



HAT Chat

THE NEWSLETTER OF HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST



"Imagine my excitement and embarrassment when a large bear print greeted me from the mud"

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Wedding Raises \$10,000 for Great Beaver Swamp

On July 28, Kate Emmings, HAT staff member of two years, was married to long-time partner Keith Erickson. The wedding was an all day affair, spanning two islands: Pender Island, the home of Kate's parents, and Galiano Island at the home of the bride and groom. The forest and ocean-backed ceremony featured local sunflowers arranged by HAT's ED Jennifer Eliason.


But this wedding was not just a regular nuptial - Kate and Keith decided to turn their special day into a fundraiser for the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island. "Our community and Galiano Island's natural beauty have been a big part of our lives together," says Kate Emmings, HAT Land and Finance Officer. "We wanted to find a way for our wedding to reflect these connections."

"While reading through *Green Legacies: A Donor's Guide for B.C.*, Kate stumbled upon a story about an island couple who asked that donations be made to the Nature Trust in their honour as a wedding gift," says Keith Erickson, Conservation Coordinator with the Galiano Conservancy Association. "We thought that this could be our way of giving back to the community and the land where we live."

The couple asked guests to consider a donation to the acquisition of the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island as a wedding gift. HAT agreed to match donations with its Acquisition Fund. The combined effort raised

\$10,000 towards the acquisition of the conservation property.

The Great Beaver Swamp is a 17.5 hectare (44 acre) wetland property on Galiano Island. It is the headwaters of Beaver Creek, the bulk of which is protected in the Pebble Beach Reserve. Its acquisition completes the protection of most of the Beaver Creek Watershed. The BC Conservation Data Centre has stated, "the site has value as one of the largest of only 19 wetlands mapped on Galiano. Wetlands are under-represented in the Gulf Islands... [the Great Beaver Swamp acquisition] is an excellent example of landscape and watershed-level conservation planning that ensures protection of not just an individual wetland or stream, but the entire wetland complex, stream and riparian areas."

The Galiano Conservancy Association has purchased the land and is now working to raise funds to retire the debt on the property. All funds raised will go towards the property purchase price. "To us, our wedding was about more than a commitment to each other," says Kate. "We were thrilled to raise funds for the Great Beaver Swamp in recognition of the role of Galiano Island in our lives." 

The Galiano Conservancy Association continues to raise funds for the Great Beaver Swamp. To learn more about this important conservation effort, or to donate, visit the Galiano Conservancy Association website at http://www.galianoconservancy.ca/land_acquisition.html .

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HAT Governance and You

The complexity of governance is difficult to capture in a simple definition.

The need for governance exists anytime a group of people come together to accomplish an end. Most agree that the central component of governance is decision-making. It is the process through which this group of people make decisions that direct their collective efforts. If the group is too large to efficiently make all necessary decisions, it creates an entity to facilitate the process. Group members delegate a large portion of the decision-making responsibility to this entity. In voluntary sector organizations like HAT, this entity is the board of directors. One simple definition of governance is "the art of steering societies and organizations" (Institute on Governance 2007).

For HAT, this role is played by a dedicated group of volunteers, with varying backgrounds but a genuine concern for conservation and a clean environment. Our bylaws allow for a board of up to 13 individuals; unfortunately, we struggle to have 9 or 10. At present, we are faced with a Board that includes one member on maternal leave (wonderful news) and two members with health issues (terrible news). At our AGM in December, we will need to replace another two directors that have reached their allowable end of term (two terms of three years each). In another to reach our full capacity, we will need seven new volunteers to put their names forward. And this is how you can help—let someone on the present Board or on staff know that you will be willing to step forward. You do not need to be a particular specialist, like a biologist or a banker—just someone willing to help

HAT move forward into its second decade. Commitment involves being on one committee (e.g., land, stewardship, fundraising, etc.) that will meet about 6 times/year and attendance to a quarterly Board meeting (only the Executive committee meets monthly). We need your ideas, enthusiasm and your connections to others to help meet our mission.

I have found my time with HAT to be tremendously rewarding. We ended our first ten years in wonderful shape, with very dedicated and hard-working staff and a strong financial position, and I know you would enjoy helping us move into the future. We are making a list of "new prospects", and you may already be scheduled for a call. Please say "YES".

- Andrew Harcombe 



Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting! I must be off to page 3!

announcements



The Nature of Island Artists

September 15 - October 8, 2007
 Goldstream Provincial Visitor Park
 naturehouse.ca, or 478-9414



HAT Board	
Andrew Harcombe	President
David Kelly	Vice President
Simon Philp	Treasurer
Holly Cairns	Secretary
Peter Lewis	Director
Umeeda Switlo	Director
Tara Dunning	Director
Andy MacKinnon	Director
Karen Yearsley	Director
HAT Staff	
Jennifer Eliason	Executive Director
Todd Carnahan	Land Care Coordinator
Kate Emmings	Land/Finance Officer
Geoff Huber	Outreach Coordinator

Musical Hats Becomes the Mad Hatter's Social

Early hat makers went mad thanks to the mercury used in curing felt. HAT is going mad preparing for our annual "funraiser" - the Mad Hatter's Social! Featuring Ollie Swain and Pharis Patenaude of Outlaw Social, the Children of Celebrities and others, the *White Eagle Hall* will become a musical wonderland. You'll have fun in spades dancing, enjoying the delicious appetizers, and bidding on the silent auction prizes. We'll be serving hot samosas and cold Lighthouse beer. Wear your best hat to the event and you could win a prize based on cheers and jeers from the audience. Last year's party sold out, so call us to reserve your tickets now.


Where? White Eagle Hall, 90 Dock Street, James Bay

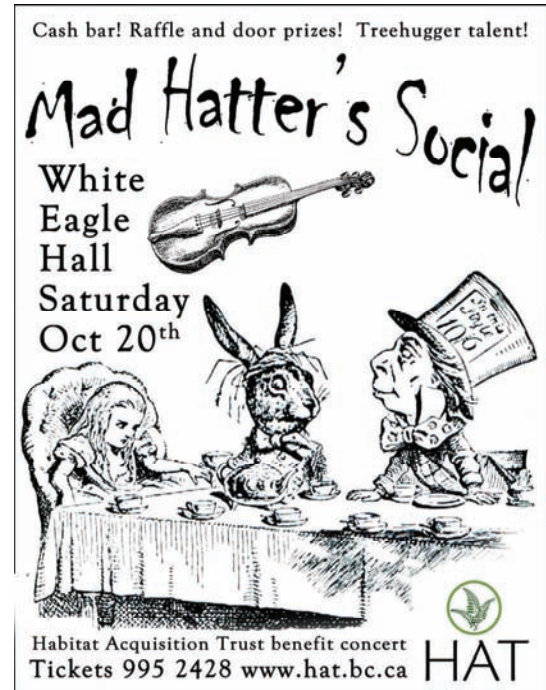
When? Saturday, October 20, doors 7 pm, show 8 pm

Why? Celebrate and support HAT's work

Who? All ages event; bring your friends and family

Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for HAT members and students)

Please call 995-2428 for tickets. 



Jeremy Fisher rocked last year's event (right). This year it's members of the Outlaw Social (left). And the Children of Celebrities.




contest

Win Goodies for your Garden and 2 tickets to a Good Time!

Become a HAT member today and win \$100 worth of native plants, five bags of Sea Soil and two tickets to our upcoming fundraiser!

Native plants are good for nature, *Sea Soil* is good for your garden and the *Mad Hatters Social* is good for you. Simply become a HAT member or monthly donor by October 15th to be automatically entered in the draw.

To join call us at 995-2428 or visit www.hat.bc.ca. 



A Beautiful and Elusive Ghost

Victoria is already steeped with legend and mystique, but do you know about a local phantom even rarer than the ghost sightings in Ross Bay cemetery? Truth be told, this phantom and its descendants have been here much longer than any human ghost. So who or what is this phantom we speak of? Sit back and read about one of the most beautiful secrets that Victoria and area has to offer.

