

## 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 six directors:

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

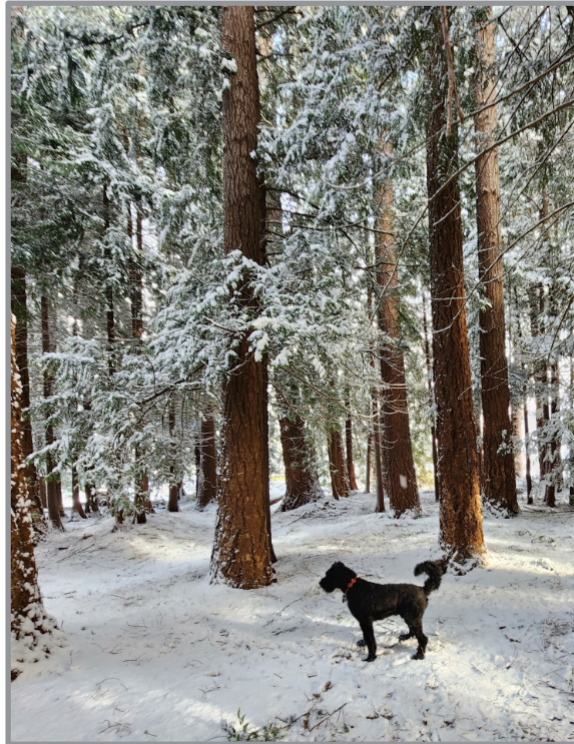
## MISSION

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.

## Value in Abundance



*Percy in the woods*

*Malaspina Land Conservancy Society holds covenants over two parcels of private land in the qathet region. One of these is within the city, on Fernwood Avenue, and owned by two of our board members and family. They live on the parcel next to the covenant and look after the land stewards.*

Another year gone by. The woods remain much the same. Winter storms have come and gone, and another year of growth awaits. We find value here among the trees. Not a value measured in board feet, but in memories. A place for quiet reflecting, and space that permits the speed needed to keep pace with an enthusiastic child.

The covenant ensures these trees face no threat from man. It provides space in the middle of

town where you can rinse town away. There is satisfaction in knowing we play a small part in this much bigger picture. Living within and caring for a covenant has taught us so much.

I'd never given trees much thought growing up. Now, I consider each of them a friend. We worry during the drought and rejoice with the rain, eat delicious mushrooms for dinner and drink in the sweet smells of the woods after a summer shower, all thanks to the trees.

We continue to be grateful for this opportunity. Thank you to the wonderfully caring people of MLCS, without whom we would never have known what we were missing.

*Justin and Rachel*



*River and the lobster mushroom*



# It's Tree Time Again!

This spring we will reach 10,000 Douglas fir trees distributed around the qathet community. What started in 2019 as a way to commemorate the lifelong passion for forests of our late board member Ted Crossley, has grown to have more impact than we could have imagined possible. And it continues.

Ted Talks Through Trees provides a way to enrich our little portion of BC by planting back firs to compensate for trees that have been taken for industry and development. Some of the practices we engage in as a society have a detrimental effect on the environment that is not considered at the time of action. This reaction takes a long time to heal and like most injuries the scars remain evident.

The trees planted today will take generations of human lifetimes to reach the height and benefit to the ecosystem that their predecessors had.

We have developed a strong partnership with PRT Tree Services Ltd on Vancouver Island, the business which supplies our firs for distribution. PRT believes in the project we have initiated and each year we have a combination of paid for and donated trees to hand out. Last year PRT donated all of the trees; this year, we are going half and half. These trees have been grown as surplus to the tree planting needs to fill in logged areas, and must be planted on private land.

Our board member Lesley Pihl has been the driving force behind this initiative and once again is leading the charge.

She uses Facebook to gather names and addresses of those wishing for trees (if you don't use Facebook please email Lesley at [lthorsell@yahoo.com](mailto:lthorsell@yahoo.com)), organizes pickup of the trees from Campbell River, and then distribution here. This year, the trees will be picked up early April for distribution at the end of the first week of the month. If you would like to receive a tree or a bundle of trees, please contact Lesley. We ask for a minimum donation of \$5 which will help cover transportation and purchasing costs. (Any donation over \$20 can receive a charitable tax receipt if required.) Donations can be made in cash, by e-transfer to [malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com](mailto:malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com), or through our website [malaspinaland.ca](http://malaspinaland.ca) using PayPal or CanadaHelps.

Just standing still next to a large tree, waiting and watching, can be a huge reward for the senses. Trees provide shade, they provide habitat, they help reduce the damage of flooding, they help water reach the aquifers and ensure there is water available during a drought, they lower temperatures and clean the air, and they provide protection for streams and other water courses. There are many more benefits of trees. Take a quick look here to see 22 ways trees benefit the planet: <https://www.treepeople.org/22-benefits-of-trees/>

Reach out and gently touch a tree today. Together we can help fill in the gaps, cover the scars, and bring life back to our land.

# Networking Grows Us All



Justin (above), Judy and Lesley look after the information booth at Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour event, Brooks Secondary School.



If there is one thing we know for sure, it is that there will always be something to talk to people about when it comes to preserving land forever.

Every year the qathet area has hosted the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. This year, new people took over the reins of facilitating this event at Brooks Secondary School's Max Cameron Theatre and invited a whole new group of organizations to display their information in the hall.

With a local band playing beautiful live music, and the hall thick with eager movie-goers and outdoor enthusiasts, it was tricky to hold a long conversation that could be heard above the surroundings, however, with sore throats and voices that would be hoarse the following day, our board members persevered.

New memberships and donations were received. People signed up for the annual tree project (see article above for more details) and took our brochure and back issues of our newsletter for reading later.

We hope that, as people piled into the Theatre to watch the awe-inspiring and exhilarating outdoor adventure films, that they remembered the importance of protecting land for generations to come. We also hope that we will be invited to display our information at the event again next year.

# Learning From Others

Every year there is a conference hosted by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. Two of our board members travelled to Victoria early November to attend the 2023 gathering.

The land conservancy movement is a relatively small community with huge impact. There are now more than 40 conservancies based within BC. In the qathet region we have three: Savary Island Land Trust Society, Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy and ours, Malaspina Land Conservancy Society. Each does a similar thing, yet in different ways, and those similarities and differences make attending a conference, learning together and networking invaluable.

Key takeaways:

**Engagement Organizing:** Since 2008 when MLCS was created, we have developed a list of over one hundred people who have come and gone as members, some remaining. As an organization we have little for membership to do at the moment and yet there will come a time when we need boots on the ground, helping hands. Where will those feet and fingers come from? So, one of the takeaways was to develop people management skills, engagement opportunities, ways for people to become and remain involved and to share the vision of caring and looking after this land and the waters that run through and over it, the air above and the soil below. *To do this we really need to develop our membership committee.*

**Fundraising:** We have a membership-dues model of fundraising and we also receive donations. Both numbers of memberships and amounts of donations cannot be relied upon for long-term planning. However, if we were to develop a monthly giving program, we would be able to project with some degree of confidence, allowing us to see how objectives and goals of the organization could be achieved. There is more to value than purely money. Our economic future depends upon kindness, willingness, sharing, and giving. Until we shift into a mindset of knowing there is more to life than money, we do need to develop a consistent income flow to do what this organization was born to do. *For this, we need to develop our fundraising committee.*

**Land:** Conservancies are engaged in preserving land, restoration, education, holding space for healing, breathing, and recognizing our part in the nature of things. We purchase land, we put covenants on land, we restrict access, we create legal contracts, we put up signs, we create pathways. We frown upon development, we

frown upon manmade intrusions, we “do” and we “try”, and yet, are we blind? A large focus of the conference in Victoria was to consider what we are doing with covenants and restrictions and fences. These actions are at the core of conservation, however, is there something we have been missing? By restricting human access, are we neglecting the traditional practices of our indigenous neighbours and friends? By putting up fences are we restricting access through wildlife corridors? Are we helping or hindering the movement of birds, air, the natural processes that happen within forests? To question these things sends an

earthquake through the bedrock of our movement. *Our eyes need to open up and we need to develop our land committee to provide us with unobscured vision.*

**Standards and Practices:** As mentioned, conservancies do similar things in different ways. Standards and Practices have been developed so that we can confidently know each individual organization is working as a whole toward the same direction, that each holds to a certain degree of conduct so that we can all grow

together. *We need to develop a standards and practices committee to help grow our relationships with others in this conservation community, to hold each others' hands as we move through shifts, and to be open to learning from one another.*

**Public Engagement:** What is the point of the work of membership, finance, land, or standards and practice committees if we don't speak and write about our activities? How will anyone know MLCS exists and that landowners have the opportunity to make a difference by preserving their land and that there is an organization to help with this? *By developing one voice, by writing newsletters like this one, by having consistent and appropriate information to give out at information booths, by speaking with organizations, by educating, by listening, we need to develop our public engagement committee.*

**Call to Action:** There is a beauty in networking. Sparks of insight light up the way forward, connections reflect that we are not alone, and each one of us who attended the conference arrives home inspired by what the future holds. We can lead MLCS into a stronger, more vibrant time. *Does any of this trigger interest in you? Can you see yourself helping? Please reach out to us and let us know how we can work together.*

Visit [ltabc.ca](http://ltabc.ca) for more information about the Land Trust Alliance of BC  
Photo is of Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, BC, taken by Janet Southcott





## Who We Are



### MLCS Board

*Clockwise:*

Justin Frazer

Rachel LeBlanc

Rob Southcott

Judy Watts

Lesley Pihl

Gord Kennedy



### Volunteer Staff

*left to right*

Janet Southcott

Kelly Chapman



## Email Change

We've had to change our email address, due to some changes with Google accounts. So, please use our address  
[malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com](mailto:malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com).

The change has meant that our history of email communication since we began MLCS in the spring 2008 to now has been lost. We have been transitioning to this new email address since September 2022.

Be sure to reach out to us, even if just to say hello, and ensure we have your email address to correspond in future.

Thanks!

## 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 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 and committee 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>  
[malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com](mailto:malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com)  
604.485.0077