



HAT Chat

The Newsletter of Habitat Acquisition Trust

Summer 2003

Issue 10

Laughlin Lake Is Saved!

We have successfully completed our third acquisition project here at HAT: Laughlin Lake on Galiano Island is preserved as parkland forever!

It now joins the network of protected areas in our region: Ayum Creek in Sooke and Brooks Point on Pender Island joined in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

Considering we have been in existence for seven years, some people may not recognize the significance of this milestone. We feel it at HAT though! It means that the average time it takes us to purchase a property is a little over 2 years and the cumulative total of funds raised to purchase these sites has been more than 1.4 million dollars. Because we only do one acquisition project at a time, we can concentrate all our energies on completing it, and then consider others. That means that the properties are bought and paid for: no mortgage, no interest payments and no debt. And **that** gives me a very good feeling!

We have had many partners over the years that have been directly involved in the fundraising efforts, and Laughlin Lake is no exception. The Galiano Conservancy Association and the Islands Trust Fund were significant contributors to the Laughlin Lake acquisition – it would not be preserved today without their contributions. Teamwork is needed to succeed in the Capital Regional District. Recent statistics have placed our property values among the highest in Canada. This expense poses the greatest challenge to land trusts such as HAT.

Not to be daunted, we already have plans for our next project. There are several properties we are considering, each of which is recognized as having significant ecosystem characteristics. One of these will become the focus of our next campaign. Join us in preserving another regional treasure by donating to HAT. All contributions are tax-deductible and we have a myriad of different ways to contribute.

Claudia Copley



B. Whittington

You Are Invited To:

Boogie with the Bill Hilly Band !



Date: **Sunday June 8, 7:30 - 9:30 pm (doors at 7:00)**
Place: **The Belfrey Theatre**
Price: **\$20/person**



Join the Juno-nominated Bill Hilly Band for a fabulous fundraiser for HAT.

These five exceptional musicians, from B.C.'s beautiful coast, all share a common purpose: to play timeless acoustic music with a passionate flair that captivates audiences of all ages. In an increasingly rare hometown appearance, The Bills are helping HAT to raise funds to achieve a mutual goal: preserving Victoria's natural beauty.

Tickets on sale at the Belfrey Theatre Box Office – 385-6815

President's Message

Spring of 2003 finds HAT in the middle of exciting and busy times. We at HAT have been witness to and part of many changes in our organization and our region in the past few months. Among those changes is the fact that I have been elected President of HAT's Board, Andrew Harcombe has been elected Vice President and Clare Rumball has been elected Secretary. Michael Mascall will remain HAT's Treasurer.

In January, Boyd Pyper joined HAT as our new Executive Director. Boyd came to HAT with a wealth of experience in the non-government and government sectors. Boyd also brought his innumerable skills as a practicing lawyer to his position at HAT. He has leapt into the job with enthusiasm and energy and has already begun to make his mark on the organization. We are very pleased to have Boyd working within HAT.



Spring is also witness to the launch of Good Neighbours – The Sequel. Jennifer Eliason and Pauline Brest van Kempen are bringing all of the energy and knowledge from the very successful first phase of this program to neighbourhoods in Esquimalt, Saanich and Oak Bay in the upcoming months. Watch for Good Neighbours in your neighbourhood!

HAT and our partners, **Galiano Conservancy Association** and **Islands Trust Fund**, were pleased to announce the completion of the purchase of Laughlin Lake on Galiano Island. This event marked the end of a lot of hard work on the part of all involved and ensures the conservation of another important piece of habitat.

We were also excited to be present at the announcement of the new Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. This landmark event highlights the conservation significance of the land within HAT's mandate area and provides even more incentive to further our objectives.

The remainder of 2003 promises to be as exciting and full as the first five months have been. I am looking forward to many more conservation successes in the near future.

*Eric Lofroth
President*

You Are Invited To:

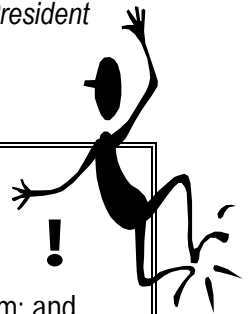
(please see page 5 for more info)

G e t C o n n e c t e d !

