildlife field work in areas where I myself have spent many years in the outdoors—the Canadian Arctic, the Rocky Mountains, and now on the BC coast. I decided six years ago to devote the rest of my studies and work in my life to the area of ecological restoration, and this award will certainly assist me in attaining these goals."

— Thomas Munson,
UVIC Environmental Studies



Thomas Munson has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, a Diploma in Restoration of Natural Systems from the University of Victoria and is working on a Masters of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Victoria.

If you have any comments about our newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please give us a call at **1-866-288-7878** or **604-924-9771** or e-mail us at **info@naturetrust.bc.ca**.

Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund

In 2001, The Nature Trust established the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund to honour two of our founding board members: Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Alastair McLean. They devoted much of their lives to the conservation of BC's native grasslands. The Fund promotes applied research, habitat restoration and other stewardship activities that assist in the management of the land, plants and animals of native grasslands of the province.

2005 Recipient

Ms. Kathryn Aitken
(PhD candidate, Centre for
Applied Conservation Research,
Faculty of Forestry, UBC)

Title/Subject

*Avian biodiversity and cavity nesting
bird reproduction in isolated aspen
groves in the Chilcotin grasslands
of the interior of BC.*

Ms. Lita Gomez
(MSc candidate,
Department of Biology, UVic)

*Selection of critical summer habitat
and migration pathways by the
Western Rattlesnake.*

Bert Hoffmeister Sign on Boundary Bay

The Nature Trust would like to honour one of British Columbia's most distinguished leaders. Major General Bert Hoffmeister (1907-1999) was a war hero, forestry executive and a noted conservationist. In 1971 he established The Nature Trust of British Columbia in order to protect ecologically sensitive land throughout BC. He left an amazing legacy for future generations that resulted in the acquisition of over 61,000 hectares (150,000 acres). We are currently arranging for a recognition sign for Bert Hoffmeister to be located at the foot of 72nd Street in Boundary Bay. If you would like to help us with this lasting tribute, please send your donation designated to the Bert Hoffmeister Recognition Sign.



Carl MacNaughton (far right), South Okanagan Conservation Land Manager, assisting the Wildlife Branch in transplanting 6 bighorn sheep from Kamloops to The Nature Trust's Shorts Creek property located 30 kilometres southwest of Vernon. Last year the population was down to 3 individuals so 12 were transplanted from Kamloops. The sheep have their eyes covered and their legs contained in order that they can be moved as safely and calmly as possible. The Shorts Creek property has good sheep habitat with lots of bunchgrass and rocky escape terrain.

Weyerhaeuser and TimberWest receive Forest Stewardship Recognition Awards

Weyerhaeuser and TimberWest have received Forest Stewardship Recognition Awards from Wildlife Habitat Canada for their contribution to the Englishman River on Vancouver Island. Weyerhaeuser supported efforts to protect the most important riparian portions of a property it owned and donated gravel and timber rights. TimberWest sold strategically positioned land at less than market value. These steps were essential to the completion of major conservation milestones on the river.

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, non profit conservation organization that was established in 1984 by Environment Canada, provincial wildlife agencies and conservation agencies within the wildlife habitat coalition. It works through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations, and industry to find effective solutions to complex environmental problems facing wildlife habitat.

THE NATURE TRUST staff news



Susan Paczek

Having created the first digital database of Nature Trust properties and mapping boundaries, Susan Paczek is leaving us to pursue a new life as an artist in Regina.



Janice Dixon

Our new Administrative and Development Assistant is Janice Dixon. She brings 20 years of public relations and administration experience to the front lines of The Nature Trust. Janice's organizational history includes administration and volunteer management for non-profits in healthcare and special events.



The Honourable
IONA V. CAMPAGNOLO, PC, CM, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of BC
Honourary Patron

DONALD KROGSETH
Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer

Directors of The Nature Trust:

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DENNIS PERRY
CARMEN C. PURDY
GEOFF SCUDDER, D PHIL
ROD SILVER
PETER SPEER, FCA
FRANCES VYSE
JIM WALKER
ROBIN WILSON
C.C. (KIP) WOODWARD

Directors Emeritus

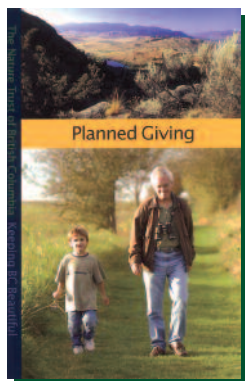
VERNON C. (BERT) BRINK, OC, OBC, PHD
IAN McTAGGART-COWAN, OC, OBC, PHD

DOUG WALKER
Executive Director

PATRICK OSWALD
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If you would like a copy of our Planned Giving brochure outlining bequests, life insurance, annuities, and other future gifts, please contact us.

How You Can Help The Nature Trust

Giving is a very thoughtful choice. Every day for 34 years we have worked to conserve the natural capital of British Columbia. This has been made possible with the support of many wonderful people who recognize the importance of our land acquisitions and land management work in sustaining the quality of life in this province.

There are a variety of ways to contribute to The Nature Trust: a one time donation, monthly donations, gifts in honour of a special occasion such as a

birthday, graduation or wedding, or gifts in memoriam. You can also consider future gifts such as bequests, life insurance, Registered Retirement Savings Plan or Registered Retirement Income Funds. In addition, we can receive gifts of ecologically sensitive land, real estate and publicly listed securities.

Giving a gift to The Nature Trust is an enduring gift; it will benefit British Columbians today and for years to come.

If you would like to discuss giving options, contact Deb Kennedy or Patrick Oswald at 604-924-9771 or 1-866-288-7878.

THE NATURE TRUST *supporters*



The Totem Flyfishers have pledged an annual gift of \$500 in memory of longtime member Lee Straight. As club members reflected upon Lee's life in the Totem Topics newsletter, there were many tributes. "Everyone who knows anything about hunting and fishing in this province knows that Lee is one of British Columbia's legendary figures," said President Gerry Arbeider. "Lee Straight has affected British Columbia profoundly. He was an important spokesman for the natural world," said editor Evan Joubert. The Totem Flyfishers was the first organized flyfishing club in BC. Its focus is the promotion of flyfishing and conservation.

* * * * *

Josephine Kovacs, travel coordinator for Bestway Tours & Safaris in Burnaby, BC, heads the nature tours division of this operation. "Since my childhood on the Maltese Islands,

I loved nature and animals. Now I live in gorgeous British Columbia and I am most grateful for this privilege. As of January 1 2005, I have promised to donate a percentage of each tour package to The Nature Trust of British Columbia as the non-profit organization of my choice. By acquiring and managing land with endangered habitats, I believe that The Nature Trust is doing the right thing to keep BC a special place for future generations." Her company can be contacted at 604-461-4289, toll-free at 1-888-280-6890, email at info@skiesunlimited.com or via the website at www.skiesunlimited.com.

* * * * *



Sam and his sister Sara

Samuel Perelmuter decided to do something different this year. Instead of having his friends bring presents to his sixth birthday party, he asked them to make a donation to The Nature Trust. He wanted the money to go to a charity that protected wildlife, especially wolves. We want to thank Samuel and his family as well as his friends for their generosity.