



President's message

There is a tremendous amount of work going on “behind the scenes” at the Comox Valley Land Trust lately, some of which I am unable to share—yet! Let’s just say there is exciting news coming and I look forward to telling you more. But, as you will see from the other stories in this issue, we are hard at work putting measures into place to protect environmentally sensitive land in our beautiful valley.

With spring now upon us, we are also coordinating several members’ walks. These will rollout starting in April and run throughout the summer and even into the fall with salmon spawning in Morrison Creek. While we’re still working out the details, we hope to have a birding tour of qax mot led by a MARS representative, a walk (or two) in the woods to identify medicinal plants, and a nocturnal bat tour led by our own executive director, Tim Ennis. Stay tuned for details about these walks that will be offered exclusively to members.



Yours in conservation,

Pieter Rutgers, CVLT President

First annual CVLT photo contest



We recently launched our first annual photo contest, and we would love to see submissions from you.

Send us your captivating images of the natural world and you could be eligible to win one of three great prizes. Winning photos will be shared in the Comox Valley Record.

First Prize: \$750 gift card from [London Drugs](#)

Second Prize: Four alpine lift tickets and four days of equipment rentals from [Mount Washington Alpine Resort](#) (value of \$668; valid for the 2022-2023 season)

Third Prize: four-hour rental of two tandem kayaks from [Comox Valley Kayaks](#) (value of \$132)



We respectfully acknowledge that the land we gather on is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

All entries must be received by 11:59:59 pm on April 30, 2022. For the complete rules and an official entry submission form, visit our [website](#).

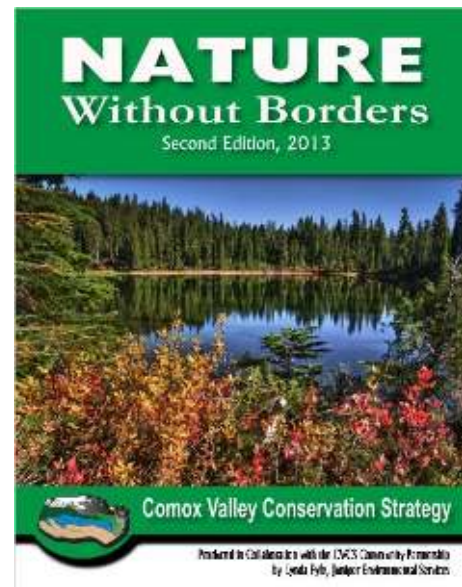
Spread the word and encourage your shutterbug friends to take part.

Updating Nature Without Borders

We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with five UBC graduate students this summer to review and revise Nature Without Borders and to assess its implementation success since it was endorsed in 2013 by all four local Comox Valley governments.

“We were very fortunate to be selected by UBC’s Sustainability Scholars program for this opportunity,” said CVLT Executive Director Tim Ennis. “The students will be from different academic disciplines. They will revisit the Nature Without Borders report and work to update and improve it.”

Nature Without Borders was originally produced in 2008 and updated in 2013. It quickly became an important resource for local government policy development such as the regional growth strategy, official community plans, and parks and trails planning. The updated report is expected to be similarly influential.



Our history

CVLT has been around for over 20 years but, until recently, we didn’t have a lot of information about our origins on our website. That changed in March with the addition of a [history page](#) penned by our president, Piet Rutgers. Learn about our founding years (and the special debt of gratitude we owe to Diana Caldwell and Shirley Ward), our early land protection work, the creation of a regional conservation strategy, and much more.

Watch for our history page to grow as our accomplishments add up.



Welcome Françoise Gervais



We are pleased to welcome Françoise Gervais as the new Comox Valley Conservation Partnership program coordinator.

Originally from Quebec, Françoise made the move to Cumberland in 2011 and fell in love with the valley. She is a self-taught wildlife and landscape photographer with a master's degree in land use planning. She spent the first years of her career creating nature reserves. The spirit of adventure then led her to study one of the most unexplored places on Earth: the deep sea. She participated in numerous oceanographic expeditions, where she studied hydrothermal vents, submarine canyons and deep-sea species. Shortly thereafter Françoise went to the polar regions to work as an expedition guide. Since then she has dedicated her career to creating a deeper connection with nature and building a bridge between it and the people she guided.

From diving under icebergs while filming polar bears and narwhals to assisting scientists in the field, Françoise's expertise and experience is unique and we are confident that CVCP will benefit greatly from her contributions.

Welcome Lesley Giroday

We are also pleased to welcome Lesley Giroday as a new director of the CVLT board.

A retired lawyer, Lesley moved to the Comox Valley in September 2020 to take advantage of the area's abundant outdoor spaces and activities. She has a strong interest in community conservation work. She started the Elk Valley Conservation Society in Fernie, worked for the East Kootenay Environmental Society, negotiated the East Kootenay CORE land use plan, sat on the board of the BC-Yukon chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, served on the first coordinating committee of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, and is a director of the East Kootenay environmental organization Wildsight.

Lesley is a member of our Land Protection Committee, and her expertise will be applied there as well as in other areas of interest.



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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