

HAT Chat

The Newsletter of Habitat Acquisition Trust

Winter 2003

Issue 12

Win A Kayak!



HAT is very excited to be raffling off a kayak!

Why? Because everybody wants a kayak! With the help of the **Vancouver Island Canoe and Kayak Centre** and www.natureexplorations.com, HAT is holding a raffle for a new Necky *Tahsis* kayak, valued at \$4 500.

The *Tahsis* is a truly exceptional kayak, the perfect way to see the spectacular scenery Vancouver Island is famous for. Designed to be fast yet hold a lot of gear, the *Tahsis* is great for both multi-day expeditions and casual paddling.

The best part about this raffle is that not only do you get a chance to win a great prize, you are also supporting a great cause! The proceeds from the raffle will go to support the children's educational programs at Goldstream Provincial Park.

User fees imposed after a withdrawal of government funding has resulted in many children not being able to take part in the programs. HAT is hoping that the money raised from this raffle along with the *Goldstream Chums* program will ensure that all children will have access to these important educational opportunities.

Tickets can be purchased at::

- Vancouver Island Canoe and Kayak Centre,
(located on the corner of Government and Pembroke)
- HAT's office (316-620 View St.),
- the Goldstream Nature House,
- and on the evening of the draw at
HAT's Annual General Meeting: December 10
at the Swan Lake Nature House (details on backpage).

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Dreaming of a greener Christmas?



Support conservation and environmental education in your community!

Shop at the **Goldstream Gift Shop**, located at the Goldstream Nature House: specializing in field guides and great gifts for the nature enthusiasts in your life

Give someone special a HAT Membership
HAT members save 10% at the Goldstream Gift Shop



President's Message

B. Whittington photo



This year finds us at Habitat Acquisition Trust pondering the generosity of a woman who wanted to make a difference in her world. A year ago **Denise Cammiade** passed away. As an occasional HAT donor and through her involvement in the natural and literary worlds, word of her passing would have eventually come to our attention at HAT. However, this is not how she decided to be remembered. Instead we were notified by the executor of her estate that HAT was a beneficiary in Ms Cammiade's will.

This gift, more than \$50 000, is the most significant individual donation HAT has ever received. It has resulted in two important initiatives:

- HAT has created a dedicated land acquisition fund and,
- HAT has increased our endowment with the Victoria Foundation. In fact we surpassed our target for this year's endowment by 20%!

Save the Date!

May 1, 2004

The Wild Garden Party Tour

A Showcase of Beautiful and Sustainable
Landscapes and Gardens

Brought to you by the **Wild Garden Party Project**

Keep checking HAT's web-site
for more info - <http://www.hat.bc.ca/>

HAT About Town

HAT will have a table display at the **13th Annual Victoria Health Show (January 24 & 25, 2004)** being held at the Victoria Conference Centre, so come and visit us at the show. We also have 2 for 1 coupons available at the HAT office and at the Goldstream Nature House, for anyone interested in going!

A perfect combination! Exactly like the partnership HAT is continuing with that includes the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, City Green, Lifecycles Project Society, Naturescape BC and the Native Plant Study Group: a fantastic collaborative project called the **Wild Garden Party**.

It all began when these and other groups came together to design and create an award-winning demonstration garden called the Wild Garden Party Project for the 2002 Victoria Flower and Garden Show at Royal Roads. This garden showcased what homeowners could do in their yards to further land stewardship, and reached 10,000 people at the show. This winning collaboration demonstrated that our combined efforts could achieve what no individual organization could do on its own.

To further the collective goal of the Wild Garden Party, which is to encourage responsible and environmentally sound land use, we are now planning two new projects for 2004: one is to create a residential garden and landscape in the Greater Victoria area that benefits both humans and wildlife, the other is a tour of the “wild gardens” of Victoria in May (see advertisement page 2).

The garden will be created at the site of a home being built by Habitat for Humanity in Sidney. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income families build homes. Habitat for Humanity is eager to be involved in a one-year pilot project to assess the feasibility of this approach and are interested in a long-term relationship in which we would create a “sustainable landscape” for each future home Habitat for Humanity builds in Greater Victoria.

These gardens will incorporate sustainable landscaping principles, including:

- Native plantings to provide food and habitat for wildlife and promote ecosystem biodiversity
- Food production using chemical free methods
- Composting for waste reduction and on site garden use
- Water conservation features

habitat are displaced, with the resultant loss of endangered species. Additionally, most new homes are landscaped with exotic species and turf lawn, replacing the biodiversity that once existed and requiring high-energy inputs to maintain. Recognizing this, it is vital that we encourage residents to maintain and/or enhance wildlife features unique to our special region.

