

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023



**STEWARDSHIP CENTRE**  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Annual Message



Dear Members,

As the new Executive Director of the Stewardship Centre for BC, I am pleased to provide this annual report on behalf of our incredible team of stewardship champions.

During my time as co-chair of SCBC's Board of Directors, I closely followed SCBC's programs and initiatives and admired DG Blair's steady leadership. However, it wasn't until accepting the role of Executive Director that the depth and breadth of SCBC's projects became fully apparent to me. During DG Blair's tenure as the Executive Director of SCBC from 2010 – 2023, she strengthened stewardship in BC by marshalling the resources to produce and share science-based information, tools, and resources, working collaboratively to raise awareness, build capacity and encourage positive action.

During the 2023 fiscal year, under DG's leadership and with support from the Board of Directors, our funders, and partners, SCBC responded to opportunities and challenges, coordinating, facilitating, and executing SCBC's programs and initiatives with enthusiasm and professional care. Significant progress was made on projects across Canada, including completion of the Green Shores Expedited Permit Guide for BC, the Shoreline Projects Checklist, and valuable updates to the Green Shores for Homes Credits and Ratings Guide, making it an indispensable resource for waterfront homeowners and shoreline practitioners from coast to coast.

We are grateful for the collaboration and support of our partners, members, and funders and look forward to building upon the wonderful work completed here this year.

**Christine Callihoo**

*Executive Director*

# 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.

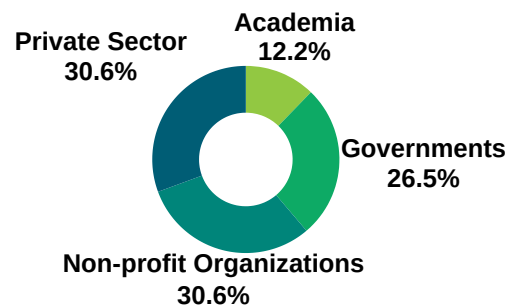
## Our Principles

- 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

## Our Network



## Our Community

We value connecting with the SCBC community of members. 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 2022-2023 fiscal year, we engaged with over 9,000 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 BC.

# Green Shores



## Green Shores Local Government Working Group

Members of the Green Shores Local Government Working Group (LGWG) continue working together to integrate Green Shores into policy and practice and engage communities in Green Shores events and workshops. The Green Shores Program continues to benefit from the GS LGWG's ongoing (and contagious!) enthusiasm, commitment, and knowledge sharing.

LGWG membership as of March 31, 2023, includes:

- Capital Regional District
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Town of Qualicum Beach
- Comox Valley Regional District
- qathet Regional District
- District of North Vancouver
- Bowen Island Municipality

Additional local and regional governments have expressed interest in joining the LGWG, and we anticipate adding new members in the coming year.

During their online meetings, working group members shared experiences and lessons learned, heard from technical specialists, coordinated the delivery of Green Shores training and community education, and supported policy and bylaw updates.

The LGWG held their first post-pandemic in-person meeting on September 22nd in Qualicum Beach.

Presentations focused on managed retreat, the BC Marine and Coastal Protection Strategy, and Washington's Shore Friendly program. Working group members also had the opportunity to see Green Shores in action by visiting local demonstration sites.

Proposals for Green Shores demonstration projects in the District of Saanich and the Township of Esquimalt were successful. Approval is pending for the Comox Valley Regional District's proposal to expand the scope of the Dyke Road Park project and the Green Shores Demonstration project proposal in Qualicum Beach.

