



NH&MRC

2006-2007 Annual Report

2006 President's Message

Prepared by Andrew Harcombe, President

It is maybe appropriate that this AGM is at Swan Lake, because tonight is my swan song as your President. I have been on the Board now for 7 or 8 years, which actually exceeds our two term, 6 year policy. It has been a very rewarding time for me as a biologist and naturalist, and I hope that my contributions have helped in some way towards HAT's progress over its first 11 years. I am not abandoning HAT; I will remain as a volunteer on the Stewardship Committee and help elsewhere as possible.



It seems that every year at this time, a President can say that this is a time of great change. Once again, this is a truism. It is my hope and one of my missions over the past year, to leave HAT with a full slate of present and new Directors. The Board is responsible for providing the governance to the enterprise, helping form strategic direction, ensuring responsible use and care of our donations and grants, and helping the Executive Director succeed. I am happy to report success in this mission.

As I am sure you have all heard by now, 3 out of 4 of our staff have decided to pursue other career opportunities. I am a believer that change can bring opportunities, and this applies to both the staff moving on and to HAT itself. Geoff Huber started the action by accepting a position doing environmental monitoring at the Dockyards. Then, Kate Emmings accepted a job with Islands Trust Fund to take on land stewardship duties, and now Jennifer Eliason has been enticed there as well as the new manager. These are extremely dedicated and hard working young people, and I am not surprised that they have been successful in new areas. HAT can provide wonderful opportunities for people interested in conservation-related work; however, our small size and nonprofit status make it difficult to compete with larger organizations and governments. HAT has been well served by these enterprising and committed individuals, and I wish them well with these new challenges. In order to not lose their passion and HAT experience, however, we will continue to engage these people as volunteers and have enticed Geoff to come onto the Board (assuming your positive voting here tonight).

The opportunity I alluded to comes in the form of new staff. Wendy Tyrrell, a former volunteer on the Stewardship Committee, has joined us part-time to help with the land stewardship duties. Laurie Parker has joined HAT to help on a variety of youth and educational projects. Your Board has conducted interviews for Jennifer's replacement, and received some very good

candidates. We will be able to announce the successful candidate soon, after doing reference checks and then negotiations.

I would personally like to thank Andy MacKinnon, an outgoing Board member, for his dedication to HAT, especially on the Land Committee. Andy, even when not available in body, was always available for sage advice on ecology issues and Metchosin activities/politics.

In closing, December 5 was United Nations International Volunteer Day. HAT is successful since its small staff is supported by a strong volunteer group. Our Board is entirely volunteer. Our library has been totally organized and made more accessible by Thora, a volunteer. Our computers are kept operational by Charlie, a volunteer. Our database on donors is kept up-to-date by Lyndis, a volunteer. Other volunteers help out at HAT events. For all of them, congratulations and thank you. You are all an integral part of HAT.

Andrew Harcombe,
President



Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Simon Philp, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report
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General Overview of Year Ended October 31, 2007

The financial year ended October 31, 2007 was another good year for HAT.

Excess of revenues (deficiency) shown below for the past 5 years

2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
(684)	6,825	2,520	(12,658)	(1,865)

Loss for 2007 is nominal, and not of concern. The objective is budget to zero over a series of years.

Overview of the Funds

HAT has five 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 is required to meet commitments for work in future years.

Land Acquisition Fund

- Donations and interest income increased the size of the fund, while matching donations for Great Beaver Swamp and Mt. Erskine reduced the fund about the same amount.

Endowment and Matson Fund

- Both funds are managed by the Victoria Foundation, under their 'Designated and Agency Endowment' Fund Guidelines.
- 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 Endowment Fund, to increase the size of the fund.
- The income from the Matson Fund is used to manage and maintain the property.

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 programs at Goldstream.

The strong financial position of HAT would not be possible without the support of the full board of directors of HAT, and excellent staff over the past several years. Both Kate Emmings and Jennifer Eliason are responsible for managing the finances day to day, and are to be commended for the results.

