

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025



**STEWARDSHIP CENTRE**  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Annual Message



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Stewardship Centre's Board of Directors and Executive Director, we are pleased to present the Annual Report for the fiscal year spanning April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. This report highlights our progress toward our mission of strengthening ecological stewardship through our highly valued collaborative partnerships.

The year began with tremendous momentum under the leadership of our outgoing Executive Director, DG Blair, who oversaw implementation of several Green Shores for Shoreline Development projects, including Cultus Lake Park, Esquimalt Gorge Park, and the first phase of Dyke Road Park in the Comox Valley. In the second half of the year, we welcomed Sarah Primeau as our Executive Director, marking an exciting new chapter for the organization.

This year, thanks to funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, SCBC embarked on a new initiative of working with a group of First Nations and municipalities from BC and Nova Scotia to advance Green Shores projects. We have continued to provide training and shoreline assessments to engage homeowners and communities in sustainable shoreline management. We also achieved milestones in other program areas:

- Green Shores for Species at Risk: Advanced conservation efforts for vulnerable shoreline species in Nova Scotia, in partnership with TransCoastal Adaptations at St. Mary's University.
- Cats and Birds Initiative: Collaborated with municipalities and held several outreach events.
- Greenspace for All Project: Hosted numerous community events and public engagement sessions to promote equitable access to greenspace.
- Green Shores Conservation Fiscal Incentives Program: Advanced a fiscal pilot program to better support homeowners in the implementation of Green Shores for Homes projects.

These accomplishments were made possible thanks to the tremendous in-kind contributions of technical experts, volunteers, and partner organizations. Their dedication and expertise are the foundation of our success. To everyone who has supported SCBC's work this year – thank you! Your commitment to stewardship inspires us and strengthens our ability to deliver impactful programs and projects. We invite you to explore the following pages and reflect on what we have achieved together, and we look forward to building on this progress in the years ahead with your continued support!

Warm regards,

**Suzanne Earle**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**Sarah Primeau**  
*Executive Director*



# Overview

## Our Programs



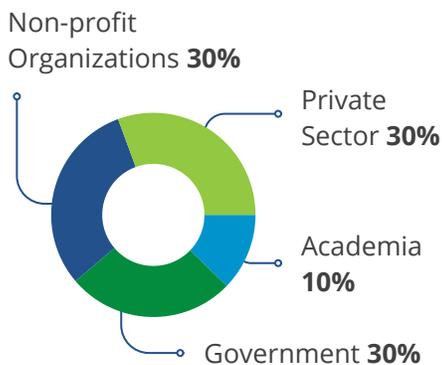
## Our Mission

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

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

## 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.

# Green Shores



## Green Shores Working Group

Members of the Green Shores Local Government Working Group 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 group's passion, commitment, and knowledge sharing.

### Members of the working group as of March 31st, 2025 included:

- Bowen Island Municipality
- Capital Regional District
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Sunshine Coast Regional District
- qathet Regional District
- In-kind support from collaborators in Washington State



Capital Regional District

Working group members shared their experiences and lessons learned over 10 virtual meetings, heard from technical specialists, participated in a joint meeting with the East Coast working group, coordinated the delivery of Green Shores training and community education, and supported policy and bylaw updates.

The working group met in person in Qualicum Beach on September 10, 2024 for a full-day event with tours of local Green Shores sites and presentations from Lynn Campbell (Province of BC), Andrew MacInnis (DFO), and Daniel May (Comox Valley RD). Feedback was sought on successes, challenges, and opportunities for Green Shores and the Local Government Group.



LGG Face to Face meeting, Qualicum Beach



# Green Shores Training

Between April 1st, 2024 and March 31st, 2025, SCBC delivered **13 Green Shores training workshops** across the East Coast of Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland. SCBC also presented to the Bowen Island Municipal Council.

