



NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday
May 25, 2011
Regional District Board Room
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

1:00 pm

A G E N D A

		<u>Pages</u>
1.	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	1 - 2
2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
	M1 Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting of March 9, 2011	3 - 5
3.	<u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>	
4.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>	
	R1 Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner, regarding Regional Parks and Trails Program – Growth and Development	6 - 9
	R2 Staff Report from Graham Gidden, Parks Planning Technician, regarding Regional Parks Signage and Promotional Materials	10 - 14
	R3 Staff Report from Graham Gidden, Parks Planning Technician, regarding Kinsol Trestle Heritage Legacy Grant	15
	R4 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks and Trails, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail 2011 Priorities and Grant Funding Opportunities – TO BE DISTRIBUTED	
	R5 Staff Report from Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent, regarding Use Compliance Update on the Cowichan Valley Trail	16 - 17
	R6 Staff Report from Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner, regarding BC Parks 100 year Celebrations – Community Legacy Grant Funding.	18 - 24
	R7 Staff Report from Dan Brown, Parks Trail Technician, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Celebration Events.	25 - 26
	R8 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks and Trails, regarding Vista Request for Support for Trail Reconnaissance Study Grant Application	27 - 30
	R9 Staff Report from Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks and Trails, regarding Sansum Point Property – TLC Fundraising Activities	31 - 47

5. **INFORMATION**

IN1 Excerpts from Trails BC News regarding Cowichan Valley Trails 48 - 51

6. **NEW BUSINESS**7. **PUBLIC/PRESS QUESTIONS**8. **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

CSM1 Minutes of Closed Session Parks Committee meeting of March 9, 2011 52 - 53

CSD1 Delegation - Land Acquisition, Section 90(1)(e) 54

CSR1 Third Party Negotiations, Section 90(2)(b) 55 - 57

CSR2 FOI POP, Section 90(2)(a) 58 - 69

CSR3 Land Acquisition, Section 90(1)(e) 70 - 73

CSR4 Land Acquisition, Section 90(1)(e) – **VERBAL UPDATE**

9. **NEXT MEETING** July 13, 201110. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website www.cvrld.bc.ca

Director M. Dorey, Chair
Director I. Morrison, Vice Chair
Director L. Duncan
Director B. Harrison

Director G. Giles
Director K. Kuhn
Director K. Cossey

Director D. Haywood
Director P. Kent
Director L. Iannidinardo

MI

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT

Director Mel Dorey, Chair
Director Ian Morrison, Vice-Chair
Director Loren Duncan
Director Gerry Giles
Director Brian Harrison
Director Lori Iannidinardo
Director Phil Kent
Director Dave Haywood
Director Klaus Kuhn

Absent: Director Ken Cossey

CVRD STAFF

Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
Warren Jones, Corporate Administrative Officer
Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Norm Olive, Manager, Capital Projects
Mary Anne McAdam, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted changes to the agenda, which included two items of New Business

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda, be amended with the addition of the following items of New Business:

NB1 Staff report from Graham Gidden, Parks and Trails Technician, regarding Kinsol Trestle Access and Amenities

NB2 Two Kinsol Trestle News Articles

NB3 Display at the Discovery Centre

In addition, there are two Closed Session items of New Business: CSNB1 and CSNB2

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

M1 - MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of February 1, 2011, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reported that CVRD staff continue to follow-up with BC Parks regarding proposed park entrance road improvements at Spectacle Lake Park.

DELEGATIONS

- D1 – Yvonne McNab** Update presented by Yvonne McNab of Angle5 Video/Media Productions on the video documentary of the Historic Kinsol Trestle restoration.
- D2 – Gordon Macdonald and Euan McLean** Verbal and video presentation of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project by Gordon Macdonald of Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. and Euan McLean, of Quoin and Project and Cost Management Ltd.

STAFF REPORTS

- SR1 – Kinsol Trestle Construction, Progress and Budget** Staff Report from Norm Olive, Manager, Capital Projects Management, and Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, regarding Kinsol Trestle construction progress and budget.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the firm price of \$394,789 (net of HST and rebate) submitted by Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. on June 29, 2010, to complete the Phase III Remainder Historic Bents Stabilization capital work be approved.

That up to a maximum of \$416,000 in short term borrowing for the completion of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Phase III Remainder Historic Bents Stabilization capital works be approved, and that the loan be paid back over five years under the Liabilities Under Agreement section of 175 of the Community Charter.

That the proposed 2011 budget for Function 283 (Kinsol Trestle) be amended to reduce the requisition by \$90,000, and reduce operating expenses accordingly; also amend the 2011 budget for Function 280 (Regional Parks) by increasing the requisition by \$90,000 to cover the loan interest/principle payment, and also add the Short Term Borrowing revenue of \$416,000 and Capital Expenditure of \$416,000.

MOTION CARRIED

- SR2 – Cowichan Valley Trail Northern Completion Project Update** Staff report dated February 1, 2011, prepared by Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Northern Completion Project Update.

It was Moved and Seconded

That staff proceed to organize Cowichan Valley Trail community celebration events in April/May at the new trailhead in the Town of Lake Cowichan and for the section of trail through Chemainus.

MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION

- IN1 – Kinsol Trestle Project News Articles** Seven news articles documenting the Kinsol Trestle project received for information and filed.

NEW BUSINESS

**NB1 – Kinsol Trestle
Access and Amenities**

Staff report from Graham Gidden, Parks and Trails Technician, regarding Kinsol Trestle Access and Amenities.

It was Moved and Seconded

That Kinsol Trestle site finishing elements and associated priority list for construction of site access and amenities beyond the core works on the trestle structure be approved as funds become available.

MOTION CARRIED

**NB2 – Kinsol Trestle
News Articles**

Two news articles regarding Kinsol Trestle Restoration Project received for information and filed.

CLOSED SESSION

It was Moved and Seconded

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

MOTION CARRIED

The Committee moved into closed session at 5:00 p.m.

RISE

It was Moved and Seconded

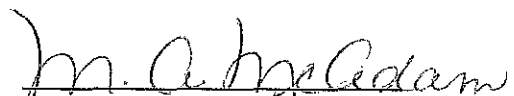
That the Committee rise without report.

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Chair


Recording Secretary



R1

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 16, 2011 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Regional Parks and Trails Program - Growth and Development

Recommendation/Action:

To report back to the Parks Committee on the growth and development of the Cowichan Valley Regional Districts Parks and Trails Program.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

A "Safe and Healthy Community", identified under the Corporate Strategic Plan, lists one of the key objectives being to "provide exceptional recreation, cultural and park services" with three associated strategic actions:

1. Continue with the parkland acquisition program to acquire high priority areas and identify opportunities for funding support and partnerships.
2. Continue to implement the Regional Parks and Trails Master plan to respond to new park and trail needs and opportunities.
3. Continue to ensure a diversity of regional parks for both recreational and conservation purposes.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: *n/a*)

Background:

The Early Years (1972 – 2005)

The Regional Parks Function was established in 1972 with the first Regional Park (Sandy Pool Regional Park) being acquired in 1982. In 1997, the Cowichan Valley Trail initiative was endorsed by the Regional Board. Construction of the Cowichan Valley's section of the Trans Canada Trail began in 2001 and has continued on through 2011 with approximately 90 km now in place along the 120 km overall route. Osborne Bay Regional Park was donated to the Regional District in the late 1990's however, at the time the CVRD did not have an established Regional Parks Operations program and agreed to transfer the operational responsibility for the park to the Municipality of North Cowichan under a long term lease.

Adoption of the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan and Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund

In 2005 the CVRD Board initiated the process to prepare an updated Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan to define the direction, policies, priorities and actions for the Regional Parks and Trails Program over the next 10-15 years. The Plan, adopted by the Board in March 2007, identifies 11 priority sites throughout the Region to be acquired as individual opportunities arise. In 2008, the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund was established through bylaw following a Region-wide referendum, which annually provides for up to \$5.00/100,000 net assessed property value tax applied towards the purchase of parkland as guided by the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Growth of the Regional Parks Program (2008 – 2011)

With adoption of the Master Plan, the financial operational responsibility for *Osborne Bay Regional Park* was transferred back into the Regional Parks and Trails Program in 2008. The 405.91 hectare *Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area* acquired under a lease agreement with the Ministry of Forests in 2001 was also brought under the umbrella of the Regional Parks and Trails Program in 2008. In 2009, the first strategic property was acquired (107.75 hectares) towards the creation of *Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park*. Under a park use permit with BC Parks, the CVRD assumed operational responsibility for *Spectacle Lake Park* and *Chemainus River Park* as initial pieces of larger regional parks proposed, encompassing the Malahat/Spectacle/Oliphant Lake area and the lower Chemainus River Corridor/Estuary.

Cowichan Valley Trail (2001-2011)

The growth of the Cowichan Valley Trail and the Rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle, both under the Regional Parks and Trails Program, has been substantial over the past 4 years with significant funding secured for the Trail and the Kinsol Trestle through Provincial and Federal grant funding programs, including funding from the Trans Canada Trail and the Island Coastal Economic Trust. In 2001, construction on sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail began, starting at Sooke Lake Road South of Shawnigan Lake and continued north to the Deerholme Wye in Glenora. As well, separately the Province, through the Provincial Land Use Coordination office, completed major sections of this rail-trail route through Cowichan River Provincial Park to the Town of Lake Cowichan in 2001. It wasn't until 2009, that construction began on what is now referred to as the Northern Completion of the Cowichan Valley Trail which consists of sections of trail from the Town of Lake Cowichan through to Chemainus, Ladysmith, and on to the RDN. A number of sections are completed and work continues in 2011. The Cowichan Valley Trail has now increased to approximately 90 km completed out of the 120km route identified throughout the Region.

Table 1: Summary of Regional Parkland Acquisitions from 1982 - 2010

Year added to Regional Parks System	Regional Park Name	Size (ha)
1982	Sandy Pool Regional Park	15.62
2008	Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area	405.91
2008	Osborne Bay Regional Park (first acquired in 2001)	24.96
2008	Chemainus River Park	119.62
2008	Spectacle Lake Park	65.56
2009	Heart/Stocking Lake Regional Park	107.75
Totals	6 Regional Park sites established	739.42

CVRD Electoral Area Community Parks and Trails Program

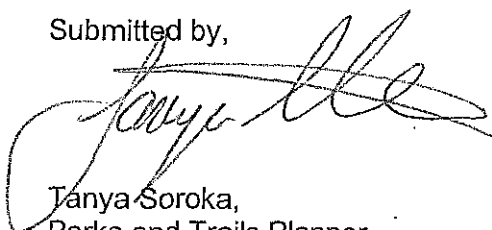
In addition to the Regional Parks and Trails Program the CVRD also administers the local Community Parks and Trails Program in the nine (9) Electoral Areas within the Regional District. The first Electoral Area Community Park was acquired in Electoral Area H in 1969 through subdivision and by the year 2000, 31 years later, there were 88 community parks covering 238 hectares of land throughout the 9 Electoral Areas which is the equivalent to acquiring three parks/year. From 2000 to 2010 the Community Parks and Trails Program expanded to include 172 parks covering a total of 931 hectares of land which is the equivalent to acquiring eight parks/year.