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 2006-2007 Operating Plan

Goal 1: Protected habitat through land acquisition and conservation covenants

Strategies

1. Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy

- We have continue to build on our Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy so that it includes: identification of regionally significant habitats, key focal areas to help create a network of protected areas; priority properties or areas for HAT to focus on; an identification of best tools for conserving key properties; and the continued development of new policies and procedures to ensure a responsible and sustainable land program.
- HAT'
- S Land Committee is working to develop all the necessary land related policies and procedures to meet the Land Trust Alliance of BC Standards and Practices (subject to review of LTA Standards and Practices to ensure that some policies and specific to land). This work is on-going.
- While we have had some success securing smaller grants to support our covenant work, we still find funding this work challenging and we continue to look for sources of ongoing funding,
- We continue to collaborate with partners to strategically address the conservation needs of the Capital Regional District.
- We have developed an application/screening processes for people interested in HAT covenants or acquisitions, and this protocol is now in use.
- The Land Committee is currently developing a plan for the 10-year baseline review and assessment for covenants, which will begin in 2008.

2. Conservation Covenants:

- Our goal was to complete the 5 in-progress covenants and initiate at least 2 more, subject to the expectation that 3 on-going will be completed in early new year, and subject to any new projects meeting criteria of the Land and Acquisition Strategy Policy - LCP02.
- We have completed and registered three covenants, Camas Hill in Metchosin, and two on Galiano Island (Matthews Point). We are in the final review of the Havenwood, a Colwood municipal park and continue to negotiate one in Saanich (Queenswood).
- We have ensured that not more than 5 covenants are under development at one time
- Ongoing work to review and update all completed and in-progress covenant files to ensure that all necessary information is there (covenant drafts, correspondence, signed covenant including property survey or map, baseline documentation, monitoring procedures, annual monitoring reports, etc.)
- All HAT - led covenants were monitored this fall by HAT staff.

3. Land Purchases and Donations:

- We have assisted the Galiano Conservancy Association with their acquisition of the Great Beaver Swamp, and have been in communications with the Muir Creek Preservation Society over the protection of Muir Creek in Sooke.

Goal 2: Improved stewardship of natural environments

Strategies:

2. Stewardship

- the Good Neighbours program was expanded at Rithet's Bog by including neighbouring businesses and strata councils as well as residences.
- the draft set of criteria for Good Neighbourhoods was NOT finalized and tested because the program was inactive during 2006-07.

3. Education

- the Rithet's Bog Good Neighbours project was completed, including a new independent evaluation submitted to partners and funders; about 800 residents and over 50 businesses were contacted by staff, 100 information packages were delivered and 30 landowners were visited on site to provide detailed land care prescriptions; 24 residents made a commitment to sound landscaping practices by signing Land Care Agreements with HAT and 14 planted native species on their land; activities by volunteers included water quality research, planting and weeding, painting fish on storm drains and building bird boxes; staff also provided business outreach to promote activities like power washing, toxic products, waste disposal, and painting.
- Sharp-Tailed Snake outreach was also completed at new locations > Galiano Is. and new areas on Pender Is. and in the Highlands.
- fundraising is in progress for Knockan Hill; \$5K has been received to date and proposals have been submitted to Saanich and View Royal. Additional proposals to Telus and TD Canada Trust are in progress.
- the Good Neighbourhoods project was inactive but funding has been received for 2007-08 and work has been proposed for four schools.
- the Sharp-tailed Snake Project continued with a focus on re-establishing relationships with previously contacted landowners; over 50 new landowners were involved in 2007; additional funding has been requested from HSP for 2007-08.

4. Demonstration

- staff led several events at the Matson Conservation Area including a weeding day for university student trainees, a tour for the Provincial Forest Researchers and a tour and appreciation tea for HAT's major donors.
- demonstration activities at Rithet's Bog included a naturescaped garden tour for over fifty landowners, presentations to strata members and Streamkeepers training in water quality monitoring for high school students.

4. Resources and Support

- Landowner Contact Database: functionality improved in Ver. 2 based on partner feedback; Galiano Conservancy Association and GOERT interested in use.

- an OCP timetable for southern Vancouver Island was compiled but the proposed HAT standard for Best Management Practices for Conservation is still not available to the public (or to HAT).
- partnering with CHBA in a HAT/CHBA CARE Award for Conservation of Natural Environments was investigated; many issues were resolved but the primary ongoing stumbling block is the \$2,000 per year that HAT would need in order to become an ongoing CHBA "sponsor".
- the April 20th Connecting for Conservation Forum included workshops and panel-led discussions on effective communication, municipal planning processes, and climate change.
- new and improved Conservation Connection website with additional groups onboard.
- library cataloguing was completed by Thora Illing and PDF versions of the catalogue of titles will soon be available on the HAT website.

Goal 3: Strengthened community support for conservation

Strategies:

1. Information

- A completely redesigned Conservation Connection website was launched, thanks to David Delisle of Webblom Design;

2. Regional Conservation Coordination

- A Steering Committee was formed to facilitate the planning of Connecting for Conservation forum;
- We coordinated and hosted one Connecting for Conservation forum in 2006-07.

3. Partnerships

- Our partnerships with GOERT, ELSI, the Gorge Waterway Initiative and UFSI continued with HAT taking an active role in each initiative's activities;
- Worked with District of Saanich, the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team, the Phantom Orchid Recovery Team, the Rithets Bog Conservation Society, the District of Central Saanich, local conservation organizations and community groups to ensure successful project delivery;
- We continue our partnership with the Goldstream Nature House;
- And we continue to evaluate new partnership opportunities as they arise.

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 on an ad hoc basis. Presentations to new residents of Swallows Landing will occur in the spring of 2008 with interpretive signage installation now that trail work is completed.

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

Strategies:

5. Communications

- The capacity of the Communications Committee was increased, with membership for most of the year at 3 volunteers and 1 staff person. Resignations from this committee currently leave us with vacancies;
- We continue to implement the communications strategy;
- Geoff Huber and now Laurie Parker have done a great job of maintaining and our volunteer database and dealing with volunteer inquiries. We continue to utilize Volunteer Victoria for volunteer solicitation, and strive to provide meaningful opportunities for all who express an interest in working with HAT;
- A total of four (4) press releases were issued on HAT projects and events (goal was 5);
- We achieved seven (7) media hits in local newspapers, and secured two (2) radio spots (goal was a total of 12 hits in local media);
- Our website has received several small updates, but due to the efforts of volunteer Phil Rees, HAT will have a brand new website early in the new year;
- Three (3) full HAT Chats and a two-paged Winter update were issued; and,
- A total of sixteen (16) newsletter articles appeared in the publications of our partners, including the Victoria Naturalist (VNHS), the Kingfisher (Land Trust Alliance) and Our Backyard (Saanich).

6. Fundraising

- Our second Gala Dinner was held at McMorran's Beach House March 1, 2007;
- A Hatter's Tea was held at the Matson Conservation Area in September to recognize some long time members and donors;
- Funding was received from two foundations to help fund our covenants (both to cover initial work, and to provide monitoring funds);
- We have developed new capabilities to meet increased Canada Revenue Agency requirements - tax receipting, financial reporting, compliance - and are in compliance with all new rules;
- Our goal was to sign on 5 new monthly donors, and we signed on 6, bringing our total monthly donors to 20.

7. Membership Development

- We developed new definitions for our classes of membership, and increased fees slightly;
- We have begun tax receipting membership payments;
- We did not expand membership by 20%, but managed to maintain membership levels.

Goal 5: Improved performance through organizational excellence within HAT

Strategies:

8. Board of Directors and Committees

- Expanded membership of Board but due to leaves of absence of 3 directors and resignations of others, board recruitment became a major focus of the Board in the latter part of this year.

9. Staff and Infrastructure

- Maintained 3.4 full time staff;
- Implemented 4-tiered wage scale, which includes an annual cost of living allowance increase as well as an annual merit-based increase;
- Revised policies regarding wage increases (to be approved in January 2008),
- Provided performance reviews for all staff annually,
- Implemented an extended health benefits package for all permanent staff;
- Continuing to evaluate viability of moving to larger office space.

10. Policies and Procedures

- We continue to 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.

11. Staff and Board Development and Training

- All staff and some Board members attended Land Trust Alliance Seminar Series;
- Staff also attended workshops and seminars on: recent Garry Oak Ecosystems research; fundraising; environmental protection hosted by CRD; Native plant salvage hosted by District of Saanich;

Staff Report

Prepared by Jennifer Eliason and Todd Carnahan

We have had a very busy and successful year. As always, the HAT staff owe a great deal of thanks to our volunteers and our Board of Directors. We could not accomplish all that we do without the help and support of these individuals.

HAT PEOPLE

There have been some significant changes in staff over the past couple of months. However, HAT continues to attract creative, energetic, and committed conservationists, and our team remains strong and vibrant.

Exiting stage left are:

- **Geoff Huber** joined HAT in June 2006 filling the position of Outreach Coordinator. Geoff left HAT in October 2007 to take a position with the Federal Government.
- **Kate Emmings**, who filled the ED position in Jen's absence, and then stayed on to fill the position of Land/Finance Officer, has moved into the Ecosystem Protection Specialist position at the Islands Trust Fund.
- **Jennifer Eliason** has been with HAT since 2002, and has been the Executive Director for three years. Jennifer will be leaving HAT in January to take on the manager position at Islands Trust Fund.

Entering stage right are:

- **Wendy Tyrrell** joined HAT at the beginning of November to fill the part-time position of Acquisitions and Covenant Coordinator. Wendy has a B.Sc. in Ecology and Systematic Biology with an emphasis on Restoration Ecology. Wendy comes to us with experience in habitat restoration, covenants, and public outreach. She also enjoys kayaking, outrigger canoeing and backpacking.
- **Laurie Parker** also joined us at the beginning of November to deliver HAT's school programs as our Education and Outreach Coordinator. She has a degree in Geography from the University of Victoria and is currently completing her Masters Degree in Environmental Education and Communication. Laurie grew up in Southern Alberta and was drawn to the beauty of Vancouver Island in 1998.

Centre stage is:

- **Todd Carnahan** who continues to lead HAT's land care and public outreach programs with great enthusiasm, providing design and photography for HAT publications and website.

We were also fortunate to have **Liam Sherriff** join our team for the summer as a Canada Summer Jobs student intern. He was a great asset to the HAT team and is back at UVic working on his English degree.

HAT also employs several contractors, who have invariably produced results over and above our expectations. The following people have enhanced HAT's work with their experience and professionalism:

- **Charlie LeRoss** maintains our computer communications and data storage;

- **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 a database for coordination of landowner contact data in the CRD and beyond;
- **Judith Cullington** and Associates contribute to the *Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative*, providing facilitation and coordination;
- **Jeremy Gye** of Gye Group Urban Forestry Consultants is now developing the UFSI strategy after publishing the discussion paper: *Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island*;
- **Caslys Consulting Ltd.** are working to develop the urban forest maps for Greater Victoria;
- **Michael Brinsmead** of Far Hill Bookkeeping has recently joined us as bookkeeper; and,
- **RLC Enterprises 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, David Delisle, Charlie LeRoss, Phil Rees, Gail Harcombe, Peter Trotzki, Dan Grant, Martine Paulin**, and all of the musicians at the Mad Hatter's Social. We really appreciate your time and effort!

HAT PROJECTS

Good Neighbourhoods - Now known as the *Green Spots Project*, our schools program begins anew in 2008. New staffer Laurie Parker will be growing minds in outdoor classrooms with several schools including Royal Oak Middle School, Lochside Elementary, Oaklands Elementary, and the New Kelsett School in Central Saanich.

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

HAT's most recent community outreach project focused on the neighbourhood of Rithet's Bog Conservation Area. During the 7 month project, HAT staff co ordinated:

- Ongoing water quality research by Camosun students
- weed pulls, painting fish on storm drains, and bird box building with cub scouts;
- Streamkeepers training in water quality monitoring for high school students;
- a naturescaped garden tour for over fifty landowners;
- presentations to strata members interested in ecologically sensitive landscaping;
- planting and weeding projects in the conservation area.

Contacting about 800 residents and over 50 businesses, staff delivered 100 information packages and visited 30 landowners onsite to provide detailed land care prescriptions.

24 visited residents made a commitment to sound landscaping practices by signing Land Care Agreements with HAT and 14 planted native species with Todd on their land. The 5th Tsartlip Boy Scouts received an Environmental Award from the District of Saanich for their conservation activities with HAT. Staff also provided business outreach to promote Best Management Practices for activities like power washing, toxic products, waste disposal, and painting. Both HAT and the Rithet's Bog Conservation Society were nominees for the CRD Ecostar awards in 2007 for this project.

Sharp-tailed Snake Good Neighbours Project

HAT delivered a Good Neighbours Stewardship Project in focus areas adjacent to three known Sharp-tailed Snake populations on Pender Island and Vancouver Island. The program encouraged land care that protects the rare Sharp-tailed Snake (STS) and other Species-at-Risk in Garry oak habitats. This project is part of the provincial Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team's efforts to prevent the extirpation of this species and the ecosystems that support it. Landowners received information packages about the special habitats in and around their properties. Where appropriate, landowners were encouraged to restore STS and Garry oak habitat features. Staff installed monitoring stations on suitable properties so that interested landowners could help identify new snake sites. Three new sites were discovered in 2007 as a result of 53 property visits on Vancouver, Pender and Galiano Islands. Forty-nine of the 53 landowners signed Land Care Agreements with HAT, our best percentage to date. This project is recognized by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program as one of the most successful Species at Risk recovery programs in Canada, and a model for other regions.

The high rate of urban development in the Capital Regional District poses a very significant and immediate threat to Garry oak ecosystems (GOE) and populations of associated Species-at-Risk, including the endangered (COSEWIC listed) Sharp-tailed Snake. This project addresses habitat loss and fragmentation by:

- a) distributing and maintaining HAT's Regional Landowner Contact Database (LCD) that stores key information on various landowner contact programs by our partner groups;
- b) involving landowners in protecting and restoring critical STS habitat, including more than 40 new landowner-monitored sites in 2007.

Significant outcomes of this project in 2007 include: 3 new confirmed sites for STS on Pender Island and Vancouver Island; 53 landowner visits; 49 voluntary Land Care Agreements; distribution of 63 land care information packages; new monitoring stations at more than 40 new properties with high quality potential STS habitat. One landowner is interested in signing a conservation covenant as a result of this project on North Pender Island and has received a plant inventory (funded by GOERT) by Dr. Hans Roemer. Our project identified 5550 hectares of potential STS habitat. More of these areas were ground-truthed, prioritized, and targeted for future outreach projects in 2007.

Connecting for Conservation - In 2006-2007, HAT continued its efforts to encourage and increase collaboration among local organisations. Our 2007 *Conservation Connection* event was a full day forum with a number of workshops and

panel-led discussions on topics including effective communication, municipal planning processes, and climate change issues. Speakers included Dr Briony Penn, Dr Richard Hebda of the Royal BC Museum, and Dr. Colin Campbell of the Sierra Club. We had a large turnout at Victoria City Hall, the venue for the event, with over 80 people representing 45 conservation organizations and local governments attended this very productive capacity-building event.

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 ACQUISITIONS

Matson Lands Conservation Area: HAT continues to employ the MCA as a demonstration site for Best Management Practices in urban natural areas. The pathway recently completed now features a thriving naturalscape that has become established without irrigation. Staff led several events this year including a weeding day for university student trainees, a tour for the Provincial Forest Researchers, a tour and an appreciation tea for our major donors. Residents are now moving into the highly coveted condos and will receive a presentation on the MCA this spring encouraging their stewardship of the last Garry oak meadows on Victoria Harbour.

Support of Great Beaver Swamp acquisition, Galiano Island: On July 28, Kate Emmings, HAT staff member of two years, was married to long-time partner Keith Erickson. The wedding was an all day affair, spanning two islands: Pender Island, the home of Kate's parents, and Galiano Island at the home of the bride and groom. The ceremony was beautiful, with forest and ocean backdrops and local sunflowers arranged by HAT Executive Director, Jennifer Eliason.

The couple asked guests to consider a donation to the acquisition of the Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island as a wedding gift. To encourage donors to be generous, HAT agreed to match donations with its Acquisition Fund. The combined effort raised **\$12,000** towards the acquisition of the conservation property.

The Great Beaver Swamp is a 17.5 hectare (44 acre) wetland property on Galiano Island. It is the headwaters of Beaver Creek, the bulk of which is protected in the Pebble Beach Reserve. Its acquisition completes the protection of most of the Beaver Creek Watershed. Of the property, the BC Conservation Data Centre has stated "the site has value as one of the largest of only 19 wetlands mapped on Galiano. Wetlands are under-represented in the Gulf Islands... [the Great Beaver Swamp acquisition] is an excellent example of landscape and watershed-level conservation planning that ensures protection of not just an individual wetland or stream, but the entire wetland complex, stream and riparian areas."

The Galiano Conservancy Association has successfully purchased the land and is now working to raise funds to retire the debt on the property.

HAT COVENANTS

Conservation Covenants are a tool used to protect privately held land. HAT currently holds 21 conservation covenants on over 6,000 acres of land. In 2006-07, HAT registered the Camas Hill covenant on a 6.78 hectare property in Metchosin, which contains several blue and red listed species including Sharp-tailed snake. In addition to Camas Hill, the Matthews Point 1 and 2 covenants were registered in 2007. HAT also worked towards completing two other covenants which are still in progress. In striving to put into practice policies and procedures that meet the Land Trust Alliance of BC Standards and Practices, HAT adopted two new policies relating to covenants this year, the Covenant Enforcement Policy and Procedure and the Land and Covenant Acquisition Strategy and Approval Policy.

As a commitment to our conservation covenants, HAT implements an annual covenant monitoring program to ensure that the conservation values on each of its properties are maintained.

HAT PARTNERSHIPS



UFSI's primary focus for this past year has been the mapping project.

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.

Caslys Consulting Ltd was selected as the GIS contractor for this project. The project will map the urban forest in Greater Victoria, including all municipalities from Sooke to Sidney, an area of approximately 65,000 hectares. The first phase of the mapping project will:

- ♦ identify the current extent of the urban forest in this region;
- ♦ analyze the change in the urban forest canopy between 1986 and 2005; and
- ♦ conduct analyses to identify the contribution of the urban forest to 'green infrastructure' including stormwater management, carbon sequestration and pollution abatement.



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 implementation of a management plan for the lagoon endorsed by the City of Colwood. The management plan lays out a clear direction for the development and protection of the Coburg Peninsula's unique values over the long term. ELSI and HAT provided critical feedback on two major development projects (800+ units) around the lagoon in 2007

including *Aquattro Estates* (Ridley Lands) and the *Pacific Family Services* Property. HAT also participated in the Colwood Official Community Plan review through ELSI.

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. GOERT will use HAT's new Landowner Contact Database and HAT is now promoting GOERT's new Garry Oak Gardeners' Handbook.



Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) - GWI is a new, community driven group of organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds by respecting the local cultural heritage, through community education, and advocacy with local governments. In 2007 HAT participated in the review of Esquimalt's Official

Community Plan through GWI and helped to develop outreach strategies for GWI events. 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 is part of 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 have been taking place over 2007 and the management plan will be developed in 2008.

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 attracting new members.

- October's *Mad Hatter's Social* was held at the White Eagle Hall in James Bay. There were amazing musical performances by **Oliver Swain** and **Adam Dobres** of **Outlaw Social**, **Tara Todesco**, **Children of Celebrities**, **Ron Carter**, **Sean Rhynus**, and **Ron Larsen**. **Lighthouse Brewing Company** sponsored our event by providing their fine, locally made beer, and has recently become a HAT corporate member.
- The second annual *HAT Gala Dinner* in March 2007 was a great success with special guest speaker **Dr Nancy J. Turner**. A new Conservation Legacy Award was presented to former Executive Director **Bruce Whittington**. Over 80 people attended the dinner at **McMorran's Beach House**.

Corporate Contributions

Vancity funded the **Rithet's Bog Good Neighbours Project** with an **Envirofund** awards of \$30,000

Mountain Equipment Co-op is highlighting HAT through its Victoria store with its Urban Sustainability program, and awarded us with a \$31,400 capacity building grant to upgrade some computers and our website.

BC Hydro provided support to the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative and

Teresen Gas provided \$600 for Streamkeepers training at Rithets Bog.

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

Lighthouse Brewing Company sponsored the Mad Hatters Social with a donation valued at over \$500.

Webbloom Design's David Delisle volunteered his time and skill to develop a redesigned Conservation Connection website.

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

\$1,000 and up

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
 Microsoft Giving Campaign

\$500 and up

Market on Yates	Investors Group Matching Gifts Program
Parish Anton Chartered Accountants	Garnett Capital Corp.
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd	Peninsula Co-op
	Back to Back Chiropractic

Up to \$499

Coast (V.I.) Environmental Ltd.	Norman St. Cyr Excavating Ltd.
Colwood Dental Group	Peninsula Bulldozing Ltd.
Don Mann Excavating Ltd.	Wilf Soil Supply Ltd.
Great Pacific Mortgage & Investments	

The Goldstream Nature House also hosted its biennial *Nature of Island Artists* show this fall, raising \$10,000 for the Nature House and its important educational programs. HAT and the Goldstream Nature House would like to recognize the donations of the following artists, and thank them for their generosity:

Jean	Aten	Paddy	Howard	Doreen	Green
Brian	Baker	Tom	Hutton	Pauline	Hemming
Robert	Bateman	Susan	Keane	Mark	Hobson
Paul Alex	Bennett	Gretchen	Markle	Joanne	Thomson
Craig	Benson	Ritha	Mason	Judy	Trousdell
Kristina	Boardman	Beverlee	McLeod	Sylvia	Verity
Anne	Boquist	Sophia	Morrison	Clare	Singleton
Margot	Clayton	Kristine	Paton	Jenny	Waelti-Walters
Dennis	Drechsler	Nicole	Polet	Tannis	Warburton
Susan	Ellenton	Susan	Pratt	Richard	Hunt
David	Fraser	Muriel	Sibley	Andy	Lou
Ann	Gibbard	Aino	Tamm		
Carolyn	Houg	Jim	Gilbert		

Program 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 2006/07 fiscal year HAT's projects were supported by the following organizations and programs:

General Support

- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- HSBC
- Canada Summer Job program (Service Canada)

Good Neighbours Strategy Program

- BC Gaming Commission Direct Access Grant (\$40,000)
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Summer Career Placement Program (\$4,500)
- Victoria High School - Victoria Foundation Youth in Philanthropy (\$400)

Good Neighbours Rithets Bog

- Vancity Savings Credit Union (\$30,000)
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (\$7,000)
- Victoria Foundation (\$5,000)
- Vancouver Foundation (\$15,000)
- The District of Saanich (\$5,000)
- Shell Environment Fund (\$5,000)
- Camosun College - Work on Campus Program

Good Neighbourhoods Schools Project (the new *Green Spots* Project)

- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - PromoScience (\$13,000)
- Victoria Foundation - Community Fund (\$8,000)

Good Neighbours Sharp-tailed Snake / Landowner Contact Database

- Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program (\$46,525)
- Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (\$500)
- Alula Biological Consulting (in-kind)

Conservation Connection

- JW McConnell Family Foundation/ Victoria Foundation Environment Fund (\$4,000)
- Web bloom Design (in-kind)
- City of Victoria (in-kind)

Covenants

- Kaatza Foundation (\$4,000)
- Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (\$2,000)
- District of Central Saanich (\$500)
- Michael J. McIlvaney Land Surveying (in-kind)

Urban Forest Mapping Project

- Real Estate Foundation of BC (\$10,000)
- City of Colwood (\$1,000)
- District of Saanich (\$5,000)
- Town of Esquimalt (\$2,500)
- Judith Cullington and Associates (in-kind)
- Gye and Associates Ltd (in-kind)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (in-kind)
- CRD Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds Program (in-kind)

Capacity Building

- Mountain Equipment Co-op (\$31, 400) (for 2008)

Private Donations

Donations from individuals are very important to HAT's sustainability. We truly appreciate the support of our members and donors; it is this support that enables us to keep HAT operating day-to-day.

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**.

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for contributing goods and services over the last year:

Steven Armstrong, artist
Butchart Gardens
Denman Island Chocolate Co
Fibre Options
Gardenworks—Colwood
Goldstream Nature House
Home Depot
Lighthouse Brewing Company
Lone Pine Publishing
Mar Farms
Mitchell Farms
Mountain Equipment Co-op
PSC Natural Foods
Salt Spring Coffee Company
Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Victoria Clipper
Mirage Wood Products
Nature's Garden Seed Company
Villages Pizza
Serious Coffee

Silk Road Tea Company
Joanne Thompson, artist
Pat Johnston, native plant consultant
Bruce Whittington, author
Umeeda Switlo
Peter Lewis
Marvin Eng
Roberta's Hats
Sapphire Day Spa
Nathalie Dechaine
Ron Carter
Andy MacKinnon
Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation
Webbloom Design Inc.
Coast Capital Savings
Quill's Tees
Rocky Mountain Muffin Co.
Sea Soil
Serious Coffee
Nature's Garden Seed Co.
Soap Exchange
ERP Services
Mc Morran's Beach House

HAT continues to see our partnerships grow and flourish, and to see HAT's profile grow in the community. We have had a busy, successful year, complete with public recognition, project success and fundraising success. We are excited about the year to come, with several projects in planning or underway.

