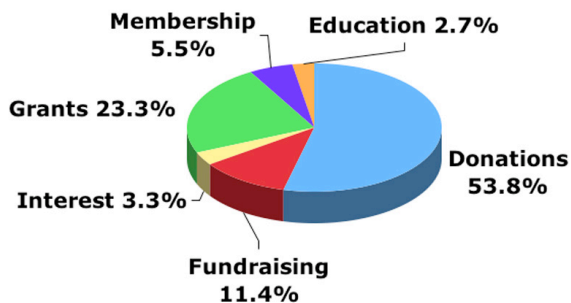


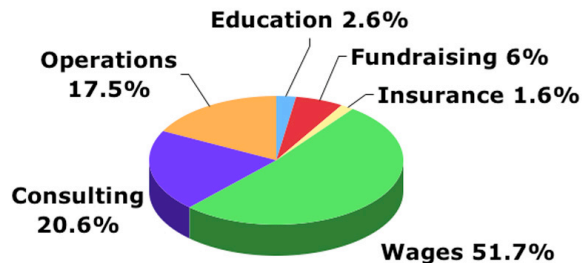
## FINANCIAL (UNAUDITED)

These figures do not include grant funding received and disbursed for the Stewardship programs (\$130,460) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009. Successful grant applications, generous donations and dedicated fundraising have allowed us to continue to support an excellent group of staff and volunteers.

### 2008 Income – \$174,225



### 2008 Expenses – \$172,894



## THANKS TO FUNDERS:

John Lefebvre, all Conservancy donors and Country Grocer

### Stewards in Training School Program

Province of British Columbia, Nature Canada- Parks and People Program, Thrifty Food's Smile Card Program, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and Mountain Equipment Coop

### Habitat Protection & Stewardship Program

Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Vancouver Foundation, Bullitt Foundation, Islands Trust Fund, Victoria Foundation, Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, and The SSI Foundation

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008

Bob Weeden (President)  
Ashley Hilliard (Vice-President)  
Samantha Beare (Treasurer)  
Jean Gelwicks (Secretary)  
Maureen Bendick (Past President)  
Steve Leichter  
Jean Brouard  
John de Haan  
Robin Ferry  
Maxine Leichter  
Deborah Miller  
Jane Petch  
Brian Smallshaw  
Doug Wilkins

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Gilkeson

## BIOLOGISTS

Robin Annschild  
Laura Matthias

## OFFICE ASSISTANT & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Susan Dann



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

### *Conservation in Action*

**SSI CONSERVANCY CONTACTS**  
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EMAIL [info@saltspringconservancy.ca](mailto:info@saltspringconservancy.ca)  
WEBSITE  
<http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

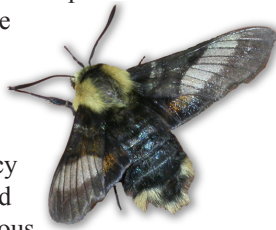
When a not-for-profit meets an important community need, the community comes to depend on encores. Quick successes beget requirements for staying power. Your Conservancy can lay claim to both qualities. Yet, early in 2008 we realized that 2009/2010 likely would test our durability as no other time in our experience. Much as folks might admire our work, some may not be able to donate as generously. Foundations and agencies, too, might be cutting back. While the 30 or 40 lead volunteers and small staff that produce our “magic” continued their work unabated, we undertook to add a serious focus on a plan for strategic fundraising. By the end of the year we had identified budget targets, the main elements of fundraising work (membership expansion, planned giving, regular appeals, grant applications, fundraising events) and the record-keeping and policy protocols needed to back them up. We had a chance to try out several of them in the last quarter of 2008. The major test will be in 2009. Maybe running a conservancy has a lot in common with running a restaurant. Success is on the plate, but the work is in the kitchen.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year we focused on the systems and tools needed to support our expanding organization. We consolidated our record systems into one database, completed policies on donor rights and gift acceptance, revised our logo, produced a new brochure on planned giving, hired a great bookkeeper (Kisae Peterson) and a terrific new office assistant and volunteer coordinator (Susan Dann). Throughout the year our many volunteers kept right on giving their best, for which we owe you all an enormous thank you!

## ACQUISITIONS

It's been a busy year. The Conservancy added 18 acres to the bank of protected land on the island, thanks to the generous donation of acreage on North View Place. A substantial donation was made toward the Creekside acquisition. With financial incentives for conservation being made more flexible and available by federal, provincial sources, landowners are finding it possible to consider longer-term protection of the land they hold dear. Consequently, we've begun to see an upswing in the number of landowners who are investigating



these possibilities. Please feel free to call SSIC to discuss any ideas you may have. All discussions with individual landowners are held in confidence.

## COVENANTS

Among the first organisations in B.C. authorized to hold conservation covenants, we hold 13 covenants protecting 754 acres. Five are held jointly with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia and three with the Islands Trust Fund [four under their Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption (NAPTEP)]. Conservation covenants are voluntary, legally binding agreements registered against title under the Land Title Act. They enable landholders to protect the natural values of their land in perpetuity. They can provide income tax benefits and property tax relief in certain circumstances.

## EDUCATION & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Conservancy continues to offer monthly talks to the public on various natural history topics and current environmental issues. We co-sponsored events with several other island groups and some members have worked with the Library to provide interactive, hands-on information sessions for children. We published 3 issues of the Conservancy's newsletter, the ACORN.

We expanded our Stewards in Training School Program to include grade one. Altogether, we engaged 700 grade 1 - 8 students in all day, outdoor, hands-on experiences in nature at Ford Lake, Burgoyne Bay, Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve and Ganges Marina. We started compiling all the school program information into a manual and designed a school program brochure to recruit volunteers.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

This committee reviewed and researched a number of Community environmental issues and recommended courses of action to the Board on issues that dealt mostly with private applications for use of public land where the committee believed protection of wildlife and plants was threatened. We recommended Board support for broader environmental concerns, such as the protection of old growth forests on SSI. Submissions were made to the Islands Trust as a part of the Official Community Plan process.



## LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

Reserve Wardens Larry Appleby (Manzanita Ridge NR) and Terry Ridings (Andreas Vogt NR) continued their ongoing battle against invasive species as well as maintaining the public trail systems. We acquired the new 7.2 ha (17.8 acre) North View Nature Reserve (NVNR) and will be developing a management plan. We were pleased to welcome back Charles Dorworth in his new role as warden of the NVNR.

## STEWARDSHIP

The staff biologists under the Stewardship Committee raised a considerable amount of money in grants and contributions for the 2008 Species at Risk (SAR) project. Over 420 landowners received targeted mail-outs including information on at risk species and long-term conservation options. We upgraded our website to launch:

- a new *Species at Risk* page with photos, descriptions, and links to each species at risk on SSI
- a Sharp-tailed Snake Habitat Assessment Guide
- online Stewardship Agreements
- an Owls of SSI web page with owl calls
- a *Report Wildlife Sightings* page.

Project staff made over 90 site visits and 582 additional contacts to landowners. As a direct result of our outreach programs, we were able to locate new sightings for the Sharp-tailed Snake, bringing the total known SSI sites to 20. Other new sightings of threatened species include an additional record of the Dun Skipper, new confirmed locations for the Western Painted Turtle, including nesting sites, more Common Nighthawk locations of breeding activity, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Barn Owl locations, and more confirmed nesting locations of Great Blue Heron. A new location for the Coastal Scouler's Catchfly was discovered on Mt. Tuam (never before seen on SSI), bringing the known populations of this species in BC to four.

