

# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

January 1997, Vol. 1, No 1

## Yale Garry oaks to be protected

By Katie Stewart

The November-December 1996 issue of the *B.C. Naturalist*, magazine of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN), contains an article about the provincial government's Protected Area Strategy (PAS) for the Lower Mainland.

Of special interest to GOMPS members is the inclusion in the PAS of a 5-ha area near Yale which contains a rare stand of Garry oaks.

Elaine Golds represented the FBCN as a member of the Regional Public Advisory Committee which also included representatives from the forest, mining and tourism industries, conservation and outdoor recreation groups, labour

and the provincial government.

I was able to contact Ms Golds to ask her how the Yale Garry oak came to be protected. She gave me the phone number of Bert Brink, a retired U.B.C. professor who was honored in 1993 on his 80th birthday for his long-time involvement in conservation issues when B.C. Parks named a meadow in Garibaldi Park after him.

In a phone conversation with Dr. Brink I learned that the 5-ha area identified includes not only the Garry oak stand but also the nearby Milliken archeological site, which is the oldest site in B.C. and possibly North America. The protection proposal was accepted unanimously.

The Milliken site had been studied by the late Dr. Carl Borden in the 1960s. Dr. Brink said that it is an interesting site geologically; at the time first human settlement occurred, maritime waters were very close to the entrance to the Fraser Canyon.

He said, "it is quite a magnificent site. The oaks are close to the point you leave the Fraser Canyon and break away into the open area." Many are on the east side of canyon and are not very accessible

Dr. Brink also mentioned that Mike Meagher, a retired forester, is conducting studies on the Sumas and Yale oaks. He will be studying the enzyme pattern among Garry oak bud samples taken from a number of locations on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the two mainland locations.

The Yale Garry oaks are one of two identified sites of Garry oaks on the mainland. Another small grove is located near Abbotsford on Sumas Mountain. There are not as many oaks at this site and development is fast encroaching.

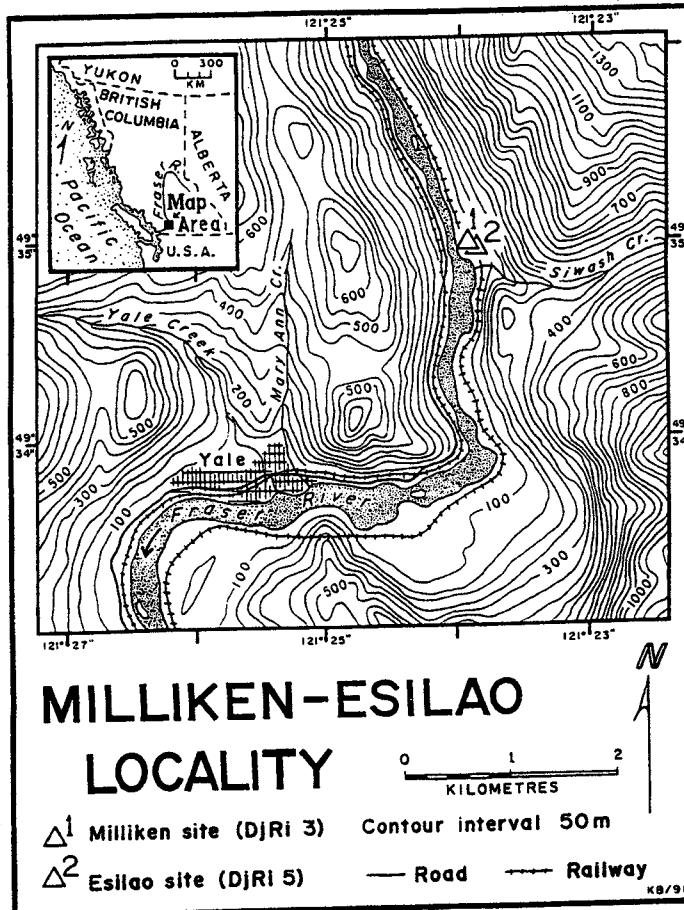
Both sites are presumed to be man-originated. Dr. Brink thinks acorns were brought from the south (i.e. range where Garry oaks occur) or from southern Vancouver Island by aboriginal peoples. The oldest trees pre-date Caucasian settlement and are 300 years or older.

Dr. Borden thought oaks were from the post-glacial period, on site 4500 years ago, said Dr. Brink.

Of historical interest is the fact that the oaks were mentioned in an account of the Royal Engineers building a road through the Fraser canyon, written by Chief Engineer Anderson.

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MAP OF MILLIKEN site location (close to the stand of Yale Garry oaks) in the lower Fraser Canyon.

Map supplied courtesy of Dr. Bert Brink

There is still some aboriginal settlement not far away and native fishing platforms can be seen below the highway. Dr. Brink hopes that approval for erecting a kiosk alongside the Trans Canada Highway across the river from the site will be approved. Benefactors have already offered to fund this.

The Yale Indian Band will be involved in the wording of the sign, said Dr. Brink, and in the protection process.



To get to the oaks, it is necessary to

go by inflatable boats from Yale and land on a sandbar, but not in freshet season. Dr. Brink was about to set out the day following our conversation (November 20), to guide some Vancouverites to the site.

Some of Victoria's local botanists have also visited the Yale site. Adolf and Oluna Ceska told me how they had crossed the Fraser River by boat (not an inflatable) and had to walk/run through a long dark tunnel, always looking behind them in case a train came along.

Dr. Brink said the nearest mainland Garry oak grove is along Chuckanut Drive south of Bellingham, the old Highway 99 that used to follow the Pacific coast.

Dr. Brink mentioned that R. Glendenning, an entomologist at the Agricultural Research Station at Agassiz had done a study on the Yale Garry oaks in the 1930s.

Mr. Glendenning published an article on the oaks in the March-April 1944 *The Canadian Field Naturalist*. My photocopy of this article (below) came from Dr. Briony Penn.

## The Garry Oak In British Columbia

### *An Interesting Example of Discontinuous Distribution*

By R. Glendenning

Several years ago while studying [George B.] Sudworth's *Forest Trees of the Pacific Slope* published in 1908, I became interested in a footnote on the distribution of the Garry oak in British Columbia viz, "An isolated grove on the northwest end of Vancouver Island on Quatsino Sound, and another on the Fraser River 1 1/2 miles above Yale."

As I had failed to notice any oaks near Yale though frequently passing through this area, and as the above records were doubted by later authors who quoted Sudworth, I decided to substantiate or disprove them, and to run these records to their original sources. It has been very interesting work.

The oaks were eventually found to exist at Yale nearly one hundred miles from the main area of distribution, and were found to have increased from a "grove" to a permanent part of the flora of considerable extent.

I have been unable to verify the Quatsino record either by visit or correspondence, but my enquiries on oaks led to the location of an unrecorded, isolated colony on Sumas Mountain near Chilliwack.

Apart from the original discoverer of these records, interest lies in the peculiar incidence and method of dispersal

of these outliers far from the main area of Garry oak occurrence, that at Yale being 80 air miles distant, that at Sumas 40 miles, while Quatsino Sound lies at least 110 miles from the nearest oaks on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

#### **Distribution**

The Garry oak, *Quercus Garryana* Douglas, was described by its author in 1939, the type locality being given as "Plentiful on plains near Ft. Vancouver, on the Multnomah, and at Puget Sound" (*Piper — Flora of the State of Washington*, 1906). Sudworth in his *Forest Trees of the Pacific Slope*, 1908 says "Described originally from plains around Vancouver on the mainland but not seen there since."

But as Whitford and Craig point out in their book *The Forests of British Columbia* (Commission of Conservation 1918), there are no plains around Vancouver, B.C. and evidently Sudworth mistook Vancouver, B.C. for Vancouver, Washington.

It is worthy to remark here that although no Garry oaks occur in or around Vancouver, the madrona *Arbutus menziesii*, which occupies a very similar range through the Pacific area, occurs plentifully on the warm rocky shore line of West Vancouver, and scattered individuals still stand in Vancouver itself.

The Garry oak is the only species of *Quercus* that occurs in British Columbia. As at present known, the distribution of *Q. garryana* extends from Santa Cruz mountains in California northward through Oregon and Washington, gradually being confined to the coastal area at the northward limit of its range in Washington and British Columbia

Its northward limit on the mainland, with the two exceptions to be discussed later, is at Fairhaven Bluff on the coast some five miles south of the town of Bellingham, U.S.A., and 20 miles from the international boundary at Blaine.

On Vancouver Island it is local but plentiful on the warm rocky shoreline of the south eastern portion, from the southern tip at Victoria, north as far as Comox, and on the adjacent islands in the Gulf of Georgia. It extends a few miles inland where dry well-drained slopes occur, but then seems to be choked out by the dense coniferous forest.

The record for Quatsino Sound, if authentic, is the only station on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

#### **Origin of the Yale Record**

It was tolerably certain that Sudworth had not discovered nor even visited the isolated Yale stand, but he gave no source for his information in *The For-*

est *Trees of the Pacific Slope*. However, after some search, a reference to these oaks in very similar words was found in [John] Macoun's *Catalogue of Canadian Plants, Part III*, 1986.

But Macoun evidently had not visited this stand as he gives Dawson as his authority for the record.

Now Dawson (G.M.) was primarily a geologist, and it would be a very observant botanist even, who would notice a few oak trees amidst the wild terrain surrounding Yale; it was therefore extremely doubtful if he was the pioneer discoverer, especially as no specimens of the Garry oak collected by Dawson are extant in the National Herbarium at Ottawa.

Further enquiry was finally rewarded by the location of the following passage by Dawson in the Geological Survey Report for 1879-80, entitled, "Notes of the Distribution of Some of the More Important Trees of British Columbia."

Referring to the Garry oak, he says: "Flourishes in the south-eastern portion of Vancouver Island though Mr. C.A. Anderson mentions the existence of a few trees a mile and a half above Yale on the Frazer River, and these Mr. Cambie informs me are still to be seen."

Here then was the probable discoverer and original recorder, Mr. C.A. Anderson of the Hudson Bay Company, and this point has been amply proved by reference to his writing, viz., *The Domain of the West; a brief description of the province of British Columbia, its climate and resources, 1872; Notes on North-western America, 19876; and History of the Northwest Coast, 1878*.

In all these writings, Mr. Anderson mentions seeing oaks, his earliest reference being to 1847, when a score of small trees — with one specimen having a trunk one foot in diameter, are mentioned, but as early as 1876, even he doubted if they still remained, as evidenced by his remark, " — unless they may have been considerably spared for their rarity, it is now questionable whether any now remain."

Mr. Walter B. Anderson of Victoria, son of Alexander Caulfield Anderson, and like him a keen observer of all natural phenomena, has informed me that he well remembers his father speaking of the Yale oaks.

Unfortunately Mr. C.A. Anderson's manuscripts, like others dealing with the early history of the Pacific Northwest, were "borrowed" by Bancroft, the Californian historian and have remained in California ever since; whether further details of the oaks were given or not, I cannot say.

### Origin of the Quatsino Sound Record

As far as the writer knows, Sudworth's is the earliest record for this location, but as with Yale, he gives no authority for his statement. Whether he visited Quatsino or not, I do not know. I have been unable to find any further reference, and neither Macoun nor Dawson mentions it.

### Origin of the Sumas Mountain Record

As far as is known, this location was first mentioned in an article by the author in the *Forestry Chronicle*, December 1934.

The site was visited by Mr. J.W. Winson of Huntingdon and the writer in 1933 as a result of information given to Mr. Winson by A.E. Humphrey, Land Surveyor of Chilliwack.

Further inquiry has revealed the fact that the original discoverer of this colony was a homesteader named John MacKay who lived nearby, and who went to the mountain seeking hard-wood for farm implement repairs.

Vine maple, *Acer circinatum* or dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii* were generally used in pioneer days for this purpose, but finding oak, he told his friends and the information has lingered. This was approximately 40 years ago, but no data is available as to the size of the trees at that time.

As noted later when describing this colony, the age of the oldest tree was given as 35 in 1933, and while MacKay and friends have chopped down some slightly older trees, these were not

found on the occasion of our visit.

### Data on the Yale colony

This site was first visited in 1933 when the oaks were readily found by following the directions of an old prospector, resident of Yale.

The exact location of the colony is roughly one and one-half miles north of the town of Yale on the opposite bank of the Fraser River. At this point a cable spans the river which here lies in a deep narrow canyon with cliffs some 200 feet high. The closely adjacent mountains rise steeply to approximately 4,000 feet and form a deep gorge.

The oaks occur on a broad promontory between the Canadian National Railway and the river, and also on an adjacent hillside.

In 1935 they covered almost 30 acres, and are sparsely intertwined with broad-leaved maple *Acer macrophyllum* Pursh; Douglas-fir *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* (Poir.) Britt.; western birch *Betula occidentalis* Hook.; wild cherries *Prunus virginiana* L. var. *demissa* (Torr. & Gray) Torr; and *P. emarginata* (Hook.) Walp. and the juniper *Juniperus scopulorum* Sarg.

The plant association is typical of the oak environments elsewhere, a drier type of the prevailing Humid Transition zone. There are several hundred trees of varying ages extending for about a half a mile along the foot of the mountain, all within 100 yards of the left bank of the Fraser.

None occur, or at least none were found on the right bank where the Canadian Pacific railway tracks and the Cariboo Highway run, although at this point the river is only about 60 yards wide and a similar environment obtains.

From information received from the local Canadian National railway section foreman, an additional colony may exist at Stout, formerly Saddle Rock, on the Canadian National railway some six miles north of the Yale stand. The trees are not visible from the Cariboo Highway, even through binoculars, so

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probably are much younger and fewer than those near Yale.

From the general composition of the colony near Yale, it would appear that the stand is gradually spreading southward, the oldest trees occurring on the highest part of the promontory at the north end.

In a preliminary notice published in the *Forestry Chronicle* in December 1934, the age of the oldest tree found was estimated at 80 years. A subsequent visit in 1935 revealed a much older tree when the age of this, and the previously examined trees, was determined closely by means of an increment borer.

The oldest tree, evidently the parent of the entire colony, is growing on the top of a dry rocky ridge about 200 yards north of the cable way. In 1935 it was 22 inches in diameter, had lost a large limb, and gave other indications of considerable age.

It was impossible to bore to the centre of this tree owing to the hardness of the heart-wood, but six inches of boring showed 105 annual rings. A conservative estimate of the number of rings would therefore make this tree at least 175 years old in 1935.

From the poor, rocky environment, and from the fact that oaks are proverbially slow growing in youth, it is probable that 200 years would not be an excessive age to ascribe to this tree. This would be in good agreement with data given in "Sudworth" for dimensions and ages of trees of this species, as he gives the age of one tree 19 inches in diameter as 183 years, and a second of 27 inches as 251 years.

This dates the germination of the parent of the Yale colony back to A.D. 1760 or before, which ante-dates by many years the advent of Europeans to this area.

Half a dozen trees were found whose age was 60 to 75 years, and several dozen from 30 to 35 years old. There were hundreds of younger trees of varying ages besides the usual scrub oaks arising from suckers. Natural reproduction from seed was prolific and

acorns were plentiful. Insect pests were conspicuous by their absence. No dead trees or rotten stumps that could be identified as oaks were found, though search was made. No evidences of fire were visible even on the boles of large balsam and fir trees from two to three hundred years old growing nearby.

It would appear, therefore, from the above evidence that the colony is definitely an outlier from the main distribution area of comparatively recent origin, and not a relict of a former wider distribution.

### Data on the Sumas Mountain Colony

The location of this stand is on the southern slope of Sumas Mountain one mile west of the main pumping station. It can be reached by walking down the old Canadian National Railway right of way. This location is approximately 35 miles from Fairhaven, the nearest point of the main distribution area, and 60 miles from the Yale occurrence.

The site is on a rocky spur running down what used to be Sumas Lake before reclamation; there are several similar spurs on this southern slope but the oaks were found only on this one.

There are some 30 or 40 trees here, the oldest not over 35 years of age in 1933. As at Yale no evidences were found of older trees so it would appear that is a recent colony and not a relict.

The older trees are about 250 feet above the level land at the base of the mountain; younger trees about 10 years old occurred lower down. As at Yale the flora here is a typical dry arid transition, but competition from conifers and broad leaved deciduous trees is probably more pronounced.

### Data on the Quatsino Sound Colony

As stated above, I have been unable to visit Quatsino Sound but have corresponded with Mr. G. H. Waller, Forest Ranger for this district. He states that he has been unable to locate any oaks in this area, but has contacted an old settler who said that a few trees did exist at one time on the south shore of the main inlet. As this area has been

logged off, this may account for their apparent disappearance. However, Mr. Waller rather doubts his informant, and also doubts if Garry oaks have existed here within the memory of white men.

As the shoreline of this extensive inlet is over 100 miles in length, it still possible that intensive search would be worthwhile.

Quatsino Sound is 110 air miles northwest from the northern limit of oaks on Vancouver Island at Comox, and in view of the Yale and Sumas locations, there would be nothing surprising in a stand at this point.

If the origin of Sudworth's reference could be traced, more light might be thrown on the occurrence.

### Mode of Origin of the Colonies

As pointed out above, the entire absence of dead or fallen trees, or rotting stumps at both Yale and Sumas would indicate that these colonies are in all probability more or less extensions from the main distribution area.

The absence of other colonies in the many suitable environments that occur on the lower mainland would also support this contention. But by what means were the original acorns transported to this site?

As the Yale stand ante-dates European explorers in these parts by many years, this source must be ruled out. Indians in all probability frequented the site of the Yale colony occasionally on their annual fishing expeditions, but the site at Sumas would not have been an Indian camping place, and I have the authority of Mr. W.B. Anderson for the statement that the local Indians do not, and never have, used acorns for food; therefore they had no reason to carry them long distances.

Wind and water are out of the question for physical and geographical reasons, thus leaving only mammals or birds. Of these, only the Band-tailed pigeon *Columba fasciata*, say, or possibly the Mourning dove, *Zenaida macroura* (Linn.) would be capable of transporting acorns such a distance without injuring them. Squirrels, jays

and crows would have been limited to a few hundred yards as carriers and in any large animal, the digestive organs would destroy acorns before voiding.

The crop of the Band-tailed pigeon, however, is a suitable receptacle, and it is well known that these pigeons feed exclusively on oak mast, and 100 miles is not too far for these birds to fly before digestion occurs.

Band-tailed pigeons are still common birds in these parts, moving erratically considerable distances, being here today and gone tomorrow.

A flight of less than one hour after feeding, some accident — an Indian arrow or attack by a hawk — and the acorn-stuffed crop would be spilled and an embryo oak colony would be underway.

While, doubtless, the chances for such a combination of fortuitous circumstances may seem small, when we consider the time factor and the immense number of pigeons in past ages, the odds are not so remote.

Two records relevant to the above theory might be mentioned. Scott Elliott, in a work on seed dispersal, quotes Reid for the suggestion that the oak woods of England arose after the ice age by acorns transported from France by birds.

Then, in a recent number of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, some extracts were given from David Douglas's account of his collecting trips for that Society in 1824 in what is now Oregon.

In speaking of *Castanea (Castanopsis) chrysophylla*, one of the chinquapins native to Oregon and California, he says "The fruit is delicious and abundant, and forests composed of this timber during the season of fruit teem with *Ursus*, *Cerrus* and *Columbae*, of the latter I have killed several birds more than 200 miles distant from the nearest point where they could obtain seed, and found in the crop abundance of fruit which I ate and found good."

If chinquapins could be so carried and still be edible, why not acorns?

The suggestion that pigeons are responsible for the inception of these oak colonies far from the main body appears to be the only explanation that fits all of the facts on the cases described above, but of course is only an unproven theory.

### Acknowledgments

I am greatly indebted to the following gentlemen for their assistance in this investigation.

Mr. W.B. Anderson of Victoria, son of the discoverer of the Yale oaks for confirmation of several facts relative

to this work. Mr. J.W. Eastham of Vancouver and Mr. Herbert Groh of Ottawa for time spent looking up references in scarce publications. Mr. G.H. Waller of Port Hardy for information on the Quatsino record, and to Mr. J.W. Winson of Huntingdon for stimulating criticism, useful information on the Sumas occurrence, and pleasant company on the several trips of exploration needed to obtain the data presented here. And to Dr. J.M. Swaine, Director of Science Service, I am also indebted for the encouragement given to pursue this enquiry.

## LETTER TO THE LEAFLET

### Re: GOMPS and conservation covenants, December 1996 *Garry Oak Leaflet*.

I would like to comment briefly regarding GOMPS and conservation covenants and excerpts from a letter from R. M. Sharp, which appeared therein. According to Sharp, "trust is earned" and I couldn't agree more.

I wonder whose trust he refers to and who is required to earn it. In today's political climate, one could be forgiven for believing it is the politicians who must earn the public trust. But if this were the case, all levels of government would be eager to enter into covenants as a means to achieve public trust. Cynical perhaps, but realistic.

Backpedalling by Saanich and its opposition to the covenant process therefore reflects their distrust of the public! I find it ironic that bureaucrats and politicians with obvious pecuniary stakes in public policy distrust public groups which, in many cases, are recognized by the federal government as wholly non-partisan and charitable in purpose.

Yes, trust must be earned. Public groups have already demonstrated their trustworthiness to the highest authority in the land. On the other hand, Sharp's letter seems more like another slap in the face than an admission of fault.

Eric Redekop,  
Victoria.

## CALENDAR

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP** — Thursday, January 16, 7 p.m. **Cornett A, Room 120, UVic.** Speaker: Joel Ussery on "Vegetation Management in Parks and Natural Areas."

**SUMMIT PARK ECOSYSTEM MAPPING MEETING** — Sunday, January 19, 1 p.m. **Blanshard Community Centre.**

**VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY BOTANY NIGHT** — Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m. **Swan Lake Nature House.** Featured speaker: David Fraser.

**CHRISTMAS HILL BROOM BASH** — Sunday, January 26, 1-3:30 p.m. Meet at the Swan Lake Nature House parking lot. Bring gloves and sturdy footwear. Refreshments afterwards.

**GOMPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** — Monday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. at Sharron Waite's, 935 Woodhall Drive, Victoria.

# Mill Farm on Salt Spring Island to be preserved

by Briony Penn

*This article is reprinted from The Log, the Fall 1996 newsletter of Friends of Ecological Newsletter*

The largest remnant of old-growth Douglas-fir in the Gulf Islands will be protected, thanks to an \$800,000 purchase of the 65-hectare Mill Farm settled on October 17. The Mill Farm was on a roller coaster all summer after being put up for sale for offers on \$1.3 million.

The first offer (rumoured to be under \$900,000) by a logging consortium had some subject-to clauses which were never met, so the property went back on the market. During this time, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy raised over \$100,000 for the purchase.

The Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy teamed up with the Conservancy to put in an offer of \$600,000 that involved a purchase and sell-back deal to some of the owners with the core old-growth area retained by the Crown.

The owners rejected the deal — not enough money they said — and it went back on the market. A second offer was put on the property by, it was rumoured, another logging consortium.

Meanwhile, the Capital Regional District entered the stage. Salt Spring Island has now joined the CRD parks function. This normally would require an island referendum and acceptance by all other CRD directors. The carrot was having half a million put into park acquisition on Salt Spring — and guess where \$400,000 of the money went?

Meanwhile, Salt Spring Island Conservancy raised close to \$100,000 more. (Peggy [Frank] and I contributed \$200 from the Friends after selling watercolours made for the Douglas-fir placemat.)

The successful bid was put together by the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy, the CRD and the Conservancy, whose members say it is the first land-use "win" ever for Salt Spring.

The Mount Tuam/Mount Bruce pro-

tected area proposal that was put forward by the Friends and featured in the last issue of *The Log* [and the July/August issue of the *Garry Oak Leaflet*] is moving along briskly. I have joined ranks with a realtor and an economist to prepare a long term strategy which focuses on the possibility of a protection of the full 7000-acre area through a variety of tools and management types.

This is being done in conjunction with the Conserving with Covenants project that Bill Turner has been working tirelessly on.

A variety of conservation strategies

will be required to protect this area:

1. Crown lands to be designated protected areas.
2. Willing landowners to negotiate covenants for tax credits.
3. Buffer-zone properties that come up for sale are bought through a rotating endowment fund, covenants are placed on the land, and the land is resold with cost recovery at no less than 75 per cent.
4. Forest reserves are placed under low intensity management to encourage landowners to undertake stewardship responsibilities.

## Meeting for Summit Park mapping project

by Katie Stewart

As most GOMPS members know, Summit Park is one of the few areas in the city of Victoria which still is in its relatively natural state.

Despite invasive non-native plants, it still has significant Garry oak meadows. In July 1996, Friends of Summit Park (FoSP) met with City of Victoria parks staff to discuss how the park is managed. Joe Daly, Manager of Parks Design and Development, suggested to FoSP that they might like to undertake mapping the park.

This will be useful to determine where particular native plant populations are. Parks staff can then adjust their mowing schedules to accommodate the plants' different ripening times.

Mr. Daly is particularly interested in knowing the locations of all the Garry oaks and to have some idea of how many young seedlings there are. Knowing the location and numbers of rare plants such as yellow montane violet (*Viola praemorsa*), will also help FoSP to keep a close eye on the plants' viability.

Two other groups in Victoria have already undertaken similar projects:

Friends of Beacon Hill Park and the Garry oak volunteers at Government House.

FoSP has invited members from both groups to come to a meeting on January 19 to discuss and demonstrate their particular mapping projects. Joe Daly will also attend.

FoSP members Karen Uldall-Ekman and Katie Stewart met recently with Dave Clark, a plant ecologist with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) habitat inventory section, to discuss ecosystem mapping. MoE personnel did some preliminary soil and terrain studies in the oak woodlands/meadow area at Government House in the early 1990s.

Mr. Clark was able to hire a co-op student from UVic to do the vegetation mapping last summer. Unfortunately, with provincial budget cuts, no more students can be hired for other mapping projects.

Although the Summit Park mapping project will be undertaken by Friends of Summit Park, anyone is welcome to attend the meeting if they are interested in becoming involved. The meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the new Blanshard Community Centre, Kings Road and Dowler Place.



**TWO VIEWS OF SUMMIT PARK:** Before the big blizzard (above) and during the November broom bash (below). Friends of Summit Park member Dierdre Gotto piles broom during the first-ever community broom bash.

Photos by Katie Stewart



## Upcoming activities on Mount Tolmie

January 18	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Shrub and Tree Planting Bee #5
January 19	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Broom Bash #57
January 25	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Shrub and Tree Planting Bee #6
January 26	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Broom Bash #58
February 2	1-3 p.m.	Wildflower Walk #17

To find planting or broom bashing activities in remote areas, volunteers may need to follow pink survey tape from Mayfair Drive parking areas; wildflower walks will depart from and return to the summit viewpoint. While shovels will only be useful for planting, sturdy footwear is a must for all activities, which will proceed rain or shine. For more information, contact Eric Redekop at 595-7270.

## EYA advisory board

by Katie Stewart

The West Coast Ecological Youth Alliance (WCEYA) has a new outreach coordinator, Angie Stevens. She came to the GOMPS December board meeting to invite GOMPS to become a member of an advisory board which the WCEYA is setting up.

Although no director was able to attend the initial meeting, we did receive the minutes of the meeting. We hope that a representative will be able to attend the next meeting on January 29.

The objective of the advisory board will be to provide guidance to WCEYA for projects concerning preservation and salvaging when development occurs. The board will also liaise with community groups and other parties involved with such projects.

A second objective will be to become a clearinghouse for information regarding developments. This will mean contacting developers and contractors, city planners, municipal councils and Ministry of Highways (MoTH) staff. A list of suitable sites to replant the salvaged material will also be compiled.

Among the people attending the initial advisory board meeting were two MoTH personnel: Catherine Abel, spokesperson for the Vancouver Island Highway Project and Al Planiden, from the ministry. Ms Abel mentioned two potential sites for plant rescues: the Millstream Connector and the Admirals/McKenzie area.

Salvaging native plants can only preserve a minuscule amount of plants, at best, compared to the vast quantities that are destroyed by development or the highway widening project. A formal salvaging program is definitely needed but how we approach development has to be rethought so that wholesale blasting and bulldozing is no longer the norm.

If you are interested in becoming involved, or are aware of impending developments, please contact the WCEYA at 383-2062, fax 386-3449 or e-mail [yyj00497@cyberstore.ca](mailto:yyj00497@cyberstore.ca).

## Seedy Saturday

The Fourth Annual Community Seed Barter and Show will be held on Saturday, February 15 at South Park School, 508 Douglas Street (opposite Beacon Hill Park), from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The theme of this year's event will be transforming schoolgrounds into landscapes for learning.

A number of organizations will be represented: Evergreen Foundation, Lifecycles, Green Teacher, Provincial Capital Commission, the Victoria Horticultural Society, Naturescape and the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary.

There will be displays from schools already involved with a gardening project. Attendees will be able to purchase seeds and plants from the collections of local growers and nurseries and to barter or buy seeds at the community seed exchange table.

Admission is \$3. For more information contact Carolyn Herriot 592-4472.

## CRD Regional Growth Strategy's Public Advisory Committee formed

The Capital Regional District has embarked on a four-year regional growth study (RGS). Under the provincial Growth Strategies Act, enacted in 1995, a framework was set up "for local governments to carry out coordinated planning and action at the regional level." (CRD's November 1996 *Foundations for the Future* bulletin.)

The CRD invited applications from the public to sit on a 15-member public advisory committee.

The mandate for this committee will be to advise the CRD on the process for consultation with regional residents, communications and media relations, the formation and operation of community discussion groups and to give input and feedback on RGS documents.

One member selected for the committee was GOMPS president Katie Stewart. She hopes to keep GOMPS members informed of opportunities for their input to the RGS via the *Garry Oak Leaflet*.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### **GOMPS DISPLAYS:**

Call Eric Redekop, 595-7270, to suggest locations.

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	E-mail	ua620@freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	E-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20

Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)

Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:

Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_

Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_

Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

February 1997, Vol. 1, No. 2

## Sooke Hills to be protected!

After at least five years of many local people lobbying for the protection of the Sooke Hills, the provincial government has listened.

One person with a vision, Ray Zimmerman, initiated the effort by talking to community association meetings, public forums and the CRD Round Table on the Environment. He also took many people on hikes in the off-catchment areas of the Greater Victoria Water District (GVWD) to inspire them to share his dream of a sea-to-sea greenbelt, from Saanich Inlet to Sooke

Basin. The staff of the Victoria Branch of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee began to campaign and other community groups, including GOMPS, added their support.

Capital Regional District Parks saw the value of protecting the land and did a comprehensive study. But the GVWD Board wasn't supportive and had back-room discussions about trading or selling off the lands. Fortunately, David Perry, a lawyer commissioned by former Environment Minister Moe Sihota to look at the off-catchment

lands of the GVWD among many other issues pertaining to the GVWD, recommended that the lands become a CRD Park. Finance Minister Andrew Petter accepted this recommendation and legislation will soon be drafted to transfer the land from the four core municipalities to the CRD.

The dream doesn't stop there, however. More lands will have to be acquired to finalize the sea-to-sea vision. Crown lands need to be designated as park; some private lands will have to

*Continued on page 6*

## *Garry oaks will be retained as lot is developed*

GOMPS directors receive many calls about property being developed which contain Garry oaks or about trees (not

necessarily Garry oak) being cut down. One such phone call concerned a large lot at 3500 Cedar Hill Road slated for

rezoning which contains numerous Garry oaks. GOMPS Director Sharron Waite obtained the development plans, which we discussed at the last two board meetings.

Presently there is one house on the property. The initial proposal was turned down by Saanich. The second proposal of four houses and a duplex will preserve the small grove of Garry oaks adjacent to the house in the photograph (left).

Unfortunately there is a venerable oak behind the house on the right (much larger than the oaks in the grove) which will have to be removed to accommodate the driveway. The consulting arborist said the tree wasn't healthy and if the driveway were to be moved, blasting would still kill it.

Sharron has arranged for a site tour with the realtor, who also drew up the house plans, on February 15.



SMALL OAK GROVE will be preserved when lot is developed.

Photo by Katie Stewart

# William Head Institution propagating program

By Katie Stewart

During the Metchosin Day annual festival in late September 1996, I noticed two young people walk by with 1-gallon containers of Garry oak seedlings. I left my place in the dinner line-up and ran after them, curious as to where they had obtained the seedlings.