Table 2: Summary of Community Parkland Acquisitions from 1969 – 2010 in all 9 Electoral Areas

Year park acquired	Number of Community Parks acquired	Total hectares of parkland
1969-1999	80	224.0
2000	8	13.9
2001	6	5.8
2002	5	2.0
2003	9	40.4
2004	8	8.8
2005	11	12.9
2006	10	227.5
2007	17	19.6
2008	15	323.8
2009	12	47.3
2010	5	5.4
Totals	172 **	931.4 hectares

**** Note:** Some of the parks were merged hence the total number of parks is less than the cumulated numbers acquired.

Submitted by,


Tanya Soroka,
Parks and Trails Planner
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

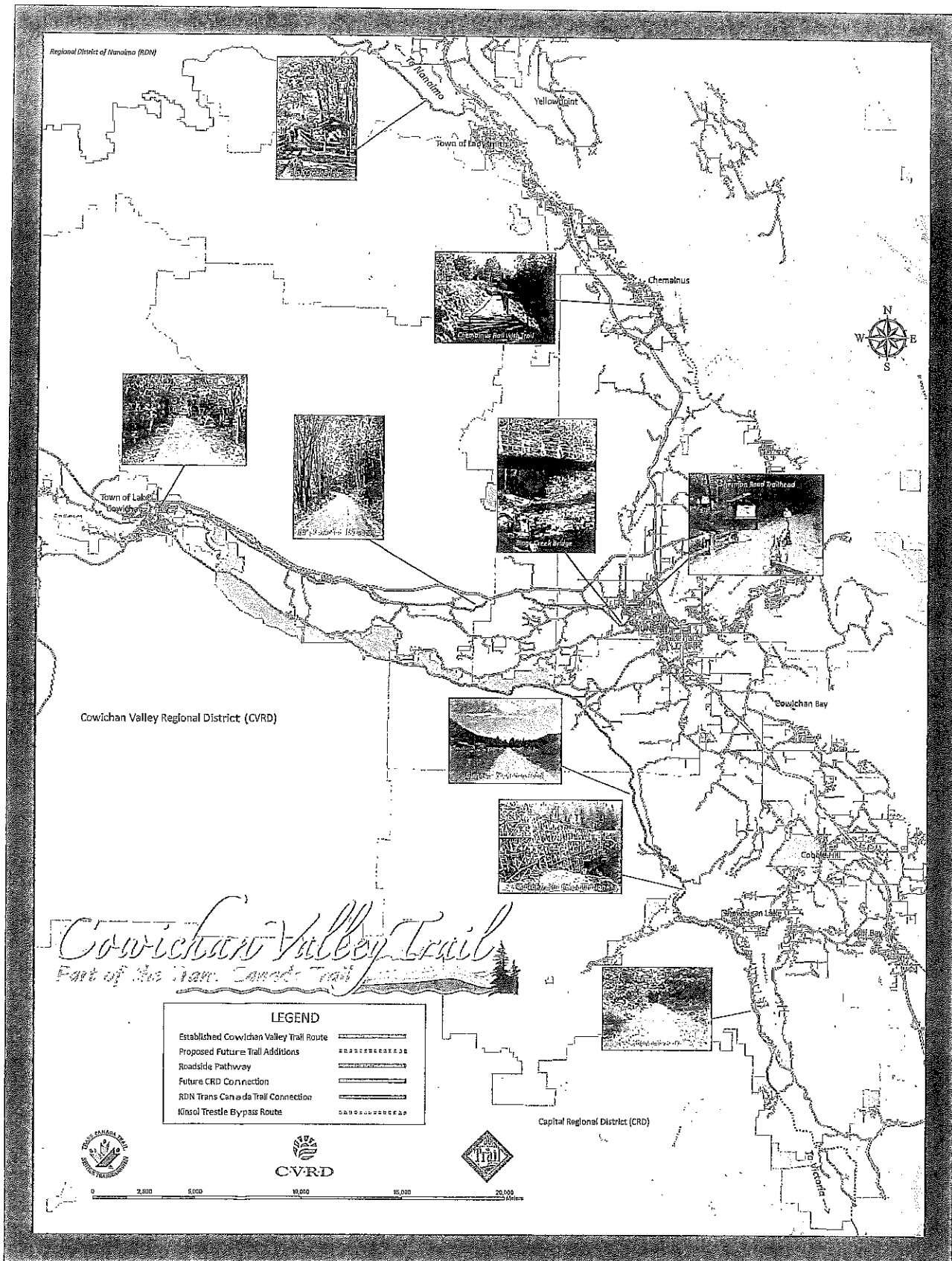
TS/lag

Reviewed by:

Division Manager:

Approved by:

General Manager:





R2

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 16, 2011. **FILE NO:**
FROM: Graham Gidden, Parks Planning Technician **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Regional Parks Signage and Promotional Materials

Recommendation/Action:

That the Regional Parks Committee endorse the graphic standards as proposed for CVRD Regional Park signage and informational documents.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Provide exceptional recreation cultural and park services – Continually improve the quality of programs and services.

Graphic standards aid in promotion of the overall corporate branding and recognition of the CVRD Regional Parks and Trails program within the community and beyond.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

Implementing the proposed graphics standards for regional parks into the existing operations of the program will not have a financial impact on the budget.

Background:

With continued management of existing CVRD Regional Parks as well as the acquisition of new regional park sites, graphic standards need to be considered for regional park signage. Presently, graphic standards exist for CVRD's Community Parks in the Electoral Areas as well as the Cowichan Valley Trail. The standards proposed for regional parks incorporate existing layout style and components of the Cowichan Valley Trail graphics creating complementary associative aesthetics. The Regional Park graphic standards vary through application of a different color scheme and font to create clear differentiation of CVRD Regional Parks. Presently, the Cowichan Valley Trail color scheme is Pilgrim Red and the proposed color scheme for Regional Parks is Navy Blue.

Attached is the Cowichan Valley Trail graphic standard being used on the trailhead signage, information kiosks, trail brochures and the CVRD website. Also attached is the proposed CVRD Regional Parks graphic standard for incorporation into regional park signage, brochures, kiosks and promotional materials. Having such a standard designed for branding of CVRD's regional parks invokes recognition and better promotion to regional residents and visitors of park sites managed by the CVRD under the Regional Parks and Trails Program as well as clearly distinguishing regional park sites from those managed under the region's community parks program and sites administered by other municipalities and agencies.

There is not expected to be any additional cost to incorporating the Regional Parks graphic standards into the current program.

Submitted by,



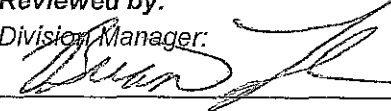
Graham Gidden,
Parks Planning Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

GG/lag

Attachment

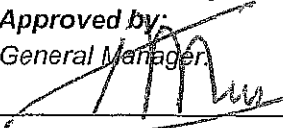
Reviewed by:

Division Manager:

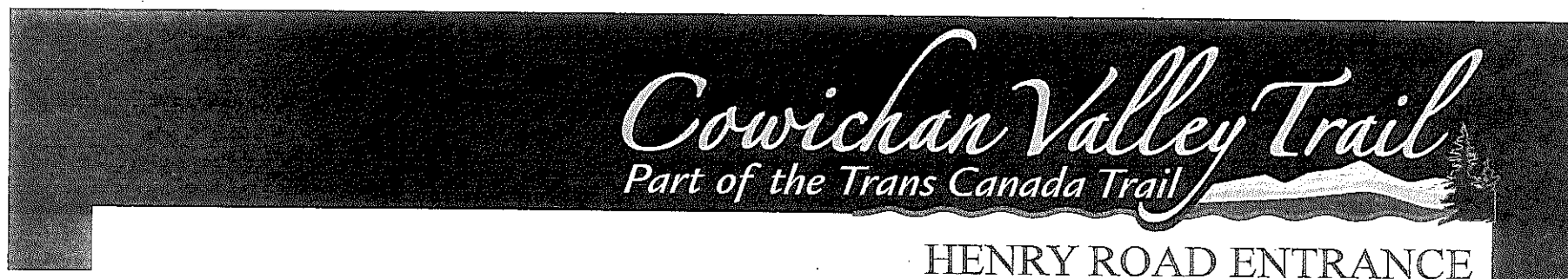
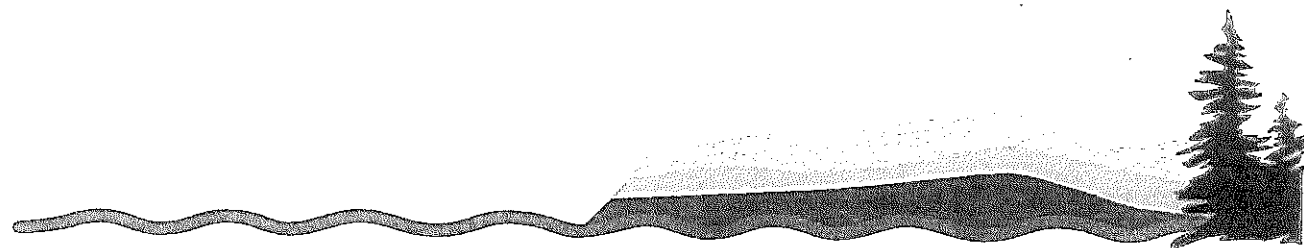


Approved by:

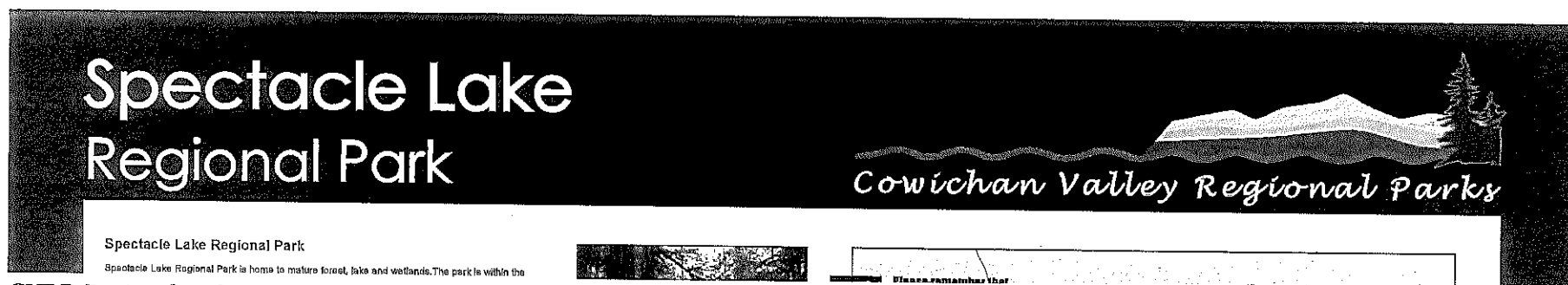
General Manager:



CVRD Parks Graphic



Cowichan Valley Trail Poster Header



CVRD Regional Park Poster Header

Part of the Trans Canada Trail

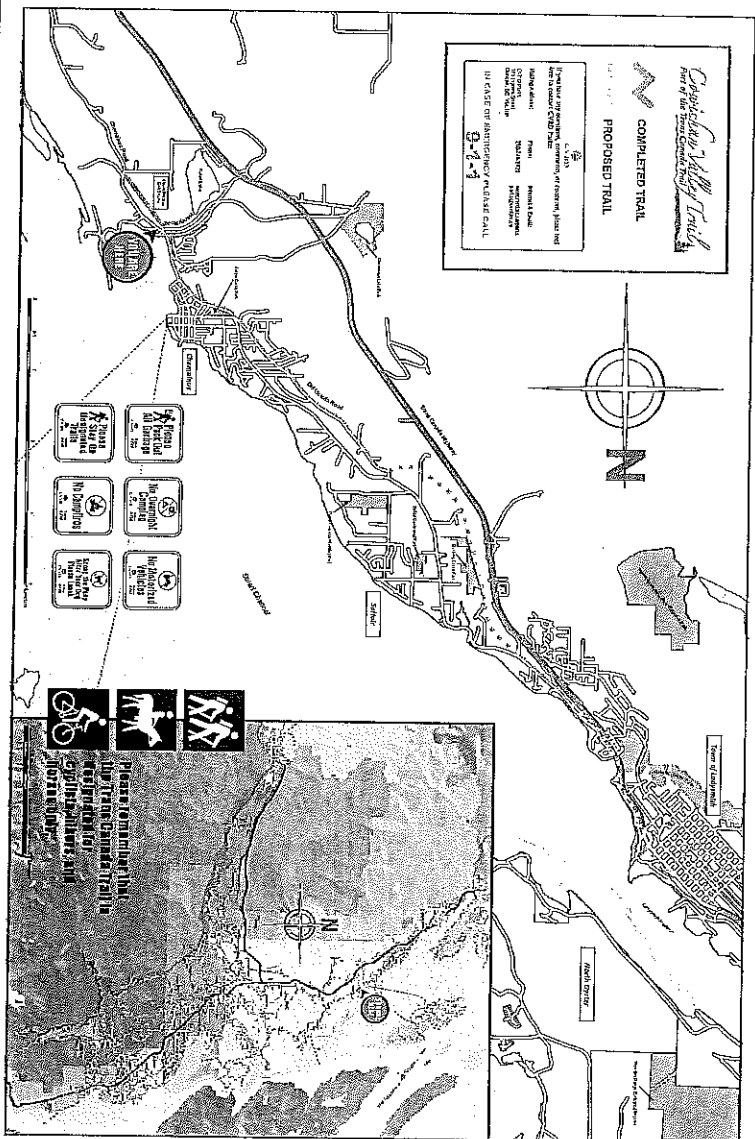
The Trans Canada Trail is a shared use recreation trail that will wind its way through every province and territory. It will be the largest trail of its kind in the world spanning approximately 16, 000 kilometres. The Vancouver Island section of the trail will accommodate three core activities: walking, cycling and horseback riding.

