

The CVLT Newsletter

Spring 2005
Number 11

What's New at The Comox Valley Land Trust
"Creating a Local Legacy of Lands and Resources"

This is your Land Trust.
Find out how to work with your neighbours
to protect our green space.
Join us! Bring a friend!

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • INVITATION

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2005 – 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Evergreen Seniors' Lounge - Florence Filberg Centre

- ✓ Guest Speaker – TBA
- ✓ Update on Regional Conservation Strategy & other Land Trust activities
- ✓ Election of 2005/06 Board

WHAT'S NEW

• **CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST** • On March 15, the *Forest* became a reality! Over 100 acres of forest land were purchased with money raised by the Cumberland Community Forest Society with the strong support of CVLT and the local community, and with a generous and very welcome grant of \$100,000 from Mountain Equipment Co-op's Environment Fund. The Forest is now owned by the Village of Cumberland, and is protected in perpetuity by a conservation covenant held by CVLT and The Land Conservancy of BC. This maturing second-growth forest provides significant wildlife habitat and is home to approximately 12 threatened and endangered species, including great blue heron, sandhill crane, band-tailed pigeon, red-legged frog, and two species of bat. The steep forested slope provides natural ground and surface water control for drainage into Cumberland's wetland corridor. The forest has high recreational value, with an extensive trail network for mountain bikers, walkers and nature viewing, and roads used by horseback riders. The property also includes the Number 3 Mine entrance and other sites of historic interest. This is a community initiative to be proud of. *But please remember that fundraising for the Forest hasn't stopped with the March 15 purchase!* The CCFS must pay off the money borrowed to complete the purchase, and is raising funds to purchase 50 acres of adjacent forest land. CVLT is proud to continue helping with this important land acquisition. Over the past 3 years, more than \$150,000 has been donated to CVLT for this acquisition, including nearly \$40,000 redirected to the Cumberland Forest from the 2004 Lannan Forest campaign. CVLT currently handles contributions from over 130 monthly donors to the Cumberland Forest fund. Contact Mary Lynn Des Roches at 336-8628 for more information on the Cumberland Community Forest.

• **REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY PROJECT** • CVLT has received funding for our Regional Conservation Strategy project. This project (originally referred to as the "Land Protection Strategy") has been in the planning stage for over a year. Now, thanks to major grants from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Vancouver Foundation, and to local funding from the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and the Coastal Community Credit Union, we can launch the project. Effective February 2005, we have hired Lynda Fyfe as the Project Coordinator. Building on work already done by local government and by other conservation groups, and consulting with all sectors of the community, we will create a comprehensive overview of land protection opportunities in these land use categories - habitat, heritage, recreation, and sustainable working forests and farms. This will provide planners and local decision makers with tools to support sound and coordinated land use, growth strategy, and development decisions. It will help government community groups and developers identify common goals and undertake cooperative protection activities, and will ensure that our common protection efforts focus on areas most important to the community and most valuable for long-term environmental and human health. We look forward to working with local government, the Comox Indian Band, the agricultural community,

• Cont'd Page 2

ANNUAL PLANT SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 7
Comox Band Hall on Dyke Road • 10 AM to 1 PM



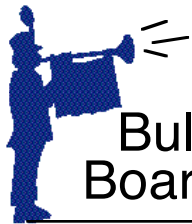
A MUST
TO MARK
ON YOUR
CALENDAR!

- ✿ huge selection of plants
- ✿ Master Gardener information table
- ✿ composting demo
- ✿ fish compost raffle

Donation of plants gratefully accepted at the Band Hall on Friday, May 6 from 5 PM to 8:30 PM

Call Diana at 337-8397 or Shirley at 334-2125 for information

If you would like to receive the CVLT newsletter by e-mail in PDF format, rather than a hard copy, please e-mail us at info@cvlandtrust.org



Bulletin Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 23 • CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY PLANT SALE –

Saturday, April 23, Old Cumberland Post Office, Dunsmuir Street. All plant donations are welcome. Call Ron Hansen, 336-2867, for info.

Watch the papers for a special event in May to celebrate the purchase of Cumberland Community Forest!