They motioned to an area I hadn't visited. Tucked away was a table with numerous oak seedlings and several styrofoam packs of arbutus seedlings, free for the taking. I waited around to talk to the person in charge who turned out to be the program organizer for the prisoners at William Head Institution, a man named Bernie Dovell.

I introduced myself and talked about GOMPS, which he had heard of. We exchanged phone numbers and several months later I phoned him. He set up a meeting for me in mid-December with Chris Trehearne, the horticulturalist at William Head Institution.

Pre-clearance with prison officials was necessary before my arrival. Unfortunately, I had forgotten to ask if I could bring my camera and take some photos, so although I had my camera with me, I could not take it past the gate.

For those of you not familiar with the location of the prison, it is south-

west of Victoria in Metchosin on a peninsula surrounded by the waters of Juan de Fuca Strait. The cove on the northeast side of the grounds is called Quarantine Cove, which reflects the history of the peninsula. From 1893-1957 a quarantine station with 42 buildings operated at the site. Sheep were introduced to the rocky knoll area.

In 1927 at its peak, 1,068 ships were inspected. Over 1000 people could be detained on shore, if necessary, to control the spread of communicable diseases. A year after its closure as a quarantine station, the institution reopened as a minimum security prison.

William Head Institution has the nickname "Club Fed" because of its superb location and beautiful landscape.

Most of Metchosin is predominately salal-oregon grape native plant community and contains only a few pockets of Garry oak-arbutus and arbutus-garry oak communities, according to the CRD Native Plant Communities map prepared for Environment Canada by the Forestry Service in 1976 by interpreting air photos of areas larger than  $\pm 10$  ha. (These mixed stands are designated by the predominant species in the stands.)

The institution falls within the band of coast line and eastern half of the

Saanich Peninsula which receives an average annual precipitation of 690 mm.

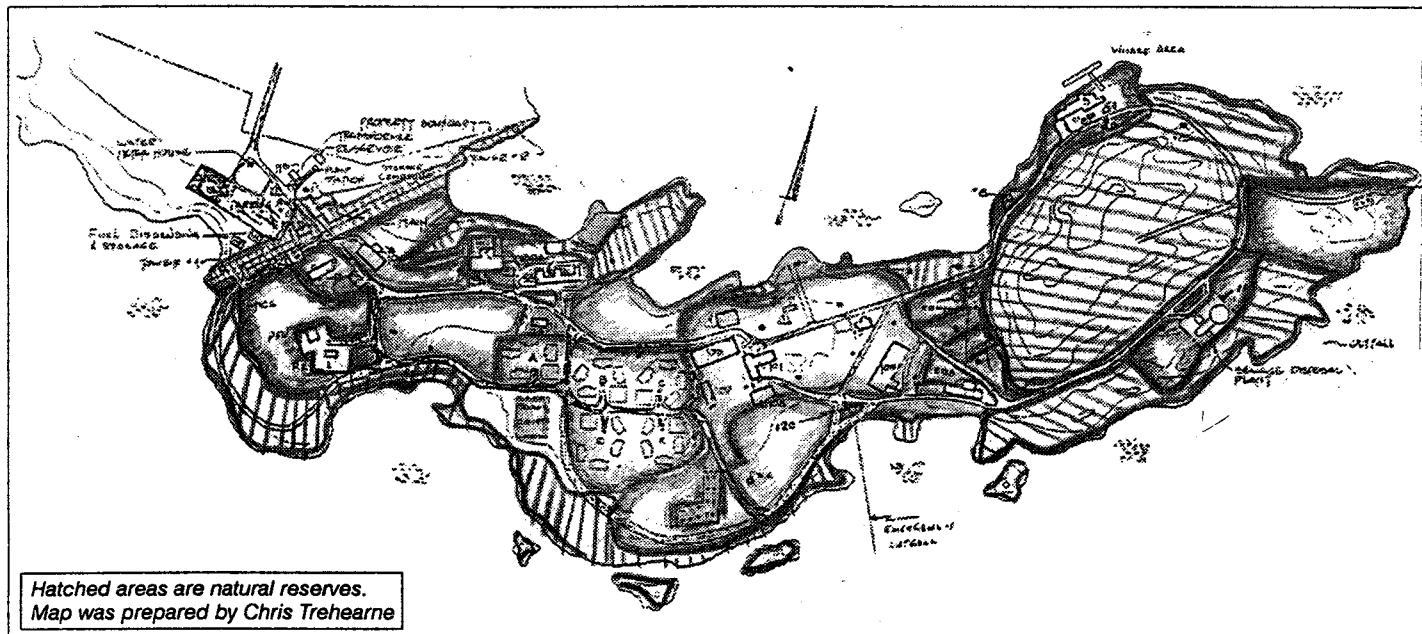
## Vegetative management plan

Chris Trehearne has drawn up a vegetative management plan for the prison grounds. Over half of the area has been designated natural reserves. Mr. Trehearne said he utilized some information contained in our GOMPS brochure regarding the importance of preserving Garry oak habitat when he approached the warden for support for his management plan.

According to the plan, the natural areas will contain native plants only and "all maintenance practices would be focused on maintaining or increasing the diversity of natives established on the peninsula.

This would include broom, gorse and blackberry removal. Pruning only of dangerous branches; annual grass cutting to minimize fire hazard. These areas would serve as visual boundaries as well as seed banks for propagation for [the] CRD program."

After I arrived at the prison and signed in, Mr. Trehearne walked me around the prison grounds. We passed the residential area and I noticed a large tipi close to the water. First Nations prisoners have an area set aside for



their religious and cultural use. Mr. Trehearne pointed out a pond in the making which will be encircled by native plants traditionally used by First Nations people, such as skunk cabbage.

Approximately a third of the prison grounds is a hilly area of Garry oaks, which is off-limits to the prisoners. Some broom removal has been undertaken there by prisoners.

Mr. Trehearne said former loggers were very interested in working outside, doing this kind of work. (Bernie Dovell said he tried to interest the CRD in utilizing prisoners who were nearing their time to leave prison to do broom removal in parks and other CRD areas for a nominal amount of money. Unfortunately, according to Mr. Dovell, union jurisdictional problems so far have prevented that from happening.)

Mr. Trehearne has tried to fence off particular plant populations such as satin-flowers and fawn lilies. In the past, some of the natural areas have been treated as dump sites, so some degradation of flowering native plant species has occurred because of ignorance.

Deer and racoons are a problem, he said.

Mr. Trehearne teaches several Camosun accredited courses, such as botany, arboriculture (basic pruning) and soil management. If at least four prisoners are interested, he'll set up a course, such as cloning propagation techniques.

The prison has a garden area and several greenhouses. Quite a few "house plants" are grown there for the residences, as well as the starter plants for the planter boxes. This keeps costs down as well as providing a learning experience for interested prisoners.

Mr. Trehearne mentioned that prisoners involved in greenhouse growing learn to be patient. He said many of them are not used to waiting for what they want, but are used to taking what they want, when they want it, which is often what got them into trouble.

### Growing Garry oaks

When Mr. Trehearne decided to start growing oaks, he initially tried

three approaches: planting acorns outside in pots, covering the acorns with leaves over winter; stratifying the acorns before planting, and planting the acorns indoors where the seedlings were pampered. He said the growth rates were the same so he now just plants the acorns outdoors in pots and doesn't fertilize them.

Some Garry oaks have been planted in degraded areas at the prison.

Mr. Trehearne visited the Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC) to see their operation. He said he was surprised at the size of the centre's two-year-old seedling compared to those at William Head Institution.

The PFC seedlings were approximately four times as high. Mr. Trehearne assumed they were ferti-

lized. Mr. Trehearne wondered about their viability when transplanted. I told him we hadn't kept any records but were trying to get a study going for those we had distributed for planting.

Besides Garry oak and arbutus, Mr. Trehearne grows alder and some native shrubs. He is particularly interested in growing manzanita, which is reputedly very difficult to propagate. Apparently some manzanita is being grown at PFC, however, he said.

Plants and seedlings aren't grown to be sold commercially. Mr. Trehearne doesn't want commitments that might possibly not be honoured, for example, in the event of a prison shut-down by rioting prisoners. (This hasn't happened, but the possibility always exists.)

## Correction

In the December 1996 article titled Government House Garry oak habitat, the third last paragraph indicated that negotiations were underway for a conservation covenant, but in fact, the pos-

sibility of a conservation covenant is being explored and it hoped that negotiations can begin in the near future. Thanks to Friends of Government House and GOMPS member Fran Spencer for the clarification.

## Calendar

**SEEDY SATURDAY** — February 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., South Park School. Purchase seeds and plants from local growers and nurseries. Barter or buy seeds at the Community Seed Exchange Table.

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP** — Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m. Cornett A, Room 120, UVIC. Speaker: Wayne Erickson on Grasslands of Southern British Columbia.

**WILDFLOWER WALK** — Sunday, February 23, 1-3 p.m. Depart from summit viewpoint. For more information contact Eric Redekop 595-7270.

**GOMPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** — Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. at Katie Stewart's, 1252 Montrose Ave., Victoria.

**NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM** — Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Elliott Lecture Wing, UVIC. Tickets available at The Field Naturalist and Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Nature House.

**VHNS MUSICAL HATS** — Saturday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. Prospect Lake Community Hall. Tickets available at The Field Naturalist.

**NPSBC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AGM** — Sunday, March 9. UVIC. For more information contact John Olafson at 658-8993.

**GOMPS AGM** — Thurs., March 13, 7:30 p.m. Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Nature House.

### Classification and Interpretation of Garry oak *Quercus garryana* Plant Communities and Ecosystems in Southwestern British Columbia by Wayne R. Erickson, 1996

This comprehensive volume is Mr. Erickson's Master of Science thesis for the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria.

Mr. Erickson did three years' of field work in over 300 plots. He sampled plant communities to "develop a classification for use in resource management." He identified and described 43 plant communities. Twenty-seven of these are in the native plant category and the remaining 17 are introduced plant communities.

Mr. Erickson writes that originally the Saanich Peninsula had over 3,000 ha of Garry oak habitat and the original overall range was probably less than 10,000 ha. Not much is protected; the largest areas are Mt. Maxwell at 64.8 ha and Mt. Tzouhalem at 18 ha.

He also describes the number of rare plant species in the ecosystem. Whereas the provincial mean is 40 in the forest districts, the Duncan Forest District lists "132 rare plant taxa." Over half of these are on the Conservation Data Centre's Red (endangered and threatened) and Blue (watch) Lists.

Mr. Erickson writes, "Underlying the thesis work was the urgency for action on the Garry oak ecosystem. Their endangered status sharpened the need for a classification as a base step in better understanding these ecosystems. Management strategies and interpretations are also developed in this thesis to help in efforts to maintain the ecological integrity of the Garry oak communities."

Wayne Erickson's thesis can be read at the main branch of the Victoria Public Library and at the University of Victoria Library. He also distributed copies to several government ministries and to local municipalities, hoping that the information therein will help in management plans.

### *Miracle Under the Oaks: The Revival of Nature in America* by William K. Stevens, Pocket Books, 1995.

Review by Katie Stewart

At the broom workshop on Galiano Island in October, 1996 the Galiano Conservancy Association had a large table set up with posters and books from their extensive library.

Among the many books displayed, one caught my eye: *Miracle Under The Oaks*, with its wonderful background cover photo of frosted oak, fern and fir leaves. I wrote the name down in my notebook and forgot about it. About six weeks later I spotted the book in Munro's Books and bought it, and much later discovered the forgotten reference in my notebook.

*Miracle Under the Oaks* was inspired by a conversation the author had in late 1990 with the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden who mentioned the burgeoning ecological restoration movement, which resulted in an article by Mr. Stevens in the *New York Times* and an inquiry about the possibility of a book from the Pocket Books, a division of Simon & Schuster Inc.

*Miracle Under The Oaks* is great and exciting reading. Once I began reading the book, it was my bed-time reading until I finished it.

The book is divided into three parts.

The first and third parts chronicle the restoration of Vestal Grove, an oak savanna, and 10 other tallgrass prairie remnants around the north branch of Chicago River.

Agriculture and settlement have almost eliminated the original bur-oak savannas and tallgrass prairies of the American Midwest; in Chicago, the small remnants remaining were greatly diminished by human activity.

"When Steve Packard first saw Vestal Grove [a forest district preserve, in 1977] and its adjacent open savannas and prairies ... it was a dead ecosystem except for the dominant oaks and their attendant hickories; and not just dead,

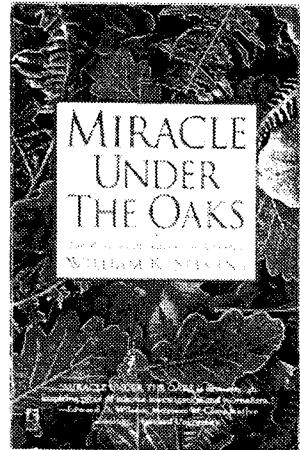
but lost to human ken. The classic tallgrass savannas had disappeared so quickly, before scientists could study them, that their ecological characteristics were almost unknown. Packard found the site strewn with mattresses, car seats, and milk crates that teenagers used as seats for outdoor parties. Bottles and cans were everywhere ... More serious from an ecological point of view, the site was choked by

20-foot-high thickets of European buckthorn, an invader from abroad whose dense growth obliterated the original grasses and flowers, destroying not only the savanna ecosystem, but also any possibility of knowing what it had been like." (pages 18-19)

The book describes Mr. Packard's background and what influenced him to begin the North Branch Prairie Project. With a few minute slide presentation at a Sierra Club meeting he solicited 12 volunteers who collected and planted 2000 prairie phlox seeds in other degraded prairielands and removed invasive brush.

From this humble beginning, hundreds of people eventually became involved in the ongoing restoration efforts in the forest district preserves, including growing the plants needed for the restoration work.

Also described in these sections of the book were the discovery of a lost ecosystem which pitted Mr. Packard's botanical sleuthing against the skepticism of local scientists; the re-introduction of many of its plant species into the oak savanna; prescribed burning in an urban setting, necessary to bring back plant species; the inevitable personality and environmental



group conflicts; the failures and successes and what has been learned in the process of doing the restoration work along the river; and the ongoing scientific debate about restoration and tampering with natural processes.

Part two of *Miracle Under The Oaks* details various ecological restoration projects ongoing in the U.S. and Costa Rica, some involving the Nature Conservancy.

These include restoring riparian forests along the Sacramento River in California; sandplain habitat in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts with prescribed burns; longleaf-pine/wiregrass habitat along the Apalachicola River in Florida and wetlands along the Atlantic coast.

Appendices list volunteer contact organizations in the U.S. and the native plants growing in Vestal Grove in 1993.

There is a paragraph (pages 154-155) which those of us involved in restoration work need to consider as we go about removing invasive plants and re-introducing native species in areas where they once grew.

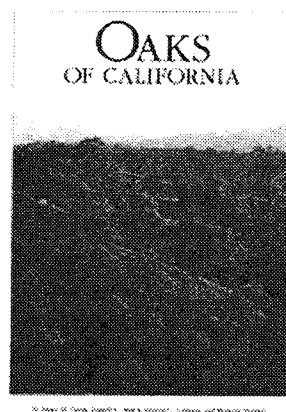
"Restoration projects typically face formidable investigational, conceptual, and political obstacles that can make or break the venture even before the field-workers get their hands dirty and their brows sweaty. Figuring out what the predisturbance ecosystem was like, as Packard found, can be a knotty challenge; yet this kind of investigative ecology may be essential to many projects. Deciding on a specific objective is critical. Getting the science right can be intimidating. Securing community approval and support, given traditional attitudes about nature and conservation, can be ticklish.

Dealing with politicians, bureaucracies and entrenched interests tests both patience and political skill. Failure is always a possibility. Sometimes failure is abject, especially when restorations have not done their homework or adopted the right goals or are not sufficiently committed or just do not know what they are doing." —

*Oaks of California* by Bruce M. Pavlik, Pamela C. Muick, Sharon G. Johnson and Marjorie Popper, published by Cachuma Press and the California Oak Foundation, 1991.

*Review by Katie Stewart*

For Christmas I received a copy of this book, now in its third reprinting. Full of spectacular photos, detailed drawings and range maps, it gives a description of each of California's 19 species of oak (growth form, leaves, acorns, bark and wood), their habitat and geographical distribution.



*Quercus garryana* is, of course, of prime interest to me. Called Oregon oak in this book, its associated plant communities are different than

those of the Garry oak in British Columbia. Two other varieties of Garry oak exist, both shrub oaks: Brewer oak (*Q. garryana* var. *breweri*), which is mostly widely distributed between 2,000 and 6,000 feet in the Klamath and southern Cascade ranges, and shin oak (*Q. garryana* var. *semota*), which is located in the Transverse Ranges and southern Sierra.

Several oak species are endangered and the book highlights conservation efforts, such as The Nature Conservancy buying large chunks of the Santa

Rosa plateau — destined for development — to protect the Englemann oak with the result that over 6900 acres are protected as an ecological reserve.

Oak history and use, wildlife and oaks, conservation, preservation, habitat restoration and management are all covered in the book. One chapter is on exploring California's oak landscapes by area. For example, in the section on the Northern California Coast, specific directions are given to Schoolhouse Peak, in the southern part of Redwood National Park, which preserves "outstanding examples of Oregon oak woodland." (page 139)

Appendices include maps of California's topography and native tribes, index to common and scientific plant names, insects and vertebrate species associated with California oaks and endangered species associated with California oaks.

*Ed note: The California Oak Foundation and the International Oak Society are co-sponsoring the Second International Oak Conference in San Marino, California from October 21-23, 1997.*

*Organizers hope presenters will talk on oak use, ecology, conservation, taxonomy and propagation. Field trips will be arranged to such places as the Santa Rosa Plateau and Kern River Oak Restoration.*

□

The *Garry Oak Leaflet* will try to include book reviews from time to time. We welcome material from GOMPS members. Anyone so inspired can contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

## Garry oak seedlings disappear

At the February GOMPS board meeting, directors very disappointed to hear that a vandal(s) uprooted between 50-100 Garry oak seedlings from Mount Tolmie where they had been recently planted.

Eric Redekop, who is coordinating both broom removal and planting native shrubs and oaks on site, had enlisted the help of classes from Campus View and Uplands Elementary Schools

to plant the oaks before Christmas and in January.

On one of his regular visits there at the end of January, he discovered the oaks missing, not uprooted and tossed aside. He speculated that they might have been stolen, though it seemed unlikely.

Such destruction is unfathomable; we hope that Eric keeps his spirits up and doesn't become disheartened.

Continued from page 1

be purchased, if owners are willing and money can be found. The Society for the Protection of Ayum Creek is fund-raising to purchase and restore the delta area of the salmon-bearing creek, which flows from the Sooke Hills. The property is currently for sale.

Charters River, originating in the Sooke Hills, also requires protection. The final objective? Sooke Basin and Saanich Inlet as marine parks.

Add to this the proposed Mount Tuam/Mount Bruce protected area on Saltspring Island (July/August 1996 *Garry Oak Leaflet*) and there could ultimately be a magnificent oasis in this part of the Georgia Basin.

## GOMPS AGM

The annual general meeting has been set for March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary Nature House. Five directors' terms will be finished at that time: those of Pierre d'Estrubé, Hal Gibbard, Paul Gareau, Tom Gillespie and Sharron Waite. Most directors have indicated that they will stand for re-election.

However, any GOMPS members in good standing who wish to stand for election may do so. If anyone is interested, please let Tom Gillespie know at 361-1694 or at the AGM.

The agenda will include a discussion of GOMPS being a possible umbrella organization for the numerous small groups around which are engaged in restoration or land use issues. We have been approached several times over the last two years regarding setting up an informal network.

Garry oak volunteers from Friends of Government House will set up a display of their ecosystem mapping of the natural area below Government House and show slides of their restoration work following the formal part of the meeting.

## Welcome new members

Alison Gareau, Stephen Ruttan, Catherine Fryer, Karen Uldall-Ekmann, D.E. McNally, and Ron and Sylvia Samborski, all of Victoria.

## Ongoing

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### **GOMPS DISPLAYS:**

Call Eric Redekop, 595-7270, to suggest locations.

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

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		E-mail upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## Memberships and Donations

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20	Please send more information about:
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift memberships, send receipt to: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Garry Oak Inventory Project <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal) <input type="checkbox"/> Growing, planting Garry oaks

Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group

# 4th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

**March 8, 1997 - 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**Elliott Lecture Wing, UVic**

**Tickets: \$15 at the door, \$12 advance, \$8 students/unwaged**

To increase public awareness about native plant gardening and other native vegetation issues; to raise concern for the status of native vegetation on campus and in the community; to raise funds for the upkeep of the UVic Native Plant Garden.

#### *Confirmed Presentations*

“Propagation of Native Plants” by Brenda Costanzo  
“Find Where You Are: Geographic Positioning Based on Native Plant Distributions” by Adolf Ceska  
“Flora of the Saanich Peninsula” by Hans Roemer  
“Using Native Plants in Landscapes” by Judith Reeve  
“Restoring Landscapes with Native Plants” by Kathy Dunster  
“From Harmless to Hazardous: Exploring Chemical Diversity in Native Plants” by Kelly Banister  
“Preserving Garry oak ecosystems: conservation in the community” by Sharron Waite  
... and more

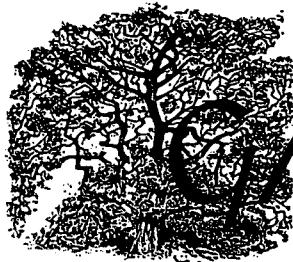
#### *Other events*

Walking tours of Mystic Vale and the UVic Native Plant Garden  
Native Plants for sale from Thimble Farms on Saltspring Island  
Lone Pine Publishing Field Guides for sale  
Moss Biology and Identification Workshop  
Cattail Basketry Workshop  
Broom Ecology and Biocontrol Workshop  
Bake sale and raffles prizes

#### *Displays*

Canadian Wildflower Society  
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society/Friends of Summit Park  
Conservation Data Centre  
Friends of Ecological Reserve  
Tannis Walburton - Wildflower Artist  
Woodland Farms  
and more ....

Tickets available at The Field Naturalist and Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

March 1997, Vol. 1, No. 3

## Conservancy Hornby Island's injunction

On January 17, the subdivision proposal for the "Thousand Oaks Grove" on Hornby Island was approved. Conservancy Hornby Island was not notified and only found out about the approval 10 days later, hours before the deadline for any appeal.

For newer GOMPS members not familiar with the issue, the approx. 5 ha area of Garry oak-brome community will be the fifth stage of development for High Salal ranch, a development owned by Keith Sorensen.

The enchanting grove, which has no Scotch broom or other major invasive shrubs, overlooks the ocean. Although it is on private land, a path connects the grove to Helliwell Park, not far from

the edge of the high cliffs above the ocean.

In an article by Stephen Hume, published in the *Vancouver Sun* in June 1996, he wrote: "Retired international ecological scholar and author [Dr.] C.E. Pilou rates the Hornby grove as world class in importance.

" 'Every place in earth has a contribution to make. In the case of Hornby Island, the conservation of its Garry oaks is a national and international responsibility.'

"She believes the Hornby oaks have evolved a unique set of genes that permits them to survive in such a marginal habitat. This makes them all the more

important as a biological asset in a world of shrinking diversity."

Mr. Hume also quotes Dr. Richard Hebda about the grove. "I think it is highly significant. It is the only one of its kind in B.C., which means in Canada. From an ecological point of view, it's pretty much one of a kind. The bottom line is that it is unique in Canada."

Conservancy Hornby Island has been trying to have the grove preserved for 10 years. Spokesperson John Edward said the Conservancy has taken out an injunction to have the approving officer's decision set aside because the subdivision is not adhering to the preliminary layout approval and the public interest is not being served.

The Conservancy also objects to the Ministries of Highways and Transportation and Environment being co-covantees for the grove. The Trust Fund Board was originally supposed to hold the covenants.

The injunction is supposed to be heard on March 24th.

The Conservancy contacted GOMPS for another letter of support for their court appearance, which has been sent. Other local supporters have also sent letters.

The grove is so far still intact and as John Edward says, "We want to keep it that way."



A VIEW OF HORNBY ISLAND'S "THOUSAND OAKS GROVE". Island Trustee Tony Law and developer Keith Sorensen are shown walking through the lots in 1995.

Photo by Katie Stewart.

# BC Land Trust Alliance formed

by Katie Stewart

Governments can only protect so much land, given economic and political restraints. Capital Regional District Parks has certainly recognized this with their Green/Blue Spaces Strategy; their staff have looked at other mechanisms for identifying and protecting green space besides outright purchase. Some of these measures include stewardship, conservation covenants and land trusts.

## What is a land trust?

According to Turtle Island Earth Steward's brochure, Guide to Forming Community Land Trusts, "Community land trusts [CLTs] are non-profit charitable organizations created to hold and protect ecologically significant private lands in perpetuity. CLTS are an effective tool for people who want to integrate environmental and development issues in local land use planning and ongoing monitoring programs at the community watershed or bioregional levels.

"Lands to be placed in trust are obtained by outright purchase, gift or bequest. CLTs hold lands in trust by outright ownership or by conservation covenants which are entered into agreements with land owners. CLTS can also enter into management agreements with land owners to ensure ecologically appropriate farming or forestry practices that continue from owner to owner and from one generation to the next.

## "Why form a community land trust?

"In the area of community building, CLTs can assist citizens, municipalities, regional districts, watershed alliances or bioregional groups to:

"Increase awareness of an essential natural resource — such as agricultural and/or forested private lands;

"Remove the ecological aspects of land from the speculative real estate market, so it ceases to be a commodity to be bought and sold for private gain and provides for ecologically sensitive development;

"Provide land as a community resource to be stewarded in an ecologically appropriate manner;

"Strengthen environmental land-planning objectives in parks and recreation, resource protection and restoration, i.e. greenways."

## Formation of the B.C. Land Trust Alliance

Last fall, the Cowichan Community Land Trust Society sponsored Stewardship Workshop: Tools for Land Conservation in Duncan, which GOMPS director Pierre d'Estrubé attended. The Cowichan group, along with the Nanaimo Land Trust, organized a meeting in Nanaimo on February 7 and 8 for local conservancy and land trust organizations to discuss the formation of the Land Trust Alliance of B.C.

Saltspring, Savary, Denman, Galiano, Quadra, Cortes and Gabriola Island land trusts and conservancies were represented as well as Islands Trust, the Similkameen, Nanaimo, Cowichan, Campbell River and Comox Valley land trusts and the recently formed CRD group, Habitat Acquisition Trust. Other groups represented included GOMPS, Wildbird Trust, Turtle Island Earth Stewardship and the Nature Conservancy.

Guest speakers included Calvin Sandborn, author of *Green Spaces and Growth: Conserving Natural Areas in British Columbia Communities*; Chris Herrman, Land Trust Alliance of the Northwest (Redmond, Washington); Bill Turner, Land Conservancy of B.C. and Tim Pringle, Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

Chris Herrman gave quite a bit of practical information. He said there are over 1200 land trusts in the United States, and thought there ought to be about 600. Over half of the trusts are small and volunteer run. In some areas there are too many, which may be a question that the British Columbian groups may have to ask themselves over time. Over 2 million acres of land including farms, wetlands, wildlife

habitat, urban gardens and parks, forests, ranches, watersheds, coastlines, river corridors and trails have been protected by these land trusts in the United States.

The U.S. Land Trust Alliance formed in 1982. Some of the larger land trusts which have been in existence for almost 100 years decided to form the organization in response to the constant requests for assistance from lands trusts just starting out.

The alliance "provides specialized services, publications, information, and training for land trusts and other land conservation organizations, and works for public policies that advance land conservation," according to their brochure.

The BC Land Trust Alliance would like to fulfill a similar function, albeit scaled down. By the conclusion of the Saturday session, a mission statement was formed:

BCLTA is a provincial communications, service and leadership organization that helps member land trusts and conservation groups to protect, steward and/or rehabilitate natural, settlement and heritage assets in British Columbia and nearby waters.

Some possible activities: facilitating the development of a land trust movement in B.C., providing educational materials, activities and workshops; serving as a central clearing house and library for information, group insurance, providing start-up assistance to new groups, establishing voluntary standards and lobbying for legislation.

Two workshops, one on board development and the other on fund-raising, were held on Saturday afternoon.

Tim Pringle gave some background on what the Real Estate Foundation requires from groups looking for funding as well as names of other potential sources such as other foundations and corporations. His foundation partially funded the Cowichan Community Land Trust's Stewardship Project (ap-

*Continued on page 3*

# New development at Royal Oak

by Katie Stewart

Directly across from the Royal Oak Shopping are five lots encompassing 5.7 acres, owned by Saanich. The most northerly lot has a heritage building (housing most recently the Chantecler Restaurant) surrounded by trees, mainly Garry oaks and a large lawn. The other lots do not contain Garry oaks.

GOMPS was contacted on February 19 by a young woman named Michelle of the Ecological Youth Alliance, concerned that a large Garry oak meadow was going to be developed on the site.

The following day I attended an open house put on by the developer, with architectural drawings on display and the architect's and developer's staffs on hand.

According to the package of written material, approximately 44 per cent or 2.5 acres is "subject to restricted use due to the existence of the heritage building and a number of Garry oaks and arbutus."

The new buildings are designed to fit in with the natural topography of the site, which slopes up from the southerly end 40 feet over the length of the property. They will be a combination of retail and office, with a separate building housing McDonald's, its 10th location in the Capital Region.

The heritage building was originally constructed in 1939 for John and Katherine Maltwood as both a restaurant and their residence. They bequeathed the building and its antiques and artworks to the University of Victoria for a museum but the building was not suitable for that purpose. The university ultimately sold it to Saanich in 1979. The municipality rezoned the lands south of the house to commercial the following year with the intention of selling the land to finance the purchase.

Since it is a heritage building, its preservation and restoration is a prerequisite to the development of the property. The stated use will be a pub/

restaurant.

Preservation of most of the Garry oaks and arbutus is another prerequisite. An initial tree survey was done by a civil engineering company to locate the trees' drip lines. Also, local arborist Don Bottrell was hired to survey all the trees to determine their health. The result is that of the existing 73 Garry oaks, two will be removed and of the nine arbutus, two also will be removed. According to the handout, "where parking areas come close to the base of certain trees, grass grid pavers are to be employed instead of asphalt for the parking surface."

I heard some concern from other visitors to the open house regarding the loss of green space to the approach to Victoria (also occurring with the development near Chatterton Way). As I am not a resident of the Royal Oak area, I did not comment on the questionnaire regarding such matters as "do you feel people in the neighbourhood need the convenience of additional commercial facilities that the development will offer?"

I did comment favorably, however, on the efforts to save as many trees as possible. I think Saanich's staff are trying to save as many oaks as they can when development occurs, judging by this development, the small one at 3500 Cedar Hill Rd and Oakwinds.

I also suggested using Garry oaks for some of the new plantings and using native flora associated with Garry oaks such as fawn and chocolate lilies, camas, shooting stars and satin-flowers under the oaks, as well as retaining the existing tall Oregon grape. I talked with Tim Ankeman, the architect, about this as well and he seemed enthusiastic. I followed up our conversation by sending him a list of where such plant material can be bought.

By the time I talked to him, about 3:00 p.m., he had a small list of suggestions given to him by the viewing public of who to contact and a suggestion of doing an ecological study. GOMPS was on the list as well as Joel

Ussery of CRD Parks. I mentioned to Mr. Ankeman that I had walked over the grassy areas, including the area Michelle had been concerned about. I couldn't see any new growth of the above species, although I didn't walk over the whole site thoroughly. It may have been a Garry oak meadow in the past but I don't know what the land has been used for more recently. The extensive lawn surrounding the house had several massive drifts of snowdrops, but I didn't see any signs of the small native spring flora.

GOMPS director Sharron Waite will attend the Saanich Municipal Council meeting on March 10. The Chantecler property is on the agenda for a possible Environmental and Social Review.

*Continued from page 2*

proaching landowners regarding stewardship and/or conservation covenants) and partially funded the District of Saanich's inventory of environmental significant areas, for example.

An interim board was elected at the meeting and most directors attended the board development workshop. They will proceed with forming a society.

## What role could GOMPS play?

It is unlikely that GOMPS would ever actually own land, in my opinion. Our society could conceivably hold conservation covenants, as we are in a position to do so.

More likely is a supportive role to perhaps the local Habitat Acquisition Trust Foundation, which is set up to own land and hold conservation covenants.

When stewardship programs are in place, we could approach landowners regarding becoming stewards and/or informing them about conservation covenants. We could also identify land that should be protected. One of our directors (or members) could sit on the HAT Board for further involvement and input.

# CPAWS Park Stewardship Program

by Katie Stewart

In the November/December 1996 issue of the *BC Naturalist*, publication of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society announced the beginning of the B.C. Grassroots Park Stewardship Program.

"The overall goal of the program is to ensure the ecological integrity of the national and provincial park system in B.C. The program focuses on the park stewardship activities performed by grassroots (volunteer) groups. Examples of park stewardship include: involvement in park planning and management processes, interpretation and education, monitoring, research, watchdog duties on advocacy, trail building and facilities maintenance.

"Short-term objectives of the program are:

"1. The creation of a Park Stewardship Network connecting the grassroots groups and individuals involved in park issues in the province; and

"2. the organization of a Park Stewardship Workshop, to address the issues raised by the groups and to decide future course of actions. A longer-term objective is the creation of 'Friends of the Park' groups where none currently exist.

"What are other groups doing out there? What types of stewardship are they involved in? How did they tackle certain problems? What have they learned? What was successful? What mistakes have they made?

Only by sharing our experiences can we learn from each other, avoid repeating the same mistakes, capitalizing on each other's achievements, and become more effective in protecting our parks. This is the rationale for creating a Park Stewardship Network."

After reading this article, I immediately wrote and e-mailed a response to the Serena Arduino, the author.

In my letter I wrote:

"I was interested to read the article in the November 1995 issue of *B.C. Naturalist* advocating the formation of a B.C. Grassroots Park Stewardship Program.

Unfortunately, your mandate is only provincial and federal parks. Within the Capital Regional District, there are a number of "Friends of" groups who fulfill some of the suggested roles in the article, particularly ensuring the ecological integrity of our local natural parks.

The local ecosystem on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands is the Coastal Douglas-fir and within in an even smaller ecosystem — the Garry oak ecosystem. It is classified as an ecosystem at risk by the Ministry of Environment and it is, I believe, one of the four most endangered ecosystems in Canada.

Our organization has several roles: political lobbying, public education and habitat restoration. We publish a generally monthly newsletter on Garry oak/regional growth/native plant issues. We have an ongoing program of collecting acorns, planting them at the Pacific Forestry Centre here in Victoria, where they are raised for one or two years, then planted by community groups. The MoTH has used these oaks and more recently the City of Victoria will this month be planting 200 oaks in two parks.

We organize a "City-wide Broom Bash" in the fall, an ongoing effort to get rid of broom and other exotic invasive plants area parks. This year there were 21 broom bashes in 13 locations. Most of these events were coordinated by various "Friends of" groups which have been actively doing restoration works in various parks.

On southern Vancouver Island, the Garry oak ecosystem is not, so far, protected in any provincial or national parks that I'm aware of. We have certainly lobbied for such a park. Therefore, the only protection this ecosystem has is in local parks. It is only be-

cause of the ongoing efforts of dozens of volunteers that the Garry oak parklands/meadows will survive as so far, there has not been much political will to bring in special legislation or measures to ensure its viability as development continues.

I encourage your group to include natural municipal parks in your stewardship program."

I received a phone call back within a day or two from Ms Aduino who told me she'd bring my suggestions to the next stewardship organizing meeting.

In the March/April 1997 issue of the *BC Naturalist*, Ms Aduino writes, "CPAWS is grateful for the feedback and has implemented most of the suggestions received. One of the novelties, for example, has been not to limit the Park Stewardship Program to provincial and national groups, but to include ALL protected areas. Stewards of regional parks, wilderness areas, nature sanctuaries: welcome to the Park Stewardship Network."

I am very pleased that CPAWS had decided to include such groups as GOMPS. I faxed the forum announcement to several people involved in "Friends of" groups and I encourage GOMPS members who are also members of "Friends of" groups to go to the forum or have their groups send a representative.

## GOMPS AGM THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 7:30 P.M. SWAN LAKE NATURE HOUSE

Guests: Friends of Government House discussing their restoration work below Government House and mapping that area.

# **WORKING TOGETHER TO SUSTAIN PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS**

## **Friday to Sunday, April 11-13, 1997**

**Landmark Hotel and Conference Centre**

**1400 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C.**

A public forum to:

Examine needs, choices and solutions in meeting the conservation and recreation mandates of parks and protected areas

Discuss current issues in stewardship and exchange ideas, contacts and techniques that work

Build new mechanisms through which park agencies work with each other, with First Nations, and with conservation and recreation organizations to sustain parks and protected areas

### **Forum themes:**

**Working Together** — Discuss current mandates and roles of agencies and organizations; explore new ways of integrating efforts and working together efficiently.

**Pressures on Conservation and Recreation** — Develop approaches to sustaining ecological integrity in parks and protected areas while meeting the needs of recreational users.

**Stewardship** — Clarify the roles of stewardship groups in sustaining parks and protected areas. Expand the capacity of volunteers to contribute by identifying their needs and providing networking opportunities.

**Resourcing** — Identify new approaches and determine preferences to meet management needs for sustaining parks and protected areas.

Presented by:

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter  
and Greater Vancouver Regional Parks Department

In cooperation with:

BC Parks

Capital Regional District Parks

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Outdoor Recreational Council of BC

Endorsed by:

British Columbia Environmental Network — Parks and Wilderness Caucus

For registration package, please contact CPAWS - BC at:  
(604) 685-7445 (phone); (604) 685-6449 (fax)  
[cpawsbc@direct.ca](mailto:cpawsbc@direct.ca) (e-mail)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter  
611-207 W. Hastings Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7

# Garry oak seedlings to be planted on Gabriola Island

Gabriola Island teacher Imelda Hedingham contacted GOMPS recently as she was concerned about the health of the Garry oaks on the island and the lack of younger trees. She arranged to pick up 60 seedlings in late February and will plant them with her grade 4 and 5 class in Drumbeag Park, a provincial park on the southwest of the island. Local parks staff were enthusiastic and receptive to the idea, she said, and will prepare holes for the planting after doing some site preparation by removing broom.

## CALENDAR

**MOUNT TOLMIE WILDFLOWER WALKS —**  
Sundays, March 16 and 30, 1-3 p.m. Depart from summit viewpoint. For more information contact Eric Redekop 595-7270.

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP —** Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m. Cornett A, Room 120, VIC. Speaker: Shannon Berch: Mycorrhizae of native plants.

**VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY “GREEN THUMB SHOW” —** Saturday March 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Avenue. Theme: natural garden management.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE SHOW —** April 4 and 5, St. Mary's CHurch on Elgin Avenue (off Oak Bay Avenue). Friday, 2- 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. There is often a good selection of native plant seeds for sale.

**GOMPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING —** Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. at Hal Gibbard's, 1439 Wende Road, Victoria.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** March 8, UVIC Native Plant Symposium  
Call Eric Redekop, 595-7270, to suggest locations.

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	E-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	E-mail	ua620@freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	E-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES:  Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20 Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)  Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:  Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_  Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_  Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

April 1997, Vol. 1, No. 1

## Rogers Farm development

by Sharron Waite

In this edition of the *Leaflet* we are publishing the map of the proposed subdivision of Rogers Farm. You can see the threat to the Garry oak stands. Despite the identification of this part of the Rogers Farm for preservation through successive official community plans, the owners plan to divide this area with large lots for residential development.

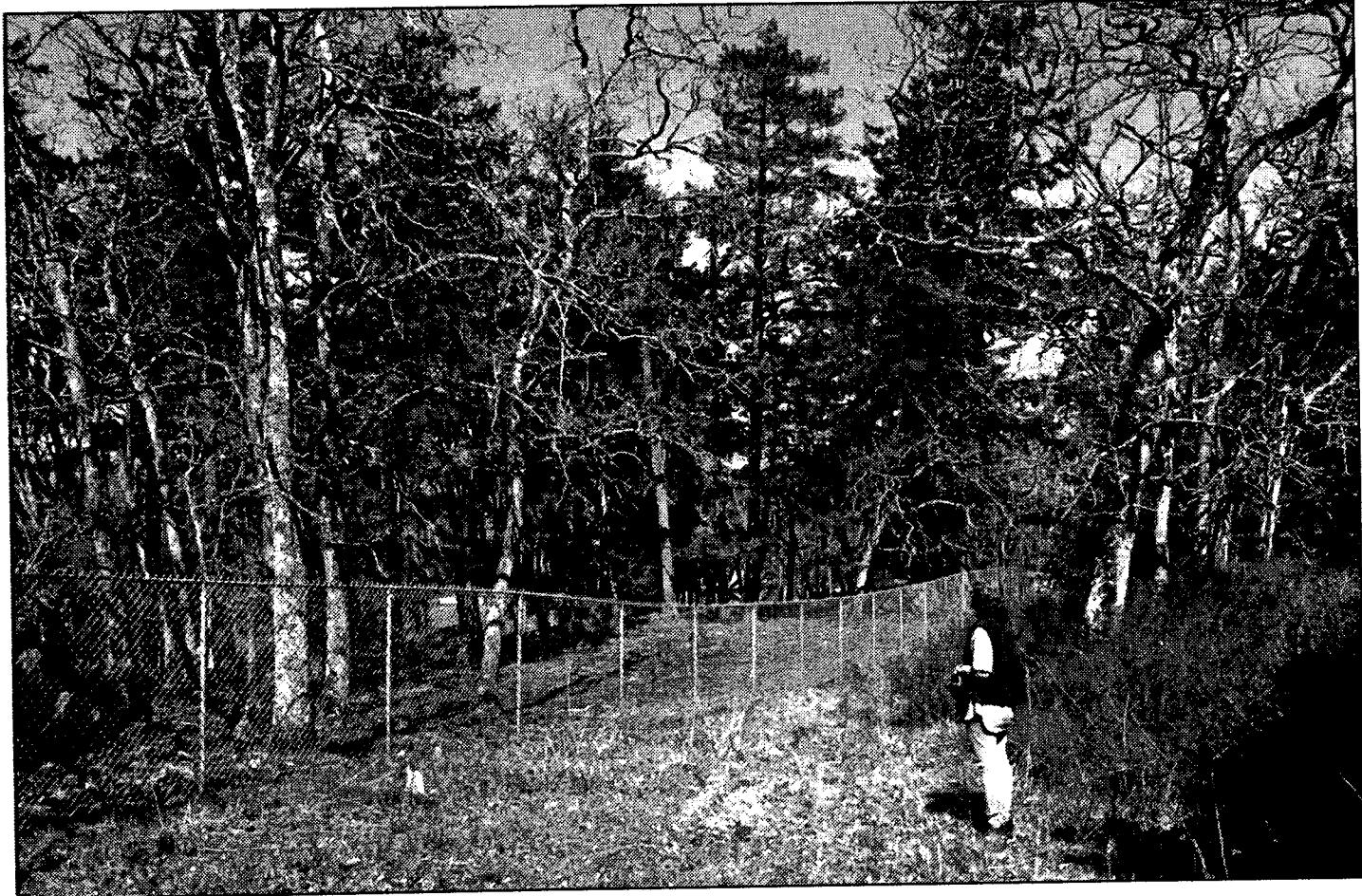
If the plan is approved, an opportunity to increase the size of the Christmas Hill Nature Reserve and complete the greenway between Swan Lake and Mount Douglas will be lost FOREVER.

The land under the oaks has never been ploughed, so the soil horizons are intact. The shrub and herb layer has been destroyed by grazing, although a few native bulbs do poke through. Hence it represents a significant oppor-

tunity to test restoration techniques in the Garry oak ecosystem.

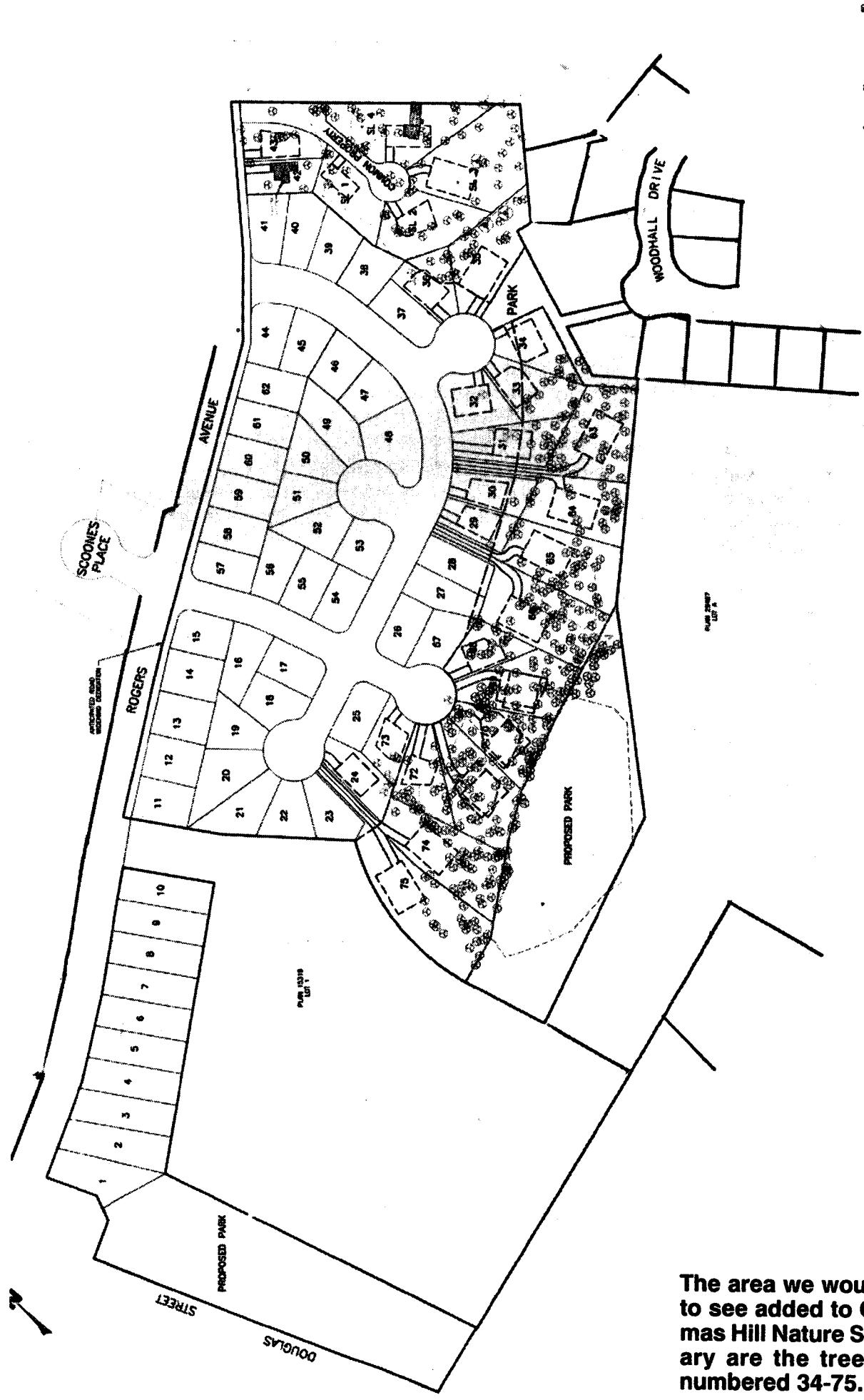
Although the developers promise to covenant the remaining oaks, large numbers will necessarily be lost from the canopy. However, GOMPS' recent experience with other developers (see the December 1996 *Leaflet*) demonstrates how weak a tool a covenant is upon which to pin the survival of an

*Continued on page 3*



**ROGERS FARM OAK WOODLANDS** are just a fence away from Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. GOMPS hopes to see this area added to the sanctuary. Another view of the woods is shown on page 3.

Photo on this page by Sharron Waite and on page 3 by Katie Stewart



**The area we would like to see added to Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary are the treed lots numbered 34-75.**

ecosystem. There appears to be no practical way to force an owner or his agents to comply with a covenant as they are currently drafted in Saanich, if they choose to ignore it.

Saanich planners are in the midst of drafting their reports; the matter should come before Council in the near future. The local ratepayers association supports the current proposal (single family dwellings). Any hope of protecting this grove rests squarely with those of us who want it preserved.

The developer's representative has told this writer that the purchase price for preservation is \$1.1 million.

GOMPS was founded in response to the threats to Christmas Hill. Can we save this little piece of it? GOMPS needs help from its members; it will take energy and dedication from each of us to achieve this goal.

As I write this, I am sitting in my mother-in-law's kitchen in southern

## Saanich planner replies to our concerns

### Re: Rogers Farm Development Proposal

Thank you for your letter of March 13 expressing concerns about the development on the Garry oaks. The Planning Department has supported the inclusion of the Garry oak area in the Sanctuary since its inception in the 1970's.

The local area plans have included the extension of the Sanctuary for the past 15 years.

Unfortunately, in assessing priorities, Council has indicated that it is not prepared to acquire the property for parkland. Nevertheless, the issue will be debated as part of the rezoning application when it comes to Council.

I appreciate your comments and will take them into consideration when the Planning Department's report is prepared on the rezoning.

Yours truly,

Alan Hopper, FRPPI, MCIP  
Municipal Planner

Ontario, in a not very large city. I have been struck by how developed the land is. All the trees are privately owned, with "No Trespassing" signs on them; the only wildlife to be seen are squirrels, robins and crows. The parks are all manicured and there is

no way to stretch one's legs and walk through the landscape along a green and pleasant way.

Is this our future? Or can we ensure eagles continue to soar over Christmas Hill and hummingbirds return to drink from the red-flowering currant?



## Lost generation hurts Victoria's rare oaks

**V**ICTORIA'S trademark Garry oaks are fading from the City of Gardens as the older trees die off with no young ones to take their place.

This spring, 12 volunteers from the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society finished a two-year inventory of Garry oaks in the City of Victoria. The volunteers walked the length of Victoria's streets, counting each tree.

Paul Gareau, who organized the study, says the numbers aren't crunched yet, but the results are obvious. "The trees we are counting are nearly all old-growth trees."

Younger trees are in short supply, Gareau says, falling to development and even to lawn mowers.

The saplings are also more likely to be choked out by invasive plants such as Scotch broom, the yellow-flowered shrub that over-

runs many of Victoria's oak groves. Volunteers removing broom from stands of Garry oaks find no oak seedlings pushing up underneath, says Gareau.

Botanist Nancy Turner doesn't find the inventory's results surprising, given people's attitudes toward trees. While it's easy to convince people that stately, mature trees need saving, she says, it's harder to argue for seedlings and saplings.

"There's a whole generation of trees that hasn't been allowed to grow up and mature," she says.

And although trees' life spans are long, they are finite, and the current generation of gnarled old oaks are dying off.

"All of a sudden there won't be any to fill their place and the whole population will decline," Turner says.

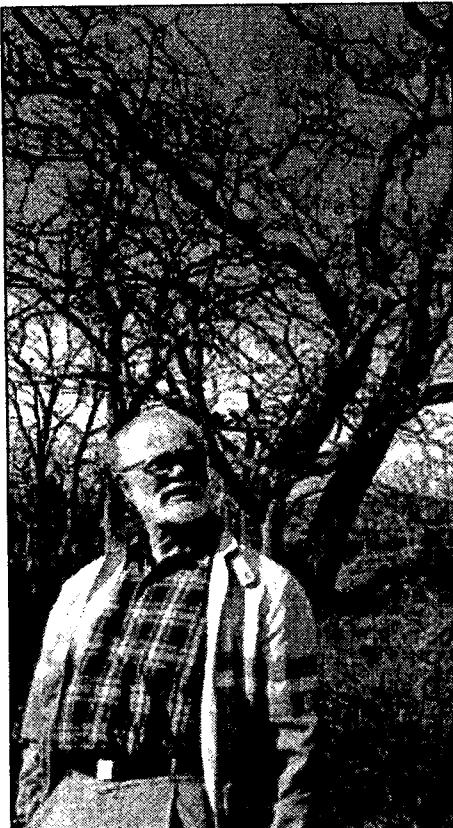
The City of Victoria's parks department is trying to forestall the problem with a two-year-old program of planting seedlings, says parks manager Yvan Caron.

But it's difficult; because Garry oaks grow slowly, the young plants go through a long period when they are vulnerable to trampling.

"It's going to be a struggle—there's no doubt about it," he says.

That struggle may not get much help from city hall. A draft tree-preservation bylaw discussed by civic department heads on Tuesday would protect Garry oaks—but only those with trunks 20 centimetres or more in diameter.

—Fiona McCaw



LAWRENCE MCAGAN

The good die young: Paul Gareau and some arboreal survivors in Beacon Hill Park

## Tree bylaw unnecessary, Young says

By Richard Watts  
Times Colonist staff

Trees in Victoria won't be safe if the city proceeds with its tree protection bylaw, Coun. Geoff Young said Thursday.

"The message we are sending out with this tree preservation bylaw is that 'trees are trouble,'" said Young, during a meeting of council members.

He said the bylaw will make trees so much trouble to keep that homeowners will cut them down while they still have a chance, before the new rules kick in.

"The message is clearly 'The best tree is a dead tree,'" he said.

The proposed bylaw seeks to protect Garry oaks, arbutus and dogwood trees from being thoughtlessly chopped down by homeowners or developers.

The only legal way to chop down a protected tree would be to apply for a tree-removal permit. And approval would only be granted if the tree was in the way of an approved building, a driveway, parking facilities or if it was diseased.

The proposed bylaw contains fines of \$500 for a first offence and \$1,000 for all subsequent offences.

But Young said the bylaw is unnecessary because Victoria has lots of trees.

"We do not have a problem in Victoria with trees," he said. "The general trend is that trees have been growing."

Councillors in the end decided to table the bylaw for two weeks to get some changes made.

For example, some councillors were upset to see only the native Garry oaks, arbutus and dogwood trees protected when some non-native, transplanted trees are also worthy of protection.

Coun. David McLean said he was worried the city might be open to a lawsuit if they protect a Garry oak with a bylaw and a limb then falls on somebody's house.

"The Garry oak is an unpredictable tree, shedding mighty limbs which otherwise appear healthy," said McLean.

PUBLISHED IN MONDAY  
MAGAZINE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1997

PUBLISHED IN THE  
TIMES-COLONIST  
FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1997

# Can only council save a tree?

THAT'S THE TROUBLE with electing people to city and municipal councils. Once they're there, they think they have to do something. And suddenly, the ratepayers who voted for them find they're not allowed to keep tigers or slaughter pigs any more, are permitted to burn last year's blackberry canes only between noon and 1 p.m. on a Friday — providing it's pouring rain — and have to stop playing the bagpipes at 1 a.m.

This interference in the right of a property owner to enjoy what is his or hers is justified on the grounds that some of these activities intrude on the enjoyment of neighboring residents. Now, some Victoria councillors want to prevent property owners from cutting down Garry oaks, arbutus and dogwood trees without approval, not because chainsaws make a nasty sound, which they do, but because someone has decided these species merit protection even if they are on private property.

There's no question these trees are special — lovely to look at, delightful to grow and of a certain importance as native species. And, once they get to a certain height, they do contribute to the character of a neighborhood.

In Oak Bay, where residents can face fines of \$2,000 for even pruning a Garry oak of a certain size, people accept this kind of regulation. But that's Oak Bay where the municipal motto, *sub quercu felicitas*, is not to be argued with.

Victorians should not be expected to be as fanatic about trees. There has to be widespread acceptance of a law that would prevent tree-owners from removing them to let a little light into the house or garden, to put in a strawberry bed, a hot tub or a swing set for the kids.

One way a property-owner could get permission to cut down a tree would be to persuade the bylaw enforcement officers that it was dead or diseased and, presumably, posed a danger to

anyone below. A tree that stood in the way of a building, a driveway or a parking space could also be knocked down, providing the building, driveway or parking space concerned also had the approval of city authorities.

If council wants to force property owners to maintain what would become, in effect, community trees, it should be prepared to offer compensation, either monetary as in the case of property heritage designations, or by sending crews around to do the pruning and spraying. And it should be prepared to accept the legal consequences if one of these monsters comes down or someone's house or head.

Better still, council should drop the idea entirely or property owners will set to with axes and saws to fell their trees before the bylaw becomes law.

## Victoria Council balking at tree preservation bylaw

As you can see by the reprinted article from the *Times Colonist*, there still isn't much support from council for the tree preservation bylaw. Unfortunately, the *Times Colonist* editorial from Sunday, March 23 took a similar myopic and anthropocentric viewpoint.

GOMPS directors Pierre d'Estrubé and Katie Stewart have both written to council in response to their doomsday attitude and ignorance about how few young Garry oaks there are.

Pierre checked with the other municipalities — Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt — which do have tree preservation bylaws and found that there had been little tree felling before the bylaws took effect.

The proposed bylaw is supposed to come before council this week. Council has taken a proactive stance on this issue and it has taken years to get to this point, where the bylaw might be passed. We'll try to be in attendance, if possible.

One note of irony: City of Victoria Engineering Parks and Public Works has recognized the lack of Garry oak regeneration in the parks and has begun a planting program.

## Update Conservancy Hornby Island

The injunction scheduled for March 24 (see March 1997 *Garry Oak Leaflet*) has been postponed twice.

It is now supposed to be heard in Vancouver on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 8, 9 and 10.

## Welcome new members

Michael Meagher, Victoria; Don Giacomazzi, Aldergrove; Linda Beare and John Olafson, Victoria; Barbara Archer, Salt Spring Island and Doris Rohlfs and Ray Mills, Victoria.

## New booklet in the Stewardship series

At the Fourth Annual Native Plant Symposium at UVic on March 8, GOMPS had its free-standing display set up as well as a table. Among our free hand-outs, were 20 copies of the recently published *Stewardship Options for Private Landowners in British Columbia*, which were snapped up early in the day.

This excellent booklet was written by Briony Penn with wonderful illustrations by Briony and her partner, Donald Gunn.

Part 1 covers researching, retaining and restoring natural features and habitat — the new 3 R's. The fourth R — retaining — is addressed in part 2.

Included in the first part are a glossary of ecological terms; a map of the ecoprovinces of British Columbia; landscape vignettes of British Columbia, both drawn and descriptive; general stewardship tips and natural features and habitats.

Part 2: Reserving Natural Values on your Land: Legal options for Landowners, includes legal terms and legal options for protecting natural features, conservation organizations and land trusts, stewardship agreements, transfer of title and tax incentives.

If you own land that you would like to see protected in the short-term or in perpetuity, this booklet is a good starting point.

Copies of this booklet, which is published by the Canadian and British Columbian governments, are available from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Suite 300-1005 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2A1, phone 1-800-387-9853.

The Stewardship Series is a group of publications describing stewardship for various audiences. The series is funded by federal and provincial governments in partnership with non-government organizations on a project by project

basis. Other publications include:

*Stream Stewardship: A Guide for Planners and Developers*

*Stewardship 1994: Proceedings from a conference held March 3-5, 1994 on revisiting the land ethic and caring for the land*

*Water Stewardship: A Guide for Teachers, Students and Community Groups*

*The Streamkeepers Handbook: A Practical Guide to Stream and Wetland Care*

*Community Stewardship: A Guide to Establishing Your Own Group*

*Naturescape British Columbia: Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home*

*Community Greenways: Linking Communities to Country, and People to Nature*

Opposite on page 7 is a reproduction from *Stewardship Options for Private Landowners in British Columbia*.

## CALENDAR

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP** — Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. Corbett A, Room 120, UVIC. Speaker: Patrick von Anderkas on fern growing and propagating.

**WILDFLOWER WALK** — Sundays, April 13 and 27, 1-3 p.m. Depart from Mount Tolmie summit viewpoint. For more information contact Eric Redekop, 595-7270.

**CAMAS DAY** — Sunday, April 20, Beacon Hill Park. Wildflower, archaeological and butterfly walks at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meet near the flagpole. For more information contact Helen Oldershaw 592-6659 eves.

**NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION/BROOM REMOVAL WORKSHOP** — Sunday, April 20, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Beaver Point Hall and Ruckle Provincial Park, Salt Spring Island, sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. For more information contact Fiona Flook, 653-9202 or Briony Penn, 653-4880

**EARTH WALK** — Saturday, April 26. Leaves Centennial Square at noon, proceeds to Legislature. Speakers and displays.

**NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR** — Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27. Maps \$6, available at The Field-Naturalist, 1126 Blanshard Street. For more information contact Jean at 658-5740.

**TRAIL ISLAND FIELD TRIP** — Sunday, April 27 with Dr. Adolph Ceska. Cost \$25 includes 1-yr. membership in Friends of Ecological Reserves, which is sponsoring the trip. Pre-register at 388-5690.

## GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

**A Native Plant Gardening Sale and Demonstration**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 19 and 20**

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Swan Lake/ Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary  
3873 Swan Road, Victoria**

**\* Demonstrations \* Displays  
\* Guided Tours of the Native Plant Garden \* Native Plants, Seeds and Nesting Boxes for purchase to develop wildlife habitat in urban yards**

**\$3 person/ \$5 family  
(includes both days)**

**For more information contact  
Terry Morrison 479-0211**

## 7 BROADLEAF WOODLANDS

(Trembling aspen, red alder, black cottonwood, paper birch, big-leaf maple. Garry oak and arbutus woodlands)

Woodlands of broadleaf trees are not as extensive in British Columbia as they are in other parts of North America. The exception is trembling aspen stands which are abundant in the interior and north. On the coast, you get a variety of types of woodlands. Early successional species such as red alder grow in stands on cutover or disturbed lands. Big-leaf maples grow in clumps in *second growth* forests, arbutus cling to coastal rocky shores and *old growth* Garry oak woodlands grow on the driest sites of the Georgia Lowland and are under severe threat from urbanization. Cottonwoods grow on floodplains throughout the province and birch occurs in the interior with conifers. Most of these woodlands are small and part of the larger mosaic of a coniferous forest and its different successional stages. Think of alder, birch and cottonwood as green fertilizers. They fix nitrogen into the soil and make it ready for the next stage of conifers to grow. Mature alders are a favourite of woodpeckers. Herons also prefer mature alders for roosts near the shore.



## ECOSYSTEM AT RISK: GARRY OAK ECOSYSTEM

European colonists were drawn to Victoria and the southeast coast of Vancouver Island for the mild climate and the gentle rolling landscape dotted with oak trees above carpets of camas and lilies that reminded them of Europe. Captain Vancouver thought it was the loveliest landscape he had seen in his travels around the world in 1792. Two hundred years later this small region now has the fastest growing population in North America. As a result, the lovely oak meadows blooming with wildflowers have become one of the four rarest ecosystems in Canada. Ninety-nine percent of the meadows have been covered by houses, lawns and shopping malls.

## GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

This society has both educational and advocacy roles in the protection of this rare ecosystem of the province's capital region. Members have developed expertise in restoring meadows in your backyard, tree growing, salvage of native plants from construction sites and lobbying to save remaining meadows. Various resource materials are available on Garry oak meadow preservation and restoration.

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society  
c/o A-954 Queens Avenue Victoria, BC V8T 1M6  
Phone (250) 361-1694

### Trembling aspen woodland



### Garry oak woodland



# Broom biological control

At the Fourth Annual Native Plant Symposium at UVIC on March 8, Dr. Raj Pasad from the Pacific Forestry Centre and two of his team spoke about their experiments regarding biological broom control.

Broom is now aggressively invading clearcuts where it is impeding the growth of young planted Douglas-firs. Five-year-old seedlings are overshadowed by the broom's canopy and are not as tall as they would be if there were no broom.

This lack of growth will ultimately have an economic effect as broom becomes more widespread in planted over areas. The federal government is funding efforts to find some sort of biological control.

The team has discovered that broom which has died back has succumbed to a local fungus and researchers are concentrating their efforts on experiments using that fungus as a bioherbicide. Dr. Prasad expects it will be a 10-year, \$6 million dollar effort to determine its effectiveness, toxicity to other flora and fauna.

## Slides wanted

GOMPS director Sharron Waite gave a talk and slide presentation on conserving the Garry oak ecosystem at the Native Plant Symposium in March.

To prepare for it, she was able to go through and borrow from the slide collection of Willie MacGillivray, site manager at the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary and she also borrowed a few slides from Eric Redekop.

We decided we would like to assemble a permanent photographic slide collection for GOMPS. We hope to obtain slides of native flora and fauna and activities associated with Garry oaks/meadows/woodlands including building developments, plant rescues, broom bashing etc.

