



Working with Nature

Last year, fifty of the world's top experts examined the relationship between biodiversity and climate change. Their findings were clear: climate change and the rapid decline of biodiversity are intertwined crises that must be tackled together if international efforts to address either are to succeed.

They made three main recommendations to address these twinned crises.

1. Nature-based solutions alone will not save us – but without them we will likely face failure and the loss of many ecosystems and species.

What are we doing? The Nature Trust has been accelerating its land acquisitions in recent years, including adding eight new conservation properties in 2021. More acquisitions are happening in 2022.

2. In a world increasingly affected by climate change, maintaining biodiversity relies on enhanced and

well-targeted conservation efforts.

What are we doing? The Nature Trust is working with multiple partners to conserve biodiversity. Our selection process is scientifically rigorous to ensure that NTBC is securing and managing the most important areas of biodiversity in BC.

3. Avoiding and reversing the loss of carbon-rich and species-rich ecosystems is of the highest importance for combined biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation actions.

What are we doing? The Nature Trust is targeting carbon-rich ecosystems and is increasing capacity and efforts to do so, including being funded, in part, by ECCC's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

Fifty of the world's experts say we need to do more and do it better.

Challenge accepted.



Princeton Grasslands – MapleCross Meadow, photo by Graham Osborne

Endangered Ecosystems – Why Should We Protect BC's Grasslands?

When people think of British Columbia, mountains and lush rainforests are usually the first things that come to mind, but BC is also home to rare grassland ecosystems. Although BC's grasslands might not be as well-known, they are host to an impressive amount of biodiversity, with more endangered species than any other habitat in the province. For example, Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Burrowing Owl, Rubber Boa, American Badger and many more at-risk species make their homes there. Due to the uniqueness of these habitats, a wide variety of flora and fauna native to BC's grasslands are found nowhere else in the world. Despite this impressive amount of biodiversity, grasslands only make up less than 1% of British Columbia's natural environment and are even more endangered than old growth forests.

Many of BC's grasslands are found in the Okanagan valley from Vernon to Penticton and along the Trans-Canada Highway around Kamloops. In the summers, grasslands are characterized as hot, dry, and brown with temperatures reaching below zero in the winters. Although they may look inhospitable, grasslands host many plant and animal species that have adapted to living in these harsh conditions. Perennial grasses often have large roots systems to access limited water supplies in the soil. Some grassland plants grow from bulbs deep underground where there is more moisture, and others grow early in the spring while there is a higher amount of water in the soil.

Grasslands also play an important role in ecosystem goods, services, and cultural integrity. Ecosystem goods

(such as food) and services (such as water purification) represent the benefits human populations derive, directly or indirectly, from ecosystem functions. Grasslands are important for water management, grazing animals, climate mitigation, erosion control, pollination, biological pest control, and even medicines. The health of the biodiversity in grasslands has a heavy influence on ecosystem function; if biodiversity diminishes in these areas, it will negatively impact the goods and services that contribute to human welfare in the province.

These nutrient rich landscapes have been very attractive to humans, providing flat, arable land for agricultural crops, livestock, and urban development. Our impact on these ecosystems has been tremendous and has placed a real strain on native wildlife populations. Native grasses and wildflowers of this ecosystem are not able to compete with introduced pasture grasses, invasive weeds, over-grazing, and forest encroachment. As well, intensive use by livestock, irrigation, and all-terrain vehicles can have negative impacts on soil and its ability to support native species.

Grassland conservation is now more important than ever. We must act to protect what little is left of BC's precious grasslands. For the past 50 years, The Nature Trust of BC has been working to conserve various grassland properties across the province. For example, just last year Kamloops Lake – Rosseau Creek (19 acres), Princeton Grasslands – MapleCross Meadow (2600 acres), and Park Rill Floodplain (151 acres) were purchased to protect these unique habitats and their biodiversity in perpetuity.



Three new properties in the first quarter of 2022

Hoodoos-Columbia Wetlands

The Nature Trust of British Columbia protected 143 acres of ecologically important natural wetlands in the Kootenay.

