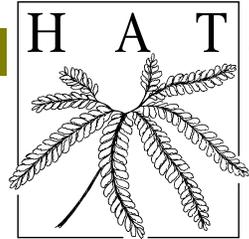


# HAT Chat

The Newsletter of Habitat Acquisition Trust



*“The students aren’t the only ones who are having fun. We are having a great time too!”*

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## From Good Neighbours to Good Neighbourhoods

HAT has embarked on a new environmental education program: The *Good Neighbourhoods* Project. We are building on work already accomplished with HAT’s *Good Neighbours* Project. By reconnecting with people who live near sensitive protected areas, such as Mount Douglas Park, and getting the elementary schools involved, we hope to bring about awareness of the Garry oak ecosystem and the species-at-risk associated with this ecosystem. Jennifer and I have conducted in-class and outdoor programs to students at Lampson Street Elementary, Torquay, Rogers, Willows, Lakehill, Brentwood, and two Homeschoolers groups. We have had great feedback from teachers, parents and students! We have worked with 15 classes so far and have more programs booked for June. The students aren’t the only ones having fun. We are having a great time too! By the end of one trip we had students chanting about getting rid of invasive English ivy. A student from Willows Elementary took her sister into Uplands Park after our outing and told her, “Megan don’t go off the path because you are hurting the plants.” The students love learning about traditional uses of the



Garry oak ecosystem. When they realize there are edible plants in the wild, they get really excited. After discovering Miner’s lettuce on a trip through Mount Douglas Park, each of the students sampled a leaf. Not only do we talk about endangered species; we have witnessed them in the wild. A red-listed (endangered) *Propertius duskywing* butterfly was found flitting about on a hike in Oak Haven Park.

We have been helping students on a weekly basis at Rogers Elementary design their native plant garden. We will be doing workshops on nestbox building and native plant propagation with students at Lakehill Elementary. What a rewarding experience this has

### An Environmental Education Experience

been so far! It was our hope that we would provide the tools to build a strong stewardship ethic in each class and that this message would be brought home and shared with the families of each student. Guess what? It has happened. We have the letters to prove it!

Please contact us to book your free program!

These free programs are available due to the generous support from the **JW McConnell Family Foundation/ Victoria Foundation Environmental Funding Program** and **VanCity Savings Credit Union Community Project Grant**.



*Pauline Brest van Kempen  
Education Coordinator*

## President's Message



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***“As you will read in the newsletter we have many exciting and worthy projects underway and we look forward to many more in the near future.”***

This time of year finds HAT as busy as ever with land stewardship activities. The past six months at HAT has been a time of many changes. Directors Andy MacKinnon, Marc Bell, Marilyn Lambert, Peter Heron and Michael Mascall stepped down after many years of dedicated service. HAT is a better organization because of them and we hope to see them again soon in the near future.

HAT welcomed a number of new directors to its Board at its AGM. Welcome to Peter Lewis, Carolyn Stewart, Shelley Russwurm and Simon Philp. Our new directors are keen and engaged and are contributing greatly to HAT's programs.

This season also saw the

departure of long time supporter and employee Claudia Copley to a new exciting opportunity at the Royal BC Museum.

HAT experienced the same bumpy funding road to Gaming Commission funds that many non-profits did this year. As a result, we, along with many others, were ineligible for much needed operating funding for this year. We have made many changes to meet these challenging times. HAT Executive Director Boyd Pyper was laid off early in the year.

Our dedicated, hard working staff Jennifer Eliason and Pauline Brest van Kempen and the HAT Board of Directors have worked hard to find new and alternate

funding and new ways of doing business.

Things are looking bright for HAT in the near future. We welcome Andrew Uhlman as a summer stewardship intern and thanks to a grant from Van City Savings Credit Union are looking forward to filling a development position to assist with fundraising.

As you will read in the newsletter we have many exciting and worthy projects underway and we look forward to many more in the near future.

