

HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST

Annual Report 2005-2006



HAT

Creating Conservation Legacies

2006 President's Message

Prepared by Andrew Harcombe, President

Welcome to the 10th annual general meeting of the Habitat Acquisition Trust, or as it is more often referred to, HAT. I would like to keep my message short tonight so that you have time to both hear about our activities of the past year and join us after the AGM for snacks and refreshments.

This is the end of our tenth year as a conservation organization. We should all be proud of our achievements and our current organizational and financial health. I would like to thank Carolyn Stewart, who will not be standing for re-election, for her leadership on policy development and land acquisition and covenants. You will be missed, as will your focused questions about all our activities. I would also like to thank Don Eastman, who is stepping down from the Board tonight after many years of service. Don has brought his extensive knowledge, caring nature, and passion for conservation to HAT's Board for most of the last 10 years, and I am very appreciative of all that he has contributed in that time.

I would now like to focus my message primarily on HAT staff. We have been particularly blessed in the last few years with an enthusiastic and over-achieving work force with strong passion for conservation. Over the past year, Kathryn Martell left to pursue science adventures in our northern climes. She brought her bright light to the office every day, working evenings and weekends in community events to help raise HAT profile and involvement. She will be missed. Geoff Huber is her replacement, and he is another great find for HAT. He has quickly become immersed in a number of key projects and easily passed his six-month probation with us. Kate Emmings started the year as our "temporary" Executive Director while Jennifer was on maternity leave. As the time approached for Jennifer's return, it became apparent to me and the other Directors that we needed a strategy to both welcome Jennifer back and keep Kate in HAT. We quickly came to a resolution on that, and both Jennifer and Kate continue to provide valuable services to our mission. At this time, I would like to thank Kate for stepping forward for us in Jennifer's absence—you did a great job for us and I hope we can retain you as a financial and covenant specialist long into the future. I would also like to publicly thank Jennifer for returning after her leave. Her passion for conservation is now matched (or exceeded) with her passion for her son, Maddox, and we are trying to provide Jennifer with the right balance for her passions. What can I say about Todd, or as he is known to CRD children, Mr. Garry Oakley. Todd leads our stewardship program of outreach, landowner contact, and education with the same high energy he plays the drums. He is our strength out in the community and spreads the message of conservation throughout the region.

In closing, I would like to thank our volunteers for another year of commitment, especially Thora for her work in our library, Lyndis for her work

with our membership database, and Charlie for his continued support of our computer systems. I would also like to thank Erika Kanczula, who has provided bookkeeping services for several years to HAT, and to our accountant, Glen Moores, who keeps us friends with Revenue Canada. I would also like to thank the members and regular donors of HAT. You too are an essential part of the HAT team, and should feel proud of your commitment to conservation in the CRD.

HAT is going into the third year of our five year strategic plan we shared with you last year. We are using that plan to help steer our course, and I think we are doing a great job of staying focused and on track.

Andrew Harcombe,
President

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Simon Philp, Treasurer

General Overview of Year Ended October 31, 2006

The financial year ended October 31, 2006 was another strong year for HAT.

In the fiscal year HAT:

- Replenished the land acquisition fund by over 10%
- Completed significant initial work at the Matson Lands
- Improved covenant monitoring, while maintaining existing programs, services and sustainability
- Operated for the second consecutive year without an operating loss, and within our annual core operating budget.

Overview of the Funds

Three years ago HAT changed to Fund Accounting. Fund Accounting provides a better matching of the revenues and expenses of specialized components of HAT - and also ensures that funds are available for ongoing or specific obligations.

HAT has four funds.

General Fund

- Contains all operational revenue and expenses - including land stewardship programs, covenant monitoring, and all other ongoing initiatives not part of other specific funds.
- HAT frequently raises funds for specific projects that start in one fiscal year (i.e. before October 31) and finish in another. This means that funds may be on hand at October 31, but be committed for the next year. This is called deferred revenue.
- Another way to look at this; is that deferred revenue represents the money in HAT's bank account, but that HAT could not spend within the year, because it was required for subsequent years.

Land Acquisition Fund

- New donations, and interest income on the land acquisition fund increased the size of the fund to \$43,638 at year end, basically a little above the balance at the start of the 2005 year.