The property known as The Hoodoos-Columbia Wetlands is adjacent to The Nature Trust's Hoodoos Conservation Complex, and a portion of the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area. The purchase of this property adds to a continuous area with over 11,000 acres of relatively undisturbed wetland, riparian, and grassland habitat.

Wetlands, considered one of the most productive ecosystems in the world, are a natural and effective tool in combating climate change through their ability to act as a sponge, and reduce flooding during heavy rainfall. With the recent and detrimental floods across BC, it is important now more than ever, to conserve and protect such land. Additionally, they provide food and habitat for many species, including insects, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals.

The Columbia Wetlands, including the Hoodoos-Columbia Wetlands property, are a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) and an area of continental significance to waterfowl under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Numerous species of migratory waterfowl and waterbirds are known to use the area, including the Blue-listed Great Blue Heron and Tundra Swan, and the SARA Special Concern Horned Grebe, along with American Wigeon, Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Mallard, Northern Pintail and Trumpeter Swan.

Each of these species has a role to play in ensuring the persistence of biodiversity and a healthy planet. Large, protected areas are the best way to ensure biodiversity can flourish undisturbed in perpetuity.

Financial support for the conservation of this property has been provided by the Government of Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solution Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the East Kootenay Wildlife Association. This project has also been made possible by Pan American Silver, Grayross Foundation, Canal Flats Wilderness Club, the Lightburn Family, and many other donors.

A photograph of a rocky mountain slope under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, several bright yellow wildflowers with dark brown centers are in bloom, surrounded by green foliage. The background shows a steep, light-colored rock face with some sparse vegetation and a small, dark, vertical opening or crevice.

Skaha Lake Eastside

The Nature Trust of British Columbia has protected 72 acres of ecologically important land in the South Okanagan.

The property expands The Nature Trust's Skaha Lake Eastside conservation complex, south of Penticton. This new property is adjacent to the McTaggart-Cowan/n̓sək'łniw't Wildlife Management Area and provides valuable habitat for several species at risk.

The Skaha Lake Eastside conservation complex adds important habitat for Bighorn Sheep for foraging, lambing, and escaping predators. Due to its ecologically rare and important ecosystems including grasslands, open forests, and rocky terrains, Bighorn Sheep can have all their needs met on this property and the surrounding area such as birthing lambs in the spring. Bighorn Sheep are a species of provincial concern in British Columbia. Human pressures on their habitat have reduced their distribution in the Okanagan.

The mixture of diverse and sensitive ecosystems on the property will also protect habitat for a variety of species listed under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, including, Pallid Bat (threatened), American Badger (endangered), Lewis's Woodpecker (threatened), Western Screech Owl (threatened), Desert Nightsnake (endangered), Western Rattlesnake (threatened), and Great Basin Gophersnake (threatened).

This project was made possible by the Government of Canada through the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation (including Midwest and Eastern Chapters), Wild Sheep Society of BC, and many other individual supporters.



Park Rill Creek DL 1995

A land owner heard about The Nature Trust of BC's purchase of a neighbouring property and reached out to ask if we would be interested in buying his property as well.

With the help of donations from conservation-minded individuals, we purchased and added those 252 acres of ecologically important land to the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch conservation complex in the South Okanagan. Connectivity of habitats is critically important for fostering biodiversity, so the conservation of this property, known as Park Rill Creek DL 1995, will add to the resilience of wildlife and plants in the ecosystems all around.

The Nature Trust of BC's White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch Complex, an extensive conservation zone covering 19,993 acres, is one of our largest conservation complex. Park Rill Creek DL 1995 supports many species at risk, including Western Tiger Salamander, Lewis's Woodpecker, Pallid Bat, Great Basin Spadefoot, Great Basin Gopher Snake, and Western Rattlesnake. Other species that thrive off of the biodiverse ecosystem are Mule Deer, during their winter range, and Bighorn Sheep, which are Blue-listed, and of conservation concern in British Columbia.

With the conservation of White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch – Park Rill Creek DL 1995, the home of these species and many more are protected in perpetuity. Expanding the protected areas within Okanagan grasslands will serve to maintain its rich biodiversity for generations to come.

Financial support for the conservation of this property has been provided by the Government of Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. This project has also been made possible by Wheaton Precious Metals, Grayross Foundation and many individuals.



Conversations on Conservation: Dr. Jasper Lament

On my path to becoming CEO of The Nature Trust of British Columbia

The idea of creating a permanent conservation legacy by protecting land in perpetuity for wildlife has always had a magical appeal to me. As I was finishing my PhD, I realized that I wanted to work in conservation more than research. My entry into the conservation world was restoring wetland and grassland habitats in the U.S, then working internationally in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico where I was exposed to many organizations that were doing land protection.

I took a detour into the corporate environment world, working at BC Hydro in environment and sustainability and environmental risk management, before being approached for the CEO position at The Nature Trust of BC. BC Hydro was a great place to work with fabulous people but I thought 'here's my chance to get back to land conservation'. The opportunity to lead an organization that had so much potential in my home province was irresistible. So I left the corporate world for this role at The Nature Trust of BC and never looked back!

On the work of The Nature Trust of BC

The core of The Nature Trust work is acquiring private land of ecological significance. Land acquisition can be a purchase at fair market value, it can be a donation from a conservation-minded landowner or it can be a blend of purchase and donation but the focus is on protecting

ecologically important private land. And in BC, private land in the river valleys and coastlines is where biodiversity is concentrated and also where people want to live.

On land conservation's role in mitigating climate change

A colleague gave me a rock that says "carpe diem" – "seize the day". And THIS is the day for conserving land. This is the day for fighting climate change, and for stopping biodiversity loss. These are the twin crises of our time.

By mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss through nature-based solutions we have the ability to do both at the same time. One very powerful nature-based solution is to protect carbon-rich ecosystems like wetlands, grasslands and forests and care for them forever so they can sequester carbon and provide habitat for the species that call BC home.

We're focused on building landscapes that will be more resilient as the climate changes and hopefully keep these species here in BC for the future. From a science perspective we know that wetlands, grasslands and forests sequester carbon and that's part of the solution to climate change.

The federal government has announced new funding for nature-based solutions as a key tool in the fight against climate change. Here in BC we've had a rough ride over the last year or two with heat domes, flooding and intense wildfires. It made the potential future impacts of climate change more visceral for everyone.

On the meaning of nature-based solutions

The definition of nature-based solutions is using nature and natural processes to solve socio-environmental problems. Climate change is obviously a big problem but there's also the need to mitigate the risk of natural disasters, like floods and wildfires. There are things we can do to address socio-environmental problems using nature as a toolbox to help solve those problems.

Land conservation is a great tool to help build solutions. It's not the only one but it's an important one. The great thing about conserving land is that at the same time you're storing carbon to address the global challenge of climate change, you're also protecting habitat for species. Carbon rich ecosystems and biodiversity provide value to people in all kinds of ways, from mitigating flood waters and supporting pollination, to benefiting mental health.

On the dramatic loss of migratory birds in North America

North America has lost three billion birds in the last three decades. Three billion!

A high percentage of BC bird species rely on wetlands, estuaries, forests and grasslands to complete all or a portion of their lifecycle.

Wetlands are an example of a habitat type that is disproportionately important to wildlife and many wetlands are on private land and impacted by human activities. There's a real need to protect the wetlands we have left because they are incredibly important for wildlife habitat.

Progress has been made conserving wetland habitat for waterfowl, water birds and shorebirds and those birds have done comparatively well. But birds that depend on grasslands and aerial insectivores like barn swallows are in big trouble.

We've lost billions of grassland and forest birds. We have a lot of work to do to conserve enough habitat to sustain those bird species. Natural landscapes are losing their ability to support bird populations like they did in the

past. Take grasslands, for example. Only about one percent of BC is grasslands. We have lost a lot of it.

On land conservation challenges in BC

Rising real estate prices are the single biggest challenge facing private land conservation in BC

There's a limited supply of private land in BC. Places like the Lower Mainland are geographically constrained and there's a lot of competition between people and wildlife for the space that is there. The demand for land is high and that's reflected in the extremely high land prices. In the 50-year history of The Nature Trust, it's gotten progressively harder to be able to purchase land for conservation.

On how protecting one piece of land makes a difference

The fight against climate change can seem overwhelming. I think people are searching for a way to make a difference.

Land conservation offers people a way to make a difference with \$50 or \$5 million dollars. They can invest their dollars in protecting one piece of land that will help provide nature-based solutions. We've been doing this for 50 years and we are hopeful that more people will get excited about joining us in this work, to use our expertise to help them achieve their own personal goals to help fight climate change.

One of the appealing things about The Nature Trust of BC is that we only work in BC. We're providing nature-based solutions close to home and people can see the impact of their donations right here in this province in places like the Okanagan, Vancouver Island and the Central Coast - places where there are still opportunities to build large, resilient complexes of land conservation that will help to mitigate climate change and save species. Ultimately this work benefits all of us!

On looking forward

I remain eternally hopeful. I was born and raised in BC surrounded by nature and appreciate how incredibly lucky we are to be here. Unfortunately we haven't taken care of nature as much as we could have. But I see society starting to take nature more seriously and I'm hopeful that in the next 50 years we'll do a better job of protecting what we have more than we have over the past 50 years.

There's a great opportunity for organizations like The Nature Trust of BC to help show the way and help make a difference.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." The Nature Trust of BC has done that for 50 years. Going forward I'm going to do everything I can to make sure we are able to deliver on what we collectively must do for land conservation in BC.

Saving BC's wetlands for North America's birds

In 2019, The Nature Trust became a grantee of the *North American Wetlands Conservation Act*.

This funding program provides 3:1 matching grants on donations from US taxpayers for wetland and estuary conservation in Canada. This means that for every \$1 donated, The Nature Trust will receive \$4 for wetland conservation to protect migratory birds in BC. To find out more, visit naturetrust.bc.ca/giving.



2022 Priority Projects

Every once in a while, we receive unexpected government funding but we must match it in order to use it. Your help is needed to acquire three top priority conservation properties. Each dollar raised will go toward a government match for these properties.



White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch Park Rill Creek Infill West

The Nature Trust has the opportunity to purchase one of the last remaining parcels of private land in the White Lake Basin. Park Rill Creek Infill West is surrounded on all sides by The Nature Trust's White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch.

The property has a very high conservation ranking. 95% of the property contains sensitive ecosystems, with habitat for at least two Red-Listed plants. Endangered birds that have been seen on or around the property include Lewis's Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, Flammulated Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, Lar and Brewer's Sparrow, and White-headed Woodpecker.

It is not only rare birds that flock to this area. Mammals, including Pallid Bat and American Badger have been seen and there is critical habitat for amphibians and reptiles like Western Tiger Salamander and Great Basin Gophersnake.

Expanding this conservation complex strengthens the survival possibilities for all the species that use the complex. To effectively protect species, the best strategy is to secure land on a landscape level. Large areas with mixed habitats support more of the life needs of species that don't travel very far. Larger areas also mean that the habitat will be more resilient to impacts from the surrounding area.

The purchase of this 'infill' property demonstrates The Nature Trust's commitment to building conservation complexes over time. It will be the eleventh property acquisition in the White Lake Basin since 1996. Growing conservation complexes through purchases means that sometimes we need to act fast to ensure that when adjacent parcels come to market, we can offer a fair price. We work with the landowners to meet their needs while also fulfilling our mission to protect biodiversity and the environment. This parcel has been a priority for The Nature Trust for some time, and we are grateful to the landowners for keeping us in mind when they were ready to sell.



American Badger

We need to raise \$200,000 to add this property to the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch.



Sage Thrasher

Keremeos Columns Grassland

The Nature Trust of BC has the opportunity to purchase and protect the Keremeos Columns Grassland. Located in the Similkameen Valley, this 479-acre property is adjacent to the 49-acre Keremeos Columns Provincial Park. Increasing the size of this protected area by almost ten-fold will provide connectivity of seven sensitive ecosystems.

The Keremeos Columns are named for vertically hexagonal jointing basalt formations that jut out of narrow steps from the surrounding Douglas-fir forest. This geological formation was created approximately 30 million years ago during a period of high volcanic activity. At that time, molten basalt began to cool and shrink. In order to release stress from this process, the basalt rock cracked at 120 degree angles creating the distinctive hexagonal shape we see today.

This parcel is currently private property and access to the parcel requires movement across several other private land holdings. We ask that if you want to view the Columns you do so from the Provincial Park and respect the private property of local land owners.

On Earth Day a generous supporter donated the last \$50,000 we needed to protect this beautiful grassland forever!



Shoal Creek Estuary Phase II

When fresh water from rivers and streams meets the salt water of the ocean, biodiversity flourishes. Many species can only live in the brackish, mixed water of estuaries, and these special species are some of the most rare and endangered in the world.

The Nature Trust of BC has the opportunity to protect 320 acres (130 hectares) of land in the Shoal Creek estuary. The Shoal Creek estuary is approximately 13 km east of Port Neville.

The Shoal Creek property consists of two parcels totaling 320 acres. Phase I is complete. We are now working to acquire Phase II. This property was brought to our attention through our work in the Enhancing Estuary Resilience project.

The property is in a remote area of BC, a place of true wilderness. The land varies from sea level tidal flats to rising steep mountain slopes. While previously logged in the 1990s, the property is now representative of naturally regenerating immature forest.

This property lies on the Pacific Flyway, the migration route extending along the Pacific from Alaska to the southern tip of South America. Millions of birds stopover in fresh water wetlands and estuaries each year along the flyway, and protecting these areas is a high priority for conservation internationally.

The Shoal Creek estuary provides habitat for a multitude of species throughout the year. Three species of salmon: Coho, Pink and Chum, use the estuary for rearing and feeding as they prepare to enter the ocean. The presence of these fish attracts Grizzly Bears, and many have been seen using the estuary to catch a salmon dinner.

At least nine bird species listed under the *Species At Risk Act* are known to use the estuary including Brandt's Cormorant and Western Grebe. Other threatened bird species dependent on this estuary include Barn Swallow, Black Scoter, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Long-tailed Duck, Marbled Murrelet and Surf Scoter.

Perhaps the most rare and vulnerable are the plant communities that are located in this estuary, many of which only occur in temperate estuaries. These include tufted hairgrass-meadow barley, American glasswort-sea-milkwort, and Lyngbye's sedge herbaceous vegetation.

We need to raise \$200,000 to protect this vital estuary in the Great Bear Rainforest.



Before



After



Land Management

Luck-A-Kuck Creek Conservation

In August, the Lower Mainland Conservation Field Crew began a new restoration project at The Nature Trust's Wells Sanctuary property. Wells Sanctuary conserves a portion of Luck-A-Kuck Creek, a salmon-bearing creek that runs through the City of Chilliwack.

The Crew's goal was to remove invasive plants from the streambanks that were so overgrown they slowed the flow of water and created a build-up of fine sediment on the normally gravel streambed. Since salmon prefer gravel substrate for spawning, restoring the conditions in the creek that naturally retain and sort gravel could improve reproductive success for these species. Coho and Chum Salmon fry have been observed at this site by locals and the Crew, but the salmon stock has been declining over time. Restoring their gravel spawning habitat could be a crucial component in stabilizing their populations.

Clad in waders and brightly coloured rubber gloves, the Crew stepped into the creek to begin the long process of hand-pulling the thick mats of invasive species that had been choking the stream for years. The invasive plants were the usual suspects: Water Mint, Reed Canary Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Himalayan Blackberry and Yellow Flag Iris.

Over the course of three weeks, more than 15 trips to the local green waste dump, and with the help and guidance from the South Coast Conservation Land Management Program (SCCLMP) Crew, the team created a two-meter-wide, continuously flowing channel through The Nature Trust's protected section of Luck-A-Kuck Creek.

During the project, the Crew witnessed the amazing biodiversity in Luck-A-Kuck Creek. They observed native species such as Signal Crayfish, Freshwater Lamprey, Northwestern Salamander, and Pacific and Sitka Willow. The Crew was thrilled to notice that their progress was being observed by two Barred Owls hunting for crayfish near the stream. All of these species will benefit from the restoration of the Luck-A-Kuck Creek ecosystem.

