

STEWARDSHIP CENTRE FOR BC

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022



2022



STEWARDSHIP CENTRE
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



ANNUAL MESSAGE

As we all know, stewardship organizations are the heart, hands and legs of conservation and stewardship. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, DG Blair, the Stewardship Centre staff, committees and volunteers enable programs that have a measurable impact where it counts – on the ground in our communities.

One example of a project under the Stewardship Centre's Wildlife and Specific at Risk Program is the *Green Bylaws Toolkit for Conserving Sensitive Ecosystems and Green Infrastructure*. The Toolkit enables and supports the strategic inclusion of conservation, natural assets and ecosystem services in planning. With this year's release of the 3rd edition of the Green Bylaws Toolkit, planners have access to more case studies, changes in legislation, best practices and bylaws updated since 2016.

Stewardship Centre for BC also recognizes the need to build the capacity to support and strengthen the varied and passionate work of the stewardship community in British Columbia. Through outreach and collaborative partnerships, we work with other stewardship organizations to strategically optimize scarce resources of non-profit and volunteer groups to create a greater impact on our collective stewardship actions.

Another incredible initiative was started under the Green Shores program to create a Community of Practice which will serve as a centre of excellence and a space for sharing knowledge on shoreline adaptation projects. The Community of Practice will be made up of Green Shores Approved Professionals and other practitioners working on shoreline restoration and promoting healthy shore environments that provide significant environmental, economic, and social values to shoreline communities.

With more than 15 years of stewardship leadership in the province, the Stewardship Centre will continue to strengthen ecological stewardship by providing educational, technical and capacity programs and resources to organizations, governments, the private sector and the general public through collaborative partnerships. So, join us and, in doing so, add to the strengths and gifts that make the Stewardship Centre the stewardship powerhouse it is.

Christine Callihoo

Co-chair

DG Blair

Executive Director

Phil Osborne

Co-chair

OVERVIEW

OUR MISSION

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

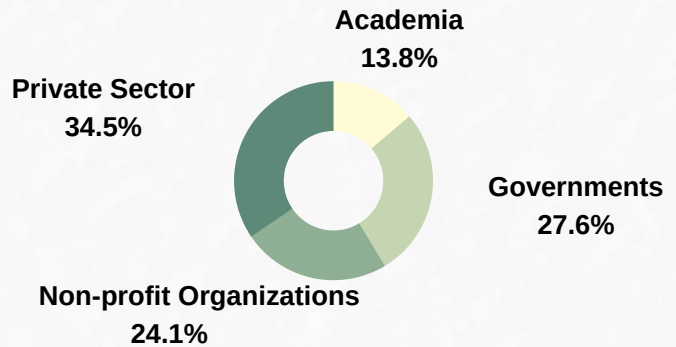
OUR PRINCIPLES

- 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
 - Green Bylaws Toolkit
- Strengthening Stewardship

OUR NETWORK

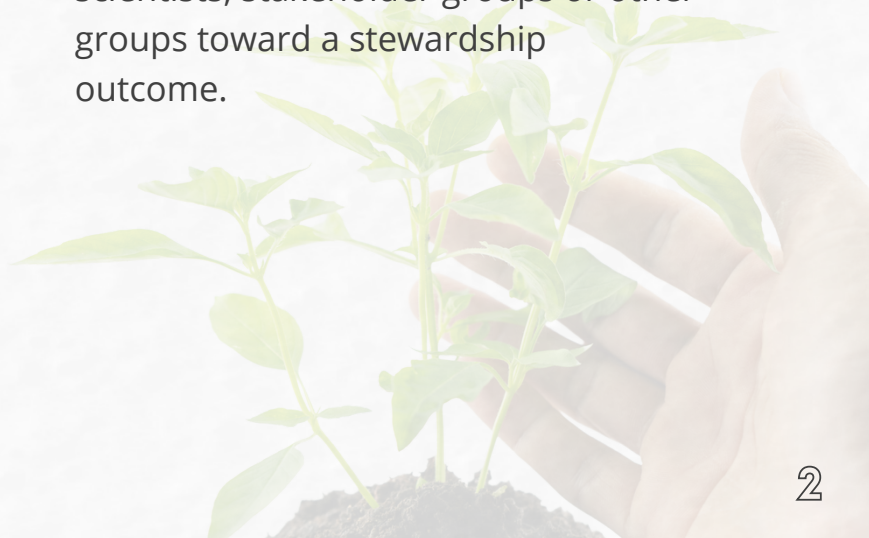


WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is about taking responsibility to promote, monitor, conserve and restore ecosystems for current and future generations of all species.

There are three types of environmental stewards:

1. **Doers** help out by taking action on the ground.
2. **Donors** help by donating money, land or other resources.
3. **Practitioners** work to steer agencies, scientists, stakeholder groups or other groups toward a stewardship outcome.



STRATEGIC ACTIONS

In 2021, the Board of the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC) developed the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, identifying strategic objectives and goals for the next five years. Since the release of this framework, the Board began working on outlined priority actions.