## Communities served include:

- GS L1 - April 2024, Campbell River
- GS L1 - May 2024, Cultus Lake Park
- GS L1 - June 2024, Port McNeill
- GS L2 - June 2024, Campbell River
- GS L1 - July 2024, Comox
- GS L1 - August 2024, qathet
- GS L1 - September 2024, Saanich
- GS L1 - September 2024, Sunshine Coast
- GS L1 - October 2024, Esquimalt
- GS L2 - October 2024, Victoria
- GS L2 - November 2024, Nanaimo
- GS L1 - November 2024, Cowichan Valley
- GS L2 - March 2025, Port McNeill

**13** Training workshops

**205** Individuals trained





# Supporting Indigenous-led Nature-Based Solutions

In 2024-2025, SCBC received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund to help First Nations, Indigenous-led organizations, municipalities, and regional districts advance Green Shores projects. Over the past year, we have worked to establish relationships with prospective partners and further develop project plans.



We are committed to engaging with First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations to gain a deeper understanding of local priorities for coastal adaptation and eco-cultural restoration. This dialogue will shape how the Stewardship Centre can provide meaningful support, including through the development of new Green Shores tools and resources.

## Resilient Coasts for Salmon

Resilient Coasts for Salmon (RC4S), a joint project of SCBC and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), completed its fourth year and made significant strides toward meeting its five-year objectives in the following three categories:

- **Raising Awareness** through outreach and engagement events
- **Building Capacity** through the delivery of Green Shores training, and
- **Increasing Visibility** through Green Shores for Shoreline Development (GSSD) demonstration sites and Green Shores for Homes shoreline assessments.

SCBC also created several educational resources, including news articles, training materials, and toolkits for distribution online and in print.

**5** Shoreline assessments

**8** Outreach events

**13,375** Individuals reached at outreach events



GS L2 Field Exercise, Campbell River

**RESILIENT COASTS**  
FOR SALMON 

# Resilient Coasts for Salmon Green Shores Demonstration Projects

Work proceeded this year on three Green Shores Demonstration Projects, led in partnership with Pacific Salmon Foundation through the Resilient Coasts for Salmon initiative: Esquimalt Gorge Park, Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach, and Dyke Road Park.

## Esquimalt Gorge Park

Construction of the Esquimalt Gorge Park GSSD site is now complete! Key improvements have transformed the shoreline, including the removal of hard armour, regrading of the shoreline to restore a natural profile, installation of a permeable pathway for recreational shoreline access, and the installation of a mobi-mat to enhance accessible entry to the beach.



Community Planting Party at Esquimalt Gorge Park

Extensive planting of the riparian and backshore areas was completed in November 2024, with support from the Township of Esquimalt's Parks and Recreation Department, Gorge Waterway Action Society, World Fisheries Trust, and community volunteers. Once established, the native vegetation will stabilize the shoreline, strengthen salt marsh habitat, and support food and breeding grounds for salmon, shorebirds, and wildlife.

Educational signage will inform visitors of Green Shores practices, the ecology of the shoreline, and the cultural significance of the site to local First Nations. Project verification is underway and certification will be issued in 2025.



Mobi-mat at Esquimalt Gorge Park Green Shores site

## Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach

Construction of the Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach GSSD site is complete. A new pathway now connects the Songhees Walkway directly to the shoreline, supporting recreational beach access while protecting the riparian zone.

Efforts will now focus on installing signage and monitoring the beach, backshore, and riparian areas, with replanting and renourishment as needed to ensure long-term success. The site will also undergo the Green Shores verification process and receive its Green Shores certification in 2025/26.



## Dyke Road Park

Phase 1 of project construction is complete, bringing significant enhancements to the shoreline. Efforts included removing the concrete bird-viewing platform, regrading of the shoreline, and establishing a new fish channel. Invasive plants were removed and the salt marsh was restored with native vegetation. A new boardwalk, elevated on helical piles to adapt to sea level rise and protect the riparian zone, and fencing to safeguard the salt marsh from Canada Goose herbivory were installed.

These efforts restore natural shoreline processes, expand critical habitat for a diversity of fish, birds, and wildlife, and enhance the shoreline's resilience to climate change. Educational signage is in development to inform the public of Green Shores practices, the cultural significance of the estuary to local First Nations, and the historical fish weir complex. Redevelopment of the upland parking area and installation of a new viewing platform are underway as part of Phase 2 works.



# Cultus Lake Park Green Shores Demonstration Project

SCBC's first freshwater Green Shores for Shoreline Development project was successfully completed thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Cultus Lake Park Board, Cultus Lake Stewardship Society, and Soowahlie First Nation! Year 2 of the project also included a successful series of public engagement events and a Green Shores Level 1 training.

In total, 45 metres of shoreline were restored using a hybrid nature-based design that features two detached headlands to mitigate erosion, absorb wave energy, and hold the newly nourished pocket beach in place. The new beach offers two access paths and a gently sloping vegetated shoreline to enhance aquatic habitat. The enhanced riparian area includes over **700 native plants**, large wood, log benches, accessible and permeable gravel pathways, and educational signage.



Green Shores L1, May 2024

Cultus Lake is part of the traditional territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe within S'ólh Téméxw (the Stó:lō Territory) and is comprised of seven Stó:lō communities of Ǻthelets (Aitchelitz), Sq'ewqéyl (Skowkale), Shxwhá:y (Skway), Th'ewá:li (Soowahlie), Sxwoyehálá (Squiala), Ch'íyáqtel (Tzeachten) and Yeqwyeqwi:ws (Yakweakwioose). We are so grateful to have Th'ewá:li (Soowahlie) First Nation's involvement in the project.



Green Shores site at Cultus Lake Park

# Colquitz Park Green Shores Demonstration Project Concept Design

Conceptual design of the proposed Green Shores restoration at Colquitz Park was completed with guidance from the project technical advisory committee. Two open houses were hosted with the District of Saanich to inform the public of the project's objectives and to collect feedback on the preliminary design concepts.



In June, students from the Institute of Global Solutions at Claremont High School were invited on a field trip to tour the site and learn about the Green Shores principles through a hands-on field exercise. Associated Engineering and DHI also completed their coastal analysis, which will form a key aspect of informing the next stage of design and implementation.



## Conservation Fiscal Incentives Program

The Green Shores for Homes Conservation Fiscal Incentive Program (GSH CFIP) provides financial support for homeowners to enhance nearshore habitats and coastal processes on marine and lakefront properties.

Now in year two of this five-year initiative, SCBC is piloting two funding models for new GSH projects along Vancouver Island's East Coast and the Gulf Islands: a rebate issued after full GSH certification, and cost-share funding provided upon completion of specified project milestones.

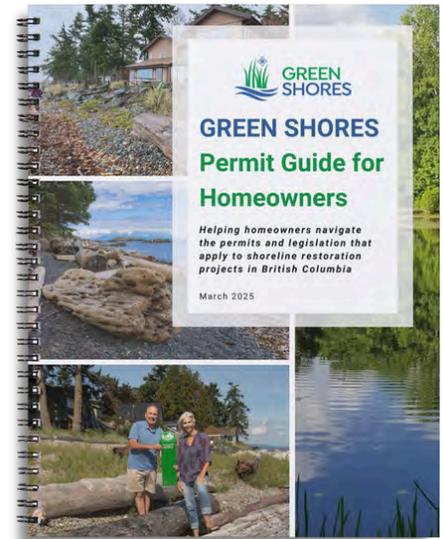
The first project to receive cost-share funding is in progress, and SCBC is working closely with the homeowner, project manager, and local government to support the project. A coastal engineered shoreline design is complete, and additional candidate sites are being considered.



# Green Shores for Homes

SCBC continues to expand the diversity of free resources available to shoreline homeowners, with the addition of the **Green Shores Permit Guide for Homeowners**. This latest resource equips homeowners with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the permits and legislation required for nature-based shoreline restoration projects in British Columbia.

SCBC also distributed quarterly Shoreline Spotlight newsletters, news articles, training materials, and toolkits to support the adoption of nature-based solutions for shoreline restoration.