Canadian National Railways' lines Vancouver Island were originally part of the short-lived Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, the Western expansion of BC from the Prairies. In 1910 Premier Ritchie and McBride won an electoral victory on the question of establishing a third transcontinental railway in BC. With a provincial Subsidy, Mackenzie and Alcorn, promoters of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, were to lay steel from the Rockies to the coast. On Vancouver Island they planned a line from Victoria to Nootka Sound, passing through Cowichan Lake, Port Alberni and Duncan Bay. As major stakeholders in the Canadian Western Lumber Company, at the time the largest in the world, they intended to exploit their timber reserves on the island. The line was dedicated in February 1911, and work began on the subgrade. Construction was slow: only four miles of track had been laid on the main line when the Canadian National Railway assumed nominal control of the CN in 1918. Cowichan Lake was not reached until 1924. Plans to bypass Port Alberni had been abandoned.

The CNR is facing serious competition from the Esquimalt Navigation Railway. As early as 1911 they had constructed a branch line from Duncan to Lake Cowichan. In competition for the freight of the area, the CN constructed a spur line to Cowichan Bay. When the E&N introduced diesel locomotives, the CNR also abandoned all of its rail courses on Vancouver Island and currently the rail shares are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

This section of the Cowichan Valley Trail runs on the old E&N Rail line and the corridor is now owned by the Island Corridor Foundation and managed by CVRP Parks.

Remember: This trail is part of an active rail corridor. For your safety, stay on the trail and cross the tracks only at marked crossing locations



From coast to coast 'The longest trail in the world'

Spectacle Lake Regional Park

Cowichan Valley Regional Parks

Spectacle Lake Regional Park

Spectacle Lake Regional Park is home to mature forest, lake and wetlands. The park is within the Nanaimo Lowlands Ecosystem and is one of few accessible freshwater lakes that allow fishing, swimming and in the winter, skating.

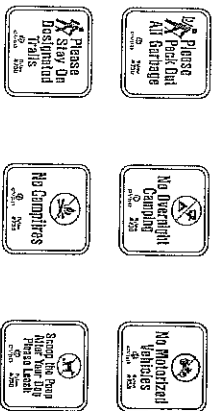
The lake offers the only Eastern Brook trout fishing on Vancouver Island. A small hatchery existed on the lake when the park was first established. The hatchery was closed in 1995. Fishing is permitted as per provincial and federal regulations. Anglers should check the current regulations issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada prior to fishing.

An easy 2 km well-maintained hiking trail circles the lake, with wooden bridges crossing the numerous creeks and marshy areas leading into Spectacle Lake. For your own safety and the preservation of the park, obey posted signs and keep to designated trails. Short-cutting trails through the trees and on structures. Although there are no designated swimming areas at Spectacle Lake, swimming is a popular activity at this park. There are no lifeguards on duty at CVRD Regional Parks.

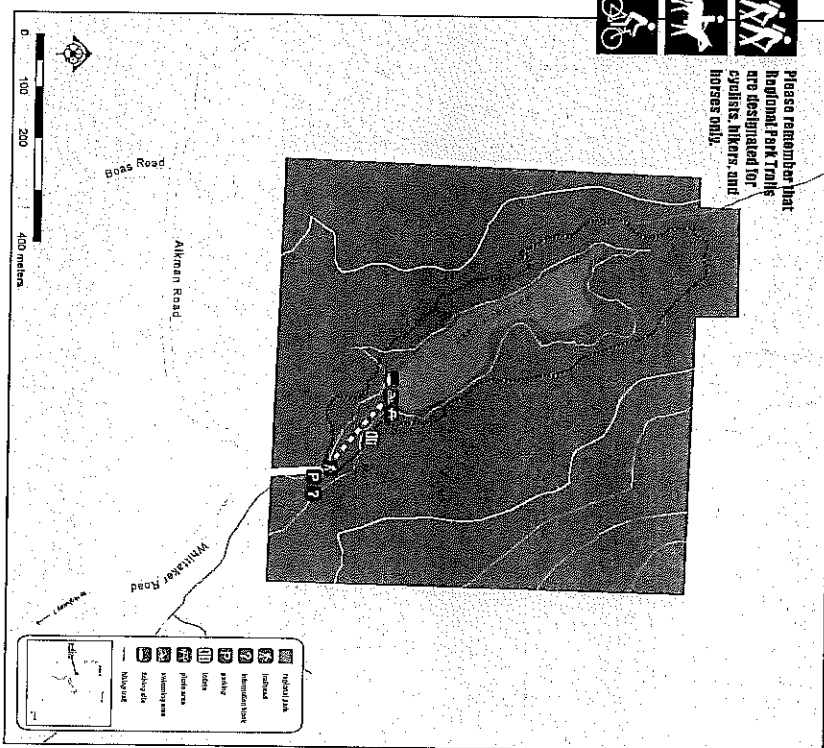
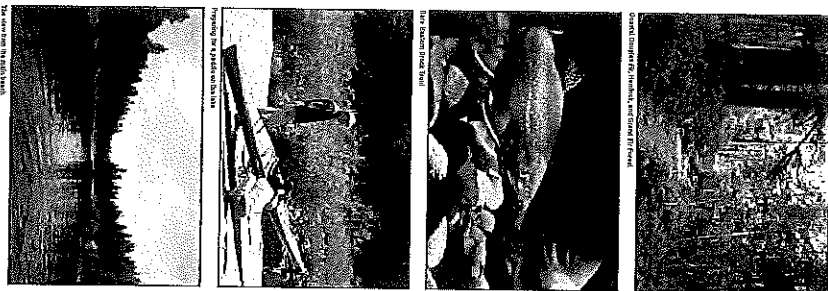
From 2002 to 2007, BC Parks leased the park to the CVRD to manage as a community park. In 2007, Spectacle Lake Park became a Regional Park and is still under a lease agreement with BC Parks. The area around Spectacle Lake was logged prior to 1950, and the region has a rich logging history. An old logging road to Oliphant Lake passes to the west of the park. The present lake was in fact the midpoint for the sawmill, which was built on the rocky outcrop adjacent to the mill operation. The sawmill and lake today is composed largely of sawdust from the mill operation. Sand was brought in the last years to create the beach.

CVRD Regional Parks and Trails

A Regional Park or Trail is one that is acquired, developed and managed under the Regional Parks and Trails Act by the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The system is financially supported by all three local governments in the Cowichan Valley: the Regional District of Cowichan, Regional Districts have been awarded regional parks and trails. Regional parks typically encompass larger land areas of regional interest for outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship values and may be more complex than the local community parks provided and maintained by individual municipalities or electoral areas.



Information and questions, answered or pending please
 contact the CVRD Parks and Trails Department
 Cowichan Valley Regional District
 750-660-6600
 750-660-6600
 750-660-6600





R3

STAFF REPORT
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 16, 2011. FILE NO:
FROM: Graham Gidden, Parks Planning Technician BYLAW NO:
SUBJECT: Kinsol Trestle Heritage Legacy Grant

Recommendation/Action:

The following report is for informational purposes only.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Background:

The CVRD Parks and Trails Division submitted a grant application to the Heritage Legacy Fund of British Columbia through the Heritage Awareness Program in March 2011. The grant funding supports projects that involve informational communication about heritage resources in British Columbia. The grants offered 50% cost sharing of the project and up to \$10,000 excluding PST. The CVRD application focused on the upcoming development of information and interpretive signs that will be installed at the Historic Kinsol Trestle and the importance of appropriate signage for elevating the site experience. The estimated cost of the project was provided in the application as well as a description of the heritage content proposed for the signs. The Heritage Legacy Fund contacted the CVRD Parks and Trails Division May 17th, to announce the awarding of \$8,000 towards the Kinsol Trestle heritage and interpretive sign project through the Heritage Awareness Program. This funding again reflects the fantastic public and private support for the project and provides necessary financial assistance to develop an outstanding sign program at the Historic Kinsol Trestle.

Submitted by,

Graham Gidden,
Parks Planning Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

GG/lag

Attachment

Reviewed by:	
Division Manager:	
Approved by:	
General Manager:	



R5

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 16, 2011 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Use Compliance Update on the Cowichan Valley Trail

Recommendation/Action:

This report is to be received for information.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Safe and Healthy Community – Provide exceptional recreation, cultural and park services

Financial Impact:

(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A– use of available staff resources)

Background:

The Parks Committee was provided a report at the September 9th, 2010 which outlined the need for a public awareness campaign on the Cowichan Valley Trail. The timing of this campaign was to correspond with the completion of the new sections of CVT recently completed under 2010/11 grant funding initiatives.

The September 9th Parks Committee report identified a public awareness program with two key components;

- to inform the public that these new trail sections are managed by the Cowichan Valley Regional District as the Cowichan Valley Trail for cyclists, walker/hikers and equestrians;
- to outline an effective use compliance plan to ensure that the terms and conditions of land use agreements for the trail are met as well as the safety of trail users and management of the trail corridor improvements.

The Parks and Trails Division is actively working on both components of this campaign including scheduling opening events, updating our website with new trail route information, and relying on all newly installed kiosk maps and trail signage to both inform and direct users of the Cowichan Valley Trail. Official trail opening media events are planned for various sections of the CVT in the upcoming months and will be profiled in the local media.

The use compliance element of the awareness campaign is also underway. Over the winter, all regulatory and compliance signage was assessed, and upgrades were made to ensure that clear and visible signage was in place at all designated entry points along the Cowichan Valley Trail. Over the winter months, the CVRD Bylaw Enforcement Officer has provided a presence at key regional trail locations at various times during the week including weekends

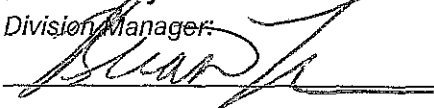

to monitor compliance and apply enforcement actions as required with respect to any trail use infractions observed. At this time, the bylaw enforcement department has distributed three warning tickets, observed two violations, and has become familiar with problematic locations for future enforcement.

The next steps in the upcoming months will be to increase the presence and public awareness of trail use compliance by incorporating Bylaw Enforcement bike patrols at a variety of times, including both weekends and evenings. This will provide both the opportunity for sharing with trail users updates on the CVRD's management role of the trail, including a handout of the regulations, and allow bylaw enforcement staff to gain an increased understanding of trail use patterns and activities during off hours. It is anticipated that the increased presence of CVRD staff patrols on various sections of the trail will have positive impact, both in creating a greater awareness of CVRD's role in managing the trail and increased user compliance respecting the non-motorized nature of the trail.

Submitted by,



Ryan Dias,
Parks Operations Superintendent
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Reviewed by: Division Manager: 
Approved by: General Manager: 

RD/tag



R6

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 17, 2011 FILE NO:
FROM: Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner BYLAW NO:
SUBJECT: BC Parks 100 year celebrations - Community Legacy Program Grant Funding

Recommendation/Action:

That the Committee provide direction on applying to the Community Legacy Program Grant funding program.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Provide Service Excellence:

- (a) By providing financial stability. Supports *Strategic Action # 1: Actively pursue alternative funding sources including grants and partnerships.*

Promote a Safe and Healthy Community:

- (a) By providing exceptional recreation, cultural and park services. Supports *Strategic Action #1: Continue with the parkland acquisition program to acquire high priority areas and identify opportunities for funding support & partnerships.*

- (b) By promoting individual and community wellness. Supports *Strategic Action #3: Develop an accessibility strategy to ensure that all people have access to quality recreational and cultural services and facilities.*

Financial Impact:

Depends on direction from the Committee as noted below.

Background:

As part of BC Parks' centenary celebrations, the Community Legacy Program was announced on May 12, 2011. This new initiative offers opportunities for registered not-for-profit societies, charities, First Nations Governments, Bands or Tribal Councils, local governments, schools, School Districts and post secondary institutions to apply for project funding of up to \$20,000 to carry out improvements and enhancements to BC Parks in 2011. Projects may include educational facilities and signs, trail building and enhancements, infrastructure to support recreational activities, conservation and restoration projects, and upgrades that make Parks more accessible to a variety of users.

Under the CVRD Regional Parks and Trails Program two sites listed as a BC Park or Provincial Protected Area are currently operated by the CVRD under a licence agreement with the Province. These sites include Spectacle Lake Park and Chemainus River Park.

The deadline for applications for the Community Legacy Program is June 16, 2011. Funding will be provided between \$5,000-\$20,000 with at least a 25% contribution to the project (i.e. financial sponsorship/funding, donations, volunteer labour). Due to the limited timeframe for preparation and submission of a detailed application, Committee direction is required on preparing a submission. While the application process does not appear to limit the number of applications that can be submitted, the preparation takes time to compile and therefore direction from the Committee is required.

