

WHO WE ARE

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

We have a board of five directors:

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

We have three volunteer staff members:

Janet Southcott - Executive Director
Kelly Chapman - Ecologist
Leeanne Barr - Website Manager

We have four committees:

Membership
Fundraising
Public Engagement
Land

MISSION

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

VISION

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

Food Security



If the ferries stopped running and the planes stopped flying, we would have about four days' worth of food to share around the region before we'd run out!

Four days, 20,000 people.

We have a lot of agricultural land and some of it is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). You may think such land is protected from development and will only be used for agriculture. Unfortunately, land can be removed from the ALR at the discretion of the Agricultural Land Commission, and, while rare, such decisions can remove valuable opportunities for food security.

An extra level of security is provided by a conservation covenant. If a landowner wishes, a conservation cov-

enant can be placed over land that is already within the ALR. It needs to be a covenant written to benefit agriculture and the ALC has to give permission.

A lot of land that is farmed for generations is not protected by the ALR. At the wish of the landowner, a covenant can be placed to protect the agricultural integrity of the land, making sure that when the land passes hands it is not developed and instead remains available for food security.

Food security is relevant and important in the Powell River area, as we are vulnerable

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Legacy of Trees

In late September, we were deeply saddened by the news that one of our board members had died.

Ted Crossley was 72. He had been our vice president for a number of years and his energy, imagination and enthusiasm was felt at the heart of Malaspina Land Conservancy Society.

He spent a great deal of his five years as a director encouraging others to join

MLCS, be involved in conserving the places we all love, and turn away from acts that devastate our natural world. He was a firm believer in conservation through covenant, to keep the trees and landscape the same for eternity. Last year, he doubled our membership numbers by sweet-talking many in his men's group into supporting our society.

He could be counted on to look after our

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Food for all

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to our isolation. Ninety-six percent of our food is shipped or flown in. There are areas of Powell River with rich soils, great growing areas for vegetables. Less nourishing soils are still good for vineyards, orchards and grazing for livestock, or may be used for greenhouses or growing beds. The less suitable the soils, the more work it takes, but it can be done and evidence is easy to find (think of the rice paddy terraces in China that follow the contours of the mountains).

Conservation covenants are not just for preserving pretty scenery; they can preserve our farmland and therefore sustain our future in this beautiful place.

Ted's Legacy

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display at our local Seedy Saturday, again, trying to swell membership by his persuasive words; and to attend covenant reviews of properties and the meetings of MLCS so long as freshly-baked cookies were on hand!

Every person plays their part in MLCS, and Ted definitely fulfilled his role. His family is taking this one step further by honouring his passion. They are asking family and friends to donate in Ted's memory to the work of Malaspina Land Conservancy Society.

Thanks Ted, for all you have done, and all your legacy continues to do. We miss you.

Ted Talks Through Trees

With the passing of our board member, Ted Crossley, an idea was born to honour him through a project to increase the number of trees in the Powell River region.

Ted often spoke about trees, and nurtured the trees on his own property, finding solace within their presence.

Our long-time board member, Lesley Thorsell, envisioned an evening fundraiser at Little Hut Curry. With owner Mohinder's help, the restaurant was sold out and those who gathered did so to support the purchase of seedlings that will be planted this spring on private properties throughout the region.

Trees provide great habitat for wildlife, shade and cooler temperatures during the summer and shelter and warmth during the winter. They are carbon sinks, and refresh the air we breathe. They mitigate stormwater runoff by using the water saturating soils for growth. They provide stability on uneven ground and a canopy allowing the forest floor to flourish.

We raised just short of \$500 at that evening event, and as Lesley went the next step and called nurseries about the trees they could supply, she found PRT Growing Services Ltd. Learning of the fundraising effort and reason behind the seedling purchase, staff member Suzanne Nicklen secured a donation to match, which meant that instead of purchasing 500 seedlings, we could now obtain 1,000.

We have selected Douglas fir, a species indigenous to this area that can adapt to a changing climate and is easily maintained.

The trees arrive at the end of March. An information evening is booked for Thursday, March 26, 7 - 8:30 pm at Trinity Hall, United Church on the corner of Duncan Street and Michigan Avenue. Education on tree planting will be given and a map will be created showing all the locations these legacy trees will be planted. We will need lots of energetic volunteers to start the planting at the beginning of Earth Month, April. If you would like to have trees planted on your property through the Ted Talks Through Trees project, and are willing to nurture them and help them grow, please contact us and come along to the information evening.



Ted Crossley: 72 years of living, learning and loving this planet

Living with a Covenant

We have been living on our covenanted land for four years now, and appreciate it more with every year that goes by. The following benefits stand out to us, and could be a part of your life, too:

An increased connection to nature and reduction in stress -

From the moment the cedar branches brush your shoulders as you enter the covenanted area, when you take a deep breath of fresh air and notice that the external town sounds have become muffled, when you look up at the swaying tree tops against the sky and experience instant meditation, when you become enamoured with the cycles of the ferns and fungi on the ground, you begin to naturally understand that you're a part of something greater than yourself. When you see a bear, you experience instant stress again, naturally. :-)

An increased sense of stewardship and eco-curiosity - As you get to know the covenanted area over several seasons, you start to recognize when it is experiencing fluctuations in health and/or increased stress. For example, you notice that an extended period of drought will cause a dramatic increase in the amount of fir needles on the ground (and if you're Justin, you start watering the woods instead of the lawn). You get excited when you see certain protected species come back every year, or you experience a bumper year for mushrooms like we had in 2019. You feel concern when you're told that something is causing resinosis in some of



Rachel LeBlanc, Justin Frazer and their cat

the trees. You feel protective of them, you do your research, and you find ways to remedy the situation. You also hope the trees don't land on you or your neighbours, but you wouldn't have it any other way.

Story about a Giant

The creation of Malaspina Land Conservancy Society is a story about a giant.

In 2007, I was working as a real estate salesperson. I was asked to list a 23.5-acre property for sale. The owner had died and the family needed to discharge his estate.

The acreage was south of town; it was a large, forested property with a small bluff in the centre. From the top of the bluff, if you tried really hard, you could catch a glimpse of ocean.

Neighbours had used the property for dog walks and the owner had been fine with these small trails through the land.

The owner was elderly when he died, and he had owned the land since the early 1970s. When he bought it, he and his wife had decided not to remove any trees other than those needed for one house, and that house was going to be built on the bluff. His wife died before plans turned into action and so the house was never built.

John, the owner, used to travel to the property by motorcycle from the Chicago area, once per year. He would come for the summers and stay at a nearby bed and breakfast. It was from the owners of the B&B I received most of the story as they got to know John well.

He would visit and sit upon the bluff, enjoying the natural world around him. Over time, a small footprint of a cabin was built, although the interior furnishings were not small at all. John was almost 7 feet tall, and as such his bed was created extra long and his table extra tall. The cabin, which was moved after John's death, is still on the B&B property.

And then he died and the forest was for sale. For a whole year it was on the market and I showed it to various families and one logger. It was the logger who put in an offer, but the offer fell through. Finally, an offer arrived from a local neighbour, who said he would just build one house on the land and leave the rest as it was. The sale was done.

Within a month the entire 23.5 acres of forest had gone.

I was very upset and wondered why John had not protected his forest with a covenant. Then I realized he probably didn't know that was an option. And because of that, I decided to make it easier for locals to know there is an option for the preservation of their land. Malaspina Land Conservancy was formed in the spring of 2008.

Janet Southcott

Who We Are



MLCS Board
Clockwise:
Justin Frazer
Rachel LeBlanc
Rob Southcott
Lesley Thorsell
Gord Kennedy



Volunteer Staff
left to right
Janet Southcott
Kelly Chapman



What is a Land Conservancy?

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

Presentations to Community Groups

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

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

Covenant Reviews

Each year we review the covenants MLCS holds over private property. We do this to make sure that owners are abiding by the legal restrictions placed upon the land. These restrictions protect the integrity of the land and respect the wishes of a current or previous landowner.

To find out about how covenants protect land here within our Powell River area, or how you can be involved in future work parties to clean up or rehabilitate a property, call 604.485.0077 or email info@malaspinaland.ca.



Join Us

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

How to get in touch...

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

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

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