

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



STEWARDSHIP CENTRE  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



# Annual Message



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC) Board of Directors and Executive Director, we are pleased to present the Annual Report, which reflects our ongoing commitment to stewardship and the progress achieved between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. This report summarizes our long-term vision and key project milestones and highlights the Stewardship Centre's partnerships and collaborative work.

In 2023-2024, the SCBC team and its partners have continued to implement innovative solutions to address key challenges in land use management, protect vulnerable species and their required habitats and launch a new project to increase equitable access to greenspace and biodiversity. Notably, this year was exciting for Green Shores, with four demonstration projects advancing through conceptual designs and one project beginning the design journey using the Green Shores for Shoreline Development Credits and Ratings design standard. Green Shores for Homes also increased visibility and engagement this year with the fiscal incentives project and a new site assessment tool. This year, SCBC staff and contractors were kept busy with an expanded roster of 11 projects in SCBC program areas of Green Shores, Species at Risk, and Strengthening Stewardship.

These accomplishments were made possible through the in-kind contributions of technical experts who volunteer on SCBC committees and contributions from the organizations with which we have the pleasure of collaborating. We are inspired by our amazing community of stewardship supporters and extend our gratitude to everyone who makes this work possible. While perusing the following pages, reflect on SCBC's accomplishments this past year—we couldn't have done it without you!

**Suzanne Earle**

*Chair, SCBC Board of Directors*

**DG Blair**

*Acting Executive Director, SCBC*



# Overview

## Our Mission

To strengthen ecological stewardship in BC by providing educational, technical and capacity-building programs and resources to organizations, governments, the private sector and the general public through collaborative partnerships.

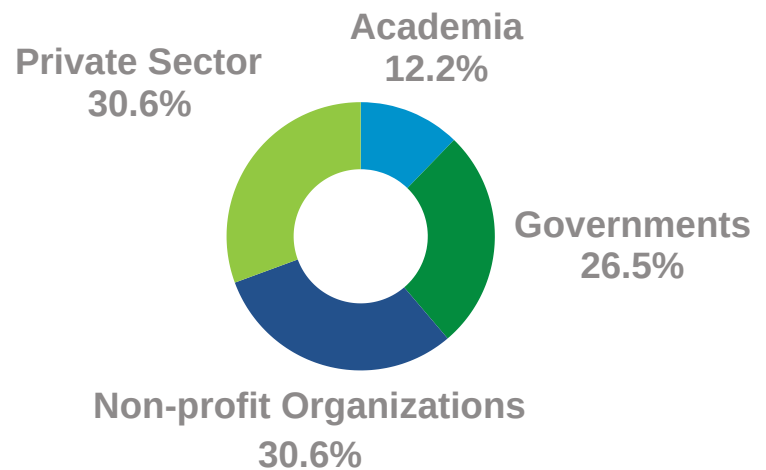
## Our Principles

- Information is credible, knowledge-based, accessible and responsive to the needs of stewards in BC.
- Programs are partner-based, inclusive and non-partisan.
- Initiatives respect the interests and rights of all participants.
- Operations are conducted in an effective, efficient and accountable manner.

## Our Programs

- Green Shores
- Wildlife and Species at Risk
  - Cats and Birds
- Strengthening Stewardship
  - Greenspace for All

## Our Network



## Our Community

By providing low-or-no-cost access to evidence-based resources, online engagement, training, and participation at outreach events, SCBC helps individuals, businesses, organizations, and local governments build capacity and make informed stewardship decisions.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we engaged with over **13,000** people through webinars, presentations, seminars, and community events. This has contributed to growth in the number of stewards who support our work and who use our resources to make positive changes in communities, benefiting the environment, wildlife, and natural ecosystems across British Columbia.



# Partner Spotlight

The Stewardship Centre for BC works collaboratively with partners in almost every aspect of its operations. For example, SCBC relies on its Technical Advisory Committees for current data and expert guidance across a wide variety of disciplines to develop science-based best practices for effective stewardship. It relies on partner organizations to help craft communications and deliver programs promoting policies and practices for the conservation or restoration of vulnerable wildlife populations and ecosystems. We are pleased to introduce two esteemed partners who have contributed enormously to SCBC's programs and projects over the past year.

## **Danika van Proosdij**, PhD, FrSC, FRCGS

Director, TransCoastal Adaptations Centre for Nature-based Solutions  
Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies,  
Saint Mary's University

Danika has been instrumental in adapting SCBC's Green Shores program for Atlantic shorelines, and communicating Green Shores principles and approaches in forums across Canada.

— “ —————

*“My involvement with SCBC has benefitted maritime communities through introduction of the Green Shores Credits and Rating system, which is a defensible, standardized, and consistent approach to nature-based solutions for shorelines coast-to-coast. Working with SCBC, co-developing materials, and sharing knowledge has helped us gain momentum on the East Coast.”*

————— ” —



Danika van Proosdij



Danika enjoys working collaboratively with local governments and stewardship organizations throughout Canada. Her partnership with SCBC has made her feel more connected to the West Coast, and has allowed her to build a greater network of people who are similarly dedicated to advancing stewardship policies and practices in their regions.

## Andrew Huang

Coordinator, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture,  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

As a long time member of SCBC's Conservation and Stewardship Practices Committee, Andrew has played a critical role in shaping stewardship projects, such as Greenspace for All, Green Shores, and Cats and Birds. He is excited about the opportunity to explore new stewardship paradigms, particularly through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and to promote equitable access to the benefits of nature for all communities.

Andrew contributes to SCBC's collaborative workstyle by identifying synergies between the goals of funders, like ECCC, and the knowledge, skills, and capacity of organizations, like SCBC, providing inspiration and guidance for successful stewardship partnerships.



Andrew Huang

“  
*Talking about diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and how we can better incorporate these into SCBC's work, we came up with an idea to see which neighbourhoods have a lot of people in marginalized groups, whether BIPOC, low income, or living with language barriers, and calculate the distance from their neighbourhood to the nearest green space or conserved area. With this information, SCBC is working to improve access to these areas.*  
”



# Green Shores



## Green Shores Local Government Group

Members of the Green Shores Local Government Group (LGG) continue collaborating to integrate Green Shores into policy and practice, engage communities in Green Shores events and workshops, and participate in projects, like the Conservation Fiscal Incentives Program.

### The GS LGG membership as of March 31, 2024, includes:

- Bowen Island Municipality
- Capital Regional District
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- District of North Vancouver
- Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Town of Qualicum Beach
- qathet Regional District
- Washington Sea Grant



Green Shores LGG conducting a GSH case study tour at Prospect Lake in Saanich, BC.

BC Local Government Group members shared their experiences and lessons learned through 10 virtual meetings, participated in Green Shores for Homes site visits, heard from technical specialists, coordinated the delivery of Green Shores training and community education, and supported policy and bylaw updates.

New opportunities for peer learning and collaboration are presented by periodic joint Local Government Group meetings that include members from British Columbia and Nova Scotia, and educational webinars that feature practical guidance for projects coast-to-coast.



# Green Shores Training

Between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, SCBC hosted **10 Green Shores training workshops** across the east coast of Vancouver Island, and one training workshop on the Lower Mainland.

## Communities served include:

- GS L1 April 2023 Lantsville
- GS L2 April 2023 Victoria
- GS L2 May/June 2023 Courtenay
- GS L1 June 2023 Victoria
- GS L1 July 2023 Parksville
- GS L1 August 2023 Savary Island
- GS L2 November 2023 Qualicum Beach
- GS L1 January 2024 Cultus Lake
- GS L1 January 2024 Victoria
- GS L2 March 2024 Victoria
- GS L1 March 2024 Comox Valley

**11** Training workshops **200** Individuals Trained



GSL2 Classroom Exercise, Qualicum Beach



GSL2 Field Exercise, Qualicum Beach

# Conservation Fiscal Incentives Project

The **Conservation Fiscal Incentives Pilot Project (CFIP)** is designed to encourage homeowners to apply Green Shores nature-based techniques on their marine or lakefront properties. The pilot will feature two separate financial incentives: a **rebate**, which provides reimbursement upon full Green Shores for Homes certification, and **cost-share funding**, to be provided in installments upon the completion of project milestones. It also includes a site assessment tool and landowner agreement.

Piloting two incentives will help SCBC determine which program works best for the Green Shores for Homes program and its participants.

