



NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE #50 SPRING 2019



*Photo: John D. Lambie*

## A Win for Caribou in BC

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is pleased to announce that we have purchased the Kennedy Siding property in central BC in partnership with the Peace Region Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP).

This 223 hectare (551 acre) property is critical habitat for threatened Woodland Caribou that winter on the property from October through January.

Jasper Lament, CEO of The Nature Trust of BC said, “We are proud to add this property to the vulnerable habitat we protect across this province. It is a win for this population of threatened caribou in BC and an example of what is possible when conservation partners work together.”

FWCP, a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province

of BC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and public stakeholders, funded the purchase of the property which is now part of a larger complex of conservation lands. FWCP conserves and enhances fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

“Funding land securement is one of our most effective tools to help wildlife over the long-term,” said FWCP Peace Board Co Chair and public representative, Wayne Sawchuk. “We’re providing funding for this project because it is a rare opportunity to eliminate the risk of development on privately-owned land that is valuable habitat for caribou—one of our priority species we’re supporting.”

**Priority  
Project** 

Monthly giving is an efficient and easy way to help support The Nature Trust of BC’s land conservation work. With a small monthly commitment you can make a big difference. To sign up, please call 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878 or visit [naturetrust.bc.ca](http://naturetrust.bc.ca)





## Cowichan Valley

The Nature Trust of BC has been working in the Cowichan River estuary for over 30 years. With our partners we have conserved over 400 hectares (988 acres). We will be adding a small yet key parcel to our adjoining conservation lands with the help of individual donors, foundations and other organizations soon.

The Cowichan River Estuary features a complex of tidal flats, shallow marshes, agricultural areas and marine zone. It provides habitat for over 200 bird species throughout the year and is a critical stopover for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. The area has been identified as an Important Bird Area of Canada. Eelgrass habitats and other areas provide rearing habitat for salmonids and other marine species and the intertidal area is used for over 30 species of fish including Chinook.

In addition to acquiring this key parcel, we were honoured to rebuild the wildlife viewing stand in memory of Jennifer Bowden. Jennifer Bowden was a much-loved school teacher who enjoyed walking at the Cowichan River Estuary.

If you would like to donate to future Vancouver Island acquisitions, call us at 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878 or visit [naturetrust.bc.ca](http://naturetrust.bc.ca)



UPDATE

## Okanagan Gem

With the help of many community partners, The Nature Trust has purchased the Park Rill Creek property.

Located in the White Lake Basin in the South Okanagan, this 32.2 hectare (80 acre) parcel is home to some of the most endangered and rare species in our province such as the endangered Half-moon Hairstreak butterfly and the rare Painted Turtle.

“The White Lake Basin is one of the gems in The Nature Trust of BC’s conservation land portfolio,” says Nick Burdock, Okanagan Conservation Land Manager. “The Park Rill Creek property is one of the finest examples of mixed riparian habitat along the Park Rill corridor. You really get the sense that this piece of land has been cared for in a way that protected its conservation values.”



The property will be added to The Nature Trust’s White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch complex which is one of the largest intact grasslands in the region. The ranch is an innovative program where The Nature Trust works with a ranching family to help protect species at risk while they maintain a viable ranching operation.

Funding for this project was provided by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, South Okanagan Conservation Fund which is overseen by the Regional District of the Okanagan-Similkameen, BC Conservation Foundation, Sitka Foundation, Collings Family Foundation, Gosling Foundation, Burrowing Owl Estate Winery, BMO Bank of Montreal, Odlum Brown Limited Land Acquisition Fund, the South Okanagan Naturalists’ Club and individual donors. This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change. Ce projet a été réalisé avec l’appui financier du gouvernement du Canada agissant par l’entremise du ministère fédéral de l’Environnement et du Changement climatique.



## Sponsor a Plant

You can help restore land for wildlife when you sponsor the planting of a native tree or shrub on Vancouver Island at Cobble Hill—Sandersons Royd and the Englishman River Estuary. Your support will improve habitat so that fish and wildlife continue to thrive and that the land supports healthy ecosystems.

