

Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education  
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# *Morrell Nature Sanctuary A Historical Review 1973-2024*

*Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Morrell Nature Sanctuary and 40 years since incorporation of the  
Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education*

Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education  
Morrell Nature Sanctuary, 787 Nanaimo Lakes Road  
Nanaimo, British Columbia  
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## **The Morrell Nature Sanctuary: A Historical Review, 1973-2024**

### **Introduction**

The Morrell Nature Sanctuary is a 111 hectare tract of mature Douglas-fir forestland near the City of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Before it became a sanctuary, the land was considered expendable. It was logged in the 1920's, the slash burned, and a second-growth forest grew up through the charred remains. Coal mining companies owned the maturing forest before William Allan Morrell purchased it in 1947. According to Bill Morrell's long time partner, Viola Savage, he had begun to place more value on conserving the forest for the future than turning a profit in the present, so in 1973 he chose to dedicate the land to enlightening the local community about the natural environment. This document relates the history of Bill's legacy, the Morrell Nature Sanctuary, which passed the half-century mark in July 2023. At the same time, the report serves as a chronicle of the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education, which administered the property from 1985 to present and celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2024. As revealed in the narrative, the challenges faced by the Society's board of directors ranged from raising funds, delivering environmental education programs and maintaining trails and buildings to protecting and securing the grounds, removing invasive species, stewarding the dam on Morrell Lake, and interacting with myriad stakeholders, including the Nature Trust of BC, the City of Nanaimo, school teachers, hikers, naturalists, dog walkers, and the general public. Since one could easily get lost in the detailed account, each decade of the Society's administration is prefaced with a short summary outlining historical highlights from that time period.

### **Before the Sanctuary (pre-1973)**

The early years are a bit sketchy. Much of the land around incipient Nanaimo was owned by coal companies. The Hudson's Bay Company was the first to exploit the coal at Nanaimo, but in 1862 the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company took title of the Hudson's Bay Company's interests, including all mines, machinery, buildings, sawmill, and land. The Vancouver Coal Mining company enjoyed a monopoly on the coal reserves until 1873, when former Hudson's Bay Company employee Robert Dunsmuir opened mines at Wellington, three miles northwest of Nanaimo and outside the Vancouver Coal Mining lands. These were the two main coal operators in the Nanaimo fields until 1928, when Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd., the descendant of Robert Dunsmuir's company, bought out the American-dominated Western Fuel Company, the other principal coal company and the lineal heir to the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company.

A reservoir was built in the late 1800's on the site of present-day Morrell Lake on land belonging to Robert Dunsmuir. Water from the reservoir was brought through wooden pipes to the "Company Farm" near Wakesiah Avenue to service the mules and other farm animals belonging to one of Dunsmuir's coal companies. In 1905, T.H. Tracy, a city engineer from Vancouver, recommended that the trees in the reservoir be cleared and the reservoir be used as a water source for the City of Nanaimo. About 1915, the land was logged by hand and forest fires burned some areas before and after logging. In the 1940's beavers dammed a stream creating the extant Beaver Pond.

Bill Morrell purchased the land in 1947 from Canadian Collieries Ltd. with intentions of developing it himself. Bill was born in Victoria, British Columbia, on December 7, 1912, to parents Frank Morrell and Agnes Musgrave. He first came to the Nanaimo area when assigned here while serving in the Canadian army. After the Second World War he built and sold homes around the community, but his love for the natural habitat prevented him from ever cutting a single tree on the estate. Bill passed away on October 8, 2003, at the Nanaimo General Hospital.

### **Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary (1973-1984)**

On December 7, 1973, Bill Morrell deeded 111 hectares of his property to the newly created Provincial Land Commission (Appendix A), later recorded in the Land Registry Office in Victoria on August 28, 1974. The parcel, worth about one million dollars at the time, was to be dedicated to environmental education. While the principle objective of the Land Commission was the preservation of agricultural land, a secondary objective in 1973 was conserving parkland and greenbelt land in and around urban areas. Preservation of greenbelt land, such as the Morrell property,

could only be accomplished through acquisition of the land by purchase or gift. In 1977, statutory amendments narrowed the focus of the Commission strictly to agricultural land by deleting the greenbelt and parkland objectives and renaming the legislation as the Agricultural Land Commission Act. The tract gifted by Bill Morrell in 1973 became known initially as the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary.

ISLAND ANIMAL SANCTUARY      The Vancouver Sun      July 26, 1974

## A quiet \$1 million giveaway

**Sun Staff Reporter**

NANAIMO — The Nanaimo philanthropist who prefers animals to humans paused briefly in the morning sunshine Thursday to speak to a reporter.

Bill Morrell, who Wednesday donated a \$1 million worth of land to the provincial government for a wildlife sanctuary, was on his way to the library for a free read of the daily newspapers.

The sprawling land contains thickly treed areas as well as a large unused reservoir and is rich in wildlife.

Lorne said he has seen deer and many species of smaller mammals and that the land also holds some beaver.

"It's a beautiful spot," he said.

Morrell said his father, "a bit of a loner" isn't keen on any publicity over the land donation.

"He just wants it preserved the way it is so the animals will have a permanent home," Morrell said his father, now 62, was a builder before retiring and the property had been in the family since 1947.

He said his father had spoken for years about dedicating some land as a wilderness preserve.

"He could see what was happening everywhere else and he just wanted to do something about it."

Morrell said his father, who will sit on the seven member Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation will play an active role in helping create the refuge.

His father is already planning to build a cabin on the property where he will live in his role as unpaid caretaker. Morrell had been approached several times in the past, his son said, by real estate interests who were anxious to acquire the property.

"He received a series of offers but he just wouldn't bite," he said.

Morrell said his father is a bit of a loner by nature.

"He'll be quite happy living on the land knowing that the wildlife on it will have a permanent place to live."

Nanaimo Daily Free Press      Thursday, July 25, 1974



### SANCTUARY DOCUMENT SIGNED

Malaspina College council chairman Don Hammond, college bursar Oliver Neaves and chairman of the B.C. Land Commission Bill Lane look on as William A. Morrell of Nanaimo signs the document which legalizes his donation of 275 acres of prime forest land on the outskirts of Nanaimo to the province. The tract of land will be known as the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary. It will be leased on a long-term basis to the Malaspina College for different types of nature studies. (Full story, City Page 9).

—Free Press staff photo



A Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation Committee was formed to superintend the property and in September 1974 the land was leased to Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University) as an outdoor laboratory for education and research purposes. Over the next ten years a restoration project was undertaken at the reservoir, excavating a basin at the northwestern edge of the Sanctuary to form what is now Morrell Lake. From 1975 to 1985, Malaspina College researchers conducted numerous investigations, including a preliminary survey of resident flora and fauna, soil and vegetation analyses, and studies involving pheasants, black-tailed deer, small mammals and reptiles, as well as the experimental planting of redwood trees. The arrangement with Malaspina College worked well for a number of years until the lease was terminated by 1985.

Of particular interest during this period were studies by Paul Christie and William Hendershot in 1976 on the soils of the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary, and by Ken Kennedy in 1977 concerning the vegetation and birds of the Sanctuary. Christie and Hendershot reported that the dominant parent material of the Sanctuary was ground moraine consisting of loose glacial till overlying compacted till. This ground moraine was probably deposited during the most recent glaciation (Fraser Glaciation), approximately 15,000 years ago when more than 1600 metres of ice covered much of Vancouver Island. In general, the soils in the Sanctuary are strongly acidic and of low nutrient status. They are a mix of podzol and brunisol soil types, which typically form under forest vegetation in cool humid climates. Kennedy recognized four plant communities in the Sanctuary. Rocky knolls were characterized by arbutus, Douglas-fir, shore pine, hairy manzanita, ocean spray, salal, Oregon grape, trailing snowberry, yarrow, and hairy cat's-ear. Plant associations on the upper slopes included Douglas-fir, arbutus, western redcedar, salal, Oregon grape, red huckleberry, vanilla leaf, coralroot, and Vancouver ground-cone. Middle slopes were dominated by western redcedar, bigleaf maple, western hemlock, ocean spray, red huckleberry, salmonberry, salal, sword fern, vanilla leaf, lady fern, and western starflower, and the wet drainage valleys were populated by red alder, western hemlock, cascara, salmonberry, thimbleberry, red elderberry, hardhack, ninebark, sword fern, skunk cabbage, foamflower, and Indian-pipe. In addition, Kennedy provided a list of 82 bird species found in the area, along with their frequency of occurrence and habitat preferences.

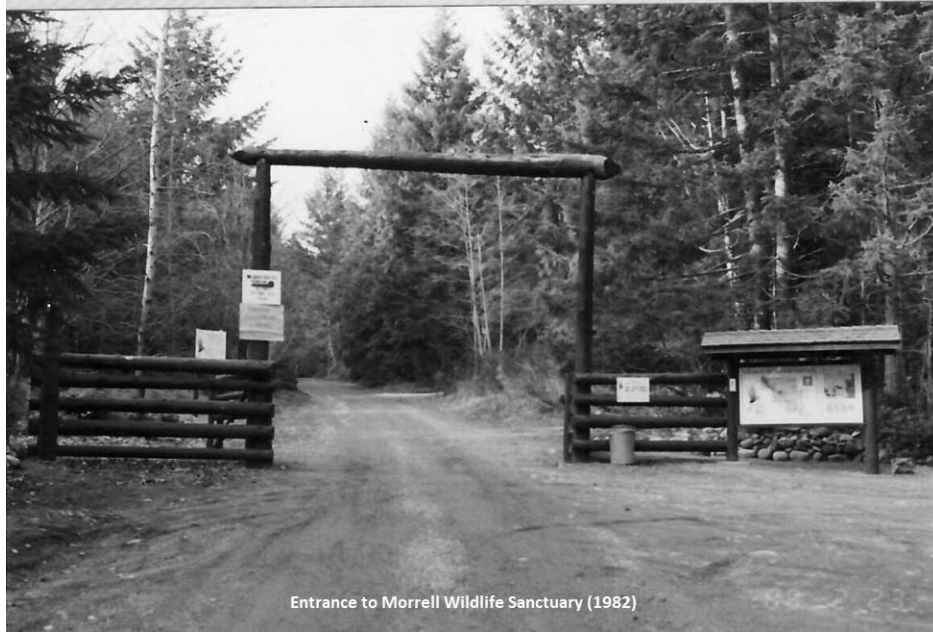
Other research carried out in the early years included a study by Dr. Daryll Hebert, regional wildlife biologist for the Environment Ministry's Vancouver Island region, to investigate the effects of silvicultural practices and reforestation on deer as well as the effects of deer on forest regeneration. The research began in 1977 with construction of a fence around an eight-hectare tract of land. Local students were hired to build the 2.4 metre fence and the enclosure was stocked with half a dozen deer, mainly fawns abandoned by does or left motherless by roadside kills. The impact of deer browsing on tree seedlings was part of another study carried out by students from Malaspina College's forestry department. A large enclosure was cleared and planted with California redwoods, Douglas firs, and poplars. Other trees were planted outside the enclosure where deer naturally roamed. By monitoring the growth both inside and outside the pen, students could assess the effects of the animals' feeding habits on newly-planted forests. One additional objective of the study was to determine the usefulness of redwood as a species to grow in coastal British Columbia. Although the growth of the redwoods was slow, their survival was high.

Probably the most ambitious project was the reconstruction of a condemned dam. The dam was once part of the City of Nanaimo's water system dating back to the turn of the century, but was deemed unsafe by the Environment Ministry. Rather than demolish the structure, students from the college's heavy equipment operating program under the guidance of professional engineers cleared the lake bed, built fire roads, and reconstructed the dam to create a five-hectare lake for use by biology students. In order to get approval to operate the dam, the students were obliged to build the dam to standards specified by the City of Nanaimo and provincial government.



October 7, 1980

Excavating basin around low level outlet intake.



Entrance to Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary (1982)



First bridge at the Beaver Pond (1982)

In February, 1982, Joan Lauinger was hired as manager for the Sanctuary, and that summer a work camp involving 12 international and 10 Canadian students from post secondary institutions began a trail construction program, starting with the Beaver Pond trail. As well, interpretive trail signage and pamphlets were developed. The students engaged in the International Work Camp hailed from Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, and Morocco. The Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary Grand Opening was held in September of that year, followed by the designing of environmental programs for kindergarten through grade 7. As reported in the Malaspina College newsletter on June 8, 1982,



"The sanctuary ... has, for the first time, a full-time staff member, and plans are being made for an outdoor education program at the sanctuary. Joan Lauinger is working as outdoor education coordinator, on a one-year federal Community Services Project, with the help of two students through the summer. In August a team of about 10 European students will arrive to help with trail and program development. By September, the Morrell Foundation Board of Directors hope to have both the trails and the educational programs in place, and to celebrate with a grand opening. Lauinger, and students Janet Sigvaldson and Pierre Rattini, are working now on a development plan for Morrell that will include trails, benches, picnic tables, bird blinds etc. and an interpretative program to go along with the development."



Students in International Work Camp (1982)

Two teachers were hired in February, 1983, on a 6-month Certified Career Development Practitioner (CCDP) program, and during Spring of that year teacher orientations were conducted for more than 300 teachers in District 69 schools. As well, environmental education programs commenced and the Sanctuary was opened for use by community groups. A management plan for the Sanctuary was also drafted at this time. In May 1983, four students were hired on a 4-month Canada Works internship program. The following summer another work camp with 15 international and 8 Canadian students was initiated, and a variety of promotional and fundraising products were developed (cards, shirts, etc.). A drop-in natural history program was created to serve tourists. In July, 1983, a supervisor and two trail workers were hired through a Post-Secondary Institute's Program, and the Morrell Lake and Rocky Knoll trails were completed. A volunteer training program was designed in Fall 1983, and Fall school programs started. In addition, a workshop was conducted for a British Columbia Primary Teachers conference on teaching science in the outdoors.

The Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education was created in 1984, with a Constitution developed and approved in the Spring and incorporation of the Society occurring on December 4th of that year (Appendix B). The purposes of the Society as stated in the Constitution were to (a) protect and maintain the Morrell Nature Sanctuary, (b) support the development of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary as a community environmental education centre, (c) develop

human and financial resources in the interests of educational and environmental programs, (d) promote and implement community environmental education programs, and (e) develop and support volunteer activities related to Morrell Nature Sanctuary. From this was derived the Society's mission statement: to preserve and promote the essential character of Morrell Nature Sanctuary's evolving ecosystem as a model of co-existence and as a source of information, inspiration, understanding, awareness and enjoyment of nature. Thus, the Society continued the twin traditions of environmental education and trail/facility maintenance established by Joan Lauinger and the Morrell Foundation, and which feature so prominently in this historical account along with nature conservation.

A volunteer recruitment and training program was initiated in January, 1984, with 10 volunteers. The following month, a sanctuary office was opened at the Water Board Building on Nanaimo Lakes Road under a space usage agreement between the Morrell Sanctuary Society and the Greater Nanaimo Water District (GNWD). The GNWD was established in 1953 by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature which empowered the District with specific authority to regulate water usage and to finance and construct the facilities to supply water to the City of Nanaimo and the Community of Extension. The GNWD lands, which included some old-growth trees, were zoned as a rural

resource and encompassed a total of 97 hectares along Nanaimo Lakes Road across from the Morrell Sanctuary. In 2004, the ownership and operation of the water supply service was transferred to the City of Nanaimo.

A survey and mapping of the Sanctuary site was completed in the Spring and five outdoor leadership workshops were held. Teacher information packages and reference materials were designed and published. Five student artists were hired on a Summer Canada Program, and their finished artwork included a logo, map, sign boards, cards, and illustrations. Daycamp workers were hired in July and August on a Post Secondary Institute's Program and the "Camp Woodstalk" day camp was initiated.



Children pond dipping at Camp Woodstalk (1984)

## Morrell Nature Sanctuary (1985-present)

### *Decade 1985-1994*

#### ***Historical Highlights***

Nature Trust of BC acquires Morrell Sanctuary from the BC Agricultural Land Commission (1985) -- Lease signed with Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education (1985) -- The Society granted its first Bingo licence (1987) -- Tranquility and Lookout trails constructed (1989) -- Jeanie Paterson hired as Sanctuary Manager (1990) -- The first Morrell "Family Day" held (1990) -- Electricity installed in Woods Room (1991) -- Robert Bateman donated painting for auction (1991) -- Redwood Meadows trail created (1993) -- Grand opening of the Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre (1994) -- Replaced deck at Beaver Pond (1994)

On February 18, 1985, ownership of the Sanctuary land was formally transferred from the BC Agricultural Land Commission to the Nature Trust of BC, a non-profit organization founded in 1971 and devoted to preserving threatened ecosystems within the province (Appendix C). The agreement stated that the lands would thereafter be known as "The Morrell Sanctuary". A supplemental agreement dated June 13 added the "reservoir lands" around Morrell Lake, including the "Powerline dam." The Nature Trust then signed a 99-year lease with the Morrell Sanctuary Society which required the Society to accept responsibility for: (1) preserving the grounds, trees, bushes, shrubs, plants, and flowers in the Sanctuary and (2) developing the Sanctuary as a site of ecological interest for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the people of British Columbia (Appendix D). In a series of financial arrangements, the Agricultural Land Commission paid \$30,000, and the Nature Trust contributed \$40,000, to Malaspina College to discharge the Commission from any breach of the original agreement with the College, while Malaspina College in turn paid the Morrell Sanctuary Society \$30,000 to be used to defray future operating costs associated with the Sanctuary lands. The Society set about developing educational programs for the community with hopes of fostering appreciation for the fragile ecosystems that made up the Sanctuary. In June of 1985, a license agreement was also signed between the Morrell Sanctuary Society and William Alan Morrell and Viola Savage granting Bill and Vi the right to reside in a cottage situated on Sanctuary property for the duration of their lifetimes (Appendix E). A Resource Development Project took place from March to August, 1985, with the hiring of five staff, two artists, and four researchers/interpreters. In addition, a membership drive was commenced in March, resulting in 100 new members of the Society. Camp Woodstalk was again held from May to August and was a resounding success with 300 participants. In June, charitable status was obtained for the Morrell Sanctuary Society.

January 1986 started off the year well with 50 new members joining the Society. Three interpreters were hired on a Job Development Project from February through August. Camp Woodstalk continued to draw participants during July and August of 1986 and 1987. In February 1987, the Public Gaming Branch granted the Society's first Bingo licence. Through a Job Trac Program commencing September 1987, 19 staff were hired for a period of 8 months to enhance the Sanctuary grounds, including creation of a parking lot, a workshop, a teaching shelter, benches, and wheelchair accessible trails.





Building the workshop/garage (1987) which eventually becomes the Woods Room Nature Centre



Building picnic shelter/gazebo at Morrell Lake (circa 1987)



First Yew Loop bridge (circa 1987)



Platform constructed off Yew Loop Trail (circa 1987)



In the Spring of 1988, several new school programs were implemented—Tadpole Tidbits, Birding at Buttermilks, and Forest Ecology. That summer a Nature Centre promotional booklet was designed and the first Environment Day celebration was observed. In the Fall, the Outdoor Recreation Foundation of British Columbia constructed the Tranquility and Lookout trails. The interval from July to November 1989 was very busy with the building of a new ramp at the Beaver Pond, adding new steps on the Rocky Knoll trail, upgrading and mulching all the trails, and installing new sign posts. In December 1989, a Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser was held, with trees that were being thinned at the Wildwood Eco-Forest in Cedar donated by Merv Wilkinson.

In January 1990, Jeanie Paterson was hired on contract as Sanctuary manager, replacing Joan Lauinger. A trail maintenance crew was formed between February and April to keep trails and buildings in good condition. A coordinator was hired on a Challenge '90 grant for the period May through August, and Camp Woodstalk was again held in July and August. Environment Week included an Environment Day event celebrated on June 9. In August, a "Nature Notes" column was changed to "Enviro Notes" and expanded to include environmental facts and issues. Three new programs were introduced in September: Art in Nature, Forest Detectives, and Forest Creatures. As well, the first Morrell "Family Day" event, co-sponsored by Malaspina College Continuing Education, was held that month. In October, the Sanctuary hosted the first Teachers' Professional Development Day workshop. A Job Development grant in November enabled the hiring of one project manager, two naturalists, and one office manager. As of December, 1990, memberships totalled 88 Individual, 48 Family, 9 Group, and 10 Life.

January 1991 started off with a Morrell Planning Retreat at The Haven on Gabriola Island, with 40 volunteer participants. The theme was "Short and Longterm Goals." A camcorder was purchased for this event. Also in this month, dedicated and longtime volunteer coordinator, Carol Swanson, passed away. April was a busy month, with the second Family Day function, again co-sponsored by Malaspina College Continuing Education. As well, electricity was installed in the Woods Room building and a promotional video was produced by Job Development staff and Shaw Cable. Robert Bateman donated a painting for a fundraising auction.

A new summer program was developed and implemented from May through August to replace Camp Woodstalk. A Challenge Grant permitted the employment of two summer staff. A Volunteer Planning Session, "Year at a Glance" Goals and Objectives was held in September 1991, and a roof was constructed on the Lookout trail platform to facilitate a teaching shelter. In October, the second Professional Development Day workshop was offered to district teachers.

A consultant was retained from Fall 1991 to February 1992 to evaluate the status of a Nature Centre project, and in April the Society's Board of Directors decided to downscale the size of the project and renovate the existing Woods Room. A Challenge Grant received by the Society allowed the hiring of two summer staff for the period May to August 1992. A Summer Solstice celebration was introduced in June, and turned out to be a very successful first time event. In August and



Jeanie Paterson [1991], Sanctuary manager (1990-1997)



Joan Lauinger [1990], Sanctuary manager (1982-1989)



Installing a roof at the Lookout (1991)

September, Adult Field Programs in natural history, photography, and art were offered to the community, and free Bird Watching walks with Bruce Colvin were instituted every Sunday in September. The first "Halloween Pumpkin Walk" took place as an evening event in October, and Adult Field Programs in mushrooms, birding, and photography were presented that Fall. A Planning Session on "Short and Longterm Goals" occurred in November.

January 1993 saw the creation of the Redwood Meadows trail, and the Morrell Sanctuary Society committed to the development of a Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre with the hiring of a design consultant for this project. In February, the Education Committee sponsored Science Learning Centre Awards

which were received by Malaspina College students. A Woods Room fundraising campaign was initiated in March and continued until the Nature Interpretive Centre opened in June 1994. A membership drive was undertaken in April 1993, and a Merchant Discount program was established. The latter was very successful. Other significant events in April included a Creative Interpretive Workshop led by David Fraser, a Morrell Garage Sale at Country Club Mall, and the formation of a Woods Room Development Committee to design centre exhibits and displays.

An Intertidal Workshop led by marine biologist Jane Watson was held on Newcastle Island in May, and Morrell volunteers were sponsored to attend a Spring Interpretive Conference at Manning Park Lodge. Another Challenge Grant was received in May and provided funding to hire one summer employee through to August 1993. Ongoing lobbying of businesses and organizations was initiated in June to generate support for the Woods Room, and Environment Day was again celebrated that month. During the summer of 1993, the bulletin board and signage in the Sanctuary was upgraded. Presentations were made in September to the Nanaimo Newcomers Club and Brechin Church Women's group with an emphasis on public relations and new volunteers. A Fall Planning session was also held in September, as well as a volunteer field trip to the Carmanah Valley. November 1993 was a productive month with the Annual General Meeting and Social, the introduction of new Board members, a Board Development Workshop, a Fall Craft Sale at Woodgrove Mall, field trips to Hemer Park and the Boat Harbour,



Viewing platform at Lookout Trail (circa 1990)



and the commencement of renovations in the Woods Room. In December, the sale of poinsettias was undertaken as a fundraiser.

An introduction to the Sanctuary and a BBQ for new Board members took place in February 1994. Funding was received from the Community Tourism Employment Program to hire Catherine Wolff as a Volunteer Development Coordinator from February to April. An Owling Night Field Trip led by Steve Baillie from the Nanaimo Field Naturalists club occurred in March. April 1994 was an eventful period with a public presentation to the Nanaimo-Lantzville Rotary Clubs, a Morrell Sanctuary Garage Sale at Country Club Centre, a tour of sustainable forestry practices at Wildwood with Merv Wilkinson, a raffle with a gardening theme, and a fundraising presentation about the Woods Room to the Nanaimo Field Naturalists. In May, Merv Wilkinson led a workshop at the Morrell Sanctuary. Challenge Grant funding was received to employ two summer staff, and Skills Investment Training money was obtained from Canada Employment to rehire Catherine Wolff from May to September. As well, material was purchased for building a new deck at the Beaver Pond, utilizing a \$1,500 grant from Canada Trust.

June 1994 was the official Grand Opening of the Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre. Invitations were sent to all the people who had any involvement with the project. The opening ceremonies were attended by dignitaries representing various funding institutions and the Nanaimo community. In addition, an Environment Day celebration for families was held in June, as well as an intertidal walk on Newcastle Island. Inmates from the Nanaimo Correctional Centre assisted with trail maintenance projects. From June to October 1994 the Woods Room was open to the general public and staffed by volunteers. Drop-in nature walks took place on Tuesday evenings led by summer staff. A Lantern walk for families in July was well received with 35 attendees. In August, a Meteor Shower evening event, co-sponsored by the Nanaimo Astronomy Club and Morrell Sanctuary, was held at the Lookout on Mount Benson. It was very well attended with 70-80 people participating.



Opening of the Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre (1994)



Janis Morrell Dunn, Bill Morrell, and Vi Savage at opening of the Woods Room Nature Centre (1994)



Nanaimo mayor Gary Korpan at Woods Room opening (1994)

An Insect Workshop taught by Rob Cannings from the Royal British Columbia Museum was offered to volunteers in September 1994. As well, volunteers participated in a field trip to Thimble Farm Nursery on Saltspring Island which featured native plants. Monthly Birding Walks with Bruce Colvin commenced in September. In October, an extension of Summer Challenge funding allowed the Society to retain Jennifer Picker on a part-time basis. Also this month, a review and revision of Interpretive Programs was undertaken, and the annual planning session took place.

Special funding through section 25 of Canada's Unemployed Insurance Act (UIA) allowed the hiring of a project coordinator and three researchers from October 1994 through March 1995. Projects included a funding database, a business and marketing plan for the Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre, and the development of a multimedia computer program designed to provide a natural history overview of the Sanctuary. In November 1994, the Fall Craft Sale was held at Woodgrove Mall, and Environmental Youth Teams were onsite at the Sanctuary to assist with trail maintenance projects. Also this month, an Amphitheatre Committee was formed to research the feasibility of an outdoor theatre project, and the Annual General Meeting transpired.



## *Decade 1995-2004*

### ***Historical Highlights***

Leena Paananen hired as Office Manager (1995) -- Sanctuary hosted first Coast Salish Family Day (1995) -- Morrell Sanctuary Society undertook strategic planning process (1995) -- First plant/book sale (1995) -- First Craft Sale Work Bee (1996) -- Board discussed natural progression from pond to bog at the Beaver Pond (1997) -- Discussion about future of Redwood area in Sanctuary (1997) -- Jeanie Paterson resigns as Sanctuary Manager (1997) -- Paul O'Dell hired as Sanctuary Manager (1998) -- A Canadian Millennium Partnership Project was developed to expand Woods Room, then withdrawn due to excessive budget costs (1999) -- The Morrell Nature Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary Celebration held in June (1999) -- New Sanctuary website created (1999) -- Water and sewer installed in Woods Room (2000) -- Yew Loop trail repaired (2001) -- Legacy Fund added to the Society's Constitution (2001) -- Canada Millennium Partnership Program display entitled "Stewardship in the Next Millennium" opened in Woods Room (2001) -- Yew Loop bridge rebuilt (2002) -- Wheelchair-accessible cement outhouses installed (2003) -- Bill Morrell died in October (2003) -- Morrell Lake drained for repairs (2003-2004) -- Leena Paananen laid off as Office Manager (2004) -- A modular office was purchased in December (2004)

In January 1995, Leena Paananen was hired as the Morrell Sanctuary's office manager on a permanent, part-time basis. Funding was received from Malaspina University College Cooperative Education to hire tourism Co-op student Shawn McKinley as a Special Events Coordinator. Sanctuary volunteers attended the Over 50's Welcome Wagon Show at Beban Park in March. Organized by Nanaimo Welcome Wagon, this turned out to be a good publicity event. In April, the Sanctuary hosted and co-sponsored the first Coast Salish Family Day in conjunction with the Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Centre, an event that was attended by approximately 300 people. A week of new Coast Salish School programs followed and was well received by district teachers. Also in April, the first annual Morrell Community Plant/Book Sale occurred onsite at Morrell.

The Sanctuary sponsored a Wildflower Workshop in May, featuring Mollie Byrne. A facilitator, Sharon Speevak, was hired and the Morrell Sanctuary Society board and volunteers entered a strategic planning process that continued on into July 1995. Volunteer orientation for Woods Room summer staff took place in June, and the Woods Room Nature Interpretive Centre remained open until the end of September. Two seasonal staff were also hired in June through the Summer Career Placement program offered by Canada Employment and Immigration. Unfortunately, Environment Day was rained out that month.

July 1995 was the beginning of an amended fiscal year. Morrell Nature Day Camps and Community programs held in July and August were very successful. The Annual General Meeting and Fall Planning Session took place on September 25, and the Fall School programs were offered from September through November. The Sanctuary Orientation Planning session for new and core Board members occurred in October. In November, a field trip for Morrell volunteers was arranged to Cherry Point Vineyards in Cowichan, followed by participation in a program at the Marine Ecology Centre at Cowichan Bay.

Funding was received from Malaspina University College Cooperative Education to hire tourism Co-Op student Erin Race as a Special Events Coordinator from January to April, 1996. An Environmental Education program was piloted for Early Childhood Education students from Malaspina University College in February 1996, and annual interpreter training was conducted until the end of March. Morrell volunteers participated again in the Over 50's Welcome Wagon Show at Beban Park in March, and held the second annual plant/book sale on April 22. In May, volunteers visited the Nanaimo River Estuary with interpreter Mollie Byrne, and the Woods Room was opened to the public with interesting displays. During the summer months of July and August, the Morrell Nature Day Camps and Community programs were implemented. Catherine Deutscher was appointed Volunteer Craft Coordinator and met with Sanctuary Manager Jeanie Paterson to discuss ideas for the upcoming Fall Craft sale.

The Annual General Meeting and Fall planning session took place in September 1996, and the first Craft Sale Work Bee was conducted in the office. The office manager made a presentation to the Nanaimo Primary Teachers' Association promoting the Morrell school programs, and the school programs started in late September. A Creative Interpretive Workshop for Morrell nature interpreters was facilitated by Anne Finlayson. In October, there was a follow-up teaching session for participants of the February workshop for early childhood education students in which programs for preschoolers were designed and implemented. Morrell volunteers participated in a one-day Craft Sale at Country Club Centre in November. Also that month, three staff were hired through the Unemployment Insurance Act Section 25 program to evaluate, review and design updated school programs to complement a new Ministry of Education mandate legislated in the School Act [RSBC 1996]. As well, Mollie Byrne led a mushroom workshop in November.

Interpretive training which included two specialty workshops took place in February and March of 1997. The first was a "Creative Interpretive Workshop" facilitated by Will Husby and the second, which was open to all volunteers, was a "Wildlife Tree Workshop" organized by Andrew MacDonald.

A recurring issue was the opening and closing of the lower gate entrance to the Sanctuary. In Jeanie Paterson's report for February, 1997, she noted that Vi Savage who lived in the cottage at the Sanctuary wasn't always able to close the gate each night and alternative arrangements were being sought. In an interesting aside, Jeanie remarked that "we seem to be a prime location for prostitutes to turn tricks these days. Helen reported that we became popular last Fall and that she picks up an average of 4 used condoms per morning with a record of 12 condoms in one clean-up." In her March report, Jeanie writes that "thanks to Lorne Morrell, the Society now has a new security person to open and close the gate each day, Sandy Bristow, who will be out walking his dog. When our new vests are made up Jeanie will give one to Sandy for identification purposes. This increased security comes with an insignificant price tag established by Sandy; one or two bottles of Scotch per year!" However, by April, the arrangement with Sandy Bristow had not worked out and Vi Savage was back closing the gate.

The third annual Plant/Book Sale occurred on April 19. Unfortunately, poor weather impacted attendance and revenue from the sale was less than anticipated, but it was still considered relatively successful with 170 visitors and net proceeds amounting to \$795. The Spring school programs also commenced in April. Morrell volunteers went on a field trip to the Duncan Freshwater Eco-Centre in May 1997, where they participated in a Pond Life program followed by a Wildflower Walk interpreted by Mollie Byrne. At this time, the Board became interested in the natural progression from pond to bog at the Beaver Pond, particularly the order of magnitude—whether that progression would take years, decades, or centuries. Two staff were hired in June through a Summer Career Placement Program to manage the Morrell Nature Day Camp and Community programs over the summer months.

A special meeting of the Society's membership was held on July 23 to discuss the Redwood area within the Sanctuary. Chairman Keith Harding explained the history of the Board's decision to restore the Redwood area to a meadow setting and invited views from those present. Judy Pineo opened by explaining the rationale behind the current mission statement, which was supposed to prevent the Board from moving in directions which conflicted with the mission statement. Discussion followed about the history of the area, including past clearcutting. Subsequent planting of redwoods and other species in that area of the Sanctuary had been performed and monitored by Malaspina College. The area had been thinned by Brannen Lake Correctional Centre crews and Trail Maintenance volunteers at various times in the past. Jerry Rolph cautioned that the redwoods should be basal pruned in the dormant season only. Discussion followed about growth rates, encroachment by other species, and self-seeding of redwoods. Two directions were developed for maintaining the area: (1) cut around redwoods to the drip line and (2) leave the area alone and only maintain existing trails. After further discussion it was agreed that the area would be left alone till the Board obtained an expert opinion on both the Redwoods area and the future of the Beaver Pond.

Promotional flyers were sent to schools, and the Fall school programs started from late September to mid-November. At the annual general meeting held on September 24, 1997, Viola Savage was appointed by Lorne Morrell to sit on the Society's board of directors on behalf of the Morrell family. In October, Jeanie Paterson resigned as Sanctuary Manager and withdrew from the Society. At the December 16, 1997, Board meeting the Personnel



Committee identified four areas of responsibility considered necessary for a Morrell Sanctuary manager: (1) manage the Sanctuary, (2) oversee the office, (3) promote educational programs, and (4) co-ordinate and recruit volunteers. As well, the Sanctuary manager should have experience working with a volunteer Board and demonstrate competence in time management. For the complete Sanctuary manager job description, refer to Appendix F. At the December meeting, the Board also considered an inquiry from Debrah Bodnair of the Nanaimo Museum, who called to see if the Morrell Nature Sanctuary would be interested in having a brick Miner's cottage which had to be moved from its current location. However, the board decided that such an acquisition did not fit the Society's mandate. A Christmas Soiree was held in the Woods Room in December, including a walk around the Sanctuary.

An advertisement for a new office administrator was placed in the local newspaper in January 1998, and Jeanie Paterson's going away luncheon occurred the next month. In February and March, Jean Robinson and Carol Harding joined forces to organize nature interpreter training. Jean also served as the Sanctuary's librarian and she submitted recommendations to the Board concerning serial publications that would be worth having in a small library created to support the nature interpreters. At the February 17 Board meeting, a motion by Keith Harding was approved to fund up to \$100 for subscriptions in the library including the periodical *Interpscan*, which was published by Interpretation Canada and issued current information about interpretive programming. In March, Keith Harding announced the selection of a new Sanctuary Manager from a short list of four candidates. The unanimous decision was for Paul O'Dell who, if approved by the Board, was prepared to begin on April 1. Following Board approval Keith moved that the Society employ Paul O'Dell as Sanctuary Manager on a six month contract.

Paul started work on April 1, 1998. In his first report he began by thanking the Board of Directors and the Personnel Committee for selecting him as the new Sanctuary Manager, and also thanked Leana Paananen for helping him become familiar with office procedures. He was very impressed with the level of commitment that all the volunteers possessed, not to mention their energy and enthusiasm. Also in April, the fourth annual plant sale took place on April 18. Despite poor weather, the event was well organized by Erin Race and was well attended, earning a profit of \$592.88. The Spring school programs commenced that month.

May 1998 was an active month. Paul met with Jean Robinson and Colleen Ettinger to discuss the library. He also spoke with Judy Pineo regarding an information database she created for the library to aid in nature interpretation, and announced that Wendy South had stepped forward to take over responsibility for the library. Wendy would update the database and make it more user-friendly for people accessing the library. A volunteer with a background in library administration, Wynnie Palms, volunteered to assist Wendy with managing the library.

Paul O'Dell and Carol Harding made a field trip to the Duncan Freshwater Eco-Centre to attend a Wildlife Tree seminar with Andrew MacDonald. A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held May 12 in the Woods Room, where the 31 people in attendance enjoyed beautiful weather and lots of food. Summer students were interviewed, and Colleen Millar and Nea Pike were hired to start work on June 8. Phase 1 of road paving was completed up to the blue gate, 75 metres in distance. Hub City completed the work and provided a cash donation of \$250 towards the project.

The Fundraising Committee chose June as a major membership drive month focusing on Environment Week and the Summer solstice events at the Sanctuary and within the community. Spring school programs came to a close on June 19; it was considered a very successful spring season. Summer staff organized nature day camps and community programs, which started at the beginning of July and continued until August 15, 1998. The Woods Room was open through July and August on Sundays from 1-3 pm and received over 200 visitors. Regarding the summer programs, Paul remarked that in the previous year there were only two camps per week on Thursdays and Fridays, and while Thursdays were full with 30 kids and a waiting list, Fridays were only half full. Based on this fact it was decided to try holding three camps per week in 1998 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It turned out that Wednesdays were the big hit and were full, with Thursdays almost full, but with little interest at all in Tuesdays.

Fall school programs commenced in September 1998 and the Annual General Meeting was held on September 22. Paul reported that Leana spent a good deal of time bringing the library database up-to-date, and they planned to meet with the library group to instruct them in using the search routine. The annual Craft/Bake Sale, which took place at Woodgrove Mall on October 8-9, was very successful with a net intake of \$536.40 and all of the volunteers

had a great time. Gary Williams arranged and led a mushroom walk on October 26. A student from McMillan College, an educational institution based in Nanaimo, undertook a 2-week practicum surveying teachers regarding the viability of in-school programs and the response was quite positive.

The Fall programs ended in November, and the nature interpreters went on a field trip to the Cowichan Marine Centre. Paul checked Morrell Lake for reported signs of bullfrogs, but was unable to confirm their presence in the lake. In his December 15 report to the Board of Directors Paul noted that an article in the the Fall 1998 issue of *Interpscan* made reference to a federal program called the Millennium Project. Helping Canadians mark the new millennium in meaningful and creative ways, the Canada Millennium Partnership Program (CMPP) sought to enable initiatives examining Canadian heritage and celebrating Canadian achievements. The program was intended to help



EDGE program workers rebuilding front fence and sign (1999)

support projects exploring Canada's history, natural beauty, ethnic and cultural diversity, and technical and scientific excellence. Paul requested a proposal package from the federal government with thoughts of participating in the program at some point in the future. The Christmas Soiree in December 1998 was catered by Winchelsea House and was very well attended. The food was good and everyone enjoyed themselves.

In February 1999, David Cronk, a third-year university student working through Youth Community Action, began a 10-week placement for the development and implementation of three in-school programs to be introduced in January and February of 2000. Television and newspaper advertising was introduced for recruiting new nature interpreters, and the EDGE program participated in rebuilding the Sanctuary's front fence and sign posts. In March, six weeks of nature interpreter training was initiated, with six trainees graduating at the end. A Canadian Millennium Partnership Project (CMPP) was developed to expand the Woods Room for the purpose of housing the administration offices. The encroachment issue at

Willow Park was again revisited and a plan devised. The first concession money from Bingo which could be spent without restriction was received in April, and the fifth annual plant sale, held on a great sunny day, resulted in revenues up 50 percent over the previous year. The Spring school programs commenced in April. The Morrell Sanctuary Society participated in the "Leave a Legacy" campaign for the month of May, which turned out to be rather disappointing given its first year in Nanaimo. The volunteer appreciation luncheon was held on May 28 with over 30 volunteers in attendance. Along with lots of food was the presentation of Morrell Lapel Pins to each volunteer and special recognition plaques for volunteers with service in excess of 10 years.

The Morrell Nature Sanctuary's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held on June 20, 1999, in poor rainy weather, but Mayor Gary Korpan and Nature Trust Director Ron Erikson were on hand to deliver speeches to the approximately 100 people attending the event. Bill Morrell made a ceremonial cut of the cake which was captured by a Nanaimo Daily Free Press photographer and made front page news the following day. Both CHEK TV and Shaw Cable also did television segments prior to the event, with the overall end result being a well organized anniversary event that garnered positive community attention. In anticipation of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the BC Hydro Youth Team resurfaced the Yew Loop trail.



BC Hydro Youth Team at Yew Loop (1999)





25 Year Anniversary of Morrell Nature Sanctuary (1999)



Paul O'Dell (left), Sanctuary manager (1998-2010) and Bill Morrell at 25th Anniversary of Sanctuary



Paul O'Dell, Sanctuary Manager, 25th Anniversary, 1999



Elaine Wade, President (1998-2001, 2011-2014), 25th Anniversary, 1999

Approximately two hundred applications were received in June for the two summer camp leader positions. These were short listed to 45 applicants, then to twelve of which four were interviewed. Kristy Cradock and Jill Boyce were ultimately hired and started work on June 15. Eileen Anderson organized the Woods Room opening for July and August, and a BC Bird of Prey collection was borrowed from the Royal British Columbia Museum for display. June Carlson, Wendy South, and Christine Campbell attended a 3-day leaders conference on Quadra Island. The Spring school programs wrapped up in June.

Starting in July, the Woods Room was staffed on Sundays from noon to 3 pm by volunteers, on Saturdays from 10 to 3 pm by the summer camp leaders, and on Wednesdays by Wendy South and Christine Campbell. McMillan Bloedel provided a \$900 grant for bark mulching the Beaver Pond trail and for the creation of a new website which came online at [www.morrell.bc.ca](http://www.morrell.bc.ca) in July 1999. Also that month, a letter was sent to Willow Park owners regarding encroachment into the Sanctuary, and a Bingo proceeds application was put forward for the purpose of installing water and sewer lines to the Woods Room. In August, the CMPP for the expansion of the Woods Room was withdrawn due to concern over excessive budget costs. The summer students wrapped up on August 28th and all in all it was a good season.

The first colour issue of the Sanctuary newsletter was one significant undertaking in September. Using the fax machine with a colour cartridge and special bubblejet paper, the actual printing time of 90 colour copies double-sided was 13 hours. The 1999-2000 School Flyer was completed and distributed thanks to the Nanaimo Credit Union who loaned their copier to make 1,000 double-sided flyers. New additions to the flyer were two novel in-school programs and the website address. Recruiting of nature interpreters for the fall season was somewhat successful, with Paul O'Dell conducting 12 interviews and signing up 9 trainees. Fall interpreter training concluded on September 17, just in time for the start of the Fall Season. Of the 9 individuals that registered, only 7 attended the training. Of the 7 that completed the training only 6 continued on with observations and teaching.



Also on September 17, United Way "Day of Caring" volunteers repainted the large main entrance gate and the bridges on the Beaver Pond trail. Arline Haddaway, Bob and Flo Dadds, and Paul O'Dell made a day trip to Swan Lake in Victoria to observe a program, and agreed that the Morrell Sanctuary programs and interpreters were as good as, if not better, than Swan Lake. Another Youth Community Action student, Lisa Hooper, started September 27 to work on a third in-school program based on plant life cycles. The Fall Craft/Bake Sale on October 8-9 was another success, earning \$540 in revenue. The Society received the donation of a 60-piece limited edition art collection entitled "From the West," with an appraised value of \$28,500. A public showing was held on October 29th with the majority of the Board in attendance as well as some other volunteers. Advertising for the winter training sessions was not as productive as hoped, with only 2 people signing up. However, several current nature interpreters were interested. The training was condensed, with the most significant aspect of the training program being observation of the in-class presentations in January. Helen Johnston resigned as trail maintenance coordinator as of December 30 and Bud Vawter stepped up to take over that role. In December, the volunteer Christmas party was a resounding success, and confirmation was received from the BC Gaming Branch that a grant application for \$20,000 to install water and sewer at the Sanctuary had been approved.



Facsimile of the first Morrell Sanctuary website from the Wayback Machine (2000)

The new millennium (2000) started out with the art collection taken to Yellow Bird galleries in January and February for mounting and shrink wrapping. Paul O'Dell piloted the two new in-school programs and the response from the children and teachers was very positive, with the returned evaluations rated well over 80%. Teachers enjoyed having the interpreters come to the schools, which saved the cost of organizing visits to the Sanctuary. Paul noted that these in-class winter programs will not detract from the Fall or Spring bookings, but rather augment them. The winter in-school programs wrapped up on the 29th of February with a session on Gabriola Island. Also during this period, Society members approved the use of money from the Gaming Commission for water and sewer service to the Woods Room. Newcastle Engineering donated their time in assessing and surveying the property where the water and sewer lines were intended to go. After meeting with the engineers, Paul thought the Society would be lucky to complete the project for \$20,000.

Training for the Spring program season was in full swing with 18 interpreters in total, including 10 new trainees. The weather co-operated nicely and the group had a rather enjoyable walk through the Sanctuary, stopping along the way to discuss interesting things encountered on the trails. On March 6th Paul received an assessment notice from BC Assessment indicating that they intended to charge Morrell Sanctuary taxes for the leased premises at the Nanaimo Water District building. This prompted an investigation of the rationale and procedures to waive the taxes. The only option to avoid paying these taxes was through a Permissive Tax Exemption Application, so an application was submitted to the City. A special guest speaker from SlipStream Adventures spoke on March 21st to interpreters and trail maintenance volunteers about "Wilderness First Aid."

At the April 2000 board meetings, directors brought up the idea of a Legacy Fund. Legal and accounting advice was required, and Paul offered to check with the Nature Trust because they had such funds. Interpreter training concluded on April 4th with a nice potluck lunch to wrap things up. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and the new Interpreters were awarded graduation certificates. As per tradition two Interpreters were awarded their own volunteer name tags in recognition of 1 year of service. The two volunteers were Arline Haddaway and Christina



Campbell. The sixth annual plant sale in April turned out to be the best to-date, with close to \$1,300 in sales. A busy Spring season began with 57 bookings, keeping the interpreters engaged and enthusiastic. Photos of the art collection were posted on the Sanctuary's website, along with the artists' name, title of the work and cost.

The Leave a Legacy campaign in May was not very productive because there were no mall displays and not much media attention, but printed promotional material was available and somewhat helpful. The Canadian Millennium Partnership Program (CMPP) gave the Society permission to proceed with the Stewardship in the Next Millennium display project, though Paul noted that with everything else planned for June this project may have to be put on the back burner. The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on May 15, and Helen Johnston, Judy Pineo, Kathy Jackson, and Audrey Strauss were awarded plaques in recognition of ten years of volunteer service. Approval was received for a Summer Student grant to fund two students for 10 weeks at 35 hours per week. Paul O'Dell dropped the rate of pay for 2000 from \$8.75 to \$8.25, with the Society contributing \$1.10 per hour. The anticipated start date was set for June 20, 2000, with plans to have the students work Tuesdays through Saturday so that they could staff the Woods Room on Saturdays as in the previous year. Also in May, new sun shade tents were purchased for \$39.99 each to use at the Plant Sale and other outdoor events, replacing the need for awkward and unsightly tarps. A project proposal was sent to Weyerhaeuser to hire students to barkmulch the trails, and new barkmulch was delivered to the Sanctuary courtesy of Mike Gogo.

Water and sewer was installed at the Woods Room in June, and the bathroom remodelled to become wheelchair accessible. Also, hot running water was installed to a sink in the kitchen area. The final cost was expected to be about \$10,000. A major Gala was held on June 24 to display the art collection to the public and as well as to draw attention to a newly acquired Coast Salish dugout canoe, to introduce the new website, to celebrate the installation of the water, sewer and bathroom, to announce Summer Camp programs, and to officially kick off the summer Woods Room openings. Merv Wilkinson was in attendance and Shaw Cable did a rather nice interview with him regarding the dugout canoe. As planned, Keith Brown purchased one of the prints from the money paid to him to coordinate the water and sewer project. Kristy Craddock was re-hired along with Kristine Johnson as summer camp leaders. The Spring season drew to a close on June 15, 2000. The establishment of a Legacy Fund was seriously considered by the Board and a draft document was prepared in June.

The Millennium project was a definite go. In June, Weyerhaeuser came through with a grant for \$1,500, and in July \$1,000 was received from Newcastle Engineering and \$500 from J.E. Anderson & Associates. The project was expected to take at least three or four months and had a fixed deadline of March 31, 2001. With respect to the Society's request to waive taxes on their office space in the Nanaimo Water District building, the Society was awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the City toward the assessed tax of \$5,876, leaving an amount owing of \$2,376.88. This amount was paid prior to the July 4th deadline. Paul O'Dell was disappointed that it was not a full grant, but it was explained that not all taxes are for the City and that some funds were for the School system and the Regional District of Nanaimo which the City would have to absorb if a full Grant was given. The Summer Camp was held July and August, and the Woods Room was again open from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturdays and 12 noon to 3 pm on Sundays. The summer camps were held on Tuesday mornings, Thursday afternoons, and all day Wednesday. As well, the age range was adjusted to 5-10. These changes all proved successful. In preparing for the Fall training, Paul O'Dell interviewed ten potential trainees, but only eight came in to pick up their training packages. Of these eight, only five followed through and completed training. Paul also had two new nature interpreters from the past Spring return to take the Fall training, leaving him fairly confident that he would have enough interpreters for the season. The Fall season had 32 programs booked, but with the new nature interpreters wanting to do more there was less demand on the core group. It was only the occasional "Art In Nature" or "Forest Creatures" program that required the core nature interpreters, and Joanne Van Oosten and Winnie Hein returned in the Fall to help out with their experienced eyes. The Annual General Meeting was held on September 25 and would have been much shorter had there not been a special resolution, but the discussion regarding the paving of the parking lot was very useful and informative.

In December 2000, a catered Christmas party was held at the main office. Two field trips were scheduled for the nature interpreters. In Paul O'Dell's words,

"Our trip to Tamagawa University was really great with Kazue Fujiki, a nature interpreter with Morrell, as our host. She and her husband are presently resident caretakers on the campus. Our tour included a beautifully constructed log convention hall complete with kitchen and bathroom facilities; a dormitory with ten individual rooms, complete laundry facilities, kitchen, Jacuzzi and study rooms; a large split level building housing a science lab, computer room, library, living room and dining room, a fully equipped kitchen and the most beautiful view of Holden Lake. There were also greenhouses in the final stages of growing Japanese cucumbers. We finished off with tea and Japanese cookies and we left. Our second adventure was a taxidermy demonstration conducted by Laurel Bohart (formally Jenkinson). The specimen used was a barred owl that was turned into the sanctuary a few months back. I had no idea what to expect but hold on to your socks -I was blown away as she literally turned this bird inside out. The experience was well worth the 2.5 hours and I would highly recommend it to anyone with the stomach to watch."

One of Paul's main concerns at this time was the need for a Board policy regarding wildlife tree preservation versus public safety. As he pointed out to the Board at the December 14 board meeting, "the issue at hand, and which should be resolved today, is a) do we side with the wildlife value of the tree and leave it alone or b) do we remove it in the interest of public safety. There is no doubt that this is a debatable issue and that both sides will have very reasonable arguments, but a decision must be made. My position is on the side of caution and to have the hazardous trees removed."

In January 2001, a Golden Eagle mount was donated to the Sanctuary. It was rather dusty, but Paul thought the wall mounted specimen would be a fine addition the Woods Room after some restoration. The BC Gaming Commission reviewed the Society's accounting records for the previous two years. The review was conducted to determine if the Society should be granted another 2-year license, which was set to expire on February 28, 2001. The report was very positive, citing "strong internal controls," and went on to recommend continued access to Gaming funds, but also expressed concern about the Society's high level of dependence on Gaming revenue.

Doubts about the condition of the Yew Loop trail were raised, noting that it was not as wheelchair accessible as it should be. Even though the trail was re-surfaced in May 1999 by the BC Hydro Youth Team, there were still ruts and uneven stretches. Only a hand roller was used at the time which did not compact the aggregate as well as it could have been. The cost for the limestone used was \$500. The original surface had lasted some 10 years and had been laid down by an experienced crew. New trail maps were copied and laminated for placement on Sanctuary trails.



Storage shed at back of Woods Room (2001)

The in-school programs concluded at the end of February 2001 with 26 total bookings. Mike Neider volunteered to mill some Douglas-fir and cedar logs and then build a storage shed onto the back of the Woods Room using the cedar planks. Despite a suggestion to change the wording on the entrance signs to indicate fixed hours during which the Sanctuary was open, it was decided to leave it unchanged, reading "dawn till dusk". The proposed wording for a Special Resolution establishing the Legacy Fund was accepted by the Board for presentation to a General Meeting. The Legacy phraseology was prepared by lawyer Sharon Krog, with Keith Harding helpful in going over the language and offering suggestions on how to simplify it with the lay person in mind.

In March 2001, the BC Gaming Commission renewed the Society's Bingo license for another two years, but limited the number of events to 40 dates rather than 52 as in previous years—almost a 25% cut. With respect to the Legacy Fund process, Keith Harding pointed out the need to ensure that the money in the Legacy Fund could not be taken out by some future membership vote. Anything in the Society's by-laws could be amended by the membership, so he argued the Legacy Fund should be established in the Constitution. This would require renumbering and the addition of the statement that the provision was unalterable.

Spring training began on Tuesday March 6th with six new trainees signed up. One trainee, recently retired, was referred by her daughter who had been a nature interpreter two years earlier. Nine of the core interpreters participated in the training to share their experiences with the trainees. As well, Donna Hill, an Interpretation Canada Certified Instructor, provided the group with a one-day workshop on interpretation techniques held March 20th. On March 29, the "EDGE" crew repaired the Yew Loop trail using 1/4" limestone and a motorized compactor to remove uneven patches that could have impaired a wheelchairs access. A photographer from the Nanaimo Bulletin stopped by and a picture of the improved trail appeared in the paper the following Tuesday.

Spring training concluded on April 3, 2001. A custom with nature interpreters was to award an official Morrell Sanctuary name tag after the completion of one full year. That Spring, a name tag was awarded to Harry Adcock, a retired postmaster from Lantzville who became a member of the Society shortly after signing on as an interpreter. The Spring season began with an incredible 60 programs booked. There was a follow up visit from taxidermist, Laurel Bohart, who mounted the owl that she had skinned a few months back. The turnout was just as good with about nine people in attendance. When finished the Barred Owl was housed in plastic to avoid insect damage and made a nice addition to the Nature Center.

Carlea Gibbs was recruited through Community Youth Action to work on the Millenium display. She was supported by a volunteer, Joanna, who took on some specific tasks with regard to the display. Joanna searched the BC Archives for pictures of early logging and Coast Salish people, and investigated the process of acquiring the images. She was also in touch with the Nanaimo Museum, the Provincial Museum, and the Library. In addition, Joanna had experience with dry mounting which proved to be extremely useful when it came time to mount the images. Also In April, a special meeting of the members unanimously passed the introduction of the Legacy Fund into the Society's constitution. The volunteer luncheon was held at the Woods Room in May, and Paul O'Dell barbequed hotdogs and hamburgers. There was a good turnout despite the rain.

The Summer Career Placement was confirmed, but cut back significantly, almost to the point of cancelling summer camp. The original application was for two students for 13 weeks at 35 hours per week. In past years, the placement had been reduced to 10 weeks for each of the two positions, but this year the placement was cut to one position. Paul O'Dell contacted the Placement office to explain that the program could not be run with only one staff person, and eventually he was allowed to split the one position into two, with one staff member for 10 weeks at 30 hours per week and another for 7 weeks at 30 hours.

The Canada Millennium Partnership Program display entitled " Stewardship in the Next Millennium" opened on June 30, 2001, to a fair-sized crowd. It was a nice sunny day and Mayor Korpan was on hand to assist with the ribbon cutting ceremony, as was Bill Morrell. Paul noted that it had been hectic leading up to that point with last minute problems, but thanked Carlea, Joanna, and Brett who were instrumental in pulling it all together. Logging artifacts were supplied by Dave Challenger and Coast Salish artifacts were provided by the Nanaimo Treaty office. Two display stands were purchased for the event, which would be used for other displays in the future.



Mayor Gary Korpan and Bill Morrell at ribbon cutting ceremony launching the Millennium Project (2001)





Stewardship in the next Millenium (2001)



Displays in Woods Room for the Millenium project (2001)

Summer camp was in full swing by mid-July. Kristy Craddock returned as one of the leaders and Jackie Schott was hired as her partner for the summer. Kristy worked for 10 weeks, but Jackie was only funded for 7 weeks. Paul O'Dell lamented the problem of advertising the camps. In the early years it was something new and the newspapers covered it, but over time it became frustrating trying to enlist the newspapers to help get the word out. Short of paid advertising, the Society had to rely solely on word of mouth and strategically placed posters.

The Sanctuary took part in a book sale sponsored by Literacy Nanaimo in August and earned \$100. The summer students staffed the table for the day. While the students normally manned the Woods Room on Saturdays, volunteers covered for them that day. There was a fair response for the donation of books, certainly enough to go ahead with the sale. Helen Johnston visited the downtown art gallery to ask about the Society's prints. She was told that it was unlikely they could be sold in Nanaimo any time soon, at least for their appraised price. The gallery suggested they might sell in Vancouver or Victoria. The Board passed a motion that the Legacy Fund account be opened with a \$10 deposit.

Summer Day Camp 2001 wrapped up on August 31st with a special BBQ for the children. Food Country donated hot dogs, soda pop and condiments, while one of the mothers of a registered child contributed an ice cream cake for dessert. Given that there were 29 children, both Kristy and Jackie recruited their mothers to help cook and pass out the food. Regarding the camp, it turned out that the most popular days were the full day camps. Traditionally there had only been half day camps, but full days were tried for the first time in 2000. The full days were so popular in 2001 that Paul considered having 2 days of full day camps in 2002 and only 1 half day camp, providing the Society was not cut back in funding again. The end of summer saw not only the wrap up of summer camp but also the "Stewardship in the Next Millenium" display in the Woods Room. The display were dismantled and put away in the storage room, while the artifacts were returned to their rightful owners and letters of thanks sent out.