MAY 7 - ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

(see page 1)



JUNE 20 • CVLT Annual General Meeting

(see page 1)

JULY 18 • CVLT ANNUAL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY & POTLUCK

for Members, Volunteers, & their Families – 3 pm - 7 pm or later, Diana Caldwell's garden, 7147 Headquarters Road in Merville -- great food, music, swimming, and a special speaker.

• Quilt Fundraiser •

Over the summer keep an eye out for the venues where our quilt will be hanging out. (see page 3)

Fundraising is based on Friend Raising

CVLT gratefully acknowledges project funding from the following agencies:

- ◆ Real Estate Foundation of BC
- ◆ Vancouver Foundation
- ◆ B. C. Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
- ◆ Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
- ◆ Coastal Community Credit Union

• Donation Receipts •

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

• WHAT'S NEW • cont'd

the tourism and business sector, developers, stewardship groups, other community groups and landowners to create a sound land conservation strategy.

We want to be proactive in our approach to land conservation—let's save the next Lannan Forest before it's on the auction block!

For more information on the Regional Conservation Strategy project, contact Lynda Fyfe, Project Coordinator, 338-1368 or info@cvlandtrust.org.

"Think globally, act locally, but plan regionally."

Local municipalities must act with the understanding that the most meaningful planning occurs at the regional scale. This broad perspective stems less from a desire to help one's neighbors than from simple self-preservation – more than one community has seen its own planning efforts sabotaged by the actions of another town nearby. ... When making local planning decisions, a municipality must consider the impact of its initiatives on the entire region."

• Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, and Jeff Speck, *Suburban Nation*

• **NEW COVENANTS** • CVLT completed three conservation covenants during the past year--Sandwick Forest, Masters Greenway and Wildlife Corridor, and Cumberland Community Forest. Two more are near completion.

• **COVENANT MONITORING** • Annual monitoring for our five conservation covenants is scheduled for this summer. Regular compliance monitoring is critical to meeting our responsibility to protect covenanted lands forever.

• **SIGNAGE PROJECTS** • Interpretive signage funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC was installed in Hurford Hill Park and along the One Spot Trail.

CVLT continues to rely on the generosity of private donors to fund our ongoing core operations, including conservation covenant work. Continued support from our friends in the community is essential to the success of our mission to protect our natural and human land heritage. *Please consider a monthly donation* to provide a stable funding base for our work.

• **ONE SPOT TRAIL** • In July 2004, after months of preliminary meetings and planning, work began in earnest on Phase One of the Trail (Cessford Road to the Tsolum River). The Back Country Horsemen of BC co-coordinated the construction of the southern section of the trail from Cessford Road to Burns Road. The Regional District worked on the section between Burns Road north to Dove Creek Road. CVLT worked on the section from Dove Creek Road north to the Tsolum River. Lots of fill was needed in this section as well as brush work, culverts and a bridge. With the help of numerous volunteers, contractors, and donations of goods and services, a lot was accomplished before work was stopped by the Fall rains. Interpretive signage, funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, has recently been installed along the trail, and 2005 will see the completion of Phase One trail work. In the longer term, there is a potential to extend the trail south to Courtenay and north of the Tsolum River. *Wouldn't that be a dream come true!* Volunteer work parties, coordinated by CVLT and the Backcountry Horsemen, plan to be on site to finish trail work this spring. If you would like to help out contact Gordon Fyfe at 338-895

COFFEE ANYONE?



Did you know that you can support CVLT and help community development in Nicaragua by drinking gourmet coffee at bargain prices? World Community fair trade coffee is available at \$10 per 400g bag. Your purchase price is divided into: Nicaraguan farmers-\$4; packaging and shipping-\$3.20; Nicaraguan community development projects-\$.80; and CVLT-\$2. If you buy five bags, you earn CVLT \$10 and save \$10 off the normal commercial price. Dark and light roast as well as decaf beans or ground are delivered four times a year (June, September, December and March). To place an order (next delivery June 3) phone Erik Taynen at 337-8397.

♥ Volunteer Corner • submitted by Diana Caldwell

We gratefully acknowledge the work of the following volunteers since our last newsletter – Claudia Boyce, Don Castleden, Don Chamberlain, Dawn Christian, Joanne Ellefson, Diana Fright, Gordie Fyfe, Chris Hilliar, Katherine Hooton, Michele Jones, Krista Kaptein, Shad Kelly and Erica Wilson, Katimavik volunteers, Wendy Kotilla and Becca, Rene Lenoix, Linda McLean, Patti Matthews, Karen Melnyk, Norma Morton, Sharon Niscak, Chris Pielou, Odete Pinho, Julie Servant, Mackenzie Sillem, Angela Smailes, and to all those who helped at Fiesta or donated baking (We made \$600.). Thanks both to Frontrunner Technologies and to Ellen Rainwalker for helping sort out problems with our cranky office computer ...And a special thanks to our Advisory Board and to our hardworking Board of Directors!

As interest grows in preserving greenspace in the Valley, our list of volunteers is also increasing steadily. More than ever, CVLT needs an experienced **Volunteer Coordinator** to match these volunteers with jobs in our organization, and to provide training and follow-up. Basic requirements for this position include experience in working with the public; efficient organizational and computer skills; and a willingness to learn more about CVLT and its activities, and to work as a team member with our staff and Board. If you are interested, please contact Diana Caldwell at 337-8397.

COMOX VALLEY LEGACIES QUILT

CVLT is the recipient of the Comox Valley Community Quilters' annual donation of a king-sized quilt to raffle as a fundraiser. The 40 squares were finished in March and the quilt will be ready by the end of May. Odete Pinho, volunteer fundraiser and quilter, is coordinating the project along with Board member, Grace Doherty. Several businesses are enthusiastic about displaying the quilt and selling tickets. From June to October it will also travel to events such as the Filberg Festival and MusicFest. The draw will be in early October. Other quilt recipients have made \$5,000 - \$7,000.... We are optimistic about topping that. The theme of the quilt is "Living Legacies of the Comox Valley." For more information, contact Grace Doherty 339-6392.



MASTERS GREENWAY & WILDLIFE CORRIDOR THANK YOU, RUTH!

On behalf of CVLT, and everyone who loves the natural beauty of the Valley, a very special thank you to **Ruth Masters** for her gift of the Masters Greenway and Wildlife Corridor. This beautiful forest on the banks of the Puntledge is a lasting legacy for the Valley—Ruth truly is the Citizen of the Year!



Taking the Next Step

• submitted by Peggy Zimmerman

Since Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring* in 1962, scientists have published mounting evidence of the environmental damage resulting from unbridled and short-sighted human activities. But pursuit of the dollar and ever-rising consumerism have continued to be as the way of the world in the face of these scientific facts.

However, gaining the ear of politicians and corporate leaders about the need to consider "the way of the earth" may finally be on the horizon. The relatively new area of ecological valuation is speaking a language these controlling interests understand, namely, the language of money. Since the mid-1990's, a range of studies have been tackling the difficult task of putting dollar figures on both the direct values (e.g., timber, food, recreation) and indirect values (e.g., regulation of climate, habitat for pollinating insects) of nature's goods, services, and functions. In addition, the cash costs associated with pollution effects, depletion of nonrenewable resources, and restoration work are being tallied.

In June 2004, the Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) released a report advocating the next logical step--incorporating these ecological values into economic analyses. Entitled *Safeguarding Canada's Wealth: Bringing Stewardship and Conservation into Ecological, Economic Valuation*, it calls for "full cost accounting" to "assess the most economical use of natural capital." Drawing on the studies of the past 10 years, the report supports the need for today's economic models to be updated with ecological valuing methods. Some of nature's goods and services being factored into these models include soil formation, nutrient cycling, flood and storm protection, water regulation and supply, atmospheric gas balancing, and genetic research. According to one study "a healthy and intact ecosystem is estimated to provide 100 times more value than when altered or developed."

The LTABC report also notes specific suggestions for adjusting fiscal and political policies to reflect the realities of the emerging ecological economics. These include tax shifting, transferring subsidies to environmentally sustainable industries, ending capital gain taxes on donated lands, and increasing government funding of the NGO stewardship and conservation groups.

