

## President's message

I'm pleased to share that we are making great headway on projects for which we have received \$3.5 million in federal funding that we must match by January 31, 2023.

CVLT's top priority is acquiring an additional 289 hectares (714 acres) in Morrison Creek Headwaters. The Comox Valley community has rallied behind our request for donations and we have already raised over \$80,000 of our community campaign target. We have also received pledges totalling \$400,000 from multiple foundations.



An exciting update is BC Parks Foundation's involvement. We are part of its recently launched 25x25 campaign to protect 25 environmentally significant sites by 2025. Through this campaign, we are closer than ever to securing and protecting the Headwaters.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the Cumberland Community Forest Society. It has been our pleasure to collaborate with CCFS on several projects and we were able to provide matching federal funding to the group to support its recent acquisition of 17.5 hectares in the Lower Perseverance Corridor. CVLT is a covenant holder on the lands CCFS purchases and we look forward to monitoring activities and ensuring conservation commitments are honoured.

We continue to work at finding the funds to purchase the timber rights to 100 hectares in Puntledge Forest with ongoing discussions about potential donors. Notice was given in 2020 that the forest was going to be logged. The community has been rallying to save it ever since. Manulife, which owns the timber rights, has deferred harvesting the site while CVLT works to raise the funds to purchase the timber reservation.

Yours in conservation, Pieter Rutgers, CVLT President

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These projects are being undertaken with the financial support of: Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:



Environment and

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### Comox Valley community answers our call to action

In July we challenged you to contribute to our Land Securement Fund as donations up to \$25,000 that month were being matched by the Stiefvater Charitable Foundation. A huge thank you to everyone who took up the challenge: we raised \$44,050 in addition to the incredible \$25,000 donated by Lucas Stiefvater. We are putting this money towards our campaign to purchase additional land in the Morrison Creek Headwaters.

Lucas came to Canada 50 years ago and marked this special anniversary by giving back. He matched contributions in July to both CVLT and the Comox Valley Food Bank.

Thank you, Lucas, for recognizing the amazing privileges so many of us have had by living and prospering in this country and for acknowledging that our natural sites need protecting if future generations are to thrive.

## Mark the new year with a CVCP 2023 calendar



CVLT's 12th annual Comox Valley Conservation Partnership calendar is now available on store shelves. This year's calendar features beautiful images taken throughout the Comox Valley including several that were contributed to our photo contest. Each month also includes information about local stewardship groups working to protect the natural beauty and biodiversity of this valley we call home.

The calendars sell for \$20 each and make great gifts. They are available at a variety of retail stores, or you can order directly and

receive by mail by contacting CVLT director David Stapley at calendar@cvlandtrust.ca.

#### Members' walks

It's been a busy summer coordinating walks primarily in the gax mot Conservation Area as well as Lower Perseverance Creek and we have a couple more opportunities before the winter weather sets in.

Coming up on October 8 we are hosting a forest bathing walk with former CVLT director Chanchal Cabrera. (There may still be space on this walk; click here to register.) On November 5 we hope to catch sight of salmon spawning in



Morrison Creek. Details on these walks are sent initially to members and donors, who get first crack at registration. Remaining spaces are opened to the public a few days later.

We hope you can join us.

## **Nature Without Borders updated**

The way municipalities plan, develop, and govern their communities and watersheds has long-term impacts on the sustainability and health of a region. To help guide decisions made in the Comox Valley, the CVCP has updated Nature Without Borders. The third edition of the document will support our local governments in their work.

The new edition was informed by the work of four graduate students thanks to incredible support from UBC's Sustainability Scholars Program. These PhD candidates spent their summer term helping us advance the scientific analysis used in Nature Without Borders. Their work was generously assisted by a sponsorship from First Credit Union.

Read more on First Credit Union's blog.



CV Land Trust Executive Director Tim Ennis, CV Conservation Partnership Coordinator Françoise Gervais, and First Credit Union representatives Chris Higgins and Alana McIntyre celebrate the sponsorship of Nature Without Borders.

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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