Endowment and Matson Fund

- Both funds are managed by the Victoria Foundation, as a 'Designated and Agency Endowment' Funds.
- This means that HAT is provided with annual income, but the capital is unavailable, consistent with the concept of an endowment.
- The Endowment and Matson Funds are invested in a similar manner to a pension fund - to ensure growth and also provide income. Four percent of the capital is paid out to HAT each year, to ensure that the capital continues to grow, and that the income generated will increase slowly over time.
- HAT has made a conscious decision to 'roll' the income over into the fund, to increase the size of the fund.

D. Andrew Fund

- This is a non-permanent fund for the allocation of donations received by HAT in memory of Doug Andrews, a naturalist at Goldstream. Donations received have been internally restricted for the purpose of improving the interpretative facilities at Goldstream.

Other Comments for 2006

The Finance and Fundraising committee continues to be active. Kate Emmings, who stepped in as Executive Director during Jennifer Eliason's maternity leave, has now taken over as an in house finance/land officer. Our bookkeeper, Erika, had been of tremendous assistance over the past few years, but simply had become too busy to keep on us. Erika had provided services at a significant discount over the past few years, and we are most grateful for her support, especially during the challenging 2004 year.

Financial statements and a number of the projects are reviewed or audited by an independent, external Certified General Accountant, Glen Moores, and we are very appreciative for his work, advice and support over the past year as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Philp
Treasurer

Review of the 2005-2006 Operating Plan

Goal 1: Protected habitat through land acquisition and conservation covenants

Strategies

1. Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy

- Continue to develop a Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy: development and review is ongoing
- Develop necessary land related policies and procedures to meet the Land Trust Alliance of BC Standards and Practices: ongoing
- Seek funding to hire a part-time staff person who will be dedicated to implementing HAT's conservation covenants and land acquisition program: Kate Emmings has taken on the role of HAT's Land/Finance Officer, and spends two days a week on our land program. We continue to seek stable funding for this position.
- Continue to collaborate with partners to strategically address the conservation needs of the Capital Regional District: staff and board have met with key partners to discuss; ongoing

2. Conservation Covenants

- Focus attention on completing the 3 in-progress covenants: progress has been made on these 3 covenants, though none have been registered.
- Ensure that not more than 5 covenants are on-going at one time: currently 5 covenants in progress.
- Review and update all completed and in-progress covenant files to ensure all necessary information is on file: nearly complete; some information still required.
- Consider taking on new covenants that meet covenant criteria, particularly in key focus areas identified by the strategy, as in-progress covenants are completed: 2 new covenants are being considered.
- Seek funding to contract a consultant to conduct 2006 annual monitoring for HAT covenants: Chris Ferris contracted to monitor HAT's covenants, which she completed this fall.
- Complete annual monitoring on all HAT-led covenants: completed.

3. Land Purchases and Donations

- Consider joining one land acquisition partnership project to protect key habitats (if a suitable project arises): no acquisition project was undertaken in 2005-2006.

Goal 2: Improved stewardship of natural environments

Strategies:

1. Stewardship Strategy

- **Review criteria for identifying priorities - including their applicability to Good Neighbourhoods projects; develop overall project/activity recommendations for 2006-07:**
 - criteria for Good Neighbours projects are in place and have been applied to develop a priority list for the immediate future.
 - draft set of criteria for Good Neighbourhoods exists but has not been finalized because the program has been mostly inactive except for follow-up at existing sites.

2. Education

- **Implement Good Neighbours projects for Rithet's Bog and the Matson Lands Conservation Area:** Matson Lands Good Neighbours project complete; Rithet's Bog funding slow to come but now in place and project started; Knockan Hill anticipated but funding required.
- **Complete planting and follow-up at the first three Good Neighbourhoods schools: Braefoot, Sundance and Strawberry Vale:** planting completed at the first 3 Good Neighbourhood schools - Braefoot, Sundance and Strawberry Vale - and follow-up is continuing.
- **Assess the Good Neighbourhoods program, including the advantages of working more closely with the school districts; based on recommendations, identify and prioritise schools for 2005-06; apply for funding:** proposed assessment of the Good Neighbourhoods Program has not been completed because of lack of program funding.
- **Complete and distribute an outreach package for schools outlining the Good Neighbourhoods program and the commitment required:** Good Neighbourhoods outreach package complete and ready for use if funding becomes available.
- **Continue with the Sharp-tailed Snake Project, focusing on work at known sites, identification and evaluation of potential sites, and outreach.** Sharp-tailed snake project: launched in late summer targeting Pender, Mayne, Galiano, Highlands and Metchosin; has included landowner contact, events with partner groups, continuing database development and data capture.
- **Identify and prioritise potential new Good Neighbour sites for 2006-07, apply for funding:** done
- **Identify and prioritise potential new Good Neighbourhoods schools for 2006-07, apply for funding:** Have applied to NSERC's Promo Science Program, other funding options being assessed.