Leading up to the Fall Nature Interpreter training Paul did a radio interview on the WAVE station and an on air interview with Shaw Cable in September. While he thought it might help with recruiting, only four people showed up for the actual training. Nevertheless, the core group of reliable nature interpreters had grown to 15 and was sufficient to carry out the Fall programs. A break in one of the supporting members on the Yew Loop bridge caused a section of the bridge to sag significantly. This was braced using a hydraulic jack and some cement blocks, but the rest of the substructure and decking was in poor shape and required attention as soon as sufficient funding for materials and labour could be raised.

The Society treasurer, Judy Pineo, reported from the quarterly Bingo Association meeting in September the fear that the government would announce big changes in the Bingo regulations. It had been proposed that Bingo would be moved to the BC Lottery Corporation, licenses would be withdrawn, and volunteers would be unnecessary; however, it was noted that there would be no change in the level of funding. The annual general meeting was held on September 27th.

Fall programs were well underway by mid-October and wrapped up around the middle of November; however, the number of bookings was down from 27 to only 21. Again, "Seeds and Spores" was the most popular program, followed closely by "Forest Creatures." The new trainees recruited in the Fall fell by the wayside, but the returning core group stood at 14 interpreters. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Paul O'Dell attended a conference in Victoria sponsored by the Federal Government to discuss a draft accord outlining the relationship between the Federal Government and the not-for-profit sector. There was an excellent turnout of approximately 100 nonprofit organizations from all over Vancouver Island. The accord was an attempt to streamline the relationship between government and nonprofits with such things as reporting (T3010) and grant procedures. The accord involved, where possible, others affected by such an initiative including provincial governments, the business sector, unions and municipalities. Built into such an initiative would be a greater possibility to stand and be counted with organizations sharing similar values and beliefs. Mike Herold, of Herold Engineering Ltd, inspected the Yew Loop bridge in late October and recommended substituting four steel girders instead two raw logs. Also in October, the entire Board except for one director, plus the manager, attended a full day Board Training workshop at the Dorchester.

In November, the Fall Craft/Bake sale generated over \$800 in sales. The final tally for the sale was \$534.95, with an additional \$306.00 generated in raffle ticket sales for an art print. The two days at Rutherford were more than adequately covered by volunteers and the amount of items for sale was certainly impressive. The Fall season came to a close and there had been no problem at all finding volunteers to cover programs. There were 25 bookings, down ever so slightly from the 27 the previous year. The operating budget had estimated 24 bookings, so the actual bookings were slightly ahead at that point. In December, the Christmas Party, a potluck, was held at the office and had a good turnout. Close to \$3,000 was raised from private member donations towards replacing the Yew Loop bridge.

In January 2002, Paul O'Dell managed to purchase salvaged steel girders from the dismantling of the Hudsons Bay building and have them delivered to the Sanctuary for reconstructing the Yew Loop bridge. Kevin Bridges from the City of Nanaimo inspected the site and stated that because this was the replacement of an existing structure there was no need for a permit. However, he recommended that work take place in July and August when the seasonal stream flowing under the bridge, a tributary of the Chase River, was dry. Nexen Chemicals donated \$200 toward the bridge repair in February. This donation brought the total to \$2,900 for the project. With just over \$600 spent on the steel girders and an estimate from Mike Gogo of roughly \$1,000 for the cedar decking the project was well within budget. Dave Wallace of J.E. Anderson and Associates and his crew visited the Yew Loop Bridge on February 27 and were made aware that their rendering of the site would need to be forwarded to Mike Herold, the engineer, for adding the design details of the new replacement bridge.

Special flyers sent out to teachers in December in hopes of getting bookings for the in-school programs did not generate a favourable response, with a disappointing total of only 8 bookings. It was thought that a teachers strike at the time had something to do with the poor response but that was only speculation. With only 8 programs booked for the entire Winter season, this was clearly short of the budgeted 40 programs anticipated. One teacher noted that the cost of transportation was high and few parents were available to help out in car pooling, so she booked this program because the interpreters came to the school.

Three deliveries of bark mulch from Mike Gogo were received in March and the upgrading of the trails began. The free bark mulch was donated by Gogo, but the Society paid for truck delivery to the Sanctuary. Willows Mobile Home Park made a donation of \$50 for bark mulch delivered to their park, where tenants were maintaining their own small connector trail into the Sanctuary's Yew Loop. On March 15, Bob and Flo Dadds submitted a proposal to create a new 200-metre trail in the Sanctuary from the Hydro Lane to the Beaver Pond trail. They argued that such a path would relieve traffic on the Rocky Knoll and Tranquility trails, could be used for school nature programs, opened up a different forest experience, would provide a more accessible exit in case of emergency from the back of the Beaver Pond, and permit easier and shorter access for trail maintenance on the back of the Beaver Pond trail. After much discussion, the proposal was defeated at the March 22 board meeting and a decision made to not go forward at that time. Eventually, however, this trail was constructed and named "Bob's trail."

Paul O'Dell met with Jeff Sheldrake with regard to the lease between the Water District and Morrell Sanctuary for office space. Some significant capital costs were anticipated over the next few years, particularly for a new roof and a new heat pump. Estimated cost for both these items was \$20,000, to be amortized over 10 years or \$2,000 per year. As the lease stated that the Society paid 30% of operating costs like Hydro and utilities, it was also expected to pay 30% of the capital costs or \$600 per year. The lease renewal, and details contained therein, was an agenda item for the Water District Board's meeting scheduled for March 18, 2002. At the April 19 board meeting of the Morrell Sanctuary Society, the Water Board Office lease was signed for \$700 per year for a three-year term. Nature interpreter training was completed by April 19, with 3 trainees graduating.

The 8th Annual Plan Sale in April was quite a success, earning approximately \$1,250. This was down slightly from the previous year's \$1,300, but raffle ticket sales were up and registrations as well. The weather cooperated nicely and by all accounts the day was steady and under control. The Society applied for two summer camp positions for 13 weeks, focusing the application more on benefits to the community rather than to the individual students, but was approved for two Summer Career Placements for 10 weeks. However, the Summer Career Placement Program no longer covered mandatory benefits such as employer CPP, EI or vacation pay, meaning that the Society's portion of



the cost would be higher than the previous year. Paul decided to hold full day camps on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 3 pm at \$14 per child. By late May, the water level in the creek under the Yew Loop bridge was dropping rapidly, with the expectation that work would soon begin on the bridge replacement. Paul anticipated that the creek would be dry from mid-June through the end of August, and that the work would take two weeks at the very least. A call was received from a Mr. Wilson, a retired gentleman recently moved to Nanaimo from Kamloops, who was in the midst of renewing his will and wanted to leave something to an environmentally focused agency. His plan was to leave certain funds to the Nanaimo Foundation but to have the interest on those funds paid out to Morrell Sanctuary annually.

The volunteer luncheon was quite a success by all accounts with the attendance of 25 people. Three new volunteer pins were issued but no 10 year plaques that year. With two Summer Career Placements approved, the positions were posted at the Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) summer employment office and advertised in the Nanaimo Bulletin. Approximately 50 applications were received and shortlisted to six. The interviews were held on June 14, with the start date for the camp leaders the following Monday, June 17.

Summer Camp 2002 was well under way in July and Paul was very pleased with the camp leaders. Erin and Lindsay complemented each other and worked extremely well in a team atmosphere. Among the their strengths were organizational abilities and creativity with each member contributing equally. As far as the number of registrations were concerned, Paul had budgeted for 15 children every Tuesday and Thursday and while a few camps did not reach that goal there were a few camps that went as high as 18. Overall the feedback received from the parents was very positive. Paul estimated that the Society made close to \$2,000 profit from the summer camps that year.



Base of new Yew Loop bridge (2002)

In September, work finally began on tearing down and rebuilding the Yew Loop bridge with volunteers. Bill Cummings, a semi-retired public works technician, signed on to help with the project along with Brett and Paul working Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It was decided that the use of wood for the bridge was a much more viable proposition than steel and far less costly. All footings had been poured and prepped and the crew was waiting for the beams to be delivered and set in place by mid-September. Installation of the decking material and railing system was scheduled to take place during the week of September 23rd and expected to take about two weeks. Almost all of the decking material required was already available in the

storage shed at the Sanctuary. Donations covered the cost of the wooden structure. Nature interpreter training was completed with only three new interpreters having actually made it out for the sessions. Fall training traditionally was not as profitable as Spring training when it came to volunteers. On the positive side, twelve core interpreters returned for the season.

The Yew Loop bridge was completed and officially back in operation on October 7, 2002, with an informal ribbon cutting ceremony held on October 28th. Allan Paananen, a retired carpenter, heard of the bridge project and stopped by to help for a few days. Patrick Ansell also pitched in and was a welcome addition to the construction team. The Fall season was well under way by October 25, but with only 16 bookings compared to 25 the previous year. The current Bingo License expired at the end of February 2003 and applications were due in Victoria by October 31, 2002. The affiliation was for a three-year period and it was hoped that if approved it would not again be reduced in the number of bingo events. Several audits had been conducted in Nanaimo by the Gaming Commission and it appeared they were focusing on membership and community value that societies would support. Another administrative undertaking by Paul was completion of the Gaming Commissions Annual Use of Proceeds Report. This report was due within three months of the Society's fiscal year end and detailed how much was spent in each area of the Commission's approved budget. As the Society was reduced in funding for the last license period, the decrease was reflected in wages which Paul felt should reflect more positively in the eyes of the Commission.

As of November 15, 2002, Paul reported there were no winter programs booked for January or February 2003. He feared that this may be the end of the winter in-school programs. December 14 was the date of the Morrell Sanctuary Society Christmas luncheon at the Hong Kong house.

Despite Paul's pessimism, January 2003 started off busy with a planning session on the 6th, followed by the drafting of a letter to the Gaming Commission, and then the beginning of the Winter season of in-school programs with three back-to-back programs at Coal Tyee Elementary. The good news was that bookings increased to 10 with still six weeks to go. Paul noted that the in-school programs were still viable but it was necessary to find a way to make them more desirable. The final tally for programs during the Winter Season was 13.

A motion was made at the January 17 Board meeting to restrict \$20,000 internally for the purpose of constructing office space on the Sanctuary grounds when the lease with the Nanaimo Water District expired. The process and viability of such an undertaking was discussed and four possibilities considered: (1) adding a 1,000 square foot extension to the Woods Room, (2) building a separate stand-alone 1,000 square foot building, (3) buying an existing building and moving it onto the site and (4) purchasing a 1,000 square foot prefabricated office building. The consensus of the group after two hours of discussion, and weighing both cost and viability, was the prefabricated office building concept. Following the January board meeting where a clear majority was in favor of a modular office concept, Bill Collings and Paul O'Dell researched potential dealers in the area. One such dealer was Britco, located on 9th Street, who provided a quote of \$13,275 for the purchase, delivery, and installation of a used office complex. Bill and Paul met with Janice Bailey and Gary Noble of the City's Planning Department and were told that the property was zoned A1 Agricultural and, although it would allow for a house, barn or riding stable, it would not permit an office and or even a Nature Centre. There were two options presented: (1) request a variance for the office space at a cost of \$107 or (2) re-zone at a cost of \$1,000. While it was likely the Society would receive a variance, insurance carriers would charge a premium to insure the space as there is no guarantee that in the future, if it were to burn down, that a variance to rebuild would again be received. With regard to the latter option, re-zoning was not a guaranteed process and took about a year. A building committee was formed consisting of Harry Adcock, Flo Dadds, and Pat Ansell to look into all aspects of proceeding with the motion. Malaspina College conducted a 1-week vegetation survey of the Sanctuary in May. This was a follow-up survey to one that was done back in 1973.

Spring training was completed by April 11, 2003, and wrapped up with a nice potluck luncheon. There were five new trainees and three others from the Fall bringing the Nature Interpreter count up to 18. Norm Swanson joined the ranks of Core Interpreter. The most notable event in April was the 9th Annual Plant Sale. It was very successful and the biggest grossing sale so far coming in at \$1,600. This was \$300 over the previous year and due completely to Helen Johnston's mini garage sale and the complete sell-out of raffle tickets. The raffle alone made \$575. Also in April, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) approved the hiring of two students to run the Summer Day Camps. The leaders hired in June for the summer day camps were Christina Walker and Chrissie Haight. Pat Ansell was on hand at two public displays representing the Morrell Sanctuary Society at Country Club Mall on April 19 and Quarterway School on April 22.

Paul O'Dell received a call in May from John Baldwin with the BC Ministry of Land and Water asking about the maintenance schedule for the dam up at Morrell Lake. Apparently there were logs clogging the spillway, the dam was overgrown with vegetation, and the flood gate had likely not been greased in a while. Paul called the Nature Trust to see what expertise they could offer, with plans to meet with them and Mr. Baldwin at the dam on June 19 to determine a course of action. At the June 20 board meeting, much discussion was focused on the Morrell Lake dams. It was suggested that decommissioning of the main dam should not be dismissed as an option. Surprise was registered that after 18 years no one seemed to know anything about the Society's responsibility to maintain the dams.

It would appear that the draining of Morrell Lake to effect repairs will be remembered most for 2003. On June 7th a diver surveyed the dam's flood control gate and reported his findings. He was to determine if he could apply grease to the flood gate in order to test the opening and closing of the unit, which must be done on an annual basis. He discovered that it was a self-contained and lubricated unit that would not need grease, but he did notice that the valve stem was intermittently corroded in certain areas and would need replacing. To replace the valve stem, the

lake needed to be drained. John Baldwin approved this providing that it was done gradually. A news release was also prepared so that the public was aware of increased water levels through the Chase River system. In a follow-up letter it was stated that the dam owner is responsible for failure of the dam. At Morrell Lake, the Nature Trust was considered the owner and the Morrell Sanctuary Society, which held a 99-year lease, was the lessee. Since this was a significant undertaking, Paul sent a letter to Nature Trust inviting them to participate.

Summer camp was in full swing in July and a decision to hold camps on three consecutive days definitely paid off. Parents who had kids in camp in prior years commented that this worked much better for them. The camps were from 9 am to 3 pm and cost \$15 for the day or \$40 for all 3. A fair number of parents signed up their kids for all 3 days. Installation of two new wheelchair-accessible cement outhouses took the better part of two days on July 28th and 29th. An excavator was on hand shortly before the outhouses arrived and the operator already had one hole waiting for the holding tank to be lowered into. Everything went like clockwork and the excavator was onsite for approximately four hours. While the construction was taking place, Bob, Flo, Helen, Paul, and two new young male volunteers, Sam and Norm, demolished the old outhouses, removed nails, and salvaged as much of the wood as possible. On yet another day Bob, Flo, Valerie, Sam, Norm, and Paul packed a 750-pound cement bench up the Rocky Knoll trail and installed it near the steps. It took two hours to get it in place and assembled.

After numerous attempts to contact the Nature Trust in Vancouver, Paul received a telephone call from Tim Clermont. They met at the Sanctuary on August 6th and drove up to the lake to inspect the dam. It was clear that the Nature Trust recognized it must be a part of this process, even if only to give permission to proceed. It was agreed that the Nature Trust and the Morrell Sanctuary Society should be able to achieve a certain comfort level in the drawing down of the lake. Tim alluded to the fact that the Nature Trust was prepared to assist financially. Paul's advice as Sanctuary Manager was for the Board to issue a letter to the Nature Trust asking them for permission to draw down the lake, and that they may wish to have engineering advice before doing so. With every possibility that Tim and Paul pondered, there was no getting away from the need to draw down the lake. The valve stem had to be replaced by the end of September.

Lack of volunteers for the Woods Room meant that it would be closed for August. There was much discussion at the August 15 board meeting about the lack of volunteers for weekend opening of the Woods Room in August, and it was determined that the Board would have to make firm plans for next year. The Sanctuary trails were closed for a couple of weeks due to extreme fire hazard. The closure took effect at dusk on August 29th and was re-opened on Saturday, September 13th.

At the dam, Board director David Booth organized the rocks at the base of the spillway in anticipation of draining the lake, and Paul, Norm and Sam dragged away three large logs that were blocking the spillway entrance. On September 24, Paul met with Tim Clermont from Nature Trust as well as Paul Usher and Dan Buffett, both engineers from Ducks Unlimited. The purpose of the meeting was to inspect the dam. What was finally agreed upon was that the dam integrity was such that it would allow for a slow draw down, providing that the valve stem did not break and that the valve would open. This was recommended to take place in July of August of 2004. Paul also contacted the Nanaimo Correctional Centre to have a work crew remove the vegetation from the dam.

Bob and Flo Dadds, David and Valerie Booth, Norm, Sam, and Paul O'Dell spent a morning chipping up a fair amount of debris on the Fire Lane at the hill crest before descending to the lake. The chipper was then moved down to the Woods Room where there was also a fair bit of debris from topping a nearby cedar tree, but unfortunately it broke just as the crew got started. On two occasions a chipper was rented to grind up debris resulting from the removal of trees by fallers and the topping of trees at the lookout. Another morning was spent chipping up a pile of pine branches at the crest of the Tranquility trail.

Removal of vegetation on the Morrell Lake Dam was undertaken by the Trail Maintenance crew, and a work party from Corrections was available to lend a hand in the following weeks if Trail Maintenance volunteers did not complete the project on their own. Since the rains began in early October there was now a steady flow of water over the spillway, and all the hard work put in by David Booth in arranging the rocks at the spillway exit and removal of mud at the spillway entrance surely paid off.



With regard to re-zoning to accommodate an office building in the Sanctuary, a letter from the City of Nanaimo was received giving approval of the changes, but suggested waiting until Spring 2004 before moving forward.

Bill Morrell passed away on October 8, 2003, at age 91 and a small memorial was held in the Woods Room for family and friends. His long-time partner, Vi Savage, continued to reside at the cottage in the Sanctuary. Work continued in December on vegetation removal up at the dam. All trees were down, but the arduous task of dragging all the branches out took a lot of time. Paul O'Dell had not heard from Corrections regarding assistance, but when they did call he planned to have them finish this part of the project. He also intended to ask them to bring their chipper for which they charge a \$100 a day, a bargain in Paul's estimation. A Christmas potluck lunch was held Saturday, December 13, with over 20 people attending.

The Gaming Commission sent a fax on January 5th, 2004, requesting additional information about the Morrell Sanctuary Society. The letter focused on a perceived relationship with the City of Nanaimo and Nature Trust, stating that "Gaming revenues cannot be granted for the administrative expenses and/or equipment on behalf of the City of Nanaimo or for the Nature Trust of British Columbia." As well, the communication from the Gaming Commission pointed out that with regard to "affiliation with a commercial Bingo hall, Gaming revenues can only be used for the costs directly related to the delivery of an eligible organization's programs and services. Therefore, the educational programs to the schools are, for example, a program of the Society. Therefore, Gaming revenues may be granted for a portion of the administrative costs of the program." They also requested further details on the Society's services, with special emphasis on staff responsibilities and job descriptions. The Executive met on a few occasions to discuss how to respond and the letter that was eventually developed stated that any form of further reduction would impact the Society's ability to function.

As part of ongoing dam maintenance and vegetation removal at Morrell Lake, Paul guided Val, David, Flo, Norm and Sam to the dam at the northern end of the lake to show them where it was located. It was much smaller than the southern dam, but getting a chainsaw there was challenging. There were only very small alders on that particular dam and the debris was disposed of behind the dam.

A walk in the Sanctuary on January 13th drew a fair number of people, mostly members and volunteers but also three newcomers who had not visited the Sanctuary before. Glen Olson from the Nanaimo Daily News was also in attendance and asked if he could take a group picture. The picture appeared in the Friday issue of the paper in the "Go Nanaimo" insert. In-school programs commenced, with two conducted by January 21. The Sanctuary's website crashed in late January, but fortunately the original volunteer web master was able to bring it back online. Paul advertised the webmaster position at Volunteer Nanaimo hoping to find someone to take his place and update some of the information on the site. It was perfect timing that the site was up and running again because Paul received a number of inquiries on volunteering directly related to the site, and an article in the Nanaimo Daily Free newspaper that resulted from a reporter researching the site.

In February 2004, the Society received word from the Gaming commission that funding would remain the same for 2004 at \$40,000, but would be reduced to \$30,000 in 2005. The office building committee, consisting of Norm Swanson, Harry Adcock, Patrick Ansell, Keith Brown and Paul, met on February 20, to consider expanding the Woods Room but soon came to consensus that the placement of a modular office building in the parking lot at the far end was the most economical and expeditious concept.

After a 5 month wait, Paul was finally able in March to get a Corrections crew in for a day to carry the remaining debris from the dam over to the Gazebo area and chip it up. The larger pieces worked well but the machine just spit out the branches, which were too small, and the pile of chipped material was not usable in any way. Also that month, Bob, Flo, Helen, Patrick, Patricia and Paul met with John Baldwin from the Ministry of Land and Water to discuss the dams at Morrell Lake, and were informed that it was imperative to be able to drain the lake on command. That meant replacing the valve stem and drawing down the lake. The Nature Trust was contacted for a letter of approval, as well as a request to cover the cost of materials needed for repairs.

Toni Onley, a Canadian painter noted for his landscapes and abstract works, died March 2 at the age of 76 in a plane crash on the Fraser River near Maple Ridge, British Columbia. The Society happened to have prints of Onley's work in their art collection and sold three of these for \$150 each. Of special note, five dead mice causing a smell were removed from the Woods Room!

In April, the Society sold nine prints from the art collection for \$150 each, including six of the Toni Onley prints. The Coastal Community Credit Union awarded the Society a grant of \$2,500 for 2004 and another grant of \$2,500 for 2005, with the stipulation that the money would be spent on projects and not operating expenses. The 2004 grant was earmarked for replacement of the Gazebo roof at the lake. As well, Nexen Chemicals donated \$250 to help with Sanctuary expenses.

The Society participated in the Nanaimo Fish Hatchery open house on May 16th with a table, and a flower walk was held that month with Kathy Jackson and Helen Johnston. The Davey Tree service removed a cedar that was leaning dangerously over the Woods Room. The tenth annual plant sale went off without a hitch and, while revenue was down from the \$1,628.29 earned in 2003, it was still a good return at \$1,275.07. The Volunteer appreciation and member luncheon was held on May 25th, with food provided by Patricia and Patrick Ansell. There was a good turnout, and Bob Dadds was awarded a plaque for 10 years of volunteer service. The gazebo roof was replaced with corrugated green metal and a plaque was ordered acknowledging the Coastal Credit Union as the sponsor.

With respect to the Summer Career Placement Program application for two positions for 11 weeks at 35 hours per week, the Society was approved for only one position. While rejecting a reconsideration based on safety concerns, it was agreed that the allotted hours for the one position could be split in half to fund two positions. Therefore, the program would fund two positions for 6 weeks at 32 hours per week. In order for the camp to work, however, the Society would have to cover the cost of two positions for 3 weeks at 32 hours per week.

The Society enjoyed a good Spring session with 66 programs booked. All the interpreters stepped up to the plate and did as many programs as they could. The new interpreters carried their weight and even branched out into doing other programs. Summer Staff were hired through the Summer Career Placement Program in June, and the Morrell Sanctuary received an Environmental Achievement Award from City of Nanaimo.

In July, nine trees on Morrell property were taken down at a residence on Dogwood Road by the developer of the site. The Nature Trust was advised and agreed to a settlement with the land owner of \$3,000. Quotes for the stem and sluice gate repair at the Morrell Lake dam were received: stem \$2,500 and sluice gate \$1,500, with installation extra. The Society Board of Directors considered getting an automatic gate for the front entrance to free Vi Savage from opening and closing the gate daily. A quotation of \$9,726.30 was received from G.E.M. Fabrications on July 23 for an electronic gate that included the drive motor, circuit board, solenoid lock mechanism, probe sensor for auto exit, digital access keypad, and a timer for setting open and close times as required. However, after reviewing the quote from G.E.M. Fabrications it was decided to seek a second estimate for an automatic gate.

At the August 2004 board meeting, Paul reported that the summer camp was running great and four days of camp was perfect. He noted that the budget was already surpassed on the number of kids so the leaders were due to get a bonus, likely in the form of an extra week of pay. Hydro, or the newly-named B.C. Transmission Corporation, committed to a \$5,000 corporate sponsorship to provide environmental education for school children at a marginal cost and covering staff and office support.

Leon Cake of Four Star WaterWorks installed a valve on the lower end of the dam drain pipe to allow for a controlled draining of the lake. As Paul O'Dell wrote in his August report,

"After I received the go ahead to set a date for the draining of the lake from Tim Clermont I contacted the City, the Department of Fisheries habitat conservation and local newspapers. The original plan was to attempt opening the existing valve slightly and drain the lake slowly but should water levels rise in the Chase River as a result we would not be sure we could close the valve because of the rusted stem. Fisheries did not like this and so soon I came up with a plan to siphon the lake, an idea approved by the City. However, it was a

newspaper article that mentioned we would like for someone to donate a 2" pipe that we would need for the siphon that saved the day. I discovered a message on the machine at the office the morning after the article was published from a gentleman named Leon Cake with Four Star Waterworks Ltd. We talked about plans for siphoning and he agreed to meet me at the Sanctuary to have a look at the dam. After some discussion he decided our best plan of action was to install a reducer and a 6" valve at the free end of our 12" pipe. Once we opened the main valve with the rusted stem (if it did not break) then the 6" valve would become our control valve. We met one week later in the evening and in just over 2 hours we had the valve on and tested. The good news is that the valve stem did not break and that the original valve is very likely in good condition. I tested the valve the next day and let it run for 5 hours. The lake dropped about 5" and no water was detected under the Yew Loop Bridge. Draining of the lake starts August 17th at 9 am."

The trail maintenance crew put up notices regarding lake draining and prepared the area for installing the valve at the bottom of the dam.

Summer Camp was officially over for another year by September and was a tremendous success. Revenue had been budgeted in the amount of \$4,320 but the actual realized earnings were \$5,790. As was agreed, the summer staff received 60% of the overage to share as a bonus, which worked out to \$441 each.

Morrell Lake finally drained on the Labour Day long weekend in September 2004. Paul recorded in his report for that month,

"I was amazed as I had last seen it on the Thursday prior to the long weekend and expected at least another week to ten days. I set up a work party for September 8th and we assessed what was now clearly exposed. The steel mesh on the top of the valve housing was completely eaten away by corrosion with just the rim remaining. Inside was the valve which for the most part was in good condition with just some rust cankers here and there. There was some build up on the valve tip and universal joint which Bob cleaned off and lubricated. I spent my time taking pictures, cleaning off the valve stem and testing opening and closing the valve. To close the valve the stem works very well but when opening the valve the stem seems harder to turn and buckles slightly down near the valve housing. I emailed the pictures to Leon and we spoke on the phone. He tells me that the valve is likely made by "Kennedy" and that the stem is made of a bronze magnesium alloy. He said to take a wire brush to the stem and then spray it with Galvacon, he also said we should fabricate grease housings for the valve stem support brackets and the universal joint. He believes the systems should last a good deal longer than 20 years."

The Nature Trust covered the \$1,100 cost of repairs. John Hussells from Armtex Incorporated donated four custom made valve stem guides and installed them with the manager's help. Pope and Talbot took out a \$100 organizational membership and presented an additional \$400 as a donation. Leena Paananen was laid off in September after 10 years of service due to the cutback in Gaming funding.

By October, the Fall season was in full swing with a handful of new enthusiastic nature interpreters in training. They helped ease the load on the core group with the popular Fall program "Seeds and Spores," but programs like "Meet a Tree" and "Mothers Natures Riches" stretched resources since there were only a couple of interpreters that could deliver these two programs. The repair of the valve stem system was completed in October thanks to the numerous efforts of many volunteers. Special thanks were given to Patricia and Patrick, David and Valerie, and Bob and Flo for their individual efforts in getting the valve and valve stem back into operating order.

The office computer was reformatted in November due to a virus attack. Paul noted,

"I have successfully reloaded all programs and data files. I have loaded on a copy of Norton Antivirus 2003, which I had at home, and hope this will keep the system from being hit with another virus. I believe the problem we had was caused by a trojan virus. I ran diagnostics prior to formatting it and it looked like webdialer and other spam dialer programs were running in the background, slowing the computer down in the process. We now have a clean install of Windows '98 but I still notice that it is somewhat slower. I am



going to put together a capital grant application for a new computer, so if I come across an opportunity for a grant of between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 I will be ready."

In November, Davey Tree Service, on behalf of BC Hydro, utilized the Sanctuary road to access the right-of-way to begin removing 119 danger trees, with completion of this job by December 9. The Fall bazaar was held at Rutherford Mall. Two Roy Henry Vickers prints valued at \$2,600 were donated to Society by Delores Mason. The Office Building Committee officially presented an offer to purchase a unit from G.E. Modular in Nanaimo, with the building permit submitted to the City of Nanaimo during the week of November 15-19 and occupancy planned for January of 2005. In anticipation of the move to new, and smaller, office space, Pat, Flo, Helen, and Jean were out in the shed clearing and organizing 20 years of junk and garbage. The concession trailer also saw a bit of tender loving care and, thanks to Patrick and Bob, it was ready to sell. It was advertised in the Buy & Sell for \$500.

A modular office was purchased in December, and plans and permits were falling into place with the office tentatively set to be installed by January 17, 2005. The Society agreed to partner with Malaspina College to offer two adult programs in the summer of 2005. Weyerhaeuser donated \$2,500 toward an automatic gate.

## *Decade 2005-2014*

### ***Historical Highlights***

New modular office opened at Sanctuary (2005) -- Geocaching event discussed (2005) -- A battery-powered automatic gate was installed at the Sanctuary entrance (2005) -- Rights-of-way on Sanctuary roads for Hydro, Terasen, and the City of Nanaimo investigated (2006) -- Candy Cane bridge replaced (2006) -- Name tags issued to Board Directors and volunteers (2006) -- Viewing platform at Beaver Pond replaced (2007) -- Register established to record volunteer hours (2007) -- Biologist Elke Winde proposes Western Toad study (2007) -- New entrance sign installed under gateway (2007) -- Parking lot and approach road paved (2008) -- Inmates from regional Correctional facility assist with resurfacing Sanctuary trails (2008) -- Society recognized for environmental achievements (2008) -- New design for memorial benches in Sanctuary introduced (2008) -- "Dog Rules" approved (2008) -- High-speed Internet installed in office (2008) -- Sanctuary website updated (2009) -- Spillway bridge at Morrell Lake replaced (2009) -- 25th Anniversary of the Morrell Sanctuary Society celebrated in September (2009) -- Significant financial concerns threaten future of Society (2010) -- Paul O'Dell laid off (2010) -- VIU biologist Hitomi Kimura requests permission to study Western Toads at Morrell Lake (2010) -- New heating units installed in Woods Room (2010) -- City of Nanaimo takes out a corporate membership in Morrell Sanctuary Society (2011) -- Dog control issues revisited (2011) -- Michelle Fitterer hired to staff office on part-time basis (2011) -- Yew Loop bridge resurfaced with heavy duty metal mesh (2011) -- Rachelle Tanner hired to replace Michelle Fitterer as part-time office staff (2012) -- Wired electrical connection replaces battery-powered electric gate (2012) -- Charlie Pickard installs gnome homes around Yew Loop (2013) -- Woods Room forecourt blacktopped (2013) -- Heather Allen hired as office assistant (2013) -- Divers inspect underwater valve at Morrell Lake (2013) -- Roof, cladding, and deck installed on modular office (2014) -- Skylights replaced in Woods Room (2014)

In January 2005, the concession trailer was sold for \$250 and removed from the Sanctuary. Due to heavy snowfall, the planned installation in January of the sewer and water lines, as well as the new office, was delayed. However, the modular office was finally delivered onsite in February and, while work on the new office commenced, Paul noted at the February board meeting that deferrals for Hydro connection, telephone transfer, and finding a plumber to hook up services meant remaining in the existing Water Board office a bit longer. He added that an occupancy permit would only be issued once the deck and wheelchair ramp was in place and this alone was expected to take a few weeks. Therefore, an extension of the existing office lease to March 31 was requested. Also in February, Richard Harding from Parks, Recreation and Culture for the City of Nanaimo gave verbal approval for the Society to use the pie-shaped piece of property at the Sanctuary entrance off Nanaimo Lakes Road as overflow parking, the art collection was put on consignment with Nanaimo Arts Council at Rutherford Mall, and a garage sale raised \$580.

In March, the decks, stairs and wheelchair ramp were built at the new modular office by Norm and Bob, and the old office was packed up for the move. The actual moving day was planned for Thursday, March 31, 2005, and the existing office location would be vacated on that date. The official "Grand Opening" of the new office was scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 25, 2005, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The sum of \$2500 was received from Coast



Modular office installed at Sanctuary (2005)

Capital Credit Union as their second installment of a two-year financial grant; this money would be applied to the cost of an automatic gate. After several months of expressing concerns about BC Hydro's right-of-way access through the Sanctuary, BC Hydro finally indicated that they would not be using the road through the Sanctuary to gain access to the transmission lines after this year. A number of complaints had been received that month regarding dogs off leash. The complaints ranged from dogs accosting nesting birds at the Beaver Pond to rude dog owners using foul language on park visitors when asked to leash their dogs.

The move to the new office was a significant undertaking but it was finally up and running by April 2005. Paul O'Dell worried about the low number of nature interpreter trainees for the Spring season, but added that the number of bookings was also down so the programs shouldn't be unduly affected. The eleventh annual plant sale went well on April 30 and, while the earned revenue of \$987 was down from \$1,275 in 2004, it was still considered a good return.

Paul reported in May 2005 that the Summer Career Placements were approved. The previous year, the number of hours was cut in half so Paul, fearing another reduction, asked for almost double that amount. To his surprise, the request for the higher number of hours was approved and he had to ask for a reduction in hours to the level needed. With regard to summer camp planning for 2005, Paul writes,

"I have spoken with Christina from last year. We both believe we can easily increase our rates from \$15 a day to \$20 a day. Christina feels if we charge what others charge then people will start to think that we are a quality service, and we are. At \$15 Christina felt we might not be attracting others that would think the cost reflects the service. I have performed a simple calculation and based on 10 children a day we will stand to make a profit of \$5,300.00, compared to \$1,800.00 last year. Our maximum number is 20 and last year we averaged about 15 a day. I will again offer an incentive to the summer students, 60% of any profit exceeding the budget. Since this year is going to be a great money maker I am going to include a \$500.00 expense budget to cover items like new scissors, new paint brushes and just overall craft supplies. They are needed as what we have now is almost 10 years old."

Also in May, a grant of \$500 was received from Weyerhaeuser for webmaster wages to update the Morrell Nature Sanctuary website. Bob Dadds suggested the Society could consider organizing a "Geocaching" event as a fundraiser since quite a few people were using these devices in the Sanctuary. The volunteer luncheon was a huge success and the turn out was one of the best ever, reaching a total of 32.

Considering the hectic schedule Paul faced with the Spring sessions, it was suggested at the June 2005 board meeting that, when booking programs in the future, Paul would establish specified days and times for taking bookings and a

volunteer would be made available to take the information and relieve Paul of this task. In Paul's report that month, he wrote:

"Over the last month I have started to feel the reality of being the only staff person. I stopped for a moment to think about what I do around here. From answering phones to copper pipe plumbing to bank deposits to building furniture to preparing financial statements to building stairs to interviewing potential staff to replacing light fixtures to restoring a computer after a virus attack to replacing a 50 foot walking bridge to preparing the Society's annual tax return to washing dishes. I have done it all. But I can not do it all. I see myself as a part of a team. I do my best and I thank you for doing yours. Without volunteers Morrell Sanctuary Society would not exist."

Updating the Morrell Sanctuary website in June was a challenge because high-speed Internet access was necessary to do the work at a reasonable pace and the dial-up service at the office was too slow. The old and rather bulky office computer was replaced with a small sleek laptop costing \$300. A \$250 corporate donation was received from Nexen Chemicals.

The official opening of the new modular office on June 25, 2005, went rather well. The weather was perfect and the set-up was really well done, with lots of room for people to move about and mingle. The itinerary went according to schedule and the welcoming speech, cutting of the ribbon, and words from Nanaimo Mayor Gary Korpan and Society president Patricia Ansell really were timed well. It was a very positive event that raised \$440 in donations, including \$150 from Legion 256. Another \$100 was raised on the sale of unused wine. Between 30 and 35 people attended the event, including two past managers of the Sanctuary.

The poor weather in July did not help summer camp numbers. Two days of camps had to be cancelled, but this occurred the previous year as well. Paul noted on July 20 that with two weeks into camp and seven more weeks to go, he wanted to see the numbers increase. He pointed out it was so much easier for all concerned when the number of kids was between 15 and 20, as it turns out it was harder to work with a smaller group than a larger group. Another reason he wanted to see the numbers increase was so the staff could get a bonus because they were really working hard and had a great work ethic. Dr. James Girard donated \$1,000 towards the purchase and installation of an automatic gate. To protect the kids attending summer camp, the Hydro gate was controlled with replacement padlocks to ensure usage at pre-determined times. This created some issues with BC Hydro and Teresen Gas who normally went through the gate unannounced. The new lock was put on at 8:45 am and replaced with the original hydro gate lock at 3:15 pm Tuesday through Friday, coinciding with kids camp. School program rates were increased to \$45 for 1 hour, \$50 for 1.5 hours, and \$55 for 2 hour programs. Summer camp wrapped up at the end of August and was the most successful on record to-date. Due to Paul's absence from illness, being hospitalized from August 5 to 17, 56 hours of volunteer time was logged for the month of August, 2005. During that time the office was monitored by Helen Johnston who scheduled volunteers to help answer phones and greet the public.

Regarding a new gate for the main entrance to the Sanctuary, a presentation by Brad Koster of Automated Electrical Installation Ltd was presented to the Board describing the various types and configurations of automated barrier systems available. Following up, a letter was sent on September 23, 2005, to Doug Walker, Executive Director of the Nature Trust, requesting assistance with a shortfall of \$3,500 in funding. The letter explained the Society's adherence to a closed gate policy during the hours of darkness to prevent vandalism and theft, noting that the present gate was a heavy, manually-operated barrier that was opened and closed by a volunteer living within the Sanctuary. The Society's proposed solution was an automatic gate that could be programmed to open and close at pre-determined times according to the season. However, the quoted cost of such a gate was \$8,500. The Nature Trust, while agreeing with the need for secure gates to protect the ecological integrity of the site, was concerned that the cost of an electric gate compared to a standard reinforced metal gate may not be an appropriate design choice. In their reply, dated October 3, they committed to a \$500 donation toward a new gate, but asked the Society to reconsider the need for an electric gate.

In October, Teresen Gas informed the Society of their intention to use the road through the Sanctuary as access to the Hydro right-of-way to effect repairs to their system during the summer. A significant number of vehicles were



utilizing the road, including large front end loaders, and rutting was starting to occur on the road. As well, the gate at the Hydro right-of-way was being left open for unobstructed passage of vehicles. Paul contacted Teresen with these concerns and they offered \$2,500 in compensation.

Norm Swanson, Patrick Ansell, Bob Dadds, and Paul had a number of meetings regarding the electric gate and finally settled on a workable system relying solely on batteries to operate the gate. Rather than running power to the gate to charge the battery, they opted to manually move the battery to the Woods Room when it needed to be recharged. The gate was ordered and installation expected by the end of the year. The money received from Teresen was used toward purchase and installation of the gate.

In November, the \$2,500 cheque from Teresen Gas arrived, bringing the total for the automatic gate to \$8,500, along with \$2,500 from Weyerhaeuser, \$2,500 from the Coastal Community Credit Union, and \$1,000 from Dr. Girard. Installation of the gate was expected within a few weeks. In a November 16 Board motion, the new gate opening and closing times were set as 7:00 am to 7:00 pm for the entire year. The recent teachers' strike presumably had an impact on the number of bookings for the Fall season with only 10 programs booked to-date in 2005 compared to 24 the previous year. A letter was received from Weyerhaeuser regarding the termination of their Corporate Giving Program due to the company being sold to Brascan Corporation. A four-hour garage and bake sale held at the Woods Room on November 19, 2005, was a huge success, generating a profit of \$899.50. This included the sale of an old sink and filing cabinet through the Buy and Sell.

The automatic gate was finally installed at the Sanctuary entrance in December 2005. Preparation was also underway to add a solar panel to charge the battery. A donation request letter to Legion 256 netted the Society a \$500 cheque. Also in December, a number of articles about the Sanctuary appeared in the local papers, describing the replacement of the entry gate, offering a notice of thanks to garage sale helpers, and announcing the new roof on the Morrell Lake gazebo. The Membership and Volunteers Christmas potluck lunch was held Saturday, December 10, 2005, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Woods Room.

In January 2006, a donation of \$1500 was made to Morrell Sanctuary from the estate of Loraine Ansell and was to be used to purchase a trimmer/weed wacker (\$350), to replace the Candy Cane Bridge (\$750), and to renovate the Woods Room. A committee consisting of Patrick Ansell, Flo Dadds, Helen Johnston, and Paul O'Dell was formed to look into all aspects of the rights-of-way question. A right-of-way, or easement, is a legal right to access and use someone else's land. Roads, railways, utility (hydro-electric, telephone and telegraph) lines and pipelines are some of the more common rights-of-way that crisscross British Columbia. Rights-of-way are usually granted to governments, Crown corporations, private companies or individuals in exchange for compensation.

The committee consulted a lawyer in January with the idea of closing the Hydro road to all vehicular traffic. Local lawyer Robert Stacey was hired to determine the existing rights-of-way with both B.C. Hydro and Teresen Gas, and the Society's rights in the matter. It turned out that when Bill Morrell purchased the sanctuary lands in the 1950s he sold easement rights to BC Hydro in 1954 and 1957. In 1990, the Morrell Sanctuary Society sold easement rights to Teresen Gas for \$8,800 for a 36-foot strip of land adjacent to the Hydro line. Mr. Stacey believed that if these right-of-ways with BC Hydro and Teresen Gas were consistent with other rights-of-way, then they were responsible for "restoration or repair of the road", meaning they were financially responsible for maintaining acceptable road conditions. Interestingly enough, neither the City of Nanaimo nor Ted Barsby, the owner of a neighbouring tree farm, had the right to use the road.

A follow-up meeting in February with Robert Stacy indicated that B.C. Hydro and Teresen gas did have rights-of-way on a portion of the Sanctuary property, but directly at the transmission lines. Their right-of-way did not include the road to get there, that was the Sanctuary's own private land. The City did not have a right-of-way; they just used the Sanctuary road to access Westwood Lake. In simple terms, the Sanctuary owned the road and no one had any rights to use it unless the Society chose to let them. The committee formed to deal with this issue believed that sending a letter to the parties affected would resolve the situation.

Also in February, the Gaming Commission increased funding from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for three years through to February 2009. This was the first increase after six years of cut-backs. Additional tasks completed in this month included two in-school programs for Nanaimo Homeschoolers in the Woods Room, and one training session for a Malaspina Heritage Interpretation class. A damaged outhouse door was repaired up at the lake and the Candy Cane bridge was measured for material costing. Danger tree assessments were conducted with Valerie Booth and Flo Dadds, and six hazard trees were removed by Bob Dadds and Paul.



Val Booth (Treasurer, 2007-present) and Flo Dadds (Treasurer, 2003-2006) at Woods Room

In March, renovations and painting began in the Woods Room, and the Art collection was retrieved from the Nanaimo Arts Council at Rutherford Mall. Raffle tickets were prepared for the plant sale and volunteer Karin Maley obtained six prize donations. The trail maintenance crew finished cutting out broom and trimming trees at the gazebo for a better view, removed a lot of English ivy from trees on the Upper Lake Trail, and repaired the steps to Upper Lake Trail.

While Teresen Gas was very thankful for past access to their right-of-way via the Sanctuary road and agreed to look for an alternate access point, tree

farmer Ted Barsby decided to take his concerns to the April Board meeting. Mr. Barsby was given time to discuss the pending road closure through the Sanctuary and how it would affect his business. The board took his comments under consideration and indicated he would be notified of the Board's decision in the near future, after a pending meeting with the Nature Trust and the City of Nanaimo regarding the proposed road closure. The meeting with Richard Harding from the City and Tom Reid from the Nature Trust was very positive, with both acknowledging the Society's right to stop access to the rights-of-way through Sanctuary property. It was agreed that the Benson Road access point would now be used. The locks were changed on all gates and the Hydro road was officially closed to all traffic as of April 1st.

At the April board meeting, the Board moved that the Summer gate hours for 2006 would be changed to 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, effective May 1, 2006 until September 30, 2006. The Malaspina College welding class was asked to construct a metal donation box, and the Board decided to use brass plaques for the remaining donor names on the updated Donor Board. Two "Moms and Tots" programs were organized by Pili Vitacchio and were well attended with ten children for each event.

The 12th annual plant sale on May 6 was a huge success, with a net income of \$1,542.10 for 2006 compared to \$987 in 2005. Paul received word from Human Resources Development Canada that the Summer Career Planning Program application was approved as requested for two full-time summer staff. In prior years the HRDC had frequently reduced the hours asked for, at times cutting them in half. The fact that they approved the application in full meant the Society stood to make a tidy profit again in 2006. Should the profit exceed that which was budgeted, the remainder would be shared with the staff in the form of a bonus.

A meeting was held in May with the Nanaimo Fire Department concerning the closure of the road through the Sanctuary and satisfactory arrangements were made with them regarding their access requirements. Regarding technology at the Sanctuary, Uniserve donated one year of Internet service and the office acquired a digital camera. Also in May, the Malaspina welding class donated a steel donation box.

Two motions were passed at the May 17 board meeting: (1) all donors of \$250 or more to receive a brass plaque on the Donor boards, and (2) to purchase a BBQ with a price limit of \$350 for the use at the Woods Room. The volunteer/member appreciation lunch held on Saturday, May 27, was well attended, with hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the new BBQ.

Another presentation was made to the Board by Mr. Ted Barsby at the June 21 Board meeting. Mr. Barsby gained access to his tree farm operation through the Morrell Sanctuary and he explained again how the Board's decision to close the Morrell access road had and would affect his operation. He asked the Board to grant him access until an alternate route could be established for the following times: 2 days in June for trimming, 5 days per week during August for trimming, and the entire month of November for harvesting. After much discussion, the board decided to not allow Mr. Barsby access through the Morrell Sanctuary to the power line easment.

Painting continued in the Woods Room in June, with Karin Maley doing a great job. Two display cases were purchased and painted, and the Society's stuffed birds were kept in these cases to avoid insect damage. Hot Dog day on June 10th raised \$99. The Spring season wound up with the last program scheduled for June 22nd; in all there were 35 programs. Clara Mackenzie and Tabitha Warnock were hired to run the children's summer day camp. On June 30, the Rotary Club of Nanaimo donated \$1,500 towards capital projects in the Sanctuary, including the Candy Cane bridge replacement.

A painting squad from Home Depot descended on the Woods Room on July 17th to paint the exterior. Norm Swanson, who served as Society president from 2006 to 2009, was able to arrange this event and even the materials were donated. Prior to Paul leaving for holidays in July, someone forced the lock on the electronic gate controls, presumably to let themselves out after being locked in. Vi Savage was notified about the open gate and the flashing blue light, so she closed the gate and informed Paul of the situation the following day. He attempted to replace the broken clasp, but found that a clasp system simply would not keep the control box secure. In the meantime, he secured the box with a heavy chain link. In August, the Public Conservation Assistance Fund donated \$3,000 toward the replacement of the viewing platforms at the Beaver Pond, and the Board was advised that the estate of Eileen Anderson, a member of the Society, had bequest \$10,000 to the Sanctuary. Also in August, hand cleaner dispensers were installed in the outhouses.



Bob Dadds, Norm Swanson, George Norwell, Patrick Ansell replacing Candy Cane bridge (2006)

The summer camp in 2005 had the highest returns to-date with a profit of just over \$4,000 after the staff bonus. However, the returns in 2006 were close to \$5,000 after the staff bonus, almost a 25% increase over the previous year. A discussion at the September 20 board meeting concerning the cleanliness of the Woods Room at the end of each week of summer camp activities resulted in a motion to hire a janitorial company or person to clean up the Woods Room at the conclusion of each week of summer camp. A second motion approved at the meeting was the immediate dismantling of a small jetty at the Beaver Dam due to its unsafe condition. In addition, the board decided that, effective October 1, 2006, the gate would be closed at 7:00 pm until further notice and that road access would remain closed to all, though each request for use would be considered on a individual request basis.





Bob Dadds, George Norwell, Norm Swanson (President, 2006-2009), Patrick Ansell (Secretary, 2006-2008)

Among the other accomplishments in September, a new computer was purchased for the office, cracks in dam spillway were repaired, the Candy Cane bridge was replaced, and one of the donated Roy Henry Vickers framed prints was sold for \$750. The Fall season began and five new directors were elected at the Annual General Meeting on September 23 for a total of 13.

The matter of reconstructing the jetties and the dam at the Beaver Pond was discussed at the October 18 board meeting. Following a submission by Bob Dadds questioning the expenditure of funds to improve an area that might be affected by global warming, the matter was put to a vote on a motion to proceed with reconstruction of the two jetties and any necessary repairs to the dam. This motion was carried and president Norm Swanson scheduled a meeting of four members to examine the sites in preparation for work to commence. Approximately 25 volunteers from Telus demolished an old viewing platform at the Beaver Pond, trimmed back vegetation along the fire road, and painted the office railings. Home Depot donated a picnic table and four benches, originally made for the Vancouver Island Exhibition, and a garage sale at Jean Robinson's netted \$280.

Tree topping at the Lookout was completed in October. Quotes were received from Squirrell Tree Services and Davey Tree Services, with Squirrell winning the bid with a quoted cost of \$2,000. The work took two days to complete and fortunately the land owner of the property directly in front of the Lookout gave permission to take the wood chipper right up to the site.

Following discussion at the November 15 Board meeting, it was decided that every member of the Board and every regular volunteer should have a name tag provided at the expense of the Society. The tag should display the first name of the member and the full name of the Society. Concerns were expressed that there were no procedures to advise members on how to react in the event of a failure of the gate's mechanism, nor was there a callout list for persons who could respond should a breakdown occur. It was decided that an orientation session would be



Rebuilding the Dipper Dock at the Beaver Pond (2006)

conducted by the Manager on November 23 for those willing to be placed on the list. A fundraising Beer and Burger Night held at the Harewood Arms Pub earned a grand total of \$1,500, and a donation of \$500 was received from Legion 256. The final program of the year was with Woodlands High School, the first ever high school group. Two classes, almost 60 kids, attended the customized program with a focus on art. Replacement of a viewing platform at the Beaver Pond began.

The Christmas Luncheon, a "Potluck" with attendees bringing appropriate dishes, was held on December 17 for all volunteers, members, and guests. At the December 2006 Board meeting, secretary Patrick Ansell presented a draft Road Access Policy

and read its content to the Board. Following discussion the policy was accepted unanimously, but it was noted that no cash amount had been established for the use of vehicles by organized groups wishing to convey participants with special needs to the lake area. It was therefore proposed that the sum of \$25 be charged in such cases. Paul O'Dell advised the Board that he had received a request from biologist Elke Winde for assistance and use of the Sanctuary facilities while working on a biological research project involving amphibians and other at risk wetland species. Specifically, she required full access to the Beaver Pond areas, storage space and free use of the Woods Room, as well as a letter of support for her requirements to provide to the sponsoring organization. The Board decided that no approval could be given to Ms. Winde's request without a full understanding of her requirements and the effects they would have on the operation of the Sanctuary.

In January 2007, Elke Winde gave a detailed presentation to the Board regarding her proposed study of the Western Toad population in the local area, including Morrell Lake. She outlined her requirements for access to the Sanctuary and the need for a letter of support to provide to the Ministry of the Environment to ensure funding for the project. The Board agreed to support her study. Some minor problems were experienced with the automatic gate at the entrance to the Sanctuary, which was only opening part way. This was later resolved by David Booth who recharged the gate's battery. A cheque for \$10,000 from the estate of the late Eileen Anderson was received by the Society and, according to the by-laws, this was deposited in the Sanctuary Legacy Fund. Paul reported that the Sanctuary's application for a grant to rebuild the entrance kiosk was approved by the Coastal Community Credit Union and a cheque for \$2,500 was forthcoming. Paul reported that a new volunteer named Donna was interested in helping out with the library. She had recently retired from Malaspina College where she worked in the college library.

Norm Swanson reported at the February 12, 2007, Board meeting that the City of Nanaimo had accepted the Society's proposals to assist with adult educational programs at City Parks. Paul noted that the working committee had formulated a survey and set Saturday, February 24th, as the survey date. The locations to be surveyed were Westwood Lake, Neck Point, Swy-a-lana and the Morrell Sanctuary. Results of the survey were to be compiled and reviewed by the committee prior to the fail-safe point of March 7th when a decision would be made to move forward or not. Paul had been in contact with Rob Lawrance regarding approval to use the City's logo at the venues. He also mentioned that the new viewing platform at the Beaver Pond was a welcome addition to the Sanctuary, particularly for the school children attending the Pond Dippers program in the Spring.

Paul O'Dell reported that he had received a telephone call from a woman on Dogwood Street whose house backed on to the Sanctuary property, requesting approval to arrange the removal of several derelict cars dumped in the Sanctuary behind her property. Paul explained that these cars had been there for a number of years, probably since before the Sanctuary was established and were not visible from the woman's house. The Board discussed the



question of how these vehicles would be removed and whether their removal would cause more environmental damage than just leaving them to rot. It was decided that no immediate action would be taken.

At the March 21, 2007, board meeting Vi Savage raised the issue of gate opening hours. She reported that she had received complaints that the gate was not opening at exactly 7:00 a.m. and was also giving no leeway for its closing to people who may not be very punctual in leaving. She asked that without changing the posted hours the clock should be set to open and close the gate 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the posted times. Following a somewhat heated discussion a majority agreed with Vi's proposal. The program survey with regard to the City's joint adult educational program proposal was held on Sunday, March 4th. Norm Swanson, Pili Vitacchio, Bob and Flo Dadds, Harry Adcock, and vice-president Helen Johnston helped conduct the surveys and received over 100 responses. The most popular program theme ended up being "Birds of Prey." The working group then met with the City on Wednesday, March 14th, to discuss the results and next steps.



Harry Adcock (Vice-president, 2003-2004, 2017-2020) and school class at the Dipper Dock, Beaver Pond (2007)



Norm Swanson and school class at Dipper Dock (2007)

In April 2007, Paul O'Dell presented nature interpreter training in the form of a program demonstration that took place with three new trainees and two others returning from last Fall's orientation. There were eleven active nature interpreters at this time. Bob and Flo Dadds, Norm Swanson, Pili Vitacchio, and Paul O'Dell met with the City to continue discussing the interpretive program proposal. Unfortunately, only Rob Lawrence was in attendance, with two key City staff absent from the meeting. The survey findings and conclusions were reviewed with Rob, but he said more time was needed to study the proposal. The Morrell

group decided to back away from the project, suggesting that perhaps something could be done in the Fall.

At the May, 2007, Board meeting the question of how the Sanctuary could attract cruise ship passengers was broached. Several ideas were discussed but no decision was reached on the issue. On a related matter, it was agreed that route signage from the downtown area to the Sanctuary was inadequate and the possibility of improving it should be investigated. The Board noted the advantages of the metal mesh installed on the Dipper Dock over other forms of non-slip materials. It was agreed that where feasible and affordable, more use should be made of this product.



Pili Vitacchio and Paul O'Dell began work on the development of a high school interpretive program in May. They walked the Tranquility and Rocky Knoll trails, and cataloged over 20 points of interest and located 6 study areas that were unique in their own way. The Spring programs were underway and the new trainees were quite keen. Paul writes "Bob Harvey, Nancy, Chris, and Tracey have all done their first programs and are excited to keep on going. Chris has also observed a Forest Ecology program and feels comfortable enough to give it a go." As well, Paul orientated volunteer Wendy South to office procedures, easing some of his workload.

The Spring season came to a close in June. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the new trainees Bob Harvey, Tracey, and Chris, there definitely was a lighter load for the core Interpreters. Paul noted it was good to see the trainees getting more and more confident in their timing and delivery. Two Day Camp leaders, Tabitha Warnock and Callie Nutt, were hired for the summer program. It was decided that the current display of Pond Life, Rocky Knoll and Forest Fire, and all cupboards on the south wall of the Woods Room would be removed and replaced with the 2000 Millennium display boards which enabled the interchanging of displays and photographs. Also in June, the outhouses were pumped out at a cost of \$450, with most of the cost being the disposal fee. The Society was given a 20% discount for being a non-profit which helped. As well, Patrick Ansell installed toilet paper holders to store spare toilet paper. Norm Swanson and George spent a lot of time reconstructing the Kiosk and, especially since Harry Adcock painted it, it looked new.

The Summer Camp was another success. While the numbers were down slightly in 2007, the quality was as high as ever before. Many parents commented favourably on everything from organization to quality of crafts and activities. Thanks to Tabitha and Callie everything went perfectly. The Star ran a front page story on the Sanctuary and the need for volunteer nature interpreters. As a direct result of the story Paul had 14 individuals book interviews to register and take training, as well as another dozen calls asking where the Sanctuary was located.

A major undertaking in the summer of 2007 was the replacement of the second viewing platform and the removal of cattails at the Beaver Pond. It took about a week and there were more than enough volunteers to tackle the work. Bob Harvey unfortunately fell in a couple of times and it was not a very pleasant experience!

In September, Norm Swanson heard that there were plans for the City to extend the Westwood trail to connect with Morrell Sanctuary trails, but further investigation found this was not the case. However, the City agreed to keep the Society informed of any plans that might affect the Sanctuary's trail system. Norm also found a newspaper ad from the City of Nanaimo for "Community Service Grants" and asked Paul to prepare an application for submission, in particular for funding to cover program development such as pre-school programs, high school programs, and other adult programs. One of the criteria was that the applicant could not already be receiving a tax exemption and, since the Society was affiliated with the Nature Trust of BC which did get exemptions, it was uncertain if the application would be approved. Pizza was served after the Nanaimo Lakes Road litter clean-up gang did their thing on September 27, earning \$150 from the City for their efforts. The trail maintenance group was invited as well and some interpreters and trainees got in on the action too. It was a good time for people to mingle and find out what others did at the Sanctuary.

In October 2007, Val Booth reported that a group of Telus volunteers cleared one quarter to one third of the north-end dam on Morrell Lake. Karin Maley noted that she had been in touch with Ducks Unlimited concerning Morrell Lake and the Society's interest in attracting more varied wildlife to the area. The organization agreed to send someone out to look at the lake and surrounding area and advise as appropriate. Concerning dogs on leash, Norm Swanson said that a sign was being prepared and would be erected soon in an effort to ensure that dogs were kept under full control while in the Sanctuary. The members agreed that little more could be done to address the concerns except to remind violators of the Sanctuary's requirements. Norm also reported that the entrance sign to be suspended from the new gateway was under construction and would be installed shortly.

Norm raised the question of defining the term "environmental education" and suggested the need to look further than school programs and other ongoing formal initiatives. Patrick Ansell agreed, noting that the system of self-guided tours through the use of pamphlets was not really user-friendly. More attention needed to be given to correcting this and to broadening the scope of informal interpretive programs to attract adults.

