



NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #52 SPRING 2020



Nicomen Slough Fraser Valley Wetland for Birds and Fish

Thanks to the generous donation of conservation-minded land owners through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program, we have acquired an important wetland habitat in the Fraser Valley between Mission and Deroche.

The Nicomen Slough property, which covers 11.6 hectares (28.7 acres), is home to the Great Blue Heron and the Western Screech Owl, and forms part of a larger haven for migrating waterfowl. It is where as many as

200 Trumpeter Swans winter every year.

The Nicomen Slough, which connects Inch Creek and Norrish Creek with the Fraser River, is the site of some of the largest salmon runs in the Fraser Valley. Coho, Chinook, Chum, Sockeye and Pink are all known to use the Nicomen Slough to reach spawning grounds. Even the elusive White Sturgeon has been observed where the slough connects to the Fraser River.

Priority 
Project

Please help us care for this property and protect the wildlife it supports by donating to The Nature Trust of BC on our website www.naturetrust.bc.ca, by mailing a cheque to 500-888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3K4 or by calling us at 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878.



Fulmore River estuary

Enhancing Estuary Resilience Sustaining Fish and Fish Habitat in a Changing Climate

The Nature Trust of BC has secured funding for a five-year project to improve estuary habitat to enhance the long-term sustainability and health of wild BC fish stocks. We will be working with Coastal First Nations and our partners in the West Coast Conservation Land Management Program. Financial support for this project is provided under the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, a contribution program funded jointly between Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Province of BC.

The U.S. National Estuarine Research Reserve System developed the Marsh Resilience to Sea-Level Rise (MARS) tool—a powerful approach to evaluate and compare the ability of tidal marshes to persist and thrive as sea levels rise. They conducted their research in estuaries along the west coast of the United States. The Nature Trust of BC’s project will extend the coverage of that research northwards along the west coast of North America, providing a Canadian context.

The project takes a two-pronged approach:

- Monitoring and research to assess estuary resilience to sea-level rise at 15 sites on Vancouver Island, the central coast and Haida Gwaii.
- Undertaking restoration projects to restore core estuary processes.



Estuaries and coastal wetlands comprise less than 3% of BC’s coastline, yet they support over 80% of BC’s coastal fish and wildlife, and provide critical habitat for Pacific salmon. Climate change is expected to significantly impact estuary ecosystems in the following ways: rising sea-levels, ocean acidification, temperature and salinity changes, changes to freshwater and sediment inputs.

Assessing Estuary Resilience to Sea-Level Rise

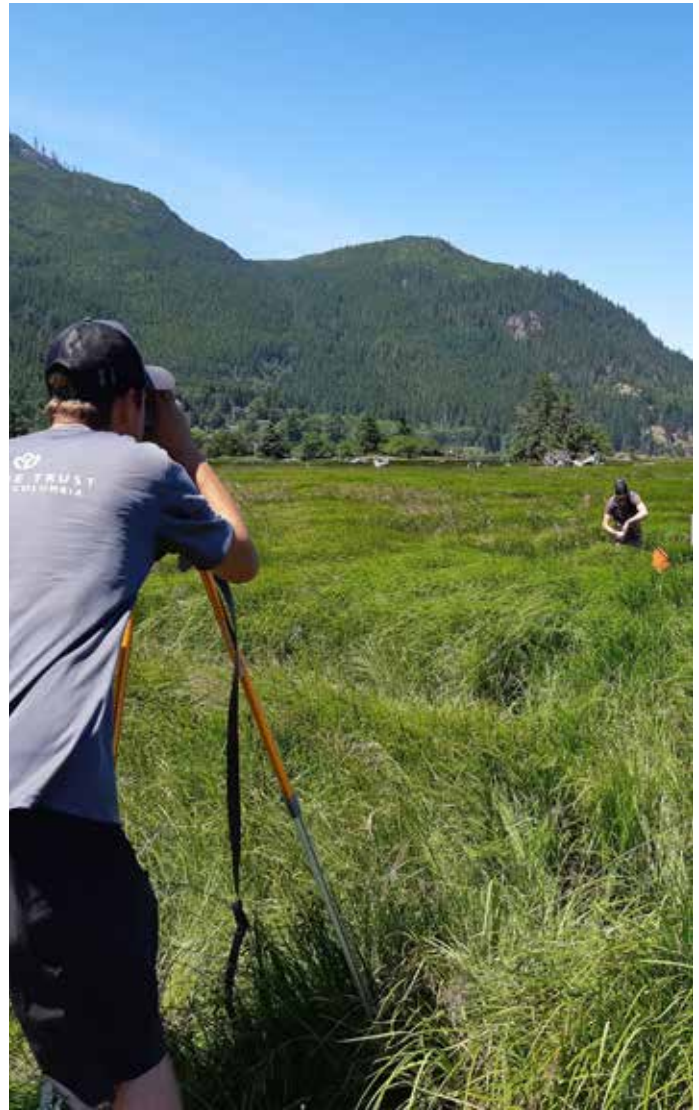
At each site, The Nature Trust and Coastal First Nations will use a variety of equipment to collect data and implement the MARS methodology. Data will be collected for five categories of resilience during the study: distribution of marsh elevation, change in elevation, sediment supply, tidal range, and rate of sea-level rise. Within each category, metrics will be given a score of 1 to 5, indicating level of resilience from low to high. These will be used to calculate an overall score indicating the level of resilience to sea-level rise for each site.

Implementation of Ecological Restoration Projects

The output of the MARS scoring will provide baseline information to inform the restoration phase of the project. Identification and feasibility studies of candidate restoration projects will be undertaken in Years 2 and 3 of the project. In Years 4 and 5, The Nature Trust will deliver two transformational projects that restore core natural estuarine processes (including the collection of pre- and post-restoration monitoring metrics).

Examples of restoration activities The Nature Trust and our partners have previously implemented include removal of historical agricultural dikes and berms, and construction and reconnections of tidal channels, aimed at restoring estuarine hydrology and improving tidal connectivity which benefits fish, wildlife, plants and other coastal species.

The West Coast Conservation Land Management Program is a multi-partner program that includes Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.



Surveying monitoring equipment at Salmon River estuary



Installing monitoring equipment at Fulmore River estuary



Princeton Grasslands - Phase I Complete Protecting Habitat for Wildlife

Good news! Phase I of the Princeton Grasslands property has closed with the help of the community and many partners.

The Atkinson family which had owned the land for over 60 years provided a partial donation through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program. Key supporters of the acquisition include the Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program, MapleCross Fund, Electoral Area H of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, BC Conservation Foundation and other supporters.

"We are delighted to be working with the Atkinson family on this acquisition. This is a spectacular property due to its natural beauty, conservation values and size," said Julian Zelazny, Director of Conservation Land Securement at The Nature Trust of BC. "Vast grasslands stretch to the horizon, clumps of trees dot the landscape and a creek winds through the property. Eagles soar overhead."

The Princeton Grasslands property, now known as

Princeton Grasslands - MapleCross Meadow, features native grasslands on most of the land. The endangered American Badger has been seen on the northwest boundary of the property while the threatened Northern Goshawk and Barn Swallow have been observed near the western boundary. In addition, the property provides critical habitat for Lewis's Woodpecker, and important winter range for Mule Deer. Asp Creek runs through the centre of the property.

The Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP) is a unique public-private partnership to support new protected and conserved areas by securing private lands and private interests in lands. The program is managed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Federal funds invested in the program are matched with contributions raised by NCC and its partners, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the country's land trust community.

Priority 
Project

We are now working on acquiring Phase II of Princeton Grasslands which covers 389.7 hectares (962 acres) and includes mixed forest, grassland, wetlands and ponds that are home to many species. Please consider donating online at www.naturetrust.bc.ca, via cheque or by calling our office at 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878.

UPCOMING EVENTS



POSTPONED

Together We Can Leave a Legacy to Nature on April 22

Join us on April 22 from 5 to 7 pm for a joint event with the Pacific Salmon Foundation at the Museum of Vancouver. You can learn about land conservation from The Nature Trust of BC CEO Dr. Jasper Lament and salmon conservation from Pacific Salmon Foundation President and CEO Mike Meneer. In addition, Clay Gillespie, Managing Director RGF Integrated Wealth Management, will highlight how you can leave a legacy gift and move from success to significance. Wine and appetizers will be served. To register for this free event, contact egrondin@naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604.924.9771 ext. 222.

Save the Date for our Fall Gala Monday, October 5

For sponsorship opportunities,
call Deb Kennedy at 604.924.9771

Brant Wildlife Festival in March & April

Check out the amazing events taking place during the 2020 Brant Wildlife Festival in March and April in Parksville and Qualicum Beach. The festival celebrates nature, especially the small Brant goose which migrates from Mexico to the Arctic with stops to rest and feed along the shores of Vancouver Island. There are more than 20 activities for adults and children including wildlife viewing, guided bird walks, weddings for wildlife, a bioblitz and plenty of other indoor and outdoor events.

The Nature Trust is hosting Sean Boyd, a research scientist, who will highlight Brant geese and their migration on March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Parksville. Tickets are \$10 per person and available by calling 1.866.288.7878 or e-mailing egrondin@naturetrust.bc.ca.

The Nature Trust coordinates the festival with the help of many volunteers and community organizations. Visit brantfestival.bc.ca for event details.

**PRESENTED
ONLINE**



Meadowlark Festival Tour on May 16

Join The Nature Trust of BC's Nick Burdock for a McIntyre Bluff/Inlay Hike on Saturday, May 16 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 for details.



The Nature Trust's Big Ranch property

Leaving Things in Order

With an aging population in Canada, more Canadians than ever are faced with dealing with the financial consequences of dying and the transfer of their wealth to others. Yet, many people have inadequate or outdated estate plans and half of adult Canadians do not even have a Will. If they were to die suddenly, their current wealth transfer would not match what their true intentions are.

An estate plan is the process of identifying your wealth and structuring your affairs to ensure your wealth transfer matches your intentions in the most effective manner. The preparation of your Will is the culmination of putting your estate plan in place. A Will is the written document that confirms and directs what your wishes are for your assets after your death.

A significant and often used component of an estate plan is incorporating a charitable gifting strategy. Many Canadians like the idea of giving back to one or more of their favourite charitable organizations and find making a gift at their death a worthwhile endeavour. In your Will, you can gift a certain amount to be distributed to the charity or can set a percentage of your estate to be distributed to the charity.

One major benefit of incorporating a charitable gift in your Will is financial. Often the most income tax one pays is not during your lifetime but is payable by your estate at your death. The Income Tax Act has a set of rules that are triggered at death that can create a significant tax burden for your estate. The rules also provide for offsetting tax reductions for the charitable donations you make in your Will.

So, your Executor may be able to write a cheque to your favourite charity after death and a smaller cheque to the Receiver General of Canada. Depending on the amount

of the charitable gift, maybe no cheque!

When you begin to work on your estate plan and undertake the Will preparation process, one of the key considerations to ponder is who to name as your Executor and Alternate Executor of your estate. What is an Executor? The Executor is the person/entity you name to take responsibility for the management and distribution of your estate when you die. It can be an individual (spouse, adult child, family member or friend, a professional such as a lawyer) or a trust company that offers Executor services.

The list of responsibilities of the Executor is a long one. An estate administration, even the simplest ones, often extend into the second year after death. There are many situations where a person who had agreed to be named and considered it an honour now realizes what a time consuming and responsible burden that role had become.

What qualities should you look for in your Executor? Visit our website for a helpful list <https://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/news/leaving-things-in-order>. It is important to ask the person you wish to name whether they wish to act. There have been many situations where a person was surprised to find out they were named after the person had died. It is too important of a role to not ask and have agreement at the time of completing the Will. Compensation should also be addressed at that time as to whether the Executor should be paid for taking on the burden of administration. All Wills should also name at the very least one Alternate Executor in case the first Executor predeceases or is unable to perform the duties at the time of your death.

*John Pin, Senior Manager, Estate Planning
Solus Trust Company Limited www.solustrust.com*

Anyone Can Leave a Legacy to Nature

Making a bequest to The Nature Trust of British Columbia is simple to do. A charitable bequest provides you with flexibility and can be modified or updated.

Over the years we have received gifts large and small. All are important. By adding The Nature Trust of BC in your Will, you will leave a legacy and ensure we continue the good work that you admire and support.

There Are Many Options for Donating

Your planned giving may take the form of cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, RRSPs/RIFs, personal property or real estate.

It is most helpful if your gift can be used by The Nature Trust of BC where it is most needed, meaning that it is an undesignated gift.

However, if you prefer to designate your gift, such as to land management on a specific property or to the endowment, we would be happy to discuss this with you.



Sample Bequest Wording

When remembering The Nature Trust in your Will, the correct legal name is The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Residual Bequest

“I give to The Nature Trust of British Columbia, currently of 500 - 888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 3K4, the residue of my estate (or a percentage of the residue) to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of The Nature Trust of British Columbia shall, in its sole discretion, determine.”

Fixed Amount

“I give to The Nature Trust of British Columbia, currently of 500 - 888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 3K4, the sum of \$ _____ to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of The Nature Trust of British Columbia shall, in its sole discretion, determine.”

Percentage of Estate

“I give to The Nature Trust of British Columbia, currently of 500 - 888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 3K4, _____ % of my estate to be used in such a manner as the Board of Directors of The Nature Trust of British Columbia shall, in its sole discretion, determine.”

Bequests are personal matters. We encourage you to visit a lawyer or notary before finalizing your Will.

“We have both grown up on the west coast and, although we have lived in other parts of the world, we have always considered this area ‘home’. We are concerned about the protection of the natural areas that are so special to us, particularly as we see ongoing development and the impact of climate change and invasive species eating away at these areas. We’re so pleased, therefore, to be able to leave a gift for The Nature Trust of British Columbia for permanent protection of key natural areas and habitat. Working through the Victoria Foundation we are able to take advantage of important tax savings for our estate. We can’t imagine a better legacy to leave for our family and our community.”

-Alfred and Roberta Birch



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 debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca



Bibby family at Nighthawk Vineyards

Creative Ways to Help Nature

We are very grateful to the organizations and companies that helped us protect land in BC for vulnerable wildlife, fish and plants during the past year. Some hosted celebrations and donated to us while others invited us to speak at events and requested support. And some donated for each wine tasting, mattress recycled and photograph sold.

Special thanks to

- BC Plant Health Care in Surrey
- Canadian Mattress Recycling in Delta
- Filson Vancouver
- GardenWorks
- Karen Cooper Gallery in Vancouver
- Liron Gertsman for his Essence of Earth exhibit
- Lotus Cycling Club in Vancouver
- Nighthawk Vineyards in Okanagan Falls
- True Grain in Courtenay, Cowichan Bay and Summerland
- Well Kept in Vancouver

To learn how your organization or company can help The Nature Trust of BC, please contact Deb Kennedy at 604.924.9771 ext. 231 or debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca



Photographer Liron Gertsman with sponsor Esther Chetner and The Nature Trust's Jasper Lament

UPDATES

New Staff



Welcome to Mahkia Eybagi to the new role of Project Coordinator. She will be providing support to the finance and administration team.

She has a Master's in International Development Studies and 8 years of experience in coordinator roles. Most recently, she worked as Policy Analyst for Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Government of Canada. She believes nature keeps us connected and grounded. She loves hiking, rock climbing and outdoor yoga.

Goodbye



Our colleague Robin Rivers has left The Nature Trust of BC. Many of you got to know Robin over the past 15 years. She made a significant contribution to the success of our organization during this time. She masterfully produced newsletters, annual reports and books, developed new websites and launched our new logo, hosted many events across BC and helped raise funds to acquire dozens of new conservation properties. We wish Robin all our best in her new role with Family Services of the North Shore.

Monthly Giving

Monthly giving is an easy way to help support The Nature Trust of BC's land conservation work and to spread your giving throughout the year. Join our Arbutus Circle with a small monthly gift and you can make a big difference!

To sign up, visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca or call our office at 604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878

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BRITISH COLUMBIA 

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