



“Connecting for Conservation in the Capital Region”

Interim Report

To

InVOLve BC

From:

Habitat Acquisition Trust

May 2001





Habitat Acquisition Trust's “Connecting for Conservation in the Capital Region” Project Interim Report

The purpose of the “Connecting for Conservation in the CRD” project is to facilitate co-operation and communication among the more than eighty volunteer organizations in the Capital Region working on environmental stewardship and conservation projects.

*A primary objective is to **minimize** duplication of effort and **maximize** productivity among these groups.*

This exciting project is really bringing about results. We are very pleased with the progress of the project this far and are already planning for future phases. Involve BC's support of this project has been invaluable and has allowed us to accomplish these activities in a timely and thorough manner.

Objectives and Deliverables

The objectives and deliverables of the project as outlined in our Contribution Agreement (CA# 08001280) are:

- 1) Hire a co-op student to assist with the development of an up-to-date, searchable database of conservation groups;
- 2) Install database on-line and provide hard copy version;
- 3) Deliver a two day networking forum for conservation groups, Spring 2001;
- 4) Interim Report and Project Financial Statement by May 9, 2001; and
- 5) Final Evaluation Report, copies of any material produced and final Financial Statement for the Project, by August 31, 2001.



Volunteers Cammy McKenzie and Lyndis Davis at the Connecting for Conservation Welcome Desk

Activities

- ◆ Tara Todesco, a student of the University of Victoria, was hired through the coop program to coordinate the project. She worked from January – April 2001.
- ◆ Tara began researching conservation and stewardship organizations in the Capital Region and collecting contact information.
- ◆ On January 26, 2001 a Planning Session was held at St. Ann's Academy in Victoria to seek input on the project and the on-line database from conservation/stewardship organizations. Seventy (70) organizations were invited to the Planning Session and fifteen (15) attended. Habitat Acquisition Trust asked their opinion on three major topics:
 - the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding among conservation/stewardship organizations in the region,
 - the plan for the forum, and
 - the development of the on-line searchable database.

The Planning Session participants indicated that they felt that the forum was the place to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding and that they were supportive of the on-line database/website but that it must be easy to use and professionally designed. They said that in addition to the website they would like a listserv established for ease of communication. They requested that the forum be kept to one day as it was too difficult to ask people to commit to an entire weekend. They suggested that the forum be closed to the public during the morning and open to the public in the afternoon and that roundtables be established to run throughout the day to facilitate discussion on topics of interest.

- ◆ HAT continued to collect information about conservation and stewardship groups in the region until April
- ◆ In February HAT put out an Invitation to Quote to three (3) website design companies. Two responded and WebWare Solutions was selected. Throughout March design meetings were held to ensure that the website would be easy to use and easily kept up to date.
- ◆ Throughout March HAT continued to collect information from organizations, and to plan the forum. HAT also began to establish a listserv of organizations
- ◆ On April 21, 2001 the "Connecting for Conservation" forum was held at the Crystal Garden. Sixty (60) groups attended all day, many with two or three volunteers, and

***"The number of groups that have fabulous resources to share is amazing. This conference allows that sharing to take place."*¹**

"We are beginning a study of the intertidal habitat of Sooke Harbour and Basin. Contact with VEHEAP has saved us from re-inventing a mapping system to present the results."

"We have made so many contacts, it is overwhelming. We have 4 proposals for funding assistance and 5 opportunities to start new partnerships. Attending today saved us years of work and couldn't have been accomplished any other way."

"Well organized – interesting and vital information at the roundtable workshops"

"Awesome- when can we do it again? I hope we do this every year!! I was so busy talking to people, networking and exchanging information that I had no time to attend any workshops."

¹ The quotes provided in this report are not referenced as they were provided on anonymous questionnaires.

more than one hundred and fifty (150+) members of the public came in during the afternoon. The event was held on the same day as the Walk for Global Justice and was considered one of the Earth Week events. Participation in the forum was free-of-charge for groups and the public.

- ◆ A questionnaire was distributed at the forum seeking feedback on the project
- ◆ At the April 21 forum MLA Steve Orcherton, representing Involve BC, helped us launch the on-line database/website during a noon ceremony. The website can be seen at:

www.conservationconnection.bc.ca

- ◆ On April 25 the listserv became active with more than one hundred (100) e-mail addresses included. Two listservs have been established through OneNorthwest in Seattle. One is a broadcast listserv for HAT to share information about the project and the network and the other is for discussions among the networking groups.

Activities Still to be Completed

- ◆ A summer student will be hired to continue the project through the Summer
- ◆ Follow-up is needed with organizations who have not yet entered their profiles on the website.
- ◆ Once complete the website needs to be printed and mailed to relevant organizations and agencies.
- ◆ The results of the questionnaires need to be compiled and acted on.
- ◆ Changes to the website may be made as needed.
- ◆ Further workshops will be organized as needed. HAT has been approached by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society to co-host a meeting in June for organizations interested in continuing the discussion of one the forum roundtables on "Creating a Conservation Vision for the Region"



More than 50 organizations and 150 members of the public attended the Connection for Conservation forum.

“Made lots of contact with harbour groups that we want to work together with on various harbour protection projects”

“Again, thanks for the event. We got lots of great enquiries, made invaluable contacts and helped us get a little more organized.”

“The forum was a tremendous success. Congratulations HAT! It was very well organized - sure hope it becomes an annual event. I only wish I could have been there longer but I had another meeting in the morning. I was able to connect with a number of interesting people though and found out a few key bits of info. I'm hoping you are going to provide the proceedings from the various sessions - maybe in the newsletter or on the website. I was particularly interested in the discussion about the Conservation Resource Centre - a wonderful idea!”

Other Voluntary/Community Organizations that have Benefited

* many organizations are still in the process of joining the website and listserv

Organization	Attended Forum	On Website	On Listserv
Association of Professional Biologists	✓		✓
Association for the Protection of Rural Central Saanich			✓
Association of Rural Communities	✓		
Assoc. Protection of Rural Metchosin	✓		
BC Federation of Flyfishers	✓		
BC Pathways	✓		✓
Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association			✓
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-BC Chapter	✓	✓	✓
Carmanah Forestry Society	✓	✓	✓
Citizens Association to Save the Environment			✓
Coalition of Langford Residents	✓		✓
Coastal Enterprise and Resource Centre	✓		
Colquitz Creek Watershed Steward Project			✓
Common Ground Community Mapping Project	✓	✓	✓
Cowichan Community Land Trust Society	✓	✓	✓
Cowichan Marine Ecology Station			✓
East Sooke Natural History Society	✓		
EcoNews	✓	✓	✓
EcoResearch Chair for Environmental Law and Policy			✓
Ecostery Foundation of North America	✓		✓
EcoTrust Canada			✓

Esquimalt Anglers Association			✓
Esquimalt Lagoon Enhancement Association (ELEA)	✓	✓	✓
FER Friends of Ecological Reserves	✓	✓	✓
Friends of Beacon Hill Park	✓		✓
Friends of Bowker Creek Society	✓	✓	✓
Friends of Brooks Point	✓		✓
Friends of Government House Gardens Society			✓
Friends of John Dean Park			✓
Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society	✓	✓	✓
Friends of Matson Lands	✓	✓	✓
Friends of Mount Douglas Park	✓	✓	✓
Friends of Tod Creek Watershed	✓	✓	✓
Galiano Conservancy Association	✓	✓	✓
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team		✓	✓
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society	✓	✓	✓
Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP)	✓	✓	✓
Gorge Waterway Action Society	✓		✓
Hagan Creek Kennes Watershed Project	✓		✓
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association	✓	✓	✓
Highlands Lake Stewardship (Friends of Fork Lake)		✓	
Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Association		✓	
Islands Trust Fund	✓	✓	✓
Langford Lake Area Protection Society	✓		✓
Land Trust Alliance of BC	✓	✓	✓

Mt Tolmie Conservancy Association		✓	✓
Mt. Matheson Conservation Society	✓	✓	
Mt. Work Area Coalition	✓		
Native Plants and Waterways			✓
Native Plant Society of BC			✓
Nature Conservancy of Canada		✓	✓
Nature Trust of BC			✓
Pacific Shorekeepers and Reefkeepers	✓		✓
Oaklands Greenways Project		✓	✓
Pender Island Conservancy			✓
Portage Inlet Salmon Society			✓
Portage Inlet Sanctuary Colquitz Estuary Society (PISCES)	✓	✓	
Quadra/Cedar Hill Community Association			✓
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	✓	✓	✓
Royal Canadian Navy Anglers			✓
Rural Association of East Sooke	✓		
Saanich Inlet Protection Society	✓	✓	✓
Saanich School District Classroom Incubation Project			✓
Salt Spring Island Conservancy		✓	✓
Save Saanich Peninsula Community Coalition			✓
SeaChange Marine Conservation Society	✓	✓	✓
Sidney Anglers Association			✓
Sierra Club of British Columbia	✓	✓	✓

Society for Conservation Biology			✓
Society for the Protection of Ayum Creek (SPAC)	✓	✓	✓
Sooke Watershed Association	✓		
South Island Aquatic Stewardship Society	✓		✓
Streamkeepers Program	✓		✓
Stream Team Society	✓	✓	✓
Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association			✓
TLC The Land Conservancy of British Columbia	✓	✓	✓
Tsawout Nation			✓
Vancouver Island Earth Works Society (VIEWS)		✓	✓
Vancouver Island Wildlife Rehabilitation Association	✓	✓	✓
Victoria Fish and Game Protection Association	✓		✓
Victoria Golden Rods and Reels Society			✓
Victoria Natural History Society	✓		✓
Victoria Natural History Society Green Spaces Project	✓	✓	✓
Western Canada Wilderness Committee			✓
Willis Point Community Association	✓	✓	✓
Wsiken and Ten Ten Creek Project	✓		✓

"I finally got a moment to check out your new website -it's fantastic!! It's graphics are clean and visually appealing and it's full of great info! When will this be public? There are some folks I'd like to send this to!"

(www.conservationconnection.bc.ca)

Cash Flow Statement

Cash Received For Project:	Amount and Type
Involve BC	\$10,400 Cash
EJLB Foundation	\$5,000 Cash
UVic Coop Program	\$2,000 Cash
Human Resources Development Canada	\$4,198 Cash
Bagel Street Café	\$56.50 in kind
Cairo Coffee	\$55.60 in kind
PSC Natural Foods	\$25.00 in kind
Water Pure and Simple	\$50.00 in kind
Thrifty's	\$100.00 in kind
Habitat Acquisition Trust	\$5,341.40 in kind
Provincial Capital Commission	\$1,025.00 in kind

Cash Dispersed for Project			
Items	In-kind	Cash	Source
Human Resources			
Coop Student Salary (37.5 hrs/wk for 16 weeks at \$14hr +11% benefits)		\$ 9,340	\$6,400 InVOLve BC \$2,000 UVic Coop Program \$940 EJLB Foundation
Summer Student Salary (35 hrs/wk for 14 weeks at \$10/hr + 11% benefits)		\$5,439	\$4,198 HRDC \$1,241 EJLB Foundation
Contract Computer Programmer		\$ 2,675	\$2,000 InVOLve BC \$675 EJLB Foundation
Contract computer consultants to demonstrate website/provide equipment		\$160.50	InVOLve BC
HAT Executive Director -planning session and event	\$350		Habitat Acquisition Trust
HAT Executive Director –general and financial management of project	\$525		Habitat Acquisition Trust
HAT Coordinator of Programs - planning session and event	\$266.40		Habitat Acquisition Trust
Volunteer Assistants for event (30 people -10hrs each at \$10 hr)	\$ 3,000		Habitat Acquisition Trust
Volunteer Project Assistant 1 person -100hrs each at \$10 hr)	\$ 1,000		Habitat Acquisition Trust
Volunteer Website Assistant (1 person @ 10 hours at \$20 hr)	\$ 200		Habitat Acquisition Trust
Specific Administrative Costs			
Postage		\$ 400*	InVOLve BC

Supplies for mail out (paper, envelopes)		\$ 160*	InVOLve BC
Event Costs			
January 2000 Facility Rental	\$ 200		Provincial Capital Commission
May 2001 Facility Rental	\$ 825		Provincial Capital Commission
Food	\$287.10	\$521	Bagel Street Café \$56.50 inkind Cairo Coffee \$55.60 inkind PSC Natural Foods \$25 inkind Water Pure and Simple \$50 inkind Thrifty's \$100 inkind \$521 EJLB Foundation
Event Advertising		\$379.40	InVOLve BC
Flowers for Coop Student		\$28.50	EJLB Foundation
Database Hard Copy Development-			
printing and materials (40 copies -300 pages in 3 ring binder)		\$ 900*	InVOLve BC
Office Equipment Use (photocopier, computers, printer, desk, chair, etc..)		\$ 1,100	EJLB Foundation
Office Materials		\$ 400	EJLB Foundation
Listservs			
Donation to ONE/Northwest for hosting the listservs		\$100	EJLB Foundation
Total Project Revenue	\$ 6,653.50	\$21,603.40	

Cash Surplus/Deficit

- ◆ Printing and mailing of website data to agencies to occur over the next few months once the website is more complete -\$400 postage, \$900 printing and materials, \$160 supplies



This roundtable at the forum on developing a "Conservation Centre" for the region generated great ideas. People were encouraged to drop in and out of the four roundtables throughout the day.