3. Demonstration

- **Continue to implement the restoration plan for Matson Lands:** ongoing outreach material prepared; speaker's series in the spring; various weed pulls and seedings in the fall.
- **Encourage and co-ordinate community involvement and sound practice in restoration of Matson Lands using best available knowledge:** ongoing

- Develop interpretative signage for the walkway and install: partners have agreed on format and messages, awaiting quotations on production and installation.
4. Resources and Support
- Complete the development and implementation of the Landowner Contact Database; enter data; and work with Communications Committee to emphasize communication with and outreach to all stakeholders to ensure that data sets are provided and are able to be easily and effectively used: now operational; privacy policy for data developed and approved by the Board; extensive outreach to make partners comfortable with data sharing; partner systems being adjusted to simplify data transfer; HAT data entry continuing.
 - Investigate the feasibility of and develop proposals for:
 1. development or adoption of “best management practices for conservation” language that can be directly incorporated into OCPs : developed and obtained Board approval for proposed HAT focus - on the OCP level; best practice model - from the Green Infrastructure and Sensitive Ecosystems Bylaw Toolkit; and strategy - choosing role based on a survey of who is already doing what or planning to do so.
 2. creation of a “HAT standard for developers” - or formal adoption of an existing standard - along with a developer contact package and an associated “Green HAT Award” for developers who exceed the standard: turned into the “Green HAT Award” for developments; developed and got Board approval for the draft Award criteria including regional biodiversity significance; the nature of the Award - plaque, presentation at Gala Dinner, press releases; and the selection process - nominations from inside and out; multiple Awards possible annually but no requirement to award..
 - Provide resources and support for stewardship activities to the conservation community as requested: Annual *Connecting for Conservation* event provides networking and training for regional ENGO's; promotion of (and training in use of) HAT's *Regional Landowner Contact Database* (LCD) for landowner contact projects.
 - Enhance the bio-regional library: ongoing. Volunteer librarian Thora Illing is currently entering our records into a reference manager database. New titles are acquired regularly.

Goal 3: Strengthened community support for conservation

Strategies:

1. Information
 - Update/improve Conservation Connection website with paid or volunteer assistance, as funding permits: website re-design currently underway.

- Launch new design and encourage member groups to update contact info and post events, job postings, etc.: new site to be launched in early 2007.
2. Regional Conservation Coordination
 - Coordinate and host one Connecting for Conservation forum: forum held in June 2006. Over 50 people representing over 20 conservation groups attended the 1 day workshop/seminar series.
 3. Partnerships
 - Continue partnerships with GOERT, Wild Garden Party, ELSI, the Sustainability Centre and UFSI by taking an active role in each initiative's activities: have stepped down from Sustainability Centre Steering Committee, but remain active in all other partnerships. Have also become member of Gorge Waterway Initiative.
 - Work with District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team, local conservation organizations and community groups and selected elementary schools to ensure successful project delivery: completed and ongoing.
 - Continue to develop existing partnership with the Goldstream Nature House: continued to partner on Chums program, over \$26,000 raised this year.
 - Develop partnership opportunities/prospectus for Canadian Home Builders' Association: no further development on this partnership.
 - Evaluate new partnership opportunities as they arise: ongoing.
 4. Leadership
 - Continue leadership role with the Matson Lands Advisory Group and support the meaningful and effective participation of community groups/members in restoration activities: ongoing

Goal 4: HAT known throughout the region as a progressive and stable organization

Strategies:

1. Communications
 - Increase the capacity of the current Communications Committee by increasing its membership to at least 3 people and 1 staff person with communications experience: Committee consists of 3 directors, 1 community member and 2 staff persons.
 - Hold Communications Committee meetings at least every 2 months: Communication meetings are still being held in conjunction with Fundraising and Finance Committee. Meetings are being held at least every 2 months.
 - Continue to implement the communications strategy developed in 2004: ongoing.
 - Work with Stewardship Committee on outreach and communications for the new regional landowner contact database: ongoing.

- Update HAT's image by launching a new logo design: completed.
- Develop a volunteer database and appropriate outreach tools for volunteer solicitation: volunteer tracking and solicitation procedures underway. Geoff Huber coordinates volunteers. Since June Geoff has been working with regular volunteers to record the number of hours volunteered. From June to Oct 31 2006, the numbers are: Lyndis 28 hrs., Charlie 132 hrs., Thora 46 hrs., Devon >30 hrs. Way to Go Folks!!
- Issue 5 major press releases on HAT projects and events: five media releases

January 6	<i>Corporate Sponsors Spawn Salmon Education Program</i>
February 6	<i>Researchers seek landowner help to study endangered snake</i>
May 4	<i>Splendour in the Native Grasses - HAT Speaker Series highlights Victoria Harbour's last Garry oak meadow</i>
July 13	<i>Youth Philanthropists Direct Funds to Habitat Acquisition Trust</i>
October 5	<i>Jeremy Fisher to headline 10th anniversary benefit concert for local land trust</i>

4 Public Service Announcements/Media Invitations also sent out.

- Achieve 12 hits in local media: 11 print (Times Colonist, News Group, Martlett, Island Tides, Pender Post, MayneLiner), 3 video (SHAW and A-Channel) and 3 radio (CBC, CFAX)
- Update website at least 3 times per year: The website has been updated regularly to promote events, and post press releases and media articles.
- Issue 3 - 4 HAT Chats: 3 issues of HAT Chat produced
- Submit articles regularly to Victoria Naturalist (VNHS), the Kingfisher (Land Trust Alliance) and Our Backyard (Saanich): 8 articles appeared in the newsletters of these partner organizations.

2. Fundraising

- Hold a second Gala Dinner in 2006: 2nd Gala Dinner to be held on February 15th, 2007
- Hold at least one additional donor recognition and outreach event: Musical HATs held October 21, over 200 people attended
- Build the HAT fundraising and newsletter database by 10%: done
- Develop at least one new funding source for covenants: although we have sourced a small amount of new funding specifically for covenants, we have not established a stable or on-going source of funding for this program
- Evaluate and improve where necessary financial controls/metrics: ongoing
- Develop new capabilities to meet increased Canada Revenue Agency requirements - tax receipting, financial reporting, compliance - and be in compliance with all new rules prior to their implementation: in-progress
- Improve payroll costing information to provide better break-down on wages by specific function/expense categories. No more than \$50,000 to

be in general wages at end of 2006: \$13,500 In general wages for 2005-2006

3. Membership Development

- Develop new membership descriptions: not completed.
- Revamp life membership: not completed
- Expand membership by 20%: membership expanded by over 30% from last year.

Goal 5: Improved performance through organizational excellence within HAT

Strategies:

1. Board of Directors and Committees

- Expand membership of Board, Fundraising & Finance Committee and Communications Committee, with legal, development/real estate, fundraising, communications expertise: HAT's Board has now established a Board Development Committee to facilitate the process of recruitment.

2. Staff and Infrastructure

- Maintain 3 full time staff: done
- Implement performance appraisals for all staff (six months after hiring, annually thereafter): done
- Evaluate & upgrade office computer system: done
- Continue to organise office space for improved functionality: ongoing

3. Policies and Procedures

- Continue work on a complete "HAT Policies and Procedures Manual" that encourages and supports staff and directors and adheres to suggested policy requirements for the Land Trust Alliance: ongoing

4. Staff and Board Development and Training

- All staff and some Board members will be encouraged to attend Land Trust Alliance Seminar Series: all staff attended 2006 LTA Seminar Series.
- Opportunities for staff and board development will be identified and assessed as they arise: ongoing. Staff have attended Water in the City Conference, workshops on fundraising, financial management, volunteer coordination, and bioengineering.

