

HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST

Annual Report 2005-2006



HAT

Creating Conservation Legacies

President's Report 2005

Prepared by Andrew Harcombe, President

Thank you for coming tonight to the HAT Annual general meeting. The past year at our trust has been stable and productive. One of the indicators of our health that we track monthly is per cent of required budget to run for the next three months. That indicator has been at 100% all year, a real credit to dedicated staff and a strong Board of Directors. It is also the legacy that was built the previous year by Eric Lofroth, our past president, who had a much tougher time as the Chair.

I will not cover all the work we have accomplished this year; that detail will be given in the staff and committee reports. However, there are a few things I would like to speak to.

First, once again we are where we are today because of a very dedicated staff. Kate Emmings has stepped into the Executive Director role to replace Jennifer Eliason, who is presently on maternity leave (for which Maddox gives his thanks). Kate was able to take on this role with no faltering or lapse—she has provided strong leadership to HAT's projects and provides timely advice and guidance to the Board. Todd Carnahan continues to excel as Stewardship Coordinator. He is directing the restoration work on the Matson property, which is rapidly becoming the jewel in HAT's stewardship projects. Kathryn Martell has taken over the Outreach and Restoration Specialist from Pauline Brest van Kempen, and has instantly met those job's responsibilities. Andrew Uhlman has moved on to other endeavours, but the core volunteer group of Lyndis Davis, Thora Illing Gayle Moore and Charlie LeRoss have maintained key support roles. Erika Kanczula continues to provide excellent bookkeeping support to Kate.

Eric Lofroth and Clare Frater are leaving the Board this year, Eric to spend some more leisure time with his equally-busy wife and Clare to start her family. Both have provided far more effort and time to the Board than you can possibly imagine, and on behalf of staff, the Board and the membership, I want to thank them for their passion and commitment.

The reorganized Board structure into Executive, Stewardship, Finance and Fundraising, Land, and Communication Committees has proved to be a real benefit for HAT. Directors have excelled in their participation on both the Board and the committees where much of the work direction is given. The 2005-2006 Operating Plan that you will be hearing about has been developed at the committee level. Meetings are frequent and productive, and provide much more of an input into HAT activities; all staff sit on one or more committees, as do a number of community volunteers.

Among our most notable accomplishments this year, I would like to mention the following:

- The stewardship work of HAT has just been awarded the Ecostar award from the Capital Regional District—a credit to the entire staff.

- Landowner contact in the Colquitz and Durrell watersheds in Saanich has resulted in restoration of riparian areas and riparian buffers, as well an enhanced understanding among residents of the importance of riparian areas
- Good Neighbourhoods programs at three local schools that are resulting in Garry oak ecosystems being created on school properties, with full student participation (special thanks to Kathryn and Todd on this and the previous project)
- Our help to local groups in acquiring Mt Erskine on Salt Spring Island as our major acquisition project for 2005 (special thanks to the Salt Spring Conservancy for their lead on this project)
- Successful fundraising events including Ice Cream Sunday, Goldstream Art Show, Salmon Run Run, Gala Dinner, and Musical Hats (a special thanks to the Fundraising committee for their work, and to Eric for another 2 successful Musical HATs)
- Our success once again in acquiring gaming funds, a critical support for our staff and office infrastructure (a special thanks to Kate for this one)
- Our full ownership of the Matson Lands Conservation Area and the restoration work with volunteers presently in full swing (a special thanks to Todd for all his extra effort on that one).

I think everyone should be very proud of the accomplishments we have made towards achieving our mission on conserving natural environments and creating new ones in our region. And for that, I thank you all for your support and effort.

Andrew Harcombe
President
December 14, 2005

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Simon Philp, Treasurer

General Overview of Year Ended October 31, 2005

2005 was a year of many accomplishments for HAT. Some of the items reflected in the financial statements include:

- Transfer of the Matson lands to HAT
- Creation of a new account with the Victoria Foundation to ensure the Matson lands are properly maintained and conserved
- Donations raised by supporters of HAT were matched by HAT to assist with the Mt. Erskine purchase, led by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC).
- Improvement in cash forecasting

Overview of the Funds

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

HAT now has four funds.

General Fund

- Contains all operational revenue and expenses – including land stewardship programs, covenant monitoring, and all other ongoing initiatives not part of other specific funds.
- Starting last year, HAT has shown funds raised for subsequent years as 'deferred revenue' – this term is best explained by looking at what makes up 'deferred revenue'. HAT frequently raises funds for specific projects that start in one fiscal year (i.e. before October 31) and finish in another. This means that funds may be on hand at October 31, but be required for the next year.
- Another way to look at this; is that deferred revenue represents the money in HAT's bank account, but that HAT could not spend within the year, because it was required for subsequent years.
- HAT had a small 'profit' in the year, which is logical after two years of modest losses

Land Acquisition Fund

- Donations, and investment income generated \$4,055 in new Land Acquisition Funds in 2005. Funds donated to SSIC also show as an 'expense' of the Land Acquisition Fund

Endowment Fund

- The Endowment Fund is managed by the Victoria Foundation, as a 'Designated and Agency Endowment' Fund.
- This means that HAT is provided with annual income, but the capital is unavailable, consistent with the concept of an Endowment.
- In prior years, HAT has made a conscious decision to 'roll' the income over into the fund, to increase the size of the fund. In future years, HAT will receive the income from the Victoria Foundation directly, and then allocate it to work being done, for example, covenant monitoring.
- The Endowment Fund is invested in a similar manner to a pension fund – to ensure growth and also provide income. Four percent of the capital is paid out to HAT each year, to ensure that the capital continues to grow, and that the income generated will increase slowly over time.
- HAT is committed to building the Endowment over the coming years. Increases to the Endowment will increase the annual income, and will provide a form of 'core funding' - money which is generally difficult to fundraise for.
- Finally the Endowment Fund should also be seen as the vehicle which will allow HAT to meet its long-term obligations required for covenant monitoring, and increase the capacity to take on new covenants. Since covenants need to be monitored 'forever' and the Endowment fund also lasts 'forever' this a logical connection.

Matson Fund

- As discussed in the notes to the financial statements, the Matson Fund relates to the Matson Lands in Esquimalt. There are several important points to note on the 2005 financial statements relating to the Matson Lands
 - HAT received \$90,000 which was invested with the Victoria Foundation. This new fund will provide annual income to offset the direct costs of owning the land, such as insurance.
 - The land itself was received in June, 2005. When the land was transferred it had an appraised value (required for tax exemption) of \$1,060,000.
 - However, for a number of practical reasons, there is an option for NCC and ultimately Esquimalt to re-acquire the property for \$10. This option is registered on title and is intended to preclude HAT from selling or conveying the property.
 - The property therefore is shown as having a \$10 value – since we presume NCC and/or Esquimalt would exercise their right to re-acquire the property at that price.
 - Of course, HAT has no intention of selling the property in any event.

Other Comments for 2006

The Finance and Fundraising committee has been active over the past number of months. Staff have worked very hard to improve our financial position, and have implemented some monthly metrics to ensure HAT continues to have the funds needed. This involves measuring 4 key statistics each month. Staff currently spend less than 10 minutes per month preparing these numbers, but the result is that the board knows each month what the financial situation is for the coming 90 days.

Our support from Erika, our bookkeeper, has also been a key reason for the financial stability this year. Receiving timely financial information (usually within 15 days of each month end) is critical to monitoring our funding requirements. All of this work is reviewed by an independent, external Certified General Accountant, Glen Moores, and we are very appreciative for his work, advice and support over the past year as well.

2006 will present some new challenges. CRA (formerly Revenue Canada) have developed a variety of new rules relating to items including charitable financial reporting, donation receipts, and donor information.

These new proposed guidelines are quite broad, for example, HAT would be required to ask donors if they have received any benefits from HAT, if the funds being donated were funds from a third party (and if so, who the third party is).

HAT will continue to fully comply with these new guidelines, while ensuring that the financial needs of the organization are met.

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Philp
Treasurer

Committee Reports

Land Committee Report

The Land Committee met seven times in 2005 (January, February, twice in March, June, October and November).

The 2005 Operating Plan indicated the following items should be undertaken this year to help implement HAT's Strategic Goal #1: Protect habitat through land acquisition and conservation covenants. The italic indicates what was achieved on each of these items.

1. Develop and implement an Acquisition and Covenant Strategy including the identification of regionally significant habitats, HAT's focal habitats, and priority properties, tactics for pursuing key properties, and procedures to ensure a responsible and sustainable land program.

- In March 2005, the Committee met and developed the basis for an Acquisition and Covenant Strategy. It was agreed that HAT would not focus on just one or two types of habitats (e.g. just Garry oak or just wetland/riparian areas) but would consider projects that would protect identified sensitive ecosystems, representative habitat, and/or areas that would improve connectivity with other protected areas. Criteria for assessing potential projects were developed.
- In June 2005 a draft Land & Covenant Acquisition Strategy Policy was created.
- It was agreed that further work would be conducted by assessing existing mapped sensitive ecosystems and protected areas information to identify potential project areas and a meeting would be held with other key land trusts to ensure we were working cooperatively and in a coordinated fashion.
- In October we reviewed recent statistics regarding the amount of sensitive ecosystems protected in CRD parks.
- On November 15 a Regional Conservation Strategy meeting was held with CRD Parks and other major land trusts to discuss priority areas.

2. Develop necessary acquisition and property management policies and procedures.

- A Conservation Covenant Checklist was approved in January 2005 to ensure covenant files are well managed.
- Annual Compliance Monitoring procedures for conservation covenants were developed in February 2005
- A Land and Covenant Acquisition Strategy Policy was initially drafted in June, finalized in October and approved by Executive Committee in December.
- A Financial Donations and Grants Received Policy was completed and approved in July 2005.

3. Complete all current covenants

- In January 2005 HAT was working on seven covenants.

- Three covenants have been completed and registered (the Hunter covenant in Saanich & 2 Heritage Forest Covenants on Galiano Island),
 - Three landowners changed their minds and opted not to complete in-progress covenants.
 - One covenant (Colwood/Langford) continues to be in-progress.
4. **Finalize baseline inventory and annual monitoring protocol.**
 - In February, the Land Committee met to discuss and develop a covenant monitoring program and baseline environmental reports for covenants.
 - The Land and Covenant Acquisition Strategy Policy includes policies on baseline ecological documentation and monitoring of properties.
 5. **Complete baseline inventories on all HAT-lead covenants.**
 - Baseline inventory reports will be completed for our new covenants by summer of 2006.
 - HAT continues to work with co-covenant holders to ensure adequate baseline information for all existing covenants.
 6. **Complete annual monitoring of all HAT lead covenants.**
 - Annual Compliance Monitoring was conducted by staff and Board members on the following covenanted properties:
Mt Matheson I
Witney-Griffiths
Gowland Point
Matthews Point (to be done in Dec 05)
Oakhaven (to be done in Dec05)
 - Other covenants co-held with partner groups were monitoring by our partners.
 - Funding will be sought to hire a contractor to conduct annual monitoring.
 7. **Begin negotiation on 2-3 additional covenants.**
 - HAT is working on two new covenants (in Metchosin and Saanich) in addition to the one covenant in progress for a total of 3 current, on-going covenants.
 8. **Provide information on conservation covenants to landowners contacted through the Good Neighbours project.**
 - The Land Committee did not undertake any specific work on this, however, information about covenants has been provided by HAT staff through the Good Neighbours project work.
 9. **Join one land acquisition project for key habitats.**
 - HAT joined the Salt Spring Island Mt. Erskine acquisition project, lead by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.
 - HAT contributed \$6,100 toward the acquisition of this 240 ha (600 ac) parcel.
 - The acquisition was completed in September 2005.
 - HAT will continue to work with project partners to see if the adjacent vacant Crown land can be protected.

In addition,

HAT continues its on-going involvement in the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team's Conservation Planning and Site Protection Recovery Implementation Group (CP & SP RIG) setting priority Garry oak ecosystem areas and working on promoting protection of these areas.

HAT Communications Committee Report 2005

Goal 4 of HAT's 2004-2005 Operating Plan is: HAT known throughout the region as a progressive and stable organization

Strategies the Committee pursued to support this goal included:

- **Form a Communications Committee**

Committee members: Simon Philp, Clare Frater, David Kelly, Kathryn Martell

This committee has not been very active in 2004/5 and in some cases meetings were combined with finance and fundraising meetings.

- **Develop and begin implementing the communications strategy**

A workplan for the communication committee was developed in 2004 by UVic students Janis MacNaughton and Kealey Pringle. HAT staff have been actively cultivating media contacts, making a conscious effort to communicate HAT projects and events, but have not followed all recommendations from the strategy; we will revisit / revise in the coming months.

- **Increase communications expertise within HAT**

Staff attended Connecting for Conservation seminars on Working with the Media and LTA Seminar on Effective Outreach projects. New staff member Kathryn Martell has media training and experience.

- **Issue 5 major press releases on HAT projects and events**

HAT sent out the following nine media releases:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 25 Apr 2005 | Local group raises over \$65,000 to help Colquitz River |
| 10 Jun 2005 | Matching Money Offered to Boost Mt. Erskine Fundraising |
| 14 July 2005 | Matson's Meadows Preserved Forever |
| 6 August 2005 | Colquitz Creek Party – Community Stewardship & Family Fun Day |

- 14 Sept 2005 Today's Trees.... Tomorrow's Forests (UFSI Public Forum)
- 19 Sept 2005 Salmon in Your Backyard – Celebrate BC Rivers Day with a Colquitz Creek Clean-Up!
- 12 Oct 2005 Partnership protects Mount Erskine on Salt Spring Island
- 14 Oct 2005 Minister of Environment to Speak at HAT Gala Dinner
- 21 Oct 2005 Restoring the Inner Harbour's Last Garry Oak Meadow - Matson Lands get native species

And two PSA /Media Invitations:

- 13 June 2005 Local Conservation Groups Gather To Build Partnerships, Create Joint Strategies, Highlight Successful Projects, and Get Connected!
- 23 Nov 2005 Join us for HAT's always-popular variety show evening of music, prizes, and delicious goodies!

HAT events (Good Neighbours community days, Gala Dinner, Musical HATs, Matson celebration) were also posted to bulletin boards and events calendars throughout Victoria.

- **Achieve 12 hits in local media;**

HAT is aware of the following 16 items of media coverage:

- 25 Apr 2005 Local group raises over \$65,000 to help Colquitz River
- 10 Jun 2005 Matching Money Offered to Boost Mt. Erskine Fundraising
- 14 July 2005 Matson's Meadows Preserved Forever
- 6 August 2005 Colquitz Creek Party – Community Stewardship & Family Fun Day
- 19 Sept 2005 Salmon in Your Backyard – Celebrate BC Rivers Day with a Colquitz Creek Clean-Up!
- 12 Oct 2005 Partnership protects Mount Erskine on Salt Spring Island
- 14 Oct 2005 Minister of Environment to Speak at HAT Gala Dinner
- 21 Oct 2005 Restoring the Inner Harbour's Last Garry Oak Meadow - Matson Lands get native species

- **Update website at least 3 times per year;**

Volunteer Gayle Moore undertook a major revision of the HAT website. Thanks to Gayle's dedicated efforts our website is now more attractive, easier to navigate, and

contains more information. The website has been updated regularly to promote events, and post press releases and media articles.

- **Issue 3 - 4 HAT Chats**

We released 2 newsletters this year, in April and October. Each newsletter mailing goes to about 2100 donors, members and strategic contacts.

- **Submit articles regularly to Victoria Naturalist (VNHS) and Our Backyard (Saanich).**

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Our Backyard | Spring 2005 – Colquitz Good Neighbours Program HAT visits Durrell Creek Watershed |
| | Fall 2005 – Back to Naturescaping School! Good Neighbours Project |
| The Kingfisher (LTA newsletter) | Summer / Fall 2005 – Matson Lands Preserved Forever |
| VNHS | Mar / Apr 2005 – HAT Partners make our projects a success July / Aug 2005 – Colquitz Good Neighbours project Sept / Oct 2005 – Meet Garry Oakley! Nov / Dec 2005 – HAT Buys 400 kg of Native Grasses |

- **The committee also undertook a process to change HAT's logo**

Due to mixed feedback on our current logo we decided to undertake a process to develop a new HAT logo. After numerous drafts and revisions, we have picked our two favourites. These options, along with the current logo, will be available at the Annual General Meeting so that we can get feedback from our members.

Stewardship Committee Report

The HAT Stewardship Committee presently includes:

- Pete Lewis (Chair), Andrew Harcombe and Don Eastman from HAT's Board of Directors;
- Graham Knox, an active volunteer member; and
- Todd Carnahan and Kathryn Martell representing HAT staff.

This report deals with Committee activities, not the achievements in the stewardship area of HAT staff working primarily on their own. These latter are detailed in the annual HAT Staff Report.

The Committee focuses its activities on addressing objectives established under **Goal 2: Improved Stewardship of Natural Environments** of the HAT 2005-2009 Strategic

Plan. Priorities for 2004/05 were detailed in the annual Operating Plan. The Committee met six times during the past year and accomplished the following:

1. Stewardship Strategy

a. Develop criteria for clearly identifying priorities within the stewardship goal and assess all current projects against these criteria.

From May to July, the Committee met 3 times to develop criteria for the acceptance/rejection of stewardship project proposals. The final set of ranked criteria is attached to this report.

2. Education

b. Identify and prioritize potential new “Good Neighbours” sites and apply for funding for 2005/06

The acceptance/rejection criteria were used to prioritize potential Good Neighbours project areas for 2005/06. Four areas were considered and are listed here in order of ranking:

1. Rithet’s Bog
2. Matson Lands
3. Knockan Hill
4. John Dean Park

HAT staff capacity is currently limited to two projects so funding is being pursued for Rithet’s Bog and Matson Lands.

c. Assess the “Good Neighbourhoods” program and, based on recommendations, identify and prioritize schools and apply for funding for 2005/06.

The Committee has not yet identified and prioritized schools for 2005/06. Work is still underway on the first three schools with a report scheduled for delivery in mid- to late December. At that time, the Committee will test the acceptance/rejection criteria on potential new schools.

3. Demonstration

Activities in this area of the HAT 2004/05 Operational Plan were focused on the Matson Lands Conservation Area. They have been staff led and volunteer supported and are summarized in the HAT Staff Report.

4. Resources and Support

a. Establish the viability of a landowner contact database for use by all local conservation groups and, if feasible and practical, design and develop.

Development of a regional Landowner Contact Database is a component of HAT’s federally funded (Habitat Stewardship Program) Sharp Tailed Snake Project. The database will provide basic information for HAT and its partners about contacted properties and the groups involved in order to facilitate coordination and prevent conflict. Members of the Stewardship Committee – Harcombe/Lewis – have taken an active role on the project Steering Committee.

Several initial discussions about scope, design and access led to the judgment that the project is practical and feasible if it is very carefully limited to only what is really needed and if data entry and access are both simple and very easy for partners. Darren McKellar, a professional business analyst, is using input from an October workshop involving both HAT and its key partners to develop a project charter and a draft data model. A prototype system with test data is scheduled for delivery at the end of January 2006. The prototype will be used to facilitate extensive consultation with stakeholders leading to delivery of an operating system by the end of February. Completion of initial data entry (from the Sharp Tailed Snake Project) is anticipated before the end of March 2006.

b. Provide resources and support to the conservation community as requested.

The **HAT Manual** is a reference document pulling together information from a wide variety of sources for use by people who want to protect natural areas but may not be sure of the options open to them. Directors on the Stewardship Committee, along with other HAT directors, provided presentations to municipalities in the Capital Regional District to explain the Manual and its purpose. All municipalities have been covered, except Colwood which is presently scheduled for January 2006.

Staff Report

Prepared by Todd Carnahan, Kate Emmings & Kathryn Martell

2005/06 has been a year of change for HAT with a new staff and some exciting new projects. As always, the HAT staff owe a big thank you to our exceptional Board of Directors and volunteers. Without the commitment of these dedicated individuals, we would not have had the successful year that we did.

HAT PEOPLE

We have had several staff changes this year:

- Todd Carnahan joined HAT in July 2004, taking on the role of Stewardship Coordinator.
- Kathryn Martell joined HAT in March 2005 as Outreach and Restoration Specialist
- Kate Emmings replaced Jennifer Eliason (on Maternity leave) as Executive Director in June, 2005.

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

- Charlie LeRoss maintains our computer network;
- Erika Kanczula continues as HAT's bookkeeper;
- Glen Moores provides accounting services at year-end and for grant audits;
- Judith Cullington and Associates and Sairah Tyler of Viridia Consulting contribute to the *Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative*, providing facilitation and coordination;
- Jeremy Gye of Gye Group Urban Forestry Consultants developed the discussion paper: *Towards an Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island*. Jeremy is now developing the UFSI strategy; and,
- RLC Enterprize Ltd. who provide nature education in Goldstream Provincial Park.

We are also fortunate to have a number of wonderful volunteers who help with everything from website management to serving drinks at Musical HATs. We would especially like to thank Thora Illing, Patricia Perkins, Julian Anderson, Kendra Beauchamp, Gayle Moore, Rhonda Korol, Gail Harcombe, Claudia and Darren Copley, Marilyn and Phil Lambert, Donna Ross and all of the musicians at Musical HATs. We really appreciate your time and effort!

HAT PROJECTS

Good Neighbourhoods – HAT continued its elementary education program this year, offering free programs to schools in neighbourhoods of Good Neighbours projects. Three schools participated in the project, Braefoot, Sundance, and Strawberry Vale. At Braefoot, students of two classes participated in in-class discussions of local ecosystems, species-at-risk, and stewardship, and in guided walks and activities to a nearby protected wetland. We also launched a naturescape garden on the schoolgrounds, and in early December all Braefoot classes – 250 students – helped to

plant the first phase of the garden. Sundance Elementary has an existing Garry oak meadow restoration project and HAT became involved in planting a habitat garden as part of this project. In the Spring, every child in the school (approx. 200) planted a camas bulb in one section of the garden, after in-class presentations about local ecosystems. In November, we had another school-wide planting day and added many native shrubs to this habitat garden. Strawberry Vale Elementary has a 10-year-old constructed pond naturescape project. The pond was dredged and enlarged this summer. HAT's *Good Neighbourhoods* project provided plants, and worked with each class to replant the pond edge. Several other Victoria schools have contacted HAT to become involved with the project, and we look forward to partnering with new schools next year on schoolground restoration projects. Thanks to this year's Good Neighbourhoods funders, the Victoria Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, and BC Gaming Commission.

Garry Oakley, destined to be a perennial favourite at HAT events, made his debut at the Fort Rodd Hill Canada Day celebrations. Garry then put his heartwood into helping us out at community stewardship events, at Pacific Forestry Centre as part of Science & Technology Week, and naturescaping days with the students at Sundance Elementary.

Good Neighbours is an ambitious HAT project that provides environmental stewardship information to private landowners who live adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas. This summer and fall, HAT partnered with EcoAction (Environment Canada), Victoria Foundation, and Saanich Parks to bring the *Good Neighbours* Project to neighbours of Colquitz Creek Linear Park and a sub-watershed of the Colquitz, Durrell Creek. Meetings with landowners focused on protecting water quality and enhancing riparian buffer strips to improve salmon habitat in the Colquitz. Todd Carnahan and Kathryn Martell met with over 70 landowners, delivered 94 information packages, signed 38 voluntary stewardship agreements, and provided naturescaping prescriptions to over 20 families. This year we purchased \$5000 of native plants (thanks to Shell EnviroFund), and we are working with 13 Colquitz neighbours to rebuild riparian habitats on their properties. We also held 2 successful community stewardship days, including a Colquitz River Clean-Up that pulled several tonnes of garbage from the creek. Good Neighbours Colquitz has also led to an exciting new partnership with the Pacific Forestry Centre, a Colquitz neighbour. After signing a Voluntary Stewardship Agreement, PFC staff worked with HAT to plant a buffer strip along one section of their shoreline where all vegetation had been removed. Todd & Kathryn were also invited to speak to interested staff about native plants for the home garden. HAT will continue to work with PFC staff to develop a weed control plan for invasive species along the river.

HAT's most recent Good Neighbours project will take us to Sharp-tailed Snake (*Contia tenuis*) sites throughout the CRD. Working closely with Sharp-tailed Snake expert Christian Englestoft, Todd and Kathryn will visit landowners living near known populations of this rare, red-listed snake. For this project HAT will also develop a regional database to collate information about landowner contact projects in the CRD, to prevent project overlap and increase collaboration among organizations involved in private land stewardship.

HAT Manual - The HAT Manual was introduced in the spring of 2004 and has now been presented to 12 municipal governments and the Islands Trust. The presentation

of the Manual to the last CRD municipality will take place in January 2006. To date the document has been enthusiastically received.

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

HAT PARTNERSHIPS



The **Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative** continues to attract interest and attention as it progresses. The Initiative is driven by a multi-party steering committee, comprised of federal, provincial, regional and municipal government representatives, the Department of National Defence, Urban Development Institute, local arbourists, consultants and NGO's, including the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Project and Habitat Acquisition Trust. The discussion paper: *Towards and Urban Forest Stewardship Strategy for Southern Vancouver Island* was released and circulated in January 2004. Since then, the UFSI has held two well-attended public forums (in partnership with the District of Saanich), begun researching options for mapping our urban forests, begun work on model tree preservation bylaws, and is currently working on the development of a strategy for southern Vancouver Island.

HAT continues its partnership with the wildly collaborative **Wild Garden Party**. This year saw the continuation of a partnership with Habitat for Humanity on a housing development that they have spearheaded in Sidney. The WGP partners, with the help of numerous volunteers, have provided organic, sustainable landscaping for this six-home subdivision. November saw the completion of this landscaping and the partners are currently working to develop a case study/framework document for landscaping for distribution to 59 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across Canada.



HAT is a member of the **Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative** (ELSI) and we contribute to ELSI's Restoration and Outreach Subcommittee. This group (including HAT) provided outreach displays at Fort Rodd Hill's Canada Day celebrations. Todd Carnahan is now assisting with the development of a management plan for the lagoon. The management plan will lay out a clear direction for the development and protection of the Coburg Peninsula's unique values over the long term. Native consultation remains outstanding, although the Interim Management Guidelines are being prepared for approval by Colwood Council.

HAT is a member of and regular contributor to the **Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team's** Conservation Priorities and Site Protection Recovery Implementation Group. Currently, the group is working towards achieving protection for 26 Garry oak sites

located throughout the range of Garry oak habitat. HAT also supports GOERT's critical efforts by assisting with fundraising.

Gorge Waterway Initiative – Todd Carnahan represents HAT at the GWI which is similar to ELSI as a broad-based community collaboration. Since January 2005 representatives of groups in the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) have developed the following understandings:

GWI is a community driven, collaborative group of organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds in a way that respects the local cultural heritage. GWI's three goals: To encourage and promote education, stewardship, and awareness programs and appropriate land and water uses; to serve as a hub for information sharing and act as a point of contact for waterway issues; and to encourage and advocate for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the waterway and its watersheds.

HAT is also working closely with the **Victoria Sustainability Centre** in a partnership to help provide a sustainable office facility for Victoria non-profit organizations. The project is supported by VanCity Credit Union and involves several partner groups.

HAT ACQUISITIONS

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

Early this year HAT campaigned successfully with the developer to remove a planned trail section from the development requirements, saving over fifteen oaks and some of the best meadow. Trail designs were modified according to HAT criteria requiring water-permeable surfaces. One section features a pillared walkway that spans the meadow while allowing rain and light to pass through. Todd Carnahan worked with community groups to plan activities, including the development of a restoration strategy that is now being implemented. Mandalay provided replacement signage and soil for naturescaping. Todd and Kathryn Martell assisted NCC staff in preparing a baseline report for the conservation covenant. HAT hosted two weeding events (4 truckloads removed) and one naturescaping event at Matson this year. Along with Rithet's Bog, Matson Lands will be one of two target areas for our 2006 Good Neighbours Project.

Mount Erskine: HAT worked with the Salt Spring Conservancy Association, the Islands Trust Fund, and TLC, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia to acquire the summit of Mt Erskine on Salt Spring Islands. The 40 ha (100 acres) property consists of open coastal Douglas-fir and arbutus forest and is surrounded on 3 sides by other protected habitat. Over \$650,000 was raised for this purchase. Donations made to this initiative through HAT were matched dollar for dollar by HAT's Acquisition Fund.

HAT FUNDRAISING

Events

In the past year, our fundraising efforts have not just been funding applications (of which there have been dozens) but we have had a couple of fun community events, too.

- HAT's first ever *Gala Dinner* was held on November 3 at the Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa on Victoria's Inner Harbour. The Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment was the guest speaker for the event which highlighted HAT's newly acquired Matson Lands and our partnership with the Goldstream Nature House.
- Two *Musical HATs* variety shows were held in December at our long-standing Prospect Lake venue.
- Funds for Goldstream Nature House were raised through the *Goldstream Art Show*, the *Salmon Run Run* and the annual *Ice Cream Sunday*.

Corporate Contributions

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

Shell provided \$10,000 for the planting of native vegetation in the Colquitz Creek area and on the Matson lands.

TD Bank provided \$5,600 for the Good Neighbourhoods program.

Terasen Gas provided \$1,500 for the Durrell Creek Good Neighbours project.

Mandalay Developments Ltd. has provided a \$90,000 endowment fund for ongoing maintenance and restoration of the Matson Lands Conservation Area.

Our partnership with staff at the Goldstream Nature House made the Goldstream Chums Program a great success. The 2004 *Goldstream Chums* are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Colwood Dental Group (\$500) | Great Pacific Mortgage & Investments (\$250) |
| BC Hydro (\$1,000) | Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. (\$500) |
| Coast (V.I.) Environmental Ltd. (\$100) | B& J Backhoe (\$500) |
| Brightlight Pictures Inc. (\$250) | Normand St. Cyr Excavating Ltd (\$300) |
| Canadian Home Builders Association (\$1,000) | Michell Excavating Ltd (\$350) |
| Suburban Motors & Glenoak Ford (\$250) | Don Mann Excavating Ltd (\$250) |
| Griffiths & Jones Trucking (\$420) | Capital City Paving Ltd (\$500) |
| Wilf's Soil Supply & Service (\$250) | Peninsula Bulldozing Ltd (\$250) |
| Unity Rebekah Lodge #145 (\$100) | Western Region Rental & Supplies Ltd. (\$250) |
| Parish & Co. (\$600) | Investors Group – Victoria (\$1,000) |
| Nixon Bros Contracting Ltd (\$1,000) | Investors Group - National Office (\$1,000) |
| Island Equipment Owners Assn. (\$1,000) | Coast Capital Savings (\$5,000) |
| David G. McIntosh, Chartered Accountant (\$250) | Shaw Communications Inc (\$250) |
| P&R Western Star Trucks (\$500) | Copley Bros. Const. Ltd. (\$1,000) |
| Garnett Capital Corp. (\$500) | Victoria Natural History Society (\$4,000) |

Grant Funding

Every year HAT commits itself to obtaining funding for its many worthwhile projects. Much of this funding comes from government and charitable foundations. Over the 2004/05 fiscal year HAT was supported by the following organizations and programs:

Good Neighbours Strategy Program

- BC Gaming Commission Direct Access Grant (\$38,500)
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – Summer Career Placement Program (\$807)
- Worksource Wage Subsidy Program (\$6,825)
- Barraclough Foundation (\$4,000)

Good Neighbours Colquitz Creek

- Environment Canada – EcoAction (\$37,350)
- The District of Saanich (\$5,000)
- The Vancouver Foundation (\$12,000)

Good Neighbours Durrell Creek

- The District of Saanich (\$9,000)

Good Neighbours Sharp-tailed Snake / Landowner Contact Database

- Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program (\$62,800)

Good Neighbourhoods Schools Program

- Victoria Foundation (\$7,000)

Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative

- Georgia Basin Action Plan (\$5,000)

Private Donations

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

CONCLUSION

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

**Thank You to the Following Organizations/ Businesses
For Their Support in 2004-2005!**

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. | Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre | Parish & Co. Chartered Accountants |
| Arenaria Research & Interpretation | Great Pacific Mortgage & Investments | Pearson College of the Pacific |
| Art Knapp Victoria Garden Centre | Green Acres Golf Club | Pets West |
| Aurelia Wool | Griffiths & Jones Trucking Ltd. | Peninsula Bulldozing Ltd. |
| B & J Backhoe | Gye and Associates Ltd. | Prospect Lake Community Association |
| Barraclough Foundation | Habitat Stewardship Program – Environment Canada | Provincial Capital Commission – Greenways Project |
| Brentwood Bay Nursery | Harrison Worsley Pottery | P & R Western Star Trucks |
| Brightlight Pictures Inc. | HRSDC – Summer Career Placement Program | RalMax Developments Ltd. |
| British Columbia Gaming Commission | Interactive Nature Learning Supplies | The Red Barn Market |
| BC Conservation Data Centre | Investors Group Matching Gift Program | RLC Enterprises Ltd. |
| BC Hydro | Island Equipment Owners Association | Saltspring Coffee Company |
| Brown Bros. Agencies Ltd. | Italian Bakery | Shady Creek Ice Cream Co. |
| Canadian Home Builders Association-Victoria | James Tree Care | Share Organics |
| Candlelight and Wine Creations | Judith Cullington and Associates | Shell Environment Fund |
| Cannor Nursery | Lifecycles Fruit Tree Project | Small Potatoes Urban Delivery |
| Capital City Paving Ltd. | Little Elf Garden Centre | TD Friends of the Environment Foundation |
| Classic Cedar | Lone Pine Publishing | TM Newmedia |
| Colwood Dental Group | Mandalay Developments | Uniserve |
| Copley Brothers Construction | Marigold Nursery | Unity Rebekah Lodge |
| David G. MacIntosh – Chartered Accountant | Metchosin Country Store | UVic Restoration of Natural Systems |
| Denman Island Chocolates | Metchosin Golf and Country Club | Vancouver Foundation |
| Dig This | Mitchell Excavating | VanCity Savings Credit Union |
| District of Saanich | My'Chosin Café | Victoria Jazzercise |
| Don Mann Excavating Ltd. | Nature Explorations | Victoria Foundation |
| EcoAction – Environment Canada | Naturescape BC | Victoria Natural History Society |
| Food for Thought Catering Ltd. | Nixon Bros. Contracting Ltd. | Victorian Bird House |
| The Fudge Fairy | Normand St. Cyr Excavating Ltd. | Western Region Rentals & Supplies Ltd. |
| Garden Path Organic Nursery | Numa Farms | Wilf Soil Supply & Service |
| Garden Works | Pacific Forestry Centre | Worksource Wage Subsidy Program |
| Garnett Capital Corp. | | |
| Georgia Basin Action Plan | | |