Pili Vitacchio gave an account of a "bee incident" involving an attack by bees on a group of pre-schoolers around the Beaver Pond. Although no serious injuries resulted, the general panic and dispersal of the children raised questions of safety and responsibility when such incidents occur. There was a general discussion on the need to increase awareness of the hazards associated with forest or wilderness areas and the need for interpreters and others to ensure that groups under their control are briefed on their response when such hazards are encountered. First aid kits must be kept fully stocked and interpreters familiar with their use. Paul was asked to examine procedures and make changes as practical and necessary.

The Fall season saw a major interest in the Forest Ecology program which was designed for grade 6 and 7 students. It was a little more complex than the other programs but Paul did not lack volunteer nature interpreters to take them on. The interpreters accommodated two classes at the same time from the same school which required four interpreters and the use of the same trails. All four groups finished their program within one or two minutes of each other.

At the November 21 Board meeting, Bob Harvey demonstrated a visual 'Power Point' presentation of the Morrell Sanctuary that he prepared using photographs and audio effects that could be used to familiarize and educate school and other groups, as well as potential corporate donors, with the facilities, environmental aspects and the beauty of the Sanctuary. The presentation was very impressive and its usefulness in a general sense, very clear. However, the equipment required was 'high tech' and quite expensive. The actual projector cost about \$660, a compatible laptop computer about \$1,000, and a portable screen an additional several hundred dollars. Following discussion of the project, it was suggested that the appropriate equipment should be acquired if a corporate grant could be obtained to cover the purchase price. The president, Norm Swanson, also asked if the Saturday adult walking tours conducted by Bob Harvey should be continued in the Spring of the following year. There was unanimous agreement that they should be and Bob was thanked for his efforts in initiating the program.

Val Booth stated that the roof over the Lookout on the Fire Road was leaking badly and was no longer serving to protect Lookout visitors from the rain. Norm stated that he would examine the roof and decide whether it could be economically repaired or removed completely, as had previously been suggested. Helen Johnston thanked everyone who helped with the Beer & Burger night, and suggested that \$1600 (about half of the net proceeds) be placed in the Legacy Fund. Patricia Ansell recommended noting and recording the number of volunteer hours worked each month, a necessary factor when applying for financial assistance. It was agreed that there should be a register maintained both at the Woods Room and the Office where volunteers could record their hours.

David Booth described maintenance of the main gate, particularly problems with maintaining a charge in the battery using only the solar panel for that purpose. Under winter conditions with fewer hours of daylight and cloudy skies, the solar panel could not adequately charge the battery on a continuous basis. He recommended that an additional battery be purchased and the batteries exchanged every month as required, with the spare recharged using a regular powered battery charger. The Board agreed and authorized Dave to purchase a deep-cycle battery for a cost not to exceed \$125. Paul announced that the Morrell Sanctuary Society was awarded a Green Nanaimo Environmental award "with distinction" on November 8th.

Paul reported to the Board in December 2007 that bookings were slow coming in from the elementary schools and explained that he was having difficulty communicating with individual teachers due to staff changes and fragmented lines of communication within the schools. Following discussion, it was agreed that Paul should attempt to learn the dates of the teachers' professional development days so that, with Bob Harvey's support, presentations on the Morrell's programs could be made on those days. Paul also noted that a new self-guided walk would soon be available for the public. "Know your Trees" was a brochure that guided visitors in the identification of eight tree species on the Yew Loop Trail. The trees were color coded to align with the guide. As well, a new entrance sign was installed under the gateway leading into the Sanctuary. In keeping with the decision to record volunteer hours, Paul announced there were 50 volunteer hours in the office for October and November, 127 hours for the tool crib, and 83 hours for the Woods Room just for the month of November.

At the January 16, 2008, board meeting Patrick Ansell noted that rain and snow conditions had left the parking lot and its approach road in an appalling condition requiring a great deal of work to repair. He recommended that the Board should plan, subject to corporate funding, to pave these areas as soon as possible. Paul O'Dell arranged Nature Interpreter training for Friday, January 25th, 2008, with Donna Hill. He noted that Donna was an Interpretation Canada Certified Instructor and her presentations were always worthwhile. Paul also checked into the possibility of high speed Internet for the office. He was quoted various options from Telus: \$61.95 per month on a month to month basis, \$51.95 on a one-year contract, \$46.95 on a three-year contract, and \$41.95 on a five-year contract. Shaw had yet to send out a technician to determine what was involved in running cable to the office. Karin Maley displayed a prototype of a Morrell Sanctuary crest that had been provided by Five Star Embroidery and which could be sewn on to a jacket or cap for a nominal fee. There was general discussion regarding the compatibility of the colour of the crest with the darker colours of jackets usually worn by most of the Society's members. Karin agreed to have the crest sewn onto a dark jacket to allow members to come to a decision on its suitability.

In February, Karin Maley asked the Board for permission to give four of the Morrell baseball caps to the four young people with special needs who volunteered for trail maintenance activities on Mondays under the supervision of Helen Johnston. Karin also suggested that a cap be given to people who donated cash to the Sanctuary. The Board agreed, subject to each case being considered individually. As well, Karin had contacted eleven Seniors' Residences with a view to offering programs or visits to the Sanctuary. In some cases, such programs were not considered practical but she planned to keep in touch with events planners to maintain interest. One facility, "Keeping House," was keen to arrange a visit but was waiting for better weather before arranging a firm date.

Due to the difficulty in obtaining donations while the Society's cash balance was so high, Helen Johnston suggested that a sum not exceeding \$30,000 be spent to pave the parking lot and approach road, and to grade the road leading to the Morrell Cottage, all urgent projects previously discussed by the Board. Helen also included the condition that the expenditure be subject to three tenders being obtained before a contract was issued.

Paul O'Dell reported that the Nature Interpreter training with Donna Hill was excellent. The interpreters broke into three groups and spent two hours going over questioning skills to use with children in the school programs. The turnout was almost 100% with only three people unable to attend. Paul also was advised that Shaw could provide Internet service to the trailer. The first month would be free, the next six months at \$29.95 per month, and from then on \$40.95 per month. As well, if the Society signed a 5-year contract with Shaw they could reduce their monthly fee to \$41.95. He concluded that Shaw was by far a better deal than Telus. In March of 2008, the Executive made a decision, subject to the approval of the Board, that a paving contract from the Royal Paving Company should be accepted. Following discussion, it was decided that the proposal for the paving contract to the amount of \$20,204.35 from the Royal be accepted. Norm Swanson broached the question of replacing the roof at the lookout on the Fire Road. After some deliberation on the need for a roof and on the general condition of the Lookout itself, it was agreed that no decision should be made regarding the roof until a full inspection of the main structure was completed.

A large Maple branch fell and pierced the metal roof on the Woods Room in March. After putting out a call to six different roofing companies, Arrowsmith Roofing stepped up and fixed the roof in one afternoon at a cost of \$560. Paul reported that the website was gradually being tidied up, given that the volunteer web fellow was a full-time student. He planned to delete certain photos and add others as well as modify the text as necessary. There was talk of a Web Designer being located to give the whole site a new look. Bob Harvey, Pili Vitacchio and Karin Maley came up with some wording for the home page and George Norris worked on a suitable format.



Pili Vitacchio, Patricia Ansell, Karin Maley (2008)





Seniors walk on the Yew Loop trail with Bob Harvey (2008)

At the April 16 Board meeting, Norm Swanson reported that the parking lot and approach road had been paved satisfactorily and the bill presented as per the estimate. He also commented favourably on the visit by Seniors from Hecate Lodge. He suggested that a policy should be devised such that Seniors' programs follow a standardized format similar to that followed by the Woods Room Committee for the Hecate Lodge, and to not deviate to any great extent to meet the requests of the visiting groups. He also suggested that all requests from Seniors' groups be coordinated through the Manager, who would ensure that there would be no conflict over resource use and that qualified

personnel would be available; for example, interpreters who could conduct appropriate walks through the Yew Loop.

Norm also noted that the Lookout platform on the Fire Road had been examined regarding the need for repairs or changes. The consensus was that, while the main structure was basically sound and required only some replacement boards and beams, the roof was in a very poor state and required extensive repair or replacement. The examining team concluded that the most practical and economic solution was to remove the roof altogether since it impeded, rather than improved the view from the Lookout. Karin reported on the sale of crests and hats. She had sixteen hats available for purchase and hoped to sell some at the Plant Sale. She had also received several jackets and vests with mounted crests from the supplier that had been pre-ordered by members.

Concerning high-speed Internet for the office, Shaw revised their original quote. The Sanctuary was now considered to be a business and, as such, the fees for the service would be considerably higher than those charged to a residential user with comparable usage. The Board questioned whether the extra speed and capacity would be worth changing from the current free dial-up service to one costing over \$600 a year. Referring to criticism of the current web page, Norm Swanson expressed a wish to establish a small committee to study what changes and improvements were required and how best to achieve them. He said that George Norris had agreed to provide technical advice and recommendations, and needed two other volunteers from the Board to assist in formulating recommendations to be provided in September. Bob Harvey and Karin Maley agreed to serve on the committee.

In May 2008, Bob Harvey reported on the re-surfacing of Sanctuary trails with wood mulch which had been mostly completed with the help of inmates from the Regional Correctional Facility. The inmates were withdrawn before completion after two inmates went missing for a short period and the work gang was returned to the facility. The 14th Annual Plant Sale in May was a run away success, raising close to \$2,800. Paul submitted a City of Nanaimo Community Service Grants application for the maximum of \$2,500 for material and machinery rental to resurface the Yew Loop Trail. The last time this was attempted was in 2000 when a BC Hydro youth team came and replaced some material, then compacted it with a vibrator.



Bob Harvey on Yew Loop bridge (2008)

The continuing question of whether or not to paint vehicle parking space lines in the newly paved parking lot was raised at the May 20th Board meeting. Norm Swanson said that it was his view that lines were not necessary because visitors seemed to manage very well without them. Several members agreed and suggested that the Board wait to see if there was any requirement to have 'handicap' spaces provided and marked, either from demand by visitors or by Provincial law.

Norm Swanson recounted a meeting he had with Jean Crowder, Member of Parliament, on May 17th, 2008. Ms. Crowder presented the Society with a certificate in recognition of its environmental achievements. On other matters, she said that she would attempt to find and suggest potential sources across Canada for donations towards the Society's environmental and educational activities. She also suggested that the Society explore the benefits of a partnership with the City of Nanaimo with regard to management, funding and programs within the sphere of their own park, environmental, and educational programs. Norm said that the meeting was very useful in a general and wide ranging nature but without any particular focus or firm commitments expressed.

As a fund-raising initiative, the Woods Room committee held a hotdog sale on Sunday, June 22nd, 2008. The initiative included an art sale in an attempt to dispose of the remaining 32 limited edition prints on inventory. While originally priced at \$125, the prints had an asset value of only \$100 so the price for the sale was set at \$100.

At the June 18 Board meeting, Patricia Ansell recited a serious complaint from a visitor to the Sanctuary regarding a dog running loose in the Pond and Lake area disturbing the wildfowl and bothering visitors. The owner of the dog was abusive when asked to keep the dog under control. There was general agreement among the directors that enforcement of the dog control policy was almost impossible except in the immediate area of the parking lot and Woods Room. It was suggested that the Society adapt a sign posted at Westwood Lake that clearly identified the responsibilities of dog owners and post it at key points in the Sanctuary.

Michelle Fitterer, a student teacher, and April Brown, a student nurse, were hired as summer camp staff. They started work June 16, 2008, with set hours of 9:00-3:30 on Monday, 8:30-3:30 Tuesday through Thursday, and 8:30-4:00 on Friday. The number of school programs was increased in 2008, with a grand total of 101 programs for 2007/08 and approximately 2,500 children, compared with 87 programs in 2006/07, 86 in 2005/06, and 91 in 2004/05.

The City of Nanaimo turned down the Society's application for the \$2,500 Community Service Grant submitted in April, but an application to the BC Senior Games Society Legacy Fund for \$3,000 to resurface the yew loop trail was approved. Norm and Patrick attended an award ceremony on June 18th, 2008.

During a wind storm in June, the top of a large rotten cedar at the Sanctuary boundary fell and damaged a Nanaimo Lakes Road resident's fence. This was the second time in a few months that a Sanctuary tree had caused damage to this fence. Paul checked with the Society's insurance company and was informed it was the owner's insurance that would cover any damage. The owner was concerned that two other trees could fall next and it was decided that if the trees were considered dangerous the Board would arrange to have them removed.

Regarding summer camp, the most pressing issue in July was the widely publicized decision not to accept an autistic child at the camp. Following discussion, the board agreed that the decision was the correct one and that no further verbal statements be given on the matter. Shaw TV had been running advertisements for summer camp and the Saturday morning guided walks, and wanted to video a segment on Bob Harvey's walks. The video ran for a few days on Shaw TV. As well, the Bulletin did a story on the Sanctuary's summer camps.

When the Sanctuary applied for a grant from the Seniors' Games Fund, it was specified that the money was for the re-surfacing of the Yew Loop wheelchair accessible trail. After receiving the grant it was realized that such a project was impractical considering the cost and the workforce that would be required. It was felt that the original surface was still serviceable but required a thorough sweeping, preferably by mechanical means. Since the grant did not appear to come with any hard and fast conditions or a report on its uses, it was decided to use part of the money to rent a mechanical sweeper and apply any surplus to general maintenance of all trails.

A request was received in July by a member of the public wishing to donate a memorial bench or picnic table to the Sanctuary in memory of a relative. Norm Swanson advised that he had made inquiries with the City of Nanaimo regarding their policy on such matters and was told that the City no longer accepted requests to install memorial benches. However, the City continued to maintain and add to the normal park benches throughout Nanaimo. Norm advised that the Society should establish what kind of benches and picnic tables would be acceptable for the Sanctuary. The regular summer barbecue was held on July 26th from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.



4x4 Basics memorial bench in the Morrell Nature Sanctuary

At the August 18 Board meeting the question of where to obtain benches and/or picnic tables as required by donors and others was discussed further. Patrick Ansell noted that commercial sources for these items fell into two classes: (1) the type used by municipal parks that could stand up to constant public use were expensive, anything from \$800 to \$2,000 each with tax and shipping, and (2) those, usually in kit form for backyard use, that were quite inexpensive, some under \$100, but were neither attractive nor sufficiently robust for permanent placement in the Park. Patrick then referred to a product called "4X4 Basics" of which there were several examples in the Sanctuary. The most versatile of these was a bench which could easily be converted into a picnic table. The basic framework was a long-wearing weatherproof resin product selling for about

\$50 plus taxes and shipping, to which must be added properly treated cedar or fir lumber to complete. It was agreed that two of these kits should be ordered, either from a local supplier or from a US company called "Northern Tool and Equipment."

Also in August it was discovered that the solar panel which kept the gate battery charged had been failing to provide sufficient power to the battery resulting in problems with the opening and closing of the automatic gate. The panel was being shaded by foliage growing over it and drastic pruning by a commercial company was required to resolve the problem.

At the October 15 Board meeting, Patrick Ansell noted that, in light of the increasing number of visitors together with their dogs, it would be prudent to formulate a firm policy regarding dogs that could lead to some control without seriously inconveniencing the responsible visitors who enjoy bringing their dogs into the Sanctuary. He circulated a draft policy to the directors for consideration. Bob Harvey advised that some of the interesting natural features in the Sanctuary were not clearly identified for visitors either in the pamphlets or by signage at the site. He suggested a system of identifying these features right at each site with an informative nature sign similar to one used at Milner Gardens. Paul O'Dell reported that the automatic gate control box had been vandalized and the gate was not operating. The chain had been dropped to the ground and the padlock was missing. As well, the face plate of the control panel was on the ground. After numerous attempts to get the gate working properly, a new clock was installed that solved the problem. The control box, however, needed to be replaced with one that was strong enough to withstand vandalism.

In November, the draft dog policy presented by Patrick Ansell was discussed further and it was agreed that the document should be more in the nature of guidelines for visitors than a rigid policy which might be difficult to enforce. Regarding high-speed Internet, Norm Swanson outlined the costs to replace the 'dial-up' system in the office with a high-speed cable service. The quoted cost by Shaw Cable for a combined telephone and internet hook-up would be \$85 per month. Further to previous discussions on the feasibility of providing explanatory nature signs at points of interest on the various trails, Bob Harvey reported that one company provided samples of a satisfactory sign which would cost approximately \$60 per sign (plus the cost of mounting posts). It was estimated that a project to place these signs on the trails would cost about \$3,100, plus the cost of the posts. It was agreed that such a project would be very desirable subject to obtaining a grant to cover the overall costs of about \$4,000.

Patrick Ansell, who had volunteered to construct a memorial picnic table, reported that bad weather and the wet condition of the lumber had delayed the project considerably. He also raised the matter of a memorial plaque to attach to the table. Norm Swanson advised that there had been a suggestion from a visitor that lights should be installed in the outhouse toilet near the Woods Room. However, it was decided that the installation of a permanent lighting system would be uneconomical and unnecessary.

At the December 17, 2008, Board meeting, Patrick Ansell presented an amended draft of the "Dog Rules" which was approved, and it was agreed that a sign should be prepared for the information of all visitors. Val Booth noted that the surface of the "Ducks Deck" at the Beaver Pond was very slippery and it was recommended that metal mesh should be installed on the platform.

Norm Swanson advised the Board that the corpse of a long deceased heron belonging to the Sanctuary was frozen in storage at the Ministry of the Environment awaiting the ministrations of a taxidermist. Ministry officials were wondering when the Society was planning to stuff the bird and wanted it removed as soon as possible. Norm noted that the taxidermy cost would be about \$400 plus up to about \$600 for a public display. The Ministry was willing to keep the bird on ice for a reasonable time until such arrangements could be made.

Norm recommended that, in view of recent suspicious losses from the Woods Room, measures needed to be taken to increase security for the building and its contents. A decision was made to re-key the Woods Room doors and to issue keys to those members who had a requirement for frequent access, such as Trail Maintenance supervisory personnel and the Woods Room Committee. Others requiring access on an infrequent basis could obtain a key from the office. A key register would be established and maintained by the manager to record the location of all keys and to ensure keys were returned when a requirement no longer existed.

Shaw cable switched over the phone line on December 23rd and installed high-speed internet at the same time. The timing was auspicious because Uniserve had communicated that as of January 5th they would no longer be able to provide free internet service. The first month phone service was free, the next three months were at \$19.95 and then it went up to \$35 per month. High speed internet cost \$50 a month.

The Christmas party on December 13th was in the form of a pot-luck, with everyone bringing an appropriate dish. In light of the success of the Boxing Day Open House over the past three years, the Board agreed that it would continue on December 26th from 12 noon until 3 p.m. Unfortunately, the 2008 Boxing Day Open House had to be cancelled due to bad weather and was re-scheduled for Valentine's Day on February 14th, 2009.

The year 2009 started out with snow posing a challenge for everyone. Vi was salting the roadway, but fell when walking along her own drive and broke her wrist on December 19th. The automatic gate was jammed by snow the day before Vi's accident and had to be opened manually. Paul O'Dell reported that the cost for snow removal as of January 21 was \$727.11 and salt cost \$135.21, for a total of \$862.32. Bob Harvey gave an account of a meeting of the newly formed Web Page Committee and the Webmaster who would actually do the work on the website. He reported that all was proceeding very satisfactorily and that provision had been made to ensure that the website would be updated regularly. Bob also circulated some excellent samples of his proposed Christmas cards, which would be produced for the use of the Sanctuary and for sale to members. Helen Johnston, Patricia Ansell and Karin Maley formed a Committee to plan for the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education's 25th anniversary event set for September 12th, 2009.

