



Celebrating 45 Years and 175,000 Acres

The Nature Trust of BC's Cowichan River property

The Nature Trust of British Columbia has just achieved a major milestone. With your help 175,000 acres of beautiful BC have been conserved.

The Nature Trust of BC began 45 years ago. Our first acquisition was grassland habitat in Grand Forks. Our latest is a package of 6 properties located across our province (see page 2 for details). Each of these 480 properties helps to protect the unique biological diversity of our province.

BC is the most biologically diverse province in Canada. And we have some of the world's largest populations of species such as Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats and Bald Eagles. This natural richness makes BC one of the best places in the world to live.

Approximately 6% of the land base in British Columbia is privately owned. However, there is a disproportionate number of species and ecosystems at risk in the low elevation

areas such as valley bottoms and coastal lowlands where most of the private land is located and most people live.

This is where The Nature Trust plays a significant role in acquiring and managing private land for conservation. This is made possible through partnerships with other conservation organizations, various levels of government and people like you.

Thank you for making our 45th anniversary extra special!

Annual giving is the most effective way to ensure The Nature Trust of BC continues to sustain our special natural surroundings in BC. If you would like to donate, call us at 604-924-9771 (or toll free 1-866-288-7878) or visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca.



South Winchelsea Island



Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor

45th Anniversary Land Acquisition Project

For a number of years, The Nature Trust of BC worked with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and others to ensure conservation properties owned by The Land Conservancy of BC, which experienced financial difficulties, would be protected. We are happy to announce that The Nature Trust has acquired six of these ecologically significant properties with the help of the Grayross Foundation, the Sitka Foundation and many individual donors.

South Winchelsea Island is one of 19 islands located in the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago. This property is recognized as having national and international significance for its biodiversity values. Its 10.4 hectares (25 acres) are largely of a relatively undisturbed Garry Oak-Arbutus ecosystem. The island is being managed as an ecological reserve. There are several red and blue-listed species, including species of buttercup and lichens. The island is also a nesting and resting place for many species of birds, and California and Steller Sea Lions frequently use the shores around



Peachcliff Conservation Area

the north end as a haul-out area.

The **Nanaimo River properties** are 56 hectares (138 acres) of old growth Douglas-fir forest and are integral to commercial and recreational fisheries associated with the Nanaimo River and Haslam Creek. The Nanaimo River is rated as one of the top steelhead rivers for anglers on Vancouver Island. The intact riparian zone along the river forms an important transition between aquatic and terrestrial environments, providing water, food and shelter for fish and wildlife. These properties will add to The Nature Trust of BC's investment in this river system where we have already conserved 141.3 hectares (349 acres) to protect the estuary.

The Nature Trust of BC will increase its investment in the protection of **Squitty Bay** on Lasqueti Island by adding an undivided interest in this property to our conservation holdings. The Ministry of Environment acquired the property in 2007 with financial support from various partners including The Nature Trust of British Columbia and TLC. Protecting the property resulted in a four-fold increase in the size of Squitty Bay Provincial Park from 13 hectares (32 acres) to more than 51 hectares (126 acres). This land is in the Coastal Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone, and includes uncommon plant communities and foreshore habitats.

The 17.2 hectare (43 acre) **Peachcliff Conservation Area** is on the southeast side of Skaha Lake near Okanagan Falls. A variety of habitats occur in the area including grasslands, cliffs and talus slopes, supporting many rare and endangered

species. This property is important bighorn sheep habitat, providing excellent escape terrain, ledges for lambing, winter forage and connectivity between the Vaseux and Skaha herds. The land to the north is owned by The Nature Trust as part of our Okanagan Falls Biodiversity Ranch Property Complex.

The **Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor** is 380 hectares (940 acres) of rare Ponderosa Pine/Bunchgrass habitat in the East Kootenay Rocky Mountain Trench near Kimberley. The combination of dry grasslands, moist depressions, river frontage and pine-covered hilltops makes this property highly desirable as a wildlife corridor for mule deer and elk.

