



# HAT Chat

The Newsletter of Habitat Acquisition Trust

Fall 2003

Issue 11

## Support from All Directions!

When the biennial invitation to artists went out this year for the Goldstream art show, *The Nature of Island Artists*, there was a line containing "if you have a piece you'd like to donate for the show..." Ask and you shall receive! The swell of support that emerged from this simple request is heart-warming. Fifteen artists have already offered to donate their work to this worthwhile cause; some of which have gone into the silent auction and others are part of our current raffle (see page 7).

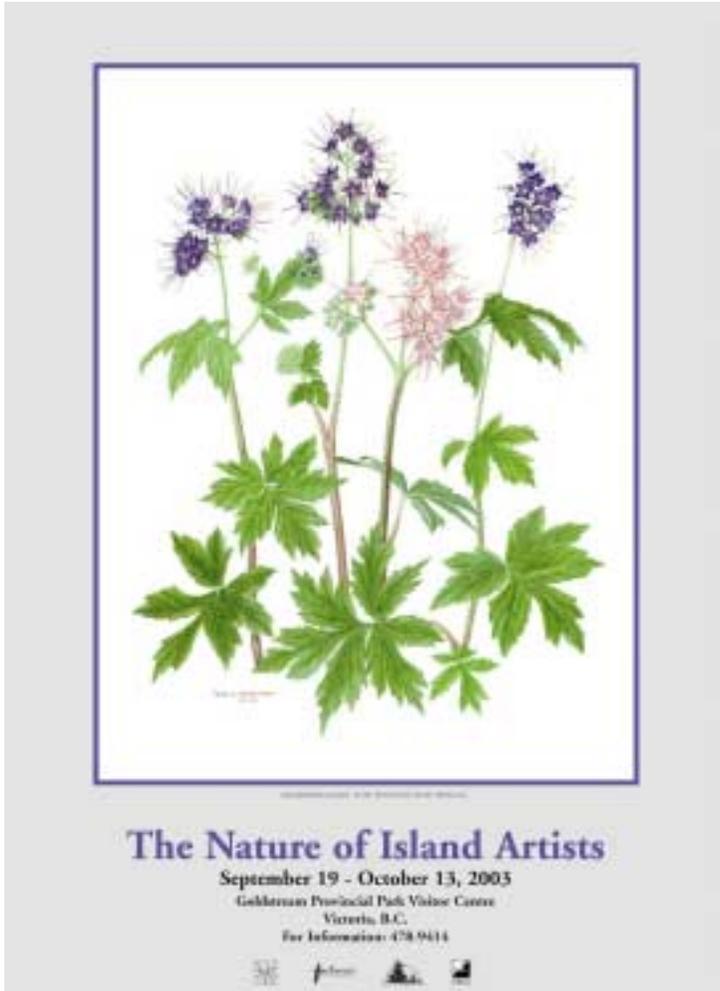
Both are up and running now as a sneak preview to the show, which officially begins on September 20 and runs until Thanksgiving, October 13, at the Goldstream Nature House.

If you have never been to the show you will be amazed at the transformation. All the exhibitory in the Nature House is removed (except for the life-size Bald Eagle nest!) and it is converted into a spectacular rustic gallery – perfectly suited to the nature inspired pieces on display. You can purchase artwork, participate in the silent auction, or you can try your luck with the raffle. Participating artists will be demonstrating their skills throughout the exhibition, so you have an opportunity to meet them as well.

The last show saw more than 10,000 visitors through to see 133 pieces by the 118 participating artists – quite a selection! All proceeds raised from the show will be used to help fund the Nature House and keep it open year round.

A stalwart HAT supporter provided the artwork for this year's poster: **Tannis Warburton**. In classic Tannis fashion, she has captured the exact likeness of a rare beauty that occurs at Goldstream, the Pacific Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*). The purple form of this plant is usually the exception, but at Goldstream it predominates. If you have been noticing the poster everywhere, our gratitude goes out to the hard work of the **Humanitarian Group of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**. For their day of community service, they used a map of our region and strategically placed more than 200 posters around the city! This day of service is an annual event in which all ages participate. Some of their members removed ivy, gardened, and made baby hats for hospitals on the same day. If there is a bare spot in a prominent location you would like to fill with a poster, please drop by the HAT office or Goldstream.