The lasting beauty and simplicity of maintaining a “wild garden” will act as an inspiration to neighbours and set new standards for development. The Habitat for Humanity homeowner will be involved in the design of the garden and along with the volunteers will receive education regarding the significance of sustainable home landscapes and the methods of creating them.

We are really excited about continuing this collaboration, and creating opportunities for people to learn more about creating sustainable landscapes. This project is important because it empowers residents to use their land to the benefit of humans and wildlife and provides a long-term solution to living sustainably within the urban environment. A co-op student will be hired to coordinate this project starting in January, thanks to a **Service Learning Internship Grant** from the **University of Victoria**.

Claudia Copley



*Having a small patch of stinging nettles on your property would provide food for the caterpillar of the beautiful Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), as well as several other species of butterfly. (D. Copley photo)*

HAT Projects *continued*

Chums Lend a Helping Hand

In June, HAT launched the *Goldstream Chums* program to raise money for the education programs at Goldstream Provincial Park that occur during the fall salmon run. In its first year, the program raised \$ 5 900, thanks to generous support from local businesses. HAT also received a \$4 000 donation from the Victoria Natural History Society, so we were able to contribute \$9 900 towards the children's education programs during the salmon run. This money allowed the programs to be offered for \$2.50 per student, almost 50% less than the cost that was in place last fall. The decreased cost allowed nearly 200 classes to take part in the programs, a 30 % increase over last year.

We are very pleased that so many more children were able to take part in the programs because they provide an invaluable opportunity for children to get practical, hands-on experience in a natural environment, as well as applying skills learned in the classroom. HAT is committed to building the *Goldstream Chums* program in the hope of making the programs free of charge to all students in the Greater Victoria area.

HAT is very grateful for the support we have received from our sponsors. Listed opposite are the 2003 *Goldstream Chums*. Please thank these businesses for being excellent corporate citizens.

Eric Kopetski



Doug Andrew teaching children all about salmon at Goldstream Provincial Park (B. Whittington photo)

Vision Level (\$1000+)

Canadian Home Builders Association – Victoria
Copley Brothers Construction
TM Newmedia
Vancouver Island News Group

Leaders Level (\$500+)

Island Equipment Owners Association
Parish & Co. Chartered Accountants

Builders Level (\$250+)

Archipelago Marine Research
Colwood Dental Group
Nautical Nellie's Restaurant
Ocean Concrete Ltd.
Resort Long Distance Services

Good Neighbour News

We have recently completed the second phase of the **Good Neighbours** project. Over the last six months, Pauline and I have contacted landowners around three protected areas. These areas were selected from a priority list for a number of reasons; one being that each contains extensive Garry oak ecosystems and extant populations of rare and endangered species.

- **The Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary** in Saanich.
- **Highrock Cairn Park** in Esquimalt.
- **Uplands Municipal Park** in Oak Bay

The *Good Neighbours* project has encouraged property owners to be good environmental stewards

around these three protected areas and in so doing has strengthened the integrity of those habitats by providing "buffer zones".

Landowners now understand their role in the conservation and protection of their own property, and the importance of how their activities affect the surrounding natural areas. We have built neighbourhood connections in each of the areas we have worked in and we are very pleased that there are local "Friends of" groups forming in the Swan Lake/ Christmas Hill and Highrock Cairn areas.

HAT has been successful in providing over a hundred home visits to interested residents: fully one quarter of the landowners that we were able to reach by phone

continued on page 5

HAT Projects – *continued*

(after the initial mailout) participated. Twenty-seven (27) of these households agreed to sign Voluntary Stewardship Agreements, pledging to be good environmental stewards of their properties. Watch for their “Environmental Steward” signs next time you’re passing through these areas.

Thank you to the following funders that supported the 2003 *Good Neighbours* project: Environment Canada’s **EcoAction** and **Habitat Stewardship Programs**, Human Resources and Development Canada’s **Summer Career Placement Program**, the Provincial Capital Commission’s **Greenways Fund**, the **Victoria Foundation’s Woodsome Fund** and **Sheila Henley Fund**, and the **Victoria Natural History Society**.

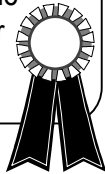


D. Greer photo

Good Neighbours Project Receives Award

The *Good Neighbours* Project was recently awarded a **Capital Regional District Water’s Drinking Water Stewardship Award** for 2003.

This award recognises our commitment to educating the public about protecting our region’s water resources.



Up Next: We are currently busy with planning and proposal writing because Pauline and I will be undertaking the *Good Neighbourhoods* project in 2004. This will involve working with elementary schools and community groups in the six areas we have visited with the *Good Neighbours* project (the three previously mentioned as well as Oak Haven Park in Central Saanich, Mount Douglas Park in Saanich, and Esquimalt Lagoon in Colwood). One of our goals is to reinforce the stewardship messages we put forward in the initial stages of the project by educating children and their families about species and ecosystems at risk.

