

President's report 2015

With a strengthened board of six directors, we started 2015 with completion of legal requirements to hold a conservation covenant on part of an acre property within Powell River, part of Martin Rossander's estate. This meant we had to apply and be accepted as holders of Section 218 and 219 of the Land Titles Act, namely the ability to hold an easement over land and to hold a covenant. For Fernwood, this means the ability to access the woodland 2/3 portion of the property to service and manage the covenant without being owners of the land. The property was for sale and tenants live in one of two dwellings on the property. To assist with questions, MLCS was involved with the legal representative for the Rossander estate, the realtor for the property and some of the people interested in purchasing the land.

The board made a couple of visits to the land to determine the edges of the covenanted area, perform a baseline inventory, take photographs, and clean up the land. The property sold this month to out-of-town buyers, the tenants are likely to remain in place, but a relationship needs to be developed with the new owners of the property to ensure compliance with the conservation covenant.

More updates on the Rossander estate will come after the AGM.

For public relations, MLCS had a table at Seedy Saturday, mid-March, an event we always attend. It is an information exchange. We did not receive more memberships at the event. That same evening, I gave a talk as part of a library initiative, Love of Nature. I was asked to talk about nature and conservation. MLCS took part in Earth Week again this year. In late August I was interviewed by Ioni Waislass for his CJMP radio show and spoke in general about land conservancies, what we can and cannot do and how we preserve land. A podcast is available of that 30-minute interview.

I visited a property in Roberts Creek in June, owned by a person who wishes to leave his 5.6 hectares to Sunshine Coast Conservation Association but wishes to have MLCS hold the covenant on the land. The land is forested except for a small footprint where his trailer sits. He has a pond on the land. The land would fit within our mandate for natural habitat.

The board made a visit to land on Texada Island for which MLCS manages a conservation covenant on behalf of The Land Conservancy (TLC). The land owner took us by boat along the coastline to view the extent of this largely undisturbed example of coastal Douglas fir ecosystem. More about this land will be discussed as our first matter of business following the AGM.

I continue to sit on the Powell River Regional District's Parks and Greenspace Implementation Advisory Committee, on behalf of MLCS. Following the creation of a proposal for a park acquisition fund and a push from the regional board to shut the committee down, there have been no meetings of the committee since February. The attempt to shut the committee down was unsuccessful, however attempts to keep it going have been rather unsuccessful, too. A meeting takes place on Friday where a request for it to continue, to at least establish the park acquisition fund, will come to a vote.

And, a new business in town has decided to dedicate 5% of its gross income to MLCS. Viridian Earth Contracts Ltd., which provides editing and writing services, recently signed up with Powell River Dollars to support the local economy. By doing so, 400 PR\$ will be coming to the MLCS account and more donations will be coming throughout the year.