

What's in a Vision?

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 Support

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.



LeBlanc/Frazer photo

Any organization of people usually centres around a shared vision statement. It's a view of the future in the most perfect intent and a lofty goal somewhat out of reach from present day. It's a "close your eyes and imagine your craziest most positive dream for the future that could be influenced by our organizing together" scenario.

When Malaspina Land Conservancy Society was formed in 2008 the vision came pretty easily. And, looking back, it has stood the test of time. *"People living within a healthy diverse region where respect for the natural world is paramount."* However, can we say we are any closer to realizing that dream?

The world seems pretty chaotic at present. Countries in conflict, international trade in upheaval, income failing to keep up with current costs of

living, homelessness and poverty. Forests continue to fall, human development sprawls outward, and there seems to be a never-ending push for more and more non-renewable resources. Drought, wildfires, floods rage beyond our control.

Is respect for the natural world paramount? Do we live within a healthy diverse region? It's easy to get caught up in the upset and negative focus of media, to shake our heads and see the world coming to an end. However, that depressive thinking is a choice. It is possible to turn off the television, and restrict the amount and fervour of news greeting our senses each day. We can go outside, listen to the songs of birds, the wind through newly growing spring leaves, see the shoots appearing of snow drops, daffodils, tulips, the garlic we planted in the fall, kale that seems so hardy it has over-wintered. It is possible to immerse ourselves in nature, to close our eyes, to listen, and bit by bit believe we live in a place where respect for the natural world can be and is paramount.

The decisions we make today are our choices. We can decide to make decisions that align with our environmental ethics – those things we do in nature when nobody is watching – and even though it might seem like it is only us, alone, having a conscience, we can and do make a difference. We can lead by example and our neighbours might decide to do the same, and their neighbours and so it spreads, this respect for the natural world.

The vision for MLCS is as true today as it was 17 years ago, and it is true for tomorrow. What is your most positive dream for the future of the world?

One Decade In...

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.

We're nearly a decade into living with a covenant within the city. We appreciate it more and more as time passes. We've come to know these woods and the inhabitants from many angles, through sunrises, sunsets, births and deaths, celebrations and grief. The fungi were especially prolific this year!

It's rare that a day passes where we are not out amongst the big trees, if only for a few minutes. It's always time worth spending. The covenant offers a place to slow down, a place to ponder the fact that these trees were here long before we were born, and will likely watch over our last sunset. There is something so satisfying about being a small part of their time line. We look forward to being their stewards and watching them grow for as many years as we are able, and passing that privilege along to the next caretakers. Thank you, MLCS, for making this possible, opening our eyes to what is right in front of us.

~ Justin and Rachel



LeBlanc/Frazer photo



LeBlanc/Frazer photo

In-house Printing

This newsletter you are reading is not glossy and the photographs are perhaps not as punchy as they could be. Instead of sending it out to be printed commercially, we printed it in-house.

The paper is FSC controlled, and EarthChoice®. Information on the packet reads: "...because they [the papers] are made using wood fibres from responsibly-managed North American forests, companies and consumers who care about the environment can do their part to ensure a healthier planet today—and tomorrow."

We used to have a printer that sucked ink cartridges dry every month. It was totally unsustainable to keep using it. So, a year and a half ago we purchased a printer that doesn't have cartridges, and instead uses ink tanks. We print regularly and yet are only halfway through our first, out-of-the-box, supply of ink.

We feel better about the decision to print our handout materials in-house, and we hope you will understand that our decision to do so aligns with our overall vision for MLCS. Electronic copies of our newsletters and brochures (in which the photos are crisp and beautiful) are available on our website at malaspinaland.ca should you wish to download more copies to pass around.

End of an Era

Ten thousand trees delivered to the gathet/Powell River region. That's what we have managed over the past five years, and now it's time to watch them grow.

Back in 2019, our board member Lesley Thorsell sparked an idea to do something about the number of trees being felled in our area. She wanted a project where we brought in trees for people to plant. Around that same time, our board member Ted Crossley died suddenly. He had an acute fondness for trees and always spoke up during our meetings to heighten our awareness of the plight of the forest world. The seeds of Lesley's idea, together with our wish to commemorate Ted, grew together into what became Ted Talks Through Trees.

Our tree supplier, PRT Services Ltd, jumped on board and supported the initiative with coastal Douglas fir and a few Western red cedars. Over the five years, we probably purchased half of the trees ourselves through fundraising and received the other half as a donation, for which we are extremely grateful.

A lot goes into the creation of a project. Lesley took on the lion's share and the rest of us helped when needed. In some ways it is sad to let the project go to rest, however, 10,000 trees is HUGE for a region our size where we have a population of approximately 21,000, so almost one tree for every two people. Until last year, the trees all had to be planted on private land, then we received permission to put them on school land, too. Two elementary schools and Brooks Secondary School and students joined in.

Those initial trees, now five years old, should be at least the size of an adult human by now, growing one to two feet per year depending upon growing conditions. "Some people have purchased trees every year for five years and now have hundreds of trees at different



*Lesley and Lonely Doug, on the way to Fairy Creek, Vancouver Island
Photo by Tracy Pihl*

stages," says Lesley. "We have created mini forests that hopefully will grow into eternity."

We know not all trees will have survived, but most will and that fills us with joy knowing that a little effort by a few people can make a large difference to the health of our environment. If you received one or more of the trees we brought into the community, perhaps share a photo with us to show how the trees are growing. We have a Facebook page, found by searching Malaspina Land Conservancy Society, upon which you could post a photograph, or send us an email to malaspinalandinfo@gmail.com and we will compile a mosaic of tree photos for our next newsletter. Together, we are making a difference.

*"The intention of our thoughts creates the reality of our world."
Dr. Wayne Dyer*

Who We Are



MLCS Board

Clockwise:

Justin Frazer

Rachel LeBlanc

Rob Southcott

Judy Watts

Lesley Thorsell

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.

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
604.485.0077