The Phantom Orchid (*Cephalanthera austini*), like so many other endangered species located in our region, is on the northern edge of its natural geographic range in south-western BC. As its name suggests, this perennial plant is all white, turning yellowish with age. The Phantom can be found in mature coniferous and deciduous plant communities that support a specific family of fungi. These fungi are responsible for supporting the parasitic but harmless Phantom Orchid, which is unable to make energy from the sun - unlike most plants in our region. As well, the orchid is often associated with Birch trees and limestone substrates on south and west facing sloped areas.

A more common local plant often confused

with the Phantom Orchid is the Indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*). Even though the Indian-pipe is similar in colour, habits (another parasitic plant) and habitat (mature forests), it only has one flower with a very distinct drooping bell shape and is no more than 25cm tall.

Growing up to 65cm tall with as many as 20 fragrant flowers per stalk the Phantom Orchid would seem easy to find but its already rare habitat is steadily disappearing thanks to regional development and logging; there are just over 50 known locations in the province. That is where Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) comes in. We are working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, with funding from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program, to conduct landowner outreach in areas where these rare beauties can be found. Through our outreach we hope to inform landowners of the impacts of disturbance and development on this fragile species and encourage them to become Habitat Stewards of their private and public lands. We are also interested in speaking to landowners who think they have spotted the Phantom Orchid



A rare Phantom Orchid - hard to find due to disappearing habitat

on their land. If you have seen one of these rare orchids, please call us at HAT (995-2428) or email us at hatmail@hat.bc.ca. (All conversations with HAT are confidential). 🍁 - Geoff Huber

goldstream nature house

NSERC Funding Brings School Children to Goldstream

The shout of "Is this a bear track?" came from the middle of the group just as I was leading them into the forest at Goldstream Park. Inevitably the tracks would turn out to be dog tracks, and I said so. Loudly. Many times. Imagine my excitement and embarrassment when a large bear print greeted me from the mud. For the rest of the field trip 20 pairs of small eyes scoured every inch of ground in search of something else that would stump the naturalist.

Opportunities for children to have that moment of startling discovery in the natural world have been decreasing. On top of that, it is getting increasingly difficult and expensive for schools to arrange field trips to parks.

At Goldstream Provincial Park budget cuts have dramatically reduced the number of classes coming to the park each year. HAT and local businesses have been sponsoring school field trips to the salmon run at Goldstream through

the *Goldstream Chums* program. Now, thanks to HAT and a grant from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), more schools are visiting the park in the spring as well.

This spring NSERC committed \$7000 a year for three years to support school programming at Goldstream Provincial Park. Between April 1st and May 31st over 2000 children from 100 classes attended free spring programs at the park. By comparison, in the same time period in 2006 with user-fees in place only 24 classes attended spring programs. Many of the classes came from schools that simply cannot afford the price of a typical field trip.

During their visits to Goldstream Provincial Park, classes learned about the science of slugs, salamanders, and salmon; what to do if they "find" themselves lost in the woods; and all about beetles, bumblebees, and other bugs. Hopefully their experience

inspired some of them to spend a little more time exploring the natural world on their own.

We would like to say a big "THANK YOU!" to HAT and NSERC for helping so many kids get out to the park. 🍁
- Adam Taylor, Goldstream Nature House



"Goldstream Stones" by Kristina Boardman (above). Goldstream Nature House is holding an art show. Details on page 2.



HAT in Your Community

If you couldn't make it to the Organic Islands Festival don't worry - HAT was there! Our new and improved display was on show and it attracted a lot of inquisitive fair-goers. We introduced many local residents to our organization and re-connected with some of our greatly-valued members. Thanks to our location right across from the delicious sorbet booth we had a steady stream of people stopping to chat. Garry Oakley even made an appearance on Saturday to the delight of the youngsters! A whole bunch of "Native Butterflies of British Columbia" posters were won in our 'name the invasive species' game. Congratulations to all the people who correctly identified Broom, English Ivy, Japanese Knotweed, Daphne and Himalayan Blackberry and a big high-five to those who went home and pulled them out of their gardens!