Staff Report

Prepared by Jennifer Eliason, Todd Carnahan, Kate Emmings & Geoff Huber

We have had a very busy and successful year. 2005/06 has been a year of growth, with membership, annual income and staffing levels all going up. As always, the HAT staff owe a big thank you to our exceptional Board of Directors and volunteers. We could not accomplish all that we do without the help and support of these individuals.

HAT PEOPLE

The HAT team is a creative, energetic, and enthusiastic bunch of committed conservationists.

- **Kathryn Martell** left HAT in June to head off on an Arctic adventure researching Arctic Char. Kathryn has recently returned to BC, and has taken a position with TLC.
- **Geoff Huber** joined HAT in June, filling the position of Outreach Coordinator. Geoff has a biology and environmental technology background, and has quickly jumped into several of HAT's projects with both feet.
- **Jennifer Eliason** returned from maternity leave to her position of Executive Director in July. The Board offered Jennifer the flexibility to work part time (3 days a week) so she can spend time with her young son.
- **Kate Emmings**, who filled the ED position in Jen's absence, has stayed on with HAT, taking on a new position of Land/Finance Officer. Kate is able to work 2 days a week at home on Galliano Island, and 2 days a week in the office.
- **Todd Carnahan** continues to lead HAT's Land Care activities with great enthusiasm, and bring his design talent and photography skill to HAT's publications.
- **Jonathan Tomm** joined our team for 4 months as a Summer Career Placement student intern. He accomplished a huge amount in his time with HAT and has moved on to Vancouver to begin his Master's degree.

HAT also employs several contractors, who have invariably given more of their time than was expected. The following people have enhanced HAT's work with their experience and professionalism:

- Charlie LeRoss maintains our computer network;
- Glen Moores provides accounting services at year-end and for grant audits;
- Christian Engelstoft is a biologist who works closely with HAT staff on the Sharp-tailed Snake project;
- Jeff Skillen of Jet Dog Solutions has designed the database for coordination landowner contact in the CRD;
- Judith Cullington and Associates contributes to the *Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative*, providing facilitation and coordination;

- Jeremy Gye of Gye Group Urban Forestry Consultants developed the discussion paper: *Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island*. Jeremy is now developing the UFSI strategy;
- Erika Kanczula of A.S.S.E.T.S. who was our bookkeeper up to May 2006 and who continues to provide us with bookkeeping support;
- Chris Ferris was contracted to perform monitoring visits to HAT's covenants; and,
- RLC Enterprize Ltd. who provide nature education in Goldstream Provincial Park.

We are also fortunate to have a number of wonderful volunteers who help with everything from website management to serving drinks at Musical HATs. We would especially like to thank Lyndis Davis, Thora Illing, Devon Carter, David Walker, Charlie LeRoss, Gayle Moore, Gail Harcombe, Jeremy Kimm, Heidi Guest, Angela Deering, Graham Knox, Darren and Claudia Copley, Marilyn and Phil Lambert, Nancy Fedoruk, Carmen Cadrin, Donna Ross and all of the musicians at Musical HATs. We really appreciate your time and effort!

HAT PROJECTS

Good Neighbourhoods - HAT continued to provide guidance for the three schools that completed naturescapes in 2005, despite a lack of funding for the program in 2006. Three schools participated in the project, Braefoot, Sundance, and Strawberry Vale. All three gardens are now established and are being used by the school children as part of their outdoor education.

Garry Oakley made several appearances this year: He left leaf litter at the *Water in the City Conference*, and appeared dancing on TV during *Earthfest* at the University of Victoria.

Good Neighbours is an ambitious, long term HAT project that provides environmental stewardship information and positive land care opportunities to private landowners who live near Environmentally Sensitive Areas and *species at risk*. Landowner contact is an extremely important tool in the conservation of private lands being rapidly converted in our region.

Matson Conservation Area Good Neighbours Project

HAT's first Good Neighbours Project In 2005 focused on the West Bay neighbourhood around HAT's new Matson Conservation Area. Fulfilling the Conservation Area's educational outreach function, HAT launched the project with an onsite Speaker Series featuring Elizabeth Elle, Brenda Beckwith, Cheryl Bryce, and Darren and Claudia Copley. Over 300 residents were contacted and 12 landowners signed up as Environmental Stewards of the MCA. The site hosted several groups of youth service clubs and has become popular with athletes training on the staircase.