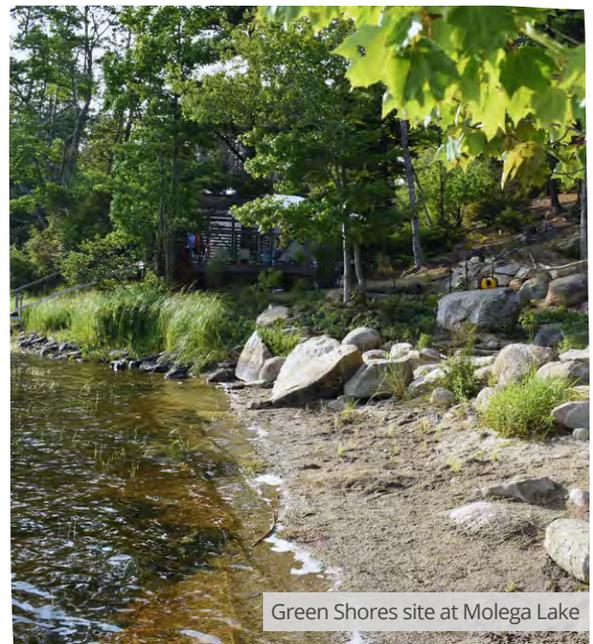


# Green Shores for Homes Atlantic

SCBC and TransCoastal Adaptations (TCA) continue their collaboration to expand Green Shores in Nova Scotia, "from one sea to another."

This year, TCA initiated the **first Green Shores for Homes Atlantic** projects! These three new projects will target the protection of essential habitats for coastal species at risk within the Kespukwitk/Southwestern Nova Scotia Priority Place.

Additionally, SCBC and TCA hosted two webinars for shoreline professionals, during which experts shared insights and practical guidance on applying nature-based principles to shoreline restoration. TCA also offered free Green Shores training and shoreline assessments.



Green Shores site at Molega Lake

Moreover, TCA developed a new resource, titled "[Green Shores and the 5Rs for Nature-Based Coastal Adaptation](#)," examining how Green Shores aligns with the 5Rs Framework – Reimagine, Reserve, Relocate, Restore, and Reinforce – which introduces a novel approach to nature-based coastal adaptation ([Sherren et al., 2024](#)).

# Wildlife and Species at Risk

## Cats and Birds

The Cats and Birds team continues to raise public awareness about cat welfare and the impacts of outdoor cats on wildlife, ecosystems, and local communities. The team strengthened partnerships with local governments, academics, veterinary professionals, animal welfare agencies, and conservation groups to promote responsible cat ownership and wildlife conservation across the Lower Mainland and Okanagan.

SCBC worked with veterinary professionals and university professors to deliver two continuing education webinars for registered veterinary technologists and four presentations to post-secondary vet students, emphasizing the important role of veterinary staff in promoting best practices for cat and wildlife welfare.

To advance the adoption of cat bylaws and management policies, SCBC engaged with **147 local government staff and decision-makers** through six council presentations and one provincial forum. The team also hosted a webinar for local governments on recommended cat bylaws, reaching 110 participants, and created a free letter template for community members to express their support for cat policies and bylaws.

19 Outreach events

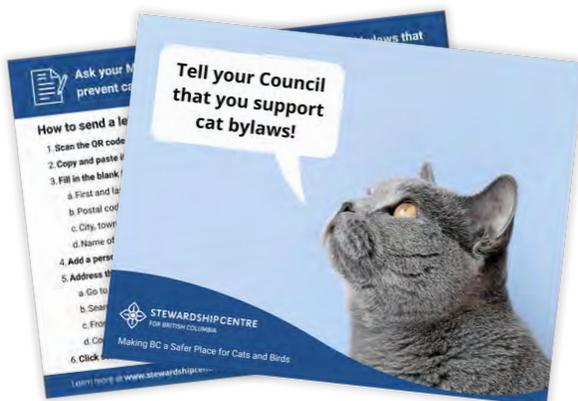
74 Veterinary professionals informed

11,000

Individuals reached at outreach events

103 Veterinary students reached

210 Government staff engaged



# Strengthening Stewardship

## Greenspace for All

Greenspace for All is a three-year pilot project that promotes equitable access to greenspaces for diverse communities in the Capital, Nanaimo, and Comox Valley regions of Vancouver Island. In year two, SCBC focused on developing the **Capital Regional District (CRD) Case Study**, raising awareness about the project and its objectives, and forming relationships with local partner organizations.

The Greenspace for All team engaged with **130 people** through three case study activities, including a community-level needs assessment, a two-day community planting party, and a winter bird walk, as well as nearly **500 community members** at eight outreach events.



8 Outreach events

3 Case study activities

630

Individuals engaged at outreach & case study events



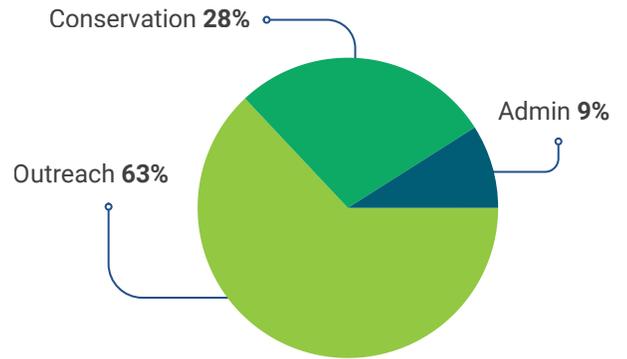
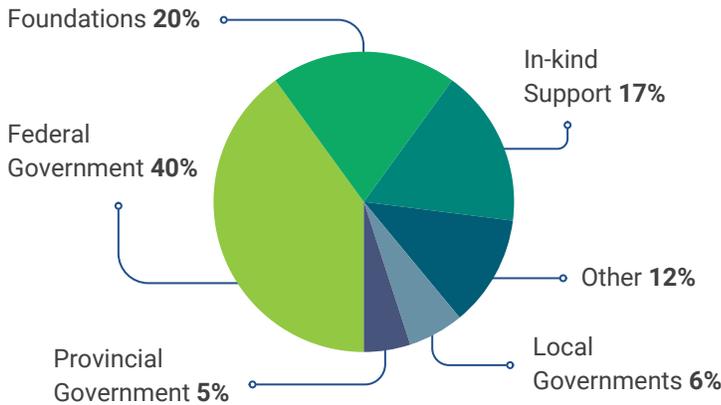
**Greenspace for All**

# Financial Summary

Thank you to all of our funders, in-kind partners, volunteer committee members, and contractors for supporting our programming in 2024 and 2025!

**Revenue: \$1,105,729**

**Expenses: \$1,107,281**



## Funders



# In-Kind Support

We are grateful to the following volunteers and organizations for their generous contributions to our programs in 2024-2025.

**Green Shores Technical Advisory Committee:** Brian Emmett, Dan Nickel, Danika Van Proosdij, Danker Kolijn, Dave Harper, Derek Ray, Grant Lamont, Harriet Rueggeberg, Jeffie McNeil, Jeremy Lundholm, Jessica Côté, Joanna Eyquem, John Readshaw, Kirsten Ellis, Kyla Milne, Lesley Farrow, Maggie Glowacki, Megan Turnock, Nicole MacDonald, Patricia Manuel, Paul de Greeff, Peter Nishimura, Phil Osborne, Rosemarie Lohnes, Sabine Dietz, Sydney Fishman, Tamsin Lyle, Tony Bowron, Victoria Fernandez, Phil Osborne, John Harper, Kelly McCaffrey

## **Green Shores for Shoreline Development Technical Advisory Committees**

- **Dyke Road Park TAC:** Kylie Knox, Daniel May, Caitlin Pierzchalski, Lukas Holy, Kyla Sheehan, Courtney Rix, Lia Tarle, Nick Page, Dominic Janus, Robyn Holme, Dylan Thiessen, Jeff Skinner, Matt Gellis, Krissy Brown, Tim Clermont, Stefanie Lane
- **Esquimalt Gorge Park TAC:** Kyla Sheehan, Robbie Young, Jennifer Tyler, Megan Turnock, Rebecca Nielsen, Steve Knoke, Jody Watson, Jacques Sirois, Dave Clough, Morgan Tidd
- **Colquitz Park TAC:** Becky Goodall, Paul De Greeff, Eric Finney, Patrick Joynt, Jessica Wilson, Nicola Van Der Mark, David Forde
- **Cultus Lake Park TAC:** Brenda Senft, Dave Clyne, Jay Sam, Lucas Pon, Joe Lamb, Erika Jartved, Ernie Vance, Coralea Towler, Kathie VanderHelm, Darryl Arsenault, Rebecca Seifert, Kevin Kelly, Morgan Tidd, Justin Barbat, Phil Osborne

