

# SITELINES

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



## Salish Sea

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October 2005

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The purpose of **Sitelines** is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.

# Notes from the Salish Sea

BY KATHY DUNSTER

This issue of **Sitelines** is about several subjects that some might say represent “non-traditional” areas of our profession: conservation, rural practice, rural community preservation, and active stewardship in the land trust movement. I live on a small rural island in the Salish Sea, and most of my

practice is dedicated to the conservation of island ecosystems and the protection of island cultural landscapes along with the island cultures that have co-evolved with the landscape. This is not easy work, and far too often I am finding myself on the opposite side of a public hearing listening to “townies” that include Lower Mainland based landscape architects and planners presenting their very urban or suburban models and designs.

The rules of engagement on the Gulf Islands are very different than in cities and towns. First of all, there is not enough water for people, so there definitely is not enough to water the non-native plants you may want to use in a design. Every single OCP states and emphasizes the islands are “Rural Island Communities”. Ask what that means. Agricultural land for instance, is not a ‘subdivision-in-waiting’, it is both the fabric of a local living island economy and the foundation of a distinctive cultural landscape. Notwithstanding new environmental information, land zoned agricultural but not in the ALR has been identified for its farming potential, and not for future residential, commercial, or industrial use. There is special legislation (the Islands Trust Act) designed to preserve and protect the islands, and a legal instrument known as the Islands Trust Policy Statement that describes and mandates what should be preserved and protected, and how this might be done ([www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)). To paraphrase BC Hydro, before you dig or prune (or click your computer mouse), find out the rules or suffer the consequences.

## New Environmental Information

The federal and provincial governments have undertaken joint Sensitive Ecosystem Inventories (SEI) for Eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast and adjacent islands, and are currently completing work in the Okanagan. Their interest in these places should not be surprising; there are endangered species and ecosystems galore and high biodiversity values help define the natural landscape qualities of these ecoregions. These are areas under intense development pressure and population growth. Simply put, any remaining fragment of natural habitat in these regions must be preserved and protected. Where damage has been done, restoration is imperative. Many landscape scientists, ecologists, and environmental planners have worked together to create management and planning guidelines and to provide very

*Continued on page 4*



Mt. Erksine just protected thanks to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, with support from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Islands Trust Fund and numerous other donors and partners. This site now completes the protection of a contiguous underdeveloped area on Salt Spring Island of 240 hectares (600 acres) on the top of Mt. Erksine. Photo by Michael Levy — more info 250 538-0318

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# Salish Sea

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practical advice for landowners, planners, developers (and people working for developers), and local government. Where to go for information, maps, and advice?

Wondering what is an endangered species in BC and Canada? The quickest access is through the BC Ministry of Environment's Conservation Data Centre (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/sei/index.html>)

Instead of highly recommending that you read the CSLA Sustainability Declaration (and maybe gain a CE credit), I'm going to print it here so you can.

## CSLA Sustainability Declaration

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects is committed to actively promoting sustainability principles, goals, and strategies. Accordingly, members of the CSLA have identified preservation and restoration of natural systems as central to their professional concerns.

## Fundamental Principles

- Healthy landscapes are essential to the well being of all life on earth.

- Sustainable development must address economic development, environmental biodiversity and community.
- Landscape Architects are committed to the development of responsible practice and construction standards which contribute to the health of natural systems, cultural identity and economic prosperity.

## Goals

- To support the integrity of a site, its residents, and its surroundings.
- To advocate responsible design, planning, management and policy decisions with a view to long term implications.
- To use materials, technologies and techniques which respect the environment.

## Action Strategies

- Protect, conserve and restore the ecosystem.
- Promote biodiversity.
- Advocate environmentally-friendly modes of transportation
- Promote collaboration in community planning, design and management
- Encourage local, provincial, national and international partnerships that promote healthy world ecosystems.
- Support the development of laws,

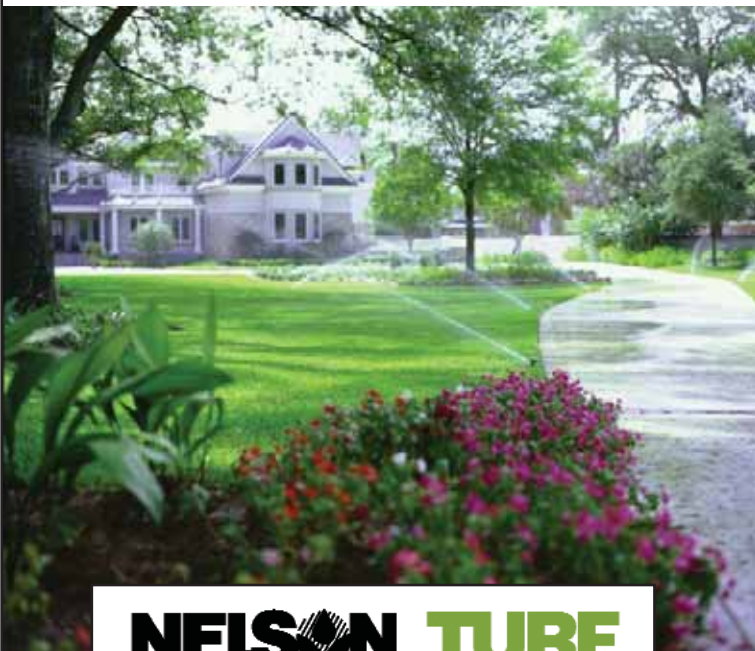
regulations, standards and guidelines that foster sustainable development.

- Support continuing professional development that effectively serves the environment

Since the Declaration was adopted in 2002, our science-based knowledge about sustainability has changed substantially. A recent paper published by Neil Dawe of the Canadian Wildlife Service and The Qualicum Institute provides clarity. Titled "The Faulty Three-Legged-Stool Model of Sustainable Development" Neil explains clearly why the three legs of the sustainability stool (economy, environment, and social well-being) cannot be of equal length. He says: "Worse, it suggests that if we can only find an equal balance between our economic needs, our social well-being, and the environment, we can simply continue to tread our current path, business as usual. What is wrong with this model? Simply put, humanity can have neither an economy nor social well-being without the environment. Thus, the environment is not and cannot be a leg of the sustainable development stool. It is the floor upon which the stool, or any sustainable development model, must stand. It is the foundation of any economy and social well-being

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that humanity is fortunate enough to achieve. Science has taught us that humanity is here today only because of the myriad services that the ecosystems of the earth have provided. Where would we or our economy be without healthy agricultural soils; sustainable forests; pollinating insects; clean, abundant fresh water; biologically productive oceans; or reasonably stable climates? The fact that our western culture has placed a higher priority on economic growth than it does on environmental health can explain much of the present deteriorating state in which we find the environment and thus ourselves.”

The other Neil Dawe in St. John's, Newfoundland, is of course the landscape architect that has been the driving force behind the Grand Concourse Authority that built or patched together an incredible network of paths, trails, and bikeways that connects the entire St. John's area into a car-free way of travelling, without harming the environment. What a vision! The GCA is a model for sustainable self-propelled transportation. I hope every BC landscape architect will get a chance to cross the country and walk the trails of St. John's.

I was recently speaking with one of the Smart Growth lawyers, and she said another myth in B.C. is the one that states that developers have rights. In the United States developer's rights are entrenched in the Constitution. In Canada, developers have no rights. Governments (and communities) hold all rights, which they may or may not choose to grant to any person, let alone a developer. This is very empowering stuff. Do you work to help a special interest only interested in making a profit, or do you throw your support behind the community that believes the common interest of preserving and protecting the environment is more important?

How do you know what that common interest is? In recent years there has been a lot of work on citizen-based science and local ecological knowledge – very rich sources of information that can help landscape architects do brilliant work. Most of the data and maps are stored in the local community, but rarely in local government offices. How do you find out?

The Land Trust Alliance of BC ([www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca)) maintains a web-based directory of local conservancies and land trusts active around the province. Since the 1990s over 30 new lands trusts have been incorporated in BC. Through their work, land trusts and conservancies promote voluntary actions that sustain natural systems. These NGOs work with private landowners to protect private land using a variety of legal tools including conservation covenants, and are tirelessly engaged in land acquisition projects to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive and culturally significant properties in perpetuity. The only exception is the Islands Trust Fund, the conservation wing of the unique local government known as the Islands Trust. The ITF has the legislated authority to purchase, receive land donations, and protect land in the Gulf Islands through voluntary stewardship agreements with landowners ([www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca)).

While landscape architects are often involved, and sometimes are obsessed with the notion of “place-making”, the Land Trust Alliance of BC has been a leader in “place-saving”. Place-saving is strongly linked to the genius loci, to helping people in communities identify places that have personal and collective meaning, and to taking action. One of the grassroots tools emerging from place-saving efforts is artistic community mapping. Local knowledge is gathered, synthesized, and interpreted in map form by local artists for the education, enjoyment, and use in place-saving actions by community members. A separate article describes artistic community mapping, and announces a new publication sure to interest landscape architects.

The Federation of BC Naturalists can steer you to local nature clubs and field naturalists that are local experts ([www.naturalists.bc.ca](http://www.naturalists.bc.ca)). The Community Mapping Network, a collaborative effort of agencies and NGOs, provides a web-based one-stop place to view and download many different types of environmental data from around the province, including maps, atlases, manuals, and reports ([www.shim.bc.ca](http://www.shim.bc.ca)). At the CMN site,

you can learn about fish of all shapes and stripes, native grasslands, frogs, eelgrass (the highly sensitive marine plant that forms the nursery grounds for salmon and hundreds of other species), and much more. The CMN site is a great place to start your baseline data gathering – many local governments and regional districts have used the CMN site for their atlas products.