Sharp-tailed Snake Good Neighbours Project

HAT's Sharp-tailed Snake Good Neighbours project continued into its second year, focusing on the Razor Point and Elisabeth Ridge Areas of North Pender Island. The project will move to neighbourhoods of Metchosin and the Highlands in the new year. Working closely with Sharp-tailed Snake expert Christian Engelstoft, Todd Carnahan and Geoff Huber visited landowners living near known populations and likely habitats of this rare, red-listed snake. As a result of the project, new sites were discovered in 2006 and 10 additional landowners are now monitoring for Sharpies as Environmental Stewards.

A second component of this continuing project is the Regional Landowner Contact Database (LCD) to collate information about landowner contact projects in the CRD, to prevent project overlap and to increase collaboration among organizations involved in private land stewardship. Several groups are actively adopting the tool for their own data collection. Other groups are keen to develop their capacities for landowner contact, and will soon benefit from this new initiative. Thanks to feedback from key users, several refinements to the database and information security are now incorporated into the system. While intended for regional partners, the LCD has also been adopted by groups pursuing landowner contact on the Fraser Delta.

Connecting for Conservation - HAT hosted another successful day of networking, sharing and learning for the conservation organizations of the CRD in June. This year's Connecting for Conservation attracted 50 people from over 20 groups. Workshops and seminars were held on a variety of topics, including *Media Relations and Press Releases*, with Alan Perry (CFAX Radio) & Barb McLintock (Media Relations), *Fundraising for Conservation NGOs with Deborah Curran* (Victoria Foundation), Danella Parks (Vancity) and Marion Grau (Fundraising Consultant), and *Landowner Contact and the new Regional Landowner Contact Database*, with our own Todd Carnahan and Jonathan Tomm.

Goldstream Chums - HAT continues to raise funds for interpretative programs continuing at Goldstream Provincial Park's visitor centre. Our *Goldstream Chums* program involves local businesses in the sponsorship of salmon run programs for school children. This year our sponsors have made these important educational programs available to schools free of charge. See HAT Fundraising on page 17 for a list of these local businesses.

HAT PARTNERSHIPS



2005/06 flew by in a blur for the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative. Looking back on the last year, the Executive Committee feels that we've made significant progress towards our mission and gained a sense of satisfaction from our work. Along with this comes a degree of nagging urgency about the amount of work that

still lies ahead of us. Here are some of the projects we have been working on:

Mapping Greater Victoria's Urban Forest

- Meeting held in July with folks from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, CRD Regional Planning, BC Hydro, and the District of Saanich to discuss the best approach to mapping our urban forest
- The mapping project will inform us about both the extent and density of urban forest canopy in our region and how this has changed over time. Regional, municipal, and park boundaries will be overlaid on the imagery to determine percentages of tree canopy loss or gain within each area. It will classify and analyse the urban forest in ways that will help us to achieve our stewardship goals through better understanding, communication, planning, and management.
- Request for Proposals for the mapping project to go out early 2007.

Preliminary Regional Urban Forest Strategy

- We have begun drafting the urban forest strategy, looking at the roles that the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative will be playing in the implementation.

Tree Appreciation Days Involvement

- Presence at the Tree Appreciation events of both Victoria and Saanich.

Urban Forest Policies and Plans

- The UFSI will be playing a role in developing Saanich's Urban Forest Master Plan and the Victoria policies and procedures regarding street trees and the tree preservation bylaw.
- We were invited to comment on tree protection policies in the revised Official Community Plan for Esquimalt

If anyone is interested in participating in this Initiative, please contact HAT.



HAT is a partner in the wildly collaborative *Wild Garden Party*. This year saw the completion of a major project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity on a housing development that they have spearheaded in Sidney. The WGP partners, with the help of numerous volunteers, provided organic, sustainable landscaping for this six-home subdivision. Under the coordination of Natalie Cushing, the group developed a case study/framework document on the project for distribution to 59 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across Canada. It is also available for download from HAT's website.