A big thank you for all the support from the SCCLMP team at Ducks Unlimited, Steve Clegg with the City of Chilliwack, Parr Road Green Depot and the Wells Sanctuary Society.



Removing invasive plants by boat



Barred Owls



Hand-pulling invasive plants



Joyce Davies: A Lasting Legacy to Nature

By Deb Kennedy

Joyce Davies was a woman who loved to be in the mountains. MacLean's magazine wrote in 2004 "With leaves in her hair and earth scuffed into the knees of her worn trousers, Joyce emerged from hiking the Grouse Grind." She had hiked 9,000 vertical feet – nearly two miles straight up—the week before.

In October 2020, I joined one of Joyce's dear hiking buddies and her caregiver in a last hike for Joyce. One step at a time, I climbed up steep terrain, at times holding onto branches to scale rock faces. The going was tough for someone not used to mountain climbing. I was digging down deep for air and my legs were protesting loudly but I was determined to keep the pace with the octogenarian who was leading the way with ease.

After two and half hours, we came to a place on top of the world—a place where the view of the surrounding mountains was spectacular and the first snowfall blanketed the ground below my feet. I had come here to remember a strong independent woman, who had supported The Nature Trust of BC for over 30 years.

Joyce arrived in Canada as a young doctor in the late 1950's. She worked on the MV Columbia, a missionary boat that served floating logging camps and villages along the coast. This is when Joyce became enchanted by the pristine inlets and estuaries with their unique marine, coastal and bird wildlife. From then on, she was committed to protecting critical habitats from human interference. "We must contain this pressure from increasing human encroachment so as to ensure that all ecological systems have a chance to survive into the future," she said.

Joyce lived a long life. She worked for over 40 years

as a physician, specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She worked in several hospitals including G.F. Strong, Lions Gate Hospital and St Paul's Hospital. In her spare time she embraced the outdoors with fervor. She was an avid participant in a variety of activities including kayaking, skiing and mountain climbing.

I came to know Joyce when she was in her late 70's. She would walk from her home to our Nature Trust office (then in North Vancouver) to check on our land conservation progress. She would meet with our Leadership Giving Manager Patrick Oswald, and they would often head off to Maplewood Flats, a bird watching conservation area, to enjoy a picnic lunch.

When Patrick retired, I carried on his tradition of meeting Joyce for lunch. Over time, I learned about Joyce's upbringing in England during the war, how she became a doctor in a time when few women were taking on such roles and how she courageously came to Canada by herself. Joyce also shared with pride how she bought her much beloved home in the 1960's, noting it wasn't easy for a woman to get a mortgage in those days.

She showed me photos of her adventures and once, pointing at an image, said this is where she would like her last hike to be. Years later, I was honoured to make this journey for her.

The Nature Trust of BC is very grateful to have received Joyce's final gift- her cherished house. The funds from the sale of this property are now helping us continue our land conservation work. We are honoured to be creating a lasting legacy to nature in her memory.



A Gift to Charity in Your Will

There are good reasons to leave a gift to a charity in a will. Giving to a charity benefits society but it can also reduce taxes, ultimately leaving more for your beneficiaries. The most well-known advantage of giving to charities is the charitable tax donation credit that can be applied directly against the amount of incomes taxes payable at death.

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

1. The donation of stocks or shares directly to the 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. Another method is 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.

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:

1. Listing an organization 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 favourite organizations.

Joyce died at the age of 96. She had no immediate family. In discussions with her lawyer, she had decided that rather than leaving a gift in her will, she would set up an alter ego trust with The Nature Trust of BC as the named beneficiary.

Assets in a trust don't form part of the estate (the trust owns the assets) and therefore do not pass under a will. This means no probate fees are payable in relation to these assets.

There are many ways you can leave a legacy gift in your will. Leaving a charitable gift can have positive tax outcomes for your estate. We encourage all people considering a legacy gift to speak to a financial planner or estate lawyer to find out if legacy giving is right for you.

The Nature Trust is a partner in Will Power, a national program to bring awareness to the benefits of legacy giving. Find out more and use their planning tools at their website, www.willpower.ca.

Use the power of your Will to do more!





Community Events



Tacos for the Trust

Each year we bring together young people interested in conservation for a fun-filled night out. This year we will be going out for tacos at La Tacqueria, 586 Hornby St, Vancouver on May 12th. Tickets are \$40. For more information, contact Sarah Karasiuk, skarasiuk@naturetrust.bc.ca



Artist of the Year

The Nature Trust is proud to sponsor the Federation of Canadian Artists' Artist of the Year Award and Exhibition again in 2022. The call for submissions is live now, accepting entries until June 30th. The exhibition runs from September 12th - 25th at federationgallery.com and in the Federation Gallery on Granville Island. Check out last year's submissions on the Federation Gallery website.



Fall Gala

The 2022 Fall Gala, Working with Nature, will take place at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on October 6th. We are very excited to gather in person once again. The evening includes live and silent auctions, dinner, music, and entertainment. Sponsor a table or buy a ticket to this premier fundraising event today by contacting Deb Kennedy at 604 969 3249 or debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca



Community Conservation Events

Events are held throughout the year, across the province. Stay tuned to our website and your local naturalist clubs for more information. If you are a member of a conservation group and are interested in partnering with The Nature Trust, please contact us at 1 866 288 7878, or info@naturetrust.bc.ca



New Staff



Mary Speer **Director of Finance**

Mary is a CPA, CGA, who has worked in the non-profit sector since 2008. Her most recent prior experience includes work at international development and healthcare charities. As

someone who enjoys BC's beautiful natural spaces, she is excited to contribute to The Nature Trust's conservation mission. In her spare time, Mary enjoys woodsy walks and birdwatching. Mary has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Queen's University.



Bryn White **Conservation Land Specialist**

Bryn was the program manager of the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program for more than 14 years. Bryn was the 2010 recipient of The Nature Trust of BC's Conservation Champion

Award in the Professional Sector, and was recognized by the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance with an "Outstanding in Nature" award in 2019. Bryn has served on numerous boards and committees including the Real Estate Foundation of BC's Land Awards Committee, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Pacific Region Board, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation of BC Stewardship Technical Committee.



Allison Roersma **Operations Manager**

Allison Roersma brings her experience in project and operations management to her role as Operations Manager at The Nature Trust of BC. Most recently she helped to deliver

energy efficiency education and solutions to Indigenous Nations, lower income households, immigrants, and new Canadians. Her motto is "there is no problem that a spreadsheet can't fix".

Allison has a Bachelor of Business Administration from SFU, and a Master of Global Business from UVic. She joined The Nature Trust in 2022.

New Board



Ellen Simmons

Ms. Ellen Simmons is a PhD Candidate with the University of British Columbia – Okanagan, in the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences. She is also an Instructor in the

Department of Environmental Resources Technology with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt, BC.

Ellen brings over twenty years of experience within the environmental/conservation sector offering a unique skill set that communicates the necessity of including Indigenous scientific knowledge alongside Eurocentric approaches in Natural Resource practises. She holds an MSc. in Environmental Sciences and a BSc. in Forestry (UBC Vancouver). She is Swampy Cree (Saskatchewan) and of Polish descent. Additionally, she sits as a Board Director for the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance, an advisor to the TD Friends of the Environment and the First Nations Council of Advisors to the Dean of Forestry at the University of British Columbia.



Bill Cox

Bill Cox, FCPA, FCA, is a Chartered Professional Accountant who has spent his entire career working with non-profit and public sector organizations. Bill has worked with local

governments, colleges and universities, health care organizations and charities of all stripes and sizes. Bill has authored many presentations and articles including the book: *Accounting Athletics 101, Running a Financially Healthy Not-for-Profit Organization*.

As an accountant, Bill has a strong interest in aligning accounting and reporting with greater "green" goals and is part of the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative which aims to change the way that local government services are delivered and related infrastructure is created and managed. Bill has also held many leadership positions within the accounting profession and was awarded the prestigious "Fellow" designation in 2015.

Fight climate **change**. Keep nature **unchanged**.

The Nature Trust of BC is protecting carbon rich ecosystems to provide nature-based solutions to fight climate change.

Please donate today!

naturetrust.bc.ca/giving

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Widgeon Valley, BC. Photo by Amanda Wik

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