

The CVLT Newsletter

Fall 2004
Number 10

What's New at The Comox Valley Land Trust

"Creating a Local Legacy of Lands and Resources"

WHAT'S NEW

• **"MASTERS GREENWAY & WILDLIFE CORRIDOR"** • Ruth Masters has donated 16 acres of beautiful forest land along the Puntledge River to the Regional District. She has ensured protection of the land forever by requesting that CVLT, in conjunction with the Land Conservancy of BC, hold a conservation covenant on it. A member of one of the original pioneering families of the Valley, Ruth has spent her life fighting for the preservation of the natural world, and her outspoken remarks, biting wit, and gentle sarcasm have made her a legend to Valley residents. The new Greenway is a special place as it is part of her old family homestead, and she is intimately connected with the wildlife and great trees that form this refuge on the city's northwestern boundary. The Corridor follows the steep cliffs along the upper Puntledge, and connects the BC Hydro trails to Comox Lake with the City of Courtenay greenway along the Puntledge River. CVLT has always been grateful to Ruth for being such a valuable supporter. We want to thank her again for the amazing legacy that she has given to the Comox Valley - now and for future generations!



• **CAMPAIGN FOR THE REDIRECTION OF LANNAN PLEDGES** • The Lannan Forest Campaign generated amazing community support, and although we did not save it, we want to ensure that effort goes to the retention of other important natural areas. If they so choose, pledgers are being invited to consider three redirection options☐

1. *Cumberland Community Forest Purchase Fund*
2. *CVLT's Land Purchase Contingency Fund* – to give the community a head start on the next "Lannan Forest"
3. *Conservation Covenant Fund* – to help CVLT permanently protect environmentally significant land with conservation covenants

The campaign's timeline and a CVLT supportive article were coordinated with Cumberland Community Forest Society's October 1st media release. Letters and pledge redirection forms were mailed the following day. *Thanks to the team of 8 volunteers who stuffed 415 envelopes for the mailout!*

• **ONE-SPOT TRAIL • Back Country Horsemen Section** (from Cessford north to Burns Rd.) – Trail is largely completed; some fine-tuning and surfacing are needed. **RDCS Section** (from Burns Rd. north to Dove Creek Rd.)☐ Grading and surfacing underway; fencing almost completed. **CVLT Section** (from Dove Creek north to the Tsolum River) – A huge thank you to the many volunteers who have supported us in this section, and to the generosity of local contractors and suppliers (We'll have more on this later!). The 800 meters north of Dove Creek have been brushed, graveled, graded, ditched, with 4 culverts and 2 bollards installed. Just north of Orr Road, an 18 foot bridge, design completed by Terry Fright, may be completed by the time you read this! Krista Kaptein has designed great interpretive signs along the trail for areas of historic and ecological interest.

Shad Kelly coordinated the planting of native species in several areas along the Trail. Special thanks to Vanier students, as well as other CVLT volunteers. Signage and planting for enriched habitat were paid for by the Real Estate Foundation of BC. {Trail Opening Date – TBA}

• **CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST** • The deadline for the purchase of this 250 acres looms December 5. The land has been appraised, an environmental assessment completed, and a multifaceted fundraising campaign begun. Shaw cable programming featured the campaign called, "The future of the forest is in your hands;" newspaper ads were placed; a Cumberland door-to-door campaign was held Oct. 6 and 9; a new website can be viewed at www.cumberlandforest.com; and a post office box mailout is scheduled. The CCFS has access to \$600,000 of the \$1,000,000 needed to meet its goals. Call 897-9781 to sign up as a monthly donor or donate to this fantastic project.

• **WHYTE'S BAY** • The Whyte's Bay Community Forest Society researched the feasibility of a sustainable logging operation in the Whyte's Bay Forest, a 550 hectare parcel of prime second growth forest adjacent to the Cumberland Community Forest. The goal was to purchase the forest to maintain its environmental and historical integrity, and to register a covenant. The stumbling block, of course, was funds. Consideration was given to form-



Bulletin Board

• **"FIESTA" – NOV. 20TH** at St. George's United Church • gift shopping for a greener, more equitable world. CVLT sells drinks and baked goods. Your contributions of goodies will be gratefully received. Drop them off at the church by 9 AM on NOV. 20TH or phone Diana at 337-8397.

• **TRIVIA NIGHT – FRIDAY, NOV. 26** • This event is fun and also a fundraiser for the Cumberland Community Forest Society. Call Andrew at 897-9781 for place and time.

• **ANNUAL PLANT SALE – DATE TBA** 
• It's not a moment too soon to be potting up for next spring's sale. Plants started now will reward you (and CVLT we hope!) with beautiful growth by spring. Phone Diana at 337-8397 if you can help.

According to the Canadian Council on Social Development, nonprofit and voluntary organizations derive their main income from three sources:

Ø *Government* • CVLT has received gaming funds from the Province and grants-in-aid from the Regional District. These amounts have been small in the past 4 years and are not guaranteed. The gaming application is becoming more complex. This year we received \$5,000.

Ø *Earned Income* • This has never been a big source of funds because our membership fees are low and we do not have a large variety of products for sale (although we still have lots of cards and T-shirts (\$20) which would make good Christmas gifts). *Get ready for our Quilt Raffle in 2005.*

Ø *Private Giving* • This is the money that comes from individuals, companies, and foundations. During the last 2 years

we have received money from Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Real Estate Foundation. These foundation funds are tied to a particular project and generally do not provide stable base funding for the administrative work related to our purpose and goals (this work is done with hundreds of volunteer hours).

The majority of Land Trust funding continues to come from our friends and family - those folks who believe in the CVLT's mission and goals and want our work to continue to protect greenspace for the people of the Comox Valley now and in the future.

We have an ambitious program for the next 2 years and your continued support will allow us to green up the Valley. PLEASE consider a monthly donation to provide a stable funding base for this work.

Donation Receipts

Receipts are issued for fees & donations of \$20 or more

We would like to acknowledge the receipt of a significant gift from the Estate of the late Melda Buchanan. Melda was a long time member and supporter of the Land Trust. CVLT will also be working with Melda's executors to put covenants on some of the property left in her will. We'll have more information on this in our next newsletter.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • MAY 17

Too bad if you missed it! Our AGM was one of the hottest meetings of the year. Our thanks to the guest speaker, Andrew Gage of the *Westcoast Environmental Law Society* who spoke on the Provincial Government's disposition of Crown lands. He

explained the history and mandate of the present Land and Water BC, and spoke about Lannan Forest as a specific example of marketing Crown Lands on Vancouver Island. In addition to over 60 CVLT supporters, there was a contingent of irate residents from Qualicum Bay who came to find out more about protecting a large area of Crown Land slated for sale in their area.

CVLT Annual Garden Party

Members and volunteers are our most valuable resource and to show our appreciation, we have a summer party in Diana Caldwell's garden. This year's was held July 18th. Guest speaker, Harold Macy, focused on the importance of small scale sustainable forestry for the health of the natural environment. Then followed socializing, swimming in the Tsolum, a great potluck supper, and smooth music by John Erik Jazz.

Annual Plant Sale • May 8

The sale was a great success thanks to the tireless work of coordinators, Shirley Jorgensen and Joan Erickson. We'd also like to thank over 50 volunteers who came out to help, or who contributed all of the wonderful plants, trees, and shrubs. We *raised approximately \$2000!*

The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.

• Pope John Paul II, 1987

♥ Volunteer Corner

• submitted by Diana Caldwell

CVLT would like to thank the following volunteers for their help and dedication:

- ♥ The 52 people who helped with the Plant Sale, and most especially Shirley Jorgenson and Joan Erickson
- ♥ Gordie Fyfe for working so hard to get the One-Spot Trail up and running
- ♥ Alison Mewet, Brian Allaert, George & Wendy Protheroe, Pat Smith, Erik Taynen, Krista Kaptein, Shad Kelly, Pat Foster, Terry and Diana Fright, Bruno Hoever, Doug Warren, Chris Hilliar, Sharon Waldman, Liz Buckham, Susan Holvenstot, Catheryne Fyfe, Brian Miller, Bill Whittacker, Rick Model, Brie Neumann, Jerrica Lambrecht, Brittany Guillo, Mikaela Jorgensen, John Waters, Boondock Development, Central Builders, Ron McNaughton
- ♥ Linda McLean for all her creative work with our newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY • SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Duties • organize CVLT's presence at community events (eg. set up our Information booth, and make sure it is manned) • assist in recruiting volunteers • provide volunteer support and assistance • explore new possibilities for CVLT fundraising and profile building • This person should have the following attributes: good interpersonal skills, an interest in event planning and promotion, computer skills, an enthusiastic personality; previous organization and management skills helpful, but not necessary

WHAT'S NEW (cont'd)

ing a cooperative sustainable forestry operation. After consultation with professionals, the Board of Directors concluded that such an operation is unfeasible due to the high price of property. WBS will be dissolved. The goals and vision are still very much alive, but realizing the vision entails fundraising to purchase the land in advance, rather than having it pay for itself. WBCFS members will work with the CCFS to acquire, one parcel at a time, as much of the forests surrounding Cumberland as possible. *The Society thanks everyone who has so generously sup-ported this initiative.*

Note – In BC there are several successful woodlots and community forests using sustainable forestry models. These woodlots are financially viable as they are operated partly or wholly on crown land, without the need to purchase the land through timber sales. This is a crucial point, given the provincial government policy of selling our crown land.

• **LAND PROTECTION STRATEGY MOVING FORWARD** • “A glaring lack of understanding exists about the current state of land protection in the Comox Valley,” according to Jack Minard, CVLT Board member and Director of the Tsolum River Restoration Society (TRRS). This fact emerged after a meeting with BC's Nature Trust's Tim Clermont in 2003 to discuss Provincial acquisition of sensitive lands in the Comox Valley. It led to the development of the CVLT Land Protection Strategy Project, a partnership between CVLT, TRRS, Project Watershed, and other conservation groups. Jack compiled information from a variety of sources in a single Global Information System (GIS) map using the various map elements to create an overview of such things as parks, greenways, crown land and Provincial Forests, woodlots, recreational land uses, BC Hydro corridors, private Managed Forests, Agricultural Land Reserves, municipal returns to Crown, parks, and greenways both existing and in the planning stages. The preliminary map was displayed at the Fall Fair and met with much enthusiasm. Even in its early stages, the map begins to show areas of concern. These will be evaluated using prioritization criteria, and listed for protection. Smaller localized maps can now be produced from the larger overview map providing a remarkable tool to rationalize the strategic plan for protecting sensitive lands in the Valley. *The overview map can be observed at the Tsolum Site Facility off Farnham Road. Call Jack 337-5077.*

• **HURFORD HILL PARK SIGNAGE** • New interpretive signage has been installed at Hurford Hill Park, thanks to Susanne Bradfield and Andy MacDougall. CVLT is grateful to the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and the Gaming policy and Enforcement Branch (BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor-General) for funding this project.

• **SANDWICK FOREST COVENANT** • The Sandwick Waterworks District's 32-acre Sandwick Forest has finally been secured as a public nature park. The forest, still owned by Sandwick WD, is now a protected part of Courtenay, the covenant held jointly by CVLT and the Land Conservancy of BC. In addition, habitat compensation work for the red-legged frog is in progress. Biologist Joe Materi is recommending 5 years of monitoring by CVLT. Sandwick has other issues not related to frogs (i.e. compensation and access) that need to be resolved prior to the work being completed.

• **BLOOMFIELD COVENANT** • Ah...the slow grind through the bureaucracy..... The covenant on this riparian property on Millard Creek is now at the Agricultural Land Commission for approval.



One Yard At A Time

• submitted by Judy Walker

Everyday at work I have to save and redirect small creatures to a better environment outside. I am horrified at how many of us view with contempt these benign and usually valuable insects. Although we may not be smarter or more industrious than they, we outweigh these creatures several thousand times, and needn't fear that they will engulf our desk and eat our lunch. In this part of the world we have few insects to be wary of, and usually just treating them with respect and calm is all that is needed to avoid a bite or sting.

This summer I was overwhelmed with insects in the heat. The whole garden vibrated with so many small wasps, honeybees, spiders, butterflies, caterpillars, and scurrying beetles. And talking about beetles, most are a real treasure in the garden. These busy creatures are happiest when you have a well-mulched garden, with permanent areas of protection for them, rather than ruthless tilling of the whole area. "Bugs of BC" called the Bid Dinky Ground Beetle, "friend of the gardener and terror of insect life in the flower beds." Many wasp varieties eat huge amounts of aphids and other not so valued larvae. Knowing the lifecycles of insects is imperative to good gardening (and good living). Often a problem can be avoided just by planting between the cycles of a bothersome insect. Also recognizing what each life cycle looks like is useful, so you don't crush some valuable egg clusters of ladybugs in your zeal to "clean" up the garden. I failed dismally here in my early gardening days - I religiously went out and crushed all this green slime that I took to be cabbage moth egg clusters. I later discovered I was eliminating what the caterpillars had already eliminated... yes, I totally des-

stroyed their excrement - how useful!

Linda Gilkeson, co-author of "Insect, Disease & Weed I.D. Guide" admits that most plant damage is actually caused by physiological stress - not insects at all! So insects get a bad rap again when it's actually weed eater damage, or over watering, or boron deficiency that creates the original stress, and when the plant is weak, perhaps a wandering opportunistic insect may stop in for a snack. Healthy plants are the best prevention against unwanted insects. I don't actually do companion planting in my large fenced garden, but I plant a wide variety of insect-attracting plants to confuse the thugs and attract their predators. Predation is ongoing in your garden - and again, if you don't know when to "leave well enough alone" with a glob of tent caterpillars that has been parasitized by a great little wasp, then you will unwittingly kill off all those beneficial wasps that you need (so check those caterpillars for the white spot on their heads to indicate the wasp has laid eggs in them....and let nature take it's course!) If this all sounds like too much work to keep track of whose good, and whose eating who... just plant some specific great plants to help you out*, and sit back and enjoy the chewing, bustling, buzzing, flapping, and scurrying in your garden! (And those you find in your house, please relocate to your garden!)

*NOTE - Judy has provided a list of "Great Plants to Attract Insects" and "Useful Books." If you would like to receive this list by email, let Linda McLean know by November 17th at lindafaye@shaw.ca.

• Who's Who • at the Land Trust

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

- Shirley Ward, President
- Diana Caldwell, Vice-Pres
- Pam Munroe, Treasurer
- Peggy Carswell, Secretary

Directors-at-Large

- Grace Doherty
- John A. Edwards
- Terry Fright
- Jack Minard
- Eva Nagy
- Peggy Zimmerman

CONTRACTED STAFF

- Lynda Fyfe, covenant monitoring
- Odette Pinho, fundraising
- Angela Smailes, fundraising

• Board Meetings •

3rd Tuesday Monthly
7 - 9 PM
221 - 2270 Cliffe Avenue
(up back outdoor stairs
and follow signs
Members Welcome



• Land Trust Contact •

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Phone: (250) 338-1368
Email: cvlt@uniserve.com
Website:
www.communitythings.com/cvlt

"The most effective movements are those in which the functions and needs of the organization are met by the skills and interests of its members."

An enthusiastic and diverse group of people carry out the work of the Land Trust. The Board, volunteers, contracted staff, and our Advisory Committee provide the credibility, support, and human resources to accomplish our goals and meet our mandate. Just some of their many tasks.... planning, fundraising, educating, networking, filing, monitoring, bookkeeping, reporting.

If you're interested in getting involved... we'd be happy to hear from you!

CVLT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Ron Quilter
- Paul Jonson
- Edgar Smith
- Dan Thran
- Peter Gibson
- Kel Kelly
- Chris Hilliar
- Dr. Chris Pielou
- Angela Smailes
- Kathy Penner
- Les Cartwright
- Mark Fleming
- Sybille Walkemeyer
- Andrea Rowe
- Alison Mewett
- Ted Holekamp
- Sheilagh Sapruff
- Ronna-Rae Leonard

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PLEASE RECYCLE and pass it on to a friend or neighbour.