**Greenspace for All Project Advisory Committee:** Laura Hergott, Julie McManus, Jansait Qughondouqa, Sarah Haynes, Dylan Thiessen, Robyn Holmes, Andrew Huang, Stephanie Gurney, Gillian Gawron, Chloe MacGregor, Lakshyata Kumari, Mandy Hobkirk, Rebecca Clapperton-Law, Carinna Kenigsberg, Emma Street, Rick Daykin, Joani Litchfield, Cara Gibson, Robbie Young, Ace Mann, Nasim Hamed, Wing Le, Julie Parrell, Rebecca Nielsen, Nina Mosall

**Conservation and Stewardship Practices Committee:** In addition to participation from our Board members, we thank Andrew Huang and Sean Sharpe for their time.

**Organizational in-kind support:** AlleyCats Alliance / Baker Creek Enhancement Society / Bat Education and Ecological Protection Society / BC Community Bat Program / BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change / BC Ministry of Land, Water Resource Stewardship / BC Parks Foundation / BC SPCA South Okanagan/Similkameen Branch / Bird Friendly Lions Bay / Birds Canada / Blue Coast Engineering / Bowen Island Municipality / British Columbia Institute of Technology / British Columbia Veterinary Technologists Association / Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC / Canadian Animal Rescue and Extended Shelter / Capital Regional District / CBCL Inc. / CBWes Inc. ... *(continued next page)*

Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society / City of Nanaimo / City of Seattle / City of Vancouver / Clean Foundation / ClimAtlantic Coastal & Ocean Resources / Coastal Action / Comox Valley Regional District / Cowichan Valley Regional District / Critteraid Animal Sanctuary / Dalhousie University / DHI / District of North Vancouver / District of Saanich / Ebbwater Consulting / Ecology Action Centre / Environment and Climate Change Canada / Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Gorge Waterway Action Society / Greater Victoria NatureHood / Halifax Regional Municipality / Helping Nature Heal / Intact Centre University of Waterloo / Interior Wildlife Rehabilitation Society / Lees + Associates / Mersey Tobetic Research Institute / Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute / Municipality of Pictou County / Municipality of the District of Lunenburg / Nanaimo News Bulletin / NatuR&D / Nature Vancouver / NatureKids BC / Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc. / Okanagan Community Bat Program / Okanagan Humane Society / Ontario Association Of Veterinary Technicians / Pacific Salmon Foundation / Peninsula Stream and Shoreline Society / Power to Be / Project Watershed / Province of Nova Scotia / qathet Regional District / Regional District of Nanaimo / Saint Mary's University / SeaStrength Health / Shore Friendly WA / Stanley Park Ecology Society / Sunshine Coast Regional District / Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary / The Watershed Company / Town of Qualicum Beach / Township of Esquimalt / TransCoastal Adaptations Centre for Nature-Based Solutions / Unisus School / University of British Columbia / University of Northern British Columbia / University of Prince Edward Island / University of Victoria / Vancouver Avian Research Centre / Vancouver Island University / Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society / Victoria Native Friendship Centre / Washington Sea Grant / West Hants Regional Municipality / World Fisheries Trust

## Our Team

### **Stewardship Centre for BC team for 2024/2025:**

DG Blair / Sarah Primeau, Executive Director

Lonnie Prouse, Finance and Operations Manager

Kelly Loch, Program Manager for Green Shores and Greenspace for All

Andrea McDonald, Green Shores Project Manager

Ariadne Boutsakis, Project Coordinator for Cats + Birds and Greenspace for All

Anna Skurikhina, Project Manager for Cats + Birds, Communications Coordinator

Brittany Compagna, Project Assistant for Cats + Birds

### **Board of Directors for 2024/2025:**

Suzanne Earle (Chair)

Jack Satzewich (Vice-Chair)

Tracy Bond

Morgan Tidd

Gretchen Harlow

Niall McPherson

Jamai Schile

Clare Arsenault

# Thank you for your continued support!



Help shape SCBC's next 5 years by filling out this online strategic planning survey: [bit.ly/SCBCsurvey2025](https://bit.ly/SCBCsurvey2025)  
We appreciate your input!

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

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

[info@stewardshipcentrebc.ca](mailto:info@stewardshipcentrebc.ca)



**STEWARDSHIP CENTRE**  
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA