



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

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

Newsletter

December 2009



Thank you for being a part of making our 9th Annual General Meeting a success. It was a pleasure to have the SOSCP conservation community come together to hear more about what other partners are doing for this unique landscape, share in our triumphs, honour conservation excellence and commit to new and creative ways of achieving our goals.

I hope that every one of you enjoy the holidays and time with your loved ones.

Bryn White
SOSCP Program Manager
Photo Contest Winner

The winner of our Annual Report front cover photo contest is Debbie Clarke. Please take a look at our Annual Report on our website at www.soscp.org. A special mention also to Judy Millar whose photos were used throughout the report and our new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Poster. Both were the lucky recipients of a bottle of wine from Tinhorn Creek – a TLC Conservation Partner.

Employment Opportunity

Executive Director

The Grasslands Conservation Council of BC is looking for a dynamic leader with the right combination of vision, knowledge, and vitality to guide the GCC through the next decade of development and growth. The position is located in Kamloops and commences February 2010 (or as soon as possible).

Email your resume and cover letter by 4:30pm, December 30, 2009 to:
melissa.ligertwood@bcgrasslands.org

A detailed job description and skills required can be found at:
<http://www.bcgrasslands.org/>

Funding Information

James L. Baillie Memorial Fund - Regular Grants. Application Deadline is December 15, 2009. The Regular Grant program is intended to provide grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to non-profit organizations for projects that promote the overall goals and objectives of the Baillie Fund. Baillie Fund Regular Grants may contribute up to 50% of the total value of a project. The value of a Regular Grant must be at least matched by cash or in-kind contributions.

A minimum of \$15,000 per year is available annually under the Regular Grants program. The deadline for receipt of Regular Grant applications is **15 December**. Grant decisions are announced by April. Applications must follow the prescribed format:

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/about/jlbmf/index.jsp?lang=EN&targetpg=regulargrants>.

Eligible Regular Grant proposals are evaluated by the Baillie Fund Trustees based on the following criteria: quality of the project, quality of the application, is the project volunteer-based? How many volunteers are involved?, qualifications of the project proponents to undertake the project, and other considerations (including amount of matching funds, realistic budget).

The Walmart – Evergreen Green Grants Program. Application deadline by January 29, 2010. This is a Canadian community greening program sponsored by Walmart Canada and led by Evergreen. It will provide funds of up to \$10,000 to community groups working on naturalization projects focused on the restoration and stewardship of urban habitats such as woodlands, meadows, wetlands and ravines through the use of native plants. This grant also supports community gardening projects that involve native plants and food gardening.

For full information on eligibility and how to apply, please download a program guide and application form from the <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/cg/cg-funding.html> page on our Website. Check this site often for announcements and information on other funding opportunities. For any questions please contact Alix Ayles the Grant Program Administrator at the following email: aaylen@evergreen.ca.

News

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Annual Report Available.

The 9th Annual Report is now available online: http://shim.bc.ca/soscp/reports/2008-09_ANNUAL_REPORT.pdf.

Five Businesses with a Conservation Land Ethic Recognized. This year, the SOSCP recognized a number of individuals from one sector of the business community that are doing special things for the land. The South Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Program of *TLC* The Land Conservancy recognizes private landowners that are making efforts to be responsible stewards of their land. Stewardship is the voluntary conservation of biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat.

Landowners that sign up as Wildlife Habitat Stewards have wildlife habitat on their property that is either being restored, or is already a healthy natural area. The following landowners are actively involved with TLC's South Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Program: O'Reilly's Organic Farm Bed and Breakfast, Bighorn Ridge Guest House, God's Mountain Estate, and Kambo Farm/Ciliegia Villa. For more information on these businesses please see our Annual General Report: http://shim.bc.ca/soscp/reports/2008-09_ANNUAL_REPORT.pdf.

Barry Janyk's Keynote Address an Inspiration! The Mayor of the Town of Gibsons shared his town's success in receiving the UN LivCom Award for Most Livable Community in the World (under 20,000 people) and the Award for Planning. Janyk most appreciates the planning award as it recognizes their tough and progressive policies as "setting the bar" and commented that their job now is to live up to those expectations and continue to improve. For more information on the mayor and to see what the Town of Gibsons is doing please visit their website: <http://www.gibsons.ca/>.

Doreen Olson Recognized for Contribution to Conservation. After a 30 year career with Air Canada, Doreen chose to come to the South Okanagan. Her leadership and entrepreneurial skills and love of the natural world have shaped her "retirement". Doreen operated a Bed and Breakfast for bird watchers, gaining accolades from clients and attention from the prestigious Small Planet Guide. She is a respected 15-year member of the South Okanagan Naturalist Club, assisting with many club activities and fundraising events as well as participating in Christmas Bird Counts. Doreen was one of the founding members of the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) and volunteered as Meadowlark Festival Coordinator during its formative years. In 2002 Doreen was honoured with The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for her significant contribution to Canada, her community and fellow Canadians through volunteer work for the natural environment. Doreen continues to be an active citizen, organizing events, meetings and other activities related to environmental issues and SOSCP recognized at the AGM, her contribution in raising awareness and understanding of our natural treasures.

Sustainable Similkameen Project. The Sustainable Similkameen Project aims to encourage working together for the overall benefit of the valley while at the same time celebrating the diversity of the valley. Its mission is to establish a socio-cultural, economic and environmental sustainability strategy for the Similkameen Valley that will maintain and enhance the quality of the rural and small town lifestyle. This project began in September 2009 and will run until March 2010. Spearheaded by the Similkameen Valley Planning Society, it offers residents from Princeton to Chopaka an opportunity to join together and plan for a Sustainable Similkameen Valley. There are seventeen panel members for the Sustainable Similkameen Project that range in age from high school students to seniors and represent a cross-section of the whole valley. For more information on this great initiative please visit the following website: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=659>.

New Manager of Planning for the City of Penticton. Welcome to the new Manager of Planning, Anthony Haddad.

Winter Solstice Soiree

Please join the friends of OSCA & Meadowlark Festival to celebrate the season at Leir House on 220 Manor Park Avenue in Penticton. The event takes place on Sunday December 20, 2009 from 2:30 - 6:00 pm. Come meet the new Meadowlark Coordinator Anita Dunford and enjoy music by guest harpist Ingrid Schellenberg. The event features a cash wine bar, appetizers, a silent auction with proceeds to OSCA Programs, and art and craft stalls for last minute shopping. Please RSVP by email: vicechair@osca.org

Dan Ashton Re-elected for the 10th Year as RDOS Chairman. Dan Ashton will enter his 10th year as the chairman of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. Tom Chapman a Naramata Director was chosen as vice-chairman.

Partner Profile



Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen

Regional Districts are most noted for providing general government administration, electoral area planning and solid waste management planning. The Regional District Okanagan Similkameen is also responsible for voluntary services including water and waste water utilities, regional parks, solid waste services, protective services and noise control. The RDOS has a full time Environmental Planner who liaises with public, landowners and the development community. A recent important undertaking has been the development of a Regional Growth Strategy, a long-term planning project that deals with growth management issues over a 20-year period for the South Okanagan area. The RGS is a collaborative process that includes ongoing consultation with the public, First Nations, local, regional, provincial, and federal governments.

Website: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/>

Contact Information: Dan Ashton, RDOS Chair

Calendar of Events and Workshops

December 20

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January 13-15

Workshop on Wetlands Management, Economics and Policy. The University of Victoria in conjunction with the University of Alberta and Ducks Unlimited Canada will host this workshop at the Hotel Grand Pacific in beautiful **Victoria, BC**. As wetland policy discussions and changes are ongoing across Canada, the U.S. and elsewhere, the timing of such a workshop is ripe for advancing the state of knowledge about the benefits of wetlands and fuelling policy discussions. For more information or to register please visit: <http://web.uvic.ca/~wetlands/>.

January 19

Stewardship Landowner Contact Workshop. Join TLC's South Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Program staff for a full day workshop (from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm) on how to conduct landowner contact (LOC). LOC is a stewardship method used to raise awareness about ecological and conservation values and to build relationships and partnerships with private landowners. At the same time, LOC increases the conservation community's awareness and understanding of barriers to sustainable management practices. The workshop is being offered in Penticton with the location to be announced. **Register to askinner@conservancy.bc.ca before January 8, 2010 as there are limited seats.** The workshop cost is free except for cost of the book "Landowner Contact Guide for British Columbia", a Stewardship Series Publication (72pgs). Participants can also download and print the PDF version at http://www.stewardshipcentre.bc.ca/cdirs/st_series/index.php/6 or purchase it online.

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

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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 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.

Donation Information

If you, or your organization, would like to support the coordinating function of the SOSCP, please contact one of the following



Environmental Legacy Fund

P.O. Box 24081
Penticton, BC, V2A 8L9

Tel: (250) 493-9311
Email: info@cfso.net

Website: www.cfso.net



Bryn White

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