Stewardship Centre's Strategic Plan 2021-25

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Board explored ways to improve SCBC's operational model so that we can adapt to current needs and strengthen our capacity to deliver on our mission. We began development of the 'flow through' framework with the intent to establish a resource foundation for the organization that compliments the project-focused funding.

In addition, we launched the Green Shores Community of Practice (CoP) to enable and support Green Shore practitioners in the stellar work that they do.

CONNECTING STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

One key outcome of this work was the establishment of a working group to connect with stewardship organizations in BC and identify their current needs and barriers in stewardship work. This group was organized as part of the Conservation and Stewardship Practices Committee of the SCBC. The work of the new group will help build the capacity of BC stewardship organizations by addressing their strategic needs and offering support and assistance in their work. To assist with this work, a draft Expression of Interest was created to solicit stewardship-focussed organizations to come together to recognize and strategically optimize our collective gifts and strengths.



9 Board Members



10 Advisory Committees



84 Volunteer Technical Advisors

GREEN SHORES



In early 2022, a new logo was developed for the expanding Green Shores program to represent its impact on shoreline stewardship. The logo incorporates soft shores with healthy riparian vegetation, that supports biodiversity and resiliency of Green Shores.

NEW CHAPTER IN MARITIMES

Green Shores has launched a new chapter in Canadian Maritimes! TransCoastal Adaptation Centre for Nature-based Solutions of Saint Mary's University took the lead on the Green Shores program in Nova Scotia. The new chapter offers Nova Scotia resources, Green Shores training (Level 1 and 2), a Green Shores Local Government Working Group and support for Green Shores for Homes and Green Shores for Shoreline Development projects. [Learn more on GS on the Maritimes website.](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP

The local government working group, consisting of 6 members representing government, non-profits and academia, continues to work together to integrate GS in policy and practices and engage communities in GS events and workshops.

TRAINING

GS has continued to offer Level 1 and Level 2 training and launched a new Level 3 course for [Green Shores Approved Professionals](#).



5 GS Approved Professionals



15 Training Sessions



220 Individuals Trained



GREEN SHORES

RESILIENT COASTS FOR SALMON PROJECT

In partnership with Pacific Salmon Foundation, we are in year 2 of the 5-year project, "Resilient Coasts for Salmon," to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and shoreline development in coastal communities and foster stewardship on the shorelines of Vancouver Island. Three demonstration sites will be built to show a real-life example of nature-based shoreline management that benefits people and the environment, providing wildlife habitat and stabilizing shorelines without using rigid hard armour. The sites will achieve Green Shores for Shoreline Development "Gold" Rating, the highest standard of nature-based Green Shores certification for shoreline development projects.



First Site Visit - Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores for Shoreline Development Demonstration Site.

NEW GS RESOURCES

1. Case study: Green Shore – a Tool in the Shoreline Resilience Toolbox. [Source link.](#)
2. Concept designs for neighbourhood-scale coastal adaptation measures in Royston and Qualicum Beach, BC. [Source link.](#)



GSH GUIDE UPDATE 2023

Working with partners from Maritimes, British Columbia and Washington State, Stewardship Centre is working on the final draft of the update of the Green Shores for Homes guide for application on the Pacific and Atlantic shorelines. In 2021, we developed and piloted a GSH monitoring protocol that aims to guide data collection before, during and after the completion of any GSH project construction. The updated guide has a targeted release date of December 2022.

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES AT RISK:

CATS AND BIRDS

OVERVIEW

Over the past year, we continued to build strong partnerships and work together with the public, animal welfare and conservation groups to promote best practices of responsible cat ownership and wildlife stewardship. We also engaged with youth and kids through interactive seminars on Cats and Birds stewardship.



10 Events

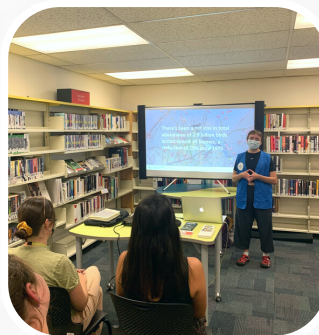


250+ Participants

We also continued to work with veterinary instructors and students to offer a presentation about cat welfare, the impacts of cats on wildlife and ecosystems, and solutions for addressing the issues related to roaming cats. This year, the focus was on collecting feedback from schools where the presentation has been offered in the past and discussion of opportunities to incorporate its content into the mandatory curriculum. This work is ongoing.

COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2021, we developed a comprehensive communications strategy to guide the targeted outreach work in Vancouver. The strategy was based on the community-based social marketing approach used to engage with community members and increase public awareness of roaming cat issues. The strategy will guide outreach and education about ways residents can protect their pets and local birds, and other wildlife from predation. Two priority communities were selected based on the findings of Vancouver-based research. An on-the-ground intern was hired to conduct outreach and host public events, distribute printed materials, and engage with local organizations and businesses to promote best practices for keeping cats and birds safe.



Cats and Birds Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, Bryna Turk, presenting at libraries in high-priority Vancouver communities.

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES AT RISK:

CATS AND BIRDS

RESEARCH

Vancouver Cat and Bird Counts

Initiated in 2020, cat and bird counts in Greater Vancouver were completed! While the data analyses of trail camera photos and bird surveys are still ongoing, research methodology and lessons learned were used to launch a similar study in the Okanagan.



