



## NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday  
November 9, 2011  
Regional District Board Room  
175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

3:30 p.m.

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### A G E N D A

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3:30 p.m.	<u>START OF MEETING</u>	
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2.	<u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</u>	
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6.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
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7.	<u>INFORMATION</u>	

8. **NEW BUSINESS**9. **QUESTION PERIOD**10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1), Subsections as noted in accordance with each agenda item.

11. **NEXT MEETING**12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website**  
**[www.cvrld.bc.ca](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca)**

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Director M. Dorey, Chair  
 Director I. Morrison, Vice Chair  
 Director L. Duncan  
 Director B. Harrison

Director G. Giles  
 Director K. Kuhn  
 Director K. Cossey

Director D. Haywood  
 Director P. Kent  
 Director L. Iannidinardo

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the Regional District Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

**PRESENT**

Director Mel Dorey, Chair  
 Director Ian Morrison, Vice-Chair  
 Director Brian Harrison  
 Director Gerry Giles  
 Director Dave Haywood  
 Director Lori Iannidinardo  
 Director Loren Duncan  
 Director Klaus Kuhn  
 Director Phil Kent

Absent: Director Ken Cossey

**CVRD STAFF**

Ron Austen, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department  
 Norm Olive, Manager, Capital Projects  
 Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division  
 Laura Gale, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair noted changes to the agenda, which included one item of New Business.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the agenda, be amended with the addition of the following item of New Business:

NB1 Completed Parkland Acquisition of Samson Narrows and the schedule of funding

and that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**M1 - MINUTES**

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of July 13, 2011, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING**

No business arising.

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**R1 – Summary of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Opening Event – July 28, 2011**

Tanya Soroka, Parks Trails Planner, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011 regarding summary of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Opening Event of July 28, 2011.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the staff report dated September 8, 2011 from Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner regarding summary of the Historic Kinsol Trestle Opening Event of July 28, 2011, be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

**R2 – Historic Kinsol  
Trestle Opening Event**

Norm Olive, P. Eng., Manager, Capital Projects Division, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011, regarding Historic Kinsol Trestle Core Rehabilitation Project Update

It was Moved and Seconded

That the staff report dated September 8, 2011 from Norm Olive, P. Eng., Capital Projects Division regarding Historic Kinsol Trestle Core Rehabilitation be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

**R3 – Kinsol Trestle  
Listing on Canada's  
Historic Places**

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011 regarding Kinsol Trestle Listing on Canada's Historic Places

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Chair send a letter of support on behalf of the Board to the Governor General Awards Committee in support of community member nominations which recognize contributions to efforts to rehabilitate the historic Kinsol Trestle.

MOTION CARRIED

**R4 – Mid-Year Budget  
Report**

Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011, regarding Mid-year Budget Report.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the staff report dated September 8, 2011 regarding Mid-year Budget Report be received and filed.

MOTION CARRIED

**R5 – Cowichan Valley  
Trail Update**

Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011, regarding Cowichan Valley Trail Update.

It was Moved and Seconded

That staff organize a meeting with representatives from the Cowichan Valley's equestrian organization to discuss equestrian etiquette strategies for consideration on CVRD trails.

MOTION CARRIED

**R6 – Regional Park  
and Trail Visitor Use  
Tracking**

Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician, reviewed staff report dated September 8, 2011, regarding Regional Park and Trail Visitor Use Tracking.

It was Moved and Seconded

That the staff report dated September 8, 2011 regarding Regional Park and Trail Visitor Use Tracking be received and filed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**INFORMATION**

**IN1 – CVT Opening**

It was Moved and Seconded

That the letter dated July 13, 2011, from The Hon. Lynne Yelich, P.C., M.P., Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, regarding opening of the Cowichan Valley Trail be received and filed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IN2 – “The Point is  
Made” regarding  
Sansum Point**

It was Moved and Seconded

That the news articles, “The Point is Made”, in the August 30, 2011, edition of the Cowichan News Leader, Peter Rusland (reporter) regarding Sansum Point, be received and filed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IN3 – “Sansum Point  
Joins CVRD Parks  
Roster”**

It was Moved and Seconded

That the news articles, “Sansum Point Joins CVRD Parks Roster”, in the September 2, 2011, edition of the Citizen, Sarah Simpson (reporter) be received and filed.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NB1 – Stoney Hill  
Regional Park**

Discussion on recently completed land acquisition of Samson Narrows property to start assembly of Stoney Hill Regional Park.

It was Moved and Seconded

That a follow up report be prepared summarizing fundraising status of the Land Conservancy of BC's contribution towards acquisition of the Sansum Point property.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING**

November 9, 2011

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved and Seconded  
That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

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## STAFF REPORT

### PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

**DATE:** November 3, 2011 **FILE NO:**  
**FROM:** Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks & Trails Division **BYLAW NO:**  
**SUBJECT:** VI (Vancouver Island) Spine Request for Endorsement

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#### **Recommendation/Action:**

That the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board formally recognize and endorse the efforts of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) to facilitate the development of the Vancouver Island (VI) Spine Trail, a proposed 700 kilometer trail from Victoria to Cape Scott.

#### **Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:**

Support policies and initiatives that strengthen the local economy (recreation tourism).

Promote individual and community wellness.

**Financial Impact:** *(Reviewed by Finance Division: (N/A))*

#### **Background:**

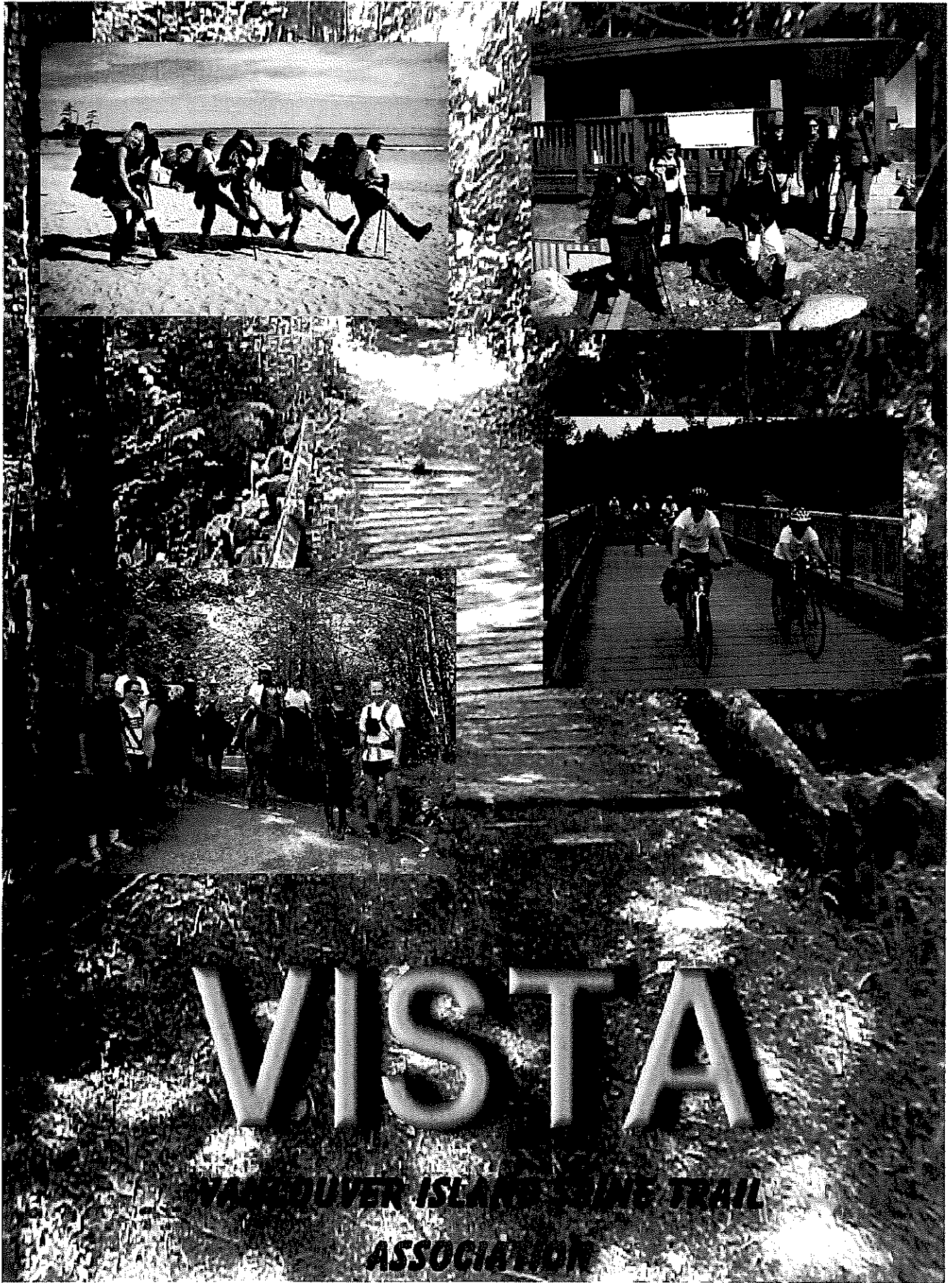
The Parks Committee previously received a report on the Vancouver Island (VI) Spine initiative in March 2010. Attached is an updated Strategic Plan on this trail initiative prepared by the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA). The VI Spine initiative is focused on creating a non-motorized recreation route for Island residents and tourists from Victoria to Cape Scott, a distance of approximately 700 km. Within the Cowichan Valley Regional District the proposed VI Spine route follows the existing/planned Cowichan Valley Trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail) route from the Capital Regional District boundary in south Shawnigan Lake to the Town of Lake Cowichan. A route assessment study is currently being carried out by VISTA to determine a viable route along the south side of Cowichan Lake between the Town of Lake Cowichan and Francis Lake in Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. VISTA is currently seeking the endorsement of Vancouver Island communities and Regional Districts along the proposed route for the non-motorized VI Spine Trail initiative.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Farquhar, Manager  
Parks and Trails Division  
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Approved by:  
General Manager:







[www.vispine.ca](http://www.vispine.ca)

# ***Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association***

## ***Strategic Plan 2011 – 2016***

***Concept & Background***

***The Society***

***Mission, Vision Statements***

***Features***

***Implementation***

***Youth Education/Backcountry Experiences***

***Work Plan***

*Prepared by Scott Henley*

*Reviewed by Andrew Pape-Salmon and Gil Parker*

*September, 2011*

*~ 2 ~*

## **A Trail from Victoria to Cape Scott (The Concept):**

*The Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) aims to facilitate the development of a hiking trail from Victoria to Cape Scott.*

*The Vancouver Island "Spine" Trail is a proposed 700km trail from Victoria in the south to Cape Scott at the northern tip of the Island. The route follows both historical routes and existing trails in many sections. The path passes through or near several communities, yet retains its wilderness character.*

*The "Spine" is an adventure opportunity that will provide a recreational route for residents and tourists through the beautiful back country of Vancouver Island. Although it is primarily a hiking and snowshoe trail, some sections of the Spine are suitable for other non-motorized use, e.g. trail running, mountain bikes, horses, and skiers. The route traces mountain ridges, hugs ocean coastlines, passes through old growth and new forests and by numerous lakes. It is similar to other successful long-distance hiking routes that attract worldwide attention.*

*The "Spine" Trail will support local economies through increased recreational and cultural tourism with associated service sector jobs, along with trail building and maintenance jobs. Regional Districts, First Nations, mountaineering, hiking and trail running clubs and other outdoor clubs will be encouraged to monitor the trail. First Nations and businesses will have an exciting new opportunity to provide services to travelers in their region.*

*The project is being developed by the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA), in cooperation with "Hike BC", the BC wing of the National Hiking Trail (NHT) and Trails BC, the BC representative of the Trans Canada Trail. The NHT has incorporated such significant trails as the East Coast Trail in Newfoundland, the Bruce Trail in Ontario, the Alexander MacKenzie route, and the Nuxalk/Carrier "Grease Trail" from Bella Coola to Quesnel. The TCT, as Canada's primary National trail, stretches across all provinces and even some territories.*

## **Background:**

*Vancouver Island is a recreational paradise with activities for all seasons. It offers additional opportunities for those who seek wilderness, camping, scenery, fishing and cultural tourism. Continuous, linear trails - like the Spine - provide recreation corridors for locals and tourists alike. However, where no access is provided, the terrain is unforgiving.*

*Those obstacles are minimized by building simple trails. For hikers, runners, climbers, mountain bikers, equestrians, snowshoers and skiers, the attractions become obvious. The evidence is in the success of several Island trails: Juan de Fuca Trail, West Coast Trail, Elk River Trail, Mount Albert Edwards Trail (Forbidden Plateau), Cape Scott and the North Coast Trail.*

*A single, continuous trail, the Vancouver Island Spine Trail will track through backcountry but near to villages and towns and will attract local recreational users and tourists. The Spine will follow existing trails wherever possible, and promises to open up new trails on the north Island.*

*The promotion of the Spine will bring tourism and local recreation dollars to communities that are currently searching for ways to diversify their economies. The Spine concept supports the Trails Strategy of BC, developed by the BC Government.*

### **Our Society:**

*The Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA) is a registered non-profit society and as a CRA charity will issue tax deductible receipts. VISTA charity number (CRA) 852516251RR0001*

### **Our Society's Board of Directors:**

- *Gilbert M Parker, President, Director*
- *Andrew Pape-Salmon, Vice-President, Director*
- *William J Feyrer, Treasurer, Director*
- *Kathleen Birney, Secretary, Director*
- *Peter G Berrang, Director*
- *Raymond E Parks, Director*
- *Robie W Macdonald, Director*
- *Dr. Charles N Burnett, Director*

### **Staff**

- *Scott Henley, Executive Director*
- *Ann Harwood, Membership Coordinator*

### **Mission Statement:**

*VISTA shall promote, work with, and coordinate the stakeholders to design, build and maintain the VI Spine Trail.*

### **Vision Statement:**

*A continuous wilderness trail linking communities on Vancouver Island from Victoria to Cape Scott.*

### **Features:**

*On Vancouver Island, from Victoria at the south end, the Spine will follow the same route as the non-motorized, multi-use Trans Canada Trail (TCT) as far as Lake Cowichan. The remaining incomplete section from Colwood to Shawnigan Lake is expected to be completed in 2015. From Lake Cowichan, the Spine will continue west to Alberni Inlet via Tuck Lake and Nadira Road via Nitinat and the newly completed 20km "Runner's Trail" and north into the city of Port Alberni along the historic Canadian Northern Pacific Railway grade built in the 1913 era.*

*From Port Alberni, the trail will follow the existing "Log Train Trail", ascend onto and along ridges of the Beaufort Mountain Range and then descend into the Town of Cumberland on their existing community mountain bike trails.*

*From Cumberland, existing trails climb to and along Forbidden Plateau section of Strathcona Provincial Park.*

*Much of the route north of Strathcona Provincial Park will be new trail or unused logging roads. The Spine will be routed near Victoria, Schoen and Cain peaks, and the Nimpkish Lake area to Port McNeil and near the coast to Port Hardy. West of Port Hardy, a trail will connect to the North Coast and Cape Scott trails to complete the 700km traverse of Vancouver Island along its new "VI Spine".*

*In all cases, the Spine will follow or connect to existing trails, including lateral connections, where possible. Vista estimates that about 225km of the trail is already completed, leaving about 475km to be completed.*

*The communities on or near the Spine are as follows:*

*Victoria, Saanich, View Royal, Langford, Colwood, Shawnigan Lake, Duncan, Lake Cowichan, Nitinat, Port Alberni, Cumberland, Courtenay, Mount Washington, Campbell River, Woss, Port McNeill, Port Hardy and Holberg.*

*Connector trails include:*

- *Lochside Trail to Sidney;*
- *Galloping Goose to Sooke;*
- *West Coast Trail to Port Renfrew or Bamfield through Nitinat;*
- *Trans Canada Trail to Nanaimo from Lake Cowichan/Duncan;*
- *Mount Arrowsmith trails near Port Alberni;*
- *Strathcona Park trails from Mount Washington and Buttle Lake;*
- *Port Hardy community trails.*

*The route will avoid public or working roads to preserve a wilderness experience. Since the Island can receive high snowfall, the trail will generally avoid high mountain terrain. This will permit a longer season for trail users. However, some parts of the trail may still attract cross-country or backcountry skiers.*

*In other long-distance trails in North America, communities along the way “buy into” the trails, providing material support and accommodation, which in turn can have a commercial benefit to the towns near the trails. Volunteer clubs and individuals assist with trail maintenance and act as “trail angels”, becoming part of the mobile community formed by trail users. Some examples are:*

*Great Divide Trail, Canadian Rockies (Yosemite - Yukon, the Y2Y route)*

*Pennine Way in the United Kingdom*

*Appalachian Trail in eastern USA, extending into the Canadian Gaspé Peninsula*

*Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada (Manning Park)*

*Spanish “Camino” Trails*

*New Zealand “Te Araroa” Trail*

## **Implementation:**

*To have a major economic and social impact, VI Spine must pass within a reasonable distance of a number of communities where accommodation, restaurants, outdoor gear and re-supply facilities are located.*

*On private lands, a narrow corridor of land ownership or jurisdiction has to be established, and easements negotiated where applicable. Consideration must be made of Parks policy, timber leases, regional and municipal regulation, and environmental impacts. These considerations are the first priority of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association (VISTA).*

*The following organizations and communities have endorsed the VI Spine concept:*

- Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island Section
- Island Mountain Ramblers
- Alberni Valley Outdoor Club
- Kludahk Outdoors Club
- City of Courtenay
- Juan de Fuca; Parks and Recreation
- Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- City of Campbell River
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Outdoor Club of Victoria
- Capital Regional District Park Committee
- National Hiking Trail, via Hike BC
- Heathens Mountaineering Club (Campbell River)
- District of Port Hardy
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Ditidaht First Nations

- Prairie Inn Harriers Running Club
- Town of Cumberland
- City of Port Alberni
- Kwakiutl Indian Band
- Garden City Horsemen
- Backcountry Horsemen of BC
- Comox Valley Mountain Bike Club

### **Vancouver Island Spine Series:**

*The VI Spine Series is a series of fun events held over the course of each year to raise awareness about the proposed Spine Trail. The Series is made up of more than a dozen events that are organized by local Vancouver Island outdoors groups.*

*The first Vancouver Island spine series was called the VI Spine "Relay". Throughout June 2010, groups of people covered the various segments of the Spine from Cape Scott to Victoria by either running, hiking, snowshoeing, mountain biking or horseback riding. Where trail segments have yet to be built, participants cycled on the roads to get from one segment to the next. The purpose of the Relay was to increase community support for the development of the Spine.*

*The Vancouver Island Spine Series (Series) will support the development of a permanent, non-motorized recreational trail (the VI Spine Trail) along a wilderness route from Victoria to Cape Scott, spanning 700km, passing near several communities. The objectives of the Series are to:*

- *Build a relationship with private and public landowners along the proposed VI Spine Trail;*
- *Build a constituency of users through participation in Series events – people who will continue to use the VI Spine Trail once built;*
- *Establish a broader public profile through visibility, word of mouth and media coverage – translating to increased political will to construct the VI Spine Trail; and,*

- *Provide regular tourism investment in communities, as Series participants use accommodation, food, transportation and sport services in local communities*

*In 2011, we have recreated the success of the previous year's Relay and built on the support and participation of local sports enthusiasts with the renamed VI Spine "Series". Ultimately, the VI Spine Series will provide educational opportunities in building and using the Trail, and it will speed the completion of the actual route.*

### **Youth Education/Backcountry Experiences:**

*VISTA, along with the participating clubs and associations along the Spine will coordinate Island youth attending several annual programs and opportunities.*

*The 2011 VI Spine Series (see above) included a "Mountaineering With Kids" program that is being hosted by the Alpine Club of Canada, Vancouver Island section. This included opportunities for pre-teens and teens to safely trek up Mount Becher near Cumberland, develop skills and confidence, and have fun.*

*In 2012 and beyond, the "VI Spine Series" will continue to promote youth activities of partner organizations. A new partnership will be proposed to the Victoria-based organization, Power to Be Adventure Therapy Society, who provide dynamic outdoor education programs that enrich the health and quality of life of youth, adults and families facing significant life challenges. In the near term, VISTA envisions several programs of day or overnight hikes, but ultimately this partnership could result in a "relay" that would see a group of 30-50 youth complete the full 700km distance over a one month period, escorted by celebrities and skilled backcountry travelers. This concept would be pitched to a feature magazine such as "Outside" or television show for widespread coverage.*

*As the construction of the VI Spine Trail progresses, VISTA will work with clubs and associations to encourage 15-18 year olds to participate in "Teen Trail work" crews. These crews camp out for a week near a work site, usually for the purpose of building or repairing a trail segment along the Spine. VISTA will seek leadership funding for these programs, similar to those operated by the Pacific Crest Trail Association.*



*Youth programs will foster sensitivity to and respect for the natural capital, beauty and ecological integrity of Vancouver Island's wilderness, along with the importance of proper stewardship to ensure their continuance.*

*VISTA acknowledges the success of the American Hiking Association's "Families on Foot" program, and will explore the feasibility of implementing a similar program as part of the VI Spine Series in 2012 and beyond. Vista's vision for our "Families on Foot" Initiative sees the 'family' as all-inclusive and welcoming. "There's a hiking trail near you, so get your trail family out on a trail and enjoy the adventures and the physical benefits the great outdoors has to offer today!"*

### **Work Plan:**

*Each year, host a VI Spine Series of events to engage local clubs to share ownership of trail concept, build a constituency of users, test possible routes and generate media interest and publish "Footprints" newsletter three or more times per year.*

*Communication and liaison programs from 2011 will be continued in subsequent years.*

*By late 2011, allocate people and financial resources to implement the following strategies:*

- *Propose 1-2 potential "macro route" options, and define the pros and cons of each option from a wilderness value, recreation, local economic and logistics perspective.*
- *Coordinate activities and communications among local governments and First Nation, private land owners and other key influencers such as philanthropists, other levels of government, the media and key non-governmental organizations (e.g., TC Trail, FMCBC).*
- *Maintain interactive website with activities, maps, and online VI Spine "passports" for Spine Series participants and users of current trail sections*
- *Let a contract for feasibility study of trail bypassing to the south of Cowichan Lake, coordinate input from ACRD and CVRD to the contractor, make report available to stakeholders, publicise findings to stakeholders and the public.*

*In 2012:*

- *Build a coalition of support among local clubs and businesses to approach regional districts.*
- *Propose endorsement of trail concept in all RD parks, BC Parks, and land-use plans and seek permission to consult on the route of choice.*
- *Launch a comprehensive youth program as part of the VI Spine Series, building upon success from "Mountaineering with Kids" in 2011. This program will educate through use of the VI Spine Trail, and through possible funding, will educate by trail building.*
- *Propose endorsement of trail concept by all First Nations whose traditional territory overlaps.*

*In 2013:*

- *Negotiate a single macro route with land owners, regional districts, BC Parks and First Nations based on input provided during consultation*
- *Revisit this strategic business plan, seek funding for further feasibility studies, micro-route selection and segment construction where possible.*
- *Support regional districts and BC Parks to complete engineering studies with route selection and bridge engineering, where required.*

*In 2014 and 2015:*

- *Support construction of major segments, identify of suitable contractors, standards for trail design and use of volunteers.*
- *Seek feature article about the VI Spine Trail in "Outdoor Magazine" based on construction of the VI Spine or involving a group of youth travelling the entire distance of the Spine with support from skilled backcountry travellers.*

*In 2016:*

- *Complete construction of major segments of the VI Spine.*
- *Fund raise for the provision of unified signage. Cooperate with regional districts, BC Parks, land owners and other coincidental trail agencies.*
- *Develop maps and facilitate completion of guidebook.*
- *Seek additional opportunities for feature length media stories in magazines, TV, YouTube, national radio, etc. to promote the Spine opening.*
- *When trail is complete, launch VI Spine opening ceremony to correspond with the 2016 Series.*



[www.vispine.ca](http://www.vispine.ca)

***Vancouver Island Spine Trail Association***  
***(VISTA)***

***169 Bushby Street***  
***Victoria BC V8S 1B5***

***Tel: 250-752-9541***  
***Email: [Henley@islandnet.com](mailto:Henley@islandnet.com)***

***(VISTA-2011-09-07)***



## STAFF REPORT

### PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

**DATE:** November 3, 2011 **FILE NO:**

**FROM:** Brian Farquhar, Manager Parks & Trails Division **BYLAW No:**

**SUBJECT:** Cowichan Commons Multi-use Trail Maintenance Request

#### **Recommendation/Action:**

That staff be directed to work with North Cowichan and Duncan to determine an annual operations and maintenance cost for the Cowichan Commons trail for consideration of incorporating into the 2012 Regional Parks budget and that the report be brought back for committee consideration as part of the 2012 budget planning process.

#### **Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:**

Promote individual and community wellness – promote pedestrian and cycle friendly roadways and trails Twinkies and neighborhoods.

#### **Financial Impact:** *(Reviewed by Finance Division: (N/A))*

#### **Background:**

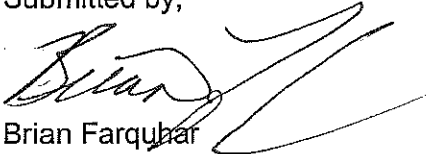
The Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan are requesting the Cowichan Valley Regional District assume the ongoing maintenance and operation of the Cowichan Commons trail from just north of the Duncan train station to Green Road, a distance of approximately 2 km (see attachment). The Cowichan Commons Trail is connected to the Cowichan Valley Trail to the northwest of Duncan via several different routes. As such, it can be considered part of the regional trail network linking communities across the Cowichan region. This is reinforced through the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan, which identifies key regional trail connections linking with the Cowichan Valley trail, inclusive of a multi-use trail within the E& N railway corridor through North Cowichan and the City of Duncan.

Funding for construction of the Cowichan Commons Trail has been provided by grant funding and existing resources of the two municipalities. As work is continuing on the completion of this trail project, the CVRD Parks, trails division, has not yet had the opportunity to assess estimated annual costs to maintain this trail corridor. Also, the trail maintenance standards for this section of trail would need to be determined given it is a more urban trail than other sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail. This may have implications on the frequency of maintenance with respect to garbage collection and vegetation management. It is recommended that Parks and Trails division staff be directed to meet with representatives of the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan to determine trail maintenance requirements and expectations.

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Based on this additional assessment work a staff report could be prepared for consideration by the Parks Committee as part of the 2012 budget planning process, which outlines annual cost implications associated with the Regional District assuming maintenance of the Cowichan Commons trail under a maintenance agreement.

Submitted by,



Brian Farquhar  
Manager, Parks and Trails Division  
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

**Approved by:**  
*General Manager:*

BTF/mca  
Attachment



# Municipality of North Cowichan

7030 Trans Canada Highway  
Box 278, Duncan, BC V9L 3X4  
PH: (250) 746-3100 • FX: (250) 746-3133  
[www.northcowichan.ca](http://www.northcowichan.ca)



# City of Duncan

200 Craig Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 1W3  
Phone: (250) 746-6126  
Fax: (250) 746-6129  
[www.duncan.ca](http://www.duncan.ca)

October 6, 2011

*[Faint stamp: RECEIVED OCT 11 2011]*

Mel Dorey, Director  
Electoral Area 'G' – Saltair/Gulf Islands  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
175 Ingram Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear Director Dorey

## Re: Multi-Use Trail to Cowichan Commons

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan that the trail that has been constructed from the City of Duncan to the Cowichan Commons be maintained by the CVRD Regional Parks system.

This new multi-use trail offers a connection from the Cowichan Valley trail via various routes into the City of Duncan. This trail, constructed to Cowichan Valley Trail Standards, will connect neighborhoods and natural areas, provide alternatives to driving, and offer easy ways to exercise and stay healthy.

The recently-adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan refers to the value of these connecting trails, and the proper maintenance and care of this trail will ensure its continued use and enjoyment for our valley residents in the years to come. We hope the CVRD's Parks Committee will support this request.

We would be pleased to provide you with any additional information you may require and can be contacted as noted above.

Sincerely

Tom Walker, Mayor  
Municipality of North Cowichan

Phil Kent, Mayor  
City of Duncan

pc D. Devana, CAO, North Cowichan  
M. Frame, Director of Finance, North Cowichan  
E. Mansueti, Director of Parks & Recreation, North Cowichan  
T. Ireland, CAO, Duncan  
P. de Verteuil, Director of Finance  
W. Jones, CAO, CVRD  
B. Farquhar, Manager, Parks and Trails Division, CVRD

Original	<i>[Signature]</i>	Copies to:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Board	<i>[Signature]</i>		
Committee(s)			
Directed By	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	OCT 11/11
File #			



## STAFF REPORT

### PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

DATE: November 2, 2011 FILE NO:  
FROM: Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician BYLAW NO:  
SUBJECT: Trail Counter Data from Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area

#### Recommendation/Action:

That this be received for information.

#### Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Promote individual and community wellness – Increase participation in parks, recreation and cultural programs, events and activities.

Financial Impact: (Reviewed by Finance Division: (N/A))

#### Background:

2011 is the first year CVRD Parks and Trails has implemented a full-time vehicle and trail counter program for select parks and sections of the Cowichan Valley Trail. This type of data is invaluable in park planning, operations and management efforts, including tracking community use, as it pertains to supporting the wellness goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan (increasing public participation and use of CVRD parks and trails).

CVRD Parks and Trails utilizes two different types of digital counters: the trail version, which counts trail users with an infrared beam that detects heat; and the vehicle version, which counts cars by detecting changes in the magnetic field near the device. The trail counter can be effectively hidden in/on trees, stumps, rocks, etc., though is susceptible to vandalism if not hidden perfectly. The vehicle counter can be buried beneath the ground, unlike typical air hose versions you see on public roads, so it is very effective.

In the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area, parks staff installed an infrared trail counter on the Main Summit Trail, which is the easiest trail to the top of Cobble Hill Mountain. The data collected is in the table below:

Park	Counter Type	Date Activated/ Last Check	Time in Field (Days)	Counts	Multiplier	Total Visits	Daily Average
CHMRRA	Trail	Feb.12/Oct.4	239	23579	1	23579	99



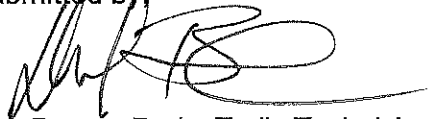
Data between May and October indicated a slight increase in daily traffic at an average of 105 users per day. This trend of steady daily use is likely an indication of a user base comprised predominantly of local, daily users. This trend has been observed by staff as well as surveys performed at the Recreation Area in the past.

It is also clear that use on the mountain is growing at a very fast rate. 2009 was the first year these counters were available to staff, and the first trail counter purchased was installed at the same location on Cobble Hill Mountain as was used in 2011. During the same 116 day time period during the summer, data from 2009 indicated a daily average of 61 users with a total of 7,041. In 2011, the data indicated a daily average 116 with a total of 11,617. That equals 1.6 times the number of users on one single track trail, which is a significant increase in just two years.

This increase in use has had a notable effect on the Main Summit Trail made evident in light erosion due to compaction and trail tread creep as well as shortcutting and social trail construction by trail users seeking alternative routes. CVRD Parks and Trails staff are working with the available resources to mitigate as many of these issues as possible and continue to make minor improvements to the trail as necessary.

For 2012, additional trail and parking lot counters are proposed for key locations along the Cowichan Valley Trail, including the Kinsol Trestle and regional park sites (i.e. Spectacle Lake Park). The user data is valuable in assessing the level of use as well as weekly and seasonal use trends in determining priorities for scheduling maintenance, user compliance patrols and plans for future improvements and/or upgrades.

Submitted by:

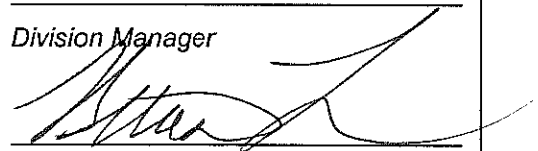


Dan Brown, Parks Trails Technician  
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

DB/mca

**Approved by:**  
General Manager:

Division Manager





STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

DATE:	November 3, 2011	FILE NO:
FROM:	Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner	BYLAW NO:
SUBJECT:	Sansum Point Acquisition Fundraising Update	

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**Recommendation/Action:**  
That this report be received for information.

**Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:**  
A "Safe and Healthy Community", identified under the Corporate Strategic Plan, lists one of the key objectives being to "Provide exceptional recreation, cultural and park services" and "achieve excellence through community partnership".

1. Promote a healthy lifestyle strategy to help residents live healthier lives through taking part in parks, recreation and culture services.
2. Continue to ensure a diversity of regional parks for both recreational and conservation purposes.
3. Continue to implement the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan to respond to new park and trail needs and opportunities
4. Develop a partnership strategy to ensure parks, recreation and culture planning and coordination occurs throughout the Region.

**Financial Impact:** (Reviewed by Finance Division: (N/A))

**Background:**  
The Cowichan Valley Regional District and The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) signed a Partnership Agreement to work together to acquire Regional Lands of Interest and strives to achieve an overall one-third/two-third funding acquisition objective. For the Sansum Point property acquired August 31<sup>st</sup> under this partnership agreement, The Land Conservancy continues to fundraise towards its funding partnership objective.

To date fundraising efforts by The Land Conservancy, in partnership with Cowichan Land Trust, has raised a total of \$218,396.15 for the Sansum Point purchase. This has been accomplished through cash donations and fundraising events. Some of these events are listed below:

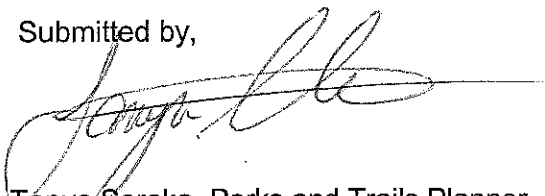
- Renowned artist, Sue Coleman, created a beautiful limited edition print titled Sansum Point, with a significant portion of each sale going to Sansum Point.
- Wilderness International and the Cowichan Tribes joined the cause through their fundraising event 'Take a Walk for the Wild' (see attached).
- Events by Wilderness Kayaking and Godfrey-Brownell Vineyards brought in donations for the campaign and, with the support of the Duncan-Cowichan Chamber of Commerce,

businesses like Godfrey-Brownell have agreed to take Sansum Point under its wing for the next year by hosting various fundraising events to keep the cause top of mind in the community.

- In addition, cash donations are coming in: \$50,000 was left to the TLC by the late Charles Poole, as well as another very generous private donation of \$100,000.
- A local event held by Duncan's Warmland Dental and Dahlstrom Dental offered custom sports mouth guards at reduced prices with proceeds going towards the purchase of Sansum Point.

Fundraising efforts are still under way by TLC and CLT to raise the approximate \$400,000 remaining. These efforts are part of the active *"Be the Change"* TLC campaign, which includes ongoing approaches to potential donors and planning additional fundraising events with CLT.

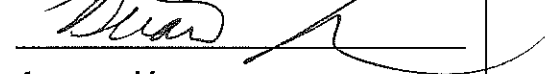
Submitted by,



Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner  
Parks and Trails Division  
Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

**Reviewed by:**

Division Manager:



**Approved by:**

General Manager:



TS/mca  
Attachments (news articles)

## Students get to the Point by walking



Students from Alexander, Koksilah, Khowhemun, Qwut'sun Smeneen schools, joined by Wolf Kids Home Schooling from Salt Spring Island, make their way around the track of the Cowichan Sportsplex on Wednesday May 25 during the 2nd Take a Walk for the Wild fundraising event presented by Wilderness International Canada and Cowichan Tribes.

*Andrew Leong*

By Peter Rusland - Cowichan News Leader

Pictorial

Published: **May 26, 2011 7:00 AM**

Updated: **May 26, 2011 8:58 AM**

Seven hundred kids in green T-shirts walked around and around Cowichan Sportsplex track Wednesday raising money and awareness about buying and saving Sansum Point.

They were backed by funky tunes and encouraging words by emcee Fred Roland and members of Wilderness International.

Kathleen Sheppard of The Land Conservancy told folks about the point's eco-beauty — and TLC's drive to raise some \$580,000 more by June 30 to buy the \$1.85-million site from two American women.

"This walk's a good idea," said Khowhemun school Grade 6er Doreen George.

Grade 4 walker Terrance George agreed “because people will probably go there to see different kinds of stuff.”

Such as exploring nature at 128-acre Sansum, Roland explained.

“Through our programs we’re looking at more places for youths to have experiential learning.”

Kai Andersch, WI boss and forester from Germany, called the walk “a grand affair.”

The fan of saving places such as Sansum — and practicing selective logging elsewhere to preserve other areas — was stoked about bringing more Germany students here to visit Supernatural Cowichan.

“We want to fill young kids with knowledge through protection of nature.”

So does the TLC.

That’s why the group is also uncorking Saturday’s Sip For Sansum four-course wine-tasting and buffet event at Cowichan’s Godfrey-Brownell Vineyards, 4911 Marshall Rd.

Tickets to the May 28 6 to 9 p.m. cork-and-cuisine caper — hosted by TLC, WI and the Cowichan Land Trust — are \$50 at 250-746-0227.

Other TLC fundraisers for Sansum include local artist Sue Coleman donating money from sales of her limited-edition giclee print Sansum Point to the cause.

Call 250-748-8332.

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#### Find this article at:

<http://www.cowichannewsleader.com/news/122657254.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

# Living

## German trip inspires a wild walk

**PRESERVATION:** Students hitting the track for environmental and old-growth conservation, cultural projects

LEXI BAINAS CITIZEN

More than 300 Valley students from three Duncan elementary schools will take part in an event entitled "Take A Walk for the Wild" to raise money to help preserve First Nations culture and conserve old trees.

At the same time, they are learning about ways students can take the lead on these issues in their community.

Wilderness International and Cowichan Tribes have organized the walk, which entails running or walking laps around the Cowichan Sportsplex on Chesterfield Road on Monday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Many of the students are still looking for additional sponsors, so donations will be welcome.

Fred Roland of Wilderness International said this week that money raised from this half-day event will be used for environmental conservation, cultural youth projects, as well as to acquire and conserve old-growth forests in the Cowichan Region.

Recently, a group of six Cowichan Tribes students and two elders returned from a 16-day



A contingent from Cowichan participates in a Wilderness International "Take a Walk for the Wild," one of the events the took part in when they travelled to Germany. (PHOTO COURTESY WILDERNESS INTERNATIONAL)

trip to Dresden, Germany as part of a conservation and cultural exchange and awareness program called "Wisdom Keepers - Knowledge Seekers." This program was created by Wilderness International in conjunction with

Cowichan Tribes and is being partially funded by the North American Indigenous Games Legacy Fund.

While in Germany, the students shared traditional Cowichan dances and songs that have been



Wilderness International's goal is old-growth land conservation. (PHOTO COURTESY WILDERNESS INTERNATIONAL)

students in two of the cities, who were hosting "Take a Walk for the Wild" events and helping to raise approximately \$90,000.

"These funds are helping to make possible youth projects and to conserve old-growth forests in British Columbia's coastal region in alignment with the goals of Wilderness International," according to Kai Andersen, Director of Wilderness International.

Wilderness International is a non-profit organization whose work focuses on three components: old-growth land conservation, youth leadership, and indigenous cultural preservation.

## Sansum Point campaign \$20,000 closer



Roger Hart of the Cowichan Land Trust, Wilderness International's Fred Roland and Bill Turner of The Land Conservancy pump up the Sansum Point Park campaign.

*Peter W. Rusland*

By Peter Rusland - Cowichan News Leader

Pictorial

Published: **June 16, 2011 1:00 PM**

Updated: **June 16, 2011 1:26 PM**

A \$10,000 donation from an anonymous person emerged from the woods Wednesday to join Wilderness International's \$10,000 gift toward buying and preserving Sansum Point.

The surprise news, delivered by Cowichan Land Trust's Roger Hart, plus WI's dough, was accepted by The Land Trust's boss Bill Turner at Duncan's Charles Hoey Park.

Wednesday's \$20,000 brings the total to \$550,000 still needed to save the 128-acres on Stoney Hill as parkland.

But Turner happily announced a June 30 deadline to raise the Sansum money had been pushed back to Aug. 30.

"The extension helps because once summer's over we can talk to people coming through the Sansum Narrows," he said of boaters as prospective donors.

He doubted the provincial purse would open for Sansum's cause before an expected fall election, but Victoria cash could help buy other Sansum Narrows lands eyed by the TLC.

WI's Fred Roland said his global outdoor activity-education group for kids raised its \$10,000 during a recent Talk A Walk For The Wild at Cowichan Sportsplex, plus proceeds from WI runs in Germany.

He cheered WI's partnership with TLC to help save Sansum for nature education.

"For generations our people have used that (narrows) waterway," the Cowichan Tribes members said, noting WI students have visited the point property by kayak.

"By saving Sansum, we can step into that area without restrictions because so much land has become private," said Roland.

Sansum and other lands need to be bought and saved with the foresight used by Vancouver council to set aside Stanley Park, noted Hart.

"This (funding drive) reminds us we need to do this for our children and grand-children."

Turner applauded \$50,000 left to the TLC by the late Charles Poole, plus fundraising efforts and Sansum support from valley artists Art Vickers and Sue Coleman.

Locals can donate to the Sansum Point project as Duncan's Warmland Dental and Dahlstrom Dental offer custom sportsguards at reduced prices with proceeds helping purchase the point.

The mouth-guard service normally costs between \$150 and \$250 but it's available for \$50 during a June 25 fundraiser barbeque at 921 Canada Ave., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The TLC can be called at 250-479-8053, or visit [www.concervancy.bc.ca](http://www.concervancy.bc.ca).

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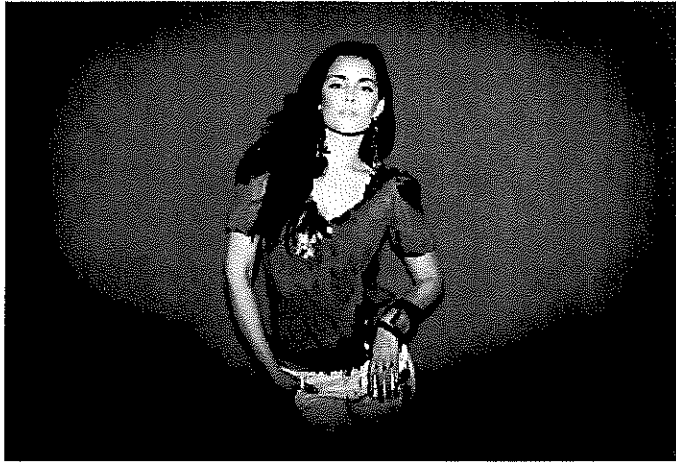
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## Nelly Furtado puts star power behind The Land Conservancy in British Columbia

Linda Solomon | Posted: Jun 2nd, 2011

**Read More:** [Sustainability](#) [Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor](#) [Sansum Point](#) [Sooke Potholes](#) [Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign](#)



Victoria native Nelly Furtado has turned her love of the natural environment into a fundraising campaign for The Land Conservancy (TLC) of British Columbia.

Inspired by the words "Be the Change You Want to See in the World" by Mahatma Gandhi, TLC is encouraging people into action to be the change they want to see in the world. With this mission in mind, TLC is challenging British Columbians to step forward as never before, to dream about the kind of world that they want, and to make it a reality with TLC. As an agent for change, TLC is here to serve local communities in protecting the places that matter most to them.

When asked to participate in the campaign, Furtado answered the call and was happy to assist as British Columbia, in particular Victoria, holds a special place in her heart. Nelly's inspirational video talks to how she values B.C.'s forests, oceans, and mountains and how we need to step up and protect these resources before it is too late. Now that her video is live, Nelly will be sharing her message with her fans via Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube to help raise funds and with the hope of building a culture of conservation in B.C. and Canada.

Nelly first became involved with TLC during its fundraising campaign to protect the Sooke Potholes and help make it a regional park. Since then she has continued to be a dedicated TLC spokesperson and has appeared on camera for interviews and TV ads that aired in Victoria and in the Lower Mainland Region. In 2006 her Vanity Fair ad, which reached hundreds of thousands of people world-wide, touted TLC as her "favourite cause". In addition Nelly passed her significant commission for that ad onto TLC. Over the years, Nelly continues to provide a prominent, international voice to TLC's work in safeguarding natural areas, cultural landmarks, and agricultural lands for future generations.

Donations raised through TLC's Be The Change Campaign will help complete important projects such as the Wild Hills and Beaches Campaign, Clearwater Wetlands and Wildlife Corridor in Central B.C., Gowlland Point Regional Park

on Pender Island, Sansum Point in the Cowichan Valley, and the expansion of the Horsefly River project as well as assist in the continued stewardship of natural, cultural, or agricultural sites already under TLC's care.

It will also generate an investment in the growth of TLC's membership to 30,000. Reaching this level of membership funding will help sustain the operations of TLC and increase its capacity to save precious community icons down the road.

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

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#### More in Sustainability

David Boyd deconstructed

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#### Comments

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**From:** Kathleen Fenner Peever [<mailto:kathleenfenner@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 09:11 AM  
**To:** Brian Farquhar  
**Subject:** bike trails

Hi,

I just wanted to say thank you for the great bike trail that now is in Saltair from Stocking Creek Park to N.Watts Rd. It was a great place to be able ride the mountain bike as opposed to on Chemainus Rd., where my husband and I generally ride. It's wonderful to be fortunate enough to be a resident in Saltair but it is even better when it is made convenient and accessible to enjoy some of the beautiful scenery that surrounds us.

Thanks again and we look forward to when that trail is extended!

Kathleen Fenner  
10857 Olsen Rd.  
Ladysmith BC  
V9G 1Z8