# Training

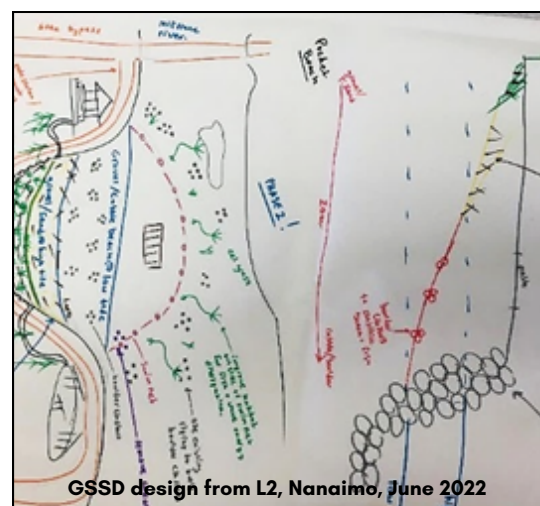
Between April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, SCBC hosted **14 Green Shores Level 1 and Level 2 training workshops**. **Additionally**, the first East Coast Level 2 was hosted in Halifax by our partners, TransCoastal Adaptations and Saint Mary's University.

**14** Training workshops  
**250+** Individuals trained

This fiscal, SCBC observed a marked increase in interest, including from shoreline professionals, who aim to become Green Shores Approved Professionals. Upcoming training workshops in Victoria and Lantzville have participant waiting lists.

## Green Shores Level 1 and Level 2 training workshops hosted by SCBC during this fiscal include:

- GS L1 (April 6) Victoria (RC4S)
- GS L1 (May 10) Qualicum Beach
- GS L2 (May 12-13) Victoria (RC4S)
- GS L1 (May 17) Van/Nanaimo (DFO staff)
- GS L1 (May 20) Comox Valley RD
- GS L1 (May 31) Esquimalt (RC4S)
- GS L2 (June 14-15) Nanaimo (DFO staff)
- GS L1 (Sept 17) Invermere
- GS L1 (Sept 20) Victoria
- GS L1 (Nov 8) Cowichan Bay
- GS L1 (Nov 29) Courtenay
- GS L1 (Feb 8) Nanaimo
- GS L2 (March 8-9) Nanaimo
- GS L1 (March 10) Victoria



# Policy Update

Over the past year, SCBC has worked with the Green Shores Technical Advisory Committee and the BC Land Tenure Branch to finalize an **Expedited Permit Guide** and a **Nature-based Shoreline Projects Checklist**.

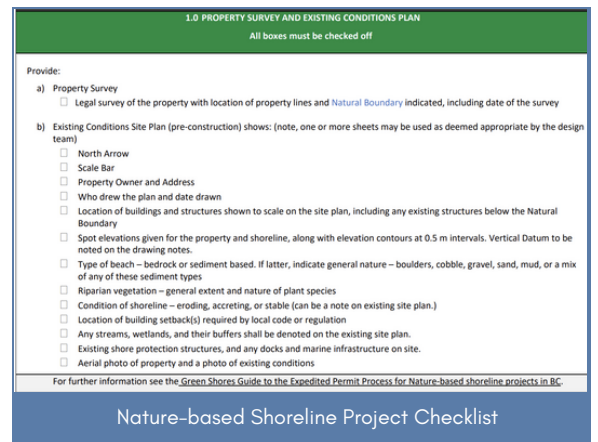
Based on the Green Shores principles, these resources encourage waterfront property owners to implement nature-based erosion protection and restoration. Two projects have used the checklist so far, with positive feedback received.



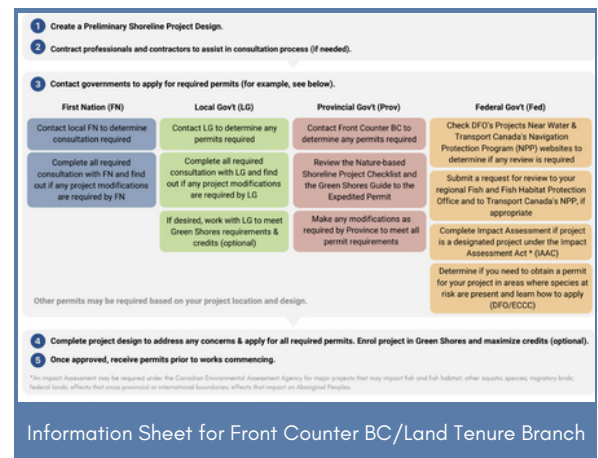
SCBC also designed an **information sheet for Front Counter BC and Land Tenure Branch staff** to point project proponents to the checklist. A new handout that describes the checklist and shoreline project permitting was also created for Green Shores Level 1 training workshop participants.