*Eric Lofroth  
President*



## HAT's Summer Raffle!

***We are kicking off the summer with a great raffle full of fantastic prizes!***

### **1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Kayaking Adventure in the Gulf Islands Trip Package for 2 people**

Prize package includes 3 lodge-based nights at Kiwi Cove Lodge in Ladysmith

2 days of kayaking with Sealegs Kayaking in the Gulf Islands, three meals each day (some noon meals in the field), ferry transportation to launch site, use of kayak and gear, and professional sea kayak guides.

A \$1,200+ value!

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Relaxation Package**

Prize package includes one night's accommodation at Nightskies Bed and Breakfast on Esquimalt Lagoon, a \$50 gift certificate for Victoria Healing Centre (massage), a box of delicious Denman Island Chocolates, a Gift Basket from Silk Road Aromatherapy and Tea Company and 25 gift cards from Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Green Garden Package**

Prize package includes \$50 gift certificate for veggies from Small Potatoes Urban Delivery, a kitchen composter and a wingdigger from Victoria Compost Education Centre, \$25 gift certificate for GardenWorks, *Native Plants for the Coastal Garden* written by April Pettinger and Brenda Costanzo and 25 gift cards from Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

**Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.**

**Prizes will be drawn on August 27, 2004.**

**Tickets are available at the HAT office, from any of our staff and directors, and at many upcoming outreach events – give us a call if you would like to know where we'll be next!**

# Homes and Habitat Project

*“There will be plenty of chances for volunteers to get involved with the project, starting with our first work day on the site on June 19<sup>th</sup>.”*

The Homes and Habitats Project, an initiative of the **Wild Garden Party**, is well underway. Thanks to our strong partnership with Victoria Habitat for Humanity, an organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing, our goal of building sustainable landscapes for low income families is becoming visible.

- Native plants to provide food and habitat for wildlife;
- Composting for waste reduction and on site garden use;
- Water conservation features;
- Food production using chemical free methods.

As you may remember, the Wild Garden Party is made up of seven partnering organizations – the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, Habitat Acquisition Trust, City Green, Lifecycles Project Society, Naturescape BC, the Native Plant Study Groups and the Native Plant Society of BC.

HAT is contributing significantly to the project by helping in the challenging job of contacting the Habitat for Humanity families and by creating the design of the garden. They have added a University of Victoria Co-op student to the Wild Garden Party for an eight month work term.

So far the Wild Garden Party has successfully contacted and is working with the three families who are currently living on the six unit site in Sidney. Fortunately, they are all extremely interested in learning about and implementing all of our “wild” ideas including:

There will be plenty of chances for volunteers to get involved with the project, starting with our first work day on the site on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Gabion will be installed that day in the backyards of three houses because the yards presently slope down into a sea water canal. The gabions will level out the yards and prevent erosion into the canal. After the hard landscaping is completed, we can focus our time and energy on the “wilder” components.



This project is important because it not only serves to provide families with healthy, environmentally sound home yards, but it also offers an opportunity to teach people involved how to live sustainably within the urban environment. And if the project is the success we expect it to be, it could spawn a long term relationship with Victoria Habitat for Humanity, in which we could create sustainable landscapes for other families throughout Greater Victoria.

I would like to thank the **University of Victoria** for their **Service Learning Internship Grant** for making this job possible. And thanks to the HAT staff for their experience and knowledge that they are generously willing to share with me.



*Alison Garnett*

## Update



The Wild Garden Party Garden Tour, held May 1<sup>st</sup>, was a huge success! Over 260 participants strolled through fourteen gloriously wild gardens on a beautiful sunny day. The organizing committee would like to send a **heartfelt thank you to the garden owners, the volunteers and the participants** for making the day so successful. Proceeds from the tour are going towards the Homes and Habitats Project.



**“Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island” – Discussion Paper available on our website.**



**“Protecting Natural Areas in the Capital Region” – HAT Stewardship Manual available on our website.**

## Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative

Urban forests benefit us all in many ways. As well as providing pleasing view-scapes within our neighbourhoods, the urban forest offers: shade for our homes (reducing summer cooling costs); shelter from the winds (reducing heating costs); storm-water management (reducing the need for expensive storm-water infrastructure); air pollution removal (improving the air quality); carbon sequestration (reducing the global impacts of climate change). Trees around our homes increase the values of our properties and make the neighbourhoods more livable. Equally as important, the urban forests provide habitat for wildlife, including species-at-risk (such as the Propertius Duskywing butterfly that relies on Garry oak stands) and help to maintain the biodiversity of this region.