Okanagan Cat and Bird Counts

In winter 2022, we launched a new study in South Okanagan, focussed on estimating the abundance of roaming cats and the diversity of birds in areas where cats roam. In addition, the research aims to assess the impacts of roaming cats on bats. A Master's student from the University of Northern British Columbia will be conducting the study throughout the 2022. The researcher will work with homeowners, parks and protected areas to study cats, birds and bats in urban, peri-urban, agricultural lands, and forests.

CATS AND BIRDS COMMITTEE

Stewardship Centre continued to be a member of the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee and a coordinator of the Cats and Birds Subcommittee, engaging with 10+ members in monthly meetings. As part of this work, we successfully facilitated the development and signing of a **“Statement of Collaboration”** between the government, conservation organizations, academia, and animal welfare organizations to work together on the cats and birds issue. Over the course of approximately 16 months, we wrote, discussed, edited and ultimately signed this document. Moving forward, we will use this framework to work together and continue taking action to create a positive impact for pets and wildlife.



A Cats and Birds Card and a Decal are examples of outreach materials developed by SCBC with input and revisions from the committee to ensure the accuracy and consistency of information.

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES AT RISK:

GREEN BYLAWS TOOLKIT

Green Bylaws Toolkit

for Protecting and Enhancing
the **Natural Environment** and
Green Infrastructure



The Stewardship Centre is pleased to announce the 3rd Edition of the **Green Bylaws Toolkit for Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure** was published on our website in the Fall of 2021!

Originally published in 2007 and updated in 2016, the new 2021 update of the Toolkit included the addition of more case studies and topics of interest to local government and deeper consideration of ecosystem connectivity and the importance of restoring and linking ecologically valuable land. The existing information has been updated to reflect changes in legislation, best practices and bylaws since the Toolkit was last updated.

To highlight the new resource and updates to the Toolkit, Stewardship Centre hosted five virtual workshops for local governments, elected officials, land trusts, First Nation governments and interested citizens. Webinars provided an overview of the Toolkit, provided examples and case studies, and featured information on Environmental Development Permit Areas. The **Green Bylaws Toolkit 101** Webinar was made available through Stewardship Centre's YouTube channel.



5 Webinars



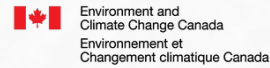
600 Attendees



1800 Website visits

FUNDERS

Thank you to all of our funders, in-kind partners, and contracts for supporting our programming in 2021 and 2022.



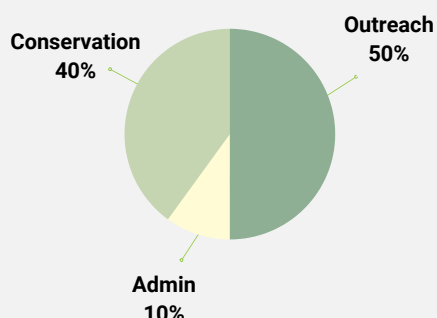
IN-KIND PARTNERS:

Archipelago Marine Research, Ausenco, Baker Creek Enhancement Society, BC SPCA, BC Ministry of Forests, BC Ministry of Environment, 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, Coastal Action, Coastal & Ocean Resources, Coastal Geologic Inc., Comox Valley Regional District, Dalhousie University, DHI, District of Saanich, Ebbwater Consulting, Ecology Action Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Erik Lees Associates, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fraser Basin Council, Gretchen Harlow, Halifax Regional Municipality, Harriet Rueggeberg, Helping Nature Heal, Intact Centre University of Waterloo, Joan Chess, Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, Morrison Hershfield, Murdoch de Greeff Associates, Nature Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Northwest Hydraulics Inc., Ostrom Climate Solutions Inc., Peninsula Stream and Shoreline Society, Project Watershed, Regional Animal Protection Society, Regional District of Nanaimo, Saint Mary's University, Sean Sharpe Consulting, Shore Friendly WA, Simon Fraser University, 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, WSP Golder Inc.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

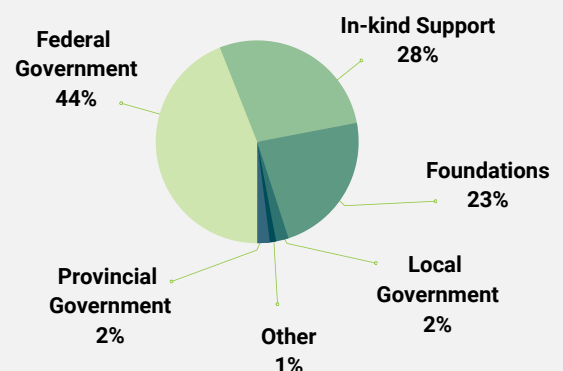
EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$697,979



REVENUE

TOTAL: \$697,335



*Financial summary (revenue) includes in-kind contributions.



STEWARDSHIP CENTRE
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



STAY CONNECTED

Become a member of our
stewardship community:

**Click to become a member &
subscribe to our quarterly
newsletters.**

THANK YOU

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 on social media.

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www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca