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## Upcoming HAT Events

### *The Nature of Island Artists Art Exhibit*

**September 20 to October 13:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. [See "Support from All Directions", page 1, for more details.]

### *The Urban Wild Garden Party*

**Saturday, September 27:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HAT is co-organizing a special event to be held in the garden at the Royal BC Museum. This will be a day full of activities for the entire family! Join us in the outside courtyard and native plant garden of the Royal BC Museum for nature walks, children's activities, face-painting, presentations, and a showcase of plants that occur naturally in our spectacular province. If you prefer to relax in your garden, appreciate wildlife, want to conserve water or just like beautiful plants, then native plant gardening is for you. You'll discover the many benefits of native plants, tour the museum's garden, listen to storytellers, learn about ethno-botanical uses of native plants, have an opportunity to design your new native plant garden, and learn from local experts. Native plant retailers will be at this event, as well as local non-profit groups. HAT will have a display at the event so come by and pick up our new brochure (funded by a grant from **VanCity Savings Credit Union**), check out our new and improved bumper stickers (\$5 each), or try on one of our new fleece vests (stylishly embellished with the HAT logo, a beautiful native plant).

### *Goldstream Salmon Run Run*

**Sunday, October 26:** 9 a.m. start time, in the Goldstream Park campground.

[See end of article on page 3.]

## Musical HATs is Back!

(Coffeehouse-style event: 2 venues!)

**Nov. 8:** Metchosin Community Hall (4401 William Head Rd)

**Nov. 29:** Prospect Lake Community Hall (5358 Sparton Rd)



Doors open at 7 p.m. and the music begins at 7:30 p.m.

*Tickets: \$10.00, at the HAT Office #316 - 620 View St., 995-2428 or at the Goldstream Visitor Centre*

### Lovin' the Limelight!

The Belfrey Theatre roared to the rollicking tunes of the Juno-nominated **Bill Hilly Band** this spring. This concert was a success in every way: sold out, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and a fundraiser for HAT. Thank you to the Bills for their generosity and support of HAT!

We can't seem to get off the stage though! This fall we will again be doing two nights of our extremely popular **Musical HATs** – a coffeehouse-style evenings of food, drink, and fabulous music by a variety of local talent. Last year we tried holding this event in Metchosin and the results were gratifying. Metchosinites came out in droves and wanted more. With that in mind, we will hold one of the nights at the Metchosin Community Hall, and the other will be at the Prospect Lake Community Hall. Last year these evenings sold out, so don't wait to get your tickets!

## Support from All Directions!

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Another artist has found a different way to support Goldstream. **Kristi Bridgeman** has generously donated the image from her piece in the 2001 show for us to use however we like. **Louise Beinhauer**, a HAT volunteer, offered her desktop publishing skills and produced beautiful art cards out of the image and everyone adores the results. These cards are available in sets of 6 for \$8 at the Goldstream Nature Centre or at the HAT office.

The Goldstream art show follows hot on the heels of the second annual *Ice Cream Sunday* event at Goldstream, where corporate support of community was alive and well. **Shady Creek Ice Cream Company** managing partner **Christie Eng** and a gang of "scoopers" donated their time and profits from the sale of their scrumptious servings. This day was a success and we are looking forward to next year already. We have been able to keep the Nature House open during the summer, as well as funding staff to do daytime and evening educational programs at the visitor centre and in the campground, in part because of substantial donations from **RLC Enterprize Ltd** (\$10,000).