The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative continues to attract interest and attention as it progresses. The discussion paper: *Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island* was released and circulated in January 2004.

This discussion paper is available for download from our website. A public forum (initiated and co-hosted by the District of Saanich) held in April 2004 was standing room only!

With the recent development of several Action Committees, we are now looking at several projects. One of the UFSI Action Committees has been actively looking at the development of a model tree protection bylaw, another is working on the development of a strategy. The Mapping Action Committee of the UFSI is working on the

development of a map and a brochure. The map will show coverage of urban forests in the Greater Victoria area, both currently and in the 1980s. This mapping project will provide data on the location and amount of urban forest in Greater Victoria, the loss of urban forests in recent years and the associated loss of many ecosystem services such as storm-water management, carbon storage and sequestration and air pollution removal. The brochure will include the values of urban forests, the UFSI project, the remaining urban forest (ways to protect and enhance it) and examples of model urban forest projects.



*Jennifer Eliason and  
Judith Cullington*

## Protecting Natural Areas in the Capital

Have you ever wanted to protect a natural area but didn't know where to begin? Then the HAT Stewardship Manual, *Protecting Natural Areas in the Capital Region*, is for you.

Authors Judith Cullington and Kevin Key have created an easy-to-read reference manual that pulls together information on the various tools available to protect natural areas in this region, from conservation covenants to density bonusing and eco-

gifting. It is intended for local government decision-makers, developers, conservation organizations and individuals who are trying to make a difference.

The manual also highlights the many benefits of protecting natural areas, looking at why we humans should do this for our own sake, as well as for the species that share the region with us. Did you know that trees can help reduce your heating/cooling bill by as

much as 25%?

HAT will be giving a copy of the Manual to all local governments in the Capital Region, and directors will be making presentations to councils over the coming months.

Copies of the HAT Stewardship Manual can be purchased from HAT for \$20, or downloaded for free from the HAT website.



## Fundraising

Promoting sustainability and conservation are core foundations of HAT. As governments change eligibility rules, and reduce grants – HAT has a difficult choice to make. We can increase the focus on fundraising (which reduces the time available for meeting our mandate) or we must limit the services we perform. Although fundraising and support from the community will always be required – we are asking all supporters of HAT to consider a monthly donation plan. Two hundred community-minded, conservation supporting donors, each providing \$50 per month, would ensure that HAT remains active, and staff are able to continue to focus

on delivering programs.

Of course, donations of any amount and frequency are always appreciated, but we are encouraging donors to consider monthly donations for several reasons:

- The need for funds remains strong throughout the year. The majority of HAT expenses are predictable, stable and on-going, yet our funding sources have traditionally been grants and lump sum donations which are erratic and unpredictable.
- The convenience of a monthly donation, paid directly from your bank account or credit card

may provide an easier method to make a donation – especially if your income is relatively stable as well.

- Having a number of donors, each providing \$15-100 per month, means that HAT is not unduly reliant on any one individual or funding agency.
- Finally, the board and staff of HAT can focus more energy on working to improve sustainability and conservation in the community – and reduce the time required to develop ‘one time’ fundraising strategies.

There is a form contained in

this newsletter – please consider a monthly donation, complete the form, and return it to the HAT office. Van City Credit Savings Union have provided us with the ability to have your donation transferred directly from your bank account to HAT on a monthly basis – with no service charges or fees.

If you prefer to donate using a credit card, HAT receives about 98% of the amount you donate. Both are a safe and secure methods to donate to HAT. Your support is appreciated.



## A Request for Help from The Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society

**Did you know there are two Knockan Hill Parks?** The most well known Knockan Hill Park comprises hilltop meadows and forested slopes in the Municipality of Saanich. Next to this park is a new Knockan Hill Park in the Town of View Royal, a hectare of surviving indigenous green-space which was purchased by the town in 2001. Its hectare of land, formerly 101 High Street, is an open rocky promontory, which supports Garry oaks surrounded by mixed woodland and commands sweeping vistas over View Royal and the Sooke Hills. Its purchase supported the survival of many indigenous species on Knockan Hill and

conserved an area of open terrestrial herbaceous habitat, originally typical of Garry oak woodlands, but now rare, in the Capital Region.

The Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society is a small, neighbourhood organization whose members, inspired by love and concern for the remaining green-spaces on Knockan Hill, assumed stewardship of them in 1991. We identified the privately owned property at 101 High Street as crucial to the survival of natural habitat on the hill. We encouraged its purchase by the Town of View Royal and diligently pursued avenues to ensure its conservation.

Our many efforts included

presentations and letters to the Town, meetings with staff and elected officials, public awareness events with displays, guided walks and open houses for local residents and the general public.

The Town of View Royal dipped into its Reserve Park Acquisition Fund to pay \$450,000 for the new park on Knockan Hill. However, the town council’s decision in 2001 included the recommendation that the future of the new park should depend on us being responsible for raising \$200,000-250,000 to replenish the Fund and, failing the replenishment of the Fund,

the Town would consider subdivision and sale of lots from the property. In July of this year we may fail in our efforts to keep the ecosystem intact. Thus far, in spite of all our work and fund raising efforts, we have raised only \$5,000 to contribute to the Fund.

We are asking for the support of all HAT members and others who also value our precious local green-spaces. Your involvement will be appreciated and may make all the difference!

Please make a tax-deductible donation to the “101 Acquisition Fund”, c/o Habitat Acquisition Trust.



## A Stewardship Legacy in Mill Hill



**“Stewardships create a renewed sense of community and understanding that habitat conservation is a shared responsibility.”**

Whether your desire is a meandering stroll along a bubbling brook, a more adventurous hike over stone outcroppings or even a scenic view of the harbour, Mill Hill Regional Park is a beautiful environment for both relaxation and exercise. Borrowing its name from a short-lived business venture of the Hudson Bay Company in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the park is home to the rare Garry oak ecosystem, incredible

stands of Douglas fir and several endangered or threatened wildlife species. The park is particularly famous for its diverse array of native wildflowers. It is fantastic that the Capital Regional District is committed to protecting this land. In order to ensure the area can thrive in the years to come, it is essential to secure co-operation from neighbouring landowners. As such, this has become the next goal of the *Good Neighbours* Project. Our aim is to foster effective stewardship practices on land adjacent to the park, and by encouraging property owners to participate, the integrity of the existing habitat in the park will be strengthened.

During summer visits to British Columbia, I quickly fell in love with the spectacular natural beauty and biological diversity of

Vancouver Island. The rich marine environments and ancient forests truly are treasures to be preserved. So, after completing my first year of law school at Dalhousie University, I decided to transfer to the University of Victoria this year to participate in the Environmental Law Clinic and get involved with local conservation efforts.

I intend to make a meaningful contribution to the community as part of Habitat Acquisition Trust this summer, and I anticipate the project will be a success. I am enthusiastic about the chance to expand my knowledge of local ecology and corresponding environmental issues. After being called to the bar, I plan to volunteer legal services to non-profit environmental organizations.



*Andrew Uhlman*



## Laughlin Lake Update

In late April, HAT and our partner group Islands Trust Fund (ITF) successfully completed and registered a conservation covenant on the 11-hectare Laughlin Lake property on Galiano Island. The property, was purchased by the Galiano Conservancy Association in 2003 with fundraising assistance from both HAT and ITF.

As the largest lake on Galiano Island, Laughlin Lake is important in a region that has only 1% of its area covered by freshwater ecosystems. The

property provides essential habitat for an abundant and diverse population of birds, mammals and amphibians, including the blue-listed (threatened) Red-legged Frog and the blue-listed Painted Turtle. The property forms the central link in a protected areas network that will span across Galiano Island.

HAT is proud to share this conservation accomplishment with our friends and members.