Expedited Permit Guide – West Coast Pilot



Nature-based Shoreline Project Checklist



Information Sheet for Front Counter BC/Land Tenure Branch

# Green Shores for Homes Atlantic

SCBC and TransCoastal Adaptations launched the **2023 Green Shores for Homes Credits and Ratings Guide**. The guide, weighing in at 176 pages, includes updated credits such as “Credit 1.5: Nature-based erosion and flood management” and a new credit for species at risk and migratory birds, “Credit 2.1: Enhanced Critical, Sensitive, or Migratory Bird Habitat Stewardship.”

The accompanying **2023 Green Shores for Homes Monitoring Guide** was also released, enabling data collection on the impact of Green Shores on residential properties. SCBC and TransCoastal Adaptations Centre (TCA) at Saint Mary’s University held a “launch event” on March 15, 2023, for about 70 participants nationwide. Both documents were translated into French.

The joint proposal between SCBC and TCA, called **From One Sea to Another: Building Community Coastal Resilience in British Columbia and Nova Scotia**, was approved by CEC’s Environmental Justice for Climate program. Funding will go towards the establishment of a joint network of BC and NS Local Government Working Groups and the delivery of Green Shores training in both provinces.

## New Resources



**Green Shores for Homes Guide Update 2023**



**Green Shores for Homes Monitoring Guide**



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FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

**TransCoastal**  
Adaptations  
Centre for Nature-Based Solutions



# Green Shores for Homes Incentives Study

Residential property owners in two pilot communities (Comox Valley Regional District and Town of Qualicum Beach) received neighbourhood-scale design reports, shoreline assessments, and Green Shores certification. Nineteen properties were assessed, enrolled in, or completed the Green Shores for Homes certification throughout the project. The study also supported developing and implementing the new expedited permit pilot program for nature-based shoreline projects. Ultimately, the project showed that using incentives, policies, and education leads to increased climate adaptation activities, which mitigates the risk and financial impacts of climate change.

The final report was submitted to the BC Real Estate Foundation and received glowing feedback.

Building upon the Green Shores for Homes Incentives Study, SCBC is participating in the Conservation Fiscal Incentives Program (CFIP) project to explore and develop a feasible private land stewardship incentive program for the protection/conservation of biodiversity, including species and ecosystems at risk and old growth forests in BC. This project continues from 2022 to 2024, with the current work illustrating some exciting potential options for using incentives (including by way of policies and education) to support conservation in BC.

“  
*Your work to convene an impressive array of key stakeholders, advance crucial bylaws, engage technical experts, share learning, deliver meaningful pilots, and pivot with all of the challenges (COVID included) is remarkable.*



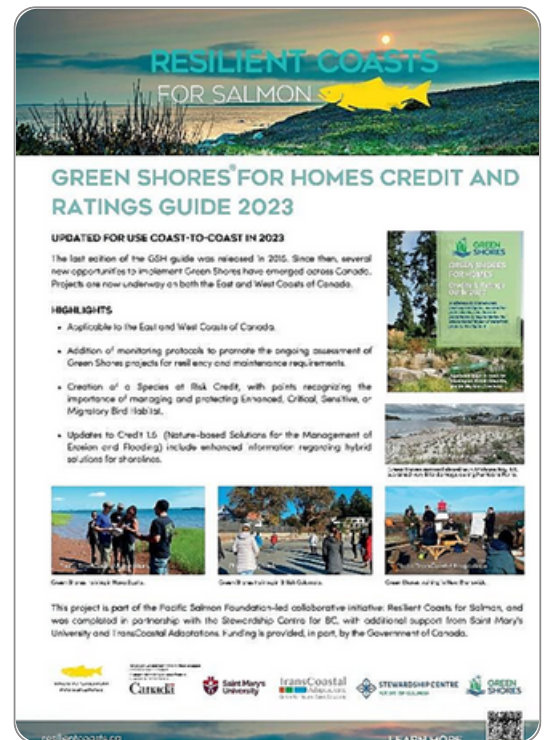
# Resilient Coasts for Salmon (RC4S)

SCBC's collaborative project with the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), "Resilient Coasts for Salmon: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change" (RC4S), completed its second year, and what a year it has been!