Dates: Thursday, July 3rd 2:00pm - 4:00pm; Friday, July 4th and Saturday, July 5th 10:00am – 4:00 pm; and Sunday, July 6th 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Place: Student Union Building, University of Victoria

Join us for a fabulous event timed with the national stewardship conference being held in Victoria: The Leading Edge: Stewardship & Conservation in Canada 2003. Conservation and stewardship groups from across Canada will answer your questions and have displays and information about their projects.



Good Neighbours to Garry Oaks

We are pleased to announce that the Good Neighbours Project is continuing into three new areas! With generous funding from the *Habitat Stewardship Program* (an initiative of Environment Canada), this phase of the project will focus on the endangered Garry oak ecosystem. By talking to people who live adjacent to Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary (in Saanich), Uplands Park (in Oak Bay) and Highrock Cairn Park (in Esquimalt), we hope to raise awareness about the Garry oak ecosystem and to encourage landowners to undertake stewardship activities on their own properties. EcoAction Canada and Human Resources Development Canada are also helping to fund this phase of the project.

We are very thankful for the continued support of Environment Canada. Their commitment to Species at Risk legislation and community-based stewardship projects makes work like ours possible, and gives us a sense of hope for the future.

The *Good Neighbours* project educates landowners and residents about the link between a person's actions on their own property and the health of the adjacent protected area. The project encourages people to become good environmental stewards of their property, which helps to create a buffer around the nearby park. Using a technique called landowner contact, we are able to discuss stewardship options with landowners and provide people with on-site advice.

Landowner contact includes discussing the importance of maintaining wildlife habitat, adding native plants to the home garden, reducing or eliminating pesticides, composting, removal of invasive plant species, water conservation, and other private land stewardship options.



L. Davis

The first phase of Habitat Acquisition Trust's *Good Neighbours* Project, funded by EcoAction Canada, was a great success. We spent the last six months contacting landowners who live around Oak Haven Park (in Central Saanich), Esquimalt Lagoon (in Colwood) and Mount Douglas Park (in Saanich) and we are very pleased with the level of response. Hundreds of letters were sent out, and 33% of the people we contacted with a follow-up phone call participated in the project by having a *Good Neighbours* visit. The visits were deemed by all to be very worthwhile and informative. Visits lasted from 30 minutes to two hours, and often included a walk-about the property, enabling us to assist landowners with native and invasive plant identification, pest identification and wildlife gardening questions.

The landowners we visited were asked to consider signing a stewardship agreement, in which they pledge to be good environmental stewards of their properties. People were very agreeable to this idea, and 82% of the landowners we visited signed an agreement. These people will also be awarded an "Environmental Steward" sign, to place at the front of their property, demonstrating their commitment to their neighbourhood and the environment.

We are looking forward to meeting the landowners in the next three areas, and sharing our knowledge of the Garry oak ecosystem with them. The Garry oak ecosystem is one of the three most endangered ecosystems in Canada. Many plant and animal species have already been lost from these diverse ecosystems, and many more are at risk. The largest threat to Garry oak ecosystem is urban development. Private land stewardship can play an important role in the preservation of species and ecosystems at risk.

Jennifer Eliason

HAT Projects

Goldstream Park Educational Programs

HAT is coordinating an effort to raise funds for the salmon programs at Goldstream Provincial Park. We are pleased to welcome Eric Kopetski as a new addition to HAT. Eric is a geography co-op student at the University of Victoria, and will be approaching local businesses to garner support for Goldstream Park. His enthusiasm and interest in this project is appreciated!