There are two government-led portals into the realm of land and water stewardship. Both are based on the belief that most people want to be good stewards and need access to useful information and tools. The BC Stewardship Centre provides an internet site for the Stewardship Series, a series of publications (some created by landscape architects) that help guide landowners, developers, volunteers, professionals, local governments, and agencies in their efforts to care for the lands and waters of this province. [http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc\\_bc/main/index.asp?sProv=bc](http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/sc_bc/main/index.asp?sProv=bc)

Many parts of the province are in water crisis mode for all, or part of the year. Climate change brings with it new water management challenges and responsibilities. Why install sprinklers if there is no water? The WaterBucket is a new multi-agency collaboration to provide a resource-rich, highly useful and interactive website for information and communication related to water sustainability in the Province of B.C. <http://www.waterbucket.ca/waterbucket/home/wbcIndexSP.asp>

The last Action Strategy in the CSLA Sustainability Declaration concerns continuing professional development that effectively serves the environment. Making time to learn more about land stewardship initiatives in BC can help you get started or perhaps become re-acquainted with hands-on environmental service. Local land trusts are always looking for board members; many are now taking on cultural landscapes and historic buildings and can use the expertise of landscape architects, help with management plans, and for good physical therapy there is nothing like a day pulling Scotch broom off a coastal bluff in the Gulf Islands.

# Notes from the Slokan

BY ERIC CLOUGH MBCSLA

*Eric Clough is one of the wise elders in the BCSLA. He writes about how his career has evolved and thrived, though he lives far from any city or town, and how he became involved in the land trust movement in B.C. - KD*

I was originally registered in the State of California in 1954 (yes, 51 years ago) and practiced in the San Francisco Bay area for 14 years before coming to beautiful British Columbia in 1968. We settled on 160 acres near Winlaw, in the Slokan Valley. In California, in those days, the State of California registered 'Building Designers' and after considerable study of architecture and engineering I also registered in that category. So my experience included a wide range of architecture and landscape architecture; my practice included urban design, cluster subdivision planning, luxury houses, and landscapes as well as parks and recreation. I also designed large garden shows and exhibitions.

Having watched California swell with over-population I longed for being closer to nature and initially moved further and further from urban environments into the foothills between San Francisco Bay and the ocean. When I decided it was time to leave the United States I was drawn to the earlier home of my parents, British Columbia, and though they had lived in Vancouver, I was pulled to the mountains of the interior. I had the romantic notion that I could make a living writing and growing native plants for the nursery trade.

We built some shelters intended to serve as temporary housing, cleared some land and started thousands of cuttings before our small savings diminished and it became necessary

to get back to professional design work. When I registered to practice as a Landscape Architect in British Columbia, I realized that I was the only landscape architect east of the lower mainland. The entire southern interior was almost my exclusive territory. But our land had no power and no telephone, either. Communication would be difficult.

As I returned home from Vancouver I stopped at the offices of all the architects I could find in the Interior. They were patient with me as I showed them my work and tried to explain the full scope of services a Landscape Architect could provide. They explained to me that they did all the hard landscape design, engineers did their grading and drainage planning, and local nurseries and landscape contractors supplied planting plans. In spite of that they were very kind and I did return home with some work ... planting plans with introductory fees in the \$50 to \$75 range and a promise that I would return in one month to deliver the completed drawings and planting specifications.



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This started a routine that lasted for more than ten years. Each month I would go on the road, spending a week driving from home to the lower Okanagan, up the valley and ultimately home over the Monashee Range and north up the Arrow Lake to Nakusp before heading south again into the valley I called home. No client was closer than a 4 hour drive. A radio telephone sufficed for blurred communication with clients and a pair of kerosene lamps provided illumination when deadlines required 'burning the midnight oil'.

Slowly the territory expanded and I traveled into the East Kootenays to do park studies for the City of Cranbrook and considerable work for Fairmont Hot Springs. Local work picked up, too, and the cities of Castlegar, Nelson, and Trail occasionally had the need for the services of a landscape architect.

The practice of Landscape Architecture did not provide a full income even then. Travel costs were high and fees relatively low. Some of my architect clients began to refer small architectural projects to me when they were too busy or office overhead costs made designing houses unprofitable. This spread the territory even further to include projects in Telegraph Creek, Williams Lake, Victoria, and Prince Rupert as well as the Okanagan and the length of the Columbia Valley. Being away from home extended to more days each month.

I felt very fortunate to be generalist. I could handle some rather large scale planning projects, urban re-development, design a courtyard for a local library, or an energy efficient house. At times I was a small part of big projects ... a member of a team of architects, engineers and development consultants. Teaching part time in the planning department of Selkirk College was also a valuable learning experience and a small income enhancer.

In the late 70's, I, like many others, became fascinated with energy efficiency in general and in relation to housing in particular. After a period of intense study I conducted some workshops in the Kootenays and purchased my first computer to be able to do simulations and CAD. We still had no

power so a small generator and a bank of batteries supplied the power for that and a couple of office lights. Specializing in energy efficient buildings became a short-term boom for this designer. There were more clients than I could handle, most of them fairly close to home. The media loved the subject so many articles about my work appeared, both locally and nationally and a couple of design awards landed on my doorstep. Even Sitelines published an article featuring one of my houses. Landscape architecture became a sideline for awhile, only the

houses I designed got attention in that area.

I decided to build some passive solar houses and sell them to the marketplace. Specialty crews were in training as we built 3 houses ... and then the bottom fell out of the economy and financing interest costs soared to shocking heights. Suddenly I was in debt, way over my head, and there was no work for landscape architects or building designers in this region. Other architectural offices shrunk or went out of business and bankruptcy was common in building companies.

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## Notes from the Slocan

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I was offered a position as a Heritage Canada consultant for a smaller city in Ontario. Helping revitalize the downtown core was my mandate. I was to be an employee for the first time in 30 years. After that contract completed I joined with two architects and we specialized in affordable housing though our practice was a general one, too, and many types of projects went through our office.

I was away for 10 years before returning to BC with all my debts paid. Older and more experienced, too, if not necessarily wiser.

Now that I am the recipient of social benefits for senior citizens I figure that the larger community is paying me the equivalent of half a small salary. So half of my professional time goes back to the community on a pro-bono work for seniors' housing projects, other charitable projects and community projects, as well.

The other half, my paid work, is spent much as it was 36 years ago on landscape design, an occasional house, as well as authoring a few Ortho garden books. There is a little more local work for landscape design types than there used to be. Now and then I get a call from a home owner wanting some landscape plans. One recently asked me if the fee I quoted included the materials and installation costs, too.

I refer most residential landscape work to a quite good garden designer residing in the area.

My professional landscape work now consists of some work for local municipalities, developers, and some local park development. The work of landscape architects is not well known in this part of the interior yet. There is potential, of course, but a lot of educational effort would be required to establish a full time practice.

This leads me finally to Land Trust work. A very small group of us established The Kootenay Land Trust Society a few years ago. We hold conservation covenants on 3 parcels of land. A great deal of education is required

here in this part of the interior as few know anything about the concept of conservation except the continuing conflict between residents and industrial logging practices.

I get a few calls each year that inquire about covenants and how they work. Most are handled by phone and email communication. Some require personal meetings and small seminars to acquaint people with the concepts and the responsibilities of owners and covenant holders.

Most communities are fairly widely spread. Looking at land parcels when covenants are a potential requires considerable travel, just like making a living as a professional design person.

As I see it, the major hurdle for the land trust movement is our society's view of land as a commodity. Land and its inhabitants, both flora and fauna, are seen largely as their commercial, market value. Many of us are unwilling to remove the dollar value of trees, for instance, from the equation, or the subdivided value of land, for that matter.

So, making a living while residing in the bush is a challenge, as is promoting and growing the land trust movement. But, it is an interesting challenge and it soothes my inner self. Hearing the sigh of the wind through the trees and the hoot of an owl in the stillness of the night makes it all supremely worthwhile.



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# Conservation Covenants

BY KATHY DUNSTER MBCSLA

We are learning slowly that government cannot always be expected to provide leadership in land stewardship. In 1994, the Land Title Act was amended (Section 219) to give land trusts the legal ability to hold conservation covenants in BC. By working with private landowners throughout the province, some 182,000 hectares of land have been protected in perpetuity. These are lands that will never lose their protection through the quick stroke of a pen or Order-in-Council. The most common ways to protect private land in BC are through conservation covenants, land donations, and land purchases.

Section 219 of the Land Title Act outlines the legal framework for Conservation Covenants. A conservation covenant is a legal agreement between a landowner and authorized land trusts (usually two). This legal agreement remains attached to a land title in perpetuity, even after the land is sold or transferred, and defines allowable and restricted uses for the property. With conservation covenants, the title of the property usually remains with the original landowner. The covenant binds future owners of the land to the terms of the covenant. This agreement ensures that features of the land (both natural and/or cultural) that you want protected will remain as you have enjoyed it forever. It is useful to remember that heritage buildings and landscapes can also be protected using a Section 219 Conservation Covenant.

A decision to protect land or cultural features you now hold is unique and personal. Some want to protect special features before passing the land on to the next generation, including the provision that the land can never be subdivided. Others may see a conservation covenant as a way to resolve property or potential income tax challenges. Landowners considering a conservation covenant are often asked to imagine their land in 500 years. Barring natural disaster, but given all that time,

it may have a chance to become an old-growth forest, or forever provide habitat for nesting herons.

The covenant then describes these values, and provides legal language to ensure they will be protected. The conservation organizations holding the covenant will record and monitor the state of the land long after the land has changed hands, and step in to prevent damage by new or adjacent owners. This is a creative way of protecting land and leaving a living legacy for the future. You can still live on, use, or sell the land you have protected.

Lands can also be donated to, or purchased by a land trust. The title is transferred to the new landowner (the land trust) who will develop management plans to outline management goals and strategies for the new acquisition. Who can you donate to? The Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) maintains a registry of land trusts and

conservancies in BC. Some are national, others are regional, and many are working in very local areas.

There are also various tax incentives that may benefit the original donor/seller. The federal government has recognized that just like donating a piece of art to the public and getting a tax receipt, landowners that donate environmentally significant property for the common good should be similarly recognized. Since 1995, Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program has enabled individual and corporate landowners to protect their natural areas forever by donating ecologically-sensitive land to an environmental charity or government body. An "ecogift" can be a donation of land or a partial interest in land - such as a conservation covenant or servitude. Donors often mention that they now have peace of mind knowing the land will be managed forever by the recipient, according to mutually *Continued on page 10*



*Matson Lands, Victoria - successful conservation in an urban setting — 1 hectare, or 2.4 acres, the Matson lands are now owned and managed by Habitat Acquisition Trust — containing remnant Garry Oak woodlands, the "crown jewel of the Inner Harbour". Photo: HAT*

*Canadian culture is partly defined by our relationship with the land, and the products of that relationship are expressed in design, craft, art, word, and song.*



*Sooke Potholes — protected in 2005 by TLC The Land Conservancy of BC with partners Capital Regional District Parks and the provincial government — now Potholes Park, with campsites, more info 250-479-8053.*

*Photo: Nick Stanger*



*MacMillan Provincial Park — in 2005 The Nature Trust was a key partner in almost doubling the size of Cathedral Grove, MacMillan Provincial park to over 280 hectares (690 acres). Located on Vancouver Island, near Port Alberni. Photo: Doug Walker*

## Conservation Covenants

*- continued from page 9*

agreed-upon conservation goals and objectives. Donors are also eligible to receive income tax benefits for their donation.

Canadian culture is partly defined by our relationship with the land, and the products of that relationship are expressed in design, craft, art, word, and song. Old Man on His Back, the inspiration for much of Sharon Butala's non-fiction writing, was donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) by Sharon & Peter Butala and is now the 13,000 acre Old Man on His Back Prairie & Heritage Conservation Area near Eastend, Saskatchewan. In New Brunswick, the landscape photographer Freeman Patterson donated 250 acres of his land at Shampers Bluff on the Bay of Fundy to the NCC. Both of these donations included a "life estate" allowing the Butala's and Patterson's to remain on the land until they die.

Our economic history is also closely connected to the land and waters of the province. When the land is abandoned

because of changing economic circumstances, it may have ecological values worth conserving. Across from Terra Nova, at the mouth of the Middle Arm of the Fraser River is Swishwash Island. Owned by BC Packers, and the former site of a fish cannery, the land was donated to NCC in 1999 to protect exceptional ecological values including several Canadian Species-At-Risk. Next time you are on a floatplane heading to Victoria from the river, take a look down as you lift off. Terra Nova is to the left, and Swishwash is right below!

Perhaps you are fortunate to own land that you would like to see protected, or are in a position to advise a landholder about conservation options. To learn more about conservation covenants go to the LTABC website, and for Ecogifts, turn to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) at [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/ecogifts/intro\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/ecogifts/intro_e.cfm) In BC the CWS and LTABC work together to deliver the Ecogifts programme.



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More than fifty BCSLA construction site signs are in circulation throughout the province. Both large and small signs have been manufactured and are ready to order. The order form and a photo of the signs in use is available on the BCSLA Members only website or by contacting the BCSLA office.

# Agriculture and Landscape Architecture

BY DEREK MASSELINK

The agricultural landscape – the landscape that we count on to feed, and clothe us – is not one that attracts much attention or participation from our profession. Until recently much of the work done in this area was the responsibility of the farmer. In more recent times, outside help has been available from agrologists, engineers and even agricultural planners. Other than an academic association within a faculty of agriculture, the profession of landscape architecture has yet to really break into the agricultural sector. Whether this is due to a lack of economic incentives, or to a lack of understanding between our two spheres of practice, I am not exactly sure. For whatever the reasons, I have found the agricultural landscape to be a challenging and rewarding environment in which to practice.

One of the areas that I have become increasingly involved with, both professionally and personally, is the protection and support of farmland and farming. Many underestimate the importance of the agriculture sector in British Columbia. Farming makes a substantial contribution to the economy of the Province. With more than 20,000 farms and over 1,100 food processing industries, this sector provides direct employment for over 54,000 people and generates over \$2.3 billion in farm cash receipts. The total value of the food industry from “farm to fork” is over \$19 billion and provides total employment to over 267,000 British Columbians.

Farmland also provides and protects important aesthetic, environmental, and cultural values. Agricultural land often provides separation between adjoining communities, limits suburban sprawl, contributes to cleaner air and water, increases biodiversity, and provides venues for cultural events such as festivals and markets.

In spite of these benefits, farming is facing increasing challenges that undermine its viability. These challenges include increasing property values and development pressures, urban sprawl, increasing operational costs with declining returns, an aging farm population and competition from cheap imported foodstuffs. And while the Agricultural Land Reserve has been very helpful at reducing the loss of farmland in BC to development; the ALR has not been effective at maintaining the economic viability of our farms – a task that it was never designed to do. As a result many of our farms fall out of production and are ultimately lost.

Why is this important? Well, for starters, we all depend on farms for much of our daily food requirements. Unfortunately, in recent years, our dependence has shifted away from local farms to ones located, on average, 2,500 km away. At present, agriculture in BC produces about 50 percent of the food consumed in the province. With the continued increase in the population base and the loss of production capacity, we are at risk of becoming increasingly dependent on imports to secure adequate nutrition for the population. With farmland coming out of production, the security of our local food supply is at stake - an increasing concern in a world that is on the verge of an energy crisis.

In my community in the Gulf Islands our small and often marginal farmlands, separated from lucrative markets, appear to provide no more than a bucolic backdrop for island life. There are few remaining farmers in the Gulf Islands that are still able to derive a majority of their income from farming. Most of the food that sustains our community comes from off-island and most of that comes from

out-of-province. In short, agriculture as both a viable way of life and as an integral, functioning and vital part of my community's landscape is threatened.

Many of the challenges that farms and farming face are at their root design challenges. How does one maintain – even integrate – farmland within a growing urban community or region? How can a farm be reorganized so that it supports ecological and social health while maintaining or enhancing its economic bottom line? How do we communicate the importance of farming within a community, municipality or region?

Advocacy is a necessary part of agricultural design and planning work – a belief that agriculture is a vital part of our society - one that needs to be both protected and enhanced. A significant portion of my work involves explaining why farming and therefore farmland is important and should be protected and enhanced. Whether it is investigating the establishment of a farmland trust or redesigning a sustainable farm, each project is prefaced with an argument for agriculture. And while at times this can be frustrating, it is a constant reminder of how far our society has removed itself from land and the responsibility of meeting its daily needs locally.

The production of food, for reasons of health and long-term sustainability, can be better integrated into our daily lives and into our urban and rural communities. What this integration looks like and how it works are ultimately design questions – questions our profession is in a good position to address.

*Derek Masselink lives and works at Hope Bay Farm on Pender Island where he stewards the only breeding flock of Barnevelder chickens in Canada. He holds an M.L.Arch. from UBC and is a registered professional agrologist (P.Ag.) in B.C. Through his consulting business, Masselink Environmental Design, he provides ecologically-focused landscape design & planning services. His current research is on the establishment of farmland trusts in B.C.*



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# Communities In Transition

BY SARA MUIR OWEN

Rural communities in B.C. are under a great deal of pressure to change. But what to change to, and when is change appropriate or inappropriate? In 2004, the Real Estate Foundation established a special initiative known as Communities in Transition to address the issues and challenges of development pressures and anticipated as well as unanticipated changes in the rural communities of the province. The CIT is inviting many organizations and government agencies to become partners in shared research and case studies that directly address the needs of rural communities in transition and help communities to use values-based planning tools to achieve and maintain community health. Recognizing that landscape architects have an important role to play helping rural communities in transition, BCSLA has become a CIT partner. One of the benefits of CIT will be access to information that will help urban-based landscape architects plan appropriately for rural communities.



CIT partners are non-profit organizations, agencies and institutions with mandates related to planning for social, economic and environmental sustainability and real estate and land use issues. Their participation serves their member organizations and non-metropolitan communities in general.

## Current CIT Partners include:

BC Non-Profit Housing Association

BC Real Estate Association

BC Society of Landscape Architects

BC Treaty Commission

BC Wilderness Tourism Association

BC Water and Waste Association

Chinook Institute for  
Community Stewardship

Columbia Basin Trust

Community Futures Development  
Association of BC

Community Transition,  
Ministry of Community Services

East Kootenay Conservation Program

Oceans, Habitat & Enhancement  
Branch, DFO

North Central Municipal Association

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association

Real Estate Foundation of BC

Real Estate Institute of BC

Smart Growth BC

SFU Centre for Sustainable  
Community Development

SFU City Program

South Okanagan-Similkameen  
Conservation Program

UBC School of Community  
& Regional Planning

University of Northern BC

Under direction of the CIT partners, Sara is continuing to add resources to the CIT website, which is already packed with useful background papers, proposed studies, and information about partners and the CIT initiative. Some CIT partners, such as the Real Estate Foundation of BC, may be able to help fund an organization's project. The Real Estate Foundation (REF) is looking for proposals that can become successful grant applications. Proposed projects must meet the REF's funding criteria, as well as exhibit a strong compatibility between the applicant's and CIT's mission and goals. To find out more about the application process, visit the REF website at [www.realestatefoundation.com](http://www.realestatefoundation.com) and review "How to Apply". Note that there is a special application form for CIT projects.

For more information about Communities in Transition visit the CIT website at [www.communitytransition.org](http://www.communitytransition.org) or contact Sara Muir Owen, CIT Manger of Secretariat Services, by email at [info@communitytransition.org](mailto:info@communitytransition.org) or phone 604-688-6800 (Toll-free: 1-866-912-6800).

*Sara Muir Owen holds an MLA from UBC. From 2001 to 2005, Sara was working in Colorado and New Mexico. Sara worked in landscape architecture with Design Workshop in Aspen, Colorado and as an environmental planner with Robert Odland Consulting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Prior to her work in the southwest, Sara was a research associate and project coordinator with the James Taylor Chair in Landscape and Liveable Environments, UBC. Upon her recent return to Vancouver, Sara has taken the CIT Manager of Secretariat Services position with the Real Estate Foundation of BC.*



# BCSLA Calendar of Events

October 21	BCSLA Board of Examiners Fall Sitting I, Vancouver, BC
October 22	BCSLA/Specimen Trees Nursery Tour
October 28	BCSLA Board of Examiners Fall Sitting II, Vancouver, BC
October 31	2006 Sitelines Annual Update Submissions
November 3-4	BC Landscape and Nursery Association AGM
November 8	World Town Planning Day
November 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 5-6	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams ( Sections C and E) , Vancouver, BC
December	BCSLA Festive Season Party
December 20	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 31	BCSLA 2006 Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Form Submission Deadline
2006	
January 24	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
January 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
February	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting
March	BCSLA Annual General Meeting (date to be determined)
March 6	April 2006 C/LARE Registration Deadline
April 4-5	C/LARE Administration (Sections A,B and D)
April 7	June 2006 LARE Order Deadline
June 12-13	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams (Sections C and E)
June 14-17	CELA/CSLA Congress - Shifting Ground: Landscape Architecture in the Age of the New Normal, Vancouver, BC
June 17	Super Saturday, Vancouver, BC



*The Author in the Field, photograph provided by  
Derek Masselink*

# Notice Board

## Call for 2006 CSLA Class of Fellow Nominations

Please be advised that nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Class of Fellows, to be inducted at CSLA Congress 2006 in Vancouver. The election to Fellow is the highest honour the Society bestows on its members. Fellowship is the recognition of members who have made an outstanding contribution to the profession over an extended period of time. The membership should be reviewed for the most worthy candidates who meet the criteria. Contact BCSLA to obtain a copy of the Nomination Form and criteria.

Particular attention should be paid to those practitioners who have made nationally or internationally recognized contributions. The deadline for submissions has been set for January 13, 2006, providing you with three months time for selection of candidates and preparation of documents. Please note that the College encourages the nomination of members with seniority in the profession, who may have been overlooked in the past. Your time and efforts in tackling this annual tasks are greatly appreciated.

## 2006 CELA/CSLA Congress Call For Papers -

### *Shifting Ground: Landscape Architecture in the Age of the New Normal*

You are invited to submit proposals for panels, presentations, papers, and design speculations at the 2006 CELA/CSLA conference. Priority will be given to those proposals that address the conference theme and sub-theme(s). Proposals should be made in the form of abstracts. Abstracts for all papers are due not later than December 1, 2005, and will enter a blind peer review process. Please visit <http://www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/CELA.06-CALL%20FOR%20PAPERSoct5.pdf> to download additional details. Many thanks to the scores of BCSLA volunteers who are working hard on this project.

## 2006 LACF Grants Program

The Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation (LACF) is pleased to announce its 2006 grants program. This year, grants varying from \$2000 for graduate students and up to \$10,000 for professionals are available for research, communication and scholarship activities. Proposals will be evaluated based on criteria set forth by the LACF Board. Submissions must be received no later than 5:00 pm, November 18, 2005.

Over the past fifteen years, LACF has funded a wide range of projects including habitat design guidelines, historic research and documentation, oral histories, professional education programs, design research, and environmental education and communication projects. Funding to support the LACF grants program has been made possible through the generous donations of the CSLA College of Fellows, CSLA component associations, individual and group donors, and through bequests to the Foundation. For further inquiries please contact:

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Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 3A6



# Community Mapping

BY KATHY DUNSTER MBCSLA

Since the early 1990s, the Land Trust Alliance of BC has been a world leader in the development of a genre of cartography known fondly as “barefoot mapping” and more formally as “artistic community mapping”. Community mapping brings groups and individuals together with one another: with the elders who preserve the memories, with children and families, old-timers and new-comers, scientists, planners, farmers, loggers, fishers, and with the artists. It is a powerful process of seeing, learning, communicating, and anticipating the future with confidence.

There are no limits to what can be mapped, and maps can capture everything from our heritage farms and orchards to hiking trails, salamander ponds, marine habitat, best places to watch the sunset, a child’s eye view of island life, and much more. Each community is composed of a diversity of individuals, with eclectic interests, concerns and expectations that form a unique culture. It is this culture that ultimately shapes the local economy, and creates economic potential for future community benefit. Maps are created as a visual record of what is discovered about the community, and both the process and product become powerful tools for capacity building, creating common bonds and partnerships, and defining sense of place.

The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Mapping Project was a pilot project designed to initiate immediate rural community capacity building at the most grassroots level, while having many lasting, long-term benefits for both individuals and the growing island communities they live in. The project, travelling exhibition, and atlas were designed to provide both an example,

and to offer inspiration to other communities in the hope that they will engage in this dynamic process. The atlas also serves to document a remarkable and enduring portrait of what is one of the most vibrant, naturally beautiful, and ecologically sensitive regions of Canada.

The project began in 1999 on the eve of the Millennium, with a purpose to record and map what is valued, vulnerable, and cherished to the local communities living in this popular area, considered one of Canada’s most endangered ecoregions. The seventeen island communities went through an extensive community process, taking inventories, and holding workshops to gather information, which was then lovingly rendered by local island artists. Once completed, the remarkable collection was exhibited on 14 of the 17 islands and in Victoria, Vancouver, and Sidney BC.

The Islands in the Salish Sea Community Atlas is now in production and due to be released on October 29, 2005. This is the culmination of over five years of work by well over 3000 people who live in a region we call the Islands in the Salish Sea, also known as the Strait of Georgia. The maps are extraordinarily different, encompassing many fields: cartography, science, history, art, and community planning. The 30 full-colour maps are displayed in the Atlas along with the stories of their creation and selected details about the island communities. Additional chapters are written by Sheila Harrington, Judi Stevenson, and Kathy Dunster, with a Preface by Robert Bateman and Forward by Briony Penn. They outline the power and nature of bioregional and artistic community mapping, eloquently describe the community process that these islands went through to arrive at these artistic portraits, and offer a succinct and



*Kuper Island Map carved in cedar by Herb Rice (Photo: Sheila Harrington)*

informative narrative on the history of the area. Further information, including preview peeks at some of the maps, and an order form can be obtained at the Land Trust of Alliance’s website [www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca](http://www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca)

# SHIFTING GROUND

Landscape Architecture in the Age of the New Normal  
L'architecture de paysage à l'ère de la Nouvelle Normale

Urbanism. Environmentalism. Consumerism. Globalization. Poverty. Urban decay. Today's world is continually undergoing massive changes and reconfigurations. The urban landscape must accommodate commercial and residential needs, transportation requirements, diverse ethnicities, leisure spaces and so much more. Our increasingly pluralistic societies have countless crossovers and what was acceptable yesterday is untenable today. We require spaces to live and breathe and connect not only with nature, but with ourselves.

What is the role of landscape architecture during this age of the New Normal? How do we provide solutions as professionals or equip those who are about to enter the field? The issues are daunting, but our role has never been more clearly defined. Quite simply, we have the power to design better urban environments. Ones which acknowledge and respond to the demands and requirements of our complex societies.

Shifting Ground, the CSLA/CELA 2006 Congress, will provide a forum for landscape architects, educators and students to share ideas, experiences, knowledge, influences and solutions. The World Planners Congress and the RAIC 2006 Festival of Architecture will also take place ahead of the United Nations World Urban Forum (Habitat +30), providing additional opportunities to interact with members of similarly influential disciplines from around the world.

Bring your thoughts and ideas to Shifting Ground, in Vancouver, June 2006, to speculate, challenge, envision and ultimately create new landscapes in the age of the New Normal.

[www.sitelines.org/shiftingground](http://www.sitelines.org/shiftingground)

14–17 June 2006

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

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in Landscape Architecture

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