



CONSERVING BC'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Since 1971, The Nature Trust of British Columbia has been guided by a volunteer Board of prominent scientists and business leaders.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Chair

Robin Wilson

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Ross Beaty
Doug Christopher
Dr. Daryll Hebert
Stewart Muir
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Dr. Geoff Scudder
Rod Silver
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Jim Walker

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Don Krogseth Hugh Magee George Reifel Dick Richards Kip Woodward



Back row, left to right: John West, Ross Beaty, Dr. Daryll Hebert, Carmen Purdy, Doug Christopher, Rod Silver, Dr. Geoff Scudder. Front row, left to right: Jim Walker, Frances Vyse, Robin Wilson, Daniel Nocente, Stewart Muir. Missing: Peter Speer



Honourary Patron
The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



WORKING TOGETHER TO CONSERVE BC

We live in a spectacular part of the world and I feel privileged to be part of The Nature Trust of British Columbia which is dedicated to conserving BC's amazing natural beauty. This Annual Report celebrates our many accomplishments in 2007.

Working with our partners, we completed 17 land acquisitions across the province including key properties on the Fraser River, migration corridors in the East Kootenay at Bull River, and donations of property at Rock Creek in the Okanagan and on the Trent River on Vancouver Island.

While our focus has always been the acquisition of ecologically significant private land, over the years we have assumed increasing responsibility for managing that land. In 2007, land management accounted for 60% of our total annual operating budget. We are fortunate to have four dedicated land managers who are the face of The Nature Trust on Vancouver Island, in the Okanagan and in the Kootenays. They wear many hats, one of which is working with our new Ecological Inventory Crew and young people on our Conservation Crews to restore habitat and remove invasive weeds. In addition, they are our ambassadors in their local communities.

We continue to share the message of our leadership in land conservation as we meet with people across the province—with many new special events that continue to build awareness for our organization. These include the Heart of the Fraser event near Hope, our first ever gala honouring the indomitable Patrick Oswald, our Leadership Giving Manager, as well as community outreach in Victoria, Parksville, Invermere, Osoyoos and Williams Lake.

We could not have accomplished all that we did in the past year without our partners across the province: companies, foundations, stewardship groups, individuals and all levels of government. In particular, I would like to recognize the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the BC Trust for Public Lands, the BC Conservation Foundation, the Columbia Basin Trust and the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program—Columbia Basin. These organizations continue to provide much needed financial support in pursuit of our shared vision.

We are blessed with a volunteer Board that includes some of the brightest scientific minds in the country as well as proven business and community leaders. In 2007 we welcomed new members Ross Beaty and Doug Christopher to the Board. Our Advisory Board reads as a Who's Who in the business of conservation.



Chair Robin Wilson and Mark Angelo at Heart of the Fraser event

I would like to especially acknowledge our dedicated staff members who work as a team driven by a shared passion and love of the environment. Working alongside them are many volunteers who have helped with everything from planting trees to leading nature walks.

As you read through our annual report, I hope you will join with us in celebrating our accomplishments and share our news with others who like you are dedicated to conservation in BC.

Warm regards,

Robin Wilson, Chair

Robin Wilson



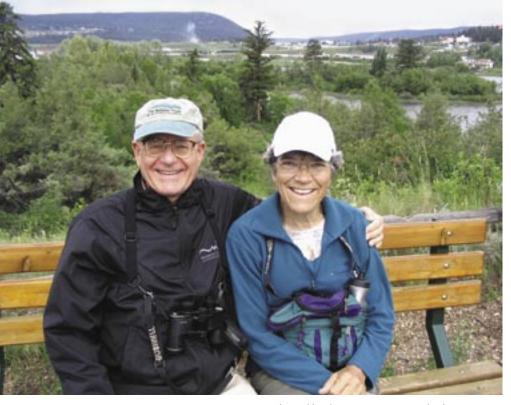
THE STORY DOESN'T END

BY FRANCES VYSE

Along the Adams River, home of the world-famous sockeye salmon run, The Nature Trust has seven parcels of land. The Nature Trust acquired these properties many years ago and they served as the catalyst for the creation of the Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park—named after a former Director of The Nature Trust.

Although most of the salmon spawning habitat is protected at the Adams River, the story doesn't end when the land is purchased. We must be ever-vigilant to ensure that it is not compromised by activities on surrounding lands. And the future of the salmon also depends on healthy habitats at the mouth of the Fraser River where those same salmon spend time adapting from salt water to fresh water. And their offspring do the opposite the following spring. Only ten percent of the original wetlands remain and continuing development on the Fraser delta poses a real threat to the sockeye.

We have been involved in such innovative conservation partnerships as the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program and in the interior, our highly successful Biodiversity Ranches Program, as a means to address threats to critical habitat. Our new Heart of the Fraser Program was initiated to help protect the important fish habitats in the eastern end of the lower Fraser Valley. These cooperative conservation programs that cover larger areas provide a range of habitats to ensure species are able to thrive.



Patrick Oswald and Frances Vyse at Scout Island Nature Centre

We also own and care for some tiny gems in the centre of bustling towns and cities: Buttertubs Marsh in Nanaimo, Boundary Bay in Delta, Salmon Arm Bay in Salmon Arm, Scout Island Nature Centre in Williams Lake and 100 Mile Marsh. They are small in size, but large in the way they educate and inform the public about the importance of conservation, and the great work we as an organization achieve.

All these achievements have been made thanks to dedicated Board members I have been privileged to work with, supported by a team of energetic, committed staff. We have worked with many partners and many donors in securing significant properties, and have taken seriously the task of managing those lands to protect their natural values. Our staff are the leaders in the development of a biodiversity strategy for the province that promises to be an exciting step forward for conservation.

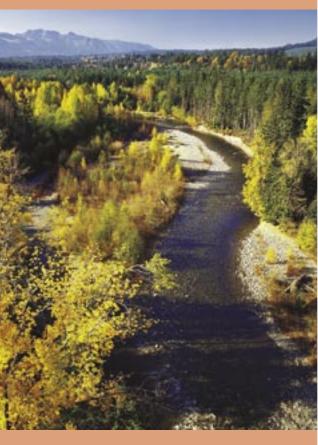
Could we do more? We can always do more, with your help.

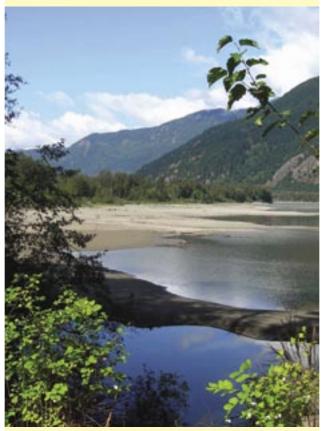


VANCOUVER ISLAND

THE COAST & FRASER RIVER

OKANAGAN







Key estuarial lands are located along the Cowichan, Englishman, Marble, Nanaimo and Salmon rivers. Other significant acquisitions are at Botanical Beach, Comox Slough, MacMillan Provincial Park, Robson Bight and Somenos Flats.

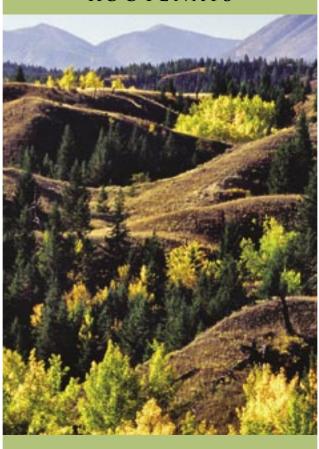
Properties in the lower Fraser area include the Heart of the Fraser River between Mission and Hope, McGillivray Slough, Grauer Beach at Boundary Bay, and land on the Chilliwack and Harrison rivers. Our coastal lands include Francis Point and Gun Boat Bay on the Sunshine Coast as well as Aseek and Koeye estuaries.

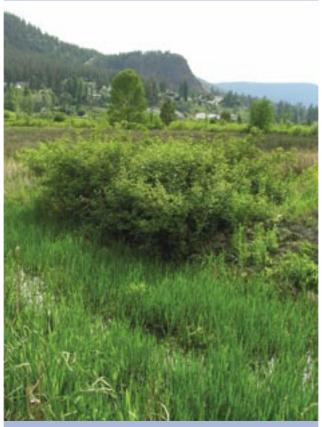
Our properties include lands at Swan Lake, Shorts Creek, Kilpoola Lake, Skaha Lake, Okanagan Mountain Park, Keremeos Creek, Osoyoos Lake, White Lake, Vaseux Lake and the Antelope-brush Conservation Area near Vaseux Creek.

KOOTENAYS

INTERIOR PLATEAU & MOUNTAINS

NORTHERN BC







Land in the Kootenays includes our largest property—the Hoodoos—as well as Columbia Lake, Wasa Slough, Bull River, Bummers Flats, Marsden Face, Slocan Lake, Redfish Creek, and Wigwam Flats among others.

Key properties are along the lower Adams River which completed the protection of one of the most important runs of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River system. Other acquisitions include land at Mount Robson, Cranberry Marsh, Scout Island Nature Centre, Chilanko Marsh and Chilcotin Lake.

Acquisitions include Dunlevy Creek, Worth Marsh, Comstock Slough, McQueen Slough, Boundary Lake, Fort St. John Potholes, and our most northerly property at Coldfish Lake in the Spatsizi Plateau.



LAND ACQUISITIONS

The Nature Trust acquires land through purchase, donation, covenant and lease. We are developing our strategic direction on the conservation of land based on ecosystem representation. This requires us to understand what we have through baseline research such as the type and number of species. Then our direction will be to build a portfolio of properties which protects the most at risk habitat in our province.

We continue to focus on providing corridors for wildlife to move through protected networks of large healthy landscapes. Working with our partners we are gaining a better understanding of how to work on a landscape level with a complex of properties under different ownership but all with a common goal to conserve biodiversity.

2007 Acquisitions

Brooklyn Creek in Comox on Vancouver Island

.32 hectares (.8 acres) of salt marsh and riparian habitat

Bull River in the East Kootenay

675.9 hectares (1670 acres) of winter range for elk

Heart of the Fraser in the Lower Mainland

Three properties covering 7.3 hectares (18 acres) along the river near Hope to conserve riparian habitat for fish and wildlife

Kidd Creek near Creston in the West Kootenay

35.5 hectares (88 acres) to conserve a corridor for grizzly bear and other wildlife

Lardeau/Duncan near Meadow Creek in the West Kootenay 83.9 hectares (207 acres) riparian corridor and winter range for elk

Peachland in the Okanagan

5.18 hectares (13 acres) with high habitat and wildlife values

Rock Creek in the Okanagan

89 hectares (220 acres) of winter range

Squitty Bay on Lasqueti Island

38.5 hectares (95 acres) contiguous to Squitty Bay Provincial Park to conserve coastal Douglas fir





Murray LaBrash at Rock Creek, South Okanagan



Cowichan River, Vancouver Island

ECOGIFTS

Rock Creek

"With development increasing on critical habitats, it is imperative that we conserve now as much of this land as possible for the future. This can be easily accomplished by the gifting of these types of properties to The Nature Trust. They are an incredible organization composed of great people who are totally dedicated to the conservation of BC's special places."

Murray LaBrash

"By leaving habitat for nature, I feel that I am leaving this world a better place."

Debbie Sharp

Trent River

Roberta and Tom Feely fulfilled a dream of Tom's father to protect a portion of their foreshore property at the mouth of the Trent River on Vancouver Island. They donated this parcel as an ecogift to The Nature Trust.

"It will be protected in perpetuity—and that's what we want."

Roberta Feely

COVENANT

Cowichan River

"We were delighted to find that, through a conservation covenant, we could protect forever our beautiful forested property along the Cowichan River, while allowing for continued use by our family. The Nature Trust was a logical choice as covenant holder. They are a British Columbia organization with an impressive record of success in preserving environmentally sensitive areas in our province."

Tom and Andrée Fleming



CARING FOR THE LAND

The ultimate goal of managing our conservation lands is to ensure that the ecological values for which the property was donated or purchased remain protected. We use a Management Plan for each property that typically has a 5 to 10 year outlook that specifies levels of use and year to year management activities.

Most of our activities on particular pieces of land are directed at ecological monitoring, removing invasive weeds, installing signs to educate the public as to habitat values of that property, and maintaining perimeter fencing to ensure there is no unauthorized entry by ATVs or domestic livestock. The Nature Trust relies on our BC Conservation Land Manager and four regional land managers in Cranbrook, Oliver and Nanaimo to oversee our properties. We also rely on staff from the Ministry of Environment to oversee our properties under lease to the Province as well as various local governments, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.





2007 CONSERVATION CREWS

Conservation Crews operate each year from the end of April until the end of August, and sometimes into the fall depending on weather.

- In 2007 34 young people were hired to undertake on-the-ground work in Nanaimo, Boundary Bay, Oliver, Cranbrook, Williams Lake and Tomslake
- A new Ecological Inventory Crew travelled to conservation properties across the province to collect baseline ecological information
- Activities were carried out on 96 conservation areas
- Habitat was restored for wildlife and fisheries on 10 sites (100 hectares/247 acres)
- Invasive species were controlled on 50 sites (350 hectares/865 acres)
- Fencing was patrolled and repaired on 16 sites (85km)
- New fencing was installed on 10 sites (22 km)
- Interpretive kiosks were created at 4 sites
- New signage was installed at 13 sites

We received generous support from:

HSBC Bank Canada as Title Sponsor of the province-wide program

BC Conservation Corps, a provincial Ministry of Environment student and recent graduate mentoring program designed to nurture a new generation of conservationists, partnered in the coordination of the crews

Ducks Unlimited Canada provided coordination of crews in Williams Lake, Tomslake and Boundary Bay

Tree Island provided in-kind support with wire used for fencing

Other supporters included BC Hydro, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Trust for Public Lands, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program—Columbia Basin, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Lohn Foundation, and Talisman Energy.

PUTTING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

The Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund

Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Alastair McLean dedicated their lives to the conservation of BC, particularly grasslands. This fund promotes applied research, habitat restoration and other stewardship activities that assist in the management of the land, plants and animals of BC's grasslands. In 2007 Pat Robinson received funding for his research on understanding the relationships between grazing livestock and the ground nesting birds that share their habitat.

"Getting up shortly after dawn to check Vesper Sparrow nests and experiencing various wildlife ranging from insects to bears is a common and very rewarding experience."

Pat Robinson

The Bert Hoffmeister Scholarship

This scholarship named in honour of the first Chair of The Nature Trust is awarded to graduate students in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. Scott and Amy Wilson received the scholarship in 2007. Scott's PhD thesis focuses on the potential impacts of climate change on Rock Ptarmigan and White-tailed Ptarmigan in the southern Yukon. Amy's PhD is on the population genetics of island populations of Song Sparrows on the Pacific Coast.







The Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship

This scholarship is named in honour of The Nature Trust Director Emeritus Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. It recognizes conservation studies at the University of Victoria and focuses on Environmental Studies. Robert Gray received the scholarship in 2007. He is a consultant fire ecologist with over 25 years of experience and he is working on a Master's degree.

Rain Garden Fund

The Nature Trust has established an endowment fund to support community rain garden projects. This initiative addresses the environmental and economic advantages of getting stormwater back into the ground, as well as the desirability of raising citizen awareness and supporting local involvement in aquatic habitat protection. Thanks to our donors, the Rain Garden Fund currently stands at \$100,000. In 2007, the Fund's first year of operation, grants were made to the Alouette River Management Society for their Allco Hatchery Rain Garden to control run off and filter sediment before water enters a river and Victoria West Elementary for their Urban Rain Garden Project, a wonderful demonstration of teamwork to create a rain garden and connect children with nature.

Robert Bateman Get to Know Program

The Nature Trust sponsored this interactive CD to help Canadian students "get to know" local plant and wildlife species. Bateman believes that introducing young people to their wild neighbours is an important step in raising a generation who will care for the planet.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007 we secured \$6.4 million in property holdings. This allowed us to increase our net worth by \$6.6 million over 2006. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed \$7.7 million to The Nature Trust during the year.

We spent a further \$1.7 million on land management, all the while making a concerted effort to keep our administration, fundraising and marketing costs to a minimum.

Looking forward, we will continue to focus on building our endowment in order to meet operating costs and to achieve our conservation goals through land acquisition and management.

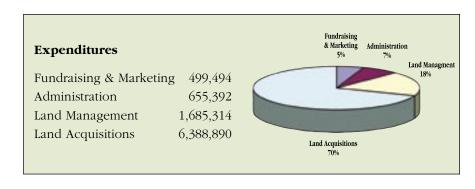




SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2007 and 2006	2007	2006
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and receivables	464,000	1,016,000
Investments	12,015,000	11,971,0000
Capital assets	670,000	643,000
Properties	63,014,000	56,625,000
	76,163,000	70,255,000
LIABILITIES		
Current	184,000	197,000
Deferred revenue	662,000	1,516,000
Promissory Notes	522,000	400,000
	1,368,000	2,113,000
		(/
NET WORTH	74,795,000	68,142,000
INCREASE IN NET WORTH	6,653,000	567,000

This statement has been derived from the complete audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.





Bill Ayrton and grandchildren

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Giving to The Nature Trust of British Columbia is an investment in the future of BC. We live in a spectacular province blessed with clean water, fresh air, beautiful scenery and an amazing variety of living things. Our dream is that these gifts of nature will be conserved today and for our children in the future.

We are very grateful to the many individuals, families, organizations and governments that have supported The Nature Trust since 1971. Your annual donations are vital to sustaining our goal of conserving land across this province.

Every gift, no matter the size, is important. Your support of our endowment fund, land acquisition, land management, scientific research, community stewardship and scholarships will have a tremendous impact. And when this happens, The Nature Trust is in a position to make dreams come true.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Our achievements are shared with many individuals who care about conservation as much as we do. We want to thank individual donors in 2007.

Ivv Addie Helen B. Akrigg Lindsav Allen Muriel Andrews Mark Angelo Linda Annis William S. Armstrong John Ashby Rick & Libby Avis Steve & Kanya Baillie Jane Baker Ioan Baker Joyce Barker David Barraclough Robert Bateman Shirl Bayer William Beaton Paul Beattie Ross & Patricia Beaty Dr. Gail Bellward Winslow Bennett Peter Bentley Joyce Beveridge John Bishop Jeremy Black Verena Blatter Gerard Bloem Richard Bocking Dr. Catherine Aczel Boivie Ellen Bond Bervl Borris Dan & Ursula Bowditch Keith Bower David Boyd **Jocelyn Braithwaite** Dr. Bert Brink Peter Broomhall Georgina Brunette Ian Bryce Frank Callaghan Cheryl Campbell Dr. Keith & Marilyn Chambers Doug Charles Walter Charles Rod Charlesworth

Margaret Fisher Doug & Eva Christopher Stephen Fitterman Mary & Gordon Christopher Edgar Church Tom & Andree Fleming Meg Clarke Alan & Bette Flowerdew Marguerite Ford Barbara Condon Marg Fowler Dan & Sara Jane Connal Dorothy Connelly Kenneth Cook Pierre Friele Harold Copping Patrick Fulton Cynthia Crampton Patricia Gardner Beryl Cunningham Karen Dadson Timothy Garrish Rebecca Dadson Peggy Gilmour Ian & Billee Davidson Pamela Glen Lou Davidson Jill Govert Dr. Joyce Davies Connie Graham Andrew Davis Helen Graham Judith Davis Michael Graham Peter Dawe Dr. Gillian Graves Barbara Deleebeeck Charles Greene Laurie Desrosiers Billy Griffith Katherine Dickinson Ron Gruber Lawrence Dingsdale Bob & Judy Hager Leslie Disler Bill Hanlon Carolyn Dodd Poul & Judith Hansen In memoriam Brian Melville Dore Beryl Hargood-Ash John & Nadean Downie Rita Harris Dennis Drechsler Merrion Harrison James Duncan John & Mae Harvey Ivor Dunham Peter & Joan Hebb Fritz Durst William Heidrick Marilyn Dutton Catharine Herb-Kelly Phil Dwver Doug Herchmer Bob & Louise Dyer Margaret Herdman Thomas Dvke Joan Heriot Dr. E. Roy Eburne Mark Hills Roger Edwards Ward Hodsman Van Egan Audrey Hoeg Shirley Embra Ross Holt Harry Evans Patricia Hood Albert Farley Jim Hope Maureen Fauman Hyndman Sandi Horton Arlene Feke Gerald Houlden Eileen & John Fiell Rosemary Howard

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Art Hughes-Games

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Edible BC

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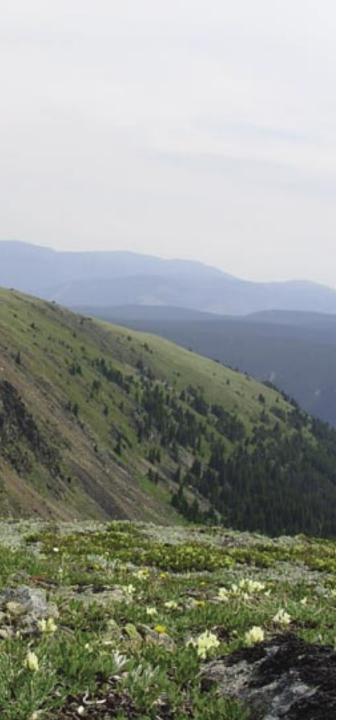
Tree Island Industries Ltd.