HAT is a member of the *Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative* (ELSI) The Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative (ELSI) is a [partnership](#) between community and environmental groups, government agencies and First Nations working together to protect and improve the health of Esquimalt Lagoon and Coburg Peninsula. Todd Carnahan is assisting with the development of a management plan for the lagoon. The management plan will lay out a clear direction for the development and protection of the Coburg Peninsula's unique values over the long term.

HAT is a member of and regular contributor to the *Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team's* Conservation Priorities and Site Protection Recovery Implementation Group. Currently, the group is working towards achieving protection for 26 Garry oak sites located throughout the range of Garry oak habitat. HAT also supports GOERT's critical efforts by assisting with their fundraising.



Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) - Geoff Huber represents HAT at the GWI. Since January 2005 representatives of groups in the GWI have developed the following understandings: GWI is a community driven, collaborative group of organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds in a way that respects the local cultural heritage. GWI's three goals: To encourage and promote education, stewardship, and awareness programs and appropriate land and water uses; to serve as a hub for information sharing and act as a point of contact for waterway issues; and to encourage and advocate for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the waterway and its watersheds.

HAT has stepped down from its role on the Steering Committee for the future *Victoria Sustainability Centre*. The Sustainability Centre will be a sustainable office facility for Victoria non-profit organizations housed at Dockside Green. The project is supported by VanCity Credit Union and involves several partner groups. HAT remains interested in participating in the Centre as a tenant, but was unable to commit the considerable time required by the Steering Committee.

HAT has recently joined the *Sea to Sea Greenbelt Management Advisory Group* which will advise the CRD on the development of a Management Plan for its Sea to Sea parklands. Meetings will take place over 2007 and the management plan will be developed in 2008.

HAT ACQUISITIONS

Matson Lands Conservation Area: The culmination of many years of work, one hectare of Esquimalt's Matson Lands was saved through an agreement between HAT, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the Municipality of Esquimalt and Mandalay Developments Limited in June, 2004. HAT owns and manages the property with a recently created endowment fund to support the management and restoration of this remnant Garry Oak ecosystem. HAT's vision for the property is a high profile showcase for responsible ecological stewardship and best management practices for urban development in the region.

HAT activities at the MCA included a Speaker Series, several weeding events with community groups and service clubs, a visit from Colwood councilors, and a TV segment on urban natural areas.

HAT COVENANTS

Conservation Covenants are a tool used to protect privately held land. HAT currently holds 20 conservation covenants on over 6,000 acres of land. In 2005-06, HAT registered two covenants on Galiano Island on over 200 acres of community held forest land. HAT also worked towards completing five other covenants which are still in progress.

As a commitment to our conservation covenants, HAT supports an annual covenant monitoring program to ensure that the conservation values on each of its properties are maintained. Over the 2005-06, with the help of volunteers, HAT conducted several invasive species removal projects at two covenant properties: Ruby Creek at Witty's Lagoon, and Oak Haven Park in Central Saanich.

HAT FUNDRAISING

Events

While much of our fundraising focuses on grant applications, HAT also feels that fun community events are important for raising profile and a few dollars.

- October's *Musical HATs* was a sell out, with over 200 people filling the White Eagle Hall in James Bay. Jeremy Fisher headlined the show, with the Foggy Memory Boys, Shady Mountain and Lady Rachelle and the Celtic Phat Boys all performing fantastic sets as well. Lighthouse Brewing Company sponsored our event by providing their locally made beer.
- The first ever HAT Gala Dinner, in November 2005, was a success with special guest speaker Barry Penner, Honorable Minister of Environment, drawing a crowd. Dinners were served to 70 people at the Victoria Ocean Pointe Spa and Resort.

- A special HAT Raffle raised over \$550 for HAT operations. A night's accommodation and breakfast from the Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa was the first prize.

Corporate Contributions

Vancity selected the Rithets Bog Good Neighbours Project to receive one of eight Envirofund awards, for \$30,000

BC Hydro provided another \$25,000 to the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative.

Shell provided \$5,000 for the Rithet's Bog Good Neighbours project.

Lighthouse Brewing Company sponsored Musical HATs with a product donation worth over \$500.

