



COMOX VALLEY
LAND TRUST

President's message

With the coming of spring and the anticipation of vaccines, there is a sense of optimism in the air. I would like to thank our members and donors for your generosity during these unprecedented times. Our community has risen to many challenges during COVID-19 and your support has exceeded our expectations and allowed us to continue with our conservation work uninterrupted.



Earlier this year, Comox Valley Land Trust received its largest single donation in its history. An anonymous supporter donated \$166,000 to be directed towards covenant monitoring and our plans to secure more land in the Morrison Headwaters. This incredibly generous gift is enormously appreciated and means we will enter our new fiscal year in a strong financial position.

Like many others, I am making sure to get out and enjoy all the wonderful trails and parks the Comox Valley has to offer. It has been a great comfort during the pandemic to live in a place where there are so many opportunities to enjoy nature. The next time you are planning a walk in the woods, I encourage you to consider visiting (or revisiting) one of the [public parks protected by a CVLT conservation covenant](#). It will be a great reminder of what you are safeguarding when you support us.

Yours in conservation,

Pieter Rutgers, CVLT President

Comox Valley Natural Climate Solutions Fund

The Comox Valley Land Trust has launched a new initiative: the [Comox Valley Natural Climate Solutions Fund](#). Natural climate solutions are a way to counteract global warming. Conservation, restoration, and management of forests, grasslands, and wetlands can deliver up to a third of the global emission reductions needed by 2030.

Carbon sequestering is key to natural climate solutions. The most effective carbon sequestering happens when trees grow to maturity and remain as protected forests capturing and storing carbon for hundreds of years. Through conservation covenants and land purchases, CVLT is protecting hundreds of acres of mature forests in perpetuity. We also care for ecologically sensitive wetlands, which store carbon in their soil and biomass.



CVLT board member David Stapley is a Comox Valley Natural Climate Solutions Fund donor.

“Protecting our natural areas is the most important thing we can do to mitigate climate change,” said David. “Whether you’re looking to offset your personal greenhouse gas emissions generated by driving or heating your home, or if your motivation is to protect our planet, this fund is a great choice.”

Contributions to the fund support the purchase and protection of local natural areas and programs promoting natural climate solutions right here in our own backyard.

[Please donate now.](#)

Return of the Coho

Perseverance Creek and the Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve, the two most recent additions to the Comox Valley Land Trust’s conservation sites, had encouraging returns of coho in their creeks this past fall.

No formal spawner survey for coho was undertaken by Morrison Creek Streamkeepers, but during creek walks from mid-October through to the end of November, coho were continuously spotted from Puntledge Park, where Morrison Creek joins the Puntledge River, to the middle of the Headwaters, midway between Maple Lake and Lake Trail Road. Coho also ventured up Morrison Creek tributaries Arden Creek, First Supply Creek, Nellie Creek and Cougar Run Creek. The Streamkeepers’ conservative estimate for the Morrison Creek watershed is in the low



thousands. Pink, chinook and chum salmon also return to Morrison Creek. The Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve is a great place to view these handsome salmon in their red spawning colours.

Less numerous, but no less exciting, was the coho return in Perseverance Creek. Heavy torrents have increased over the years in Perseverance Creek, depositing deep gravel beds in the lower watershed. Fluctuating lake levels cause low summer flows to sink below the gravel creek bed, stranding small schools of coho fry in drying pools. The Perseverance Streamkeepers keep a diligent eye on where the creek is drying and move fish to the lower, wetted areas of the creek. Their efforts were rewarded. Sixty-five live returning adult coho and three carcasses were counted during fall surveys, the highest observed return in many years, a testament to the resilience of salmon and the dedication of the Perseverance Creek Streamkeepers. Cutthroat and rainbow trout have also made appearances in the creek. More solutions to keep the salmon coming are possible!

Air, ocean, rivers, streams, land, people: the Comox Valley Land Trust's work of conserving natural lands connects to life beyond the boundaries shown on a map.

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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