The proverbial bottom line of the report is that healthy economies depend on healthy ecosystems. Sweden and other countries are beginning to make the necessary changes toward sustainable futures through policies and practices that account for nature's values. However, the environmental protection ratings of Canada, and especially British Columbia,



One Yard (and house!) At A Time

• submitted by Judy Walker

This year's title for the Saving Small Town Conference in Cumberland is "Small, Smart and Sustainable: the Only Way to Grow." While creating the title, Alison Mewett and I discussed using the words "small" and "grow" in the same line, which made me stop to think about why it made sense.

"Small" is not a matter of population size but rather a matter of perception and scale. The City of Courtenay says it is not a small town because it has a certain population; Cortes Island says they have no small towns, although they have delightful small village-like centres. I would ignore all the arguments of "are too, are not" and open the discussion to what attracts us to "small." What is the quality, the scale, the detail, the complexity that makes it "small?" What if there was a town of 500 people but 25 big box stores--we might hesitate to call it a village with all the parking and monolithic buildings. And what if there was a city of 50,000 with vibrant main streets, with smaller retail areas in various neighbourhoods? And what if there were great walking and bike paths all over that city, connecting a system of greenways and parks, and the local roads were a smart 7 metres of pavement? Wouldn't you say, "I love visiting (or living) in this small town--It's been developed for people!"?

So I know (and I'm not alone!) that what we often find comfortable and attractive is a result of designing to human scale. It's what makes our own homes and yards, with our individual qualities exposed, so interesting. Allan Jacobs, a famous urban planner and professor who wrote "Great Streets," asked someone at one of his lectures to describe the

perfect street. This person proceeded to describe a modern wide suburban street, with a 20 metre right-of-way, 11 metres of paving with parking on both sides, and 2 travel lanes. He then asked her to describe her "favourite" street and she proceeded excitedly to talk about a tiny lane in England, where 2 cars could barely pass and flower pots hung out over the street. Then she stopped in dismay when she realized that the 2 views were at opposite ends of the spectrum. We are often attracted to this unique, manageable scale, where our surroundings fit us, they don't own us (now that I have used Hwy 401, I do understand the need for some hierarchy of roads!).

Large and monumental buildings, such as churches in past centuries, were designed and built to inspire awe. I somehow doubt that walking in through the magnificent green arches of E-Foods provides the same humble feeling, other than to realize with a sinking feeling that you won't get much for that \$20 bill.

So designing "small" is to design with scale and detail, make it complex when required for function or for protection of the environment or both-- don't decorate it for Disney-sake. As the Comox Valley continues to increase in population and successful businesses, I believe we can grow and feel "small"; we can accommodate people, who like most of us, came for the climate, the greenspace, the ocean, the rivers, for work, family and the "small" town feel.

Become a champion of problem-solving through great human-scale design and we can all grow and stay "small"!

• TAKING THE NEXT STEP • cont'd

are losing ground based on a number of sources cited in the LTABC report. It is none too soon to adjust outdated economic models so that natural capital is recognized as what "creates the true health and wealth of current and future Canadians."

The new ecological valuation and economic methodologies are providing facts in terms of cold, hard cash. If money talks, the ecological economist is finding plenty to say. For more details, the LTABC report, funded by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, Environment Canada and Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, can be viewed at www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/research.

COMOX VALLEY LAND TRUST • MISSION

We believe the natural and human heritage of the Comox Valley is a living trust.

THE CVLT NEWSLETTER is designed and produced by CVLT Volunteers.
PLEASE RECYCLE and pass it on to a friend or neighbour.

• Who's Who • at the Land Trust

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

- Peggy Carswell
- Grace Doherty
- John Edwards
- Terry Fright
- Jack Minard
- Eva Nagy

STAFF

- Lynda Fyfe, Project Coordinator, Regional Conservation Strategy

CONTRACTORS

- Michele Jones--Baseline reports, Masters Greenway & Cumberland Community Forest
- Project Watershed--Baseline mapping

• BOARD EXPANSION •

In 2005/06 CVLT is expanding & strengthening its Board • If you would like to serve, contact Shirley Ward – 337-1929

• Membership •

If you aren't already a member of the CVLT, please consider joining. If you are a member, we need your continued support.

• Board Meetings •

3rd Tuesday Monthly
6:30 - 9 PM
Large Board Room
221 - 2270 Cliffe Avenue
Members Welcome

• Land Trust Contact •

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