We talked to nature enthusiasts and landowners about such subjects as mulching, native plant use, conservation covenants, Garry Oak meadows, composting, and past, present and future projects. HAT staff and directors enjoyed meeting everyone at the Organic Islands Food Festival and would like to thank the organizers for putting it all together and Glendale Gardens for being an excellent host. We plan to attend next year and we hope to see you there too!



HAT is always looking to connect with current and future members at all our outreach events. We make an effort to attend as many environmental festivals and community markets as possible and we enjoy it when you stop by to chat. Let us know how we're doing, fill us in on your native gardening efforts, introduce us to friends and family or just chew the organic fat. We can let you know all about our latest projects, give some helpful advice, answer any questions you may have and maybe even send you home with some local lily seeds!

HAT also attended the Luxton Station Market on August 18 and 25. The society that runs the market generously provides two free spaces to non-profit community groups. We decided to take them up on their offer and spent two lovely Saturdays in Langford. The market is a mix of local producers of vegetables, eggs, baking, crafts, honey and even music. The purpose of this new market is to encourage a sense of community and to highlight local agriculture and artisans. Non-profit groups that in some way contribute to the environmental, social or cultural health of the community are invited to have education and outreach tables at the market.

We enjoyed our two Saturdays at the market and talked to many landowners and residents about the flora and fauna on their property or in the local habitats. People were interested to learn about Sharp-tailed Snakes and, if they didn't know already, about our organization.

HAT would like to thank the Luxton Station Market Society for inviting us and for organizing a great community market. We look forward to doing it again!



Summer student intern Liam Sherriff quizzes festival attendees on their invasive species identification skills.

Incubus, a popular alternate rock band from California, made a tour stop in Victoria on August 20th. The band was a big enough draw to need the Memorial Arena; but what do international hit-makers have to do with local habitat-preservers? Their current tour is as eco-friendly as possible; integrating a bio-diesel tour bus, organic cotton tour t-shirts and selling carbon credit stickers. The band has also been inviting local environmental conservation groups to set up display tables before their concerts to help their fans connect with local green issues. HAT was invited by Incubus to join two other environmental organizations at their Victoria date to connect with environmentally minded fans. It was a great show and a great opportunity - thanks guys!

- Liam Sherriff 


Revealing Urban Forests

What is the state of our urban forest? Has forest cover decreased dramatically in the last 20 years? What will the urban forest look like in another 20 years? Habitat Acquisition Trust and the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative want to answer these questions, so we are embarking on a project to map the urban forest in Greater Victoria.

The term “urban forest” refers to all of the treed landscapes that may be found within a community, including in urban centers. Old-growth remnants, backyard fruit trees, urban parks and trail systems, Garry oak meadows, and treed boulevards are all part of the urban forest.

The project will map the urban forest in Greater Victoria, including all municipalities from Sooke to Sidney, an area of approximately 65,000 hectares. This mapping will provide information on the tree canopy cover for 1986 and 2005, enabling us to track changes to the urban forest canopy over time. It will provide the basis for some long-term planning—what should we do to encourage urban forest renewal as part of land development, where are the areas that should be protected for their natural values, including wildlife corridors?

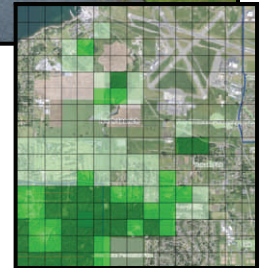
We have contracted Ann Blyth and Jason Shaw of **Caslys Consulting Ltd** to bring their extensive GIS experience to this project. They have begun collecting data and are excited to get going.

Major funding for this project has been provided by the **Real Estate Foundation of BC**. We have also invited municipalities in the region to support our project, and we would like to recognize the financial contributions of the **District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt and the City of Colwood**. Fundraising for this project is not yet complete; we are hopeful that other municipalities will come on board and financially support this important project as the results of this mapping exercise will be made available to them. The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative also receives significant support from **BC Hydro**. 