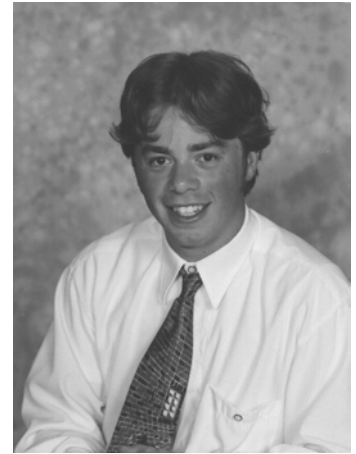
Students looking at the spawning Salmon during the education programs at Goldstream Provincial Park.

Along with the salmon, fall brings thousands of elementary school children to Goldstream Provincial Park. These children come to the park to participate in the educational programs offered by Arenaria Research and Interpretation in conjunction with this spectacular natural phenomenon. Prior to April of 2002, these programs were offered free of charge, allowing approximately 300 classes per year to enjoy them. The provincial government's decision to cease funding these programs has resulted in the schools being charged a fee, which many can't afford. Habitat Acquisition Trust is hoping to restore funding to these programs by forming a partnership with local, community-oriented businesses to make the educational programs at Goldstream Park accessible to all students.

The educational opportunities presented by the programs at Goldstream Provincial Park are unique to

Victoria. There are few places in B.C. that can boast a world class salmon run, magnificent old-growth trees, thousands of bald eagles, and naturalists on site to help visitors understand and appreciate the processes at work.

I grew up in a rural area near Quesnel B.C., and had only to step outside my front door to be enveloped in a living, breathing forest alive with all sorts of wildlife. When I moved to Victoria two years ago, I was ecstatic to discover Goldstream Provincial Park, a place with many of the same natural attributes that I had around me as a child. As I learned more about the park, I began to understand how valuable the park is to the people of Victoria, providing opportunities for recreation and giving them a chance to experience nature in action. This is especially important for children growing up in an urban environment where they do not often get a chance to learn about what goes on outside of the city limits. The school programs at Goldstream Park give children the opportunity to experience a whole new world, right in their backyard!



While searching for a summer job, I came across a program sponsored by Labatt Brewery in partnership with the HRDC, called *Labatt People in Action*. This program allows young people to contribute to community projects by funding their wages for the summer. The program gives me the opportunity to be a part of HAT and work towards making the school programs at Goldstream Park free for all students. I am very excited to have the opportunity to contribute to Goldstream Park, and I look forward to getting the community involved in Goldstream!

Eric Kopetski

HAT Projects – *continued*

Connecting for Conservation Goes National!

Building on the success of *Connecting for Conservation I* held at the Crystal Gardens in 2001, and *Connecting for Conservation II* held at Pearkes Arena in 2002, **Connecting for Conservation** is growing again! **Connecting for Conservation III** is working to partner with the exhibition segment of **The Leading Edge: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada 2003** conference to be held at the University of Victoria July 3-6 of this year, where 500-700 delegates from all over Canada will be in attendance. While still separate and distinct, **Connecting for Conservation III** will benefit from the national audience attending the conference, by being presented in tandem with the conference trade show, the conference Information Centre, The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Exhibition, and poster presentations by invited delegates.



While the broader exhibition will involve most of the Student Union Building (SUB), **Connecting for Conservation III** tables will have particularly high

traffic and visibility as they will be situated throughout SUB hallways and in Vertigo with The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Exhibition.

The combined exhibition will be an area for industry, government, and non-profit clients to communicate with the conference participants, as well as the general public. This event will help to increase the awareness of local residents about conservation organizations and connect those organizations with the broader national work.

Through funding from HRDC's Summer Career Placement program, Janis Olsen will be joining HAT for the summer months, and assisting with the co-ordination of **Connecting for Conservation III**. Janis has recently completed the Habitat Restoration Program at Douglas College, is a Board member for the Rivershed Society of BC, and will be attending UVic in the fall. As well as putting her planning and co-ordination skills towards this year's **Connecting for Conservation III**, Janis will also be working on the Good Neighbours Project, running environmental education programs for school kids at Uplands Park and assisting with provincial parks interpretive programs at Goldstream. Welcome to HAT Janis! Talk about multitasking!

Connecting for Conservation III will run from 2:00pm - 4:00pm Thursday, July 3rd, 10:00am - 4:00 pm on Friday, July 4th and Saturday, July 5th and from 10:00am - 2:00pm on Sunday, July 6th. **Come on out and get connected!**

Stop By For A Visit Sometime!

There are two great opportunities to "chat with HAT" this summer:

- When you're out at the **Victoria Flower and Garden Show** this year (July 11-13), come and visit us at the HAT display. We would love to talk more with our supporters and let you know how all of our projects are progressing.
- In August we will do another fun-filled, ice cream packed "**Ice Cream Sunday**" event: August 17. Last year we had a great day of family oriented activities at the Goldstream Park Visitor Centre, and locally made all natural Shady Creek Ice Cream will be there for the scooping! Proceeds from the sale of this delicious offering will be donated to HAT.

HAT Projects – *continued*

Natural & Cultural Heritage Stewardship Week: July 2 – July 6

An important national conference, *The Leading Edge: Stewardship & Conservation in Canada 2003*, is being held at the University of Victoria from July 3 – 6. The first conference, *Caring for our Land and Water*, was held in Guelph, Ontario in 2000 and attracted over 500 delegates from the non-governmental, government and business and tourism sectors.

The Leading Edge Conference

The Leading Edge Conference aims to advance the role of stewardship and conservation in protecting our natural and cultural heritage in Canada by bringing leading edge doers, thinkers and policy makers from across Canada to exchange information, share successes and to work together to:

- Assist in strategic planning and promote public policy development to better support stewardship and conservation;
- Provide program support and information about tools; and
- Increase opportunities for partnerships between non-governmental organisations, governments, business, professionals and landowners.



Case Study: Landowner Contact Program, “The Good Neighbours Project”

Representing *Habitat Acquisition Trust*, Landowner Contact Specialists Jennifer Eliason and Pauline Brest van Kempen will be making a presentation at the conference on Saturday July 5, 2003. They will be discussing the importance of landowner contact in the Capital Regional District and how successful this tool is to private land stewardship.

Natural & Cultural Heritage Stewardship Week

HAT has been playing a lead role in the local committee that is working to encourage local government participation in the conference. The committee has requested that local governments declare Natural & Cultural Heritage Stewardship Week: July 2nd - July 6th in their community.

So far the following local governments have proclaimed Natural & Cultural Heritage Stewardship Week:

Central Saanich	Colwood	Esquimalt	Highlands	
Langford	Oak Bay	Saanich	Victoria	View Royal

What can you do?

Supporters of habitat preservation can do several things to highlight our important work in our region during this week.

- Write, or go to, your local council and ask what they are doing to follow up on their proclamation and what they are doing to make stewardship and conservation happen in your community;
- Attend the conference - information can be found at: www.stewardship2003.ca;

Visit the tables and displays of local conservation groups as part of *Connecting for Conservation* (www.conservationconnection.bc.ca) and visit the *Islands in the Salish Sea Mapping Project* display, both at the Student Union Building.

HAT People

HAT Helper



HAT's activities are supported by individuals, corporations and governments. With volunteer support from members and our Board, we work hard to 'stretch' each dollar we receive. And we appreciate and value all donations, large and small.

Last month we received a donation of \$100 from **Willie O'Connell**, an 11-year-old HAT supporter from Metchosin.

Willie is an avid biker and budding botanist. Several years ago, Willie contributed his time and talents to vegetation surveys taking place on Mary Hill in Metchosin. This experience convinced him that he had to find ways to contribute to protecting such beautiful natural areas for future generations. So, once a week at recess, Willie ran a 'Snack Shack' at Westmont School, selling licorice and other candy to his schoolmates. He ran the entire business, from purchasing the candy to keeping financial records. Willie did this for an entire school year, with a profit of \$100.

And that's the \$100 he donated to HAT. We thank Willie O'Connell for his hard work in fundraising and his dedication to supporting HAT's work. Way to go, Willie!

In addition to the contribution by Willie, his parents have joined the list of HAT sustaining members. "Thank you's" all around to the O'Connell Family. Sustaining memberships go into the endowment fund HAT has with the Victoria Foundation.

