

WHO WE ARE

Established as a non-profit organization in August, 2008, we became a registered Charity in the spring 2010.

We have a board of six directors:

Rob Southcott - President
Ted Crossley - Vice-President
Gord Kennedy - Treasurer
Lesley Thorsell - Secretary
Rachel LeBlanc - Director
Justin Frazer - Director

We have two staff members on contract:

Janet Southcott - Executive Director
Kelly Chapman, Ecologist

We have four committees:

Membership
Fundraising
Public Engagement
Land

MISSION

Protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands in our region through the use of conservation covenants, land acquisition and education.

VISION

People living within a healthy diverse region where respect for the natural world is paramount.

Monitor Training

Early December, members of Malaspina Land Conservancy Society took the short ferry ride across to Texada Island to monitor 250 acres of conserved land.

It was a training day, when the skills of managing a conservation covenant were passed along to three members of our MLCS board.

It was also the sunniest, driest day we have experienced on this beautiful property, that sits on the north west coast of the island.

Monitoring a covenant takes place once a year and involves following a map and taking photographs from the same spot each visit. This allows comparisons to be made over time. The landowner is asked a series of questions and a report is created. The Land Conservancy (TLC) owns the covenant over this land and MLCS volunteers its time to do the monitoring.

As MLCS takes on more covenants, it is good to increase the number of covenant monitors. These skills will be put to use often.

This year, MLCS members will be brushing up their monitoring skills on the Fernwood Avenue and Centennial Road property covenants.



An entrepreneurial beaver, who makes his home on conserved land on the west coast of Texada Island, has built such a large dam, the water level is at least four feet above the road. Over the past year, the lake has stretched its borders on this wetland area.

Second Covenant Comes to MLCS

Our second covenant has been registered, this one on property adjacent to Centennial Road.

This is the last portion of what was Martin Rossander's Estate. The property changed hands in September 2016 and includes a five-acre treed area with maples, Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar.

In January, MLCS board members walked the neighbourhood, meeting

people who own properties bordering the forest. We told them about the covenant, and gave them information about what a conservation covenant means and how it affects the area.

When Martin died, back in August 2012, he left three parcels of land. His one-acre property on Fernwood Avenue sold two years ago and has its covenant in place. The second

Seen on Site



[top left] C marks the spot, showing the covenant line on property. [bottom left] The Pacific sideband snail was blue-listed but has recovered its status to no longer being at risk of extinction. [top] The beautiful remote north west coast of Texada Island.

Estate Clearing

continued from page 1...

is the Centennial Road property. The third is 17 acres bordering Dixon Road south of town. Powell River Regional District received this forested parcel and have preserved it as parkland.

Transferring all three parcels was a lot of work for the estate's executor. Now it is all finished, the community can enjoy the Martin Rossander legacy of nature that will be preserved in place for generations to come.

Although each parcel is privately owned, living close to these areas has its benefits.

A natural, conserved area can increase residential values in the neighbourhood. People seem to like living next to forests. Forests provide shelter from extreme weather, the trees purify the air, a living forest draws storm water into its roots, and birds and small animals can be watched and enjoyed.

Conservation Strategy Proposal

You may have noticed something has changed about Malaspina Land Conservancy Society. We have matured. We now have volunteer staff as well as a volunteer board. This reorganization allows us to seek funding opportunities to enhance recognition of MLCS and improve the work that we do.

One such opportunity became a grant application to the BC Real Estate Foundation to create a Conservation Strategy for the Powell River region. This lofty idea would draw together all the sustainability, research and planning work done so far in this area and identify what is missing.

Our area has been missing good, biological research data. That's something we are helping to improve with our involvement in the study on Page 3. But it goes deeper than that. Without knowing what we have here within our region, how can we protect it? And how can our community of humans live with the same quality of life we are accustomed to without harming our natural world neighbours?

When funded, this collaborative project will help fill in those gaps while educating our community on stewardship practices that will serve us for many generations to come.

Storytime: an Enjoyable Way to Learn

While we all have stories, do we have stories about conservation? Give it some thought; perhaps you do. We are searching for stories to add to our website, malaspinaland.ca. We have a few to share, and we have posted them there. Stories help to draw in the audience, set the scene, depict a picture and leave a memory. Stories are incredibly useful for explaining why Malaspina Land Conservancy Society exists. So, read our stories and then share your own. Together we will build a story library.

Finding Species at Risk

We have joined forces with a group of biologists from the Lower Mainland to look more closely at our Coastal Douglas-Fir ecosystem here in the Powell River region.

Powell River is situated along a narrow band of forest zone. This forest likes to grow where people like to live. Unfortunately, only one per cent of this forest remains. And, of that one per cent, only nine per cent is protected in some way.

Lots of animals and plants find their home within the Coastal Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone. But because the CDF forest is being broken up and the land developed for urban use, those species are having a hard time surviving.

This is leading to species at risk of extinction.

The biologists of Athene Ecological are funded for two years by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program. They are concentrating on six species at risk and asking the public for help finding them.



Little Brown Bat



Western Screech-Owl
(*kennicottii* species)



Red-legged Frog



Rigid Apple-Moss



Sharp-Tailed Snake



Western Toad

If you see any of these six species while within the Powell River region, please call 1.604.989.1007 or email atheneecological@gmail.com and state where you saw it, how many you saw, any GPS location information, what date and time you saw it and send along any photos. Thank you!

We Love Living with a Conservation Covenant!

Our family owns a one-acre residential property in Powell River, two thirds of which is protected under a Conservation Covenant requested by the previous owner, Martin Rossander. This means we cannot cut down the trees, build on or in any way significantly alter a large portion of our Westview property—and we wouldn't want it any other way.

With the support of Malaspina Land Conservancy Society, we are preserving the incredible biodiversity of our backyard forest for family and community for generations to come. There are large Douglas firs, cedars, hemlocks, huckleberries, mushrooms, ferns, owls and even the occasional bear to delight the senses—and so much more. Our neighbours have childhood memories of playing in the forest behind our house, and are happy to see that it is still undeveloped. It will remain that way.

While there are stewardship duties involved in maintaining the conservation property (protection from invasive plants, assessing and addressing damaged trees, gently encouraging natural biodiversity, etc.), the work is minimal compared to the rewards. There is nothing quite like taking a walk through the deep green peace and fresh air produced by a forest in its natural state to clear the mind, relax and refocus.

Other practical incentives include tax deductions, reduced water run-off and increased privacy. Working with the incredibly knowledgeable, passionate people of MLCS is also great fun! Our quality of life has been immeasurably enhanced by owning land with a covenant on it, and for that we are very grateful.



New board members, Justin Frazer and Rachel LeBlanc and their beautiful backyard forest.

Justin, Rachel, Neil and Pauline

Who We Are



On Page 3 you met our new board members Justin and Rachel. Here's the rest of the board and staff: [back row from left] Ted Crossley (vice-president), Gord Kennedy (treasurer), Rob Southcott (president); [seated from left] Lesley Thorsell (secretary), Janet Southcott (executive director) and Kelly Chapman (ecologist).

What is a Land Conservancy?

A land conservancy is a non-profit, charitable organization committed to the long-term protection of natural and/or cultural heritage. A land conservancy may own land itself, or it may enter into conservation covenants with property owners to protect or restore natural or heritage features on the owner's land. Land trusts also engage in stewardship, restoration and management of lands. The terms land trust and land conservancy are often used interchangeably.

Presentations to Community Groups

We are happy to provide a presentation to your community group about the work of land conservancies.

If you would like to schedule a talk, please contact us at info@malaspinaland.ca.

Education

We are all learning as we go. With over 30 land conservancies in BC alone, and hundreds across the nation, we are not having to re-invent the wheel. Almost everything has been done by some conservancy somewhere and we benefit from that collective knowledge.

We attend education and networking opportunities hosted by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. LTABC is a non-profit organization that acts like the centre of a wheel, holding all the spokes (land conservancies) together for BC. It also provides great information about conservancies in general. Visit ltabc.ca for details.



Join Us

Perhaps we are biased, but we believe we are a nice bunch of people to work with. Why not join us? We have various places for committee volunteers, and with our progress into owning interest in land, we are having more opportunities for members to participate in rehabilitation and restoration activities. There is always room for more board members, too, so get in touch!

How to get in touch...

If you wish to become a member, are looking for more information, or have land to conserve through purchase or conservation covenant, please contact us.

Send mail to Malaspina Land Conservancy Society
3852 Gordon Avenue
Powell River, B.C. Canada V8A 2T5

<http://malaspinaland.ca>
info@malaspinaland.ca
604.485.0077