Corporate support has come in from other local businesses as well. As part of HAT's "Goldstream Chums" program, several community-minded business owners have come forward to support local schoolchildren's ability to experience the annual Goldstream salmon run. The **Victoria Chapter of the Canadian Home Builders Association** came in at the Vision level of support (\$1,000); **TM Communications** are Leaders (\$500) while **Archipelago Marine Research, Nautical Nellies Restaurant, and Resort Long Distance**



Fairy Artwork courtesy of K. Bridgeman



are all Builder level supporters (\$250). The Vision level allows 12 classes to attend the Salmon Run school programs for free, the Leader level funds 6 and the Builder level pays for 3 classes. Any local businesses interested in committing their support to benefit the children of our community are welcome to contact us in this regard.

The **Victoria Natural History Society** has also provided funding for school programs. This will be the second year in a row the Society has given \$4,000 to HAT for Goldstream, and this substantial contribution goes a long way towards making the educational opportunities affordable for all children. Another non-corporate contribution to Goldstream to enhance the Nature House is the more than \$3,000 the **Public Conservation Assistance Fund** has given HAT to upgrade and improve the video camera viewing opportunities the park has to offer. For more information of this please see the article on page 5.

On the topic of the salmon run...don't forget to slip on your sneakers and come out for the second annual "Goldstream Salmon Run" Run: a 5 km family fun run (or walk, or stroll, or amble, or meander, or...? – you get the idea!). This happens Sunday, October 26 in the Goldstream campground. This is easily the most scenic run Victoria has to offer and all monies raised help keep parks programs running.

*by Claudia Copley*

## HAT Projects

### Environmental Education Update

HAT has had two projects this past spring and summer that involved environmental education programs for elementary school students, both teaching about endangered species and their habitat needs.

#### Freshwater Ecosystems

The first of these projects was actually the completion of the final phase of the Tod Creek waterfall fishway, funded by the **Pacific Salmon Foundation**. This aspect of this project was an environmental educational component involving schoolchildren, completed in the spring of 2003. A lottery was held at a "Salmon Lover's Dinner" hosted by Fisheries and Oceans (Nov. 4, 2002) for teachers in the Capital Regional District that participate in the "Salmon in the Classroom" program. Five lucky teachers had an environmental educator join them in the spring when they released their fry they had been raising. A total of 114 schoolchildren were provided with a program in conjunction with their salmon release. The program talked about habitat needs, nutrient cycling, and the overall life history of the salmon and a dissection of an adult salmonid accompanied the program. The 31 adults/parents that attended these programs also heard the essential messages. These programs were very well received and really rounded out the experience of raising the salmon in the classroom. The intentness of the children examining water samples for invertebrates in the photo below says it all!

#### Garry Oak Ecosystems and Marine Ecosystems

HAT conducted outdoor environmental programs about Garry oak and marine ecosystems at Cattle Point/Uplands Park and Willows Beach Municipal Park in June 2003.



A. Taylor



photo courtesy of Lynn Tissari

Two classes attended "Garry Oak Good Neighbours" programs held in Uplands Park. This program introduced students to native and non-native plant, animal, bird and insect species that inhabit Uplands Park, and the negative impacts invasive species have on the critically endangered Garry oak ecosystem through games and activities. Four classes attended "Marine Life at a Sandy Beach" seine programs at Willows Beach. These programs offered students hands-on experience with marine organisms that live in the eel grass beds of the inter-tidal zone. Students learned about the importance of ocean biodiversity and conservation of ocean environments. The colourful thank-you letters from the students clearly indicated they had a lot of fun while learning.

The programs were a great success and Habitat Acquisition Trust received positive feedback from teachers and parents alike who are interested in participating again next year. These programs offered an opportunity for children to build a direct relationship with the environment in a creative and welcoming atmosphere. Janis Olsen, the environmental educator conducting these programs for us, was hired through **Human Resources and Development Canada** funding (the **Summer Career Placement Program**). We hope to be successful with this funding again next year and perhaps offer similar school programs to the region.

#### Video Cameras?!!!

Another way we are fulfilling our mandate to educate residents and visitors about our region is encouraging the significant wildlife viewing opportunities available at Goldstream Park throughout the year. This includes a fall salmon run with as many as 60,000 Chum Salmon, followed closely by 200+ Bald Eagles gathering to feed on

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## HAT Projects

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*photo courtesy of Lynn Tissarie*

their spawned out carcasses over the winter months. Spring welcomes Rufus Hummingbirds on their northerly migration, hundreds of which stop to feed just outside the Visitor Centre. Summer is the time for viewing bats: five species are commonly seen and some number in the hundreds, feeding over the river and forest and roosting in the attic of the Nature House and natural cavities.

Recognizing the importance of this region for wildlife, efforts over the years have been made to maintain the wildlife values while enhancing the opportunities for park visitors to experience nature up close. To achieve this, remote operated cameras have been placed in the estuary, in the river, and in artificial nest/roost structures. The result is a win-win situation where the wildlife is provided with "quiet zones", maintained by the staff and volunteers, while visitor's experiences are not diminished by their exclusion. The educational value of watching a Violet-green Swallow "feather her nest" cannot be overstated: people leave Goldstream Provincial Park with a sense of



*B. Whittington*

stewardship and an increased awareness of the importance of these protected areas. Our goal is to maintain this aspect of their experience, and it was with that in mind that we applied to the **Public Conservation Assistance Fund** for funding to replace the aging equipment currently in use.

The creation of "Quiet Zones" in the estuary and lower stretches of the river at Goldstream Provincial Park, where all public access is restricted, has provided wildlife with large areas free of disturbance in which to feed and nest. Prior to the closure of these Quiet Zones, Bald Eagle numbers recorded during the Christmas Bird Count averaged around five. During this same time period after the Quiet Zones were closed to public access, these numbers rose to a high of 300. A remotely operated estuary camera, installed several years ago, has had no impact on Bald Eagle use of the area and has provided visitors with "up close and personal" views of Bald Eagles feasting on spawned Chum Salmon. The impact on less obvious fauna is more difficult to measure, but nesting of species such as Spotted Sandpiper has since been recorded where it had not been previously, and the vegetation coverage and vigor has been vastly improved.

Similar results are seen in the "Quiet Zone" created along the Goldstream River itself. A camera placed right into the river will allow visitors to watch Chum, Coho and Chinook Salmon swimming upstream to spawn with no disturbance to the migrating fish. Other wildlife flock to this area in numbers not seen in areas frequented by park visitors, and some species forage here only. Barrow's Goldeneye is an example of a species that prefers this closed off area for foraging.

Closing these areas off to the public was difficult at first since these Quiet Zones included some of the park's more popular trails. Interpretation was used as a tool to educate the general public and school groups about the importance of providing areas where wildlife doesn't have to worry about human disturbances. Video cameras have helped us to further educate about the importance of providing wildlife with the space they require which, with an ever-increasing population on the Island, is becoming more important than ever.

## HAT Projects

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Habitat Acquisition Trust recognizes the significance of the natural values easily experienced at Goldstream Provincial Park and we would like the Nature House to remain a year round destination for people interested in learning about the natural world. Instilling a stewardship sensibility in visitors and residents ultimately ensures that valuable conservation messages are incorporated into their decision-making.

### Good Neighbours

HAT's "Good Neighbours" project continues to meet with receptive residents throughout our region. Already Pauline and Jennifer have met with over forty landowners living around the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary and shared their knowledge of the Garry Oak ecosystem with them. They are in the process of signing Voluntary Stewardship Agreements with many of these landowners and awarding them with "Environmental Steward" signs.

On the topic of awarding "Environmental Steward" signs, a special event honouring residents living around Esquimalt Lagoon was held on June 14, in conjunction with the interpretive sign unveiling at the lagoon. In preparation for this event, the **89 (Pacific) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron (RCACS)** conducted a beach cleanup in the morning. More than 70 young people fanned out in an orderly fashion and made the place sparkle! The signage that was unveiled contains information about many of the birds of the lagoon, and there are plans for more signs in the future. The **Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS)** is fundraising to pay for these signs, with a substantial contribution coming from **The Victoria Foundation**. Funding from the **TD Friends of the Environment** was used by the VNHS to help HAT pay for our "Environmental Steward" signs. Twenty-eight residents living around the Lagoon signed a voluntary stewardship agreement, and these people were presented their individual signs in front of an appreciative crowd.

More than 30 "Environmental Steward" signs have been distributed to keen neighbours of Mount Douglas Park. We had wonderful feedback from all of our landowners, some of who have even offered to write letters of support for our next phase of the project.



Some of Esquimalt Lagoon's Environmental Stewards

*C. Copley*

Jennifer and Pauline have had meetings with both Esquimalt and Oak Bay municipal staff in preparation for the next areas of landowner contact, Highrock Cairn Park and Uplands Park respectively. In both cases the staff has been very keen to see the project get to work in their neighbourhood, and very helpful in assisting us. Further funding for the Good Neighbours project has come in from the **Provincial Capital Commission's Greenways Fund**. It is a real pleasure to have all levels of government support, local, provincial, and federal (**Habitat Stewardship Program, EcoAction, Human Resources Development Canada**) for this important undertaking.

If you are a neighbour to any of the listed parks and would like a home visit, or you would like more information about the Good Neighbours project, please don't hesitate to give HAT a call at 995-2428! If you'd like to be involved with the next beach clean up at Esquimalt Lagoon, there will be one on September 13 at 10 am. Meet at Ocean Blvd and Lagoon Rd., by the pump station and work up an appetite for the barbeque hosted by the Esquimalt Lagoon Enhancement Association at noon.

*by Claudia Copley*

### National Exposure

Stewardship groups from across Canada converged on Victoria in early July for the national stewardship conference. Organizers had their hands full with 600 delegates, field trips, meals, auctions, awards, and dozens of concurrent sessions happening throughout the University of Victoria. HAT's Connecting for Conservation event, designed to network non-profit organizations, was held in conjunction

## HAT Projects

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with the final exhibit of the *Islands in the Salish Sea* mapping project in the Student Union Building. More than 40 environmental nonprofits had their displays set up and information about their important work, as well as people there to answer questions about their organizations.

In the process of organizing this event, all the groups listed on HAT's Conservation Connection website ([www.conservationconnection.bc.ca](http://www.conservationconnection.bc.ca)) were notified and reminded to update their information on the site. There are currently 115 groups listed, as well as upcoming events and activities. At the conference we had a live internet connection with the website available for groups from across Canada to field-test. People were very impressed by the simplicity and efficiency of the site and wanted something similar to act as a clearinghouse for all the groups in their area. With this in mind, we have the framework ready to be sent anywhere via email and have already done so several times.

HAT was involved in the conference in other ways as well. All of HAT staff volunteered as notetakers for presentations and as session moderators, as well as contributing a prize for the silent auction and organizing a field trip. Our landowner contact specialists (Jen and Pauline) presented to a national audience about the successes of our Good Neighbours project, along with someone from the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture in Newfoundland about their Coastal Stewardship project, and someone from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority about their Prairie Stewardship Program.

### Thank You!

A **slide projector and slide screen** arrived at the HAT office **courtesy of Rod Silver**, and **David Allison** donated a **cellular phone** to the HAT Good Neighbour's project so that staff can keep in touch no matter how far a field they get. The **Barracough Foundation** has been generous to HAT again: a recent cheque for \$3,000 demonstrates yet again that they value the work we do. A much wanted **colour printer** was **donated** to the office **by Peter Atkin**.

### Pleases!

***The librarian volunteer request still stands:*** approximately once a year the HAT library requires an update as new information is published.

A **laser printer** would be a welcome replacement to our very worn out one.

Tax receipts will be issued for the value of any equipment donated to us.

### *Fine Art Raffle!*

As mentioned in the introductory article, we have a raffle on the go previewing the exceptional artwork that will be on exhibit during the *"Nature of Islands Artists"* artshow. All proceeds will go towards supporting the environmental education programs at Goldstream Provincial Park. The draw date is October 13 so there is still plenty of time for you to get in to see the preview and the show itself. You could win:

- "Early Winter" a framed acrylic landscape scene **donated by Susan Keane** (\$300 value)
- "Portrait of a Gull" framed photograph **donated by Denise Sturmwind** (\$215 value)
- "The Wise one of the Woods" fibre-linen tapestry (depicting an owl) **donated by Aino Tam** (\$150 value)
- "Spring Song" framed Chinese brush painting of a songbird **donated by Pauline Hemming** (\$250)
- "Her Winter Majesty" limited edition print of a Snowy Owl **donated by Morgan Warren** and **framing donated by Broadmead Gallery & Framing** (\$700 value)

Tickets are only \$2 each or 3 for \$5

and can be purchased from HAT staff, directors, or at the Goldstream Visitor Centre.

**Help selling raffle tickets is always appreciated!**



## Habitat Acquisition Trust

PO Box 8552, Victoria BC V8W 3S2

Phone: (250) 995-2428

Fax: (250) 920-7975

e-mail: [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca) [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca)



HAT's office is located in Suite 316, 620 View Street

*Habitat Acquisition Trust is incorporated under the Society Act of BC and is a Registered Charity*  
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## Thank You to Our HAT Supporters!

### The following businesses/organizations have provided generous support to HAT:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Archipelago Marine Research                   | Hills Native Art                                 | Red Barn Market   |
| Arenaria Research & Interpretation            | Hillyer, Atkins                                  | Resort Long Distance  |
| Art & Soul Framing and Gallery                | Human Resources Development Canada               | RLC Enterprize  |
| Bagel Street Café                             | Judith Cullington and Assoc.                     | Rocky Mountain Muffin Co.                                   |
| Barraclough Foundation                        | Karen Hurley and Assoc.                          | Shady Creek Ice Cream Co.                                   |
| Blair Family Foundation                       | Lone Pine Publishing                             | Small Potatoes Urban Delivery                               |
| Brentwood Bay Nurseries                       | Ma Miller's Goldstream Inn                       | Andrew Stewart, Barrister and Solicitor                     |
| British Columbia Gaming Commission            | Glen W. Moores, C.G.A.                           | Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary                   |
| Broadmead Gallery and Framing                 | Mountain Equipment Co-op                         | TD Friends of the Environment Foundation                    |
| The Burton Charitable Foundation              | Munro's Books                                    | Thrifty Foods   |
| The Butchart Gardens                          | My-Chosin Café                                   | TM Communications   |
| Cairo Coffee Merchants                        | Nature Conservancy of Canada                     | University of Victoria Co-op                                |
| Canadian North Outfitters                     | Nautical Nellies Restaurant                      | VanCity Savings Credit Union                                |
| Canadian Home Builders Association - Victoria | Oracle Corporation Canada                        | Victoria Folk Music Society                                 |
| Canadian Springs Water Co.                    | Pacific Salmon Foundation                        | The Victoria Foundation                                     |
| Capital Regional District                     | Pacific Centre Family Services Association       | Victoria Natural History Society                            |
| 'Chosin Pottery Inc.                          | Patisserie Daniel                                | Water Pure and Simple                                       |
| Coast Capital Savings Credit Union            | Prospect Lake and District Community Association | West Coast Environmental Law                                |
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| EJLB Foundation                               | Provincial Employees Community Services Fund     | Richard Wey, BC Land Surveyor                               |
| Environment Canada EcoAction Program          | PSC Natural Foods                                | Willard and Elva Dawson Fund within the Victoria Foundation |
| Frontrunners Footwear (Victoria)              | Public Conservation Assistance Fund              | Windsor Plywood - Langford                                  |
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| Georgia Basin Action Plan                     |  |   |
| Hill House Chocolates                         |  |   |