Our partnership with staff at the Goldstream Nature House made the Goldstream Chums Program a great success. The 2006 *Goldstream Chums* are:

Coast Capital Savings BC Hydro Victoria Natural History Society Investors Group
 Copley Brothers Construction Cheryl Akenclose—Investors Group
 Canadian Home Builders Association Island Equipment Owners Association

Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.
 Capital City Paving Ltd.
 Garnett Capital Corp.
 Peninsula Co-op

Brown Bros. Agencies Ltd.
 Coast (V.I.) Environmental Ltd.
 Colwood Dental Group
 Don Mann Excavating Ltd.
 Great Pacific Mortgage & Investments

Griffiths & Jones Trucking
 Island Equipment Owners Assoc.
 Peninsula Bulldozing Ltd.
 Unity Rebekah Lodge #145

Grant Funding

Every year HAT commits itself to obtaining funding for its many worthwhile projects. Much of this funding comes from government and charitable foundations. Over the 2005/06 fiscal year HAT was supported by the following organizations and programs:

Good Neighbours Strategy Program

- BC Gaming Commission Direct Access Grant (\$38,500)
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Summer Career Placement Program (\$4,707)
- Worksource Wage Subsidy Program (\$6,187)

Good Neighbours Matson Lands

- Township of Esquimalt (\$1,500)
- Victoria Foundation (\$5,000)

Good Neighbours Rithets Bog

- Victoria Foundation (\$5,000)
- Vancouver Foundation (\$15,000)

- The District of Saanich (\$5,000)

Good Neighbours Sharp-tailed Snake / Landowner Contact Database

- Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program (\$44,000)

Capacity Building/Organization Development

- Enviropod - Centre for Sustainability (\$5,000)

Private Donations

Donations from individuals are also important to HAT's sustainability. To make it easier for donors HAT has established a monthly giving program with our bank, VanCity Savings Credit Union, and now accepts monthly giving through VISA, Mastercard and American Express. Also, Provincial employees can donate using a direct payroll reduction through the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund.

CONCLUSION

HAT has had a busy, successful year, complete with public recognition, project success and fundraising success. The Staff look forward to another year of comparable achievement in 2005/06 and is gearing up to carry out the goals and tasks set out in HAT's 2006/07 Operating Plan.

**Thank You to the Following Organizations/ Businesses
For Their Support in 2005-2006!**

Good Neighbours Projects

Alula Biological Consulting
Belmont Community
Connections - Victoria
Foundation's Youth in
Philanthropy Program
British Columbia Gaming
Claremont Secondary School
District of Saanich
Environment Canada -
Habitat Stewardship Program
HRSDC Summer Career
Placement Program
Judith Cullington and Associates
Shell Environmental Fund
Terasen Gas
Township of Esquimalt
Vancity Savings Credit Union
Vancouver Foundation
Victoria Foundation

General Support

Enviropod
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery
Team
HSBC Bank
J.P.H. Consultants Inc.
Michael J. McIlvaney Land
Surveying

Provincial Employees
Community Services Fund
Victoria Foundation
Outdoor Club of Victoria
Worksource Wage Subsidy
Program

**Urban Forest Stewardship
Initiative**

BC Hydro
University of Victoria

**Donations of
Goods & Services**

BC Conservation Data Centre
Butchart Gardens
Christian J. Stewart
Photography
Cannor Nursery
'Chosin Pottery
Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe
Resort
Denman Island Chocolate Co.
Fibre Options
Gardenworks—Colwood
Goldstream Nature House
Greater Victoria Compost Ed.
Centre
Gye and Associates Ltd.

Hemp and Co.
Home Depot
Honestly Tea and Gifts
Italian Bakery
John's Place
Judith Cullington and Associates
Lighthouse Brewing Co.
Lone Pine Publishing
Mar Farms
Mitchell Farms
Mountain Equipment Co-op
Naturescape BC
Pacific Forestry Centre
Prospect Lake Community
Association
Pure Vanilla Bakery
Ralmax Developments
Rosedale Manor B&B, Nfld.
SaltSpring Coffee Company
Serious Coffee
Silk Road Tea Co.
Shady Creek Ice Cream Co.
The Good Planet Co.
Thrifty Foods
Western Canada Wilderness
Committee
Victoria Clipper
YM/YWCA