



COMOX VALLEY
LAND TRUST

President's message



As we approach the holiday season, we recognize how much we have to be grateful for this year. 2020 has been no walk in the park, but it was the year when we close to doubled the amount of land we now protect. In our first 20 years (1999-2019), there were close to 150 hectares protected by CVLT. This year, that number grew to 276 hectares (see chart below). This is thanks to the hard work that went into protecting [Perseverance Creek](#) in Cumberland, where CVLT is the primary covenant holder.

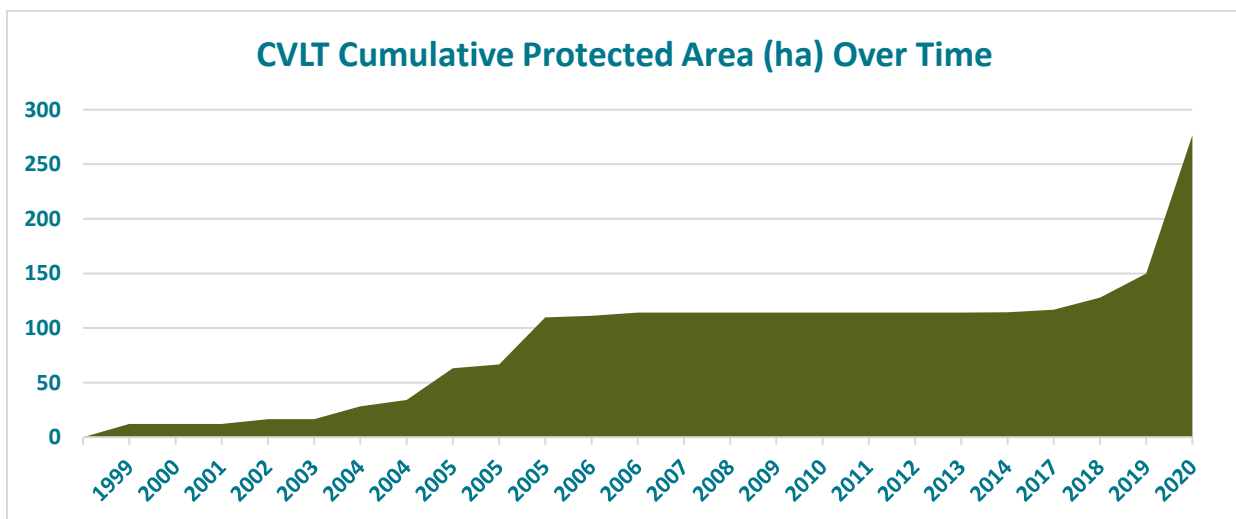
Our annual general meeting was a quiet affair this year, conducted online via Zoom. Thank you to those who attended. You can read our annual report [here](#). We were pleased to welcome and confirm two new board

members at the meeting: Janet Gemmell who is well known in our community for her work with the Morrison Creek Streamkeepers; and Jill Lunde, a newcomer to the Comox Valley who has a background in communications.

The clock is ticking down on 2020 and I hope you are preparing for the new year with one of our beautiful [2021 Comox Valley Conservation Partnership calendars](#). As we near the end of the year, many of us are also giving thought to our annual charitable contributions. December 31 is the deadline for 2020 tax deductible donations. I hope you will consider [supporting CVLT](#). Your generosity enables us to continue to protect the natural wealth of the Comox Valley.

Yours in conservation,

Pieter Rutgers, CVLT President



Project Perseverance: More ecologically sensitive land protected forever

It was an aptly named project! After much to-ing and fro-ing, the #1-ranked priority site for conservation in the Comox Valley is now protected forever. Congratulations to our partners at the [Cumberland Community Forest Society](#) who worked hard to negotiate the acquisition of over 90 hectares of riparian and upland forest on either side of Perseverance Creek for conservation purposes.

A big thank you to our members and others who donated funds for the site's conservation covenant. It was a hard ask during this unusual year, but, as always, you stepped forward and demonstrated your commitment to protecting our vulnerable ecosystems.



Remembering Father Charles Brandt and his legacy



Photo credit: Grant Callegari

We were saddened to learn of Father Charles' death in late October at the age of 97. He leaves an important legacy as a spiritual and environmental leader. Father Charles bequeathed his 11-hectare property to the Comox Valley Regional District and it will soon become parkland with a conservation covenant managed by CVLT. Father Charles' actions will safeguard the mature forest and riparian areas on his property in perpetuity and serves as a strong example for others. In due time, the land will become one of our public sites that we can visit and where we can experience the sacredness of nature.

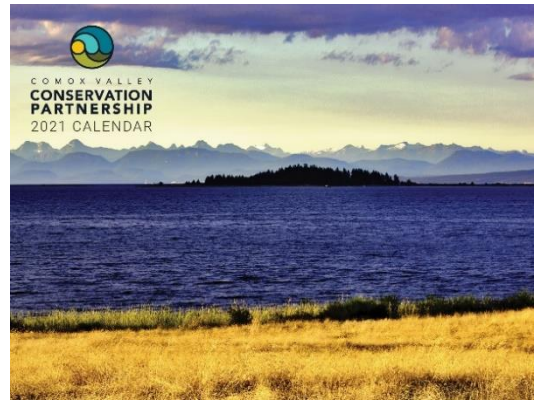
It was CVLT's honour to nominate Father Charles for one of the Canadian Museum of Nature's Nature Inspiration Awards earlier this year. We were thrilled to learn in September that he was selected for its [2020 Lifetime Achievement Award](#). Reacting to the news, he wrote CVLT Executive Director Tim Ennis, "With [cultural historian] Thomas Berry I can only say that the human community and the natural world must go into the future as a single sacred community. This is a step in that direction. Thank you."

2021 CVCP calendars now on sale

There is probably no one who will be sad to say goodbye to 2020. Start planning for the new year: 2021 Comox Valley Conservation Partnership calendars are on sale now at retail locations in Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland.

The calendar showcases photographs of local wildlife and the Valley's most iconic natural areas. Each month profiles one of the stewardship groups working in the region to protect and restore our watersheds and natural areas.

"The Comox Valley Land Trust publishes the calendar annually to support the activities of the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership program," said Tim Ennis, CVLT executive director. "The funds raised help the program carry out education and promote conservation issues such as the protection and restoration of the Valley's watersheds and the last remaining sensitive ecosystems in the region."



For the first time, calendars can be ordered by [email](#) and then mailed to you via Canada Post. The cost is \$20/calendar; bulk discounts are also available. Check [here](#) for other places to purchase your 2021 CVCP calendar.

Turn your bottle returns into conservation goals

Interested in a simple way to support CVLT? When you return your empties at Courtenay and Comox Return-It centres, you can ask that your refund credits CVLT's account. Inform the clerk of your wish to donate prior to handing over your bottles. CVLT's account number at the Courtenay Return-It is 565. It is 352 at the Comox Return-It. Your receipt will show your donation as well as the total amount currently in the CVLT account.



The Comox Valley Land Trust is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that works to protect, conserve, and restore the ecologically significant land, waters, and wildlife habitat of the Comox Valley region.

We are members of the Land Trust Alliance of BC and adhere to the Canadian Land Trust's standards and practices. Since our creation in 1999, we have been certified by the Province of British Columbia to hold conservation covenants.

We are a registered charitable organization; registration number 872590278 RR 0001.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today.

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