The **JW McConnell Family Foundation/Victoria Foundation Environmental Funding Program** and **Vancouver City Savings Credit Union** have already each committed \$10,000 towards this project.

Jen Eliason

Fundraising

The Goldstream Salmon Run Fun Run

We had spectacular weather and lots of salmon in the river for the second annual *Goldstream Salmon Run* Fun Run held on Sunday, Oct 26 in the Goldstream Provincial Park campground. Sponsors this year included: water (what else!) from **Canadian Springs Water Company**, fresh, organic and delicious fruit from **Small Potatoes Urban Delivery (SPUD)**, and a large selection of fabulous door prizes donated by **Frontrunners**. **Westside Instaprint** provided all the race brochures and pledge forms, and the shirts came

from **Canadian North Outfitters**. **RLC Enterprize Ltd.** provided free overnight camping in the park to run participants, and cleaned off the route for us! Volunteers for the run included **Casey Tweddell** (chief organiser extraordinaire –see “HAT People” page 7), **Rebecca Westle** (data entry specialist), **Bev Adamson**, **Robert Anderson**, **Jean and Robert Copley**, **Donna Gaudard**, **Brian Graham**, **Rick and Carol Lester**, **Nick Johnson**, **James Miskelly**, and **Cindy Tkachuk**.

Thanks to everyone who sponsored the run, the run volunteers, and the runners!

Fundraising – *continued*

The Nature of Island Artists Art Show: Thank You Volunteers!

Another successful art exhibit was held this past September and October at the Goldstream Nature House. This success is due to the volunteer efforts of members of the Victoria Natural History Society, the Goldstream Nature House volunteers, and the volunteers that consistently appear every two years when we put out the call for help with the show.

Each day there were as many as six volunteers helping to staff the show. This involved welcoming visitors, selling raffle tickets, helping people with the silent auction, directing people to the “People’s Choice” ballot box, distributing scavenger hunts, and guarding against damage and theft. We also had a tremendous amount of help with the set up, soliciting food donations for the opening wine and cheese event, food preparation and set up for the opening night, and flowers.

The show was beautiful and well attended, and HAT would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this another great event. This year HAT is using all the funds raised (approximately \$10,000) to help keep the Nature House open. In 2002 the provincial government determined that educational programming in BC’s parks was not a core responsibility of government and all funding dollars were cut.

We would like to take our hats off to the following people for all their help:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Barbro and Stephen Baker | Barb Elton | Barbara and Bruce Hanwell | Sheila Mosher | Germaine Taylor |
| Barbara Begg | David Fraser | Peter Heron | Kari Nelson | Shirley Terry |
| Judy Beinder | Marilyn Fuchs | Dorothea Hoffman | Ann Nightingale | Margaret Turner |
| Carol Berryman | Louise Gates | Edith Hunsberger | Marie O’Shaughnessy | Miriam Tomlinson |
| Tania Black | Ann and Hal Gibbard | Nick Johnson | Judith Parish | Blake Waters |
| Louise Blight | Tom Gillespie | Betty Kopichanski | Peggy Price | Jean Waye |
| Maxine Bradley | Sherri Granger | Tanya Lequesne | Leah Ramsay | Bruce Whittington |
| Bob Chappell | Joan and Alan Greatbatch | Carol Lester | Allison Roberts | Carolyn Yakel |
| Isabel Clemson | Gwen Greenwood | Carolyn MacDonald | Pat and Wayne Robertson | Sharon and Bert Youell |
| Jean and Robert Copley | Gerard Hales | Jean MacDonald | Rick Schortinghuis | Joanna and Jim van Barneveld |
| Cathy Corbett | Andrew and Gail Harcombe | Cheryl Mackie | Camilla Smith | Tineke van der Voort |
| Brenda Costanzo | Gordon Hart | Morwyn Marshall | Sheila South | |
| Lyndis Davis | Robert Hadley | Michael Mascall | David Stirling | |
| Isobel Dawson | Phyllis Henderson | Jacquie McLeod | Jan Talbot | |
| Angela Deering | John Henigman | Marilyn Miller | Adam Taylor | |

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|----------------|------------------|
| Jerry Anderson | Susan Pratt |
| Brian Baker | Clare Singleton |
| Robert Bateman | Denise Sturmwind |
| Craig Benson | Aino Tamm |
| Anne Boquist | Judy Trousdell |
| Ron Carwardine | Tannis Warburton |
| Carolyn Cassar | Morgan Warren |
| Alan Franklin | |
| David Fraser | |



B. Whittington photo

Special thanks also to **Thrifty Foods** for their 200\$ gift certificate for the opening wine and cheese, and to **RLC Enterprize Ltd** for the donation of all of the wine for the evening. **Saputo Cheese** generously provided several blocks of Armstrong Cheese to complete the evening.

HAT People



For two years in a row **Casey Tweddell** has volunteered her time to organize the 5 km *Goldstream Salmon Run*, with terrific success. Having a run was Casey's idea in the first place, and the route through the campground has proven to be a big hit with all the runners (except for those hills!). All of the work involved with the run is coordinated by Casey in her spare time: and being a working parent means that there is very little time to spare! Our thanks go out to Casey for the tremendous effort she puts in. She tells us that she is ready to do it all again next year!

Trevor MacDonald (right) ambitiously fundraised for the Salmon Run Run (B. Whittington photo)



HAT would like to welcome **Velma Hainsworth** as a sustaining member of our organization. One thousand dollars of Velma's donation has been added to our endowment fund, held at the Victoria Foundation. This fund ensures HAT will have long term financial stability to complete our important work. Thank you Velma!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Across the Harbour B and B.
 Archipelago Marine Research
 Arenaria Research & Interpretation
 Art & Soul Framing and Gallery
 Barraclough Foundation
 Blair Family Foundation
 The Body Shop
 Brentwood Bay Nurseries
 British Columbia Gaming Commission
 The Burton Charitable Foundation
 The Butchart Gardens
 Cairo Coffee Merchants
 Canadian North Outfitters
 Canadian Home Builders Association
 - Victoria Chapter
 Canadian Springs Water Co.
 Capital Regional District
 'Chosin Pottery Inc.
 Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
 Colwood Dental Group
 Colwood House of Nutrition
 Copley Brothers Construction</p> | <p>EJLB Foundation
 Environment Canada EcoAction Program
 Frontrunners Footwear (Victoria)
 Gardenworks - Colwood
 Georgia Basin Action Plan
 Hill House Chocolates
 Hills Native Art
 Hillyer, Atkins
 Human Resources Development Canada
 Island Equipment Owners Assoc.
 John's Place
 Judith Cullington and Assoc.
 J.W . McConnell Foundation
 Kaatza Foundation
 Karen Hurley and Assoc.
 Lone Pine Publishing
 Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Munro's Books
 My-Chosin Café
 Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Nature Explorations
 Nautical Nellies Restaurant</p> | <p>Smith Books
 The Soap Exchange
 Andrew Stewart, Barrister and Solicitor
 Strathcona Hotel
 Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
 TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 Thrifty Foods
 TM Newmedia
 University of Victoria
 VanCity Savings Credit Union
 Vancouver Island Canoe and Kayak Centre
 Vancouver Island News Group
 Victoria Folk Music Society
 The Victoria Foundation
 Victoria Natural History Society
 West Coast Environmental Law
 Westside InstaPrint
 Richard Wey, BC Land Surveyor
 Windsor Plywood - Langford</p> |
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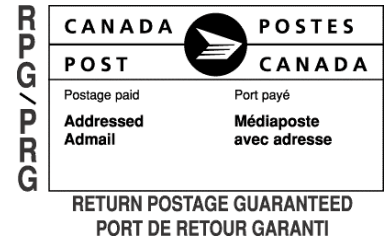
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*Habitat Acquisition Trust is incorporated under the Society Act of BC and is a Registered Charity
BSN 88962 6545 RR0001*

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HAT does not release its mailing list to any other organizations.*

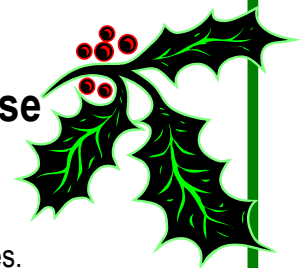
You are invited to ...

HAT's Annual General Meeting and Open House

Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Nature House

Please join us for reflections on the year, warm drinks and baked goodies.



This is an opportunity to celebrate our successes of the past year, but we also conduct some important matters of business including electing new HAT Directors. Only HAT members may vote at an AGM; memberships will be sold at the Meeting. Of course: we will also be raffling off the kayak – just in time for the gift-giving season. Good Luck!

The HAT Board of Directors proposes the following bylaw changes be considered, discussed and voted on at the annual general meeting:

Term Limits - Suggested wording Part 5, section 3:

1. Directors shall be elected at the annual general meetings and shall hold office for a term of three years beginning at the end of the annual general meeting at which the director was elected [~~delete with the exception:~~]. [~~Delete paragraphs a. through d.~~]

2. No director shall hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

Election of Officers - Suggested wording Part 7, section 1

The directors shall elect from among the directors, for a term of one year, a president, **vice-president**, secretary, and treasurer at the first meeting of the directors held after the [~~delete annual~~] **general** meeting in each year.

Miscellaneous - Suggested wording Part 7, section 4

The **vice-president** shall carry out the duties of the president during the president's absence.