



NH&MRC

2007-2008 Annual Report



2008 President's Message

Prepared by Simon Philp, President

2008 marked a year of change for HAT. A number of new directors joined the board, and our new Executive Director, Adam Taylor joined us as well.

Our capable, talented and enthusiastic staff deliver HAT's mandate. Adam Taylor has done a phenomenal job taking over for Jennifer Eliason, our former Executive Director, who left for a manager position at Islands Trust Fund. Adam brought a strong knowledge of the local community, and of the Goldstream Nature House in particular. The role of Executive Director for an organization such as HAT is a very challenging one, partly because the position has day-to-day responsibility for the relationship with funders. Success obtaining funding tends to be largely invisible, whereas failure has severe repercussions and is very noticeable. Adam was successful this year in obtaining a 3-year funding commitment from BC Gaming, providing certainty for HAT in the future. He also leveraged funding from several new sources.

When recognized for his contributions, Adam comments on the role of the rest of our staff. Todd Carnahan and Laurie Parker run our outreach programs -directly delivering a strong conservation message to schools and the broader community. These programs are the core of what HAT does. Wendy Tyrrell has improved our covenant monitoring and contact with potential granters of covenants, which will continue to be an increasingly significant means of conservation in the future.

Our board provides oversight, governance and risk management to HAT, and directors serve on the committees, which assist staff in completing their work. Peter Lewis, a geologist by profession, took over as treasurer this year, to the great relief of the rest of the board. Pete has worked with Michael Brinsmead, our new bookkeeper, and Glen Moores, our external accountant, to keep our finances straight, and we are very grateful. Geoff Huber, a former staff member, joined the board, and serves as Vice President. He brings prior staff experience. Karen Yearsley continues on the board, and as chair of the land committee. Her work as an Ecologist for BC Conservation Data Centre continues a tradition of having a strong science based methodology on our board.

Sylvia von Schuckmann, a Private Land Stewardship Specialist with MOE, joined the board and chairs our stewardship committee. Sylvia was the person who introduced me to HAT, and it is a great privilege to have her on the board as well. Stephanie Hazlitt, who has already earned a PhD, is currently completing Postdoctoral work. She brings insight on a number of complementary areas to our board meetings. While we continue to see ourselves as a regional land trust that is conservation focused, items such as carbon capture measurement may become more relevant and improve access to funding in the future. Melissa Donaldson is a B.Comm. and manager in the private sector, who brings needed business background to our meetings.

I would also like to thank Moira Campbell and Tara Dunning for their contributions. Tara has served on our board for 3 years, and has worked on the fundraising committee for much of that time. Tara's contributions in assisting with gala dinners, volunteer appreciation teas and meeting participation are very much appreciated.

President's Message



President's Message

Moira served on our board for part of 2008, and during that time chaired our fundraising committee and brought forward an improved structure and many good ideas.

The staff report will contain specific information about many of our projects, so those will not be repeated here. The one item that cannot be repeated too much is that our volunteers provide a huge boost to what we can achieve as an organization. In addition to the directors noted, Lyndis Davis, Thora Illing and Charlie Le Ross deserve special appreciation for their continued dedication and commitment to HAT. Thank-you.

2009 will mark the end of our current 5-year strategic plan, and development of a new one. Many of our objectives have been met. Setting new goals will require a collaborative approach, and a revisiting of our mandate and role in the region. I have confidence we have a strong board and a good ability to develop this plan. We will include other people from our HAT community in this process, to ensure the plan we develop provides a strong framework for taking us to 2014.

Simon Philp,
President



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Peter Lewis, Treasurer

General Overview of Year Ended October 31, 2008

The financial year ended October 31, 2008 was a very good year for HAT.

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

2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
11,539	(684)	6,825	2,520	(12,658)

There was a small surplus in 2008 which largely reflects a significant payment from the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) right at the end of the fiscal year. However, HAT's objective is budget to zero over a series of years.

On the extremely positive side, HAT was fortunate to receive in September 2008 a 3-year \$43,000 per year commitment under a B.C. Gaming Direct Access Grant pilot project, instead of the usual one year grant.

On the negative side, the recent investment losses by the Victoria Foundation - approximately 14% to the end of October - and decision by the Foundation to severely curtail its disbursements will have some impact on HAT. Endowment Fund income is reinvested (see below) so we can afford to wait for a return to profitability but Matson Fund income is used to support ongoing management. Fortunately HAT does have alternative funding sources for this.

Overview of the Funds

HAT has five funds.

General Fund

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

Land Acquisition Fund

- This Fund provides matching funding for acquisition projects.
- There were no expenses in 2008. Donations and interest income increased the Fund by \$2581.



Treasurer's Report

Endowment and Matson Fund

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

D. Andrew Fund

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

The strong financial position of HAT would not be possible without the support of the full board of directors of HAT, excellent staff and generous contractors. Adam Taylor is responsible for managing the finances day to day, ably assisted by HAT's bookkeeper Michael Brinsmead. Both are due a great vote of thanks for jobs very well done.

Financial statements and a number of the projects are reviewed or audited by an independent, external Certified General Accountant, Glen Moores. Glen has provided us with very valuable work, advice and support for many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lewis
Treasurer



Operating Plan Review

2007-2008 Operating Plan Review

Goal 1: Protected habitat through land acquisition and conservation covenants

1. Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy

The Land Committee continues to build on the Land Acquisition and Covenant Strategy:

- 1.1 Working with partner organizations to identify the key focal areas and priority properties for conservation - ongoing.
 - 1.2 Continued to work on developing all of the required land-related policies and practices to meet the Land Trust Alliance of BC Standards and Practices protocol.
 - 1.21 Reviewed LTABC protocol and existing HAT policies to define gaps, two policies were identified for completion in 2009 - 1) Amendments to Covenants and 2) Reserved and Permitted Rights and Approvals;
 - 1.22 Review of Land Committee Policy LCP02 - Land and Covenant Acquisition Strategy and Approval Policy is underway, with a goal of updating the criteria for evaluating covenant and acquisition proposals;
 - 1.23 Draft of *Memorandum of Understanding* document pertaining to agreements of objectives and responsibilities between covenant holders was circulated for comments and a final draft is being drawn up.
 - 1.3 Funding requests were successfully delivered and approved from the Barraclough Foundation, the McLean Foundation and the Victoria Natural History Society for a total of \$8500.00 allocated to the Covenants and Acquisitions Program.
 - 1.4 Seeking opportunities for funding the program and restoration projects on our existing properties - ongoing.
 - 1.5 Developing a 10-year baseline review (now called the *Updated Ecological Inventory*) was not a priority this year. Plans to discuss the review are scheduled for 2009.
 - 1.6 Participation by staff on the Sea to Sea Advisory Group and the GOERT Conservation Planning and Site Protection RIG - ongoing.
- ### 2. Conservation Covenants:
- 2.1. The Havenwood Park covenant was completed and registered in June 2008. The Queenswood covenant is in the final draft, however registration has been put on hold until a buyer is secured who is in favour of the covenant terms.
 - 2.2. The Galiano Heritage Forest Management Plan final draft was approved and the document was registered.
 - 2.3. Two existing covenants have new owners - The Meredith Property in Mill Bay and the Mt. Matheson II Property. Transitions went smoothly.
 - 2.4. HAT received numerous covenant and land donation proposals throughout 2007-08. The Land Committee reviewed five covenant assessments by staff and approved starting negotiations on three. One covenant fell through during negotiations.
 - 2.5. Annual monitoring was performed on existing covenants. Minor violations were discovered in 2007-08 on four of the properties. Most violations have



Operating Plan Review

- been addressed to date.
- 2.6. The covenants and acquisition files have been completely re-organized by our dedicated volunteer Thora Illing. Gaps have been identified and are being addressed. Thora will be creating new monitoring binders for each of our covenants in 2009.
 - 2.7. The *Covenant Tracking List* was reviewed and updated by our summer intern, Ashley St. Hilare. In addition, Ashley created maps of HAT's covenant and acquisition properties and they are now accessible to the public through our website.
 - 2.8. There are still four outstanding baseline reports for existing covenants - Ayum 3, Ayum Connector, Mathews Point and Matheson II. Matheson II is in progress by the TLC, and HAT staff assisted in the collection of data in summer 2008.
3. Land Purchases and Donations
 - 3.1. The Land Committee is currently reviewing proposals for three potential land donations. No new land was acquired or donated in 2007-08.

Goal 2: Improved stewardship of natural environments

1. Stewardship Strategy

- 1.7 A draft set of criteria for the Green Spots program has been proposed, and but still needs to be tested and finalized.
- 1.8 The Millstream Watershed has been chosen for the next Good Neighbours project. Fundraising work and early communications are underway.
- 1.9 Communications with partner groups, including the Goldstream Salmonid Enhancement Society, Peninsula Streams, and the CRD have begun
- 1.10 A set of *Stewardship Policies and Practices* for HAT was not completed.
- 1.11 A review of HAT's Stewardship Performance Measures was not completed in 2007-2008.

2. Education

- 2.1 The Knockan Hill Good Neighbours project was completed, including an independent evaluation. HAT staff delivered postcards to 530 residential addresses in the Knockan Hill Park area. HAT spoke with over 150 landholders by telephone resulting in 97 residents accepting land care packages. Of those, 37 landholders opted for land care visits and received naturescaping prescriptions for their property. HAT signed 25 Land Care Agreements with visited landowners and posted 21 permanent Habitat Steward signs on participating properties.
- 2.2 The Green Spots Criteria has not been used to prioritize additional schools for inclusion in the program.
- 2.3 The *Sharp-tailed Snake Habitat Stewardship Project* was expanded to include the Western Painted Turtle. Surveys and outreach for the Western Painted Turtle was very successful. Three new occurrences were discovered, and the media and public responded enthusiastically to outreach materials.

3. Demonstration

- 3.1 HAT hosted three restoration events in 2008 at the Matson Conservation Area with volunteers and members of the public.
- 3.2 HAT developed new contacts at the Swallow's Landing development adjacent to the Matson Conservation Area. Two information sessions were provided to residents, and many volunteered during restoration events in the Conservation Area.
- 3.3 Interpretive signage for the Matson Conservation Area walkway was not developed.
- 3.4 During the Knockan Hill Good Neighbours project, HAT hosted a Speaker Series and demonstration activities in Knockan Hill Park.

4. Resources and Support

- 4.1 A systematic survey of how or if the *HAT Manual* has been used, focusing on case studies of use, and leading to a plan for updating and extension was not completed.
- 4.2 A survey to assess Hat Manual use not also completed.
- 4.3 HAT is discussing options for a *HAT/CHBA CARE Award for Conservation of Natural Environments*, but it has not yet been determined if it is feasible.
- 4.4 The OCP timetable for southern Vancouver Island has been partially updated.



Operating Plan Review

- 4.5 Work continues on the Regional Landowner Contact Database (LCD). HAT staff met with Shane Ford of the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) to discuss privacy and information sharing policies. Work on a Memorandum of Understanding between CDC and conservation groups engaging in Landowner contact has begun.
- 4.6 The LCD was distributed to several new groups at the Land Trust Alliance Seminar Series, and GOERT staff were trained on its use.
- 4.7 Some funding has been secured from the Habitat Stewardship Program to continue development and improvement of the LCD.
- 4.8 The Conservation Connection Forum was hosted at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre on September 19th. Over 100 people attended the Forum, sharing ideas and experiences at sessions on fundraising, climate change, marine issues, and more.
- 4.9 A HAT-specific Naturescape brochure was not created. However, many other similar brochures appropriate for our region already exist.

Goal 3: Strengthened community support for conservation.

1. Information

- 1.1 HAT has launched a new, re-designed website that is easier to update. The new site features a regularly-updated blog, a calendar of events, and many other features. The web address has not changed (www.hat.bc.ca)
- 1.2 Many Conservation Connection website member groups have updated contact info and posted events, job postings, and calls for volunteers.

2. Regional Conservation Coordination

- 2.1 A Steering Committee for the Conservation Connection Forum was formed. The committee consisted of Christina Waddle (TLC), Christine Pritchard (ITF), Dan MacKinnon (Victoria Foundation), Gagan Leetka (VICRS), and Caroline MacDonald (Saanich), as well as Laurie Parker and Adam Taylor.
- 2.2 The Conservation Connection Forum was hosted on September 19th at the Burnside-Gorge Community Centre. Over 100 participants from local conservation organizations, government, and the public attended the forum.

3. Partnerships

- 3.1 Simon Philp and Adam Taylor met with Darren Copley to discuss ways to revitalize HAT's partnership with the Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS). A number of ways to re-build this valuable partnership were discussed. HAT is now operating the VNHS raffle at Birder's Night and Natural History Night, and the VNHS has contributed to HAT's covenants program.
- 3.2 HAT has continued partnerships with GOERT, ELSI, the Gorge Waterway Initiative and UFSI by taking an active role in each initiative's activities.
- 3.3 HAT continued to work with many partners, including the District of Saanich, View Royal, the Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team, the Western Painted Turtle Recovery Team, local conservation organizations and community groups and selected elementary schools to ensure successful project delivery.
- 3.4 The partnership with the Goldstream Nature House was not re-assessed in 2008-2009.
- 3.5 HAT continues to evaluate new partnership opportunities as they arise.

4. Leadership

- 4.1 HAT developed new contacts at the Swallow's Landing development adjacent to the Matson Conservation Area. Two information sessions were provided to residents, and many volunteered during restoration events in the Conservation Area

5. Review Goal 3 Performance Measures and Targets

- 5.1 An assessment and review of goal 3 performance measures and targets in preparation for the next 5 Year Strategic Plan was not completed.

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

1. Communications

- 1.1 The Communications Committee was blended with Fundraising & Finance Committee to become Fundraising & Communications Committee. Currently, there are five members of the committee, including one staff person.
- 1.2 The Communication Strategy should be reviewed and updated.
- 1.3 A basic volunteer database has been created and filled with our volunteer data. Currently, email is the primary communications tool with volunteers.
- 1.4 Five major press releases were issued on HAT events. Particularly successful were the Western Painted Turtle releases.
- 1.5 9 print articles appeared in 2008 on HAT stories, not including local journals. HAT was also featured 3 times on Shaw Cable, and on CBC Radio.
- 1.6 HAT's new website is up, and is being updated regularly.
- 1.7 Three issues of HAT Chat were produced in 2007-2008, two with in a new color format.
- 1.8 HAT regularly submitted articles to the Naturalist, Our Backyard, and Kingfisher.

2. Fundraising

- 2.1 No Gala Dinner was held in 2008.
- 2.2 The Donor Recognition Tea Party was held on September 19 at Spinnakers' Brew Pub, followed by a walk to the Matson Conservation Area.
- 2.3 Total Newsletter print-distribution was reduced considerably. Households that had received a printed copy of the newsletter for a long time, but had never responded were removed from the distribution list. Email distribution is up by approximately 20%, .
- 2.4 Three new funding sources were found for the Covenants program, the McConnell Foundation, Victoria Natural History Society, and Barraclough Foundation
- 2.5 HAT is continuing to work on developing new capabilities to be in compliance with new CRA rules prior to their implementation.
- 2.6 More than 5 individuals signed on to become monthly donors.

3. Membership development

- 3.1 New descriptions and categories of membership levels were developed
- 3.2 The life time membership was changed to be awarded to individuals based on service to the organization.
- 3.3 HAT membership increased by over 20% during 2008.



Operating Plan Review

Goal 5: Improved Performance through Organizational Excellence

- 1. Board of Directors and Committees**
 - 1.1 Board skills matrix is complete and will receive regular updates. A similar matrix for committees is not complete.
 - 1.2 Board expansion and recruitment is ongoing, with specific focus in areas identified by the skills matrix.
 - 1.3 The President has met one-on-one with all board members individually over the course of the year.
- 2. Staff and Infrastructure**
 - 2.1 A formal review of Executive Director was completed in 2008.
 - 2.2 Performance objectives and measurement criteria for the Executive Director, were established
- 3. Policies and Procedures**
 - 3.1 All committees are reviewing policies and ensuring that appropriate policies are in place, and that our policies conform to best practices.
- 4. Staff Development and Training**
 - 4.1 Staff attended a number of training events in 2008, including the Land Trust Alliance of BC Seminar Series, Fostering Sustainable Behaviour, and Community Based Social Marketing courses.



STAFF REPORT

Prepared by Adam Taylor, Todd Carnahan, Laurie Parker, and Wendy Tyrrell

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

HAT PEOPLE

Staff

HAT welcomed a number of new staff. In fact 2008 was the first year with HAT for three of four regular staff. Fortunately, we were helped along by our board, former staff, and Todd, all of whom helped us to make this transition period easier by answering (many) questions.

Ashley St Hilare joined HAT for 4 months as a Summer Intern. Her passion for the environment, ability to learn quickly, and her amazing people skills were a tremendous asset to our summer projects.

Laurie Parker delivers HAT's school programs and coordinates the Green Spots program as HAT's Education and Outreach Coordinator. She has a degree in Geography from the University of Victoria and is currently completing her Masters Degree in Environmental Education and Communication.

Adam Taylor joined HAT in January as the new Executive Director. Adam joins HAT after many years at the Goldstream Nature House.

Wendy Tyrrell is HAT's Acquisitions and Covenants Coordinator. Wendy has a B.Sc. in Ecology and Systematic Biology with an emphasis on Restoration Ecology. Wendy comes to us with experience in habitat restoration, covenants, and public outreach.

Todd Carnahan continues to lead HAT's land care and public outreach programs with great enthusiasm, in addition to providing graphic design, writing, and photography for HAT publications since 2004.

Staff Report





Staff Report

Volunteers

HAT would not function without the assistance and support of volunteers who contribute their energy, enthusiasm, knowledge, and many, many hours of their time to the organization. Of particular note:

Lyndis Davis comes into the office each week to prepare tax receipts and memberships;

Thora Illing has completely re-organized our library, and is working on organizing the covenants and acquisitions files;

Charlie LeRoss is our tech genius;

Darin Steinkey and Jordan Clarke design, lay out, edit and write articles for HAT Chat;

Andy MacKinnon, Dan Grant, Peter Trotzki, and Louise Goulet sit on the Land Committee. This committee set policies and evaluate potential acquisitions and covenants;

Glenn Harrington lends his experience in Communications to the Fundraising and Committee;

Andrew Harcombe, Bruce Pendergast, Jill Taylor, and Carmen Cadrin help guide HAT's stewardship programs; and

The *Board of Directors*, all of whom volunteer on Committees and help at events in addition to their Board responsibilities.

Thank you everyone for your time and commitment. We could not do our work without you.

Contractors

HAT also relies on the services of a number of contractors, who always contribute far more than expected of them. The following people have enhanced HAT's work with their experience and professionalism:

Michael Brinsmead of Far Hill Bookkeeping keeps HAT books in order;

Caslys Consulting Ltd. completed the Urban Forest Mapping Report for Greater Victoria;

Judith Cullington and Associates contributes to the *Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative*, providing facilitation and coordination;

Christian Engelstoft is a biologist who works closely with HAT staff on the Sharp-tailed Snake and Western Painted Turtle project;

Marion Grau assisted HAT with implementing our Fund Development Plan.

Jeremy Gye of Gye Group Urban Forestry Consultants contribute to the *Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative*, providing facilitation and coordination;

Glen Moores provides accounting services at year-end and for grant audits;

Kristiina Ovaska is a professional biologist who works closely with HAT on the Western Painted Turtle project;

RLC Enterprises Ltd. provides nature education in Goldstream Provincial Park.

Liam Sherriff conducted an independent evaluation of HAT's Knockan Hill Good Neighbours program; and

Jeff Skillen of Jet Dog Solutions has designed a database for the coordination of landowner contact data in the CRD and beyond.



HAT PROJECTS

HAT worked and completed a number of important projects in 2007-2008. From stewardship programs like the Knockan Hill Good Neighbours and the Sharp-tailed Snake Habitat Stewardship programs, to planting native plant gardens at KELSEY Elementary through the Green Spots program, HAT was active in the community. HAT also led the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative Mapping Project, which released an important mapping report showing significant changes in our region's urban forest over the past 20 years.

Knockan Hill Good Neighbours Project

From January to June 2008, HAT worked with local residents, the Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society, Royal Roads University, the District of Saanich, and the Town of View Royal to protect and restore the ecologically significant Garry oak ecosystems and Douglas fir forest of Knockan Hill Park in Victoria, British Columbia. Land trust staff coordinated a series of activities in the Knockan Hill Park community to raise awareness of local biodiversity, habitat values, park issues, and conservation strategies.

During the months of May and June 2008, HAT staff delivered postcards to 530 residential addresses in the Knockan Hill Park area. HAT spoke with over 150 landholders by telephone resulting in 97 residents accepting land care packages. Of those, 37 landholders opted for land care visits and received naturoscaping prescriptions for their property. HAT signed 25 Land Care Agreements with landowners and posted 21 permanent Habitat Steward signs on participating properties. The project attracted new community volunteers to assist the ongoing efforts of HAT and the Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society. The Knockan Hill Park Speaker Series and conservation activities with local cub scouts generated television and local newsletter coverage. Activities coordinated by the project included storm drain marking, a four-part Speaker Series, 40 hours of community volunteer weed removal, and development of a Park Management Plan by students at Royal Roads University.

Matson Conservation Area:

HAT owns and manages the Matson Conservation Area as a demonstration site for best management practices in urban natural areas. Swallows Landing is now almost fully occupied by new residents, and several of them have already adopted the Conservation Area as their own: the condo owners and many others from the adjacent neighbourhood contributed over 100 hours of invasive plant removal in 2008. Staff led several events this year including transplanting salvaged licorice fern, and appreciation events for our major donors and volunteers. Three interpretive panels will be installed on the walkway in 2009.

Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

HAT continued to deliver Species at Risk Outreach services for landowners in areas of known and suspected habitats of Sharp-tailed Snake. HSP funding also continued for the ongoing development, promotion, and management of HAT's Regional Landowner Contact Database. The program's scope expanded in 2008 to include outreach and research on the Western Painted Turtle. This program encouraged private landowners to protect habitat of these rare and endangered species. HAT partnered with the



Staff Report

provincial Recovery Teams to coordinate and review conservation strategies. Landowners received information packages, site visits, and management plans to ensure persistence of turtle and snake populations on private lands. Staff installed monitoring stations on suitable properties so that interested landowners could determine species presence. This project is recognized by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program as one of the most successful Species at Risk recovery programs in Western Canada, and a model for stewardship in other biodiverse regions.

Significant outcomes of this project in 2008 included three new occurrences of Western Painted Turtle that were discovered through responses to outreach and inventory of over 76 regional water bodies by staff and contractors (Christian Engelstoft, Kristiina Ovaska). Municipal partners have been engaged in planning for seasonal signage to warn motorists at key turtle crossing sites, and HAT has been approached by a developer to consult on turtle nesting habitat creation. HAT's outreach partnership with the Galiano Conservancy Association enabled them to submit a separate Species at Risk project application for 2009-10. Islands Trust Trustee Ken Hancock reported at a South Island Conservancies meeting that HAT's Species At Risk outreach on Pender Island influenced community opinion and acceptance of proposed Development Permit Areas to protect the remaining natural areas of the Pender Islands.



Green Spots

HAT was *Growing Minds in Outdoor Classrooms* with over 200 students at five schools in the Capital Regional District. With the students we explored natural areas, planted native species gardens, learned about local plants and animals, mulched trees, and removed invasive species.

We continued to work with schools from the 2005 program, helping teachers incorporate their outdoor classrooms and gardens into the curriculum.

New partnerships formed with Lochside Elementary, Royal Oak Middle School, Marigold Elementary and KELSET Elementary were positive ones.

- We worked with the EcoClub at Lochside in their courtyard garden and helped students from Grades 1-5 learn more about their school-yard ecosystem.
- Marigold Elementary undertook a mulching project and spent time learning in

the nearby Garry oak ecosystem, Knockan Hill Park.

- Royal Oak Middle School has been looking at ways to incorporate naturoscaping into their new school grounds to create learning opportunities. HAT has been consulting with them on design and curriculum.
- KELSET Elementary had six classes from Kindergarten to grade 5 plan and plant a naturoscape garden in their school-yard. It is the biggest naturoscape the Green Spots program has been involved with to date. HAT staff visited the school on several occasions to help them learn more about the value of native species.



Conservation Connection

The 2008 Conservation Connection Forum was held on September 19th at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre. The event was well attended, with 101 individuals present, representing 48 different organizations.

The forum was an all day event featuring panel led discussions, presentations and workshops covering topics such as the Conservation Framework, Fundraising for Sustainability, Climate Change, Volunteers, Eating Locally, and the BC Marine Community. Speakers included Dave Fraser, Andrew Harcombe, Naomi Devine, Guy Dauncey, Nikki Wright and Judith Cullington.

The Forum once again fulfilled its purpose of being a place where people have the opportunity to network with others working on similar community issues, where people learn from one another and forge new partnerships. This annual event has once again proven itself worthwhile.

The Conservation Connection website (www.conservationconnection.bc.ca) continues to be well used. Over 110 local conservation groups are registered on the site, and post events and requests for volunteers regularly.

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 schoolchildren. These sponsors have made these important educational programs available to schools free of charge again in 2008. See "HAT Fundraising" on page 13 for a list of these local businesses.



HAT ACQUISITIONS AND COVENANTS

Hat Acquisitions

There were no new HAT acquisition projects in 2007-08. However, new opportunities for potential acquisitions and donations continue to be evaluated by the Land Committee.

Hat Covenants

Conservation Covenants are a tool used to protect private and sometimes public lands. HAT currently holds 23 conservation covenants on over 1650 hectares of land. As a commitment to our conservation covenants, HAT implements an annual covenant monitoring program to ensure that the conservation values on each of its properties are maintained.

In 2007-08, HAT registered the Havenwood Park covenant with the City of Colwood, the City of Langford, and The Land Conservancy of BC. Havenwood Park is 16.5 hectares in size, and contains bedrock outcrops with Garry Oak/Arbutus ecosystems, five distinct wetlands and three tributaries of Latoria Creek. HAT also worked towards completing one additional covenant, and began negotiations with a new covenant proposal on Mayne Island.

In striving to put into practice policies and procedures that meet the Land Trust Alliance of BC Standards and Practices, HAT has been reviewing and updating its current policies relating to covenants and acquisitions.

HAT began working with GOERT on a Restoration and Monitoring Plan to restore Sharp-tailed snake habitat on the Camas Hill Property. In addition, HAT held a successful "Weed Wallup" event at Oak Haven Park in partnership with Central Saanich to clear laurel-leaved daphne and Scotch broom from sensitive areas in the Park.





HAT PARTNERSHIPS

An important part of HAT's work is building partnerships with other environmental organizations in the region. We do this through the Conservation Connection Forum and website, and also through participating in regional initiatives. In 2008, we participated in:

The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative:

The Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) was immensely pleased to complete the *Tree Cover and Impervious Surface in Greater Victoria Summary Mapping Report*.

The Mapping Report was prepared by Caslys Consulting using orthophotography and GIS software to compare changes in tree cover and impervious surfaces from Sooke to Sidney between 1986 and 2005. The report confirmed what most already knew; that Greater Victoria has lost a significant amount of tree cover. UFSI is continuing outreach to the public and municipalities with the report, and believes that it will help inform planning and tree management in the region. UFSI also hopes that the report will provide a baseline, so that future changes to our urban forest can be tracked.

The full report and an executive summary are available online at HAT's website www.hat.bc.ca. The CRD has also added the data to the Natural Areas Atlas, available online through the CRD's website, www.crd.bc.ca.





Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative

HAT is a member of the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative (ELSI), a collaboration between community and environmental groups, government agencies and First Nations working together to protect and improve the health of Esquimalt Lagoon and Coburg Peninsula. Todd Carnahan is assisting with the implementation of a management plan for the lagoon endorsed by the City of Colwood. The management plan lays out a clear direction for the development and protection of the Coburg Peninsula's unique values over the long term. ELSI and HAT provided critical feedback on two major development projects (800+ units) around the lagoon in 2007-08 including *Aquattro Estates* (Ridley Lands) and the *Pacific Family Services* properties. HAT also participated in the Colwood Official Community Plan review through ELSI.

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

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 prioritizing and achieving protection for 26 Garry oak sites located throughout the range of Garry oak habitat. HAT also supports GOERT's critical efforts by assisting with their fundraising. GOERT will use HAT's new Landowner Contact Database and HAT is now promoting GOERT's new Garry Oak Gardeners' Handbook.

Gorge Waterway Initiative

Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) is a new, community driven group of organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds by respecting the local cultural and environmental heritage, through community education, and advocacy with local governments. In 2007 HAT participated in the review of Esquimalt's Official Community Plan through GWI and helped to develop outreach strategies for GWI events. GWI's three goals are to: To encourage and promote education, stewardship, awareness programs on appropriate land and water uses; to serve as a hub for information sharing acting 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.

Sea to Sea Greenbelt Management Advisory Group

HAT is part of the Sea to Sea Greenbelt Management Advisory Group which has been formed to advise the CRD on the development of a Management Plan for its Sea to Sea parklands. Meetings have taken place throughout 2008, though unfortunately the release of the final management plan has been delayed until in 2009.



HAT FUNDRAISING

Events

While much of our fundraising focuses on grant applications, HAT also feels that fun community events are important for raising profile and attracting new members. During 2008, HAT decided not to host a Musical HATS or similar event until new staff and board members had an opportunity settle into their positions. However, HAT did host our second annual Donor Recognition Tea Party on September 13. After a tea and chat with board and donors at Spinnaker's Brew Pub, we went on a short walk to the Matson Conservation Area. Spinnaker's very generously donated hosting the event, including many fabulous treats.

Corporate Contributions

There were a number of new corporate funders in 2008. Telus (\$10,000) and Imperial Oil (\$5,000) supported the Green Spots program. Royal Bank (\$5,000) and BC Transmission Corporation (\$4,000) committed support to our 2009/2010 Good Neighbours Project. Bartlett Tree Services (\$8,000) provided the funding needed to complete the Urban Forest Mapping Report.

As well, HAT continued to benefit from strong support from Vancity (\$5,000), TD Friends of the Environment (\$3,500), and Shell Canada (\$5,000) for the Knockan Hill Good Neighbours project. As well, Mountain Equipment Co-op (\$7,000) highlighted HAT through its Victoria store with its Urban Sustainability program, which awarded us \$0.05 for every person who declined a bag.

Our partnership with staff at the Goldstream Nature House made the Goldstream Chums Program a great success. The 2008 *Goldstream Chums* are:

\$1,000 and up

Coast Capital
BC Hydro

Thrifty Foods

\$500 and up

Market on Millstream
Colwood Dental

Archipelago

Up to \$499

Griffith & Jones Trucking
D. Anton
Canem
Normand St. Cyr Excavating
Ltd.

Peninsula Bulldozing
Great Pacific Mortgage & Investment
D. McIntosh
Don Mann Excavating
JM Eventsonline.ca



Program Funding

Every year HAT commits itself to obtaining funding for its many worthwhile projects. Much of this funding comes from government and charitable foundations. Over the 2007/08 fiscal year HAT's projects were supported by the following organizations and programs:

General Support

- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Levelground Coffee (in-kind)

Good Neighbours Strategy Program

- BC Gaming Commission Direct Access Grant (\$46,000)
- BC Transmission Corporation (\$4,000)
- Royal Bank (\$5,000)

Good Neighbours Knockan Hill

- Vancity Savings Credit Union (\$5,000)
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (\$3,500)
- The District of Saanich (\$5,000)
- Shell Environment Fund (\$5,000)
- Town of View Royal (\$4,000)

Green Spots

- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - PromoScience (\$13,000)
- Victoria Foundation - Community Fund (\$8,000)
- Telus (\$10,000)
- Imperial Oil (\$5,000)

Good Neighbours Sharp-tailed Snake / Landowner Contact Database

- Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program (\$82,000)
- Alula Biological Consulting (\$12,000)
- CRD Parks (\$10,000)

Conservation Connection

- JW McConnell Family Foundation/ Victoria Foundation Environment Fund (\$4,500)
- Serious Coffee (in-kind)
- spud! (in-kind)
- PSC Natural Foods (in-kind)
- Rocky Mountain Muffin Company (in-kind)

Covenants

- McLean Foundation (\$4,000)
- Barraclough Foundation (\$2,500)
- Victoria Natural History Society (\$2,000)
- Horne Coupar Barristers and Solicitors (in-kind)

Urban Forest Mapping Project

- Real Estate Foundation of BC (\$10,000)
- Bartlett Tree Services (\$8,000)
- District of North Saanich (\$1,000)
- District of Central Saanich (\$1,000)
- District of Saanich (\$5,000)
- Judith Cullington and Associates (in-kind)
- Gye and Associates Ltd (in-kind)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (in-kind)
- CRD Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds Program (in-kind)
- Township of Esquimalt (\$2,500)

Private Donations

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

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





Staff Report

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

- Adriane Pollard, District of Saanich
- Andrew Harcombe, Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Bill Code
- Brenda Beckwith
- Bruce Whittington
- Carolyn MacDonald, District of Saanich
- Christina Waddle, TLC
- Christine Pritchard, Islands Trust Fund
- Claudia Copley, Royal BC Museum
- Dan MacKinnon, Victoria Foundation
- Darren Copley
- David Fraser, Ministry of Environment
- Gagan Leekha, Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
- Garry Fletcher
- Guy Dauncey
- Naomi Devine, University of Victoria
- Jane Buzza
- Jenny L. Feick, Ministry of Environment
- John Morton
- Juniper English, Ripple Design
- Lana Popham, Barking Dog Vineyard
- Level Ground Trading
- LifeCycles
- Lighthouse Brewing Company
- Lynne Milnes, University of Victoria
- Marg Rose, Victoria Foundation
- Mariko Bayley, Volunteer Victoria
- Matthew Kemshaw, LifeCycles
- Meagan MacDonald, Volunteer Victoria
- Michael Dunn
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Nature's Garden Seed Company
- Nikki Wright, SeaChange
- Planet Organic
- PSC Natural Foods
- Red Barn Market
- RLC Enterprize
- Rocky Mountain Muffin Company
- Ron Carter
- Russ Fuoco, District of Saanich
- Serious Coffee
- Silk Road Tea Company
- Special Teas Inc.
- Spinnaker's Brew Pub
- Steven Armstrong, artist
- Tara MacDonald, Volunteer Victoria
- Web bloom Design Inc

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