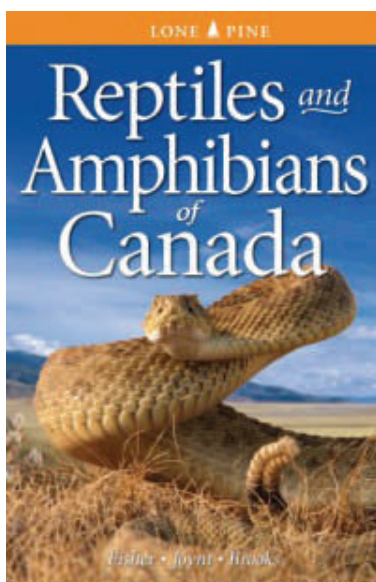
- Jennifer Eliason



Urban Forests make a pleasant habitat for humans (above). A sample of the mapping system (right).




The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) is program of Habitat Acquisition Trust. UFSI is a partnership of individuals, organizations and governments who are dedicated to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Capital Regional District's urban forest. Information on UFSI is available at <http://www.hat.bc.ca/projects/ufsi.htm>.



Are there any poisonous snakes on Vancouver Island? Find out with the new **Reptiles and Amphibians of Canada** guidebook. This illustrated guidebook features 93 species of reptiles and amphibians found in Canada including skinks, salamanders, horned lizards, pit vipers, boas, and frogs. Species accounts include range maps, identification cues, preferred foods and habitats, similar species, and activity patterns.

With a water resistant cover and a thin profile, this guide is made for field use by young frog hunters and lizard lovers alike. Even locally introduced species like the rampant European wall lizard warrant a mention in this comprehensive reference book. I appreciate the authors' field notes and historical factoids that supplement the basic

descriptions. If you love the highly variable patterns of garter snakes as much as I do, you'll spend hours on a hot rock with this new book. 

- Todd Carnahan

Author **Chris Fisher** is a university-educated naturalist with a background in research in endangered species management and wildlife interpretation. **Dr. Ronald Brooks** received his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Illinois. He has been a faculty member at the University of Guelph since 1970, and he is a recent recipient of the Mike Rankin “Distinguished Canadian Herpetologist” Award from the *Canadian Association of Herpetologists*. **Amanda Joynt** is a biologist currently with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Inuvik, NT.




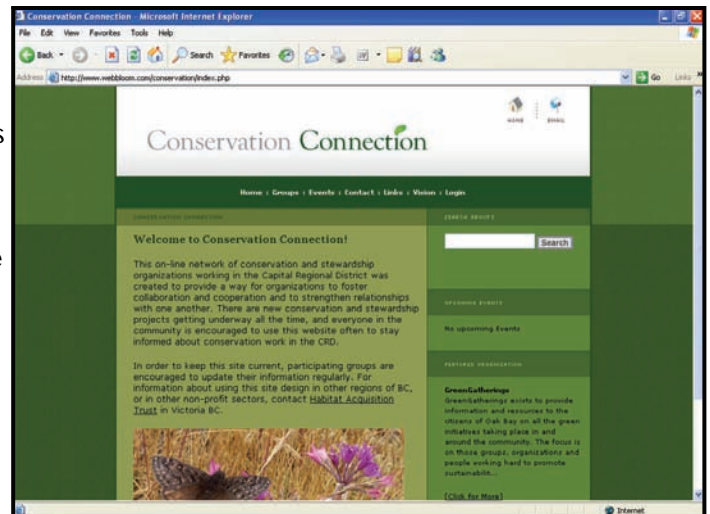
Link Up with Over 110 Different Organizations

The new and improved Conservation Connection website is up and running! Thanks to a redesign by David Delisle of Webblom Design, the new site is now more functional than ever before. The website boasts a list of more than a 110 local conservation and stewardship groups and includes contact and mandate information. The purpose of the site is to link environmental organizations with one another to the end of sharing information, ideas and experiences, creating a community of concerned associations. The name says it all - connecting conservation efforts in the CRD.