Three Green Shores for Shoreline Development Demonstration Projects are underway, including 1) Esquimalt Gorge Park, 2) Dyke Road Park, and 3) the Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach, which is nearing completion.

These projects delivered Green Shores Level 1 and 2 training workshops to municipal staff. Five Green Shores for Homes shoreline assessments were conducted on the east coast of Vancouver Island, including Saanich and Pender Island.

Several events, educational resources, and communications materials related to shoreline resilience, habitat restoration, and nature-based solutions were developed to support these projects.



## Education and Outreach Events

Green Shores nature-based approaches to shoreline rehabilitation were promoted at 10 unique events and garnered significant interest.

# GREEN SHORES PROPOSALS

Notable proposals submitted and approved during the 2022/2023 fiscal year include SCBC's first Green Shores for Shoreline Development (GSSD) lakeshore demonstration site at Cultus Lake Park and expansion of the Green Shores for Homes Atlantic pilot project in Nova Scotia.

## APPROVED PROPOSALS

Nine Green Shores projects were proposed during the 2022/2023 fiscal year which were approved for 2023/2024, including two new Green Shores demonstration sites.

- Green Shores training (CRD) for one L1 and one L2 (~10K )
- Pacific Salmon Foundation Resilient Coasts for Salmon (RC4S) Year 3 for similar deliverables as Year 2 (~116K )
- Green Shores Local Govt Working Group for seven member communities (~31K)
- Township of Esquimalt - Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores Demonstration project communications, outreach and project technical support (~32K)
- District of Saanich - Colquitz Park Green Shores Demonstration project communications, outreach and project technical support (~25K)
- Environmental Justice for Climate Grant (EJ4C) – for From One Sea to Another for the creation of a Nova Scotia - BC local government working group network and Green Shores training delivery in BC and NS (~100K for SCBC and TransCoastal Adaptations (TCA)
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (AERF) with Project Watershed (lead) for technical assistance on the Dyke Road Park Green Shores demonstration project outreach, community engagement, and Green Shores training - a three year neighbourhood scale Green Shores demonstration project (~ 15K per year)
- Green Shores for Homes (GSH) – Atlantic pilot for working with NS partners (TCA) to plan and pilot GSH in SW Nova Scotia (~35K). Year 1 of a 3-year project. The project scales up in years 2 and 3.
- Province of BC for Green Shores Financial Incentives project that develops a plan and offers financial incentives to GSH homeowners. Year 1 of a 5-year project (~20k/year)

# Wildlife and Species at Risk

## Cats and Birds

### ABOUT

The important work of our [Cats and Birds](#) team has continued to increase public awareness about cat welfare and the impact of outdoor cats on wildlife, natural ecosystems and local communities.

Overall, this year has been very successful in reaching our target audience of cat owners, local governments, and conservation and animal welfare organizations. Over 5,500 people were engaged in virtual and in-person events. The vet/vet tech community remains a prime audience for our continued work on cats and birds.

**7** Outreach events  
**5,500** Individuals engaged

### COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The Cats and Birds team works together with partners from animal welfare, conservation, government and academia as part of the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee and its Cats and Birds Subcommittees. Together, we are working with our partners to develop a Statement of Collaboration that will guide current and future work on addressing the impact of free-roaming cats on natural ecosystems.

A Cats and Birds workshop was hosted in Penticton, bringing together local governments, NGOs, animal welfare organizations and the public, with presentations by SCBC, BC SPCA, and ECCC.

A Statement of Collaboration between SCBC and Okanagan Cats and Birds is in the works. It includes feral cat management, public education, and sharing of best practices.

# Cats and Birds Research

## Vancouver Cat Count

Dr. Elizabeth Gow led a paper on our findings for this project, which will be submitted for peer review in Fall 2023. CBC News reached out for follow-up reporting on this research.

## Greater Vancouver Land Bird Count

Dr. Harold Eyster, Vancouver project bird count lead, is working with Dr. Elizabeth Gow and the SCBC Cats and Birds team to create a cat-bird intersection research paper. Dr. Eyster is currently researching the effects of land cover change on birds and will use these estimates to predict the abundance of cat-vulnerable birds throughout Vancouver.



Olivia installing trail cameras-Okanagan



Photos from Vancouver Cat Count trail cameras.

## Okanagan Cat Count


To locate, count and identify roaming cats, UNBC masters student and researcher Olivia Wilson set up trail cameras across a variety of habitats featuring different land uses, including urban, peri-urban, agricultural, forest, and protected areas across four seasonal periods. After completing the first research phase (producing about 800,000 images), roughly 60 sites were selected for the second deployment of cameras to collect data on the abundance and diversity of cats and birds in the South Okanagan valley.

# Green Bylaws Toolkit

Year one of the two-year Green Bylaws Toolkit (GBT) project (2022-2024) has concluded.

Two webinars, with over 90 participants, were hosted to demonstrate the application of GBT in the lower mainland and Okanagan.

Informational flyers (right) were delivered to webinar participants and will be used at upcoming conferences, including the Southwest BC Local Government Annual Convention and the Annual UBCM Convention.





**GREEN BYLAWS TOOLKIT**  
A practical guide for local governments on the drafting and implementation of land use bylaws to preserve, promote, and enhance green infrastructure.

The Green Bylaws Toolkit is a practical guide for developing land-use plans and bylaws to protect green infrastructure. It includes sample bylaw language, outlines the various bylaw approaches to protection and their benefits and drawbacks, and provides best practices to help communities move toward sustainable land development in BC.

The Green Bylaws Toolkit comprehensive chapters are divided into three easy-to-navigate sections. The document also includes a series of appendices that provide additional information, resources, and connection opportunities.

- 1 Protecting Green Infrastructure**  
Provides alternatives for context and considerations regarding the social, economic, and environmental advantages for protecting natural areas.
- 2 How to use Green Bylaws**  
Includes a comprehensive approach to developing green bylaws, key policy objectives, and best practices, such as Regional Growth Strategies, Official Community Plans, Zoning, etc.
- 3 Sample Bylaw Provisions**  
Includes examples of bylaw provisions used in BC to help local governments choose the appropriate approach for each sustainable and site-specific context.

A core resource for land-use practitioners, the Green Bylaws Toolkit, 3rd edition, 2021, reviews values of interest to local governments, comprehensive consideration of ecosystem connectivity, and the importance of creating and linking ecologically sensitive areas. The current information has been updated to reflect changes in legislation, best practices, and bylaws since the 2016 2nd edition published in 2016.

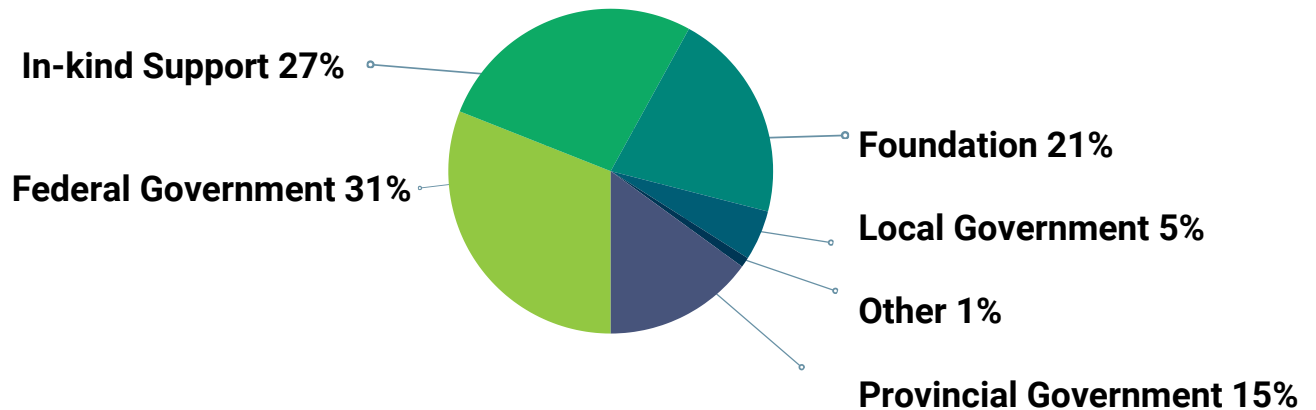
 **Download your copy of the Green Bylaws Toolkit, 3rd Edition, 2021** 

# Strengthening Stewardship

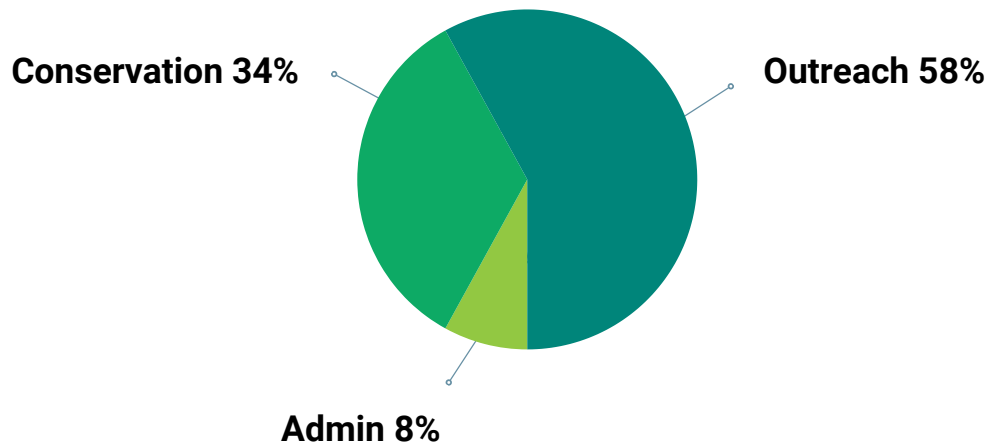
A subcommittee of SCBC board members is currently working on a proposal to support capacity building in BC's stewardship sector and assess its economic impact. This conversation builds upon SCBC's continued work to support and strengthen stewardship throughout BC.

# Financial Summary

**Revenue \$763,728**



**Expenses \$765,168**



# Funders

Thank you to all of our funders, in-kind partners, and contracts for supporting our programming in 2022 and 2023.



Canada



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada  
Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

## In-kind Partners

Archipelago Marine Research / Baker Creek Enhancement Society / BC SPCA / BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change / BC Ministry of Land, Water Resource Stewardship / Birds Canada / Bowen Island Municipality / British Columbia Institute of Technology / Capital Regional District / CBCL Inc. / CBWes Inc. / Christine Callihoo Consulting / City of Seattle / Clean Foundation / ClimAtlantic / Coastal Action / Coastal & Ocean Resources / Coastal Geologic Inc. / 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 / Fraser Basin Council / Gretchen Harlow / Halifax Regional Municipality / Harriet Rueggeberg / Helping Nature Heal / Intact Centre University of Waterloo / Joan Chess / Lees + Associates / Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute / Municipality of the District of Lunenburg / Municipality of Pictou County / Nature Canada / Nature Vancouver / Northwest Hydraulics Inc. / 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 / Rhonda L. Millikin / Saint Mary's University / Sean Sharpe Consulting / Shore Friendly WA / Sunshine Coast Regional District / Town of Qualicum Beach / TransCoastal Adaptations Centre for Nature-Based Solutions / University of British Columbia / University of Northern British Columbia / University of Victoria / Washington Sea Grant / West Coast Environmental Law / West Hants Regional Municipality

We thank you for your ongoing support  
of our work and the work of  
stewardship organizations across BC!

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 by  
clicking the buttons below.

[stewardshipcentrebc.ca](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca)

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



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