



Conserving Canada's Desert Country is Good for Nature, People, and Business

## South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

# Newsletter

October 2009

### Message from SOSCP Coordinator

#### Meet the newest environmental planning asset to the South Okanagan-Similkameen.



SOSCP and a number of partners worked together to establish capacity for environmental planning assistance that included funds from the municipalities themselves, Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) and the Real Estate Foundation of BC *Communities in Transition* Program. Anna Milner now shares her time between Summerland, Oliver and Keremeos, providing technical and planning support where required. This is truly a partnership effort and is being recognized as leading edge in BC. If additional South Okanagan Similkameen communities are interested, please contact Bryn White at 250-490-8225.

The *South Okanagan Similkameen Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* has many partner and associate organizations coming together to forge a landscape level conservation plan for our unique region. This photo is of one of the Strategy's Advisory Groups – from left to right: Bryn White, SOSCP Program Coordinator (BCS Chair); Ellen Simmons, En'Owkin Centre/FORREX; Charlotte Stringam, (SOSCP Chair) Osoyoos Indian Band/Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre; Carrie Terbasket, Chair South Okanagan Similkameen Syilx Environmental Committee; Gwen Bridge, Okanagan Nation Alliance; and, Susanne Theurer, Fraser Basin Council.



Special thank you (*Lim Limt*) and recognition to the **Osoyoos Indian Band, Town of Osoyoos, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen** and the **South Okanagan Naturalists Club** for their financial contributions towards the SOSCP annual operating costs so far this year. SOSCP is making progress to conserve and recover the unique natural treasures of this region. There is still much more work to do! If your organization has not made a partnership contribution to SOSCP already, please consider doing so.

**Bryn White**  
SOSCP Coordinator

## Photo Contest

---

Hello Partners and Friends,

Mark your calendars - our **Annual General Meeting** is fast approaching and will take place **November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. *Do you have a winning photograph that captures the beauty and uniqueness of the South Okanagan-Similkameen region?* If so, please submit it to us care of: [SOSCP2@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SOSCP2@gov.bc.ca) with "Photo Contest" in the subject line by November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The selected winner will receive a bottle of wine from Lake Breeze Winery (Gold Medal Winner at 2009 Okanagan Fall Wine Fest) and have their photograph grace the front cover of the SOSCP 2008-2009 Annual Report.

## Job Opportunity

---

**The Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA)** is currently looking to contract for services for a **Coordinator** to plan and manage the **2010 Meadowlark Festival**, an annual 5-day Festival of environmental education and outdoor activities, which celebrates the natural history and unique ecology of the Okanagan Similkameen. Experience planning community or educational events a must. Compensation depends on qualifications and funding. Please submit Resume and cover letter to [chair@osca.org](mailto:chair@osca.org) **Deadline October 23, 2009**.

## Funding Information

---

**Youth Eco-Internship Program (YEIP)**. **Applications accepted now until through 2010**. The YWCA Vancouver, in collaboration with the YWCA and YMCA Canada, is recruiting outstanding environmental non-profit and community groups across Canada to participate in a newly launched, stimulus package - paid youth internship program for 2, 6, or 9 months. To apply: <http://www.yeip.ca/>.

**CHANGES to Community Gaming Grant Program**. A letter has been released by the Minister of Housing and Social Development highlighting the changes to the provincial government's gaming grant program, taking effect immediately. Unfortunately, the environmental organization sector will not receive any additional funding this year. For a full summary of the allocating of the funds from the grant please read the following: <http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/gaming/news/docs/2009-08-27-letter-community-gaming-grant-changes.pdf>.

**How to Create a Local Conservation Fund in Your Region! Registration deadline is October 29<sup>th</sup>**. The East Kootenays Conservation Program (EKCP) is hosting a Panel and Workshop to help others successfully develop community based conservation funds garnered by property tax. Come and learn more about how to get this established from the first region to develop a comprehensive Canadian conservation fund. Water protection, wildlife and habitat conservation, and the conservation of open spaces are all areas that will potentially benefit from this new funding. (Space Limited) Hosted at St. Eugene Mission in Cranbrook, British Columbia 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Online registration available at [www.civicinfo.bc.ca/conference/conservationfund.asp](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/conference/conservationfund.asp).

**EcoAction Community Funding Program: Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.** The EcoAction Community Funding Program provides financial support to community groups for projects that have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. Funded projects promote the participation of local communities to address clean air, climate change, clean water, and to protect, rehabilitate or restore the natural environment. EcoAction funding priorities are flexible and reflect current government priorities. Non-profit, non-government groups and organizations including community groups, environmental groups, Aboriginal groups and First Nation Councils, service clubs, associations, and youth and senior's organizations are eligible.  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/>

**Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk. Application deadline is November 6th.** These funds play an important role in the recovery of species at risk on Aboriginal lands. The goal is to contribute to the conservation and protection of Canada's biodiversity by supporting species recovery planning, habitat protection, and overall conservation and capacity building initiatives by Aboriginal people in Canada. The key objective is to encourage meaningful involvement of Aboriginal people and communities in the implementation of the Species at Risk Act. To apply visit: <http://ec.gc.ca/pacecape/default.asp?lang=En&n=1C1BEFF3-1#hsp>.

**Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. Application Submission deadline is between September 11<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup> for the 2010/2011 funding cycle.** The Habitat Stewardship Program allocates funds to projects that conserve and protect species at risk and their habitats and help to preserve biodiversity. These funds promote participation by local communities to help with the recovery of species at risk and prevent other species from becoming a conservation concern. To apply visit: <http://www.recovery.gc.ca/HSP-PIH/index.cfm>

## News and Announcements

---

**Naramata Film Night Film Series Kick Off.** On Thursday evening, October 22, at 7 pm, Jan Vozenilek will do a presentation on the trip to Midway Atoll (in the middle of the Pacific Ocean) and the plastic pollution problems. Part of the Naramata Environmental Film Night, his presentation will be followed by the film: "Recipes for Disaster," see this link for more information.  
[http://www.mynaramata.com/show42a/Film\\_Series\\_Kick\\_Off](http://www.mynaramata.com/show42a/Film_Series_Kick_Off)

**BC Society for Ecological Restoration Conference.** This frog is jumping for joy because he's heard about the BC Society for Ecological Restoration Conference in Naramata, BC, on **November 5 - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. Participants will learn how to restore wetland and grassland habitats, and see successful restoration projects during Saturday's fieldtrips.  
**Registration is due October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009:** [www.ser.org/serbc/events.asp](http://www.ser.org/serbc/events.asp).



**Skaha Bluffs: a New Park in the South Okanagan.** Penticton's Skaha Bluffs will become the newest provincial park as soon as this fall. The provincial government introduced legislation that will lead to the establishment of a Class A park called "Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park". The park's initial size will be 176 hectares and will serve the purpose of providing recreational opportunities, as well as, protecting wildlife.

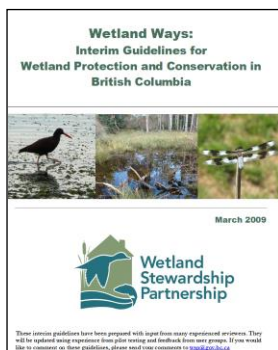
**E-Fauna BC adds Mammals to their Electronic Atlas.** An Introduction to the Mammals in British Columbia has now been posted online. Updated atlas pages for this group will be posted shortly. Come and check out the new photographs and information: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/mammals.html>

**En'owkin Centre Celebrates 30 Years of Excellence!** The Okanagan Indian Educational Resources Society (OIERS) known as the En'owkin Center, celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 02, 2009 at the En'owkin Center in Penticton. The event included an official territorial welcome by Penticton Indian Band Chief Jonathan Kruger, President of En'owkin Centre - Chief Clarence Louie, Executive Director - Jeannette C.



Armstrong, an announcement by Honourable Minister Stockwell Day, and presentations by current steering committee members, faculty, and alumni. For the last 30 years, faculty and staff of the En'owkin Centre have provided students with strong cultural and academic foundations for success. Many former En'owkin students have gone on to become national and internationally recognized writers, artists, educators and language speakers. Many students have achieved graduate degrees and provided leadership in many fields and professions. Congratulations!

**Release of Wetland Ways – Interim Guidelines for Wetland Protection and Conservation in British Columbia.** The Wetland Stewardship Partnership is delighted to announce the release this document.



To obtain a copy: [www.bcwetlands.ca](http://www.bcwetlands.ca) or, [www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/wetlandways2009/wetlandways\\_docintro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/wetlandways2009/wetlandways_docintro.html)  
Please direct any questions and comments on this interim draft to: [wsp@gov.bc.ca](mailto:wsp@gov.bc.ca)

**Wetland Assessment Tool Available.** A new way to assess the real worth of wetlands has been released by IUCN. It is now possible to measure the economic value of a wetland at the same time as assessing species that live there and the importance of a wetland for people's livelihoods. For more information: [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iwa\\_toolkit\\_lowres.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iwa_toolkit_lowres.pdf)

**Drought Proofing the Okanagan – Workshop Presentations and Report.** On July 23, 2009, the Okanagan Basin Water Board hosted the Okanagan Drought Planning Workshop in Kelowna. The purpose of the workshop was to address the following question: "If we knew with certainty that the Okanagan will face an Australian-like drought in the next five years, what management tools would we need to develop to best

handle the crisis?'. Workshop presentation and a summary report are available from:  
[http://www.obwb.ca/drought\\_planning\\_workshop\\_2009/](http://www.obwb.ca/drought_planning_workshop_2009/)

**Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> Ecological Gift Donation in BC!** Representatives from the Government of BC and local area municipalities gathered on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 to celebrate BC's 100th donation made under Canada's Ecological Gifts Program. The Program helps both large and small land-owners create and protect nature legacies and receive significant tax benefits in doing so. An "EcoGift" is a donation of land or a partial interest in land - such as a conservation easement, covenant or servitude. Each donation, no matter how small, is significant, and can be made to environmental charities approved by Environment Canada, as well as to any level of government in Canada. For the full story and more information on "EcoGift" please see:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=5ED728D9-6A2E-4226-9CC7-7EBBFD3FD9C9>.

## Partner Profile

---

### BC Lake Stewardship Society



The BCLSS promotes stewardship, understanding and comprehensive management of lakes, reservoirs and watersheds. They act as a communication and information distribution network between public lake interest groups, government and industry. Through organizing projects, educating the public, and building resources and tools BCLSS hopes to assist in the preservation of BC's water resources.

Locally, they have been working together with landowners to restore lakeshore habitat.

Contact Information: Carolyn Johns, Director  
(250) 717-1212

Website: <http://www.bclss.org/>

## Calendar of Events

---

### *October 6 - Feb 21*

**Community Sustainability Planning.** This 5-month course is designed around The Natural Step's lessons and experiences with our partner organizations in community sustainability planning. Via a mixture of online seminars, in-person workshops and applied project work, it is designed to provide community leaders, and those supporting them, with the practical knowledge, skills and tools to lead long-term, participatory planning efforts towards sustainability. The resulting plans are often referred to as "integrated community sustainability plans" (ICSP). To register please visit:  
<http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/learning-programs>.

### ***October 20-22***

**Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE). Vancouver, BC.** The Watershed Wealth Cooperative will be unveiling their social enterprise-based environmental restoration model at the 8th International Biennial conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE) being held in conjunction with the "GAINING GROUND: RESILIENT CITIES - Urban Strategies for transition times": [http://www.cansee.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=68](http://www.cansee.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=68)  
For more information please visit: [www.watershedwealth.com](http://www.watershedwealth.com).

### ***October 20-22***

**Statistics for Biologists – A Refresher Course. Revelstoke, BC.** Dr. Carl Schwarz from Simon Fraser University will review some of the basic sampling and experiment designs used by ecologists and to understand exactly what can and cannot be extracted from a set of data. With the advent of modern statistical packages, the analysis of data is fairly easy, but it is far too easy to get nonsense results. This course will also review common pitfalls in the analysis of data. The cost of the course is \$600 (plus GST). Dr. Carl Schwarz is also teaching the **Introduction to Bayesian Methods for Ecologists** from **November 3-5, 2009**. For more information or to register please visit [www.cmiae.org](http://www.cmiae.org).

### ***October 29***

**“How to Create a Local Conservation Fund in Your Region”.** The EKCP is hosting this event at the St. Eugene Mission in Cranbrook. Presenters include U.S. and BC experts in conservation finance. Conference fee, including lunch is \$100. Space is limited. To register or for more information please contact Nancy Newhouse [ekcp@cyberlink.ca](mailto:ekcp@cyberlink.ca).

### ***November 5-7***

**Society of Ecological Restoration Conference: Shared Responsibility for a Sustainable Landscape.** This conference will be of interest to ecological restoration practitioners, researchers, land managers, resource industries, consultants, community leaders, public interest groups, First Nations, parks and public works managers, farmers, ranchers, and students. For more information: [http://www.ser.org/serbc/pdf/conference\\_announcement.pdf](http://www.ser.org/serbc/pdf/conference_announcement.pdf).

### ***November 25***

**SOSCP Annual General Meeting.** Watch for more details.

### ***December 2-3***

**Sustainability for Leaders: A Transformative Approach to Sustainability Thinking, Strategy and Results. Vancouver, BC.** This 2-day intensive course will provide you with a solid grounding in a proven framework that has been used to guide sustainability change efforts around the world. Identify key messages to build buy-in for your organization by focusing on practical examples and opportunities for dialogue and hands-on application. The course includes a 1-year eLearning license and connection to

sustainability professionals across Canada using The Natural Step Framework. Courses will be offered in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal (in French) and Halifax. For more information and to register please visit:

<http://www.thenaturalstep.org/en/canada/learning-programs>.

## Public Opportunities

---

### October 20

**RDOS Area 'C' APC Meeting:** For agenda:

[http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min\\_bylaws/planning/APCAgenda/2009/October/2009\\_10\\_20\\_AreaC\\_Agenda.pdf](http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/planning/APCAgenda/2009/October/2009_10_20_AreaC_Agenda.pdf)

### October 26

**Town of Oliver Council Meeting:** At 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber at 35041 – 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oliver.

**The District of Summerland Council Meeting:** At 7:00 PM in the Centre Stage Theatre.

## Your Contribution

---

If you would like to have your conservation project listed, to submit a news item for the SOSCP Newsletter, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, we'd love to hear from you!

### SOSCP Newsletter

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program  
102 Industrial Place  
Penticton, British Columbia  
V2A 7C8

[soscp2@gov.bc.ca](mailto:soscp2@gov.bc.ca)

[www.soscp.org](http://www.soscp.org)

*This e-mail has been sent as you have requested to be kept abreast of news through the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program website. — If for any reason you wish to be removed from this mailing list please send an email to: [soscp2@gov.bc.ca](mailto:soscp2@gov.bc.ca) and your email address will be removed promptly from our mailing list. To update your email address please send your request to: [soscp2@gov.bc.ca](mailto:soscp2@gov.bc.ca).*

## Donation Information

---

**If you, or your organization, would like to support the coordinating function of the SOSCP:**



### Environmental Legacy Fund

**Bruce Johnson**

*Executive Manager*



**Bryn White**

*SOSCP Program Coordinator*

Penticton BC  
Tel: (250) 490-8225  
Email: [bryn.white@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bryn.white@gov.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.soscp.org](http://www.soscp.org)