**Donate \$75** – Sponsor the planting of 5 trees (such as Grand Fir, Pacific Willow, Coastal Douglas-fir, Red Alder, Western Red Cedar, or Hemlock)

**Donate \$50** – Sponsor the planting of 5 shrubs or perennials (such as Saskatoon Berry, Nootka Rose, Pearly Everlasting, Red Huckleberry, Ocean Spray or Bracken Fern)

**Donate \$25** – Sponsor the planting of 1 tree and 1 shrub

**Donate \$15** – Sponsor the planting of 1 tree

You can donate by calling us at 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878 or visit [naturetrust.bc.ca](http://naturetrust.bc.ca)



## Tacos for the Trust

Thanks to all the Young Leaders who attended our Tacos for the Trust event in February at Tacofino Oasis in Vancouver. It was a night of great food, conversation and support for conservation.

We appreciate our director Dr. Andrea MacLeod highlighting the importance of sustainability in BC. She also shared how she came to be on The Nature Trust Board by seeing our conservation signs all over the province when she was hiking. Kudos to Dan and Nikki Hincks for generously sponsoring the event.

We look forward to hosting more events for Young Leaders in the future.





# Conversations on Conservation: Greg Weary & Monica Gewurz

By Deb Kennedy,

Director of Marketing & Development, The Nature Trust of BC

Writing a will can be overwhelming and even stressful. Greg and Monica experienced these feelings as they began to prepare their wills. By taking a number of steps and working with their charities of choice, the process became one that was fulfilling and enjoyable.

Both Monica and Greg are scientists. Greg had a career in environmental consulting and Monica worked for the Federal Government and is now an artist.

Greg said, “We are fortunate to have moved to BC and made it our home. It is a privilege to live in such a beautiful place and enjoy the benefits of this relatively unspoiled natural environment here on the West Coast.”

Recently retired this couple had decided it was time to write their wills which would include philanthropic gifts.

This couple took a very measured approach. They began by researching some potential charities that matched their core values and then reached out to meet a representative of these charities.

Greg said, “The Nature Trust of BC’s mandate to secure important habitats of high biodiversity values and at great risk of being lost; and to manage conservation lands to ensure ecosystem

resilience and connectivity, resonates with our core environmental values and our desire to enhance the long term sustainability of BC’s coastal ecosystem.”

Greg and Monica had clearly done their homework. While they were rigorous in their approach, I valued their collaborative discussion around what was realistic for The Nature Trust throughout the process.

We began by developing language in their wills which identified “an evergreen endowment to be used for the acquisition, restoration, management and conservation of ecologically important habitats and ecosystems in the South Coast Region of British Columbia” and then we moved to developing a detailed Memorandum of Understanding. This was an effective way to outline the fine points without incorporating them in their wills.

The beauty of this process is that The Nature Trust of BC has had the opportunity to meet the donors, help craft the gift and express our appreciation. We also have the joy of sharing our worlds. Greg plans to visit Nature Trust properties and Monica is supporting our Gala with a donation of art.

Relationships in the world of philanthropy are central to what we do. The Nature Trust is beginning a friendship with these donors that will be valued for years to come.



*The Nature Trust’s Squamish River Estuary property*

Priority  
Project

Bequests to The Nature Trust of BC are a way to leave a lasting legacy to nature. If you would like more information on how you can leave a gift in your will to The Nature Trust and become one of our visionaries, please call Deb Kennedy at 604.924.9771 ext. 231 or e-mail [debkenedy@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:debkenedy@naturetrust.bc.ca)

# A Well Drafted Will

## An Important Vehicle for Charitable Giving

Some say that having a will is incredibly important but why is a will so important? Some benefits include being able to name a personal representative (i.e. your executor) to manage your estate from the moment of death and allowing parents to appoint guardians for their minor children. Importantly, a will allows you to dictate exactly where you want your assets to go when you die. Without one, your assets will likely transfer to your next-of-kin according to the laws of the jurisdiction in which you die, effectively excluding any charitable wishes that you may have had.

A great proportion of the population considers charities such as The Nature Trust of British Columbia when contemplating the distribution of their assets. Giving to charities not only benefits society but is also one of the best ways to reduce taxes, ultimately leaving more for your beneficiaries. The most well-known advantage of giving to charities is the charitable donation tax credit that can be applied directly against the amount of income taxes payable at death.

Most charitable gifts in wills take the form of simple cash donations. However, other methods of gifting to charities after death include:

- 1) the donation of stocks or shares directly to a charity (rather than cash) to minimize or likely eliminate any capital gains associated with those investments; and
- 2) the purchase of a life insurance policy with the charity named as the beneficiary, which generates a lump sum charitable donation tax credit in the donor's name at death, or the purchase of the policy with the charity as the named owner, which generates donation tax credits with every premium payment. The determination of which method to use will depend on your tax needs during life and at death.



The Nature Trust's Vaseux Lake property



Whatever method you choose to make your charitable donations, it is critical to plan the distribution of your estate to charities with a professional to prevent some common pitfalls and to maximize the benefits discussed above. These common pitfalls include:

- 1) Listing an organization in your will that does not qualify as a registered charity for the purpose of Canada Revenue Agency, thereby, foregoing any charitable tax credit that could have been derived had the charity been registered;
- 2) Failing to name the charity accurately in your will which may lead to disputes (e.g. Does the charity exist? Which branch of the charity does this gift go to?). It is important to name the specific branch, address and charitable registration number, if possible; and
- 3) Neglecting to give executors enough powers within your will to gift assets "in kind" that permit executors to gift stocks/shares directly to charities to take advantage of significant tax savings.

A comprehensive estate plan and well drafted will that incorporates charitable giving can be beneficial to both you and your favorite organizations. Please see an estate planning professional today to discuss your needs.

*Jeremy Wong is an estate planning lawyer at Westcoast Wills & Estates. He routinely prepares wills, Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements. He also advises executors on probate and estate administration.*





Boardwalk on The Nature Trust's Scout Island property

## Take a Walk in Nature—Scout Island

*This is the first in a series focused on easily accessible Nature Trust conservation lands across the province where you can explore and enjoy nature.*

### Scout Island

Located in the City of Williams Lake, BC

Acquired: 1973-1988

Size: 10.1 hectares (25 acres)

### Conservation Importance

Scout Island conserves the marsh ecosystem on Williams Lake. The marsh and wetland are a mecca for wildlife, especially birds. The wetlands and enhanced habitat with bird houses and perching posts attract birds such as the Red-necked Grebe, hummingbirds, Common Loon, Wood Duck, Osprey, Yellow-headed Blackbird, flycatchers, woodpeckers, Yellow Warbler and Great Blue Heron. A variety of other wildlife can be found here including the River Otter, Red Fox, American Beaver and the blue-listed Western Painted Turtle.

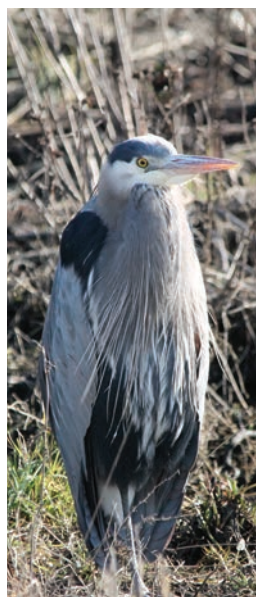
### Access & Directions

Scout Island is open to the public through the Scout Island Nature Centre and the series of trails and education programs offered there.

To get to Scout Island Nature Centre from downtown Williams Lake is a five minute drive south on Highway 97/BC-97 S. Turn right onto MacKenzie Avenue South and take a sharp left onto Borland Road. The Scout Island Nature Centre is at the end of the road with parking available.