If any members can help out, please contact Sharron Waite, 479-3380 or Katie Stewart, 396-4792.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** April 4, Environmental Awareness Day, UVic

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	E-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	E-mail	ua620@freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	E-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20

Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)

Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:

Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_

Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_

Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

May 1997, Vol. 1, No 5

## Report from CPAWS parks conference

by Katie Stewart

From April 11-13, GOMPS directors Sharron Waite and Katie Stewart attended the "Working Together to Sustain Parks and Protected Areas" forum in Vancouver. Its objective was "to create new ways of working together to meet the conservation and recreation mandates of parks and protected areas in the face of system expansion, increasing use and diminishing management resources."

The forum brought together many bureaucrats from several levels of government — Parks Canada, B.C. Parks, Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks (GVRD) and Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks — and representatives from many non-governmental organizations from all over British Columbia.

### Budget cutbacks

One dominant message from the first day of the conference was that many Canadians view their national parks as a major symbol of national identity, yet the financial support required to manage the parks isn't fully there, due to federal and provincial budget cutbacks.

Parks Canada is coping with \$97 million less. Dennis O'Gorman, assistant deputy minister of BC Parks, didn't give a dollar figure but he did say there has been a 40 percent increase in parks usage in recent years.

BC Parks has the second largest park system in Canada (largest is the national system) and has increased its holdings by almost 50 per cent since 1991. And locally, with the new Sooke Hills Wilderness Park, CRD Parks will double in size.

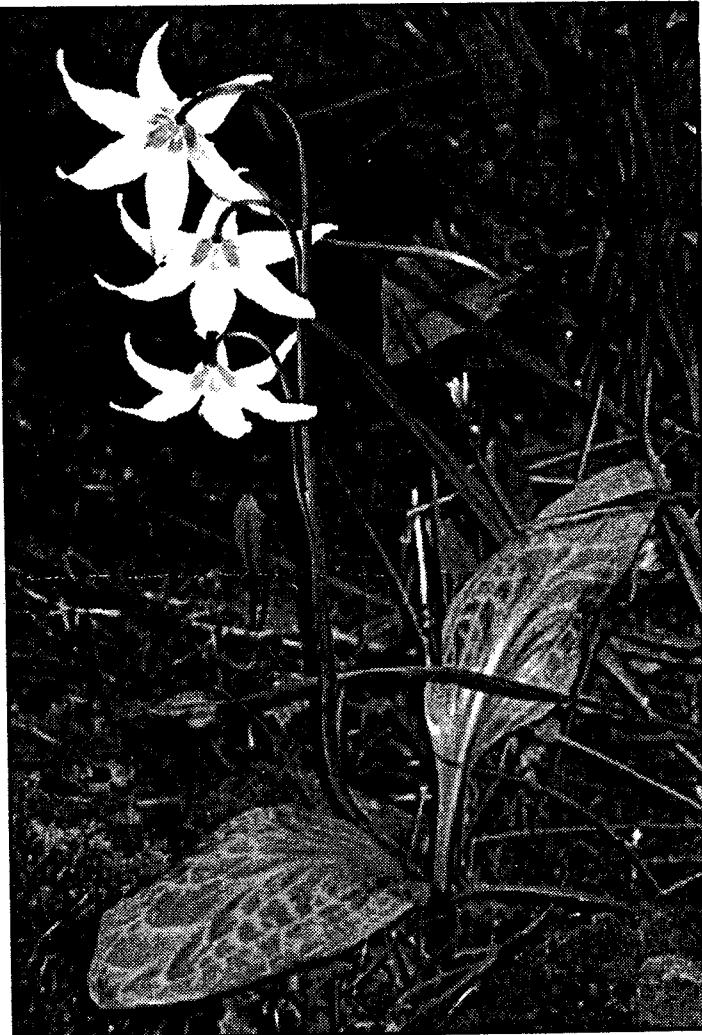
Fourteen and half percent (\$1.67 million annually to the year 2016) of the GVRD Parks budget is allotted to existing debt charges, thereby limiting funds needed for park maintenance and operations.

According to keynote speaker Harvey Locke, past national president of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), in a survey done for BC Parks in 1995, 80 percent of the respondents rated the preservation of natural environments and the protection of wildlife as very important.

Yet federal and provincial parks budgets don't reflect this importance as other jurisdictions such as health and education compete for tax dollars.

He says we are now being forced to stress economic values, i.e. tourism, when land is acquired for parks. One succinct quote: "Parks are about the soul, not the wallet."

*Continued on page 2*



THREE ERYTHRONIUM OREGONUM flowers on one stem.  
There is usually one flower.

Photo by Katie Stewart

## Increasing revenue

One theme of the forum was to look at economic benefits of parks and ways to increase revenue. According to B.C. Parks figures:

- ★ parks contribute \$420 million to the provincial gross domestic product;
- ★ for each dollar spent on provincial parks operations, there were about nine dollars in visitor expenditures;
- ★ about three-quarters of these economic benefits occur outside the Vancouver and Victoria regions;
- ★ provincial parks generate \$171 million (\$129 million and \$42 million) in tax revenues for the federal and provincial governments respectively;
- ★ the parks budget is \$33-1/2 million.

It was clear, at least at the Parks Canada and BC Parks level, that managers are grappling with ways to increase revenue, including corporate sponsorships. They maintained that parks would never become "McArches" parks, but that corporations could fund, for example, nature houses, and are already doing so.

BC Parks has been able to utilize money from Forest Renewal British Columbia: 144 projects such as trail development and upgrading and campground development have been funded over the last two fiscal years, a value of \$13.6 million.

## Response of NGO's

NGO's have other concerns besides finance. They cite Banff as the most obvious example of commercialization run amuck. Ecological integrity of parks is the prime concern of CPAWS.

Panelist Mark Haddock, a CPAWS director, said strong legislation regarding conservation was needed, ecological inventories were necessary and proper planning with strict environmental assessments has to occur before any commercial development.

Another panelist, Frances Vyse, past president of the Federation of BC Natu-

ralists, spoke about the necessity of maintaining and expanding ecological reserves.

## No more protected areas?

The provincial government's Protected Area Strategy (PAS) has the laudable goal of having 12 percent of the province protected by the year 2000. The goals of the strategy, to quote the BC Parks overview given to us "are to conserve representative examples of B.C.'s diverse ecological and geographic zones; and special recreational, natural and cultural features."

So far 9.2 percent or 8.26 million hectares are protected. However, of the 100 "ecosections", 27 percent have more than 12 percent protected, 27 percent have between 3 and 12 percent protected and 46 percent of the ecosections have 3 percent or less of their representative ecosections within protected areas. And Garry oak habitat certainly falls at the bottom end of that category.

Several featured speakers over the course of the weekend said that within a few years the protected areas of BC will be completed. Perhaps they meant the PAS.

In casual conversations outside of workshops, several participants disagreed with that assumption. Many representatives came from all over the province on behalf of groups which are working hard to seek protection of areas of ecological importance.

Jake Masselink, past assistant deputy minister of BC Parks, stated emphatically in a panel discussion on financial resourcing, that unlike the former NDP government, which was green, the current government is brown, and more like the Liberals.

## Stewardship partnerships

One way to stretch inadequate financial resources is through stewardship partnerships.

In 1995 approximately 2500 volunteers acted as park hosts, built trails,

## Our brief meeting with Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Cathy McGregor

Cathy McGregor spoke at the conference for 15 minutes on Friday afternoon. CPAWS organizers suggested that, rather than Ms McGregor circulating among the afternoon workshops, people might like an opportunity to meet with the minister for five minutes.

I rushed over to the sign-up list. Accordingly, Sharron, Katie and GOMPS member Willie Macgillivray, who was also at the conference, discussed over lunch what we could say in five minutes regarding Garry oak habitat.

Sharron, our designated speaker, summed up the current states of Garry oak ecosystems and Rogers Farm and I mentioned the possibility of special legislation to protect the ecosystem, as suggested by Calvin Sandborn in his book *Green Space and Growth, Conserving Natural Areas in British Columbia* (see October 1996 *Garry Oak*

Leaflet).

Ministerial assistant Roseanne Moran asked if we'd sent a letter. (I didn't say, oh yes, to the last two environment ministers.) We said that we would.

Subsequent to our conversation, Sharron, Willie and I met and drafted a letter, with specific mention of the Rogers Farm oak woodlands being added to the Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, the need for critical legislation and a reminder that although the Ministry of Environment had published a brochure calling the Garry oak ecosystem "at risk" in 1993, nothing has been done to protect it since and that we've lost and continue to lose, even more habitat.

We also invited Ms Moran to view the critical area of Rogers Farm.

monitored ecological reserves and provided a variety of other services for BC Parks.

One example given was from a representative of GETPARC — Golden Ears Trail Preservation and Restoration Club. User groups — hikers, field naturalists, equestrians, llama packers and mountain bikers — are working by consensus within a society structure to preserve and restore 60 km of trails within the heavily used Fraser Valley park. They are fund raising to achieve this and are an active participant in decision making with BC Parks.

Last year GVRD Parks formed a Regional Partnership Steering Committee and designated four pilot parks sites for partnership associations with community groups, including Pacific Spirit Park (formerly the University of British Columbia endowment lands).

These park partnership associations

are "community-based, non-profit voluntary organizations that provide forums to bring citizens together, in partnership with the GVRD, to plan and co-manage regional parks," according to the GVRD Parks background paper. They are "essential," according to the same paper.

### Parks stewardship program

Another focus of the forum was to establish a parks stewardship program through CPAWS. Its goals, according to the draft paper prepared for the forum, would be to promote ecological integrity within the protected area system of British Columbia and to build the capacity of grassroots groups to protect the ecological integrity of protected areas.

The draft paper, written by Serena Aduino of CPAWS, listed many items for possible discussion during workshops. My group barely got into it. We

got bogged down over the exclusion of the advocacy (lobbying) role that is an important function of some groups, including GOMPS.

Sharron and I both think that is also a part of stewardship but CPAWS organizers don't want to include that within the mandate of a stewardship network.

Discussion late Saturday and Sunday morning indicated that the number one issue for most groups is having the resources to function effectively, including access to bureaucracy, information, training and expertise. And, of course, money.

Unfortunately, I didn't take many notes during the stewardship workshops. However, I can say that CPAWS will initiate a parks stewardship program and that we will have further opportunities for input.

## Networking at the conference

One valuable result of conferences is, of course, making contacts.

Kate Smallwood, coordinator for the BC Endangered Species Coalition, sought me out and thought GOMPS would be a natural ally, since many plant species of the Garry oak ecosystem are rare and endangered and ought to have protected status.

Audra Fast, coordinator for CPAWS' Grasslands Conservation Council, told Sharron and I of the second grasslands symposium which had

been held in Naramata, B.C. in December 1996. She suggested GOMPS might like to be included in the council. She is preparing a brochure which will include the Garry oak ecosystem.

John Brady, a member of the Victoria Natural History Society Parks and Conservation Committee and I discovered that we are both interested in organizing a conference on stewardship issues, hopefully with CRD Parks, to which municipal and other parks staff in the Victoria region as well as local "Friends of" and conservancy groups

will be invited. Since the forum John has already met with Lloyd Rushton, CRD Parks Administrator. John and I have also had a meeting and will draft a letter in early June to go out to all the groups we can think of to see if there is interest.

Sharron and Katie met Anne Morrison, GVRD Community Development Coordinator and will arrange with her to come to Victoria to conduct a volunteer development workshop to which local groups will be invited.

## Wanted — significant oak trees

Eric Redekop would like to photograph beautiful and stately Garry oaks as well as oaks of personal significance to people, such as a tree with a swing on it. He also wants to photograph oak stumps, preferably recently cut with sawdust alongside, or oak trees in the process of being cut down. If you can help, please phone him at 595-7270.

## GOMPS Board

The Board of Directors has changed slightly since the March Annual General Meeting.

There was no rush of candidates seeking directorships, so all five of the existing directors were acclaimed.

However, our constitution states that no director can serve more than two terms in an office, so Hal Gibbard has assumed the position of treasurer.

Many thanks to Tom Gillespie for his work of keeping the society's books together for the last four years.

## Visit Eric's garden

Eric Redekop welcomes any GOMPS member who would like to view his native plant garden, now in bloom. Much of the material was salvaged from the highway widening project. Call 595-7270 to arrange a time if you are interested.

# BC Endangered Species Coalition

by Kate Smallwood

Dear Friends:

If you are concerned about the fate of biodiversity and endangered species in British Columbia, the B.C. Endangered Species Coalition needs your help!

We can not wait any longer ...

It is already too late for the white-tailed jackrabbit, the sage grouse, the yellow-billed cuckoo, the short-horned lizard, and many others. They have joined the ranks of the passenger pigeon. They are extinct or gone forever from British Columbia.

British Columbia has greater ecological and biodiversity than any other Canadian province or territory, but the province's ecosystems and species are under serious threat from habitat loss and other factors.

According to the Ministry of Environment, 68 of B.C.'s species of vertebrate plants and 224 of our vascular plants are threatened or endangered (or candidates for these designations). Another 451 species are considered vulnerable.

Efforts to improve this situation are seriously hampered by the fact that B.C. has no endangered species legislation. Existing provisions under the Wildlife Act have been essentially ineffective due to their highly discretionary nature and limited coverage.

The time is ripe for the provincial government to enact legislation to safeguard endangered species and their habitat. The provincial government has pledged itself to fill this legislative gap more than once.

Federal legislation promised for fall 1996 will do little to save endangered species without a strong commitment from the provinces to do their part.

The BC Endangered Species Coalition is a group of environmental and community groups who support the

following points for law reform. We urge you to join the coalition by endorsing this platform!

*1. Provincial endangered species legislation should require that all species which are endangered, threatened or vulnerable "shall" be listed for protection.*

Because of the discretionary nature of the process, in the history of the Wildlife Act only four species have ever been designated as threatened or endangered.

Under the current law, plants, invertebrates and even fish are excluded! Listing must be mandatory. Species should be defined broadly to cover all types of plant and animal life, including subspecies and geographically distinct populations.

*2. Identification of the habitat of all listed species should be mandatory. The new endangered species law should automatically protect the critical habitat of threatened or endangered species.*

Habitat destruction is the number one cause of species decline in Canada. Effective endangered species legislation should have priority over other land use legislation and the new law should apply to public and private lands.

All projects and activities which may affect listed species or their habitat should undergo advance review, including environmental assessment.

The provincial government and each of its ministries should ensure that all provincial policies, programs and actions are consistent with the protection of biodiversity and in particular, of species at risk.

Activities which cannot be conducted without adversely affecting threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat, should not proceed.

*3. Listing and habitat identification*

*should be carried out on the recommendation of a Scientific Advisory Board and based solely on ecological and scientific principles. There should be opportunities for public involvement and traditional knowledge should be fully integrated in the process.*

All species that are truly threatened or endangered should receive legal protection, regardless of political expediency. Aboriginal people, landowners and other community members often have significant expertise regarding species at risk.

*4. The legislation should prohibit a broad range of activities harmful to listed species, including: harassing, wounding, killing and capturing them. It should also be offence to collect, possess, import, export, trade in or transport species at risk, and the law should cover any attempts to carry out such activities.*

The prohibitions in the legislation should be designed to provide maximum protection for species at risk.

All developmental stages of species should be protected, as should parts and derivatives derived from those species. Penalties should be severe enough to provide a genuine deterrent.

Exceptions from these prohibitions would only be available in limited cases, such as activities particular to the heritage of aboriginal peoples (if the activity won't significantly undermine the survival or recovery of the species in the wild, and all measures to minimize the impact of the action have been taken) or to prevent immediate threats to human safety.

*5. The legislation should require the development and implementation of recovery plans for listed species.*

Ecosystem based recovery efforts are essential to stabilizing and improving the situation of endangered species. A recovery team consisting of persons with expertise about the species, in-

cluding aboriginal groups and officials from affected government departments, should be assembled for each species. Recovery plans must have legal force.

In 1994 the provincial environment minister told representatives of the BC Endangered Species Coalition that he was not convinced there was sufficient public support for an Endangered Species Act. We know this is not the case!

Let the provincial government know that British Columbians want strongly enforced legislation to protect endangered species and their habitat. Join the coalition of groups who support law reform in this area.

If you have any questions, contact me, the Campaign Coordinator at 604-601-2507 or 1-800-330-9235. Our address is Endangered Species Coalition, c/o West Coast Environmental Law Assoc., 1001-207 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7. Donations are welcome and are tax-deductible.

*Ed. note. I met Kate at the parks forum in Vancouver. The GOMPS board will discuss GOMPS becoming a member of the coalition at our May board meeting. I am not sure whether or not the coalition intends to "make use of" the Conservation Data Centre. I thought I'd include a little information about it.*



The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) has been collecting data since 1991 on endangered species. According to their brochure, personnel use a "combination of computer, map and paper files to retrieve and analyze the location of threatened and endangered elements (plants, animals and communities) in British Columbia.

"The CDC uses information from scientists, naturalists, published and unpublished reports and museum collections. These data are augmented and updated with field work by the CDC scientists and cooperators."

According to their web site on the internet, the CDC "is also a partner of the Natural Heritage Network, an in-

ternational organization of cooperating conservation data centres and heritage programs all using the same methodology to gather and exchange information on the threatened elements of biodiversity."

The CDC uses an established ranking system, both globally and provincially. For example, the yellow

montane violet (*viola praemorsa* ssp *praemorsa*) I mention in my "notes from the president" column, is rated as "imperilled provincially because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000)."

## Wildflower conservation award

The Canadian Wildflower Society honoured the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society by giving our society one of its three annual conservation awards last fall at their annual general meeting for our "successful efforts to educate the public and preserve Garry oak habitat on Vancouver Island."

The award, a beautifully framed print by Pamela Meacher, arrived just in time for our AGM meeting in March. The Board of Directors has asked Willie Macgillivray, site manager for Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, if it could be hung at the Swan Lake Nature House. So look for it there, fellow members. Unfortunately, our attempts at photographing it for replica-

tion in the newsletter were not successful.

The Board very much appreciates the Canadian Wildflower Society's recognition of our society's efforts.

The other recipients of the award were the Windsor Tree Commission, Windsor, Nova Scotia for their "exemplary work in the greening of public and private property, and school grounds, with native plants, using an ecosystem community involvement approach and Norris Denman for his decade of outstanding writing in Wildflower magazine. His unique blend of solid science and folksy style have made Norris one of Wildflower's most popular writers."

## Welcome new members

Mona J. Holley, Victoria; Dr. David G. Edwards, Victoria; Bob McKechnie, Victoria; Harold Macy, Courtenay; Jason Lesage, Victoria; Betty and Allen Brooks, Black Creek; Melda Buchanan, Comox and Norma Morton, Comox.

## GOMPS on internet

Although GOMPS does not yet have an internet home page, we do have some presence in the Langford Lake Area Protection Society's site.

Check out [www.ultranet.ca/LLAPS.index.html](http://www.ultranet.ca/LLAPS.index.html) — there is a map of native vegetative zones and under native plant communities, quite a bit (from our brochure) on Garry oak communities and information on contacting GOMPS.

## Calendar

**WILDFLOWER WALK** — Sundays, May 18, June 1 and 15, 1-3 p.m. Depart from Mount Tolmie summit viewpoint. Call Eric Redekop, 595-7270.

**BIOREGIONAL MAPPING WORKSHOP** — Sunday, May 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. UVIC downtown campus, 110-910 Government Street. For details, call Silas 598-6383 or DIGS 386-3447.

**SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY CONVENTION** — Friday, June 6 - Monday, June 9, UVIC. For information contact Pat McGuire, Conference Management, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3030, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3N6. Phone 721-8470, fax 721-8774.

# What you can do in 5 minutes to help protect an oak meadow

by Janet Simpson

At the north end of the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre grounds is a beautiful camas-covered meadow of young and mature Garry oaks. While Colwood's Official Community Plan recognizes this area as "ecologically sensitive" and one of the handful of dominant Garry oak, arbutus and aspen woodlands in the community, the Rec. Centre has deemed it appropriate to allow for 18 disc-golf (or frisbee-golf) runs to crisscross the meadow.

Existing damage and potential danger to the meadow is obvious: discs frequently hit trees instead of the metal cylinders they are aimed at (the loud ringing of a disc hitting a cylinder indicates the force with which the oak would be hit), white directional signs have been nailed into oaks, trails run over oak roots, wildflowers are crushed and the course advocates admit that the area "poses a significant fire hazard during dry weather."

This disc-golf course was approved on a trial basis; its continuation will be approved or denied in September. The brochure handed out to participants cautions them, "Do not act in a manner that would jeopardize its continued existence." There is another 9-hole "natural object course" beside the Rotary Park.

The "course pro" is Mike McCrae, at 477-8428. He has assembled a site on the internet — [www.islandnet.com/discgolf](http://www.islandnet.com/discgolf) — where he credits himself for making the first designated disc golf course in Victoria possible. Apparently he put together a formal proposal with a 300-signature petition to the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Commission in July 1996 and received their support. He also credits the person who "spotted this place over a decade ago."

The internet site features photos of the rocky outcrops and course and some descriptions of the course. It also gives explicit directions for players

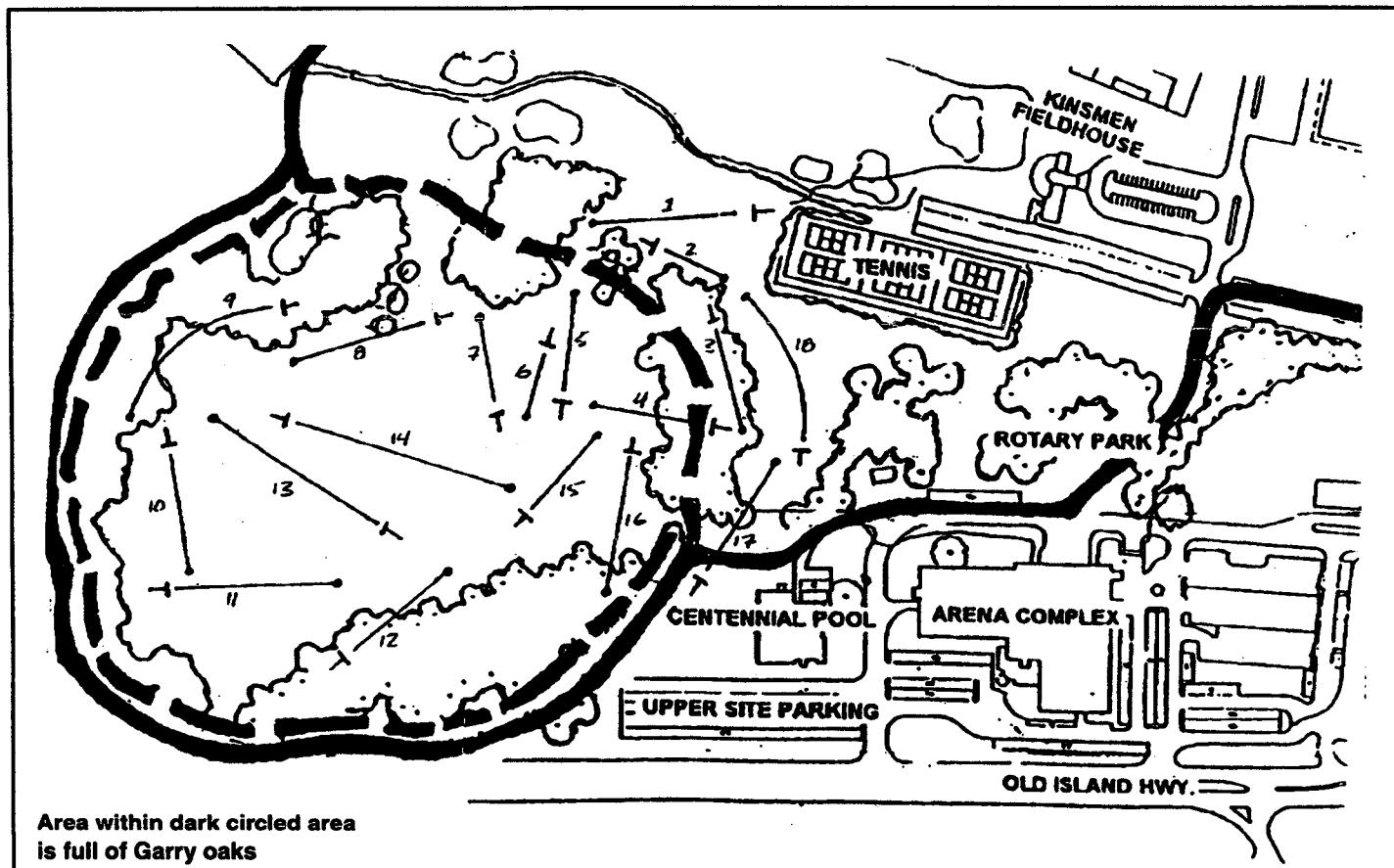
coming from the ferry or by bus or bike to get to the site. This will not be a minimal-use site.

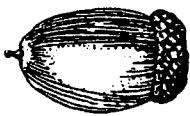
This summer the Canadian National championships are being held in Victoria on July 21, "the World Cup Tune-up Tourney." You can imagine the use the course is going to get at that time. Using this area will severely impact the oak meadows.

The more phone calls and letters the Rec Centre administration receives, the less inclined it will be to endorse the destruction of its most precious natural feature.

Write to Brian Storrier,  
Head Administrator  
Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre  
1767 Island Highway  
Victoria, B.C. V9B 1J1

or phone him at 478-8384 or fax him at 474-8650 or call me to join forces, 381-6657.





## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Vincent, husband of the late Wilma Vincent, a former GOMPS director, died on April 30. Don and Wilma lived on Blenkinsop Road, where they moved in the fall of 1972. The following spring, they discovered wildflowers growing in the lawn among the oaks.

For the remainder of their lives, they nurtured the wildflowers, which flourished and multiplied as a result of the Vincents adapting to the natural cycles of the shooting stars, fawn and chocolate lilies and camas before mowing their lawn.

Despite admonitions from some people to cut the "unsightly" stems and grass once the flowers had bloomed and begun to fade, the Vincents allowed the plants to set their seed, resulting in the spreading of the wildflowers over their 1/2-acre property.

The Vincents' yard was often photographed, most recently in an article in *Canadian Gardening* (see next item).



The April 1997 edition of *Canadian Gardening* magazine featured an article called "To Preserve and Protect" by Peter Symcox. In it, Mr. Symcox lamented about the endangered state of the Garry oak ecosystem, and featured five homeowners, including Don Vincent, in the Victoria area who retain parts of their property in a natural state.

"Only a few clumps of camas, Easter lilies or other wildflowers are found today, so ruthless has been their extermination by recent development practices. It seems that to colonize meant not only to relocate native people ... but to eradicate an entire arboreal ecosystem. It's precisely for this reason that many people are attempting to preserve the few remaining stands of wildflowers on private properties, and

to recreate, even in small areas, the savannah-like parklands of yesteryear."

Mr. Symcox also took the excellent colour photographs of the five properties featured, including close-ups of camas, satin-flowers and fawn lilies.



Just back from a walk through **Summit Park**, the closest Garry oak meadow to my house. I was infuriated a few weeks ago when I noticed that someone had dug up a large area of grass on one side of the main path and there was even a larger pile on the other, where some of the dirt was piled up. I couldn't figure out if someone was digging up camas or trying to dig up a bush.

I found out from another member of Friends of Summit Park that an adult male had decided to make a hill to jump his bike over. Another visitor to the park noticed him digging but didn't say anything. I was afraid the dirt was piled over an area of the very endangered prairie violet (*viola praemorsa*) but was relieved tonight to find the patch elsewhere as I looked carefully for it. City crews do, however, mow over a small section of the violets, unfortunately, and we'll have to point it out to them.

I saw two dogs romping through the meadows, so I said to the nearest owner as she approached me, "Your dog is supposed to be on a leash." She gave me a sour look and said, "Oh come on, this is my park. I've lived here all my life."

I said, "This is a natural park and your dog shouldn't be tearing through the flowers. There's a sign posted by the entrance," and I pointed to it. She said, "My dog is only a pup."

I replied, "Everyone thinks they should be the exception, like the people who ignore the 'Do not pick the wildflowers sign,'" and I walked away.

I'm going to keep approaching people, though I'm not comfortable doing it, rather than let something slide by me that disturbs me.



On a rainy April 30, I visited Hornby Island to see what the "1000 Oaks Grove" looks like in spring. Hornby is farther north than Victoria, so fawn lilies were still in bloom, and the first of the camas were just beginning to bloom. In the grove, three deer were munching in the meadow. I noticed many species of meadow plants. I was most surprised, though, to see in adjacent Helliwell Park, the largest numbers of chocolate lilies I have ever seen. These were not readily accessible to the deer, however, but underneath pine trees on the cliffs above the sea.



**Conservancy Hornby Island** lost its appeal against the approval of the "1000 Oaks Grove." John Edward, who attended the proceedings in Vancouver on behalf of the conservancy, said they lost on all the points they brought up, including public interest being ignored. He told me the judge said that the approving officer is not obligated to respond to the public interest.

Keith Sorensen, the developer, can now register the lots. Mr. Edward said that at least two dwellings will be built in the oak grove and others will be built on the edge.

The conservancy does not have the funds to do a further appeal and may be obligated to pay for court costs of the April appeal.



While I was in the Courtenay area, I noticed a sign on the highway for native plants. When I tracked down the location, I found Streamside Native

*Continued on page 8*

Continued from page 7

Plants, a two-year-old business operated by Richard and Barbara Proctor. Their catalogue is substantial, with over 143 species listed. Some species are available are from the Garry oak ecosystem, including Garry oaks.

The nursery is located in a cleared and wooded area. Mr. Porter took me for a walk along a stream on the property, which he says gives prospective plant buyers some idea of plants in their natural setting. Many trillium and fawn lilies were in full bloom and devil's club, which forms some of the riparian canopy, was just coming into leaf. A salmonid enhancement project is underway in the stream.

Mr. Porter told me that the two beds of camas he knew of near Courtenay had been destroyed, one last year by herbicide and another this year by being ploughed. He had tried to get permission to dig up some of the camas but had been refused.

Streamside Native Plants is located at 3300 Fraser Road, Courtenay. Mailing address is R.R. #6, Site 695, C6, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 8H9. Tel./fax 250-338-7509. e-mail: [barport@mars.ark.com](mailto:barport@mars.ark.com) <http://mars.ark.com/~barport/streamside.htm>



GOMPS member Jim Rainer told me sometime ago that the site of the Pacific Horticultural Centre had once included a large area of calypso bulbosa. I wonder if other people still remember wildflower areas of significance prior to their being lost to development. I was thinking along the lines of an oral history project, detailing what has been lost.

Once that kind of information is gone from living memory, no-one will realize what used to be prior to developments such as Broadmead. Such a project could highlight how important it is to protect the few remaining fragments. If any GOMPS member is interested in such an undertaking, please contact me at 386-4792.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** Phone 386-4792 for possible locations

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail <a href="mailto:camassia@bc.sympatico.ca">camassia@bc.sympatico.ca</a>	
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	e-mail <a href="mailto:upgareau@islandnet.com">upgareau@islandnet.com</a>	
Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	e-mail <a href="mailto:ua@620freenet.victoria.bc.ca">ua@620freenet.victoria.bc.ca</a>	
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20

Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)

Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:

Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_

Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_

Growing, planting Garry oaks

## **PETITION FOR BC ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

**To: Premier Glen Clark and Members of Cabinet**

BC Ministry of Environment statistics show that BC currently has 68 species of animals and 224 species of plants that are endangered or threatened. An additional 451 species are classified as vulnerable, and the numbers are increasing.

It is already too late for the passenger pigeon and the Dragon Lake Whitefish - they are now extinct. Other species like the sage grouse and the yellow-billed cuckoo are no longer found in British Columbia. Our rich biological heritage is at risk.

Unlike four other provinces (Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick), BC has no Endangered Species Act. Yet last year, BC's Environment Minister signed the *National Accord for the Protection of Species At Risk in Canada*. A key component of the *National Accord* is the commitment to pass complementary federal and provincial endangered species legislation. The federal government has tabled its legislation, the *Canada Endangered Species Protection Act*, and it is now time for BC to follow suit.

Existing provincial initiatives like the BC *Wildlife Act*, the *Forest Practices Code* and the Protected Areas Strategy do NOT adequately address the requirements of the *National Accord*. Separate, comprehensive BC endangered species legislation is required. We respectfully request that the BC Government honour its commitments under the *National Accord* and pass a BC Endangered Species Act.

**British Columbia's heritage deserves no less.**

Signed:

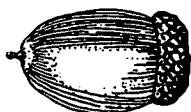
**PETITION IN FAVOUR OF BC ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (cont.)**



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

June 1997, Vol. 1, No. 6



## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Katie Stewart

May and June so far have been unusually busy for GOMPS phone calls. Some weeks, there may be only one or two calls. This week, there were 19. And then there's e-mail ...

Two calls, in particular, have made me think about our advocacy role. One, from an anonymous male, was left on

my answering machine on Friday, June 6 concerning property being rezoned at 1420 and 1440 Mt. Douglas Cross Roads, which is coming before Saanich Council on June 16.

Part of his message said, "I just have a concern about the wildlife and the oaks. I just don't know what to do about it but I'm trying to report this to some-

one that can do something about it. This is really a concern."

The second phone call was from a UVIC student preparing a paper on an advocacy group — the fourth UVIC student since last year seeking information for a paper. I spent a half hour on the phone and left our brochure and

*Continued on page 7*



VICTORIA "CITY OF GARDENS" in full meadow splendour in the triangle at Beach Drive and Midland Road in Uplands.

Photo by Katie Stewart

# Study of acorn feeding insects on Garry oaks in the Southeastern Vancouver Island area

by Doris Rohlf

The Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) is the only oak native to B.C. (Farrar, 1995) and is restricted primarily to the southeast tip of Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands.

Because of poor regeneration of the Garry oak there is interest in the insects that infest and damage the acorns.

There are two acorn boring insects, both native to North America, which reduce survival and regeneration capabilities of Garry oak. These are the filbert weevil and the filbertworm (Passon, 1964; AliNiazee, 1980).

The value of the Garry oak landscape to society is now being recognized and appreciated and the Victoria City Council adopted a resolution identifying the historical and ecological significance of the Garry oak ecosystem (Erickson, 1993).

Garry oak is not only a unique species, but the Garry oak ecosystem has a higher concentration of rare plant species when compared to the rest of the province.

Garry oak ecosystems have been identified as "hot spots" of biological diversity (Erickson, 1993). The decline of Garry oak trees would inevitably result in a decline in these other rare plant species.

As human development encroaches on the Garry oak habitat the damage caused by these two insects is amplified; research on insect pests of Garry oak in British Columbia is essential if we want to preserve and protect the biodiversity harboured by the unique Garry oak ecosystem.

The filbert weevil and filbertworm females oviposit into and on the acorns respectively, while the acorns are still on the tree (Lewis, 1992). Damage to

coast live oak acorns has been shown to be as high as 80 per cent in Southern California, where the filbertworm may have as many as two generations per year (Keen 1958, Furniss and Carolin 1977, Lewis 1992).

No study on acorn infesting insects has been conducted on Garry oak trees in British Columbia and neither the proportion of the acorns infested by these insects nor the proportion of the infested acorns that may germinate and grow into seedlings is known.

Data on these are needed if the presence of this ecologically unique tree on Vancouver Island is to be maintained.

By determining the biology of the insects damaging Garry oak acorns, one may discover a "weak" link in the biology that might suggest potential ways to control the pest and reduce its damage to the acorns, therefore increasing the germination potential of the acorns.

The data obtained during the study would be a practical step in protecting the unique Garry oak ecosystem and preserving biodiversity.

## Objectives:

The overall goal of the proposal is to determine the extent of damage caused by the two acorn infesting insects and suggest possible ways to reduce the amount of this damage.

This proposal has five specific objectives:

1) Determine the proportion of Garry oak acorns infested by the filbert weevil and the filbertworm at 10 locations in the Greater Victoria area, and at two locations on two of the Gulf Islands.

2) Determine a:) the life history of the more damaging species of these two pests

b) identify parasitoids, if any, of this insect and

c) determine the role of the parasitoids in regulating the pest populations.

3) Investigate the relationship between acorn size and infestation rates.

4) Determine the proportion of infested acorns that can germinate into viable seedlings.

5) Determine the life history of less damaging insect attacking Garry oak acorns.

## References:

AliNiazee, M.T. 1980. Insect and mite pests of filberts. Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin, 643. p.2-6.

Erickson, W. 1993. Garry oak ecosystems. Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Farrar, J.L. 1995. Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, p.264-265.

Furniss, R.L. and V.M. Carolin. 1977. Western forest insects. USDA Forest Service Misc. Publ. 1339.

Keen, F.P. 1958. Cone and Seed insects of western forest trees. USDA Tech. Bull. 1169. p.43, 145-146.

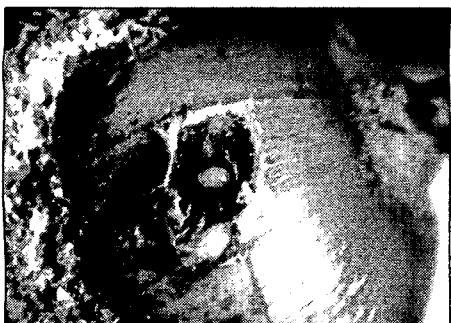
Lewis, V.R. 1992. Within-tree distribution of acorns infested by *Curculio occidentis* and *Cydia latiferreana*. Environ. Entomol. 21(5). P.99-121

Passon, D.E. Controlling the filbert moth. Proc. Oreg. Wash. Nut Growers Soc. 50: 29-30

All photos by Doris Rohlf



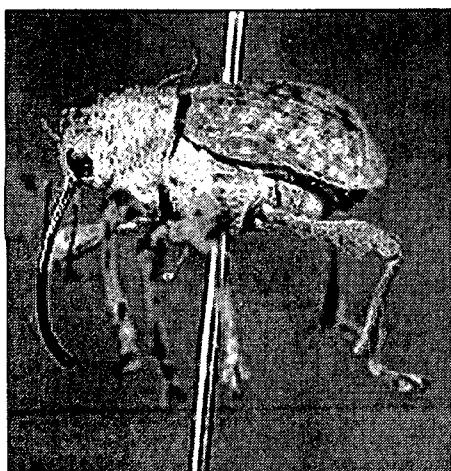
**Emergence holes** (left) filbert weevil — round hole; (right) filbertworm — oval hole



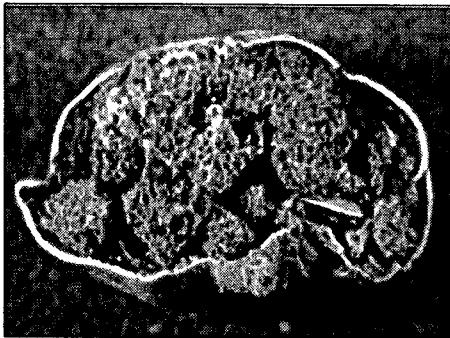
**Filbert weevil (*Curculio occidentis*) egg**



**Filbert weevil larva**



**Filbert weevil adult**



**Filbert weevil acorn damage**



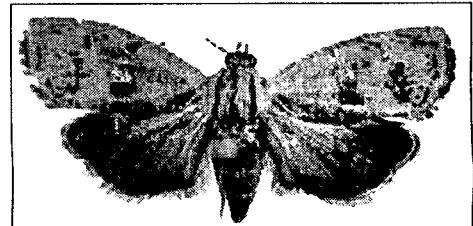
**Filbertworm larva**



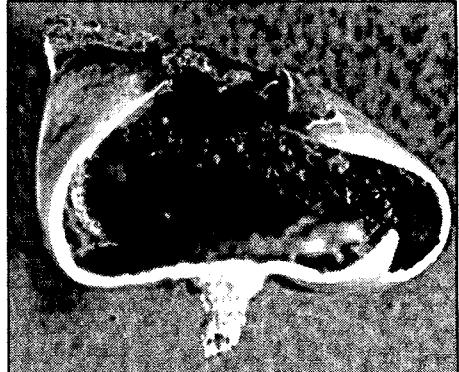
**Healthy acorn**



**Filbertworm (*Cydia latiferreana*) egg**



**Filbertworm adult**



**Filbertworm acorn damage**

## **Acorn study needs funding**

*by Katie Stewart*

Doris Rohlfs has already begun her studies for her masters thesis on the filbertworm and filbert weevil acorn damage under the supervision of Dr. Imre Otvos at the Pacific Forestry Centre.

She will be continuing this research project for the next two years and hopes to find a biological control for these destructive insects. Unfortunately, her search for on-going funding has, so far, not been successful.

She applied to Forest Renewal B.C., with a letter of support from GOMPS outlining how endangered the Garry oak ecosystem is, how little regenera-

tion there has been and the value we perceived regarding her studies, but she was turned down, as the Garry oak is not a commercial species.

GOMPS Director Paul Gareau has undertaken to try to find more funding, by writing letters to the various municipalities and foundations.

It is too late for applying for funding this year under the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, but we can apply by November 1 for next year.

Doris estimates she will need \$21,000 each this year and next. If any GOMPS members can think of any funding sources, please contact Paul Gareau at 592-9089.

# **24th Annual Natural Areas Conference**

## **Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference**

### **THEME: BRIDGING NATURAL AND SOCIAL LANDSCAPES**

August 27-30, 1997

Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, Portland, Oregon

#### **Plenary Session — Wed., August 27**

##### **Keynote Address**

The Cultural in Natural Landscapes: William Robbins, Prof. History, Oregon State University

##### **Plenary Speakers**

Is Wilderness a Social Construct?: Holmes Rolston, Prof. Philosophy, Colorado State University

The Ecological Importance of Natural Areas: Steve Trombulak, Chair and Prof. of Biology, Dept. of Biology, Middlebury College, Vermont

Natural Preserves in the Era of Virtual Reality: Deborah Jensen, Vice Pres. for Science, Nature Conservancy, Virginia

Obtaining, Retaining and Maintaining Protected Areas: Biological vs. Social Strategies — What Works Best?: Gerald Wright, Prof., Dept. of Wildlife, University of Idaho

Wilderness, Jaguars and Ranchers: Broad-Based Citizens' Reserve Design for the Southwest: Dave Foreman, Chair, The Wildlands Project, Albuquerque, New Mexico

#### **Banquet Address, Thursday, Aug. 28**

Can We Save the West?: Felice Pace, Executive Director, Klamath Forest Alliance, Yreka, California

#### **Concurrent Sessions — Thursday, Aug. 28 and/or Sat., August 30**

##### **Symposia**

1. New and Increasing Uses of Native Species
2. Urban and Rural Use and Perceptions of Natural Areas
3. Native American Perspectives on Natural Area Management
4. Role of Natural Areas in Ecosystem Management
5. Natural Hydrologic Regimes
6. Exotics in the Landscape
7. What is Natural: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable
8. Ecosystem Conservation
9. International Natural Areas Conservation

##### **General Sessions**

10. Exotic Species
11. Fire: Ecology, Public Perspective and Use
12. Interpreting our Natural World: Telling Stories Through Environmental Interpretation
13. Education and Other Uses of Natural Areas
14. Social and Ecological Implications of Grazing — Domestic and Wild
15. Invertebrates and Natural Area Management
16. Non-Vascular Plants and Natural Area Management

**Conference Field Trips — Friday, Aug. 29** — 12 choices, including Willamette Valley Natural Areas: Finley National Wildlife Refuge (3 sites, including Pigeon Butte, featuring Oregon white oak [Garry oak] woodland, "which is, in the absence of fire, succeeding to a Douglas-fir forest."

**Costs:** Full Registration received before August 6, US \$130 (students US \$100); after August 6, US \$150 (students US \$120). Daily registration US \$55.

INFORMATION: 1997 NAA/EPPC CONFERENCE, P.O. Box 23712, Tigard, OR 97281-3712

## Seed Source

We have recently received a catalogue from Inside Passage: Seeds, Books and Native Plant Services.

Inside Passage offers seeds by weight: 1/4 oz., 1 oz., 4 oz. and 1 lb. and by single packets for gardeners at \$2.50 each. Shipping is extra. They list 149 species including *Allium acuminatum*, *A. cernuum*, *Brodiaea coronaria*, *Camassia quamash*, *C. leichtlinii*, *Collinsia parviflora*, *Delphinium menziesii*, *Dodecatheon* ssp., *Eriophyllum lanatum*, *Erythronium oregonum*, *Fritillaria lanceolata*, *Heuchera micrantha*, *Lomatium nudicaule*, *Saanicla crassicaulis* and *Zygadenus venenosus*.

To order contact 1-800-361-9657 or write to P.O. Box 639, Port Townsend, WA. 98368

## Calendar

**WILDFLOWER WALK** — Sundays, June 15 and 29, 1-3 p.m. Mount Tolmie Park, Meet at the summit viewpoint. Call Eric for more information 595-7270. Sponsor: Mount Tolmie Conservancy Association.

**OPEN HOUSE "THE FUTURE OF COMPOSTING IN THE CRD"** — Tuesday, June 24, 4-8 p.m. Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Road. Public input is wanted for improvement of large scale composting in the CRD. Phone James Pratt 920-7826 for info. on the Open House.

**GOMPS B.O.D. MEETING** — Monday, July 7, 7:30 p.m. at Sharron Waite's, 935 Woodhall Drive. Guest: Bill Turner, Land Conservancy of B.C.

# Garry oaks fall in Courtenay

by Betty Brooks

Black Creek, Vancouver Island

Eight Garry oak trees have been felled on school district property in order to allow space for expansion for an ice arena in the Comox Valley Sports Centre. Ironically, the trees were cut the same day, May 20, as members of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and Native Plant Society of B.C. presented a brief to the School Board of District #71. The group was assured that the site would not be developed until well after that date.

The brief contained information recently obtained from a Ministry of Environment botanist who had examined the site at the request of local naturalists.

The site was found to be a unique plant community whose exact assemblage of plants is not found elsewhere, though somewhat similar communities exist in Washington State. A good regeneration of oak was also evident. The oak community was close to minimal size for survival.

Now nearly one third of the woodland has either been destroyed or is destined for clearing.

The Regional District Sports Commission, which makes decisions on the project, did not undertake to have an environmental study done. Instead, an arborist was consulted and a second opinion obtained from another arborist in the same company.

The arborist who supervised the cutting now recommends clearing out the underbrush and dead wood, as well as draining, to make it more "park-like" for the public. Such action would totally destroy what is left of this unique plant community.

Local naturalists hope to advise and help manage the remaining woodland. Apart from clearing out several inva-

1 Garry Oak Leaflet

sive non-native species, they wish to leave it untouched. Vanier Secondary students will also be involved in studies and stewardship.

It is unfortunate that Comox Valley has lost another piece of its ever eroding natural and cultural heritage.



**GOMPER BETTY BROOKS** counts rings (est. 200 years) on felled Garry oak at Vanier Secondary School grounds, Courtenay, B.C. May 25.

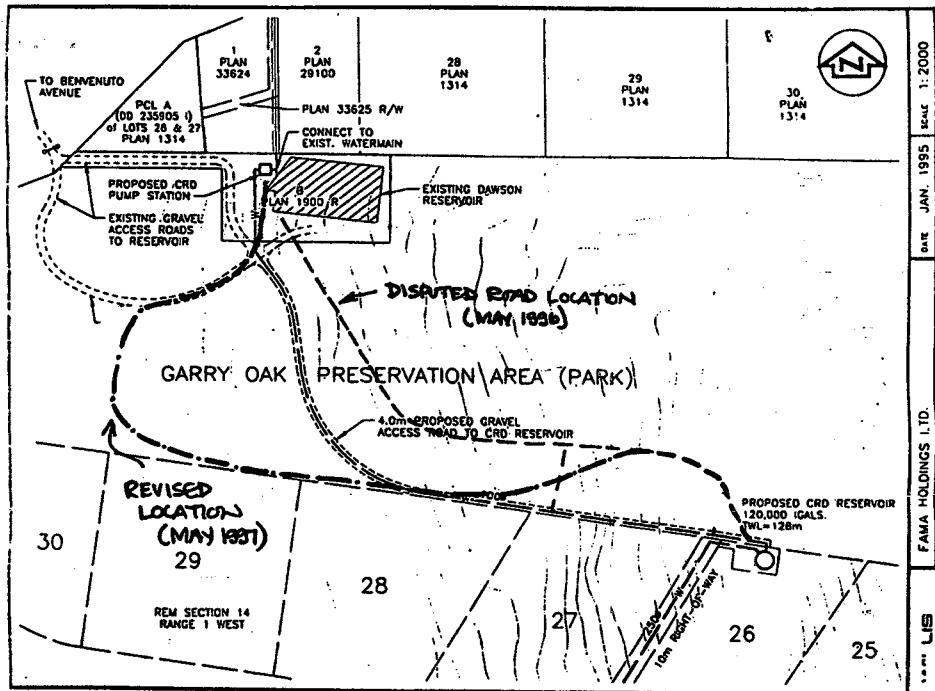
# Update on Fama Garry oak meadow

by Bob Thompson

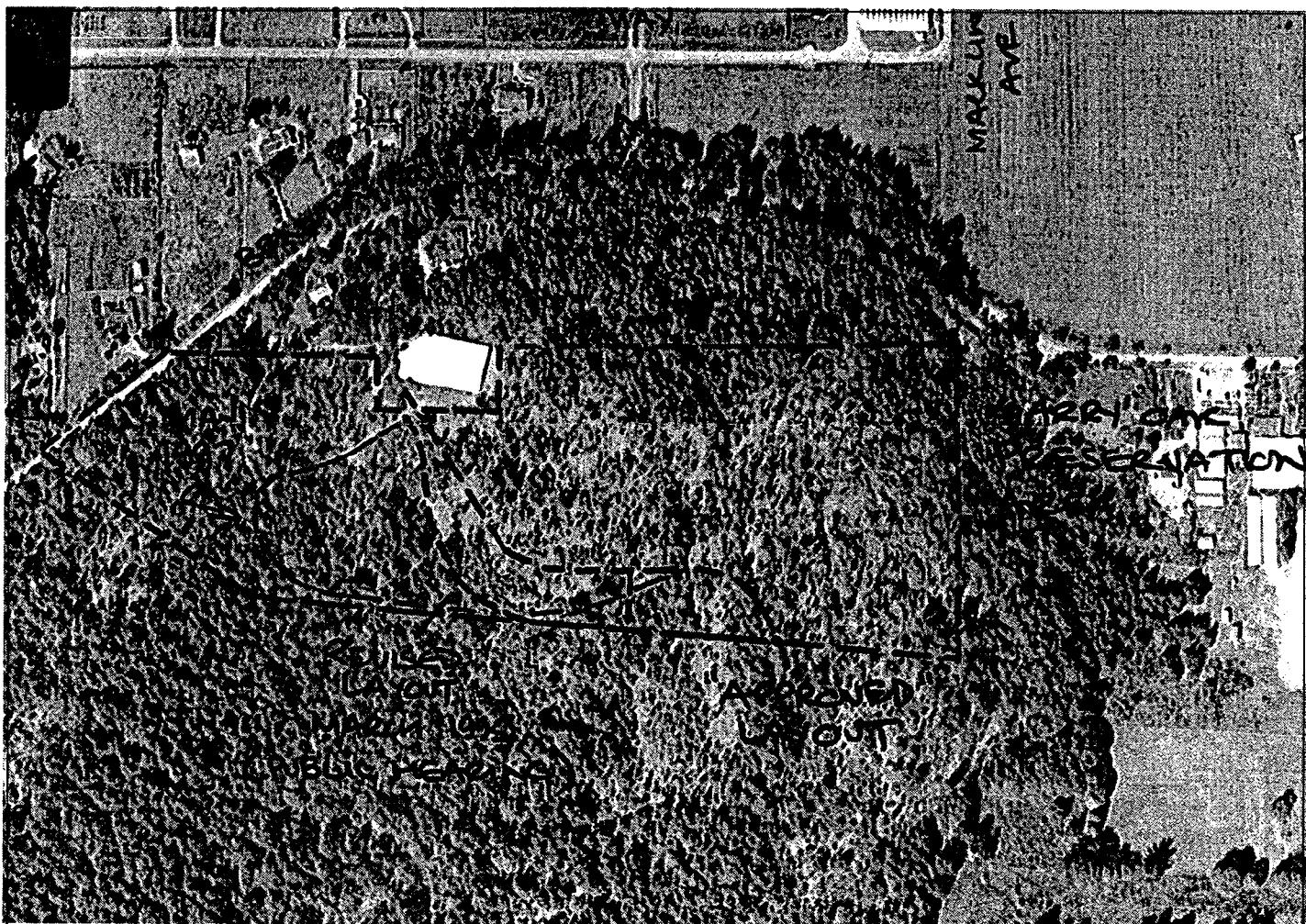
The battle to relocate the gravel access road in the proposed Garry oak preserve on the Fama lands in Central Saanich, from its route through a Garry oak meadow to the park periphery, has been won.

In fact, the new location of the road appears to be even better than the position originally proposed by Fama at the March 1995 Public Hearing. The revised position makes use of an existing road for part of its length, and while the road enters the park for a short distance, road construction in this area will be less damaging than if it went along the park periphery.

Thanks to GOMPS for your crucial support.



MAP AND photo courtesy of Bob Thompson.



*In a nutshell, continued from page 1*

copies of our last two newsletters for her in my mailbox. Among her many questions was, did I think GOMPS had any effect with its advocacy?

I have to admit, despite the efforts of all our directors, that I'm not sure. Our profile in the community is definitely there; obviously people are aware of us, judging from the phone calls we get, telling us of proposed developments or individual trees being cut down or asking us what to do.

It's at the political level that I'm not sure. As Sharron Waite and I wrote in our letter to Environment Minister Cathy McGregor, "In 1993, your own ministry published a brochure on the Garry oak ecosystem calling it an ecosystem 'at risk' and describing it as being in 'extreme peril'. Four years later, nothing has changed; the ecosystem is not protected, but even more habitat has been lost to development."

On May 26, I made a brief statement before Saanich Council (never my favorite thing to do) regarding a developer's request to amend restrictive covenants on property at "Eden Oaks" on Westervelt Place, overlooking the Blenkinsop Valley. Alan Hopper, Saanich's municipal planner, had recommended that no amendment take place.

However, until it wasn't until councillors realized that in fact, 1800-2000 square foot houses could still be built with the covenants in place did they vote against the request. Several councillors obviously did not understand the intent of restrictive covenants; Sheila Orr, who vaguely mentioned the Hornby Island oaks, said she didn't see why grass couldn't be planted in the restricted area, or a patio.

It is one thing to discuss conservation tools with like-minded people; it can be quite exciting thinking of the possibilities. It is quite another talking to a council where some councillors see land as a commodity only.

So, one of our directors will check

out the Mt. Douglas site, find out what provisions have been made to protect Garry oak habitat, and perhaps attend council, depending on what we find out. "Here we are again, folks. We were here three weeks ago and we'll be here again and again and again."

Of course, we won't say that, but I do wonder if talking to council or writing letters has any effect. How does one judge? That's not to say we won't keep at it.

One phone call a few weeks ago concerned a particular Garry oak in Metchosin on public property. A property owner had attached brass house numbers to the tree and that upset her neighbour who was not on speaking terms with her neighbour but called me.

I said that as far as I knew, Metchosin did not have a tree protection bylaw and that if she wanted one in her community she and like-minded friends should lobby their council. I gave a similar message to a woman calling from Colwood several months ago.

GOMPS can't lobby everywhere. Unlike higher profile environmental organizations like Western Canada Wilderness Committee or the Sierra Club, we do not have paid campaigners.

That could change, however. Not that we are about to employ anyone. On Saturday, May 31, the Provincial Capital Commission and Capital Regional District Parks co-hosted a "Land Trusts and Land Stewardship Workshop" attended by about 20 people from three levels of government and representatives from local non-government groups: four directors from Habitat Acquisition Trust, two people from the Association to Preserve Rural Metchosin, two from Galiano Conservancy, one person each from the Land Conservancy of B.C., the conservation committee of the Victoria Natural History Society, Willie Macgillivray from Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, me on behalf of GOMPS and a couple of other interested people.

ple.

Among the many suggestions of how PCC/CRD Parks could support existing groups was to pay for an office with at least one paid staff person. Two functions might be to raise funds and to promote existing conservation initiatives, by talking to municipal councillors and municipal advisory committees and public displays in a travelling bus with all the stewardship booklet series.



Even the mailperson gets in the act. One day in May, I arrived home just after my mail had been delivered. The woman wearing the uniform asked me if I was in the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and then told me about her concerns regarding the mowing practices at the Cridge Centre for the Family (Cook and Hillside Streets).

I also got a phone call from a man concerned about the camas being mowed before it had time to bloom. I walked over the property when I had time, but could make no sense of the mowing. Obvious areas such as the rocky outcrops, where the mower could not reach, were left to grow, but the flatter areas were partially mown. Some camas was in bloom in those areas and mown in others.

So I wrote a nice letter to the grounds people suggesting that they consider allowing the wildflowers to complete their natural cycle and then mow and accompanied the letter with our brochure and Ministry of Environment leaflet on the Garry oak ecosystem. No reply yet.



When I walked around the Cedar Golf Course this week, I noticed a huge pile of soil piled in two locations in the Garry oak woodlands near the volunteer house (closest street to the pile is Ocean View Road off Cedar Hill Road.)

I contacted Don Hunter, Director  
Continued on page 8

*In a nutshell* continued from page 7

of Saanich Parks and Recreation and he was most apologetic, saying he had just been notified of the pile and that the soil had been put there by the contractor for the new golf house.

He said that it was a mistake and that he had given an order for the soil's removal. Will any plant life besides the oaks survive?

**Eric Redekop**, from the Mount Tolmie Conservancy, attended the same council meeting (May 26) that I did, protesting the proposed bike race on Mount Tolmie because of its effect on sensitive habitat.

Although Saanich Council allowed the race organizer far longer than five minutes to do his presentation on the race, Eric was cut off before he could finish. The race was postponed due to another consideration: inadequate lead time.

**GOMPS Director Janet Simpson** says the Juan de Fuca Rec. Centre has been inundated with calls protesting the disc-golf course in the Garry oak meadow at the Centre.

She was asked by the recreation commissioners to make a presentation at their meeting on June 12. **Dr. Adolf Ceska**, from the **Conservation Data Centre**, will also be present with slides showing the ecosystem.

**Friends of Summit** (and GOMPS) members **Karen Uldall-Ekman**, **Linda Grimm** and **Deirdre Gotto**, got some good television coverage about the park and the Garry oak ecosystem when CHEK TV visited the park during the Friends' April 27 public wildflower walk.

In the next *Oak Leaflet*, I will bring GOMPS members up to date on issues we have been working on.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** Phone 386-4792 for possible locations

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	e-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	e-mail	ua@620freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20

Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)

Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:

Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_

Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

July/August 1997, Vol. 1, No. 7

## Protection of Ballenas and Winchelsea Islands

by Katie Stewart

At last! Something positive to report!

In late June, Bill Turner of the Land Conservancy of B.C. contacted GOMPS to see if we might like to donate some money towards a real estate assessment of South Winchelsea Island off the mouth of Nanoose Harbour. The owner of the 10.4 ha is-

land had been trying to sell the island locally for a few years and was now going to list it internationally.

The island is part of the Ballenas/Winchelsea Archipelago and one of four islands in the group which are privately owned. Two other islands — West Ballenas (44.5 ha) and Gerald Island (11.3 ha) — are also for sale and were included in the assessment. Mistaken Island, the fourth privately

owned island, is currently not for sale, and its acquisition is not necessary right now for the protection of the rest of the archipelago.

Most of the other 15 islands in the archipelago are undisposed crown land and one is leased to the Department of National Defence. The Ballenas Island light station occupies 2.8 ha on West Ballenas Island and is owned by the

*Continued on page 7*



**WINCHELSEA ISLANDS** are part of proposed Ballenas/Winchelsea Archipelago protected area. South Winchelsea island is the island at top left of the photo.

Photo courtesy of Bill Turner

Garry Oak Leaflet 1

# Under seige

By Katie Stewart

Over the summer your directors have been attending council meetings (all seven attended the July 7 Saanich Council meeting and four of us spoke on either the Rogers Farm or Helen Road subdivisions) and other meetings concerning upcoming developments.

One we haven't yet looked at is the proposed Home Depot on Watkiss Way near the Victoria General Hospital, which we hear contains Garry oak habitat.

We are trying very hard to drum up some publicity about and opposition to the proposed Costco/housing development, which at the moment appears a shoe-in.

We are considering getting involved in major fundraising, as you will read in Sharron's article on Rogers Farm.

The Helen Road subdivision, although not yet approved, also appears to be a goner. But we keep trying!

## ROGERS FARM

### Development closer for Rogers Farm

*The sands of time are runing out on the chance to save the Garry oak meadow of Rogers Farm!*

by Sharron Waite

The public hearing has been called. A date has not yet been set, but it will probably happen in September.

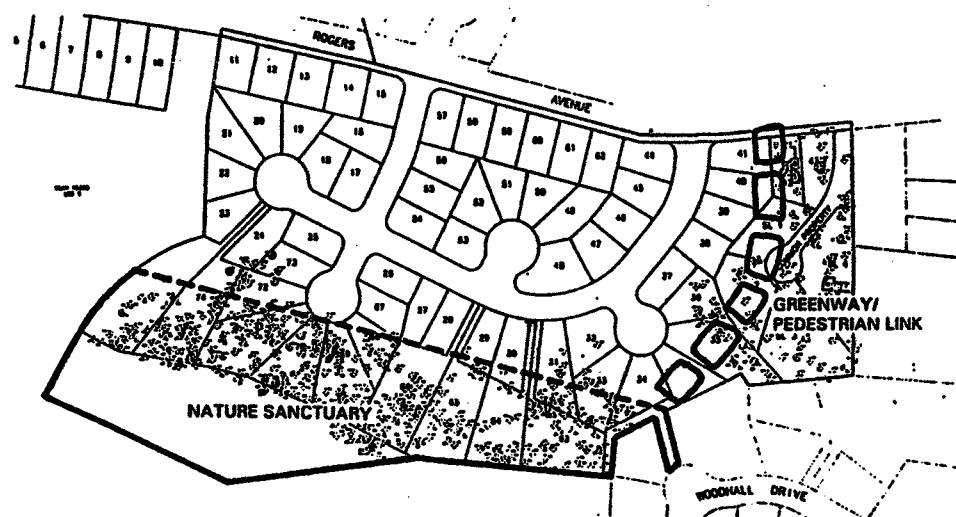
#### The proposals

Saanich Committee of the Whole met in July to consider the municipal planner's report. The accompanying maps show the alternatives they reviewed:

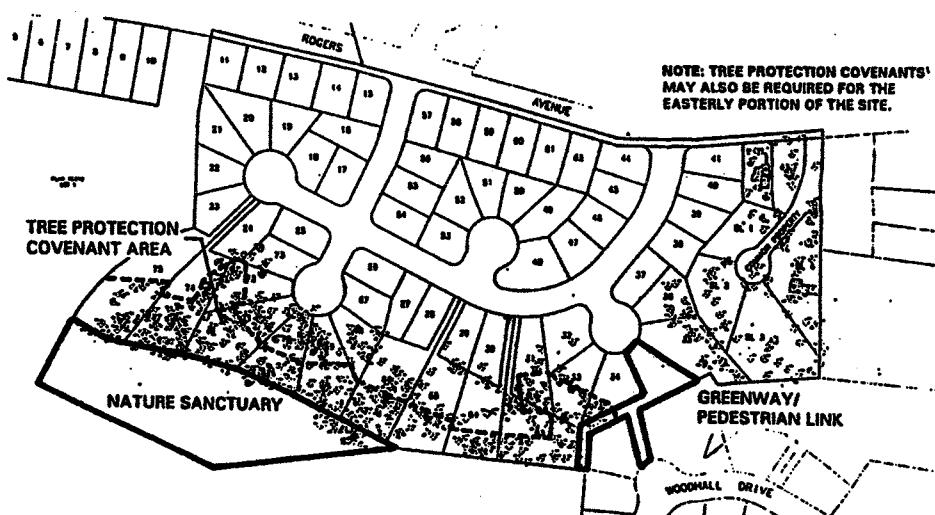
**Plan A** is the area that has been designated for acquisition by Saanich for addition to the Nature Sanctuary in every Official Community Plan for the last 25 years and by the Christmas Hill Slopes Study Area Action Plan. Approximately 3.2 hectares would be protected.

**Plan B** is the developer's proposal. Under this plan, a rocky outcrop near Rogers School would be preserved. The remainder of the oak meadow will be subdivided into large lots for single family residential development, with a covenant to protect the oaks, but no protection for the understory. Under this plan, only 0.96 hectare will be added to the Nature Sanctuary.

**Plan C** is an alternative suggested by the Planning Department which would preserve about 2 hectares of the oak meadow. This plan calls for the ad-



Option A - Slopes Plan - 3.2 ha.

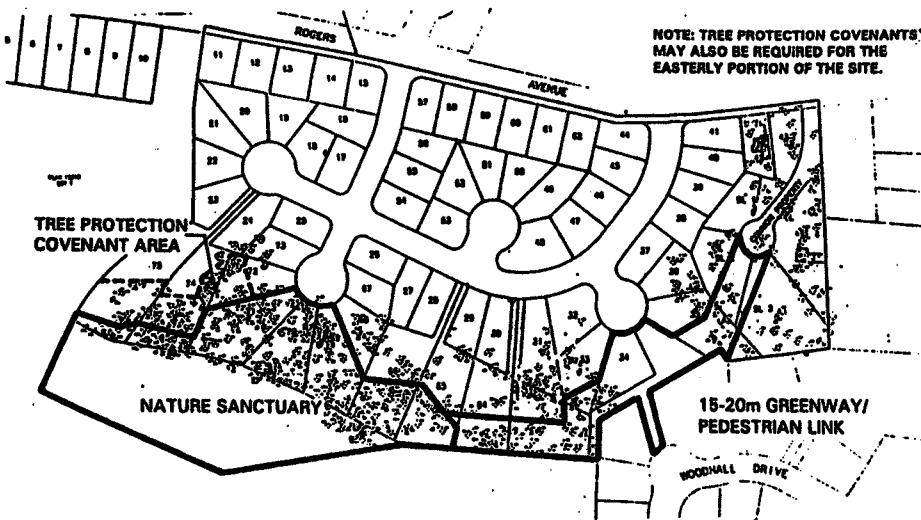


Option B - Developer's Proposal - 0.96 ha.

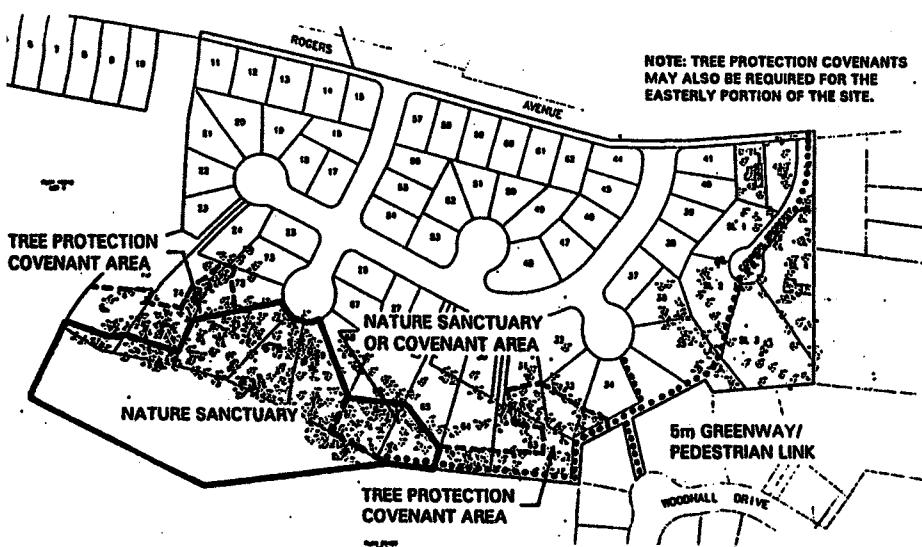
dition of a 15 to 20 meter [45 to 60 feet] wide corridor to facilitate the movement of plants and animals.

**Plans D1 and D2** are two variations

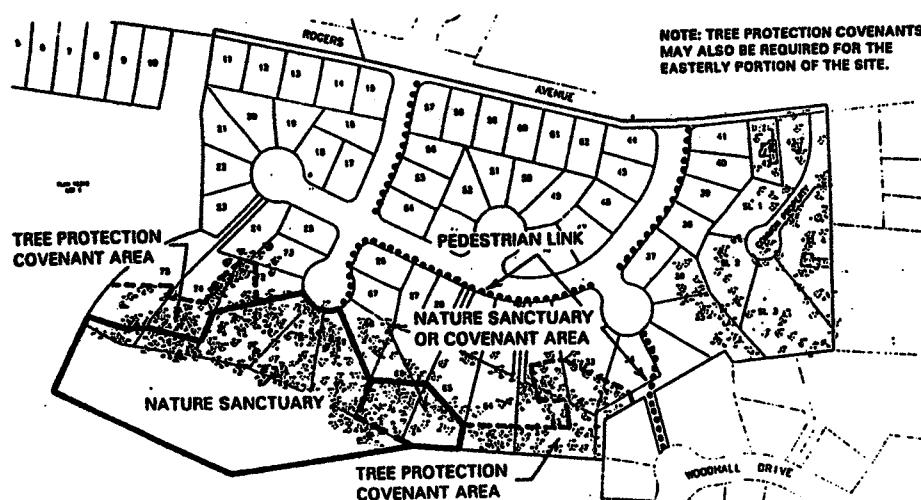
of a plan that would see 1.46 hectares preserved as public land. The difference between them is principally where access to the north side of the Nature



**Option C - Adapted Slopes Plan - 2.0 ha.**



**Option D1 - Compromise Proposal (5m trail) - 1.46 ha.**



**Option D2 - Compromise Proposal (on-street greenway/pedestrian link) - 1.46 ha.**

Sanctuary would occur. In neither case would the access corridors be sufficient to meet the principle of creating green corridors to link green nodes in order to avoid establishing biological islands surrounded by development, which inevitably leads to loss of species diversity.

Saanich councillors heard at length from the public about the importance to the citizens of Saanich [and the CRD] of preserving additional Garry oak meadow on this site. They are reluctant to spend scarce public money on acquiring land for nature preservation, but the strength of public sentiment did persuade them to commit in principle to the D2 option.

### **The developers**

The Rogers family has been steward of this land for over a century. Current generations remain interested in its fate, as they have shown in the plan they have generated to try to protect the oak woods through sensitive development, and in their commitment to contribute about \$400,000 worth of land value to the public.

The purpose of the gift is to encourage Saanich to acquire the rock outcrop, and the Provincial Capital Commission is to acquire the strip of Garry oaks along Douglas Street below Rogers School.

Rogers family representatives have indicated their willingness to sell the main Garry oak meadow for preservation, and may be prepared to spread a purchase over several years.

### **Action!**

In summary, the situation is this: The Rogers family is willing to sell the Garry oak meadow, for fair value. Saanich Council will probably spend public money for some of it, but is most unlikely to commit what would be required to purchase all the land identified for park acquisition in the O.C.P.

The critical question becomes whether enough people care enough to buy the parts that Saanich will not.

*Continued on page 4*

Rogers Farm continued from page 3

*There are over 100,000 people in Saanich. If we could raise \$10 for every citizen, we'd have enough.*

*If 20,000 people in the CRD would give \$10 a year for five years, we'd have enough.*

*Ten dollars is only 2-1/2 cappuccinos at Starbucks. It is less than two*

*packs of smokes. It is less than 1/2 hour's labour if your family income is the Canadian average.*

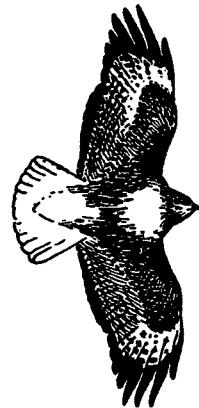
*It is so little, to save so much.*

Several community groups, GOMPS included, are planning to coordinate a public fund-raising campaign. Since the red-tailed hawk mom and dad raise their babies in one of the threatened

trees, we'll provisionally call it the "Hawk Home Fund". Remember, what you contribute through GOMPS is tax-deductible.

Don't wait, make your donation today.

Use this coupon in this issue of the Leaflet, and make your cheque payable to GOMPS, Hawk Home Fund.



## HAWK HOME FUND

YES! Here is my tax-deductible contribution to the fund to save the Garry oak meadow on Rogers Farm and the red-tailed hawk nesting site.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ one time contribution  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for 5 years (My first payment is enclosed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

## COSTCO

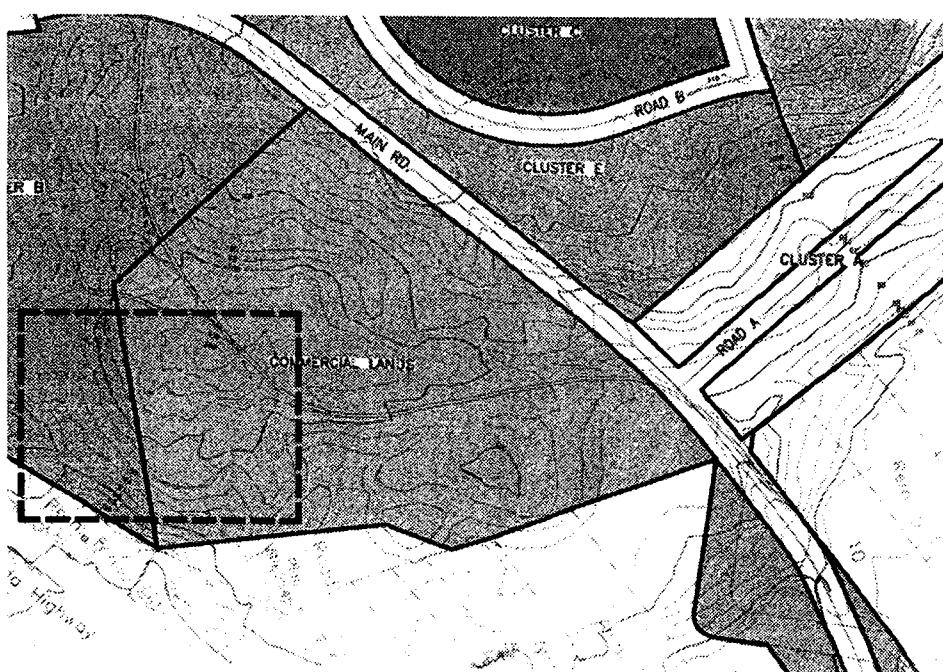
### Costco development will destroy more Garry oak habitat

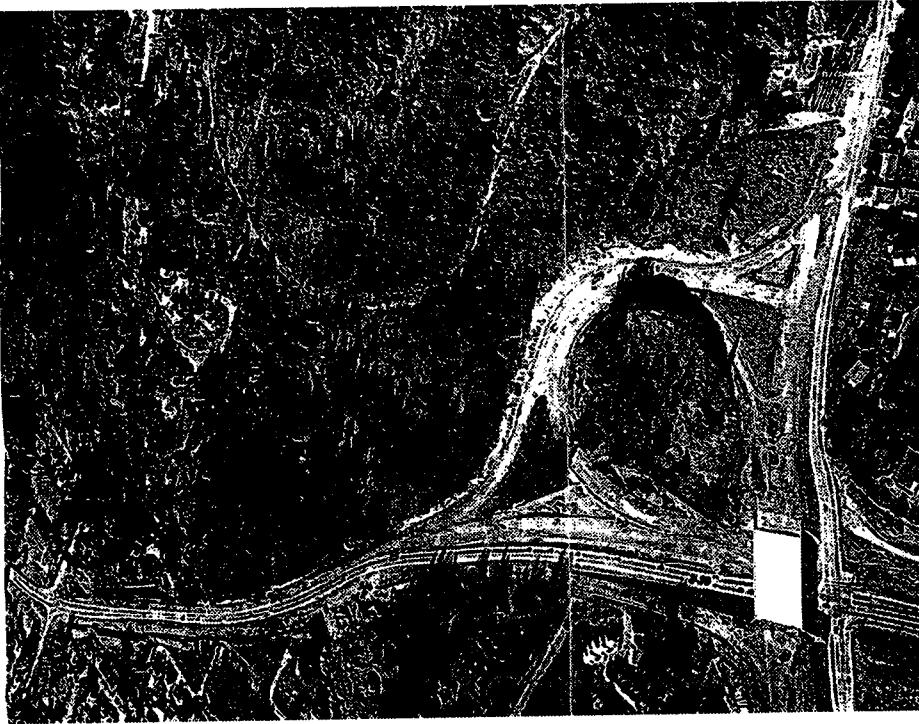
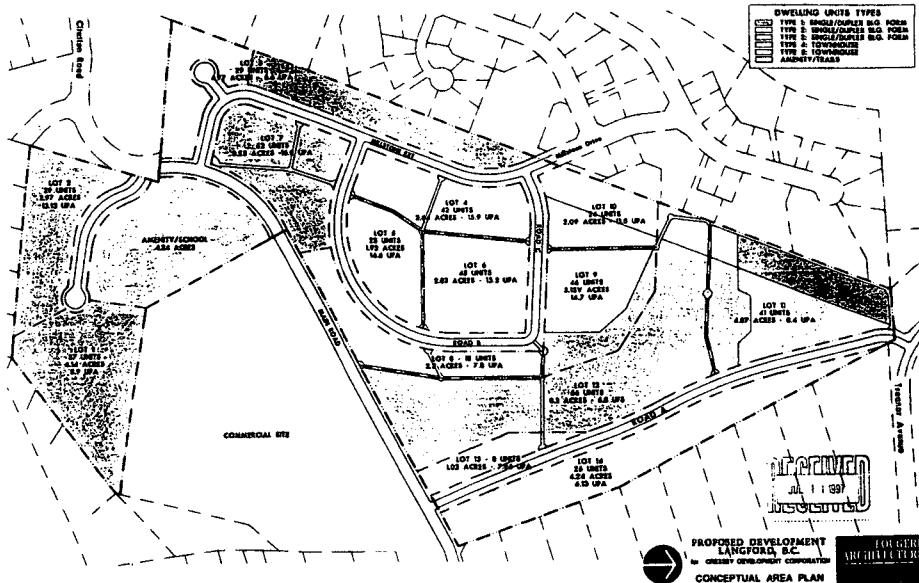
by Katie Stewart

On July 21, Langford Committee of the Whole approved a change in zoning to accommodate the proposed Costco development at the corner of Millstream Road and the Trans Canada Highway.

The Costco site received a "whole-sale only" designation, changing from existing single-family and cluster housing. The 12.98-acre site was part of a proposed 18.84 community commercial zoning; the remainder of the site was suggested to be used for a gas station and shopping mall.

Adjoining the Costco site is a 64.43-





Map 1 (left) is a topographical area with an approximate outline of an area we would like to see protected. Map 2 (top) shows the subdivision plan. The particular area that we are concerned about overlaps the commercial site, Lot 1 and the amenity/school lot. The air photo (bottom) shows the new Millstream loop. The Costco /housing sites will infill the area beyond the loop.

acre (16 ha) parcel designated for either single family dwellings (280 units at 5.8 units per acre) or duplexes (467 units at 9.7 units per acre).

The GOMPS Board first became aware of this site in the spring and director Sharron Waite and I walked the Costco site individually. I went back a second time with Dr. Adolf Ceska from

the Conservation Data Centre [CDC] the same week and identified numerous species of the Garry oak ecosystem.

On April 17 Sharron attended a public meeting in Langford about the proposal and was told nothing was going to happen on this site for about a year. As the Board was busy with other mat-

ters, we put it on the back burner until I received a phone call from a Christmas Hill developer who was annoyed that he had had to "go through the hoops" to protect the Garry oaks on Christmas Hill and here was a developer basically having carte blanche in Langford.

He sent me a set of plans and I barely had time to get a letter of opposition in to Committee of the Whole before they rezoned the site. There wasn't much public opposition, apparently. Council, in particular Mayor Stew Young, is enthusiastic about the proposal.

On June 29, Langford resident Nitya Harris set up a meeting for the following day with Vancouver developers Jack Nelson of Groveland Development and Neil Godfrey of Cresse Development and their arborist to walk through the site and to talk about the Garry oak ecosystem.

It was a scramble to find other people to go on the walk on such short notice. Sharron, GOMPS member Dr. David Boag and I were present, along with two Sierra Club directors, a Habitat Aquisition Trust director and Nitya. Also present were Dr. Adolf Ceska, Langford municipal planner Ron Buchan and Langford councillors John Goudy and Lonny Seaton.

Jack Nelson took a lot of notes during our site visit and Ron Buchan asked to have one area surveyed that we particularly want to see preserved intact in as large an area as possible. There are numerous Garry oaks there and last spring I could see masses of camas leaves. Unfortunately, a good portion of this area will be covered by the proposed building/parking lot; the remainder is in an area that will become housing.

It is astonishing to me that no environmental review was done on this site. There is no acknowledgment that this site is sensitive habitat. In the staff report to Committee of the Whole dated July 21, the only mention of environment was a quote from the Ministry of

*Continued on page 6*

Environment not objecting to the proposal provided "storm water runoff is controlled on-site to predevelopment conditions..."

## Sensitive Environment Inventory

When I inquired at the municipal office whether information was ever used from the Conservation Data Centre and its Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory prior to development being approved, I received a vague reply that they were aware of the CDC.

Yet this site is identified in the SEI and Langford Council did not even direct municipal staff to look at those kinds of environmental concerns.

According to CRD Park's analysis of SEI data for the Greater Victoria portion of the study:

- approximately 26% of the Greater Victoria portion of the SEI study contains remnant vegetation communities meeting SEI conservation criteria;

- most SEI ecosystem sites are located in the least developed portions of the western communities;

- the ecosystem types of highest conservation value and/or most at risk are older coniferous forest, Garry oak and aspen woodland/ vegetation associated with streams, rock outcrop vegetation communities and wetlands;

- areas containing Garry oak and aspen woodland make up about 1.5% of the Greater Victoria portion of the study area. Remnant sites of Garry oak and aspen woodland, particularly Garry oak meadows and associated herbaceous terrestrial communities have very high conservation values.

## Public Hearing

The developer is doing some sort of site assessment right now to identify key features such as Garry oak knolls which is due at Langford Municipal Hall this week.

There will be a public hearing held in September. The date has not been set yet. With a mayor very keen on this

development — quoted in the August 7 *Times Colonist* saying, "If we say we don't want trees cut down, we don't get any jobs and we'll have a community where we're all stuck on welfare" — I'm not sure what the point of this public hearing will be, unless there is sufficient community outrage at a council prepared to sacrifice sensitive habitat for a big box store that could locate somewhere else in the community where it wouldn't cause so much environmental damage.

Surely this can't be the only spot in Langford. And I'm not even writing about other concerns such as its effect on small community businesses, or its potential for altering the green strip that makes the drive into Victoria so appealing.

Compared to the big fight on the Saanich Peninsula when Costco tried to locate there, there has been very little public resistance.

So if you're in the mood for more letter writing, or attending the public hearing, please do so!

# HELEN ROAD

## Helen Road

by Katie Stewart

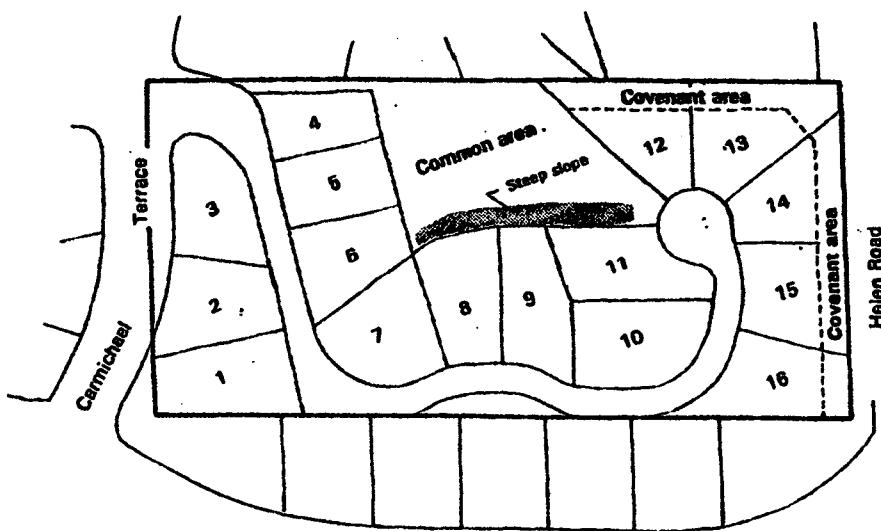
On the July 7 agenda of Saanich council, immediately following the Rogers Farms subdivision proposal, was another proposal: to rezone 1.6 ha on the northern slopes of the Knockan Hill area for a 17-lot subdivision.

GOMPS director Sharron Waite and I visited the site earlier this year when the thick swaths of camas were in bloom and realized that this area is a remnant once contiguous with Knockan Hill Park. The rocky knolls will have to be blasted to accommodate houses being built.

The report prepared by municipal planner Alan Hopper and staff describes the plant life: "This site is a remnant parcel of the red-listed Garry oak - Douglas-fir community ... The

site contains extensive Garry oak and Douglas-fir trees as well as the associated plant communities. Camas is growing in abundance (including three plants of white *Camassia quamash*)

and numerous young Garry oaks were observed. These young Garry oaks are important because in most Garry oak areas the trees are not being regenerated, yet at this site they are. Other spe-



cies include licorice fern, mosses and broom.

**"The proposal will have a devastating impact on the plant life."**

The report says there will be an immediate loss of trees estimated from 39% to 49% depending on variations in the proposal and further loss over time. "The impact of the tree loss at the neighbourhood level will be significant, but it is consistent with what has happened on adjacent parcels."

The kind of development that has occurred in the surrounding subdivision on Knockan Drive is, in my opinion a scar on the landscape, as I noted to council. There is a clear demarcation where the park ends and no effort that I can see was made to accommodate any of the native vegetation.

"The Carey Local Area Plan designates the site for single family development with a minimum lost size of 665 m<sup>2</sup> ... Based on the impacts on trees and understorey, both of the original designs analyzed in the Environmental and Social review are unacceptable. However, unless the Municipality is prepared to purchase the property, which in the context of other priorities of higher magnitude and limited financial resources, is impractical, effort should be placed on retaining a segment of the plant communities as a realistic objective."

The report goes on to describe and recommend a third alternative which reduces the subdivision by one lot size and retains a common area which will be covenanted. Nonetheless, the majority of the oak community will be destroyed with this subdivision.

GOMPS member Andria Tetlow, a long-time resident of the Knockan Hill area, told me that in 1963 Saanich could have added 11 acres to the north side of Knockan Hill Park for \$16,900. Ten years later the cost would have been \$69,900 but Saanich chose not to purchase. And now we're seeing the end results: virtually total destruction of Garry oak habitat in that 11 acres.

This proposal will go to public hearing but there are numerous issues to be resolved, including possibly connecting Helen Road to Knockan Drive or extending Carmichael Terrace.

Saanich councillor David Cubberley expressed his annoyance that the proposal was before council when there were serious flaws not addressed.

*Ballenas/Winchelsea continued from page 1*

federal government.

In June 1996, Bill Henwood of Parks Canada prepared a proposal to protect the archipelago under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy as a proposed partnership of the Legacy, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, the Department of National Defence and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Despite the support of Fish and Wildlife, B.C. Environment, Vancouver Island Region; The Conservation Data Centre [CDC], The Executive Committee, Islands Trust and the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation for this proposal, the political decision was made to protect land in the southern Gulf Islands, Bill Turner said.

The proposal is being reactivated this year with the Land Conservancy of B.C. being involved.

#### CDC support

The report includes a letter of support from CDC coordinator Andrew Harcombe after CDC staff visited the three islands for sale.

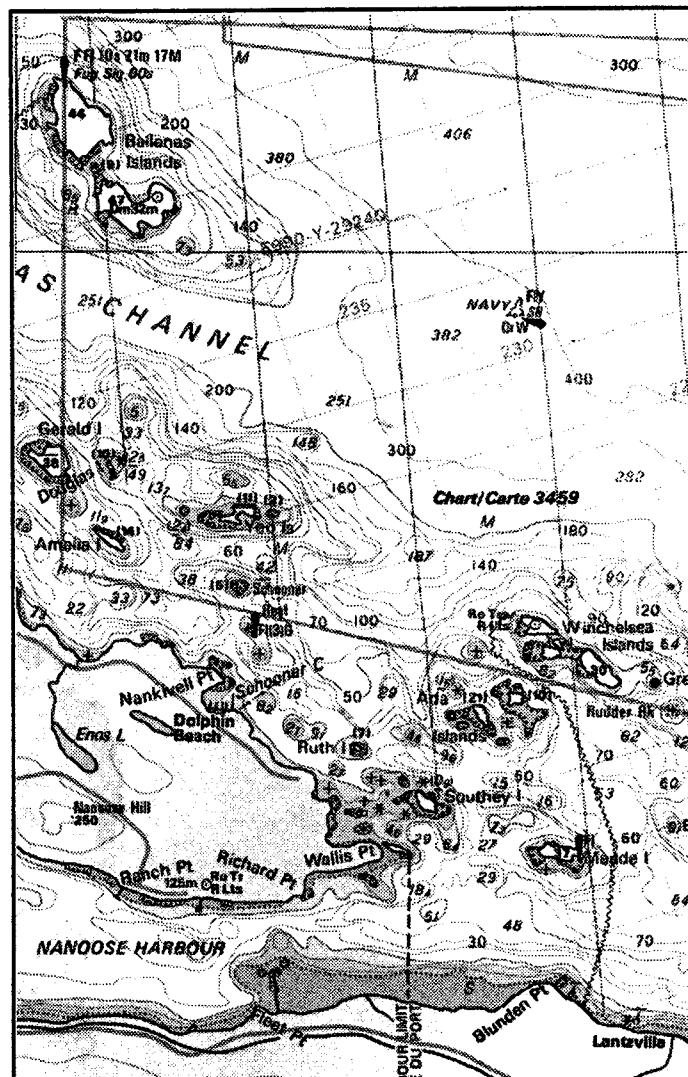
A few quotes from his letter:

"This group of is-

lands and islets are good examples of the rocky coastal bluff ecosystems rarely found undisturbed in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone in the southern Strait of Georgia ...

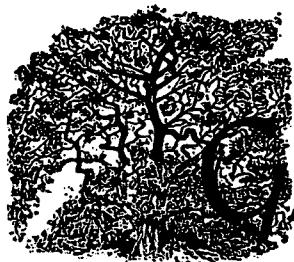
"These islands, never having been grazed by livestock or deer, are significant in their lack of disturbance ... The islands have a large population of native grasses and forbs.

**"The red-listed Garry oak-arbutus**  
*Continued on page 8*



**THIS ENLARGEMENT** of part of a chart shows Ballenas Islands at the top, Gerald Island south of the Ballenas and the Wincheseas to the right.





# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

September 1997, Vol. 1, No. 8

## ROGERS FARM

by Katie Stewart

Since the last issue of the *Leaflet*, the GOMPS Board has been discussing the possibility of fund-raising to buy the portion of the oak woodlands that Saanich is not prepared to buy.

### To date:

- Sharron, Pierre and Katie have met with Saanich municipal planner Alan Hopper.
- Sharron and Katie have met with Saanich councillor David Cubberley.
- A letter has been sent from the GOMPS Board to the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Board indicating our interest, followed by two conversations with Terry Morrison, the Sanctuary's Executive Director.
- Katie and Sharron have met with Vic Derman of the North Quadra Ratepayers Association and Bill Turner from The Land Conservancy of B.C. Vic indicated that NQRA would work with us on this project and Bill said he would negotiate on our behalf through The Land Conservancy.
- A special meeting of the Board has been arranged for September 15 with fund-raiser Jane Heffelfinger for some tips on fund-raising (she raised \$12 million for the Hospital Foundation).
- We have been loaned a fund-raising video from the Brainerd Foundation of Seattle and a tape from the U.S.-based Land Trust Alliance.
- We have already received some donations from GOMPS members and

thank them very much for their support.

### Preliminary approach to Rogers family

We discussed the issue at length at our September 4 board meeting and asked Bill Turner to approach Gordon English, the developer for the Rogers family, to see if the family might be interested in negotiating with us and to try and set a dollar figure for the six lots (Nos. 63-66, 74 and 75) shown on a revised subdivision proposal prepared by Gordon (see map on page 2).

If negotiations are favourable, the board will have to decide whether to proceed. Some directors have trepidations because there will be a lot of money to raise. Up to now we have not focussed on fund-raising and there are concerns that this could take a lot of our energy away from our other activities.

On the other hand, pursuing and succeeding at this endeavour would result in something tangible, positive and of long lasting benefit to succeeding generations.

The Board feels it is critical that we have our members' support before proceeding. We need help, to put it bluntly. We need someone to spearhead this project and to devote the time necessary.

So dear members, is there anyone out there who would be interested in this project? Please come to a meeting we've planned for October 16 and let us know if you'd like to be involved or phone one of the directors!

GOMPS members will have the opportunity to ask questions and to indicate their level of support at this meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Swan Lake Nature House. At this time Bill Turner will also explain the covenant on Retreat Island (see article on page 4).

### Public hearing

Christmas Hill is a prominent regional landmark, one which many people are familiar with, which is one reason one we think fund-raising could succeed. The public sentiment at the July 7 Saanich council meeting was to

*Continued on page 2*

### NOTE THESE DATES — YOUR PARTICIPATION IS URGENTLY NEEDED

**Rogers Farm Public Hearing**  
Postponed. Please contact Saanich Municipal Hall at 475-1775 for a new date

**Costco Public Hearing**  
— Tuesday, October 7,  
7 p.m., Langford Firehall

**GOMPS Meeting** —  
Thursday, October 16,  
7:30 p.m., Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary, Nature House

add as much of the oak woodlands to the sanctuary as possible.

The public hearing will be held **September 23, 7:30 p.m.** at Saanich Municipal Hall. We're hoping that some of you will attend and let Saanich Council know how important it is that it protect as much of the oak woodlands as possible.

Let's push for the whole amount that was designated in the Official Community Plan — 3.2 ha! If Saanich can't buy that much, then how about the amount Councillor David Cubberley suggested at the July 7 council meeting — 2 ha.

Let's remind council that one of the five core regional values promoted in



the Capital Regional District's Regional Growth Strategy is valuing our natural environment and protecting and preserving its sensitive ecosystems.

We're a long way from that yet, but Saanich and other councils need to hear that message repeatedly!

**COSTCO**

by Katie Stewart

We've been trying to drum up some opposition to this project and have had some newspaper publicity but there has not been a lot of interest except from a handful of people.

When Costco tried to locate in the Central Saanich area there was much heated public debate and Costco lost out. This time, they've found a municipality which is favourable to them and they have had surprisingly little public opposition.

On September 2, Langford resident Nitya Harris and GOMPS director Hal Gibbard and I met on site with developers Jack Nelson (for Costco) and Neil Godfrey (for Cressey). The architect and another person involved in the project were along as well.

I was disappointed to see what they'd come up with. Only a portion of the area we were concerned about was mapped out. It covers 3/4 of an acre and is mostly in the proposed school/housing zone.

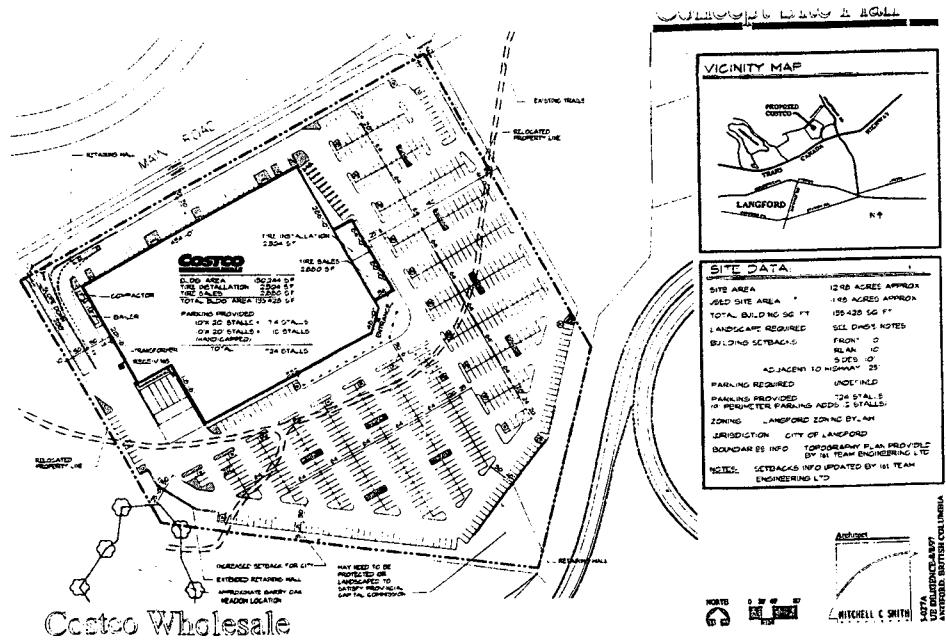
Mr. Godfrey said he was confident a covenant could be applied to the area.

Costco will eliminate eight — yes, eight out of 724 — parking spaces to accommodate the area that falls within their property boundary. The rest of the Garry oak knoll we wanted to see protected will be parking lot under the current plan.

We suggested rooftop / underground / parkade possibilities for parking. Too expensive and too difficult, we were

told, and not something Costco does. Apparently the same architectural firm is retained for all the Costco projects — there are 272 stores — and certain criteria have to be met, including making it as easy as possible for shoppers with their shopping carts full of big boxes to get to their cars.

**Costco does plan, however, on planting Garry oaks in their landscaped area**



and Mr. Nelson told us he understood we grew Garry oaks and could perhaps help out with supplying trees!

At one point in the discussion I mentioned that trying to identify and protect sensitive areas after a development had been already mapped out was the wrong approach. The architect got testy with me when I talked about the Regional Growth Strategy's goals which include municipalities having to identify their environmentally sensitive areas and the necessity of doing environmental assessments on those areas prior to development. He said, "Langford doesn't require it." And he's right.

A group of concerned people met at Nitya's on Sept. 9. Many useful ideas for a campaign were discussed, including contacting small Langford retailers to see if they would oppose the store because of its potential effects on business. Unfortunately, with the public hearing only a few weeks away, we don't have the time but will be doing some phoning.

In the July 21 staff report, there is mention of a proposed 1.7 ha (4.24 acre) amenity/school site, which comprises 5.1% of the entire site. Another five per cent, including the 3/4-acre Garry oak area mapped out, is supposed to be set aside for public parkland, although the applicant wants the parkland to be private.

According to a September 12 conversation Nitya had with planner Rob Buchan, another Garry oak meadow is supposed to be included elsewhere in the housing development, at the recommendation of Dr. Adolf Ceska. I haven't been able to confirm this yet.

Nonetheless, even if this is true, we are still concerned with the Costco site and the amount of habitat that will be destroyed by its construction.

## **Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Langford Fire Hall, 2775 Millstream Road. We hope that some of you will be able to attend and speak.



**THE DIAGRAM (top)** shows the location of the 3/4-acre Garry oak meadow in the overall 84-acre Costco/housing development and at the lower left of the diagram of the Costco development (left). We would like to see the parking area to the right of the 3/4-acre area preserved at least as far as and including the sixth row of parking.

### *Acorn alert*

It's time to collect acorns again. This year it looks like there will be more than last year so we hope to make up for a lost year when no collecting or planting was done.

Look for plump acorns that appear to be free of infestation. A tiny hole or scar or clumps of brown granules indicate the presence of the filbertworm and filbert weevil. If you can, fill a sink with water. Discard the floaters, as they are infested. Dry the acorns and refrigerate them to keep them fresh and viable for planting. Take your acorns as soon as possible after collection to the Pacific Forestry Centre Greenhouse at 506 West Burnside Road. Rob Hagel is the technician there who is in charge of the acorn planting program.

We also need your help planting later this fall. It's an easy task and will only take a couple of hours of your time at the Pacific Forestry Centre.

## South Winchelsea Island

On August 25 TLC made its \$4900 option payment on South Winchelsea Island, with help from the Quadra Island Conservancy and Stewardship Society, the Nanaimo Land Trust and several TLC members.

As requested in the last *Leaflet*, GOMPS members, TLC needs letters sent in support. Besides the addresses given last month, letters can be sent to

**Honourable Sheila Copps, MP,  
Minister of Canadian Heritage,  
Terrace de la Chaudiere,  
Jules Leger Bldg., 12th Floor,  
Hull, PQ, K1A 0M5**

and to

**Honourable David Anderson,  
MP,  
Minister of Fisheries and  
Oceans,  
Centennial Towers,  
2000 Kent St., Suite 1750,  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E6.**

## Join TLC

TLC hopes to have a membership of 3,000 by the year 2000. The organization, which is based locally, also is looking for volunteers: librarian, office filing, volunteer coordinator, mall displays, computer record management and a variety of other tasks, such as field work.

The current board consists of Don

Benn, environmental consultant; Vic Derman, teacher; Michael Kennedy, teacher (Lillooet); Misty MacDuffee, environmental consultant; Bob Peart, civil servant; Briony Penn, UVic professor, environmental studies (Salt Spring Island); Joe Simpson, lawyer (Duncan); Bill Turner, environmental consultant and Karen Wristen, lawyer (Vancouver). Unless otherwise noted, they are from Victoria.

Please consider joining this worthwhile organization and supporting the important work it is doing. For more information contact Bill Turner, 5793 Old West Saanich Road, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X3. Phone: (250) 361-7693, fax: (250) 744-2251.

## A REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Katie Stewart

As you will read in the various articles in this Leaflet, we need volunteers. Your membership, of course, supports the society and without all of you we could not exist. However, we can do a lot more than we're already doing if you could give some of your time as well.

The Board hesitates to commit itself to new responsibilities because we are already very involved in what is already going on.

Our work on land development issues as they come up takes up a lot of our time and we feel it is essential that we keep advocating for habitat protection, even if we don't see a lot in the way of results.

Our appeals through the newsletter do not usually result in anyone volunteering but we keep on asking.

We need:

- a volunteer coordinator
- a phone tree coordinator
- a coordinator for the annual acorn collection/planting project — taking phone calls, explaining collection procedures, telling people where to take acorns, lining up volunteers for plant-

ing nights

- acorn collectors and planters
- inventory volunteers to count Garry oaks and match them to maps and a data inputter for the inventory
- broom bashers
- people willing to speak out at public hearings/council meetings
- letter writers

native plant rescuers

someone to develop a Web site for our society.

We will soon need:

- conservation covenant monitors
- fund-raisers

Something we haven't discussed at the Board level is contacting landowners regarding stewardship of their land. Again, volunteers would be necessary.

## Courses of interest

The Field-Naturalist is offering several Natural History courses this fall, including one on *gardening with native plants*. Staffmember Carrina Maslovat, co-owner of Woodland Native Plant Nursery, will conduct three Saturday sessions from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on September 13, 20 and 27. Cost for all three sessions is \$75 plus GST.

For more information contact the store at 1126 Blanshard Street, Victoria, 388-4174.



The UVIC Division of Continuing Studies and School of Environmental Studies are offering a Diploma and Certificate Program in *Restoration of Natural Systems*. Ruth McDougall, Program Coordinator asked GOMPS to mention one course in particular in the *Leaflet*, which has just started: *Urban Restoration and Sustainable Agricultural Systems*, Tuesday evenings, September 9 to December 2.

Urban restoration topics include green space and greenways, maintenance and restoration of native species, protection and restoration of urban streams and wetlands and parks for nature versus recreation. Call Ruth at 472-4568.

# Retreat Island conservation covenant

by Katie Stewart

Bill Turner has been our guest at the last two Board meetings. One of the things we discussed in detail with him is a conservation covenant on part of Retreat Island, located off Galiano Island.

The owners of the island, GOMPS members Jillian and Robin Ridington, plan to donate four acres of the 7-acre island as a nature preserve to the Galiano Conservancy and to place covenants on that part.

The Ridingtons would like the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and the Trust Fund Board of Islands Trust to be co-covenantees.

Bill Turner will be at the **October 16 GOMPS meeting at Swan Lake Nature House** to fill you in on the details of the covenant and what it entails for GOMPS. One of our major responsibilities will be monitoring the land after it has been assessed.

This is an exciting venture for the society and one GOMPS members can be involved with if they'd like to be monitors. We hope some of you will volunteer — it's not arduous like broom bashing!

## Monitoring workshop

Last autumn Bill hosted a workshop on monitoring conservation covenants at Camosun College. As a followup to that workshop, Jan Garnett, Land Securement Officer of Nature Conservancy Canada, has arranged a field session for volunteers who might be interested in monitoring conservation

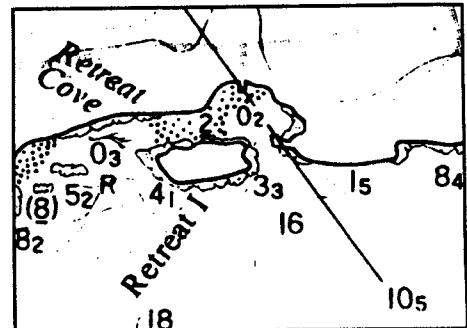
covenants. They will learn about field techniques and record-keeping. Any-one can attend, whether or not they attended the previous workshop.

Conducting the session will be Helen Reid, a biologist with Madrone Consulting, who is experienced with environmental mapping. She is currently doing an ecosystem mapping of Clayoquot Sound.

**Date: Saturday, September 27**

**Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Place: Lot 14, corner of Hazlitt Creek and Old Mossy, Highlands.** Jan says this property contains a "nice



mixture of wetland, rocky outcrops and treed areas and includes a good variety of habitats."

If you're interested in attending this session, please contact me at 386-4792 and I'll forward your name to Jan.

# The Land Conservancy of B.C.

by Katie Stewart

In the current and last month's issues of the *Leaflet* there are references to the Land Conservancy of British Columbia and I thought I'd give you some background on it.

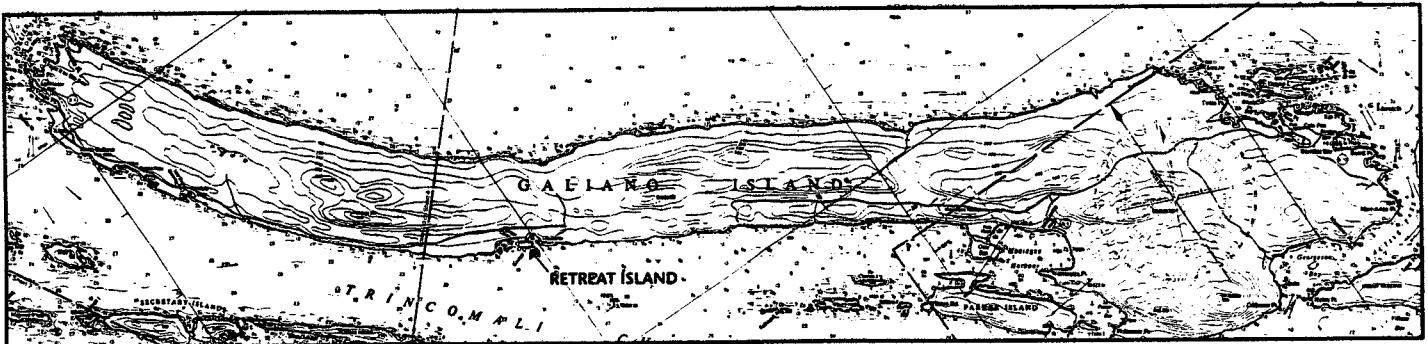
According to their brochure: "The Land Conservancy of British Columbia has been formed by a number of concerned British Columbians. TLC provides B.C. residents with an opportunity to help protect biodiversity in British Columbia, across Canada and internationally through the purchase of vital natural areas.

"TLC is a membership organization. Members have the opportunity to take part in the activities of TLC to the degree that they wish. The membership will democratically elect their board of directors."

"The Mission: The Land Conservancy of British Columbia protects plants, animals, natural communities and landscape features that represent diversity of life on Earth, by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive, and protects areas of scientific, historical, cultural, scenic or compatible recreation values."

As of May 1, 1997 the Conservancy became a society and has applied for charitable status from Revenue Canada.

To date TLC has provided financial and technical support to several organizations for their ongoing projects and is actively involved in negotiating a number of conservation covenants throughout the province as well as negotiating for the purchase of South Winchelsea Island.



## Data inputter needed

The City of Victoria section of the GOMPS Garry oak inventory has been completed and the Saanich segment is well underway. The information on the maps needs to be transferred to a data base on a computer. If you think you could help out, please call inventory coordinator Paul Gareau at 592-9089.

## Publications of interest

**English Ivy Information Brochure:** The Saanich Parks and Recreation Department published this brochure in May, 1997 with input from GOMPS directors Hal Gibbard and Pierre d'Estrubé. Obtainable at Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue.

**Jumping Gall Wasp, Forest Pest Leaflet #80 and Oak Leaf Phylloxera, Forest Pest Leaflet #81**, both by R.W. Duncan, Pacific Forestry Centre.

These leaflets explain background, hosts, distribution, life history and habits, descriptions, management options and are amply illustrated in full colour. Obtain from Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1M5. (250) 363-0600.

**Trees and Shrubs of British Columbia**, written and illustrated by T. Christopher Brayshaw, \$24.95, A Royal British Columbia Museum Handbook co-published with UBC Press.

## CALENDAR

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP** — Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m. Room C118 Business and Economics Classroom Building (a.k.a. 1996 Classroom Building), UVIC. Featured speaker: Andy McKinnon, co-editor *Plants of Coastal British Columbia*.

**AYUM CREEK BROOM BASH** — Sunday, September 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at Hwy. 14 bridge on the Sooke Highway, just past Shell gas station.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** Phone 386-4792 for possible locations

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	e-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	e-mail	ua@620freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES:  Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20 Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)  Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:  Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_  Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_  Growing, planting Garry oaks

**Please write today**

Thank Minister Petter and his government for taking a leadership role in creating a sea to sea park in the Sooke Hills by protecting the GVWD non-catchment lands.

Urge Minister Petter to move quickly to designate all Crown lands in Ayum and Charters Valleys identified in the Wilderness Committee's proposal for completion of the sea-to-sea greenbelt.

Urge Minister Petter to use funds available in the \$60 million Pacific Marine Legacy Fund to purchase private lands in Ayum and Charters critical to completing the sea-to-sea greenbelt.

**Write to:** The Honourable Andrew Petter, Minister of Finance,  
Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

**Also write to the new Federal Fisheries Minister David Anderson**

Ask Minister Anderson to work with Andrew Petter, in the spirit of the new federal-provincial fisheries agreement, to protect the salmon bearing Ayum and Charters rivers.

**Write to:** The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**Letters to the Times Colonist on this issue will also have impact on decision makers:**  
Times Colonist, P.O. Box 300, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2N4

**Thank you for helping to protect Vancouver Island's native species and their habitat.**

# SOOKE HILLS ACTION ALERT

## HELP US COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR THE SOOKE HILLS

For the past two years the Western Canada Wilderness Committee has led a campaign to protect the Sooke Hills through creation of a sea to sea greenbelt park linking existing parks from Saanich Inlet to Juan de Fuca Strait.

### *Over 1000 letters made the difference!*

Overwhelming public support for this vision resulted in over 1000 letters to politicians. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, as a direct result of these letters, the provincial government took a crucial step in protecting the Sooke Hills by announcing park protection for the GVWD non-catchment lands. This protected 3 of the 5 river valleys in the Sooke Hills Greenbelt Proposal. Completing protection for the greenbelt now requires only the addition of Ayum and Charters valleys. These two watersheds link the GVWD lands with Sooke Mountain Park and extend protection all the way to Sooke Basin.

Because so much of the land in these valleys is already publicly owned crown land their protection significantly depends on further action by the provincial government. The crown land parcels in Ayum and Charters Valleys must be added to the new Sooke Hills Park.

**Your letter is urgently needed now!** (see reverse to find out how you can help)



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

October 1997, Vol. 1, No. 9

## COSTCO

### Report on the Costco Public Hearing in Langford

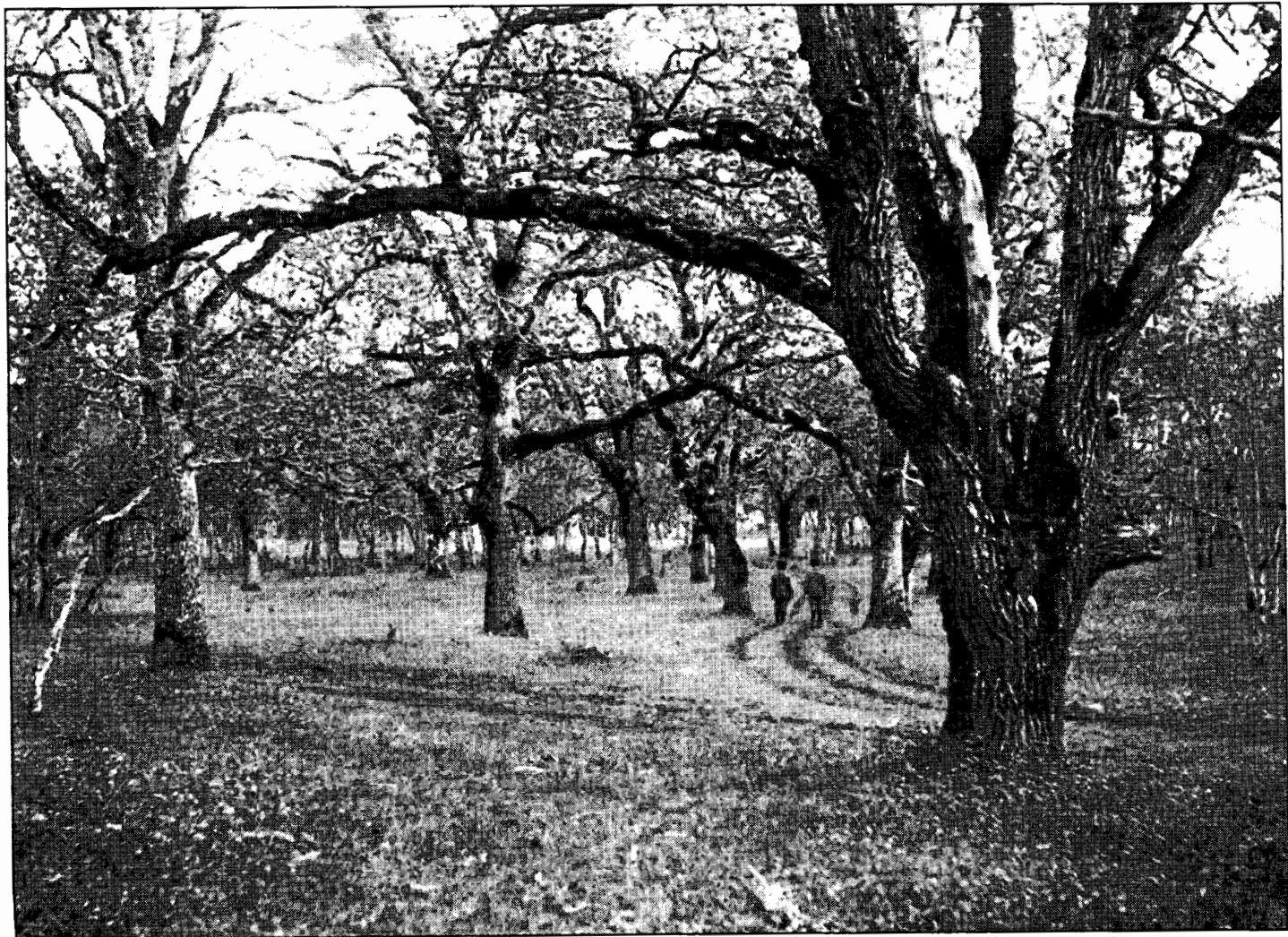
by Janet Simpson

Those of us who were at the Langford Firehall on Tuesday, October 7, were witness to quite a spectacle.

The four-hour long meeting chaired by Mayor Stew Young was a perfect demonstration of how not to run a democratic assembly. Although the presence of a parking attendant at least

30 minutes before the meeting indicated that a very large crowd had been expected, the meeting was held in such a small hall that many people were pre-

*Continued on page 2*



**PRE-BROOM UPLANDS PARK.** This photo by C.F. Newcombe was taken in 1892 and was copied from the book *Flora of the Saanich Peninsula* by Adam F. Szczawinski and Antony S. Harrison, published by the Royal B.C. Provincial Museum, in 1973. A search to locate this photo in the Provincial Archives was unsuccessful.

## COSTCO continued from page 1

vented from entering this "public" meeting and were expected to wait for hours until those inside had left.

A Costco director and the developer were invited to repeat their 30-minute presentation, giving them an unfair advantage in being able to rebut what two hours of speakers had said.

Hecklers were permitted to shout at speakers from the Capital Regional District who were concerned about the effect this development would have on the region, and loudly ridicule any speaker who commented on environmental or global concerns.

In such a hostile situation, it was difficult to be heard; however, it was my impression that over two dozen speak-

ers made direct reference to the necessity of saving the Garry oak ecosystem doomed by the developer's plans to becoming a concrete parking lot.

I was asked during a CFAX interview if I was afraid the issue of preservation of the oak habitat would get overshadowed by the pro/anti Costco debate — well, that certainly didn't happen at the public hearing.

During the meeting, it became increasingly evident that the developer saw GOMPS as a serious threat. In fact, the repeat performance of the proposal was primarily directed to the points we had raised.

GOMPS had a very short time in which to publicize the peril of the ecosystem on the Costco site.

We managed two radio interviews, letters to the editor printed in the *Times Colonist*, *Monday Magazine* and *Goldstream News Gazette*, an editorial in *Monday Magazine*, front page articles and editorials in the *Goldstream News Gazette*, an item in the *Times Colonist*, two articles in *Econews*, an on-site interview with CHEK-TV, and countless discussions and phone calls with residents and business people.

Yes, Langford's council voted unanimously in favour of the rezoning, but that just moved the battle into the Development Permit stage. We need to focus on our successes: we brought the oak ecosystem into the spotlight, we gave developers a sense of the trouble we could create, and we inspired many people to speak on behalf of our cause.



## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Rogers Farm and Costco public hearings are over, thank goodness, but there will certainly be others coming up — Helen Road and the Hutchison property are probably the next two but you can be sure they won't be the last.

The outcome of both hearings was predictable.

I recently spent a week in Toronto and came back the day before the Rogers Farm public hearing. I started out my short statement by saying this:

"Yesterday I arrived back in Victoria from a week in the Toronto area visiting a very sick in-law. As any of you who have visited that part of Ontario will know, you have to look hard and go many miles to search out any small locations of native habitat.

"Some that exist are the result of generosity of far-seeing donors, such as the 399 acres of High Park in the City of Toronto, which is a mix of grassy areas and natural areas which have been degraded and where an extensive program is underway to regenerate those natural areas.

"We met people trying to bring back a paved-over creek. We saw signs on farms seeking rezoning for 500+ houses. We drove past acres and acres of new cars parked across the road from the GM plant in Oshawa to get to a tiny patch named Thickson Woods on the shore of Lake Ontario, a so-called old growth forest which in fact was not.

"While I was there, I picked up an environmental map for the regional municipality of Durham area showing its sensitive areas and outlining proposals of how to accommodate the projected 61 per cent increase in population by 2021 and save sensitive habitat, too.

"We are facing those same challenges here — accommodating development and saving sensitive habitat.

"This week away made me realize that the lobbying that our organization does is important and that all of us who live here, despite fiscal restraint, still have a chance to save some of our precious natural and endangered Garry oak habitat for future generations be-

fore it is all developed."



The regeneration program in High Park looks interesting. The ecosystem being restored is called oak savannah and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has identified 27 percent of the park's natural environment as significant oak woodlands.

This ecosystem occupies less than 0.1 percent of the Southern Ontario landscape, according to a handout on the park's savannah.

I contacted the person whose name was listed on display boards in the various test areas and she sent me material on the High Park program. Two test plots totally 0.376 ha were burned by ministry staff in Spring 1977 and more are planned.

I will pass on information I receive to two local groups who are interested in doing burns in protected Garry oak habitat.



*Continued on page 3*

# ROGERS FARM

## Report on Rogers Farm Public Hearing

by Katie Stewart

Nothing unpredictable occurred at the October 7 public hearing for Rogers Farm. Saanich did not offer to buy all the oak woodlands.

Council gave third reading to the D3 option proposed by developer Gordon English on behalf of the Rogers family. This means Saanich will buy 1.42 ha of the oak woodlands to add to the Christmas Hill part of the nature sanctuary.

Councillor Judy Brownoff, seconded by Carol Pickup, proposed adding conservation covenants to the six lots adjoining the nature sanctuary but no other councillor would support that. Sheila Orr said the owners could "grow

an ecosystem" as did Gordon English speaking about the family's opposition to these covenants. They did agree, however, to no-build zones and tree preservation covenants.

The choice of a connecting trail or greenways still has to be resolved before fourth reading. The family and Rogers School are not in agreement with the proposed trail along the school, citing safety concerns.

Rogers School teacher Yves Parizeau led off the public speakers, speaking in support of saving the oak woodlands and mentioning the school's willingness to be involved with our society in fund-raising. A number of children also read prepared statements saying how

much they valued the open fields and woods of the farm.

Representatives from the Sanctuary Board said they preferred option D2 as it saved more of the oaks.

Councillor Pickup once again said a parks referendum was needed and that it had been seven years since the last one. She told me after the meeting that had there been a parks referendum we wouldn't have to buy the rest of the woodlands.

□

Bill Turner talked with Gordon English this week regarding GOMPS' proposal to buy the rest of the woodlands. The family is waiting until fourth reading before deciding.

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Notes continued from page 2

□

The Rogers Farm public hearing ended up being held on the same night at the Costco public hearing. It was much more civilized than the one in Langford. No heckling and hostility, no allowing the developer to do a second presentation putting down his opposition, no asking which municipality speakers lived in and no mayor questioning GOMPS' credibility.

The public hearings being on the same night created a problem for me. Sharron was away and the other four directors had commitments elsewhere, so that meant I couldn't go with Janet to Langford.

On September 28 I went with two other people to streets near the Costco development to distribute leaflets. There were no mailboxes at the houses, but we managed to get some beneath mats, etc.

On the way back into Victoria we stopped at the grand opening to the Galloping Goose. I found Rick Kasper

and asked him about the lack of environmental assessment on Costco's site. He was quite dismissive of me, walking away and giving an emphasized thumbs up and telling me the majority of his constituents wanted it.

I located Andrew Petter and talked to him about the government's lack of protection of the Garry oak ecosystem, in particular the Costco site. He said he wasn't up to snuff — odd, considering he is minister responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission which is supposed to be concerned about the green approaches to Victoria — and then said it was a municipal matter and there was nothing the government could do.

I said to him that there was lots the government could do if it chose to, such as declaring a moratorium on development of environmentally sensitive lands until science-based conservation guidelines were in place.

There is a precedent for this in Southern California, the **Natural Community Conservation Planning** program. Mr. Petter grimaced and indicated that

would never fly here. Why not? If the political will and public pressure were there we might finally get some support from this government.

□

At the GOMPS meeting held October 16, five members attended besides the Board.

Bill Turner explained the **conservation covenant on Retreat Island** and a motion was passed to proceed with the covenant. As this is our first covenant, we are pleased to be doing it with a more experienced partner, the Islands Trust Fund Board of Islands Trust.

□

Jana Kotaska, an instructor teaching a course on **Urban Restoration and Sustainable Agriculture** at UVIC, asked me to speak about GOMPS at the October 14 class. Before I started my talk, I played the video on the Garry oak ecosystem that students of Cedar Hill teacher Vic Derman had made. It was well received and served as a good introduction.

# Third Annual City-Wide Broom Bash Schedule

by coordinator Eric Redekop

<b>Sat., Oct. 11</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Horticulture of the Pacific</b> 505 Quayle Road Information: Paul Gareau, 592-9089
<b>Sun., Oct. 12</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 585-7270
<b>Mon., Oct. 13</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
<b>Sat., Oct. 18</b>	1-4 p.m.	<b>Cattle Point</b> Information: Margaret Lidkea, 595-8084
<b>Sun., Oct. 19</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
	1-4 p.m.	<b>Cattle Point</b> Information: Margaret Lidkea, 595-8084
<b>Sat., Oct. 25</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Mount Douglas Park</b> Information: Ken Rankin, 477-8007
	10 a.m.-noon	<b>Government House</b> Information: Fran Spencer, 370-2541
	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Knockan Hill</b> Information: Andria Tetlow, 479-1947
<b>Sun., Oct. 26</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 575-7270
<b>Sun., Nov. 1</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Central Saanich</b> (location TBA) Information: Bob Thompson, 652-4691
<b>Sun., Nov. 2</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
<b>Sat., Nov. 8</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Mount Douglas Park</b> Information: Ken Rankin, 477-8007
	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>View Royal Park</b> Information: Andria Tetlow, 479-1947
<b>Sun., Nov. 9</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	<b>Wildflower Lane</b> Information: Linda Beare, 658-8993
<b>Mon., Nov. 10</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Highrock/Cairn Park</b> Information: Ron Steele, 386-7886
<b>Sat., Nov. 15</b>	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	<b>Thetis Lake Park</b> Information: Elizabeth McMillan, 479-7694
<b>Sun., Nov. 16</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
	1-4 p.m.	<b>Christmas Hill</b> Information: Swan Lake Nature Centre, 479-0211
<b>Sat., Nov. 22</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Mount Douglas Park</b> Information: Ken Rankin, 477-8007
<b>Sun., Nov. 23</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270
<b>Sat., Nov. 29</b>	9 a.m.-noon	<b>Blue Heron Park (Sidney)</b> Information: Pat Bastone, 656-6594
<b>Sun., Nov. 30</b>	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	<b>Mount Tolmie Park</b> Information: Eric Redekop, 595-7270

# Lost butterflies of Vancouver Island

by Syd Cannings, Zoologist

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from the December 1996 British Columbia Conservation Data Centre Newsletter with permission from the centre.

In the last year, the zoology program has delved into the invertebrate world, beginning with a survey of rare butterflies on southeastern Vancouver Island. Much of our knowledge of the distribution of rare butterflies is derived from specimens collected over 50 years ago.

Times and habitats have changed drastically in the interim, and we need up-to-date information to determine the real status of these species and to manage for their survival.

Lepidoptera specialist Jon Shepard was contracted to study 11 species of rare butterflies. Despite visiting 59 sites several times during butterfly season, Jon found only seven of the species for which he was searching.

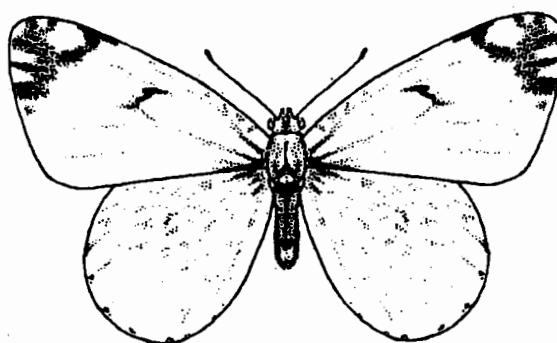
Edith's Checker-spot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) has vanished from Oregon and is known from only three sites in the Puget Sound region of Washington.

John relocated a thriving population at Helliwell Park on Hornby Island and a smaller, secondary one nearby. Four occurrences of the Zerene Frillillary (*Speyeria zerene bremneri*) were found. The only large, healthy population observed was on southern Saltspring Island, where Jon estimated a total number of 300 individuals living in adjacent meadows.

The Icariodes Blue (*Icaricia icarioides blackmorei*) was not found at any of the historic, lower elevation sites, but was found on lupines near the summit of Mount Brenton, and in two logged areas in the Mount Arrowsmith region.

The Vancouver Island subspecies of Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia insulana*), a grass-feeding caterpillar with an historically wide range, now has confirmed colonies at only seven sites, including Trial Islands Ecological Reserve, Uplands Park, and the Oak Bay Island Ecological Reserve.

Jon located only three sites for Moss' Elfin (*Incisalia mossii*), a small, dark-brown butterfly. However, this species flies early in the year (late March and



early April), and the survey period probably missed the main flight season.

Propertius Dusky Wings (*Erynnis propertius*) were seen at 32 sites. However, this does not mean that this spe-

cies isn't of conservation concern. Only seven thriving populations were found.

This is a skipper of Garry oak meadows. The larvae may require young Garry oak leaves to reach maturity, and the adults utilize a number of wildflowers for their nectar needs, including camas, vetch, Hooker's onion, and woolly eriophyllum.

Two of the undetected four — the Chalcedon Checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona perdiccas*) and the Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*, undescribed subspecies) — have not been seen for many decades and may have vanished from the island.

Since the subspecies of the Large Marble was restricted to Vancouver Island and the adjacent Gulf Islands, it may be in fact extinct.

The Dun Skipper (*Euphyes vestris metacomet*) and the Greenish Blue (*Plebejus saepiolus insulanus*) have not been seen for 10 and 30 years respectively, although it is possible they still occur on the island. All four of these butterflies should be looked for in future years.

## WILD MUSHROOM SHOW

Discover the hundreds of kinds of mushrooms found in Vancouver Island's forests, gardens and fields!

Sunday, October 26, 1997  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary  
3873 Swan Lake Road  
479-0211

Free — donations appreciated

Members of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society  
will be on hand to answer questions.

Sales of books, gifts and baked goods!

# Update on the Garry oak meadow at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre

by Janet Simpson

According to Janelle Kent, Administrative Assistant at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre in Colwood, we can be assured that the frisbee golfers who set up an 18-post disc golf course over a Garry oak meadow there will be moving from the site immediately.

After many letters and phone calls, a GOMPS submission to the Rec Centre commissioners, the support and diplomatic efforts of Janelle and Rick Hanak (the Facilities Manager), and our willingness to work toward setting up a form of stewardship to rid the meadow of invasive species, the designer of the course has agreed to move it to a more appropriate location. It took six months of unrelenting effort, but this small victory is something that we can use to keep our hopes up.

## Broom bashes up in 1997

Eric Redekop, coordinator for the City-Wide Broom Bash, tallied the statistics of the first three years of broom bashes.

In 1995 there were 12 events in eight locations over four weekends; in 1996 there were 20 events in 13 locations over six weekends and this year there are 25 events in 14 locations over eight weekends.

## CALENDAR

### SIERRA CLUB FALL HARVEST ANNUAL BANQUET

**Sat., Oct. 25, 6 to 11 p.m.**, Laurel Point Inn. This is a fund-raising even; there will be a silent auction, auction and door prizes. Advance tickets available until Oct. 22 at the Sierra Club office, 1525 Amelia Street, Victoria. Cost \$45.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** Phone 386-4792 for possible locations

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

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**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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### NEWSLETTER

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

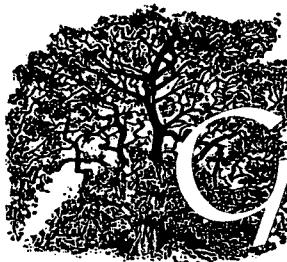
President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail <a href="mailto:camassia@bc.sympatico.ca">camassia@bc.sympatico.ca</a>	
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
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Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
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Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES:  Donation  
 Individual \$15  Family \$20 Please send more information about:  
 Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)  Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants  
 Gift memberships, send receipt to:  Garry Oak Inventory Project  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)  
 Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

November 1997, Vol. 1, No. 10

## FAMA Garry oak meadow park management

by Katie Stewart

Central Saanich now owns the 25-acre Garry oak meadow area which formerly belonged to FAMA Holdings Ltd. Last year there was considerable public opposition to a proposed road through the middle of it necessary to connect two reservoirs. That issue was resolved successfully and the route changed to the periphery of the park..

A long-term management plan is now being developed for the park and GOMPS was invited to a Environmental Advisory meeting on October 22 to give suggestions.

GOMPS members Eric Redekop, who has done considerable restoration work on Mount Tolmie; Willie MacGillivray, site manager for the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary; and Dr. David Boag, a Cen-

tral Saanich resident and biologist who first alerted us to the proposed road, also attended and gave input.

Jan Garnett, a director of Habitat Acquisition Trust Fund, talked about the proposed conservation covenant for the park, which she suggested could be co-held by GOMPS.

Dr. Richard Hebda gave the committee suggestions prior to the meeting, which he couldn't attend.

We discussed doing an ecological survey, limiting public access and activities, establishing/removing trails after the ecological survey is completed, restoration and maintenance of the natural areas within the park, special consideration of areas during construction (roads), local stewardship initiatives, encroachment by adjacent land owners and signage.

Obviously, Central Saanich is concerned about the protection of the ecosystem as the foremost priority for the preserve. Developing a good management plan is essential.

I really appreciated the opportunity to give some input. As Eric said on the way back from the meeting, it was "refreshing."

□

A few days following the meeting, Bonnie Mackenzie, Central Saanich's director of Parks and Recreation, phoned me regarding putting a package together to give to landowners living beside the park. That has been done. I also suggested the owners who have Garry oak meadows on their property be approached regarding attaching conservation covenants to their property.



## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was told by several people attending the October 7 Costco public hearing that developer Jack Nelson accused our society of wanting more and more habitat preserved.

While our view was and still is, that the Millstream Road site is the wrong location for Costco because it is endangered habitat, it was difficult for us, not being surveyors, to estimate in either acres or hectares, the size of an area that we hoped to see preserved. It is, however, definitely larger than the 3/4-acre that is supposed to be

preserved.

GOMPS Director Janet Simpson brought along a letter from Dr. Richard Hebda which was read aloud. In it he recommended that a much larger amount of habitat be set aside than we had originally suggested to ensure its survival.

As a follow-up to the hearing, I wrote a letter to Mayor Stew Young, with copies to developer Jack Nelson and the Goldstream News Gazette, enclosing portions of two issues of our *Leaf-*

*let* which indicated the area of the development we hoped to see set aside. I didn't appreciate GOMPS being maligned.

The letter was returned from the Langford planning secretary saying Council couldn't receive my letter since it was received after the public hearing. This is quite undemocratic, as part of my letter criticized how that public hearing was conducted.

Reflecting on this battle, we were in  
*Continued on page 3*

# Who has a vision for the CRD?

The Regional Growth Strategy is supposed to be completed prior to the next municipal election. However, support from our elected representatives on the various councils seems to be very low and the public is confused.

In the summer the RGS released a document called "Setting the Base Case: The OCP Option."

It is derived from the adopted Official Community Plans of the Capital Region and is supposed to identify "issues and impacts which will have to be addressed in the RGS". The bulky document also included a questionnaire which has only been sent in by a very small number of people.

Concern about the lack of adequate public response prompted a meeting on November 4, convened by Misty Macduffee on behalf of Michael M'Gonigle, the Ecochair at the UVic Faculty of Law.

Former Victoria councillor Alistair Craighead talked about the flawed transportation study done previously which tried to look at transportation alone without taking into consideration land use; Bob McMinn, Mayor of the Highlands, spoke about preserving land in exchange for density and a community representative from North Saanich described the workshop in her community where the OCP Option and questionnaire was discussed. She said that the questionnaire was badly flawed, a perception shared by many people at the meeting.

Michael Carson, who sits on the Public Advisory Committee, said that he and Frank Mitchell, another PAC member, had to push hard to have the question of no growth be an option.

Most of the 40+ people in attendance, who mainly represented environmental or community groups, have decided to form an ad hoc group with a goal to establishing a vision for the CRD that can be presented to the RGS.

People were very concerned at the

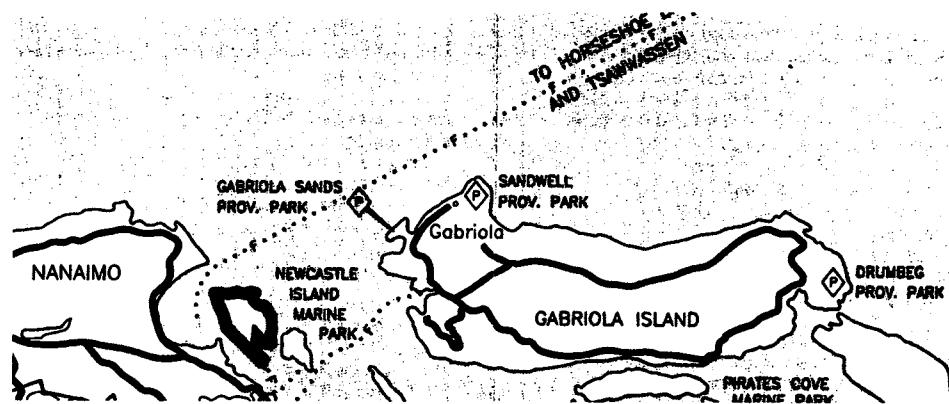
lack of support shown by our elected officials. As of November 4, only 30 people had indicated they would be coming to the Regional Summit, A Workshop for Elected Officials, where the OCP Option is to be discussed. This is to be held on **Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22** at J.S. Willis School.

The public can also attend as observers and if you wish to do so, contact the CRD Community Relations Office at 360-3228. Seating for observers is

limited to 100.

Our elected representatives should be attending this forum and working on tackling some of our regional issues such as transportation, environmental protection and housing.

**What you can do:** Phone your local mayor and councillors and ask them if they are planning to attend this important summit. If they aren't planning to, ask them why not and if they support the Regional Growth Strategy.



**ANOTHER 60 GARRY OAK** seedlings have been sent to Gabriola Island. Students of teacher Imelda Hedingham will plant them in Drumbeg Park this month. Gabriola Island students stand beside trees they planted in Spring 1997. Unfortunately, with no watering over summer, only half of the 60 seedlings trees survived.

## Go LRT!

The expansion of Highway 1 caused enormous environmental damage in some areas, including loss of a Garry oak meadow at the Millstream Interchange and large quantities of native flora alongside the highway.

The Millstream Connector will cause even more damage because it will destroy a wetland area. Does it even have to be built? Is there an alternative, even at this point after all the millions have been spent?

According to the Greater Victoria Electric Railway Society, there is, and that is light rapid transit.

For 12 years Society President Bill MacDonald has been lobbying for LRT and despite at least one prominent NDP supporter — Moe Sihota — highway expansion is seen by the current government as the way to go to solve local transportation woes.

Yet, according to the Society's brochure, "Canada has signed a treaty, the International Global Climate Change, to limit those gas emissions which cause climate change ... the transportation sector emits more than 50 percent of British Columbia's carbon dioxide, a prominent global change gas."

With the CRD projecting another 113,000 people by the year 2021, there will most certainly be a lot more cars choking the roads and highways unless there is a viable alternative.

In the CRD RGS document analyzing the OCP Option, called "Challenges to Implementing the OCP Option", the writer notes under Transportation Infrastructure: "The planned roadway improvement program would not provide sufficient capacity to accommodate vehicular traffic in the Western Communities and the links between the Western Communities and Victoria."

### Advantages of LRT in the Capital Region

- can use existing rights-of-way (Gal-

loping Goose)

- doesn't use expensive elevated rail bed (Example Vancouver's Skytrain)
- no gas emissions
- quiet operation
- less land space used
- could be used with park-and-ride facilities
- parallel bicycle lanes could be provided alongside

According to MacDonald, there is already considerable public support for

LRT; unfortunately there is not the political support. We need to let both the CRD Regional Growth Strategy and our politicians at the Legislature know that continued highway expansion is not the answer.

To join the Greater Victoria Electric Society, write to Box 8737, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S3 or phone 383-1171 or fax 383-2212. Memberships are \$20 adult, \$10 student/senior, \$50 corporate. E-mail [envduck@pacificcoast.net](mailto:envduck@pacificcoast.net)

## Tree preservation? Not in Victoria

Once again, Victoria's lack of a tree preservation bylaw has resulted in the loss of significant neighbourhood trees, this time two sequoias at Superior and Government streets.

Although neighbours had been assured that the trees would remain when a 15-unit public housing project was built on the property, an arborist determined that the roots would be damaged from excavation. No attempt was made to modify the housing plans; the chainsaw route was easier.

City Councillor Pamela Madoff then called for a task force to come up with a tree preservation bylaw. Not again! Where's the draft preservation bylaw that was supposed to be reviewed by the city solicitor?

Three years ago GOMPS member Tom Loring sat on the environment committee (since disbanded) which worked on the draft bylaw now mothballed somewhere at City Hall.

The committee had asked for a commitment from council that they wanted a tree preservation bylaw, after a bylaw was passed protecting trees adjacent to the Selkirk Narrows in 1994.

Tom says councillors are extremely conservative about attempts to control what people do with private property.

With the current outcry about the sequoias now is the time to pressure council to enact a bylaw. Write to Mayor Bob Cross and council at #1 Centennial Square, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6.

### Notes continued from page 1

a no-win situation. It was obvious from Langford Council's position that Costco was a sure thing in this location, therefore we tried to get some habitat set aside.

Better some than none, we thought. Nitya Harris, a Langford resident who set up the meetings with Jack Nelson, tried to set up a third meeting with him prior to the public hearing but he wasn't interested. He had told us during our second site meeting that he wanted our support at the public hearing, which we couldn't give.



As a result of me speaking to the Urban Restoration and Sustainable Agriculture class at UVic last month and an article written for the Times Colonist's Environews in October, five students have called for information.

One student wants to do a term project on the survival rate of Garry oaks which have been planted since "Project Acorn" began in Fall 1992. That's information we'd like to have as we have not done any follow-up of the plantings, some of which have been in the ground since 1993.

## More "Broom Bash" activities

Not included in last month's *Leaflet* were six ivy removal work parties in John Dean Park. Three have already occurred on October 25, November 1 and November 8. The other three are scheduled for **November 15, 22 and 29** from **9 a.m. to noon**. For more information contact Edo Nyland at 656-9276.

On November 16, Friends of Summit Park will be holding a Broom Bash in the park from **noon-3 p.m.** Come to the swings if you're interested in participating. As incentive, there will be two raffles — one for adults and one for kids — which will be drawn at 3 p.m. For more information contact Dierdre Gotto at 385-6359.

## Acorn planting

Rob Hagel, technician at the Pacific Forestry Centre, says most of the acorns collected this year have already been sown. A high student on a work placement program has been helping him. Rob doesn't think that volunteers will be needed to sow the remainder.

## Advisory Committee members needed

The Capital Regional District is looking for people to sit on the new Regional Water Supply, Protection and Conservation Advisory Committee. GOMPS was sent a letter inviting us to provide the name of an individual wanting to be on the committee.

If you are interested, contact the Capital Regional District Water Department, 479 Island Highway, B.C. V9B 1H7 or phone 474-9600, fax 474-4012 by November 14.

## Sidney bylaw

We've been told that Sidney has recently enacted a tree preservation bylaw, but it doesn't include Garry oaks. Apparently the director of parks recommended the inclusion of Garry oaks but the administrator didn't. We're trying to find out more about this.

## ONGOING

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

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President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	e-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	e-mail	ua620@freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES:  Donation

Individual \$15  Family \$20 Please send more information about:

Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)  Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants

Gift memberships, send receipt to:  Garry Oak Inventory Project

\_\_\_\_\_  Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal)

\_\_\_\_\_  Growing, planting Garry oaks



# GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

December 1997, Vol. 1, No. 11

## Status of Sidney and Victoria tree preservation bylaws

by Katie Stewart

As mentioned in the November *Leaflet*, Sidney recently passed Sidney Tree Preservation Bylaw No. 1304. Only two species are protected: Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*), which have a diameter of 30 (12 in.) cm or more at 1.4 m (4.5 ft.) height above ground level at the base of a tree.

Also included are specifically listed significant, heritage and replacement trees, and trees "shown as to be retained" or planted as part of a landscape plan, which form part of development permits.

The bylaw doesn't specify what the penalties are, only that liability is according to the "penalties set out in the *Offence Act* (of British Columbia)."

### Victoria

According to a *Times Colonist* article dated November 15, 1997, Victoria councillors agreed at a committee of the whole meeting to pass a tree protection bylaw.

Protected species are Garry oak and arbutus having a diameter of at least 20 cm, and Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), with single and multi-stems having a diameter each of at least 20 cm.

The bylaw is limited only to: a) "any lot within a development permit area or a heritage conservation area designated in the Official Community Plan Bylaw, subject to a development permit or heritage alteration permit," and b) "any lot that is subject to a rezoning, heritage revitalization agreement

or subdivision application."

We can't support this bylaw as it stands now. The whole city needs to be included in a comprehensive tree protection bylaw, not just specified areas.

GOMPS member Andrew Laks sits on the Parks Committee and members were asked to comment on the bylaw by council at the December 3 committee meeting.

Andrew says the committee will advise council that the bylaw is flawed and that more information is required. For example, there is nothing to stop a

developer from buying a lot, razing the trees and then applying for a development permit, thereby skirting the bylaw.

The Parks Committee supported two positive suggestions that Andrew made and will forward these to council as well. One is to collect one per cent from the building, development and rezoning permit fees the city collects and to put that money in a fund to be used specifically for maintaining trees. Andrew's second suggestion is to maintain a Heritage Tree Registry and

*Continued on page 4*

### *May the Spirit of Christmas be with you all*

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who has supported the efforts and objectives of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society – present and past members, volunteers in the community who have participated in "Broom Bashes", advocates who have spoken out at council meetings and/or written letters, generous financial contributors to GOMPS and our Home Hawk Campaign, and municipal staff members who have recognized the importance of saving what's left of our Garry oak meadows. We are blessed indeed to live with such beauty and grateful that some of this habitat has been protected.

Hal, Janet, Katie, Paul, Pierre, Sharron and Tom



# A letter from Environment Minister Cathy McGregor

*This was received in the second week of November.*

— K.S.

Thank you for your letters of May 22 and August 15, 1997, regarding management of the Garry oak ecosystems. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding to you. I, too, appreciated the opportunity to speak with you about these matters earlier this summer [a 5-minute 'briefing' at the CPAWS conference in April].

As you are aware, the remaining sites of these ecosystems are invariably on private lands which are subject to local governments' land use planning and development control programs.

In recent years, this government has provided local governments with increasingly effective tools to heighten environmental stewardship levels.

With regard to vegetation, for instance, tree cutting controls were restored to municipalities in 1992, and landscape development controls followed shortly afterwards.

Major changes have also been made to the *Municipal Act* in Bill 26, the *Local Government States Amendment Act, 1997*.

For example, under Bill 26, section 909 enables local governments to set suitable landscaping standards for environmental protection purposes: "A local government may, by bylaw, require, set standards for and regulate the provision of screening or landscaping for one or more of the following reasons: ... (b) preserving, protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment." It is anticipated that this Bill will be proclaimed this fall.

Environmental stewardship in developed and developing areas can often be a complex challenge, however, for local elected officials and their staff who may be called upon to meet a range of competing interests and priorities with limited funding. Similarly, the interests and concerns of individual

land owners suddenly faced with new regulations or additional financial requirements must also be addressed. Effective community and landowner-based environmental stewardship therefore requires careful planning and development at the local level in partnership with both the needs of the actual property owners of sensitive ecosystems, and importantly, general community support.

As you may be aware, the government has completed its Goal 2 acquisition plans for Vancouver Island, though some opportunities may exist in the Gulf Islands through the efforts of the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy. More and more, attention is being given to community and private land stewardship programs as a means of protecting these unique ecosystems.

Ministry staff are now working in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Growth Strategies Office of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a conservation strategy to help protect sensitive ecosystems, including Garry oak commu-

nities, on the east coast of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Technical guides are being prepared for the protection and management of these areas through local governments. It is expected that the inventory for these ecosystem communities will be available this fall, and the guides prepared over the next year.

Clearly, legislation, information and technical guidance are all key components to achieving effective environmental stewardship of our precious land resource.

Ultimately, however, the most successful conclusions to our endeavours will be as a result of the awareness, conviction and involvement of individuals like you. In this regard, I very much hope that you and your members will continue to stay involved in these important community initiatives. I very much appreciated receiving your comments on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy McGregor  
Minister



## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It will be nice when **Central Saanich's 25-acre Garry oak meadow park**, recently acquired from FAMA, gets a name. For now, I'll continue calling it the FAMA Garry oak meadow. At the December 1 council meeting, the clerk-administrator recommended that council allocate \$10,000 to hire a consultant to prepare a park management plan, "with the project to be undertaken in consultation with a stakeholder advisory group as recommended by the Advisory Planning Commission." That money may be used in other ways, such as the inventory. Council recommended that a tender be called or else community groups could be involved in the process.

Watch for the **Hutchison** development proposal to come before **Saanich Committee of the Whole** soon, probably on **December 15**. This 12.7 acre property, the estate of the late Bruce Hutchison, is bounded by Lily Avenue, Rogers Avenue, Martin Road and Quadra Street. There are two areas of Garry oaks we hope to see preserved: one contains a native shrub and herb understorey and the other contains oaks on rocky outcrops overrun with blackberry. There are also some specimen Garry oaks.

Family spokesman Ross Meek came to our last Board meeting on November 27 and showed us the family's latest plans.

# How to Remove Broom: The Short Answer

## Part 6: Information and Media Management

By Eric Redekop

Once permission is obtained and a work plan developed, three final preparations precede the first work event.

About a month earlier, write to any media outlet in the area which provides free public service announcements. The request should include the exact wording of the proposed announcement, as it would typically appear if published; respect space limits. Always include a telephone number people can call for more information, and try to identify any project sponsors or partners.

Remember that most media reserve the right to limit their selection of free announcements, so contact with a wide variety of outlets will directly influence the level of public exposure and support for the project.

If contacted by reporters to comment regarding broom removal, always refrain from giving technical instruction without reference to a specific context. Refer instead to the general or strategic objectives of a specific project (e.g. to clear the east side by January).

The major problem with talking to reporters is that not everything spoken gets reported, and much that is reported is inaccurate because writers and editors leave out material they feel is irrelevant or unimportant.

This is partly why a removal event should be called a "broom bash" rather than a "broom pull" or "broom cut"; reference to technique only perpetuates the public misconception that one technique is appropriate for any occasion and all situations.

Indeed, "How to Remove Broom" has become a series of six articles (so far) to help volunteers and project leaders deal more effectively with this issue. Finally, if a photographer or a video crew shows up at an event, they should be closely escorted at all times. Never allow a journalist to record vol-

unteers carrying out work improperly (e.g. cutting in winter, pulling in summer, dragging debris on ground).

### Notices to neighbours

For projects in public parks, some attempt should be made to notify the neighbours. Generally speaking, there are two kinds of notices. The first notice should be delivered to every residential address within a reasonable distance of the park, whenever a new project is initiated or when a new season of activity is about to commence (e.g. late June, late September).

This notice should describe the nature, location and timing of project activities, and provide contact names and numbers for project leaders and municipal staff involved in project planning. A similar notice should also be delivered to every residential address within direct view of any removal activities (including debris staging), within the preceding month.

As debris accumulates, keep municipal staff advised of staging locations and the nature of debris left for disposal. Broom debris should be stacked with stem butts facing one way, while blackberry and ivy debris must be piled separately for special treatment.

Blackberry thorns make compost handling hazardous, so debris must be burned or dumped in a landfill; English ivy must be dead, dead, dead before chipping and addition to the compost stream, so debris may not be removed from the site for several weeks or even months.

In the meantime, the piles may appear untidy, so previous notice to municipal staff allows criticism and complaints from affected neighbours or other park users to be redirected away from the project itself.

### Recruiting volunteers

For most project leaders, the last step in preparation, recruiting volunteers,

will become an ongoing activity almost as arduous as actually bashing broom. Obvious sources of volunteers include park neighbours, schools and community service groups. Retired Canadians not only have time to write letters of support for removal projects, but many are still physically active and enjoy working outdoors.

Sometimes, criminals sentenced to community service are referred to community groups or projects; these volunteers can be used for work in remote areas and may actually prefer to work independently and without direct supervision. Contact local environmental advocacy groups and keep everyone, especially the media, informed regarding project progress.

Keep a current list of volunteer addresses and phone numbers, and try to get through calling everyone as often as possible. If possible, arrange a "telephone tree" or conscript a volunteer or two to make a phone blitz for specific events. Try to develop routine channels for providing information to the public and volunteers about your project and prepare your media notices as far in advance as possible.

Media which may provide free public service announcements include *Monday Magazine*, *Victoria Colonist*, *Victoria Naturalist*, *Field Naturalist*, *Globe & Trail*, *Shaw Community Messageboard*, and the *News Group papers*.

Of course, the *GOMPS Leaflet* should be at the top of this list.

Finally, remember that GOMPS annually sponsors the City-Wide Broom Bash, from the Thanksgiving holiday weekend through the end of November. Over this period, volunteer work events all around the region are coordinated and widely promoted to maximize volunteer contributions and to improve public awareness of the prob-

*Continued on page 4*

Tree preservation bylaws from page 1 monies from the above-mentioned funds could be used to maintain the trees in the registry.

For example, last year we received a call from a woman living in Rockland who wanted to take the ivy off a large Garry oak on her property but was deterred by the \$700 cost. If her tree were registered, she might get assistance with the cost.



### **Broom from page 3**

lems associated with exotic plants in native habitats.

Whether small or large, participating groups feel a sense of comradeship with others struggling elsewhere in the region, and a greater sense of recognition for what is often thankless and always challenging work.

Since 1995, this program has grown from 12 events in 8 locations over four weekends to more than 30 events in 17 locations over eight weeks in 1997; even more growth is expected for 1998. Virtually ignored by local media for the first two years, in 1997 the program received local exposure in newspapers and on television, and national exposure on CBC radio.

By now it should be obvious that there are many activities associated with invasive plant control beyond actually bashing and hauling, which provide opportunities for everyone to contribute to the effort. Among those identified above are delivery of notices to neighbours, media and parks staff, and regular communication with volunteers.

In "How to Remove Broom: The Short Answer, Part 7: Everyone can help!" I will describe some of the other ways.



The next GOMPS Board of Directors meeting will be on January 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Janet Simpson's.

## **ONGOING**

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**GOMPS DISPLAYS:** Phone 386-4792 for possible locations

### **FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

As our main fund-raiser, GOMPS has for sale full colour posters of a Garry oak and a meadow of camas/buttercups under a bright spring sky. We also have wildflower placemats, wildflower posters and the *Garry Oak Meadow Colloquium Proceedings* for sale. Call Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

### **PRESERVATION/RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

**SEED/SEEDLING EXCHANGE.** Interested members contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792.

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP** (broom removal). Call Eric Redekop at 595-7270 for information.

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FUND GARRY OAK INVENTORY PROJECT.** Project coordinator is Paul Gareau, 592-9089.

### **NEWSLETTER**

If you have any contributions — photos, art work, articles, letters of agreement or disagreement or anything else you'd like to contribute, contact Katie Stewart at 386-4792 or mail to address below.

**GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
c/o A-954 QUEENS AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8T 1M6

## **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

President and Public Relations Chair .....	Katie Stewart	386-4792
	e-mail	camassia@bc.sympatico.ca
Vice-President .....	Pierre d'Estrubé	477-2410
Treasurer and Finance Chair .....	Hal Gibbard	477-2986
Secretary and Membership		
Development Chair .....	Sharron Waite	479-3380
Director and Program Chair .....	Paul Gareau	592-9089
	e-mail	upgareau@islandnet.com
Director .....	Tom Gillespie	361-1694
	e-mail	ua620@freenet.victoria.bc.ca
Director .....	Janet Simpson	381-6657

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS**

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
MEMBERSHIP DUES:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20	Please send more information about:
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth and Associate \$6 (no newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Local sources for Garry oak meadow plants
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift memberships, send receipt to: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Garry Oak Inventory Project <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Clean Sweep (broom removal) <input type="checkbox"/> Growing, planting Garry oaks

# A CHRISTMAS IDEA FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY! GIVE SOMETHING LASTING!

## ADOPT AN ACRE ON A CONSERVANCY PROJECT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.



- When you adopt an acre in a TLC project you will be sure that your payment will go directly to the purchase, protection or ongoing stewardship of that particular project. Once a property is purchased or protected by a conservation covenant your donation is used to help pay the annual costs associated with that project, for example property taxes if applicable, monitoring (inspection and recording costs), maintenance of signs or fences etc.
- In some cases it will be possible for you to actually visit the acre, in other cases where it is private property with a covenant you will not be able to access it unless you are working as a volunteer monitor for The Conservancy.
- A perfect gift for the that special person who cares as deeply about our mission of protecting biodiversity on earth as you do, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping us in our work.
- Gift recipients will receive a certificate containing the specific description and location of the project and their acre. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. (88902 8338 RR0001)

YES, I THINK THAT IS A GREAT IDEA. I WISH TO ADOPT AN ACRE IN THE NAME OF THE FOLLOWING PERSON AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES @ \$25.00 PER ACRE FOR THIS PERSON

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO SEND THE CERTIFICATE TO YOU AND LET YOU FORWARD IT, OR WOULD YOU PREFER IF WE SENT IT DIRECTLY TO THE RECIPIENT? \_\_\_\_\_ SEND IT TO ME \_\_\_\_\_ SEND IT DIRECTLY IF YOU WANT US TO SEND IT DIRECTLY, HOW DO YOU WANT US TO SHOW YOUR NAME:

ON THE GIFT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

YOU MAY LIST ADDITIONAL GIFTS ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET.

### ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS:

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ CHEQUE FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

PLEASE CHARGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO MY \_\_\_\_\_ VISA CARD OR TO MY \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD.

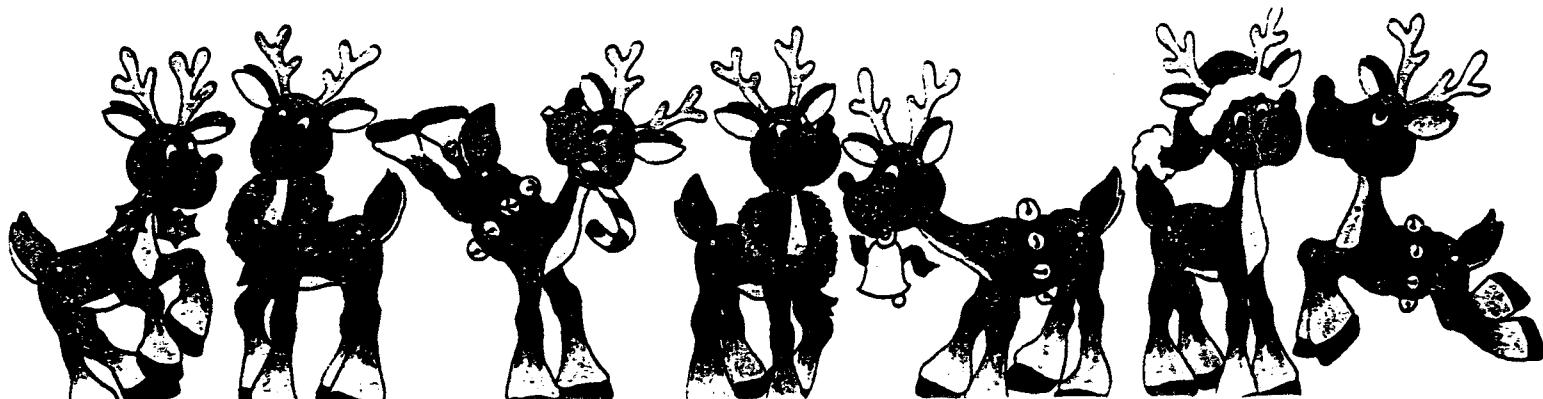
CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: TLC THE LAND CONSERVANCY, 5793 OLD WEST SAANICH ROAD, VICTORIA, B.C. V8X 3X3,

OR FAX TO: (250) 744-2251.

FOR INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE A PICK-UP OF THIS FORM PHONE (250)361-7693



# A CHRISTMAS IDEA FROM THE LAND CONSERVANCY GIVE SOMETHING LASTING!

## CONSIDER GIVING A MEMBERSHIP IN THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IT IS THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE THAT SPECIAL PERSON WHO CARES AS DEEPLY ABOUT OUR MISSION OF PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY ON EARTH AS YOU DO, AND YOU WILL HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT YOU ARE HELPING US IN OUR WORK. GIFT MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY A SPECIAL CARD TO THE RECIPIENT. YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

YES, I THINK THAT IS A GREAT IDEA. I WISH TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING PERSON A MEMBERSHIP IN THE LAND CONSERVANCY FOR CHRISTMAS.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERSHIP TYPE:  INDIVIDUAL \$35.00  
 FAMILY \$50.00  
 SENIOR \$15.00  
 STUDENT \$15.00

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO SEND THE CARD TO YOU AND LET YOU FILL IT IN, OR WOULD YOU PREFER IF WE SENT IT DIRECTLY TO THE NEW MEMBER?  SEND IT TO ME  SEND IT DIRECTLY  
IF YOU WANT US TO SEND IT DIRECTLY, HOW DO YOU WANT US TO SHOW YOUR NAME:

YOU MAY LIST ADDITIONAL GIFTS ON A SHEET OF PAPER.

### ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS:

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_  
HOW DO YOU WANT TO PAY?

CHEQUE FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

PLEASE CHARGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO MY \_\_\_\_\_ VISA CARD OR TO MY \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD.

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL THIS FORM TO TLC THE LAND CONSERVANCY, 5793 OLD WEST SAANICH ROAD,  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8X 3X3, OR FAX TO (250) 744-2251.