



## President's message

Exciting news! For those who haven't already heard, we are working towards the protection of three ecologically important properties in the Puntledge River watershed. We have been granted \$3.5 million from Environment and Climate Change Canada and are now hard at work to secure matching funds.

The proposed purchases will protect critical habitat and environmentally sensitive areas at risk from logging. In two of the locations, the plan is to purchase land and protect it with conservation covenants. The third project is unique in that it involves buying the timber reservation on land that BC Hydro owns.



The three sites include over 1,000 acres of the most critical and sensitive habitat in the Comox Valley including mature forests, wetlands, and riparian areas.

More information on each of the sites is included below.

The federal funding must be matched, and funds must be raised by January 31, 2023. We've got our work cut out for us and appreciate you supporting our goals any way you can.

Yours in conservation,  
Pieter Rutgers, CVLT President

## Morrison Creek Headwaters

This is a project we've been itching to get going on for several years.



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.

Morrison Creek is spring fed year-round with cool water that enables it to sustain the most productive salmon stream of its size anywhere on southeastern Vancouver Island. In 2019, CVLT and the Comox Valley Regional District bought a 22-hectare parcel of the area's headwaters in what is now known as qax mot Conservation Area. The opportunity now is to buy an additional 289 hectares (714 acres) in the headwaters. The expansive, undeveloped wilderness oasis nestled between the Village of Cumberland and the City of Courtenay provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife including keystone species such as wide-ranging carnivores and robust runs of salmon and is the only home on Earth to the endangered Morrison Creek Lamprey.



In addition to the federal funding, CVLT has already raised close to \$200,000 towards its purchase and is currently reaching out to past and potential funders and donors. We have set an ambitious target of another \$200,000 in community support and appreciate anyone who can assist us in reaching this goal.

**INVEST IN NATURE TODAY**  
**[Click here to donate](#)**

## **A unique opportunity and a CVLT first: Purchasing a timber reservation**

The Puntledge Forest is a 100-hectare (247-acre) area running along both sides of the Puntledge River on land owned by BC Hydro that is currently managed as a public recreation area. It connects the Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve to Nymph Falls Nature Park. Comox Timber Limited, a subsidiary of Manulife Investment Management Timberland and Agriculture Inc., owns the trees on this property by way of a timber reservation.



The area includes a 120-year-old second growth forest and is an example of a biologically rich, naturally regenerated forest. The site also includes habitat for the endangered Puntledge River summer Chinook.

Comox Timber Limited gave notice in 2020 of its intention to harvest the site but has deferred this temporarily while CVLT works to raise the funds to purchase the timber reservation.

We are in talks with BC Hydro and the provincial government in the hopes that they will appreciate the unique opportunity this presents for land preservation.

## **Lower Perseverance Creek**



Thanks to our friends at Cumberland Community Forest Society (CCFS), this project is already a slam dunk!

CCFS has been raising funds to buy parts of the Cumberland Community Forest for many years. The Lower Perseverance Creek's 17.5 hectares (43 acres) are its latest priority. The area forms part of an ecological corridor that links Perseverance Creek to Comox Lake. The lower reaches of the creek have been identified as vital for habitat restoration. It serves as a home to bears, cougars, bats, and salmon.

The federal grant will be matched by donations pledged to CCFS.

These projects are being undertaken with the financial support of:

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



## Triple your donation!



During the month of July, the Stiefvater Charitable Foundation will be matching donations made to CVLT's [Land Securement Fund](#). This is a great way to make your donation to CVLT go even further to preserving environmentally significant sites.

Lucas Stiefvater is a CVLT donor. He came to Canada 50 years ago and is marking this special anniversary by giving back to our community. If you would like to effectively triple your donation (donations are also matched by the federal funding), please [visit this page](#) and in the optional box called "Write a private message to us" include "In honour of Lucas."

Thank you for your gift and a big thank you also to Lucas for his generosity.

## Members' walks

Thank you to everyone who attended one or more of our walks over the past couple of months. In April, people joined us for a walk in the Puntledge Forest. This was a great opportunity to become familiar with the site that we are currently endeavouring to protect.

In May we welcomed people for a bird walk through the lush headwaters of Morrison Creek—our other conservation priority. James MacKenzie from MARS Wildlife Rescue joined us for this walk to point out some of the many birds that make the headwaters home. Some walkers were even lucky enough to see the elusive and endangered Morrison Creek lamprey, which is found nowhere else in the world.

In early July we partnered with Cumberland Community Forest Society to visit the newly protected area in Lower Perseverance Creek.

Over the coming months, we hope to offer more walks including one on the medicinal plants that can be found in the Morrison Creek headwaters. Come the fall, we're already looking forward to the Coho spawning on Morrison Creek and hope to have you join us for a walk there.



*CVLT director David Stapley is one of our walk leaders.  
Photo: Rick Helmer.*

## First annual CVLT photo contest

We are pleased to announce that we have a winner; actually three!

Our judges were inspired by the many entries to our first annual photo contest, saying they felt motivated to capture more images of our beautiful valley. It was difficult for them to choose only three from their long list of favourites!



After much deliberation, our top choice featured a male red-winged blackbird, photographed by James Mackenzie. Our judges were captivated by all there was to see in this image. As one of them said, "I can almost hear the bird's song in the misty breath spiralling out of the bird's mouth." The snowflakes are another detail that makes this image unique. This species of blackbird is one of the first migratory birds in spring, and the snowflakes are a reminder of the early spring season. Red-winged blackbirds depend on wetlands, which are an important conservation feature in the Comox Valley.



Second prize went to Jarret Lindal for his photograph of a misty forest canopy. This image stood out for the angle of the light illuminating the fog and the drops of moisture on the trees. This photo is an iconic representation of B.C.'s coastal rainforest.

Third prize was awarded to Bruce Moffat for his technically excellent

portrayal of a merganser cruising across Maple Lake. This image stood out for the placement of the subject in front of a patch of mist, and for the reflection of the bird in the lake.

We give thanks to our contest sponsors: [London Drugs](#), [Mount Washington Alpine Resort](#), and [Comox Valley Kayaks](#). Each contest winner was thrilled with their prize! We're also grateful to judges [Scott Bell](#), [Jenn Dykstra](#) and [Tim Ennis](#).



Several our members and donors entered the contest; thank you for your interest. We're already looking forward to next year and hope that you will spend the coming months taking great photos to submit.

## Will power! Consider leaving a legacy to CVLT

There are many ways you can support Comox Valley Land Trust including leaving a legacy in your will. When you leave a charitable bequest to us, your commitment to conserving ecologically significant land and wildlife habitat lives on forever. Such gifts are simple and effective ways to protect the Comox Valley's important natural areas for future generations.

Your gift will help us purchase additional critical habitat and protect species at risk. It will make more conservation covenants possible, protecting environmentally sensitive land in perpetuity. Protected lands also capture and store carbon, reducing future climate change.

We have created a [legacy giving page on our website](#) if you would like to know more. The decision to leave a bequest is not made lightly. We encourage you to [contact us](#) to discuss your wishes in depth so we can be sure your vision can be realized.



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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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