Andy MacKinnon, Hat Director

Librarians Are Signing Out!

Here at HAT we are losing a valuable asset: our librarians! **Andy and Marilyn Buhler** have volunteered for HAT for many years: cataloguing and organizing the "Dr. Bob Olgvie Bioregional Library" that we have here in the office. There are hundreds of items in the library, all shelved and organized using the Library of Congress system. This resource is available to anyone who has an interest and the list of titles is available online. Books cannot be borrowed without special permission, but we do have a copier. We would like to thank the Buhler's for their years of service. One phone call and they would appear at our door; ready to cart away the box(es!) of additions. We really appreciate the time they gave us and would like to wish them well in their new "habitat": Vernon.



We would also like to put out the request for anyone wishing to assist us with our library...! Volunteers are always welcome at HAT!

Fundraising

A New Raffle!

We have a raffle on the go for five fabulous prizes, and the proceeds will go towards supporting the environmental education programs at Goldstream Provincial Park. The draw date is June 30, 2003 so there is still lots of time for you to get in on these five terrific prizes:

- an amazing print of wolves by artist Sheila Ballantyne (donated by Lorne McCulloch),
- a beautiful eagle sculpture, carved from wood by Ray Brunet (donated by artist),
- a lovely line etching of fawn lilies by Anne Algard (donated by artist),
- an adult camping kit, just in time for summer camping trips,
- a kids camping kit, for the little happy campers in your life



Ticket pricing as follows: **\$2 (single)** or **three for \$5** and can be purchased from HAT staff, directors, at the Goldstream Visitor Centre, or at the Bill Hilly Band fundraising concert.

Your assistance in selling raffle tickets is always appreciated!



Habitat Acquisition Trust

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

*If you do not wish to receive this newsletter contact us and you will be removed from the mailing list.
HAT does not release its mailing list to any other organizations.*

Thank you to our HAT Supporters!

The following people/organizations have provided generous support to HAT:

Arenaria Research & Interpretation
Art & Soul Frame and Gallery
Backyard Wild Bird and Nature Store
Bagel Street Café
Barraclough Foundation
BC Environmental Youth Team
Blair Family Foundation
Brentwood Bay Nurseries
British Columbia Gaming Commission
The Burton Charitable Foundation
The Butchart Gardens
Cairo Coffee Merchants
Canadian North Outfitters
Capital Regional District
'Chosin Pottery Inc.
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
Colwood Dental Group
Colwood House of Nutrition
Electrical Cable Supply Ltd.
EJLB Foundation
Environment Canada EcoAction Program
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program
Esquimalt Lagoon Enhancement Association
Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative
Fresh Piks Organics
Frontrunners Footwear (Victoria)
GardenWorks - Colwood
Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative
Hill House Chocolates
Hills Native Art
Hillyer, Atkins
Human Resources Development Canada
Judith Cullington and Associates
Kaatza Foundation
Karen Hurley and Associates
Labatt People in Action
Little Caesars – Hatley Park

Lone Pine Publishing
Ma Miller's Goldstream Inn
Mountain Equipment Co-op
Munro's Books
My-Chosin Café
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Oracle Corporation Canada
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Pacific Centre Family Services Association
Parish and Company
Patisserie Daniel
Prospect Lake and District Community Association
Provincial Capital Commission
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
PSC Natural Foods
Public Conservation Assistance Fund
Real Estate Foundation of BC
Red Barn Market
RLC Enterprises
Rocky Mountain Muffin Company
Shady Creek Ice Cream Company
Andrew Stewart, Barrister and Solicitor
Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Thrifty Foods
University of Victoria Co-op
VanCity Savings Credit Union
Victoria Folk Music Society
The Victoria Foundation
Victoria Natural History Society
Water Pure and Simple
West Coast Environmental Law
Westside InstaPrint
Richard Wey, BC Land Surveyor
Willard and Elva Dawson Fund within the Victoria Foundation
Windsor Plywood - Langford