In reviewing the park sites and availability of matching funding per the requirements of the grant program, staff have prepared the following suggestion of projects that the Committee may wish to give priority consideration. It is also important to note that if staff resources are directed to prepare one or more applications for this grant program, other current projects being worked on will need to be deferred/put on hold in the interim whilst the applications are being prepared. A copy of the application is attached which provides an indication of the extent of information required which could take some time to compile.

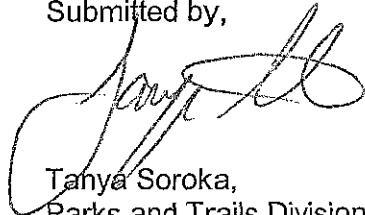
Spectacle Lake Park:

Currently there are no projects identified that would qualify under this program.

Chemainus River Park:

Looking to upgrade the day use area of Chemainus River Park which would include the parking lot, the day use trail access to the river and the creation and installation of an interpretive sign/welcome to the park sign. The breakdown would be \$20,000 from the Grant funding program and \$5000 from the Regional Parks Budget.

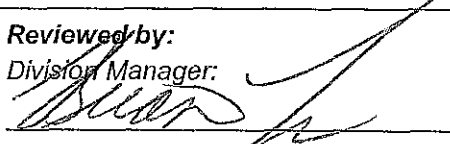

Submitted by,



Tanya Soroka,
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

TS/ca

Attachment

Reviewed by:	
Division Manager:	
Approved by:	
General Manager:	



Community Legacy Program

Please note that all fields listed are mandatory unless indicated with “(if applicable)” in the title.

Organization Information

Community Partner/Organization (legal name):

Contact Name:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

Contact Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Website (if applicable):

Organization Type:

Society: A society incorporated under the *Society Act*

Local Government: Local governments as defined in the *Local Government Act*.

First Nations Group: First Nations Government, Indian Band, or Tribal Council or Tribal Association, established as a legal entity with sufficient authority to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Province.

School: Schools, school districts, or public post-secondary institutions as defined by the *School Act*.

Project Description

Project Title:

Name of Park:

Project Location:

Project Theme:

- ☐ Improving Accessibility
- ☐ Educational Signs
- ☐ Trail Restoration/Enhancements
- ☐ Supporting Recreational Activities
- ☐ Conservation of Natural and Cultural Values

(select all that apply)

Has BC Parks Staff been contacted about this project?:

Yes/No

Name of BC Parks staff member contacted (if applicable):

Project Start Date:

Project Completion Date:

Project Summary:

Funding Request Amount:

\$

Amount Contributed:

\$

% of In-kind:

%

Applicant Experience

Please identify the Project Monitor and Manager, and detail the relevant experience, skills and knowledge of those working on the project:

Project Feasibility

Please provide a thorough description of the proposed project. Be sure to include: detailed project description, project plan, project timeline, and, if applicable, a description of how the project meets BC Parks standards:

Please describe the purpose of the project:

Please identify how this project reduces maintenance costs for BC Parks:

Please detail how the project may impact the park environment and park visitors and how you plan to lessen those impacts:

Preference will be given to projects that are completed before December 31, 2011. Please detail the project's estimated timelines:

Health and Safety

BC Parks requires a safety plan for all park projects. Please detail how you will have a safety plan in place by the start of the project:

Please list what aspects of your project will require contractors and list the liability coverage (WCB insurance, etc.) that they carry:

The Province of B.C. requires insurance coverage for anyone working or volunteering on a park project. Please provide details of the insurance covering worker/volunteer injury for your project (e.g. WorkSafeBC, accident insurance, etc.):

Supporters and Partnerships

Supporters - Please identify any other community members or park stakeholders who support your project:

Supporters Documentation (if applicable):

(Option to upload one file pertaining to this category)

Partnerships - BC Parks encourages applicants to partner with other stakeholders. Please identify partners who are participating in making your project happen:

Partnerships Documentation (if applicable):

(Option to upload one file pertaining to this category)

Community Benefit and Legacy

Please describe how the project involves First Nations, Youth, and/or New Canadians (if applicable):

Please describe how the project makes parks more accessible to all British Columbians (if applicable):

Please describe how the project benefits recreational, environmental, cultural or educational values of the park:

Please describe how this project benefits more than one user group:

Describe how this project will contribute lasting legacy value to British Columbia:

Describe the project's lasting benefit to the park:

Describe the lasting benefit to the community and park visitors:

Project Budget and Revenue

Budget:

Please attach a completed budget in one of the three formats provided at the top of this page

Please provide additional details of the proposed budget for the project and why you are confident of those cost estimates:

Preference will be given to projects that do not result in major long-term maintenance costs. Please detail how the project minimizes those costs:

Please detail the project's estimated costs and how you plan to address any unforeseen expenses:

More Documentation (if applicable):

(option to upload one additional attachment to your application submission)

Other Documentation (if applicable):

(option to upload a second additional attachment to your application submission)

Application Completion

☐ By clicking here, the applicant agrees to follow the terms and conditions as outlined in the Applicant Information Sheet should their application be successfully awarded. (Application amendments may apply).

If you would like a printed copy you must print a copy of your submission now (by using your browser's "print" button) PRIOR to hitting the application submit button.



R7

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 16, 2011

FILE NO:

FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Cowichan Valley Trail Celebration Events

Recommendation/Action:

That this report be received for information.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Safe and Healthy Community – Promote individual and community wellness. The trail celebration events are an opportunity to increase awareness in our local communities of the completion of segments of the Cowichan Valley Trail for walking/jogging, cycling and equestrian riding.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

The cost to host the two regional trail celebration events will involve existing staff resources to organize and minimal expense related to materials and supplies as well as event advertising which will be covered under the existing regional parks operations budget.

Background:

The Parks Committee has given prior direction to organizing Cowichan Valley Trail celebration events on sections of the trail that have been completed in recent months; in particular the Town of Lake Cowichan to Duncan/North Cowichan section (27 km) and the section of trail through the community of Chemainus.

The date planned for these two events is Thursday, June 9th. This date was selected due to the Trails BC AGM taking place on Friday, June 10th, at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre, which will have key dignitaries and interested parties attending from across the province and country as well as the president of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation which has provided significant funding (\$400,000 for completing the 26 km Lake Cowichan to Duncan section of trail as a rail to trail) and ongoing support for trail initiatives within the Cowichan Region (inclusive of separate funding for the historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation).

The proposed schedule for the day of June 9th, is to host the morning trail celebration event at the train station in the community of Chemainus and the mid-afternoon event in the Town of Lake Cowichan (Greendale Road entrance to the trail). The invitation list of trail funding partners, dignitaries, community groups and others is being confirmed and the events will be advertised in the local media inviting the public to attend. The events provide the opportunity to recognize local community support for this regional trail initiative, the contributions of funding partners for these sections of trail completed (including Island Coastal Economic Trust, Trans Canada Trail, Chemainus Rotary and the federal government through the Western Economic Diversification and Federal Gas Tax grant programs) and key supporters/landowners (i.e.

Catalyst for use of portions of their waterline for the trail and Island Corridor Foundation for use of the rail corridor between Duncan and the Town of Lake Cowichan as well as sections between Chemainus and the Town of Ladysmith).

The morning trail celebration event is proposed to start at 10:30 am on the trail at the Chemainus Train Station and the afternoon trail celebration is proposed for 2:30 pm at the trailhead at Greendale Road in the Town of Lake Cowichan. The order of the events is proposed to accommodate participation of Trans Canada Trail/Trails BC representatives who would be arriving on the Island that morning in advance of their AGM meeting the following day. Parks and Trails Division staff resources will be involved in organizing the two events, inclusive of invitations, public notices, media advisories and setup/take down of the two events. Local media will be invited to attend and select delegates will be invited to speak on behalf of their respective organizations.

Submitted by,

Dan Brown,
Parks Trails Technician
Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/lag

<p>Reviewed by:</p> <p>Division Manager:</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>
<p>Approved by:</p> <p>General Manager:</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>



R8

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 18, 2011 **FILE NO:**
FROM: Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks And Trails **BYLAW NO:**
SUBJECT: Vista Request For Support For Trail Reconnaissance Study Grant Application

Recommendation/Action:

That application be made on behalf of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) for \$8,000 in grant funding from the provincial government to complete a trail reconnaissance study for the proposed VI Spine Trail section between the east end of Cowichan Lake and Francis Lake located in Alberni Clayoquot Regional District.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

N/A

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

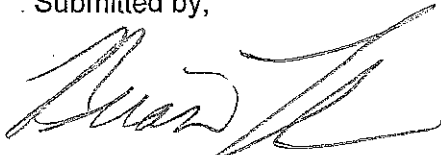
Background:

At the March 2010 meeting the Parks Committee was provided an overview of the VI Spine initiative which is aimed at establishing a recreational trail route from Victoria to Cape Scott at the northern tip of Vancouver Island by way of an inland route, connecting existing trail systems with new sections of trail. The intended route is primarily a hiking trail; however the proponents recognize certain sections of the trail could be for non-motorized recreation where appropriate or permitted. The proposed VI Spine route through the Cowichan region incorporates the section of the Cowichan Valley Trail from the Capital Regional District boundary to the Town of Lake Cowichan and from there it is envisioned a trail route could be established south of Cowichan Lake heading westwards eventually ending up at Francis Lake in Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD).

The Vancouver Island Spine Association (VISTA) is the society which is pursuing establishment of the VI Spine route and they have prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain a trails consultant to conduct a reconnaissance survey to identify a suitable hiking trail from the east end of Cowichan Lake to Francis Lake in ACRD (see attachment). VISTA has received two proposals from consultants to undertake the study, with one proponent offering to undertake the work for \$8,000. While VISTA does not have the funds in place to undertake the study, the Society has had discussions with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development BC who have indicated that they would entertain a request to fund the study; however such requests could only be entertained from local governments and not from non-profit societies. The attached request from VISTA is requesting the Cowichan Valley Regional District make

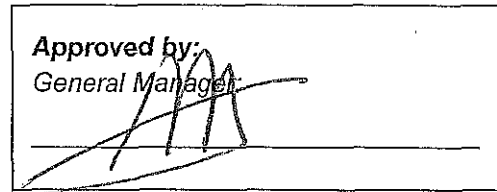
application on VISTA's behalf to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development BC for an \$8,000 grant to fund the hiking trail reconnaissance survey as noted above. VISTA would provide the administration and supervision necessary for the contract to ensure the deliverables were completed per the RFP. Given the current workload priorities of the Parks and Trails Division on the historic Kinsol Trestle Rehabilitation Project and the Cowichan Valley Trail Northern Completion Initiative, existing staff resources could support making application for the grant, however there would not be time available to adequately supervise the contract. Therefore, the offer of VISTA to provide the necessary supervision could allow for this work to proceed at this time with the financial support of the Ministry.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar
Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Approved by:
General Manager



BTF/lag

Attachments

Request for proposals; Vancouver Island Spine Trail; Cowichan Segment

VISTA is requesting proposals for a reconnaissance survey for a hiking trail from Lake Cowichan townsite west to Francis Lake. Final awarding of a contract for this survey will include the sponsorship of the Alberni-Clayoquot and Cowichan Valley regional districts. It is envisioned that this survey will include:

- ⤴ Information assembly from regional districts, first nation tribes, timber companies, land owners, and VISTA.
- ⤴ Field review and geography of the suggested route and assessment of advantages and disadvantages of same.
- ⤴ Identification of existing trails that might be included, planning by GPS of key points along the routes, consideration of bridging needed on streams, rivers.
- ⤴ Map identification of the primary route (digitally), approximate construction estimate.

General Information:

The current plan for the Vancouver Island Spine Trail, which will link regional trails in the two adjacent regional districts, is for the route to be along an existing rail route from Lake Cowichan townsite west to Honeymoon Bay, at which point the route would run south of the existing main road and rise into the higher country well away from communities and resort properties.

Except where needed to drop down into valleys for river crossings, the trail would stay on ridges trending westward until the west end of Cowichan Lake is reached. Then the route would drop north to near lake level, cross roadways and strike west to cross the Nitinat River on an existing forest road bridge. Heading north past Tuck Lake, up Parker Creek, the route would cross over a col to a valley containing Nadira Road, eventually connecting with the east end of the "Runners Trail" in the region of Francis Lake.

Other route options will be considered if major obstacles discovered on primary route. A provision for a branch trail down the Nitinat River to Nitinat Lake shall be considered, also.

All trails will be one metre wide, of native materials, suitable for hiking as a minimum standard.

This RFQ deals with the feasibility of the trail only. Detail design of trail components and structures, where needed, will follow.