We would welcome your help with ongoing land management costs. To make a donation or for more information, visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca, call our office toll free at 1-866-288-7878 (604-924-9771 in the Vancouver area) or email info@naturetrust.bc.ca.



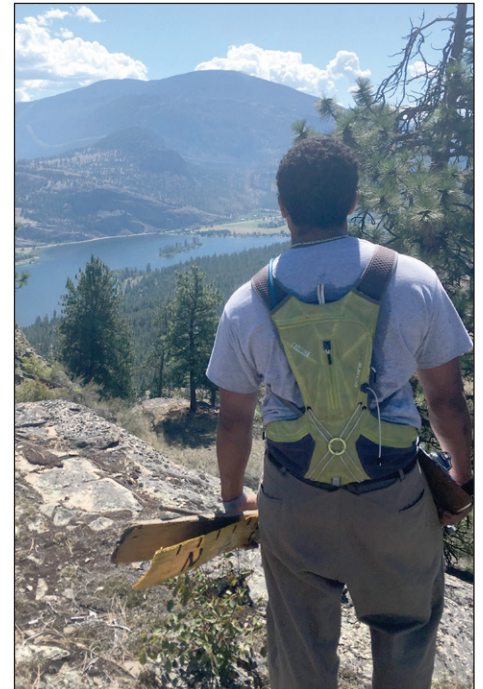
Nanaimo River

Conservation Youth Crews

The Nature Trust of BC hired young people in four regions this summer: Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Kootenay. These crew members learned about land conservation while undertaking on-the-ground projects such as restoring habitat, installing signs, removing invasive weeds and monitoring plants and wildlife on over 75 properties.

The Nature Trust was pleased to have

HSBC Bank Canada as the lead supporter of the HSBC Conservation Youth Crew program for the eleventh year in a row. Other supporters include BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Canada Summer Jobs (Service Canada), Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Great-West Life, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, and The Tony Cartledge Fund.



"My favourite activity was photo-monitoring as we got to go on many hikes and visit different areas across the South Okanagan."
—Quinn Ramsay, Okanagan Crew



"My favourite activity was grizzly bear hair sampling to determine the number of grizzlies in the region. Grizzly bears are apex predators and are important to maintaining a healthy ecosystem."

—Axel Chore, Kootenay Crew



"I have always loved animals, plants and nature. I realized that the best way to protect them is to protect their habitat."

—Candy Lo, Lower Mainland Crew



A freshly-hatched Common Nighthawk



An adult Common Nighthawk roosting

Nightjar Bird Surveys

The Nature Trust of British Columbia awarded WildResearch with the 2016 Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund to study Roadside Monitoring of Nightjar Populations in BC's Grasslands, which includes the threatened Common Nighthawk. The Common Nighthawk is an aerial insectivore that feeds on a wide variety of insects at dusk or dawn. It feeds primarily on flying ants and beetles by locating them with its excellent night vision. This species is declining in number due to threats associated with decreasing insect populations (as a consequence of pesticide usage), habitat loss (as a consequence of development, intensive agriculture and fire suppression), and increasing populations of predators such as skunks, raccoons, domestic cats, crows, and ravens.

The Roadside Monitoring project will comprise two phases.

The first includes citizen science surveys of BC's grasslands along existing survey routes. The second phase will include collection of autonomous recording unit (ARU) data along roadsides and away from roadsides to understand whether roadside surveys bias nightjar detections. Studying potential roadside bias will allow for the calculation of correction estimates for population density and trend analyses. ARUs will be deployed on select Nature Trust properties in the Okanagan and Thompson-Nicola. Data will be analyzed and reported upon by undergraduate students at the University of Alberta, providing learning opportunities for young ecologists. More information regarding the citizen science Nightjar Surveys being organized by WildResearch can be found at www.naturetrust.bc.ca/about-us/community-support/scholarships-funds/.

Odlum Brown Land Acquisition Fund



Debra Hewson, President and CEO of Odlum Brown Limited

At our recent Gala Debra Hewson, President and CEO of Odlum Brown Limited, congratulated The Nature Trust of British Columbia on our 45th anniversary. She highlighted the lengthy connection between the two organizations going back to the founder of Odlum Brown, Tom Brown. Tom served on the board of The Nature Trust for 21 years and was one of our original directors. He was instrumental in establishing The Nature Trust as the fiscally responsible land conservation force that it is today. In recognition of The Nature Trust's 45th anniversary, Debra announced the Odlum Brown Land Acquisition Fund would be established with a gift of \$45,000. These funds will be used to acquire properties in the areas, where Odlum Brown has offices: on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley and the Okanagan.

Donations of publicly traded securities to The Nature Trust of BC are managed by Odlum Brown Limited. If you would like to learn about donating shares, please contact Scott Reston at 604-669-1600.

John Woodworth: Conservation Advocate

By Robin Woodworth

Congratulations to The Nature Trust of BC on 45 years of work to conserve significant natural areas in BC. One of The Nature Trust's founding directors, my father John Woodworth served on the board for 25 years. He volunteered many hours as a private pilot and trained architect-planner to assist The Nature Trust in assessing potential sites and building alliances with local conservationists. Supporting science-based evaluation to select the best strategic lands for purchase across BC, he continued to increase awareness of deserving candidates in the Okanagan and Kootenays.

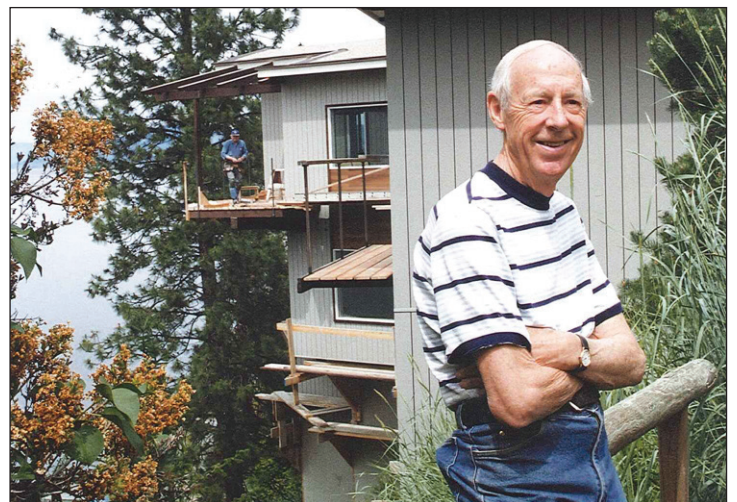
The Nature Trust's recent acquisition of more Antelope-brush between Oliver and Okanagan Falls pleases our family, since it extends Vaseux Lake conservation lands John had worked to establish since the 1960's as one of the founders of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society (OSPS). With other OSPS volunteers, he also helped protect the Osoyoos Biotic reserve and persuaded the government to establish the 85,000-acre Cathedral Provincial Park above Keremeos and the 28,000-acre Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park near Kelowna. In 1975 for OSPS he wrote "Is Everything All Right Up There," documenting through air and ground photos the extent of clearcut logging in Okanagan watersheds.

To build a national alliance for conservation in western Canada, John approached the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). OSPS became the agent for Nature Conservancy projects in BC and Alberta, extending NCC work into the west. John became an NCC trustee in 1970 and later served as national chair, working on projects from BC to Nova Scotia.

In 1974, John helped found the Alexander Mackenzie Trail Association to protect the eulachon grease trail that Mackenzie followed to the Pacific Ocean in 1793. Their advocacy helped save

the ancient Nuxalk-Carrier trade route from logging. Through NCC, John managed federal contracts for survey and planning of what became a 450-km linear park in 1988, the first designated under the BC *Heritage Act*. Advocating nationally for designation of the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route to link Canada from sea to sea to sea, he eventually secured official route proclamations by each province from Quebec to BC, by NWT and by Canada. John's last conservation work was in his hometown of Kelowna where he died in 2012.

John's great energy and skills in writing, presentation and forming alliances made him an effective advocate for habitat and heritage conservation. His awards in recognition of 40 years of volunteer work include the Order of Canada, the Gabrielle Leger Award from Heritage Canada and an honorary Doctorate of Laws from UBC Okanagan.



John Woodworth in front of the Okanagan home he designed

The Nature Trust of British Columbia Celebrating 45 Years of Land Conservation



Thank you to all our sponsors, guests and donors who helped raise funds at the Gala for our land conservation projects

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Pianist Annabelle Paestch and singer Jason Cook with Fazioli piano from Showcase Pianos



The Honourable Lieutenant Governor of BC Judith Guichon and guests



Stephen Partington's Gold table



Nature Trust Chair Peter Arcese with Manon Poitras receiving the 2016 Conservation Champion Award on behalf of HSBC Bank Canada and Nature Trust CEO Jasper Lament

The Joy of Giving Now

Educator, economist, and forester, Dr. Peter Pearse wanted to give back in a way that would support his passion for nature. And instead of leaving a gift in his will, he decided to experience the joy of giving now. We are honoured that Peter chose The Nature Trust of BC as one of his charities of choice. “I like The Nature Trust because of its basic purpose and its careful management of donor’s money.”

Peter’s extraordinary gift will help The Nature Trust conserve ecologically sensitive land on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. This is the Coastal Douglas-fir region with its impressive forests that are also among the most imperiled ecosystems in British Columbia.

Growing up on a small ranch near Vernon, Peter’s connection with nature started at an early age. With the encouragement of a school counselor, he enrolled at the University of British Columbia where he studied forestry. “When I was a kid, forests were regarded as obstacles to farming, but at UBC I became fascinated with their value to us, and how they should be managed,” he recalls. Then, with a degree and a scholarship in hand, he went to the University

“I like The Nature Trust of BC
because of its basic purpose and its careful
management of donor’s money.”

of Edinburgh where he earned a Master’s and a PhD in Economics. Eventually, Peter was offered a position at UBC, his old alma mater, where he spent his career as a professor of both forestry and economics.

Peter’s expertise in economics and forestry helped shape natural resource policy in Canada. Over the years, he conducted several public enquiries, including Royal Commissions on British Columbia’s forest resources and Canada’s Pacific fisheries. In 1976, his review of BC’s forest policy made sweeping recommendations that resulted in new legislation including a new *Forest Act*, *Range Act*, *Ministry of Forests Act* and a revised forest tenure system. Later he investigated Canada’s Pacific fisheries where overfishing was threatening salmon and other species. Drawing on his forestry background, Peter proposed assigning each fisherman a share of the sustainable harvest -a quota system which has now been successfully adopted not only in Canada but in other fishing nations as well. He has received many awards including the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal and the Order of Canada.

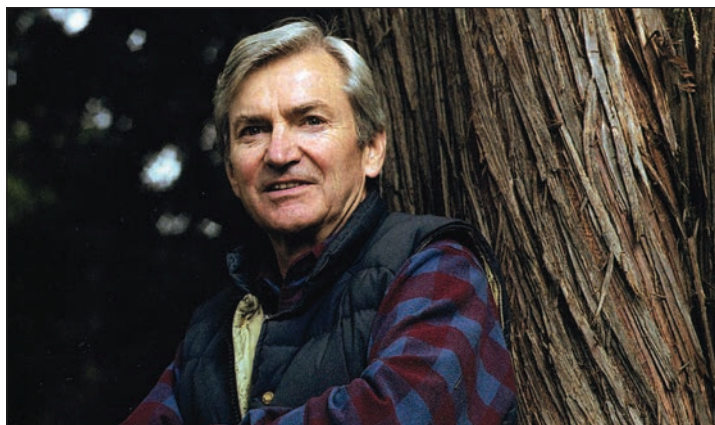
Peter’s involvement with The Nature Trust of BC goes back many



Squitty Bay on Lasqueti Island

years. On a visit to Lasqueti Island as a “starving student” in the 1950’s he found land for sale everywhere. As on other Gulf Islands in the post war period, Lasqueti’s population was declining as settlers were being bought out by loggers who took the timber and then tried to re-sell the logged land, often for very low prices. “So I picked up a lovely 6 hectares of waterfront for peanuts” where, over the years, he and his family built a log house, surrounded by a carefully tended forest woodlot.

Just down the road from the Pearses’ place, on the southeastern tip of Lasqueti, is the strikingly beautiful Squitty Bay. Though small (“squitty” is Newfoundland fishermen’s jargon for “tiny”) it nevertheless affords fishers and boaters a safe haven from the surrounding exposed and stormy waters of Georgia Strait. Peter



Peter Pearse

always felt that Squitty Bay should be a marine park, and BC Parks agreed as did the American owner of the bay and an extensive area surrounding it.

The opportunity arose when the American neighbor died, leaving instructions to give Peter the first opportunity to purchase his Lasqueti properties. With the agreement of BC Parks that it would purchase Squitty Bay from him, Peter accepted the offer. But, alas, BC Parks was caught up in a budget squeeze, and so it turned to The Nature Trust to buy the precious bay and lease it back to them to create a marine park.

To arrange this, Peter soon found himself in the office of Bert Hoffmeister, retired chair of MacMillan Bloedel and founding chair of The Nature Trust of BC. Peter remembers him as an impressive man and their common interest in forests and forestry made for good conversation. He was also an adept negotiator. “He explained to me that he’d have to find donors to provide some additional funds for this project, and by the time I left his office he had persuaded me to contribute the shortfall.”

Over the years since then, The Nature Trust has acquired more land surrounding Squitty Bay, forming today’s Squitty Bay Provincial Park. “I am very pleased that it is a park,” says Peter.

Now, Peter has honoured The Nature Trust of BC with another extraordinary gift, this time to continue our land conservation work in our treasured province of British Columbia. This gift will leave a lasting legacy to nature and benefit generations to come. Thank you, Peter, for your conservation leadership.

Earth Wind Fire 2016

Thank you for a fabulous evening filled with wonderful memories and for supporting our land conservation work in the Okanagan.



Event co-chairs Dr. Brent Corlazzoli, Tom Kennedy and Tod Alstad



Guests enjoying chef stations



The amazing ice cream station



MC T.J. and committee member Don Burnett



Stan Jack and his family

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For a complete list of wineries, chefs and auction donors, please visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca

Photos by Michael Hintringer



Chef Stu Klassen, Nature Trust CEO Jasper Lament and Chef Jane Ruddick



Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

This year for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup the Lower Mainland Conservation Youth Crew walked a total of 48 km, and picked up 137 kg of garbage on six Nature Trust properties. Some of the more common items included food wrappers, plastic bags, plastic bits and beverage cans. Some of the more interesting items were tents, flippers, clothing, coolers, shotgun shells and a message in a bottle. We held a GCSC event on our Boundary Bay property which 16 people attended.



Sheep Mountain Work Party

In May the BC Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers held their first “boots on the ground” habitat enhancement work party on The Nature Trust of BC’s Sheep Mountain conservation property south of Elko in the Kootenay. Enthusiastic participants showed up with work gloves, fencing pliers and other gear to remove old barbed wire fencing to make the area safe for wildlife. Thanks to everyone who helped.

| new board members



Emily Griffiths-Hamilton, CPA, CA, is an Investment Advisor at Hamilton & Associates of BMO Nesbitt Burns. She is President and founder of Griffiths Hamilton Family Office Advisors and author of *Build Your Family Bank: A Winning Vision for Multi-generational Wealth*. Born and raised in BC, her commitment to the community includes serving as a Director of The Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs of South Coast BC and Chair of SFU’s Foundation Board.



Richard Wood chose British Columbia for its nature. He is a pilot, hiker, skier and kite surfer. Until 2001, he founded and ran Wood & Company, the leading Central and Eastern European investment bank from a base in Prague. He now manages an investment fund specializing in those transitioning countries. Prior to that, he was a Vice-President of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank. Richard chairs the Board of Governors at Crofton House School.



The Nature Trust
of British Columbia

45 Years of Land Conservation

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
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Jasper Lament, PHD
Chief Executive Officer

The Nature Trust of British Columbia

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