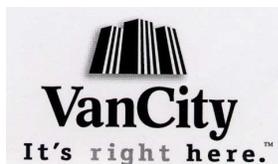
## pleases and thank yous

### pleases

We are looking for **volunteers to sell raffle tickets** – if you can sell tickets at an upcoming event, at work, or on your street, please let us know!

We would gratefully accept any of the following items, in exchange for a tax receipt: monitors (17" SVGA), wheel mice, a laser printer and a paper shredder.

The Board and Staff of HAT would like to express our gratitude to VanCity Credit Savings Union. Thank you for your continued support!



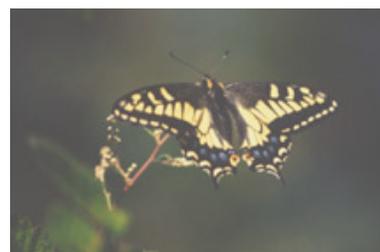
### thank yous

A **big** thank you to all of our friends who responded to our appeal letter earlier this year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. We were heartened by your generosity, which helped us to get through a tough spot!

Thank you to Adrienne Traviss, a talented artist, who created the Wild Garden Party logo you see on page 3. [www.adriennetraviss.com](http://www.adriennetraviss.com)

Sealegs Kayaking Adventures has partnered with us on a fantastic prize package for our current raffle – thank you! [www.sealegskayaking.com](http://www.sealegskayaking.com) See page 2 for raffle details.

A **special thank you** to our dedicated volunteers who help with everything from computer problems and database management to newsletter layout and outreach events. We really appreciate all that you do for us!



### committees

HAT welcomed four new board members at our December AGM and, in January, re-organized our committee and operating framework. While the Executive Committee of the Board continues to meet monthly, the full Board of Directors now meet four times a year. The other committees are the Land Committee, the Fundraising and Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee and the Outreach and Communications Committee. These committees meet regularly and provide guidance to the staff and board. If you have interests and skills in any of these areas, and would like to get involved, we would welcome you to join a committee. Please contact the

HAT office. And now, we introduce to you...The HAT Land Committee:

The Land Committee has been established to provide advice and assistance to the Board of Directors on HAT land conservation projects such as conservation covenants, land donations, land purchases, and land/covenant management. In particular, the Land Committee:

- Works with staff to identify, analyze and report to the Board on emerging land conservation issues, opportunities, and initiatives for Board direction;
- Reviews information regarding potential projects and programs to ensure that all necessary information is available to the Board to allow for an informed decision; that related HAT policies and guidelines have been adequately addressed prior to Board review; and that adequate resources are available to undertake the project;
- Develops land-related guidelines, policies and models for use by staff and/or the Board; and
- Promotes land conservation and searches out potential land conservation opportunities for

consideration.

The Committee maintains an on-going work program to manage and track its initiatives and reports to the Board of Directors at each quarterly meetings of the Board. Currently, HAT has six conservation covenants and one land donation project in progress. We also have recently completed a joint conservation covenant with Islands Trust Fund on the Galiano Conservancy Association's Laughlin Lake property on Galiano Island. Please feel free to contact the Lands Committee, through staff, if you have potential projects you would like HAT to consider.



## Thank you to the Following Organizations & Businesses for their Support in 2004

Adrienne Traviss Fine Art  
Arenaria Research & Interpretation  
Arbour-Care Tree Conservation Services Ltd.  
British Columbia Gaming Commission  
Capital Regional District Water  
Denman Island Chocolates  
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program  
Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society  
GardenWorks – Colwood  
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team  
Georgia Basin Action Plan  
Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre  
Human Resources Development Canada – Summer Career Placement Program

Judith Cullington and Associates  
JW McConnell Family Foundation/Victoria Foundation Environmental Funding Program  
Kaatza Foundation  
Nightskies Bed and Breakfast  
Sealegs Kayaking Adventures  
Silk Road Aromatherapy and Tea Company  
Small Potatoes Urban Delivery  
Township of Esquimalt  
VanCity Savings Credit Union  
Victoria Healing Centre  
Victoria Natural History Society  
Western Canada Wilderness Committee  
Zonta Club of Victoria



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