The Urban Arborist Vancouver Aquarium

Westin Resort & Spa at Whistler

Whole Foods Market





CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT



BC Hydro provided support for the Conservation Youth Crews in 2007.



EnCana Corporation is providing \$750,000 over 10 years. In 2007, EnCana funding went toward the Heart of the Fraser initiative.



HSBC Bank Canada was Title Sponsor of the Conservation Youth Crews in 2007.



Talisman Energy provided support for our Peace River Conservation Youth Crew in 2007.



Tree Island Industries provided in-kind support for land management carried out by the Conservation Youth Crews by donating wiring in 2007 that was used for fencing.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Community Groups and Clubs

East Kootenay Big Game Club
The Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund
Lake Windermere District
Rod & Gun Club
Probus Club Vancouver
Sparwood & District
Fish & Wildlife Association
Totem Flyfishers Club

Environmental/ Conservation Groups

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Fish & Wildlife Compensation
Program—Columbia Basin
Nanaimo Field Naturalists
North Island Wildlife
Recovery Association
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Pinetree Secondary School
Conservation Club
Scout Island Nature Centre
Shell Environmental Fund
Swan Lake Christmas Hill
Nature Sanctuary
Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists

Foundations and Trusts

Anako Foundation Armstrong Family Foundation BC Conservation Foundation Chernoff Family Foundation Columbia Basin Trust Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation Frank Lewis Memorial Conservation Fund Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Joan Ford Charitable Society Kaatza Foundation Lagniappe Foundation Lohn Foundation Mary & Gordon Christopher Foundation McCarthy Tetrault Foundation The Morris and Helen Belkin Foundation North Growth Foundation The Real Estate Foundation of BC Vancouver Foundation

Government

BC Conservation Corps
BC Ministry of Environment
BC Ministry of Transportation
Canadian Wildlife Service
City of Parksville
City of Prince George
Comox Stathcona Regional District
Environment Canada
Metro Vancouver
Regional District of Nanaimo
Summer Career Placement
Program (HRSDC)





Brant Wildlife Festival

In 2007, the Brant Wildlife Festival on Vancouver Island was coordinated by The Nature Trust in association with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the BC Ministry of Environment and Ducks Unlimited Canada. We would also like to thank the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for providing assistance through the Wildlife Viewing Network. This annual celebration of nature highlights the Brant goose which rests on the shores of Parksville and Qualicum Beach during migration. Events included nature tours, marsh walks, birding, and other activities for people to learn more about nature. The festival received wonderful support from volunteers, local naturalist groups and businesses.



CONSERVATION PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

Below are some of our key partners in 2007 who provided funding for property acquisitions, support for land management, and ongoing assistance to allow us to continue our work.













Ducks Unlimited Canada















THE NATURE TRUST OF BC

North Vancouver Office

Marian Adair Habitat Ecologist
Laurie Desrosiers Finance Manager

Janice Dixon Administrative & Development Assistant

Jim Hope BC Conservation Land Manager
Deborah Kennedy Development & Communications

Tracy Loewen Fundraising & Special Events Coordinator

Jason Northcott Conservation Specialist
Patrick Oswald Leadership Giving

Sunipa Rassameeuthai Finance & Office Assistant
Robin Rivers Communications Manager
Doug Walker Chief Executive Officer
Leanna Warman Ecosystem Specialist

Cranbrook

Rob Neil East Kootenay Conservation Land Manager

Nanaimo

Tim Clermont Crown Land Securement Coordinator

Tom Reid Vancouver Island Conservation Land Manager

Oliver

Carl MacNaughton South Okanagan Conservation Land Manager

Front cover photo donated by Vancouver Island Conservation Land Manager of bis children at Swan Lake tree planting in Victoria. His children are also pictured on Gabriola Island on page 9 and inside back cover.

Graham Osborne donated the use of his photos on back cover (Peace River), page 1 (Hoodoos), page 3 (Adams River), page 5 (Fraser River), page 6 left and right (Englishman River and Vaseux Lake), page 7 left and right (Hoodoos and Cameron Lake), pages 16/17, and pages 22/23.

Andrew Klaver donated the use of his photos on the inside front cover.

Terry-Lou Kleger donated the use of her photos of Rock Creek on pages 10 and 11.

Mike Yip donated the use of his Brant goose photo on page 22.

All other photos taken by Nature Trust staff and partners.

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