### Activities & Events

Scout Island is a popular location for naturalists, hikers, swimmers, and birdwatchers. Scout Island Nature Centre runs a variety of environmental education and community programs for people of all ages ([www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca](http://www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca)). The Scout Island Nature House is open by appointment year round for school and community programs. It is open to the public every day from May through August and on the weekends until October. The Nature House features interpretative displays, a nature library and a naturalist who can answer questions about the area. There are a series of trails for self-directed nature walks and wildlife viewing platforms.



### Management & Stewardship

The Nature Trust's Scout Island property is managed in partnership with the Williams Lake Field Naturalists and the City of Williams Lake to maintain the natural values of the property for wildlife habitat and engage the community in environmental education.

### Partners

Williams Lake Field Naturalists  
City of Williams Lake



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out these great bird festivals across the province this spring and you can meet some of The Nature Trust team at special events.



### Brant Wildlife Festival

The Nature Trust of BC is working with community organizations and volunteers on the 2019 Brant Wildlife Festival in March and April on Vancouver Island.

The festival celebrates nature, especially Brant geese as they stop to rest and feed on the shores of Parksville and Qualicum Beach during their migration to their northern nesting grounds. Events include wildlife viewing, nature camps for kids, a bioblitz and more.

The Nature Trust is hosting one of our directors Dr. Sarah Otto who will be speaking about “Keeping the Wild in Canada: the state of birds and other wildlife in Canada”. Tickets for this event on Friday, April 5 in Parksville are \$10 and available by calling 1.866.288.7878 or e-mailing [rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca). Visit [brantfestival.bc.ca](http://brantfestival.bc.ca) for details.



### Meadowlark Festival

Join The Nature Trust of BC’s Nick Burdock for a McIntyre Bluff/naylntn Hike on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the annual Meadowlark Festival. Enjoy a spectacular view and learn about conservation holdings, a variety of flora and fauna, and the cultural significance of this site as you hike to one of the Okanagan’s best settings. Visit [www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca](http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca) for details.



### Wings Over the Rockies

The Wings Over the Rockies bird festival in the Columbia Valley takes place from May 6 to 12 and includes over 70 educational events. Join The Nature Trust of BC’s Chris Bosman to take a tour of wetland restorations on the Hoodoos property on May 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. Sign up for this event called “Field School: Wetland Enhancement & Monitoring 101” at [www.wingsovertherockies.org](http://www.wingsovertherockies.org)





*The Nature Trust's Alice Arm Estuary property*

## Corporate Donations

We are very grateful to the companies who are investing in our land conservation work. Their gifts come in many ways such as:

- Matching employer-employee gifts
- Third party fundraising programs
- Event sponsorship
- In-kind auction items

If you would like to learn how your company can help The Nature Trust of BC, please contact Deb Kennedy at 604.924.9771 ext. 231 or [debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca)

Thanks to True Grain in Courtenay, Cowichan Bay and Summerland and Nighthawk Vineyards in Okanagan Falls for helping us with gifts from their corporate promotions with customers.



*True Grain's Tracy Marks (on right) in Courtenay and The Nature Trust's Robin Rivers*

## STAFF UPDATES



## Welcome to Julian Zelazny

The Nature Trust is pleased to welcome Julian Zelazny to the new position of Director of Conservation Land Securement. He has worked in some aspect of sustainability for over 20 years. With experience in industry, government, academia and non-profit sectors his background is informed by multiple perspectives. Ever since he was a child trout fishing in Quebec with his father, Julian has been fascinated by the natural world. That love of nature led him to become the Policy Director at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association and more recently an Instructor of Sustainability at the University of British Columbia and Sustainability Policy at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. In his spare time he is a professional brewer and home wine maker.



## Farewell to Marian Adair

After 16 years as the Habitat Ecologist, Marian Adair has retired and is looking forward to many new adventures. She was instrumental in closing over 100 land acquisitions. Her dedication to The Nature Trust and her knowledge of BC made her a very important part of the team. All of us at The Nature Trust wish Marian all the best during this next exciting phase of her life.

**NATURE TRUST**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



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