Improvements to the site include increased security, a volunteer posting page, the ability for groups to upload a profile photo, a more dependable server and greater ease of use when updating an organization's information. The new design also includes a graphical overhaul, giving the site a more modern, professional appearance.

Conservation Connection can also be useful for anyone new to the area wishing to familiarize themselves with the green community or looking for a volunteering opportunity or event matching their interests. Every organization has the ability to post volunteer opportunities, and to specify which skills are needed or desired for those positions.

The site can be found on the web at www.conservationconnection.bc.ca. Check it out and let others know about this great resource.  - Liam Sherriff



The new Conservation Connection homepage (Above). Member information is now more attractively laid out and we have added a Volunteer Opportunities section.

pleases and thank yous

HAT is People Like You

A huge thank you to volunteer Phil Rees. Phil has been busy designing HAT's new website from the ground up! If early drafts are anything to go by the new site will look great and work even better!




Liam

Charlie LeRoss, our computer technician, has been putting in many, many hours over the summer getting a new donor database all set up and ready to go for us. Thank you Charlie, we really appreciate all of the work that you do!

Thanks goes out to David Delisle of Webblom Design, who has redesigned the *Conservation Connection* website. See the story above for all the details!

Even though we paid him to be here, we'd like to thank our summer student Liam Sherriff (*left*), who, despite being an English major, was actually quite useful! We'd especially like to thank him for correcting all our spelling mistakes.

Thanks also to all the landowners and businesses who participated in our *Good Neighbours* Rithet's Bog project. Also big thanks for the Rithet's Bog Conservation Society, we couldn't have done it without you.

And finally, our requests: We are looking for donated items for our raffle and silent auction at our upcoming Mad Hatter's Social. Can you help? Maybe you know a business owner who might be interested in contributing an item or gift certificate? 

Thank you to the following organizations & businesses for their support in 2007!

General and Project Support

Alula Biological Consulting
 British Columbia Gaming
 Camusun College - Work on Campus Program
 Centre for Sustainability—EnviroPOD
 District of Saanich
 District of Central Saanich
 Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program
 Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team
 Highlands Community Association
 JW McConnell Family Foundation/
 Victoria Foundation Environment Fund
 Kaatza Foundation
 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
 Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
 Service Canada's Summer Job Program
 Shell Environmental Fund
 TD Friends of the Environment
 Terasen Gas
 Vancity Savings Credit Union
 Vancouver Foundation
 Victoria High School - Victoria Foundation's Students Who Care—Youth in Philanthropy Program
 Victoria Foundation

Victoria Foundation—Outdoor Club of Victoria
 Worksource Wage Subsidy Program

Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative

Real Estate Foundation of BC
 BC Hydro
 District of Saanich
 Township of Esquimalt
 City of Colwood

Goldstream Programs

Back to Back Chiropractic
 CHBA - Victoria
 Coast Capital Savings
 Garnett Capital Corporation
 Island Equipment Operators Association
 Market on Yates
 Microsoft Giving Campaign
 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
 Nixon Bros.
 Norman St. Cyr Excavating Ltd
 Peninsula Bulldozing Ltd
 Parish Anton Chartered Accountants
 Victoria Natural History Society

Donations of Goods & Services

City of Victoria
 Gardenworks—Colwood
 Goldstream Nature House
 Gye and Associates Ltd.
 Judith Cullington and Associates
 Lighthouse Brewing Co.
 Michael J. McIlvaney Land Surveying
 Mirage Wood Products
 Nature's Garden Seed Co.
 PSC Natural Foods
 Quill's Tees
 Rocky Mountain Muffin Co.
 Sea Soil
 Serious Coffee
 Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation
 Webblom Design Inc.

I may be mad, but you'd have to be crazy to miss the Mad Hatter's Social!



We would like to thank all of the BC Provincial Employees who donate to HAT through the

PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

for your continued support.

Please remember HAT in this year's campaign!



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*Habitat Acquisition Trust is incorporated under the Society Act of BC and is a Registered Charity
 BN 88962 6545 RR0001*



Save paper and trees!

E mail us at hatmail@hat.bc.ca to receive HAT's newsletter online.



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