

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.

Trees For Everyone



Really, when it comes down to it, trees are huge in our world. Not just in height or girth, but what trees do. Habitat for birds, shade that keeps the forest floor damp and cool, windbreaker against our strongest gales, water absorbers, carbon holders, moisture breathers. Littering the ground with leaves, needles and fronds, altering the acidity of the soil, stabilizing banks and holding rocks within roots. Bark that nurtures insects that feed the family of woodpeckers, roots that connect to the mycelia network to send food to other trees, cones that provide hours of picking and eating pleasure to squirrels. What's not to like?

This edition of "Coastlines" is all about trees. Each story looks at a different activity around trees and the connection with conservation. From foot-high seedlings to 1,200-year-old ancients, trees are alive – let's keep it that way.

Proforestation - a Hands-Off Approach

Just over onto the lower Sunshine Coast is the Caren Range old-growth forest. It's estimated to be the oldest closed-canopy forest in Canada and supports Yellow cedars of more than 2,000 years growing in conditions similar to those on our upper Sunshine Coast.

Which naturally leads to the question: could there be trees on the upper Sunshine Coast of similar age to those protected just a few miles away?

Proforestation is a new term for an old

concept. We work in proforestation when we leave things alone. It seems simple, but it takes trust that nature knows what nature needs to do, and we humans aren't very good at that. We like to get in there and meddle: we can do it better, we can create more, we can help.

When we believe we can "help" nature, we're often not in tune with nature, we're not taking the time to look and listen and just "be". We're addicted to "doing". So, proforestation is going to be difficult, but not impossible.

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"Intact forests...are the most carbon-dense and biodiverse terrestrial ecosystems..." write Moomaw, Masino and Faison in a paper entitled "Intact Forests in the United States: Proforestation Mitigates Climate Change and Serves the Greatest Good", published June 2019 in *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*. "Stakeholders and policy makers need to recognize that the way to maximize carbon storage and sequestration is to grow intact forest ecosystems where possible..." You can find the whole 10-page article at frontiersin.org.

It just so happens, we do have forest here that is likely similar in age to the Caren Forest to the south. It was discovered on the flank of Freda Mountain, unfortunately after a portion of it had recently been

logged. There is now a voluntary moratorium on further logging in the area, set by the forest company within whom's TFL the forest sits.

"Forests can be much older than their oldest trees," say the creators of qathetoldgrowth.ca, a website dedicated to raising awareness of the need to consider our moral logic when faced with the ancients that grow wild and mostly untamed in our backcountry.

Do we need to show footprints of domination over nature? Or can we take a leaf out of the proforestation idea and leave nature alone? Well, you, dear reader, are the one to answer that. Hopefully, we are all on the same page, working for the greater good.



Life Within a Covenant



MLCS holds covenants over two parcels of land within the Powell River region. One of these parcels is on Fernwood Avenue and owned by two of our board members and family. On the area outside the covenant, Justin and Rachel, together with Duchess the dog, look after senior chickens.

Justin and I have lived on a covenanted property right in town over 5 years now! We live on an acre, two-thirds of which is held in trust with the Malaspina Land Conservancy Society. This property was conserved at the request of the former property owner, Martin Rossander, prior to his passing in 2012. This means the beautiful woods in the backyard cannot be developed, and we could not be happier.

As time goes by, we appreciate it even more. We feel very lucky to be a part of something that we had no idea was an option for average property owners. The trees provide a buffer from the noise of everyday life in town, and a walk in the woods in the backyard is the best way to relax. We are fascinated with how the woods change with the seasons and with how many plants and animals and fungi we have come to know and love. We look forward to growing with the trees, and feel immensely grateful to be a part of something that will be here long after we're gone.

Handing Out Trees

We're doing it again! It's a year now since the first Coastal Douglas Fir seedlings were distributed around the Powell River area, and this year we have a second batch to hand out.

To celebrate and memorialize the life of Ted Crossley, one of our dedicated board members who died at the end of September 2019, 2,500 seedlings were handed out to be planted for future generations to enjoy.

Ted had a special fondness for trees and it was this, and her work with TreeSisters, that inspired board member Lesley to initiate the Ted Talks Through Trees project. After raising \$500 through dinner at Little Hut Curry, she bought trees from PRT Growing Services Ltd. on Vancouver Island for \$1 per seedling. Staff there were so taken with the project they donated another 2,000.

This year, PRT is donating trees again, so we have another 2,160 to distribute!

Powell River has the ideal climate for Coastal Douglas Fir, however, development has severely cut back on natural habitat. Ted Talks Through Trees project aims to involve people, up and down the coast, in planting and caring for trees on their own private properties, one seedling at a time.

It's likely this newsletter has reached you because you are the recipient of one or more seedlings. If that's the case, here's how to look after your Douglas fir:

- First, find the ideal spot. Fir trees could last 800 or more years, and consider its full-grown size of more than 120 feet, a trunk perhaps five or six feet wide. They grow best in well drained soil and in shady areas.
- When you receive your seedling, it may be a while since it was last watered. Treat it with care and only expose its roots when you have a hole dug to accommodate it.
- Water it up to four times a month and talk to your little Douglas :)

Take photos and feel free to post them on our Facebook page - just look for Malaspina Land Conservancy Society. We'd love to see how happy your Douglas fir makes you feel. Donations to support this initiative can be made via e-transfer to info@malaspinaland.ca or via PayPal at <http://malaspinaland.ca>. Thank you!



Ted

If you're reading this and wish to know more, contact Lesley at lhorsell@yahoo.com. We don't know at this stage whether 2022 will be another year of planting...but just in case it is, make sure you jump on board!



Who We Are



MLCS Board

Clockwise:

Justin Frazer

Rachel LeBlanc

Rob Southcott

Lesley Thorsell

Gord Kennedy



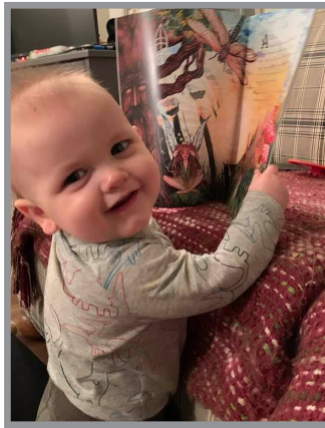
Volunteer Staff

left to right

Janet Southcott

Kelly Chapman

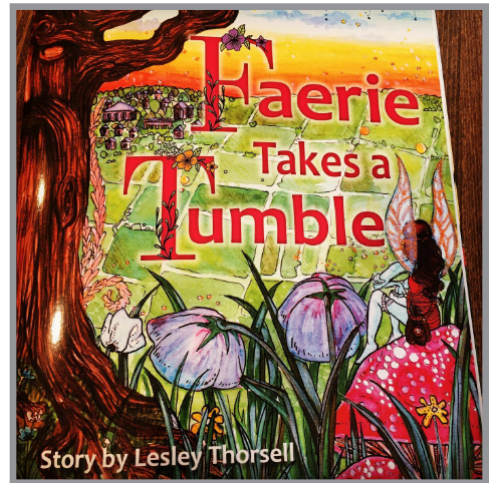
Start Young with Forest Lore



One of our board members, Lesley, has written a children's book! *Faerie Takes a Tumble* is set in Ireland with a feisty eco faerie who wants to protect her kingdom and ends up needing help herself from her forest friends.

The storey has a lovely message of "Be the Change" and is a great gift for all ages. Orders can be placed at forestfaeriebooks.com and \$1 of each book goes to

TreeSisters and PROWLS, so that with each book you are planting a tree and rescuing wildlife! What could be better?



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.



Join Us

Perhaps we are biased, but we believe we are 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

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