Information about funding, and the eventual contracting agency for this work may be discussed with: Gil Parker, President of Vancouver Island Spine Trail Ass'n

250 370 9349 gparker@telus.net reference: www.vispine.ca

Brian Farquhar

From: Gil Parker [gparker@telus.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:53 AM
To: Brian Farquhar
Cc: 'Mike Irg'; Bill Feyrer
Subject: Re: Cowichan - Francis Lake Trail Study
Attachments: RFQ CowichanSegmentTrail.doc

Hello Brian,

Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) has now received two proposals from forestry/trail designers for the Cowichan - Francis Lake Trail Study and have selected one, the low bidder, at \$8000 plus taxes, as the basis for our fund-raising. This was in response to our RFQ attached, the study to include connection of regional trails in CVRD at Lake Cowichan to those in ACRD at Francis Lake, and a side connection to Nitinat Lake. While this is a stand-alone trail, it would become part of the "VI Spine" trail from Victoria to Cape Scott.

VISTA hereby requests that, should the source of funds become the Ministry of Community & Rural Development, BC Government, that the funds be applied for by, and allowed to flow through, CVRD to the contractor. VISTA would provide all overview of the study consultant and supervise the deliverables named in the study proposal. Naturally, we would request CVRD opinion and related information during the study.

We emphasize that this request, and the feasibility study itself, are concerned only with planning for the trail and is not concerned with the construction of a trail at this time.

We offer assistance in the preparation of the application for funds for this project, and any other help we can provide in connection with this study.

Regards Gil

Gil Parker, President,

Vancouver Island "Spine" Trail Ass'n
169 Bushby Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8S 1B5
ph 250 3709349
www.vispine.ca



STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 25, 2011

DATE: May 17, 2011

FILE NO:

FROM: Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks and Trails

BYLAW NO:

SUBJECT: Sansum Point Property – TLC Fundraising Activities

Recommendation/Action:

That this report be received for information.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Provide exceptional recreation, cultural and park services - Continue with the parkland acquisition program to acquire high priority areas and identify opportunities for funding support and partnerships.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: N/A)*

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia has partnered with the CVRD to purchase the 128 acre waterfront property at Sansum Point as a strategic parkland acquisition towards completing the Stoney Hill/Sansum Point Regional Park as envisioned in the adopted CVRD Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Background:

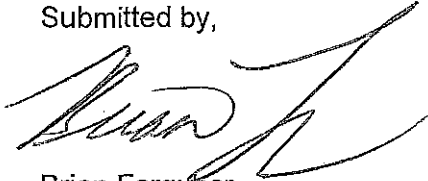
On Tuesday April 5th, The Land Conservancy officially launched its fundraising campaign as part of its partnership with the Cowichan Valley Regional District to purchase the 128 acre Sansum Point property for \$1.85 million. This media launch held at the Maple Bay Yacht Club identified a remaining \$595,000 to raise through the fundraising campaign, and included a boat ride for media and invited guests for a water-based tour of the property. The media release associated with this launch is attached. Inclusive with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) is the Cowichan Land Trust, which is also supporting fundraising efforts to secure this property. In addition, Wilderness International, another non-profit agency which focuses on raising funds to secure and protect landscapes, has also brought forward support to The Land Conservancy's fundraising campaign through fundraising events the organization plans with local school groups. Media coverage of the launch was well covered, inclusive of stories about the campaign in the local papers (see attachments) as well as coverage by A-Channel News and Shaw Cable.

Since the media event, TLC has been active within the region promoting the fundraising campaign and how one can contribute, including a mail-drop to over 6,000 homes about the campaign (see attachment), regular ads in the local papers, website information on both the TLC and Cowichan Land Trust websites, a prime billboard ad on the Trans Canada Highway and ongoing promotional presentations with groups, clubs and events around the region. Wilderness International, in collaboration with Cowichan Tribes, has organized the 2nd, Annual

"Take a Walk on the Wild" fundraising event on May 25th, at the Cowichan Sportsplex with several schools participating (see attachment), with partial proceeds going to the Sansum Point purchase.

The overall fundraising campaign is proceeding as anticipated by TLC and more promotional events are planned to continue to raise awareness and interest with the public (both here in the Cowichan Region and in other communities) that would have an interest in contributing to securing and protecting these lands. The campaign continues to reinforce that securing these lands are part of a larger vision for the Stoney Hill/Sansum Point area and that with securing of this particular property will only be accessible from the water, as it is a water-access only property with no connection to a public road.

Submitted by,

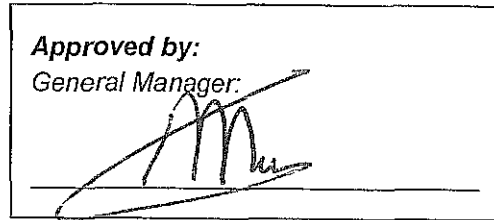


Brian Farquhar,
Manager, Parks and Trails Division
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

BTF/lag

Attachments

Approved by:
General Manager:





NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2011

Campaign Launched to Save Sansum Point in Cowichan Valley

DUNCAN, B.C. – The Land Conservancy of British Columbia and the Cowichan Land Trust are pleased to announce today an option to purchase Sansum Point on the Stoney Hill Peninsula is confirmed and a fundraising campaign is underway. This land acquisition will protect the stunning waterfront seascapes, rich ecological diversity, and future recreational opportunities at Sansum Point as a community treasure, forever.

“We are pleased to be serving our TLC Members in the Cowichan Valley with this new project,” says TLC Executive Director, Bill Turner. “Sansum Point is an incredible opportunity for local citizens including TLC Members, community organizations, private donors, and businesses to shape their community, make a difference, and leave this beautiful part of B.C. an even better place for future generations.”

Situated amongst the rain shadows of the Vancouver Island and Olympic mountains, Sansum Point is home to moss covered coastal bluffs, a variety of lichens and wildflowers, beautiful Arbutus and Garry oak trees, and numerous wetlands. This special place is also frequented by several wildlife species including black-tailed deer, pileated woodpecker, and waterfowl including the Harlequin duck.

While navigating through Sansum Narrows, Sansum Point has long been looked upon by mariners for its incredible skyline features and waterfront seascapes. Along its shores, divers also explore marine life such as rock scallops, trumpet sponges, coral, colourful anemones, and sea lilies.

With stunning views of Salt Spring Island, Sansum Narrows, and south to Satellite Channel, this 128-acre property borders the Stoney Hill block of the Municipal Forest Reserve in the Cowichan Valley. Once protected, Sansum Point would further the ecological connectivity of the area, so important to ecosystem health, and create new possibilities for outdoor recreation.

In order to save Sansum Point, TLC has secured an option to purchase the site, valued at \$1.85 Million. Thanks to partnerships with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the Cowichan Land Trust, plus a generous pledge from an anonymous donor, there is only \$595,000 left to raise by June 30, 2011 to cover the overall acquisition cost.

“The Cowichan Valley Regional District is delighted to work with TLC as they have a proven track record of success when it comes to facilitating community support, fundraising, and negotiating land deals,” says Gerry Giles, CVRD Board Chair. “Sansum Point is identified as a key site within the CVRD’s adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan and as such, the Regional District is very supportive of contributing towards this acquisition.”

“We have been trying to protect land in the Stoney Hill area for a number of years. Sansum Point is such a gem in the Cowichan Valley and we feel this project is a great fit for a \$50,000 bequest we received from Charles Poole. We believe that Charles, a prominent figure in the local land trust, would be glad to see his money go to Sansum Point for its important ecological values, and hope his contribution can be permanently recognized,” says Roger Hart, Board Member of the Cowichan Land Trust.

Since 1997, The Land Conservancy of BC has been saving special places throughout our beautiful province for today and future generations. We have protected over 300 properties representing fast disappearing natural areas, agricultural lands, and cultural landmarks. Places like Keating Farm Estate, TLC’s Cowichan River Cabin property, and the Sooke Potholes would all have been lost if it hadn’t been for TLC’s ability to act quickly with the support of our members and donors.

The Cowichan Land Trust has helped acquire properties such as the Garry Oak Preserve and Chase Woods along with protecting many other properties with conservation covenants in the Cowichan Valley.

Be the change you want to see in the world and contribute to the protection of Sansum Point today! Donate at 1-877-485-2422 or conservancy.bc.ca.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Bill Turner, Executive Director
The Land Conservancy of BC
Ph: 250-589-8024
Email: bturner@conservancy.bc.ca
conservancy.bc.ca

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Parks, Recreation and Culture
Ph: 250-746-2612
Email: bfarquhar@cvrd.bc.ca
www.cvrd.bc.ca

Kai Reitzel, Coordinator
Cowichan Land Trust
Ph: 250-746-0227
Email: info@cowichanlandtrust.ca
www.cowichanlandtrust.ca

Sansum Narrows property a future legacy

FUNDRAISING: With a little over two and a half months to go, the Land Conservancy is looking for donors for last \$595,000

LEXI BAINAS CITIZEN

It's a stunning chunk of property, overlooking Sansum Narrows and The Land Conservancy (TLC) is already a long way towards securing it.

It's Sansum Point on Stoney Hill peninsula. It's valued at \$1.85 million and the Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT), Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), Municipality of North Cowichan and others are now joining TLC on the fundraising trail, trying to gather \$595,000 to finish paying for it.

The Land Conservancy has taken an option to purchase and must complete the deal by the end of June.

This 128-acre piece of waterfront land, accessible only by water at present but rich in ecological diversity and future recreational opportunities, is only part of a wider vision for the area around Sansum Narrows, according to TLC Executive Director Bill Turner, who announced the group's plans to an enthusiastic crowd at the Maple Bay Yacht Club Tuesday, April 5.

The option TLC secured on the property was for \$1,850,000, which is about \$50,000 less than the appraised value of the land, Turner said.

He pointed out, and his comments were echoed by several subsequent speakers, that the most important part of the project was the opportunity it offers to bring together a really significant partnership to see Sansum Point become a regional park.

The CVRD is aiming to contribute \$1.2 million, and some \$50,000 from the Charles Poole bequest to



"It will be something that will stand the test of time, much like Stanley Park in Vancouver,"

GERRY GILES, CVRD chair

the land trust plus another pledge of \$100,000 has moved the project towards the finish line.

Now, all that's needed is a final push, Turner said.

Regional district Chair Gerry Giles agreed about the importance of the joint effort, saying that projects such as the Kinsol Trestle restoration and construction of the Cowichan Valley Trail would have been beyond the limits of the CVRD alone.

With these partnerships in place the regional district can now look well into the future, Giles said.

She then recounted the story of a public purchase in 1984 of 23 acres at the base of Cobble Hill Mountain.

"We didn't have the money to do it but a number of partners came together and allowed us to



Accessible at present only by water, lovely Sansum Point is worth protecting and supporters are joining hands to try to do so. (JILL PATTERSON PHOTO)

purchase that for \$120,000. We did it to have that base of Cobble Hill Mountain in perpetuity and never would we drive through the village and look at condominiums along the mountainside."

Heads were shaken then but today the CVRD couldn't afford to acquire a piece of property like that.

"So, the purchase of (Sansum Point) is important now but imagine what it's going to mean to our communities 20 years, 50 years from now. It will be something that will stand the test of time, much like Stanley Park in Vancouver," Giles said.

Mel Dorey, chair of the CVRD's parks committee, explained that the Sansum site is one of a group of significant areas pinpointed during a regional park survey.

"We came up with 11 sites. Then they did the master plan and they did a community survey. That speeds up democracy because we already have the plan and we can approve things faster and move in the proper direction more quickly without a lot of delay. And you often have to get a move on with these sites or you're not going to be in the ball game," Dorey said.

Roger Hart of the Cowichan Community Land Trust said he thought this acquisition would be as valuable at that of the Garry Oak Preserve back in 1999.

North Cowichan Mayor Tom Walker also said partnerships between governments and agencies benefit everyone.

He admitted that he felt very fortunate as mayor that Sansum Point is in North Cowichan right

next to the North Cowichan municipal forest.

"We're very unique as a municipality in B.C. and in fact in Canada in that we have 25 per cent of our land base is a protected forest," Walker said, adding it's intensively managed, working forest, and has grown in size since it was established because any money made through it is ploughed back in, he said.

"You will not see a house in our municipal forest."

In addition, the Sansum site contains some of the rarest forest ecosystem in B.C., the coastal Douglas fir zone, which is really worth protecting, Walker said.

At present, the land on the Stoney Hill Peninsula is owned by two women who live in the United States.

The Land Conservancy is already talking to its list of large donors as well as its extensive membership, urging contributions, Turner said. "The regional government is giving \$1.2 million. The rest of it we'll have to raise. We have nearly 9,000 members across the province and about 4,000 of those are in the Capital Regional District. About 350 are in the CVRD and about the same number on Salt Spring Island."

As there will be a lot of interest in this site from well beyond the Cowichan Valley, both TLC and the CCLT will feature Internet advertising campaigns so look for them on Facebook and Twitter as well as their own websites.

Of course, a lot of people will only pledge money subject to the deal actually happening, Turner said, which makes it extra important to ensure the acquisition goes through.

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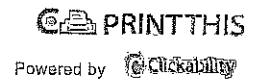
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Pointed bid made for waterfront park



Arbutus trees add colour to the Sansum Point property, which faces Salt Spring Island between Maple and Genoa Bays. The Land Conservancy and the Cowichan Land Trust have joined forces in a bid to acquire the site. A purchase deal is in place, but nearly \$600,000 must be raised for the deal to close.

courtesy TLC

By Peter Rusland - Cowichan News Leader Pictorial

Published: April 05, 2011 1:00 PM

Updated: **April 05, 2011 3:50 PM**

\$595,000.

That's how much more the Cowichan Land Trust and The Land Conservancy must raise by June 30 to complete an option to purchase Sansum Point on North Cowichan's Stoney Hill Peninsula.

The \$1.85-million oceanfront eco-jewel would become a 128-acre park within the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the purchase project's biggest partner.

The CVRD's chipping \$1.2 million of taxpayer cash from its parkland acquisition fund into the buy cheered by politicians and eco-folks Tuesday at Maple Bay Yacht Club.

"Imagine what this park will mean to our community in 20 or 50 years," said CVRD chairwoman Gerry Giles.

She noted her regional board needs to partner with citizen groups to buy all 11 park sites — less Stocking Lake bought about a year ago — targeted in the CVRD's parks master plan.

That wish list includes Sansum Point owned by the U.S.-based Sterling family.

CLT member Roger Hart understands the urgent teamwork.

"It's just over two years since we made a presentation to CVRD parks suggesting we partner to acquire this property.

"We're absolutely delighted with this partnership to move this forward."

Hart's also happy CLT members decided to use \$50,000 bequeathed by Charles Poole to help buy sensitive Sansum Point that's loaded with wildlife, wetlands, bluffs, beaches and forests.

Those trees, said North Cowichan Mayor Tom Walker, include stands of rare coastal Douglas fir he'd like protected.

That's why Walker supported Sansum Point's fundraising drive, but stopped short of guaranteeing seashore timber in the nearby municipal forest reserve won't be logged.

“It’s a working forest — it could be,” said Walker.

However, visual-quality objectives will be used by staff and contractors concerning that block of public timberland, he said.

“I can say you will not see one house in any of our municipal forests,” said Walker.

He hopped aboard the fundraising eco-bandwagon with Giles and CVRD parks chairman Mel Dorey.

Teamwork between the CVRD, the two land trusts and North Cowichan “speeds up democracy,” said Dorey.

“These properties come up for sale, and you have to move on them.”

TLC is finding and coordinating tax-deductible donations from companies and citizens — such as Friday’s large donation made anonymously.

TLC hit pay dirt to buy Cowichan’s Keating Farm Estate, TLC’s Cowichan River Cabin site, plus other B.C. eco-properties including the Sooke Potholes.

Maple Bay’s Barb Stone said her community members believe saving pristine Sansum Point — that could see regional trails added — lures boaters aplenty.

Brian Farquhar, CVRD’s parks manager, said local Native bands will be consulted to ensure protection of any possible Sansum Point middens and other sacred sites.

TLC boss Bill Turner explained future plans include parkland spanning Sansum Narrows and Salt Spring Island.

“Water doesn’t divide, it connects.”

Hart hinted at another tract the CLT aims to help buy as parkland, while Walker urged folks to dig deep.

“We need about \$600,000 by June so we’ve got to get at it.”

To donate, visit conservancy.bc.ca or call 1-877-485-2422.

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Sansum Point Facts:

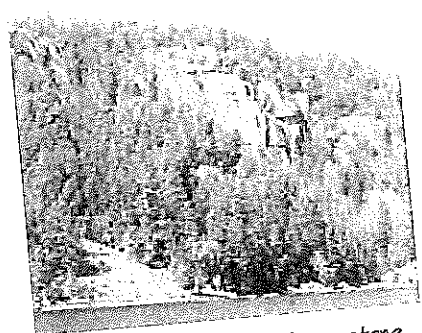
Sansum Point falls within the moist maritime Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, of which only 4% is protected by park in B.C. and 80% on Vancouver Island is privately owned.

Sansum Point contains a variety of sensitive ecosystems, including coastal bluffs, older second growth forest, woodlands, and wetlands. It provides important habitat for wildlife and connectivity to adjacent forested lands.

This special place is frequented by several wildlife species including black-tailed deer, pileated woodpecker, and waterfowl like the Harlequin duck.

According to the locals, Jean-Paul Cousteau did a 3 week boat excursion through the islands two summers ago. He filmed the entire thing and did some drift diving through Sansum Narrows.

Sansum Point is identified as a key site within the CVRD's adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan.



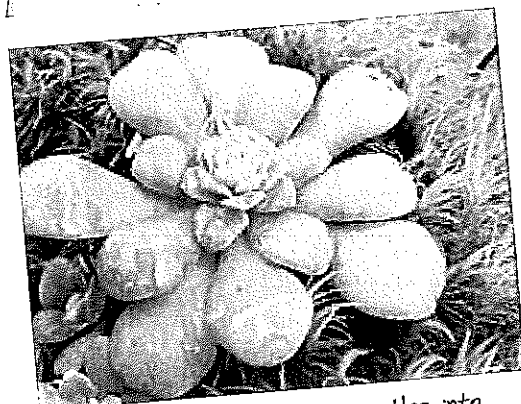
From the water the steep stone cliffs above Sansum Point are a dramatic sight to see.

Photo Nicole Haddad



From the high cliffs, bald eagles can be spotted in the tree snags or flying above the shoreline, looking for their next meal.

Photo Chris Borssard



Broad-leaved Stonecrop nestles into the moss of a stone outcropping beneath Douglas fir and Arbutus trees.

Photo Nicole Haddad

Help turn this private gem into a community treasure.



TLC The Land Conservancy

Special Places. Forever, for Everyone.

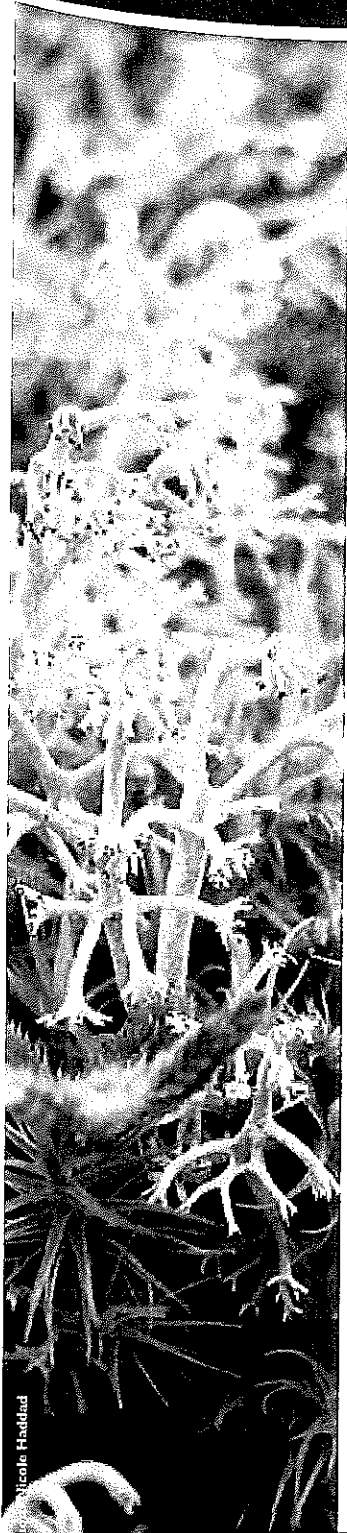
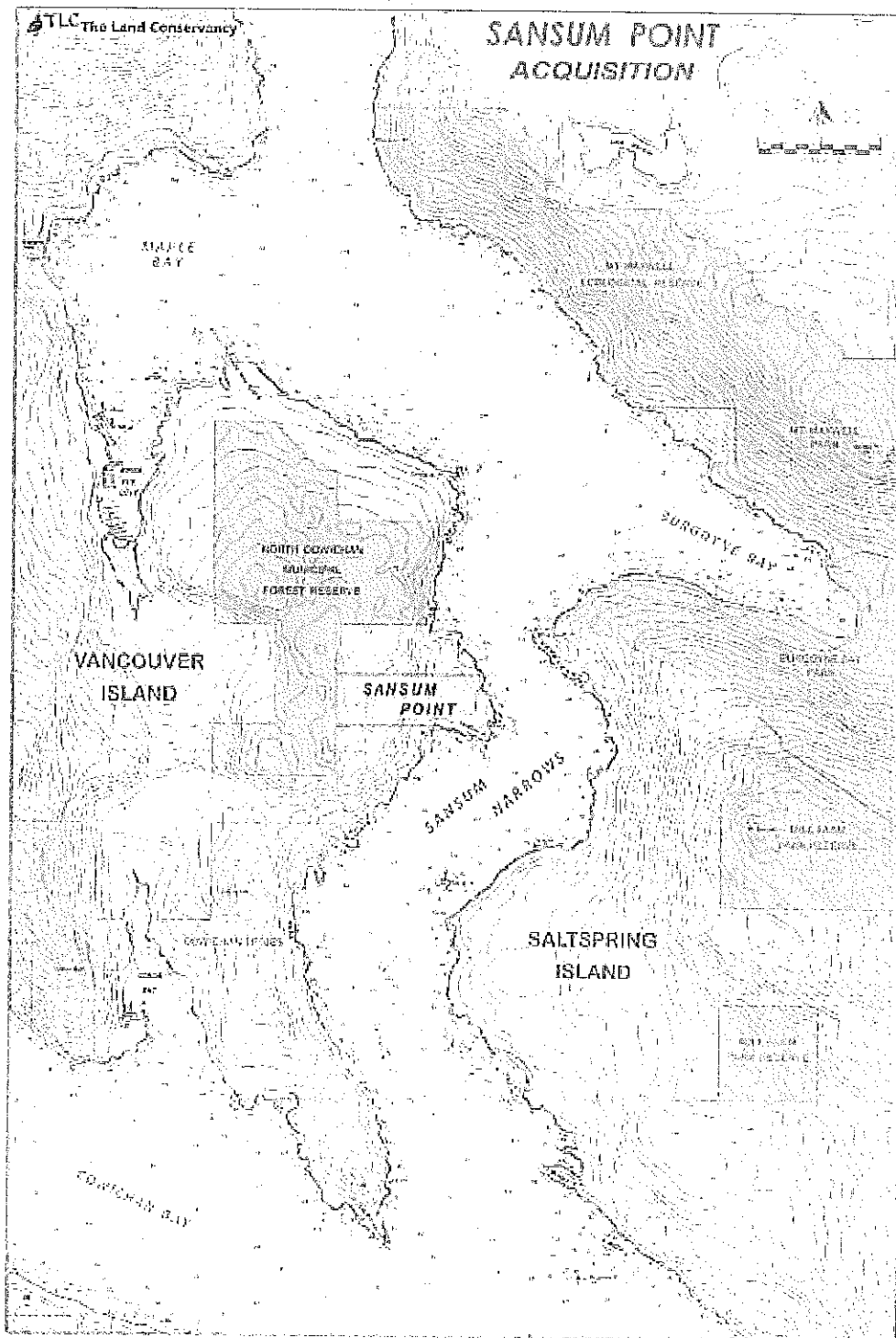


Photo: Nicole Haddad

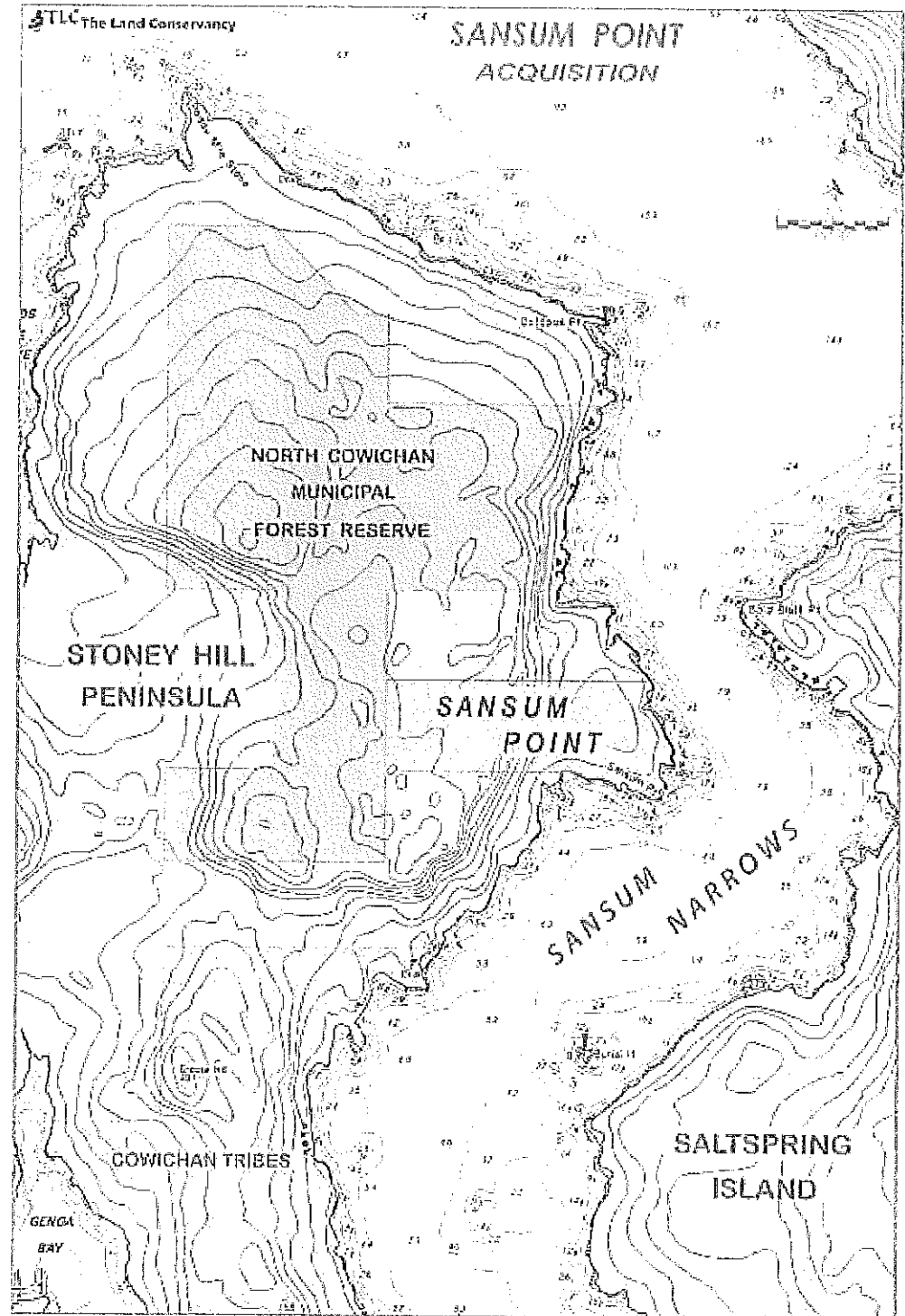


Be the change...



TLC The Land Conservancy

Special Places. Forever, for Everyone.



help turn this private gem into a community treasure.



The Land Conservancy of British Columbia

Founded in 1997, The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) is a charitable land trust working on your behalf and on behalf of future generations to protect areas of natural splendour, wildlife habitat, historical sites, agricultural lands, recreational, and community importance.

How TLC Works

TLC takes a leadership role in the acquisition and protection of natural lands and heritage sites, the creation of conservation covenants, and local stewardship programs.

TLC forms strong partnerships and alliances with a wide range of organizations, governments, companies, community groups, and individuals to achieve conservation results across B.C. Our mandate is to protect 'Special Places. Forever, for Everyone'.

How TLC Finances Projects

TLC is independent of government and controlled by an elected Board of Directors and over 8,700 members. Funding comes primarily from individual donors, conservation partners, foundations, and businesses.

What TLC Has Achieved

In just over 14 years, TLC has protected over 125,000 acres of sensitive wildlife habitat, threatened heritage sites, and vital agricultural lands involving more than 300 projects. TLC has directly raised over \$45 million and leveraged another \$120 million to finance acquisitions and conservation programs throughout B.C.

Conservation Projects

Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area - TLC purchased this 2,200-acre property from Teck Cominco on the Columbia River south of Trail to ensure this unique bioclimatic and important winter range for wildlife would be protected forever.

Codd Island Wetlands - The 250-acre wetlands on the Alouette River in the Fraser Valley contains over 200 species of animals and is critical tidal spawning and rearing grounds for wild coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area - This 1,000-acre property in northern B.C. contains some of the most valuable sockeye salmon spawning habitat in North America with returns exceeding 2 million fish in peak years.

Heritage, Agriculture, and Recreation

TLC cares for numerous sites of heritage, agricultural, and recreational importance, including: B.C. Binning Craigflower National Historical Sites, Ross Bay Villa, Abkhazi Gardens, and Historic Joy Kogawa House. Keating Farm and Talking Mountain ranch are productive, locally run agricultural sites. Skaha Bluffs and Sooke Potholes are nationally renowned recreational sites.

Please see conservancy.bc.ca for more information about TLC's projects and properties.

How You Can Support TLC

TLC depends on the generous support of individuals and businesses that believe what we do is important for the quality of life in B.C. now and for future generations. Please consider becoming a TLC Member and making a tax deductible donation so you and your family can contribute to making beautiful B.C. the best it can be.

conservancy.bc.ca



TLC The Land Conservancy

Special Places. Forever, for Everyone.

TLC Properties

Keating Farm Estate

Keating Farm Estate is a 27-acre farm with organic vegetable gardens, hay fields, a heritage orchard, and beehives. The agricultural values are complimented by a wetland, forested area, and a stream that is being restored. The farm also has a number of heritage structures, the most significant of which is the main farmhouse. This 1880s-era house contains a unique Great Hall designed and built by architect John Tiarks in 1894. In June 2005, TLC purchased Keating Farm Estate for its heritage, agricultural, and ecological values.

Cowichan River

The Cowichan River is a nationally and internationally recognized river flowing along the East Coast of Vancouver Island, near Duncan. In the fall of 2000, TLC purchased close to five acres along the north bank of the river and placed a conservation covenant on the land to maintain the natural state of the property and the amenities for ecological, educational, and environmental purposes. Presently TLC is partnering with the Provincial Government and local residents to acquire the remaining privately-owned lands in the Cowichan River corridor as they become available and/or are working to see them protected through conservation covenants. The property contains a rustic log cabin available for rent.

Wildwood

Wildwood is the oldest eco-forest on the West Coast of North America. Since 1938, Merve Wilkinson has selectively harvested trees throughout Wildwood while keeping a continuous forest cover. Merve's philosophy is based on harvesting only as much as wood as the forest grows each year. These practices have maintained Wildwood's ecological and economic values for future generations. TLC purchased Wildwood in 2000 to ensure that the property would remain a demonstration eco-forest and learning site forever.

Sooke Potholes

Acquired by TLC in 2005, the Sooke Potholes are one of the most recognizable and beloved features of the Southern Vancouver Island landscape. Stretching for 5 km along the Sooke River, the site contains deep, polished rock pools known as the potholes and are a popular swimming destination for locals and tourists.

South Winchelsea Island

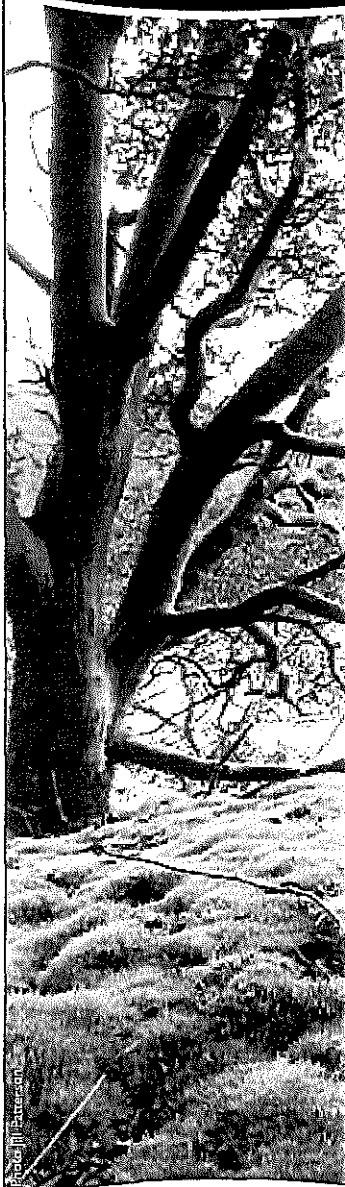
South Winchelsea Island is one of 19 islands that make up the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago and was TLC's first land acquisition. Its 25 acres are largely of a relatively undisturbed Garry oak- *Arbutus* ecosystem. The Island is being managed as an ecological reserve. It is a nesting and resting place for many species of birds, and California and Steller sea lions frequently use the shores around the north end as a haul out area. A three-bedroom cottage is available to rent on the island, with the income going to help pay for the ongoing property maintenance.



The evening light hits the barns and walnut trees at Keating Farm Estate.

Photo joshmcculloch.com

conservancy.bc.ca



Save Sansum Point

Amongst the rain shadows of the Vancouver Island and Olympic Mountains lies a coastal bluff so incredible its moss and lichen-covered rocks create a new shade of vibrant green. Everywhere you look Arbutus and Garry oak trees frame breathtaking views of Salt Spring Island, Sansum Narrows, and south to Satellite Channel. This special place is called Sansum Point and it needs your help.

While navigating through Sansum Narrows, Sansum Point has long been looked upon by mariners for its skyline features and waterfront seascapes.

Further into the forest, amid the Douglas fir, Bigleaf maple and Western red cedar trees, numerous wetlands support a community of wildlife. Bordering on the Stoney Hill block of the Municipal Forest Reserve in the Cowichan Valley, this 128-acre property near Duncan is currently up for sale. Once protected, Sansum Point will further the ecological connectivity of the area, as well as create new possibilities for outdoor recreation.

In order to save Sansum Point, TLC has secured an option to purchase the site, valued at \$1.85 Million. Thanks to partnerships with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Cowichan Land Trust, in addition to a pledge from an anonymous donor, there is only \$595,000 left to raise by June 30, 2011 to cover the overall acquisition cost.

With your commitment, we can ensure the stunning waterfront seascapes, rich ecological diversity, and future recreational opportunities become a community treasure, forever.

Donate at 1-877-485-2422 or conservancy.bc.ca.

Be the change you want to see in the world and
contribute to Sansum Point today!

☒ YES! I want to help save Sansum Point!

To protect this community treasure forever, here is my gift of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$ _____

☐ With this gift, I'd like to become a TLC Member*

My preferred method of payment is:

- ☐ Pledge. Please contact me to arrange my payment. (pledges accepted for \$1000+)
☐ Cheque. Please make cheque payable to The Land Conservancy.
☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

My contact details:

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Code: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Please check here if you do not wish to be kept informed of TLC events and activities by email.

Please mail to: 301-1195 Esquimalt Road, Victoria, BC V9A 3N6

If you have any questions, please call 1-877-485-2422

Or give online at: conservancy.bc.ca

TLC respects your privacy. We will never sell, trade, or rent your name to another organization. Personal information collected is only used to deliver our services to you. Charitable registration # 88902-8338 RR0001

*Due to CRA Regulations the first \$35 of your membership gift (\$50 for families) is not tax receiptable. All donations receive a tax receipt. Donations are subject to TLC's Donations Policy available at conservancy.bc.ca.

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Be the change you want to see in the world and
contribute to Sansum Point today!

- The Land Conservancy of BC - <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca> -

Proceeds from 'Take a Walk for the Wild' fundraising event will benefit Sansum Point Acquisition

Posted By [dstenberg](#) On May 8, 2011 @ 10:42 am In [Nature](#), [TLC](#), [Vancouver Island](#) | [No Comments](#)

DUNCAN, B.C. – The Wilderness International Canada and the Cowichan Tribes are stepping up to 'be the change' through supporting The Land Conservancy of BC and the Cowichan Land Trust's Sansum Point campaign to purchase 128 acres of waterfront property on the Stoney Hill Peninsula.

Partial proceeds from the 2nd Annual 'Take a Walk for the Wild' on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at the Cowichan Sportsplex, 9 a.m. to 1p.m. event will go towards the Sansum Point land acquisition in order to protect the stunning waterfront seascapes, rich ecological diversity, and future recreational opportunities as a community treasure, forever.

Each year students, parents, and businesses within the Cowichan Valley come together to help save 'wild' places in our West Coast Rainforest via the 'Take a Walk for the Wild'. TLC and the Cowichan Land Trust are thrilled that this year's nature conservation project is Sansum Point.

"At TLC we are creating a culture of conservation in B.C. that will grow, flourish, and become a way of life. A large part of this mission is to inspire and educate young people about the importance of nature and how it connects back to our well-being. This event is a great fit for us and it's celebrating our Sansum Point acquisition," says Bill Turner, TLC's Executive Director.

School participation this year we will come from Quw'utsun Smuneem, Koksilah, Alexander, and Khowhemun. The event will start with the Quw'utsun Smuneem students being led in by eagles from Northwest Raptors along with student Tzinquaw dancers from surrounding schools.

"We are delighted to see Cowichan Tribes and Wilderness International Canada join this partnership to protect Sansum Point and demonstrate once again that the ordinary citizen can and must make a difference," says Roger Hart, Chair of the Land Trust's Acquisitions Committee.

In 2010, Wilderness International and the Cowichan Tribes partnered to create a youth exchange program between Wilderness International Germany and the Cowichan Tribes. The program looks at culture, sciences, and conservation issues.

"I was born and raised in the Cowichan Valley and have seen changes to our resources over the years. Our forests are being depleted," says Fred Roland, Director of Wilderness International Canada. "I would like to see our remaining old growth forest conserved for future generations."

In order to save Sansum Point, TLC has secured an option to purchase the site, valued at \$1.85 Million. Thanks to partnerships with the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the Cowichan Land Trust, plus generous donations and pledges from concerned citizens, TLC members and donors, there is only \$585,000 left to raise by June 30, 2011 to cover the overall acquisition cost.

Since 1997, The Land Conservancy of BC has been saving special places throughout our beautiful province for today and future generations. We have protected over 300 properties representing fast disappearing natural areas, agricultural lands, and cultural landmarks. Places like Keating Farm Estate, TLC's Cowichan River Cabin property, and the Sooke Potholes would all have been lost if it hadn't been for TLC's ability to act quickly with the support of our members and donors.

The Cowichan Land Trust has helped acquire properties such as the Garry Oak Preserve and Chase Woods along with protecting many other properties with conservation covenants in the Cowichan Valley.

For more information about the 'Take a Walk for the Wild' event, please visit www.wilderness-international.ca

To donate to the protection of Sansum Point, please call 1-877-485-2422 or visit conservancy.bc.ca

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Bill Turner, Executive Director

The Land Conservancy of BC

Ph: 250-589-8024

Email: bturner@conservancy.bc.ca
conservancy.bc.ca

Fred Roland, Director

Wilderness International Canada

Ph: 250-710-5384

Email: hwiemtun@wilderness-international.org
www.wilderness-international.ca

Kai Reitzel, Coordinator

Cowichan Land Trust

Ph: 250-746-0227

Email: info@cowichanlandtrust.ca

www.cowichanlandtrust.ca

Chief Hwitsum

Chief of Cowichan Tribes

Ph: 250 748 3196

Article printed from The Land Conservancy of BC: <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca>

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From Sue Coleman's Studio

A very special print release.



"Sansum Point"

Limited Edition Giclee Print 12 x 18 \$140.00

Overlooking Sansum Narrows on the Stoney Hill peninsula lies a landscape remarkable in it's richness of diversity and scenic splendor, and it needs your help.

Sue Coleman is stepping up to "Be The Change" through supporting The Land Conservancy of BC's Sansum Point campaign to purchase this stunning 128 acre waterfront property.

By ordering a Limited Edition Giclee before June 30th 2011 \$100.00 from your purchase will be donated towards acquiring Sansum Point and protecting it in perpetuity.

For more information or to order a print. Phone 250-748-8332

For Information on:

Save Sansum Point Campaign – conservancy.bc.ca

How you can "Be the Change" – bethechangebc.ca

Contents

- 2 International Trails Day
- 3 Kettle Falls International Rail Trail
- 4 West Kootenay Report
- 5 President's Message and Renewal Reminder
- 6 Newest Rail Trail is Open
- 7 Okanagan-Boundary Trail Highlights
- 8 Cowichan Valley Trail
- 10 Trails BC Southwest Region
- 12 Trout Creek Trails Complete

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Editorial Committee
Sue Burnham
Léon Lebrun
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Trans Canada Trail

Trails BC News

Newsletter of the Trails Society of British Columbia

Volume 16, No. 1

March 2011

Princeton's Bridge of Dreams Officially Opened April 15, 2010

A landmark is defined as a building or site with historical significance. The Bridge of Dreams is a landmark in Princeton that has been a long time coming. Through the dedication of an enthusiastic group of volunteers, the community has pulled off an outstanding feat. Where once a metal train bridge had been constructed and then later deconstructed, concrete pillars stood as mute reminders of the bridge.

"Please gather round as I tell a tale of vision and imagination, the saga of steel rails and iron men." Vermilion Trail Society (VTS) Vice-President Richard Hudson opened the Bridge of Dreams ceremony on April 15, 2010.

It was a historical moment the first time a bridge linked two rail lines across the Tulameen River and it was again. "The last obstacle before the rail system could be used was the crossing of the Tulameen River here at Princeton," Hudson stated.



"The concept of a Southern British Columbia railway was finalized at this site...the appropriately named Bridge of Dreams."

On April 15, 1915, the first train chugged its way into Princeton from Penticton. Now, some twenty years after the rail line abandoned the tracks, a bridge once again became a link across the Tulameen River. The Kettle Valley Rail Trail is part of the biggest trail in the

world, the Trans Canada Trail. It connects three seas, ten provinces and three territories.

The Vermilion Trail Society had worked feverishly to take the dream of a bridge across the Tulameen River from a wish to a reality. With Judy Short as president, VTS began writing grant applications and waiting for answers. Short took each maybe and turned it into a yes.

Close to a million dollars later, VTS hired Richmond based construction company StructureCraft to design and build the bridge. Its use of wood has wowed admirers from all over the world. The Bridge of Dreams has been built to do the same.

Ninety-five years after the first train whistle sounded in Princeton, the Bridge of Dreams has come to stay.

— Dierra Maynard
Editor, Similkameen Spotlight

Cowichan Valley Trail, Vancouver Island

facebook

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 to find
 us on
 Facebook.

The Cowichan Valley could be called one of the hotspots for the Trans Canada Trail in British Columbia. A great deal of work has been underway there during the past couple of years.



Kinsol Trestle - view from webcam.

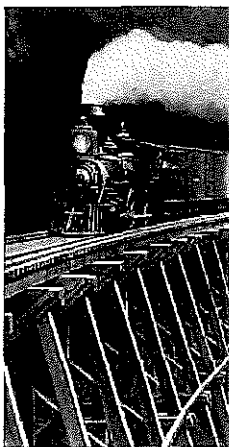
The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has an ambitious goal to complete their portion of the Trans Canada Trail as it transports users between the ocean near downtown Victoria and the ferry terminal in Nanaimo. Two projects key to achieving this goal are nearing completion.

The first is the former CNR bridge over the Koksilah River. Known as the Kinsol Trestle, its restoration commenced in 2010 after a successful fundraising drive. The \$6,881,173 project received \$500,000 from the Trans Canada Trail. Previously, due to the unsafe condition of the trestle, a long and difficult bypass trail had to be used. This May the project will be completed and a new 2.4 km section of rail trail will open. You can follow progress of the restoration online, thanks to a webcam at www.earthcam.com/clients/britishcolumbia/KinsolTrestle/

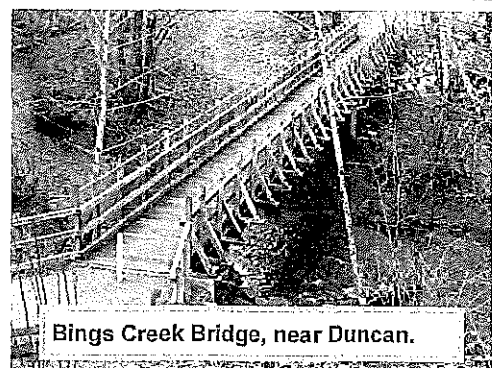
The second project is another former rail grade - the remnant of an E&N spur line - from Lake Cowichan to Duncan and. This 26 km section of rail trail has already had drainage and culvert improvements, the application of sub base gravel and construction of a 37 metre long bridge over Bings Creek. Contracts have been let to apply the final compacted fine gravel surface this Spring. The Trans Canada Trail contributed \$400,000 to this work.

From Duncan a trail route follows the Catalyst Waterline right-of-way north to Mays Road at the Trans Canada Highway. Comprised of 3.5 km of gravel trail on the utility ROW and 3.0 km roadside path on Somenos Road, the trail also includes a second bridge over Bings Creek. Much of this project has been completed and the remainder is scheduled for later in 2011.

Temporary roadside pathways will connect to Chemainus Road, south of the town of Chemainus. CVRD plans to use another rail trail connection for approximately 6 km, parallel to Chemainus Road. The timing for this link is still to be determined.



Excerpt from "Across the Abyss" - Kinsol Trestle painting by: Paul Grignon.



Bings Creek Bridge, near Duncan.

President's Message and Renewal Reminder

In the pages of this newsletter you can take note of some of the positive trail developments related to the Trans Canada Trail and other trails in the Province. The largest and most exciting of these was the rebuilding of the Kinsol Trestle on Vancouver Island. When completed this spring this \$7 million project will be one of the highlights of the TCT. You can follow the construction of the trestle on a webcam at <http://www.earthcam.com/clients/britishcolumbia/KinsolTrestle/>

In October Environment Minister Jim Prentice, announced that Federal Funding of \$10,000,000 over two years would be made available for the Trans Canada Trail. The funds will be administered by Parks Canada, which has assumed the responsibility from Heritage Canada. This will allow TCT partners and affiliated groups to continue to develop and improve the TCT.

Trails BC has also been active in promoting greenways trails. We attended the ORC sponsored forum in October that tried to move forward with a plan to resolve trail conflict issues in the Chilliwack River Valley. Trails BC representatives attended a national trails leadership forum that was held in Banff in November and brought together a representation of trail leaders from across the country. A positive start was made to work towards the establishment of an entity that could represent all trails, trails organizations, and users at the national level. In January we had three representatives who attended Horse Council BC's "BC Equestrian Trails Roundtable". This forum allowed us to better appreciate the needs of the equestrian

trail riding community.

We are in the process of updating our website and have engaged a very enthusiastic web designer in creating a more contemporary website with interactive mapping and more media content. We hope to bring the site online before the summer trail season. Please remember that all the

work going into such projects is done by volunteers. Without us, it would be impossible to make the Trans Canada Trail a reality.

The Trails BC Facebook page has proven to be a very popular site with our page having

more than 2400 fans -- more than any other Canadian trail organization. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/TrailsBC>

Trails BC is planning to hold our annual AGM in conjunction with the opening of the Kinsol trestle. While the final date has not been set, it is likely to be in May, and the AGM will be held in Duncan. More to follow.

We hope we can count on your continued support and a renewal of your Trails BC membership. Individual memberships are \$25.00 and group memberships \$100. You may renew on our web site <http://www.trailsbc.ca/membership.html> or by cheque to #803 - 1018 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6J6

Happy trails to all!

— Al Skucas
Trails BC President



Kinsol Trestle construction from the EarthCam webcam on March 5, 2011.

**Trails BC AGM
expected to
coincide with
the opening of
the Kinsol
Trestle.**



From Chemainus to Ladysmith rail trails and road-side pathways will hopefully be completed in 2011. Through the town of Ladysmith park trails and road-side pathways have been selected.

From Ladysmith to the border with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) a gravel trail and bridge over Bush Creek have been completed. The final

piece to the district boundary is still being planned, but will likely use some old roads. The CVRD-RDN boundary is very close to the Haslam Creek Suspension Bridge, where TCT has existed for a number of years.

The Regional District of Nanaimo is coordinating their trail projects with CVRD and this year will build a new trailhead and access on Timberlands Road, just west of the Nanaimo airport.

All of these trails sections will add to the popular Cowichan Valley Trail, which has connected Shawnigan Lake and Lake Cowichan for many years and has been very popular with trail users. The Cowichan Valley Trail accommodates cyclists, hikers/walkers and equestrians.

Trails BC commends the Cowichan Valley Regional District for their enthusiasm in building this critical trail connection. Brian Farquhar and Dan Brown at the regional district have shown great dedication to the initiative.

--- Harold Sellers