## Milestones Achieved This Year:

- Implemented the **Communications Plan**.
- Developed the **Green Shores Case Study Report** detailing opportunities, barriers, and best practices for designing and implementing a Green Shores financial incentive program.
- Designed the **Green Shores Incentives Pilot Program**, which includes two distinct financial incentives, a site assessment tool, and a landowner agreement.



## Resilient Coasts for Salmon

Resilient Coasts for Salmon (RC4S), a joint project of SCBC and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), completed its third year making significant strides toward meeting its five-year objectives. **Eight households** received shoreline assessments; **69 people received training** through **six workshops**; and **4,414 people** were introduced to Green Shores nature-based approaches through **10 community events**. SCBC also created several educational resources, including news articles, training materials, and toolkits for distribution online and in print.



## RC4S Green Shores Demonstration Projects

SCBC continues work on three RC4S Green Shores Demonstration projects which showcase nature-based approaches to shoreline rehabilitation.

The **Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach**, once inhospitable and polluted, is now a beautiful community space in the heart of Victoria that supports the health of Pacific salmon by enhancing forage fish habitat and water purity while providing social, recreational, cultural and resiliency benefits to all who visit or live nearby.

This year, the beach was expanded by extending into the backshore and adding more sand-gravel beach nourishment. Native plants were established in the riparian zone, enhancing habitat, and a path was created to provide access to the beach from the Songhees walkway.

The pocket beach restoration is essentially complete. Further work will be done monitoring the restored beach, backshore, and riparian areas and replanting or renourishing where needed.

The **Esquimalt Gorge Park** project is an important step forward in the ongoing effort to restore and protect the Gorge Waterway. It will help reclaim the site's ecological and cultural values, including restoring vital nutrient and sedimentary processes supporting all salmon species in this area.



This year, the project design was finalized, including hard armouring removal and regrading the shoreline with sand, gravel, and organic materials to restore a more natural profile. Native plantings will be introduced to stabilize the riparian and backshore zones, enhance the existing salt marsh habitat, and provide food and breeding grounds important to fish, shorebirds, and other wildlife. A planned gravel walking path will allow visitors to view the restored riparian and shoreline areas. A “mobi-mat” on the recreational beach will enhance access to the shoreline.

The **Dyke Road Park** project in the Comox Valley will restore 0.6 hectares of shoreline within the K'ómoks Estuary, a Federally recognized Important Bird Area. A conceptual design completed this year includes removing hard armour and concrete structures, reducing impermeable surfaces, installing a “rain garden,” stabilizing the shoreline with native vegetation, restoring habitats, removing invasive species, and creating a new salt marsh estuary inlet.

# Cultus Lake Park Green Shores Demonstration Project

This three-year British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) project will restore a small section of Cultus Lake shoreline near the outlet to Sweltzer Creek, an important fresh-water rearing area for endangered Cultus Lake sockeye salmon. The project aims to promote healthy Cultus Lake sockeye salmon habitat and populations by restoring riparian and aquatic ecosystem health, water quality, and natural shoreline processes, mitigating erosion, and increasing the lake's resilience to climate change.

## Year 1 - Key Accomplishments:

- Assembled a Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC).
- Selected the project site.
- Collected baseline ecological data.
- Facilitated a GS design workshop and creation of a conceptual GS design.
- Delivered Green Shores Level 1 training.
- Engaged the community through outreach and educational resources.



# Colquitz Park Green Shores Demonstration Project

In partnership with the District of Saanich, this project will address a small portion of the Colquitz river estuary's bank and continue important restoration work conducted along approximately 200 metres of the Colquitz Estuary. The project seeks to create an attractive site that contributes to the estuary's ecological health while enhancing the community's resilience to the effects of climate change, including erosion and flooding.

This year, SCBC facilitated a design workshop attended by Saanich staff and Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations representatives, which resulted in the creation of a conceptual Green Shores project design. SCBC also created and distributed educational materials about Green Shores nature-based solutions for shorelines.



# Gartley Beach Green Shores Restoration Project

In support of Project Watershed's three-year "Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project," SCBC created educational content and communications materials, including the Green Shores Shoreline Spotlight newsletter, delivered digitally and by post to coastal communities on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

SCBC assisted with Green Shores for Homes project planning for Gartley Beach, and participated in community outreach at the Comox Valley Farmers' Market to discuss climate adaptation, property protection, and ecological values of Green Shores, and coastal restoration with local residents.



## SHORELINE SPOTLIGHT

Our quarterly newsletter shares practical information, news, and resources about nature-based solutions for shoreline resilience. Click on the link to read and subscribe.



# Green Shores for Homes Atlantic

SCBC and TransCoastal Adaptations continue collaborating to promote the Green Shores program from “one sea to another.” By engaging in community outreach, providing free Green Shores training and shoreline assessments, and developing targeted educational materials, this initiative is assisting six coastal communities of British Columbia and Nova Scotia to establish a Nova Scotia Local Government Group, restore sensitive shoreline ecosystems and enhance their resiliency to the effects of climate change.

## Year 1 - Key Accomplishments:

- Established a network of coastal community decision-makers, holding 20 Local Government Group meetings and events in BC and NS.
- Developed and executed a comprehensive communications plan, including social media, educational and promotional print and digital resources.
- Delivered Green Shores Level 1 and 2 training to target communities.
- Engaged community members coast-to-coast through outreach and educational resources, including two webinars.
- Developed and distributed materials to raise awareness of nature-based solutions.





# Wildlife and Species at Risk

## Cats and Birds

The efforts of our Cats and Birds team continue to enhance public awareness about cat welfare and the impact outdoor cats have on wildlife, natural ecosystems, and local communities.

**16** Outreach events  
**8,016** Individuals engaged

**81** Vet students trained  
**17** Vet practices engaged

The Cats and Birds team worked with veterinarians, vet techs, and university professors, delivering comprehensive presentations that emphasized the important role of vet staff in promoting best practices for cat and wildlife welfare.

## Green Bylaws Toolkit

In the second year of this two year project, outreach, education, and training were provided to 270 "Green Bylaws in Action" webinar attendees, preparing them to champion strategies and policies that protect and restore green infrastructure, enhance ecosystem health and biodiversity, and increase resiliency to the effects of Climate Change. **2,922 local government staff, officials, and NGO representatives** learned about the Green Bylaws Toolkit (GBT) and how to use it through social media posts, GBT web pages, news posts, and engagement at professional events.



# Strengthening Stewardship

## Greenspace for All

Providing greenspace in urban and periurban areas boosts ecosystem resilience and the overall well-being of community members. SCBC will work with partners in environmental stewardship, social justice, community health, and other sectors to promote equitable access to greenspace and the ecosystem services that they provide, such as temperature regulation, flood mitigation, air purification, natural beauty, and recreation, for diverse communities of Vancouver Island.



SCBC conducted data analysis to identify underserved neighbourhoods of the Capital Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, Comox Valley Regional District and participated in creating a report that identifies gaps in strategic plans, policy and actions, and a lack of outreach and education for equitable greenspace access and climate adaptation strategies in these regions.

Eager to establish a Project Advisory Committee, SCBC met with 26 potential partner organizations, many of which will join the PAC.

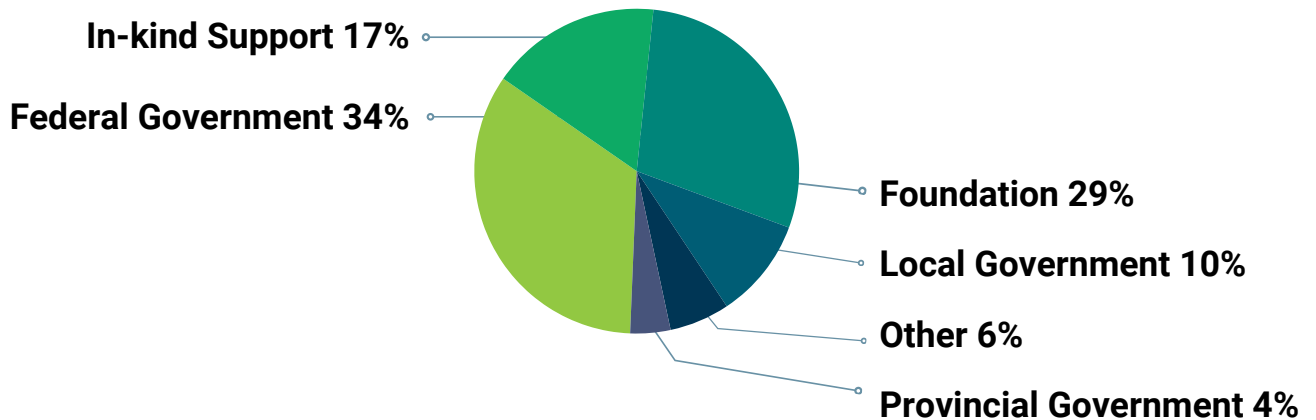
SCBC is raising awareness of this project and the importance of access to greenspace through publication of a project webpage, outreach at community events, social media, and print resources.



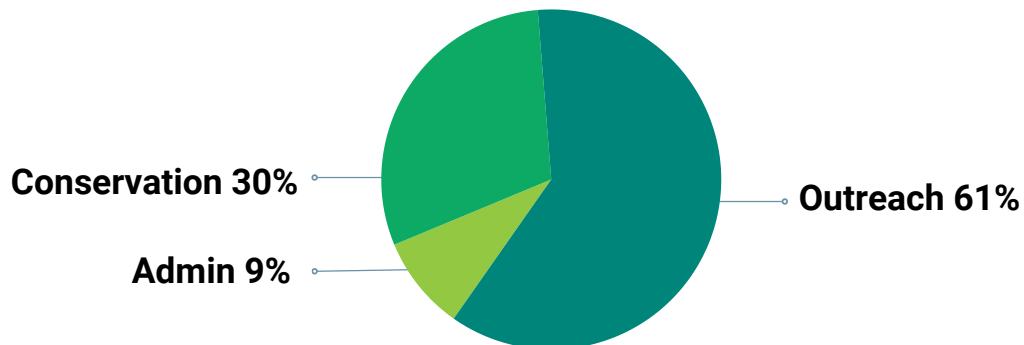


# Financial Summary

**Revenue \$923,178**



**Expenses \$924,393**



# Funders

Thank you to all of our funders, in-kind partners, and contracts for supporting our programming in 2023 and 2024.



## In-kind Partners

Aline Camargo / Brian Emmett / Baker Creek Enhancement Society / BC Community Bat Program / BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change / BC Ministry of Land, Water Resource Stewardship / BC SPCA / BC SPCA South Okanagan/Similkameen Branch / Birds Canada / Blue Coast Engineering / Bowen Island Municipality / British Columbia Institute of Technology / Capital Regional District / CBCL Inc. / CBWes Inc. / City of Seattle / Clean Foundation / ClimAtlantic / Coastal Action / Coastal & Ocean Resources / Comox Valley Regional District / Cowichan Valley Regional District / Dalhousie University / DHI / District of North Vancouver / District of Saanich / Ebbwater Consulting / Ecology Action Centre / Environment and Climate Change Canada / Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Gretchen Harlow / Halifax Regional Municipality / Harriet Rueggeberg / Helping Nature Heal / Intact Centre University of Waterloo / Joan Chess / John Readshaw / Lees + Associates / Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute / Municipality of the District of Lunenburg / Municipality of Pictou County / Nature Canada / Nature Vancouver / Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc. / Okanagan Humane Society / Ostrom Climate Solutions Inc. / Peninsula Stream and Shoreline Society / Port of Vancouver / Project Watershed / Province of Nova Scotia / qathet Regional District / Regional Animal Protection Society / Regional District of Nanaimo / Riipen / Saint Mary's University / Sean Sharpe Consulting / Shore Friendly WA / Sunshine Coast Regional District / The Watershed Company / Town of Qualicum Beach / TransCoastal Adaptations Centre for Nature-Based Solutions / University of British Columbia / University of Northern British Columbia / University of Prince Edward Island / University of Victoria / Washington Sea Grant / West Hants Regional Municipality



# Thank you for your ongoing support of our work and the work of stewardship organizations across BC and beyond!

Questions or comments about this report? Want to touch base about partnerships or becoming a part of our community?

Connect with us through our email, website, or social media.

[stewardshipcentrebc.ca](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca)  
[info@stewardshipcentre.bc.ca](mailto:info@stewardshipcentre.bc.ca)



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FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA