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# HAT

# 2012 Spring Chat

Dear Friends,

HAT's mission is to help people understand and care for nature. It means that we work through you, by providing tools, resources, knowledge, and I hope inspiration so that we are all taking action to care for our natural environments. Exactly, what that action is though can be very different.

My family is working to become better stewards of our property. We are using native plants more, (slowly) creating patches of habitat for birds, snakes, and butterflies, and reducing our "lawnscapes." It's great for us; my kids love being outside and getting dirty, and my wife and I get to share with them our love of the birds, frogs, and newts that we find in the "wild" parts of our yard. I think of this as a traditional way to share and care for nature, and I hope that others do to. But when it comes to finding ways to help nature, not everyone has the same opportunities or desires.

So what is it that you want, and can do, to help nature? For condo and apartments dwellers, even container gardening with food plants for hummingbirds, butterflies, and other beneficial (and amazing!) insects can help provide habitat.

For a lucky few, perhaps you own a piece a property with natural environments that you can protect permanently. For others, volunteering is the way they get out into nature and make a positive difference for wildlife and native plants.

For some, it means donating: supporting organizations that help others care for nature – like HAT. It might mean thinking about your legacy, and how we can protect natural environments that will be here long after we are gone. Perhaps it means helping children discover their love of nature, and fostering the next generation of naturalists, stewards, and advocates for nature.

For the past 15 years HAT has helped people find ways to care for nature, but it is a learning process for us too. We'd love to hear from you about your vision for helping nature, and to find out how we can help.

Sincerely,

Adam Taylor, Executive Director

# a conservation success story

If you have visited [hat.bc.ca](http://hat.bc.ca) lately you will have noticed some monumental changes to our website. The redesign was a long time coming as the internet progresses so quickly these days its hard to keep up with the times. We decided that if we were going to create a new website we would want to make it more than just a new fancy page to visit. We had a vision of making HAT an organization that recognizes you and what you want. During our brainstorming sessions we came up with the simple phrase:

“i want to...”

This phrase really allows you, the user of the site, to find your way to what you are looking for more efficiently than ever. Not only do we want your browsing experience to be smoother but we want to show the community what HAT has to offer. The catch is we need you to tell us what you want. We can show the Capital region that we are a resource for parents, teachers, businesses, homeowners, students and everyone else in between. We really want to expand the way the public views land trusts and let them know that we do a variety of things along with protecting land. We want to give HAT a personal touch, and really be approachable in the community.

Starting conversations online is easier today with the growth of social media, and HAT is keeping up. Our Twitter account is a good example of how we are showing Victoria that we are a small staff but we get a lot done! Tweeting about our personal anecdotes, ideas and activities is a great way for us to better connect with the community of folks who may not know a lot about us.

At the end of the day, our new website and new motto “I want to...” is all about garnering conversations with the public, connecting with them over issues and resources that matter most to them and most importantly - helping *you* discover what *you* want!

-Peter Papagiannis

## a promise made

by Wendy Tyrrell



You may remember a story in our Annual Report about Nancy Powell, a property owner in Metchosin who is passionate about protecting her land forever. In her mission statement to us she exclaimed, “I can’t leave without protecting it” and that she “...represent[s] the animals, birds, trees, bugs, flowers and everything else that lives on the land, in the water and in the air”. The land she is protecting was gifted to Nancy from her dear friend, Ivan. It was Ivan’s passion to protect and care for the land, and it is now Nancy’s turn. She is paying it forward for Ivan, for herself, for the wildlife, and for Metchosin. Fast forward to March and we can now officially announce that Nancy Powell has a registered conservation covenant on her land now called “Ivan Island”! With the covenant now on title forever, her beautiful property, home to many native plant and animal species, will not be tampered with at all. Her promise to Ivan has now merged with HAT’s promise to protect land in the CRD and like Nancy - a promise we are working to keep forever. At times it can be overwhelming in terms of thinking how one individual can make a difference in protecting our environment but Nancy has found a way that was suitable for her and she has made an impact in our region. Discovering how you can make a difference can be a difficult journey, so please take inspiration from stories like Nancy’s, Ivan Island, and other landowners that have done the same. We can all reach higher to help keep our precious ecosystems intact and flourishing.

The process of placing a conservation covenant on your property can appear to be daunting but in reality it only takes a one committed landowner and a local land trust to make it all come together. If you believe your land has ecological value and is worth protecting, the best thing you can do is to take the first step and come by the office to chat with Wendy (our Covenants & Acquisitions Coordinator) or give her a call at 250-995-2428. She has experience in working with private and public landowners in negotiating and implementing conservation covenants in her four years at HAT and would be happy to talk with you and provide free, confidential advice about options for protecting your land in perpetuity.

Thank you Nancy and Ivan for your dedication to protecting natural places and making the CRD a better place to live and breathe.



(Biologist Lennart Sopuck doing the baseline report in 2011) Photo: Christian Engelstoft

# good neighbours

by Todd Carnahan

The goal of the Craigflower Good Neighbours Project is to engage our community in solutions to significant local conservation issues and to promote community appreciation of healthy natural habitats. HAT staff will visit many interested landowners in key areas to provide personalized landscape prescriptions on topics like soil erosion, pests, forest health, water quality, composting, and invasive species. By helping property owners pursue sustainable land uses HAT can foster volunteer stewardship around the most rare and sensitive natural areas.

The Craigflower Watershed in Greater Victoria is best known for Thetis Lake Regional Park. Flowing from the Highlands to Esquimalt Harbour, the area is also home to endangered species like Painted Turtles and Blue-grey Taidroppers. Some of the lesser known lakes are connected by smaller streams and wetlands, including Eagles, Teanook, Fork, Pike, and McKenzie Lakes. HAT plays a lead role in community outreach for the conservation of our region's watersheds by helping people understand and care for nature. Craigflower's new residents want to develop functional and attractive landscapes; this project helps them achieve their land use objectives without compromising water quality and other (often unseen) natural values. We also provide guidance and resources to longer term residents already pursuing stewardship goals so that model citizens are recognized by their peers. If you live in the Craigflower area I invite you to schedule a free and confidential land care visit with me this season (250.995.2428 or todd@hat.bc.ca). Join our team of over 380 habitat stewards in 2012!



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We would also like to recognize significant contributions from:

- Hugh Mogensen
- Estate of Patricia Boyle

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. HAT has established a monthly giving program and accepts monthly giving by credit card through Canadahelps.org or direct deposit.



## gala soiree

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Gala Soiree on November 18th, 2012 at The Atrium (pictured above). It will be an evening filled with great food and drinks, live music, a silent auction and many other surprises. We have already received some great items that will be up for auction including a stay at Yellow Point Lodge in Ladysmith, tickets to the charming Chemainus Theatre, and passes to the Vancouver Aquarium. Christmas shopping anyone? Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page as we release more details and continue to post auction items in our Facebook photo album.



## HAT Gallery

Did you know we house local art in our office at 827 Broughton Street? We are now featuring Joanne Thomson who you can learn more about at [www.joannethomson.com](http://www.joannethomson.com)



# HAT

2012



## HAT Spring Chat

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

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