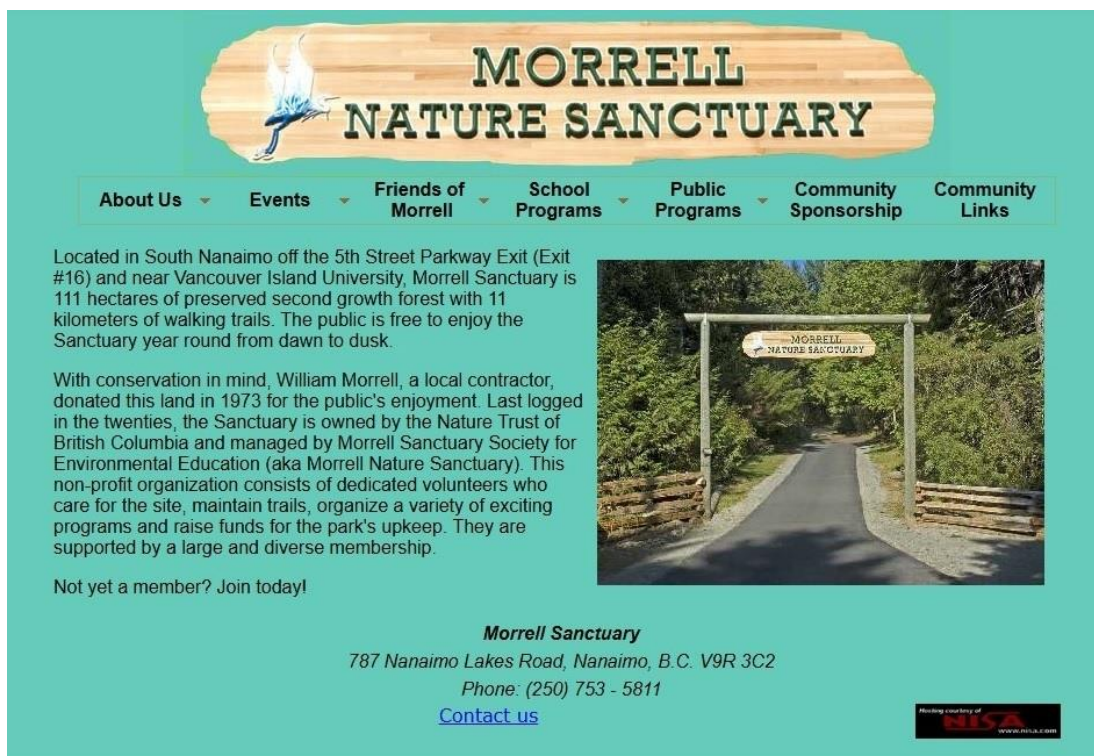
The provincial government's Gaming Commission approved the Society's application for an annual grant to the amount of \$35,000 for 2009 based on previous grants, but this would be reviewed for 2010. With regard to priorities for 2009, Norm Swanson proposed that four should be considered: (1) replace various bridges in the Sanctuary, (2) surface the decks with steel mesh, (3) install new flooring for the Woods Room, and (4) renovate the Kiosk. The Sanctuary was invited to set up an information booth in a display area at a teachers' Professional Development Day at Dover Bay High School on February 23rd. Bob Harvey, Pili, and Paul attended to promote the Society's school programs. The function had more than 1,000 teachers in attendance, but unfortunately not that many came through the display area.



At the March 18 board meeting, Bob Dadds outlined a proposal concerning the feasibility of stocking Morrell Lake with trout. He had been in contact with Vancouver Island University personnel who were enthusiastic about the proposal, which would involve the university in the actual stocking of the lake. The university would also conduct follow-up studies to determine its success and to provide an educational locale for students in related sciences. The University wanted a formal agreement with the Society to allow the project to go forward. The Board agreed that the project had merit and that Bob should make enquiries to determine what form the agreement would take, what participation was required from the Society and the name and position of the person who would represent the University in the agreement. However, at the April 15 board meeting it was reported that this proposal was meeting with strong opposition from frog researchers.

Regarding the 25th anniversary event, the Board decided that advertising should not be in the form of a public invitation but more in the style of announcements that 2009 was the anniversary year, describing the location and activities of the Sanctuary. Attendance at the ceremony itself would be limited to an invitation only basis which would include all members of the Society as well as guests decided by the Committee and approved by the Board.

The Sanctuary's website was completed by April 15, with a final meeting with Joe Sawisky on March 20th to go over all the changes and the new look, as well as how to refresh it from time to time. Bob Harvey suggested that a one-year membership be awarded to Joe for his help in designing the website. A class from Vancouver Island University visited the Sanctuary on March 12th with instructors from the Ministry of Forests.



Facsimile of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary website from The Wayback Machine (July 2010)

The school program Spring season had begun, and Bob Harvey and Paul O'Dell conducted the first "Forest Ecology" program with Nanaimo Christian School. Bob and Paul also attended the Global Watch Fair put on by Wellington High School. It ran from 8:30 to 12 noon, with non-profit groups there from as far away as Victoria and Vancouver as well as local. There were 1,000 students at Wellington and a good number came through.



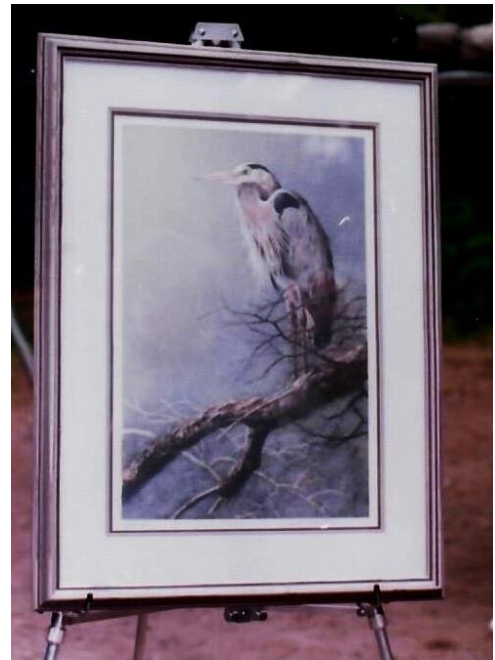
Spillway bridge at the Morrell Lake (Powerline) Dam

The spillway bridge was replaced in May 2009 and was very satisfactory, but the spillway needed cleaning. It was determined that the ramp at the Lookout would be covered with metal mesh, making it safer when wet. The Society received \$3000 from the BC Transmission Corporation to be spent on a new floor for the Woods Room. Paul ordered pins, some with names on them and some generic, so that all volunteers at public events could be identified as members of the Society.

An offer of \$1500 was received and accepted for the Robert Bateman heron print; it was agreed that the money would go to the Legacy Fund. The plant sale was a resounding success. It was steady all day and it seemed that there was not a problem with parking for the customers. Plants left over at the end were left by the kiosk with a sign saying to leave money in the donation box. That brought in \$130 all on its own. The total take for the plant sale for 2009 was \$2,528.75, compared to \$2,785.75 in 2008. At the June 17 Board meeting a decision was made that \$4427 surplus from operating revenue should be applied to the Legacy Fund, consisting of \$1500 for the Bateman heron print and \$2927 from concession revenue.

The Public Conservation Assistance Fund agreed to fund the Interpretive Signage project in the amount of \$2,000. Together with \$2,000 donated by the TD Friends of the Environment, funding was sufficient to move ahead with the project. Bob Harvey had about 30 proposed nature signs; 8x11" signs would cost about \$50 each and 10x12" signs would be about \$60 each. Paul was successful in obtaining another Summer Career Placement Grant in the amount of \$6,303, which was used to hire Michelle Fitterer, one of the camp leaders from last year, and Garrett Beisel, the first male to be hired as a summer camp leader. Peter MacDonald donated a cement bench to the Sanctuary in June and a decision was made in July to install it on the Tranquility trail.

Paul O'Dell gave an account of two photo opportunities in July 2009. The first was with Norm Swanson and Ray Reid from BC Transmission Corporation who presented a cheque for \$3,000 for the replacement of the Woods Room floor. The picture was taken in front of the Woods Room and was sent to the newspaper with appropriate text. The second was the official opening of the Spillway Bridge. Three representatives from the Coastal Community Credit Union were in attendance as well as Norm Swanson and Paul. The picture taken was also submitted to the newspapers. Along with the \$2,000 from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund for the interpretive sign project, a total of \$5,000 was deposited in July and recorded as donation revenue. After three break-ins in the past month, a discussion ensued regarding security cameras, either real or fake. However, it was decided that no action would be taken at that time. Bob Harvey was given an air horn in case of any bear encounters on the Saturday walks.



Heron print donated by Robert Bateman sells for \$1,500 in 2009

Arrangements were made with Wingren Flooring in July to install the new tile floor in the Woods Room on September 4th in time for the 25th anniversary open house on September 12th. Patrick Ansell built a very practical outdoor work bench next to the Tool Crib adjoining the Woods Room, and Norm Swanson and George installed an underground power line to the storage shed. Because of the extreme fire hazard condition the Sanctuary gate was closed on July 28th. Paul O'Dell first used a heavy chain but found that to be very cumbersome. He then decided to disengage the gate gears so that the gate could be opened and closed easily by hand and secured to the post with a small amount of chain. According to Paul, this had no effect on the gate programming. After some heavy rain on August 12th and 13th, the Sanctuary was re-opened on the 14th.



Nature Interpretive Sign posted at Beaver Pond's "Ducks Deck"

The trail maintenance crew continued to install nature signs in August and September. The 2009 Summer Camp was again another success. This was the 15th Summer Camp and funded by Human Resources Development Canada. The camp, which ran July and August, generated revenue that could be used at the Society's discretion, unlike project specific grants or grants with certain restrictions. The 2009 Summer Camp raised \$5,500.

The open house celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009, from 2-4 p.m., and went off without a hitch. The Woods Room was also opened the following day on Sunday, September 13 for anyone who missed events on Saturday. This was a form of open house where people could wander in to see the display board and find out more about the anniversary.

Provincial Gaming grant uncertainty was a huge concern at the September 16 Board meeting since this represented a significant source of revenue for the Sanctuary. B.C. Housing and Social Development Minister Rich Coleman was planning to make some major changes, noting that non-profit and charity groups weren't entitled to guaranteed money from provincial lottery revenues, and old agreements to funnel cash from bingos and casinos to community organizations were no longer valid. He pointed out that it had always been a one-year grant program so that every year each grant was assessed on the basis of its merit. A letter of concern was sent to Mr. Coleman under Norm Swanson's signature as president of the Morrell Sanctuary Society and was copied to Jean Crowder MP, James Lunney MP, Leonard Krog MLA and Doug Routly MLA. At the September 26 Annual General Meeting, Paul reported that there were 1,127 volunteer hours logged in for the Woods Room, 878 for trail maintenance and 295 for the office totaling 2,500 hours, not including the countless hours of volunteers who did not record them.

Post holes for the interpretive signage had all been dug by October 21. As well, two senior residences were entertained in October; a group of twelve from Berwick on the Lake and a small group from Keeping House enjoyed their walks and refreshment break afterwards. An impromptu Open House was held very successfully on Sunday, October 18th. Many walkers dropped in to enjoy a snack and left generous donations. Bob Harvey's Christmas cards were very successfully received and \$60 was spent on cards by visitors to the Open House. Bob Dadds was thanked for installing shelving behind the shed to accommodate plant pots and flats making the area much neater. As well, the cement bench for the MacDonald's was delivered and transported up the Tranquility Trail to the Lookout Connector by a crew from the Nanaimo Correctional Centre. There it was assembled by Bob Harvey, Alan and Bob Dadds. A Beer and Burger Night on Saturday, November 14, raised \$1900, of which \$1500 went into general revenue and the remainder into the Legacy Fund. A children's birthday part was held in the Woods Room on Saturday, November 7th and netted \$90 in rent.

Tom Grauman discussed with Vancouver Island University the idea of having a VIU student representative sit on the Morrell Sanctuary Society Board. While the university seemed to like the proposal, Tom had yet to see what they had planned. Karin Maley mentioned that Michelle Fitterer, a third year teaching student at VIU who also served as a day camp leader for the last two summers at the Morrell Sanctuary, had professed interest in getting involved.

An inquiry to the Nature Trust concerning the possibility of a land swap with the federal government was rejected. In a letter dated November 4, the BC Conservation Land Manager for the Nature Trust, Jim Hope, wrote that he had reviewed the lease agreement between the Morrell Sanctuary Society and The Nature Trust (dated June 13, 1985) and, while the agreement clearly provided for the day-to-day management of the complex of properties by the Morrell Sanctuary Society, there were no provisions that authorized the Morrell Sanctuary Society to pursue land exchanges or any other changes in tenure status of the properties owned by The Nature Trust that were included in the Lease Agreement. He went on to state that based on the limited information and map included in the materials submitted by the Society, the proposal suggested that 12 hectares of mature Coastal Douglas Fir (and rock bluffs)



owned by the Nature Trust would be exchanged for only 3 hectares of land currently held by the federal government. He concluded that it was difficult to see how there would be a "net" benefit from such a land exchange to The Nature Trust or the complex of properties that made up the Morrell Sanctuary site.

In response, the Society communicated to the Nature Trust on November 27 that the Society was in touch on a daily basis with the current ecological and popular issues that affected the Morrell Sanctuary and which also affected Nature Trust's commitment to protect its existing land base for the people of British Columbia. As Norm Swanson explained in the letter:

"It was our concerns in these areas that prompted our examination of the possibility of adjusting the boundaries of the Sanctuary to better protect the integrity of the useable land within a well defined and manageable perimeter in support of that commitment.

Our primary concerns ... relate to the ongoing land claims by the Snuneymuxw First Nation, which appear to involve the transfer of significant areas of Crown Land currently owned by the Department of National Defence or its Crown properties management agency. The most troubling issue in our view, is the 4.3 ha section of prime parkland at the southern end of the Sanctuary, owned by DND but which is within the public perception of the Sanctuary boundary provided by the Hydro easement to the west and has always been used by our visitors as part of the Sanctuary without hindrance. This area of land bisects one of our two fire roads and if access were to be denied following a land claim settlement, our ability to manage the Sanctuary would be gravely compromised.

The 2.8 ha. to the north of the above section, is part of the Sanctuary but is situated almost entirely on the Hydro easement and service road. It is used mainly by the utilities to maintain the electricity lines and the gas pipeline, which occupies an additional part of the easement. It is also extensively used recreationally, by all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes, which hardly fit with the objectives of the Society and its use for this purpose cannot be controlled. Similarly, the 9.2 ha Sanctuary land a little further north, also straddles the Hydro easement but the considerable western part of it is surrounded by land believed to be in Crown ownership. The boundaries of the Sanctuary land are not marked or known, and therefore, it is beyond our ability to properly manage or protect it. Should this Crown land be transferred under the land claim, the Sanctuary would further be jeopardized by encroachment, development or extractive industry, such as logging."

In December, Patricia Ansell sent Bob Harvey's Christmas cards to all 2009 contributors to the Morrell Sanctuary covering monetary and in kind donations, thanking them for their generosity and wishing them the best of the season. Patricia also arranged to send a Christmas card to Chief Woods congratulating him on being elected Chief of the Snuneymuxw Nation. Regarding the appointment of a VIU student to the Board, Paul was instructed to offer Michelle Fitterer a seat as a non-voting board member. The final agenda item at the December 16 Board meeting concerned Woods Room rental fees; it was decided to charge \$35 per hour with a \$100 damage deposit, refundable after the event.

The year 2010 started with significant concerns over the financial status of the Sanctuary. Norm Swanson outlined the various options open to the Board during a very crucial time in the financial future of the Sanctuary. The January 2010 Board minutes stated that the Society was effectively without any funding after March 31, 2010, and a decision concerning the Sanctuary's future direction was necessary. After discussion of the options open to the Board, president Swanson moved that the Sanctuary manager would receive by January 31, 2010, a notice of layoff effective March 31, 2010.

The Board reviewed an offer from a professional fund raiser to help identify a focus statement for raising money for the Sanctuary. Her fee would be \$600 and after considerable discussion the Board agreed unanimously to decline her services. A letter was received from Minister Coleman stating that the Board would know by April whether the Sanctuary would receive further funding and that this policy was consistent with past funding grants. Paul O'Dell was instructed to contact Paul Walton, the Nanaimo Daily News senior reporter who authored an article in the February 11, 2010, paper explaining the Sanctuary's funding difficulties, and ask him if he had contacted Mr. Coleman's office



as promised. Paul was also directed to let Mr. Walton know that the Morrell Sanctuary was just one of many nonprofit groups relying on provincial Gaming funds that were waiting for a positive answer.

In light of his pending layoff, Paul started training treasurer Val Booth on the QuickBooks software which she would take over in his absence. Val would do all the accounting and generation of financial statements. He would be training others to take over responsibility for the computer filing system and membership data base. Bob Harvey and Harry Adcock would jointly coordinate school programs, and Patrick Ansell would take on the very essential government regulatory reports, applications and Gaming affiliation reports.

At this time, Norm Swanson communicated to the Board that it was in the best interest of the Morrell Sanctuary and the Morrell Sanctuary Society that he resign as president and remove himself from the stressful situations that had developed. At an emergency meeting of the Board held on February 4th, 2010, the Board reluctantly and regretfully accepted the resignation of the Norm Swanson as president effective immediately. Following a full discussion and formal motions, the Board appointed the current vice-president, Patrick Ansell, to the position of Interim President and also director, Bob Harvey, to the position of Interim Vice-President, with both appointments running until the Annual General Meeting in September, 2010.

Despite the financial and Board issues, volunteers continued to conduct Sanctuary business. Patricia Ansell presented her report stating that the library was in the process of being moved from the office into the Woods Room. Stephanie was managing the library and planning an article for the Newsletter about the move and a book review. A full training session was planned for the next group of new environmental education interpreters, and Harry Adcock suggested that the board hire Nature Training Expert Donna Hill at a cost \$200 for a training session for prospective new interpreters as well as all experienced interpreters and board members. However, it later turned out that Donna no longer provided training, so the training was conducted by Paul O'Dell and the core interpreters. The trail maintenance group was busy with normal trail duties including broom removal from the dam at Morrell Lake, covering the bridge with non-slip grating, and the added duties of cleaning outhouses and garbage removal since the Sanctuary was ineligible for the City's residential waste collection services.

Val and David Booth attended a general meeting on Sunday, March 14th, where Bingo management said they were running out of options for contacting Minister Coleman. The latest word from Victoria was that they would let associations know the outcome of the distribution of funds by July, 2010. In the meantime, it was business as usual at the Bingo hall. Regarding trail maintenance, a trench was dug alongside the Morrell entrance driveway to carry away water runoff and help prevent further erosion of the blacktop. Patrick Ansell sent a letter to biologist Elke Winde stating the Society's reasons for postponing for a few months a review of her concept to use Morrell Lake for a research project. After discussing a plan to offer environmental education sessions to interested daycare centres, it was decided this could not be supported financially or handled by the small pool of volunteer manpower at that time. Due to confusion over rental rates for the Woods Room, Patricia Ansell proposed an amendment to the December 2009 motion that the rental fee be \$30/hour or a sum to be decided on at the discretion of the Woods Room committee, which would depend on the number of attendees and what facilities were required. A \$100 damage deposit would be charged to non-members refundable upon hall inspection.

Paul submitted his last manager's report in March, 2010. He spent considerable time training volunteers to take over his responsibilities. Karin Maley and Patricia Ansell were provided instruction on the office filing system, the computer and its files, and other office procedures. In March, the library was moved to the Woods Room. It had been placed in the office because the books needed to be in a heated room, but since the Woods Room had heat installed it was better situated there because it made the library more accessible to volunteers and members of the public. Paul noted that program registrations were looking good for the Spring season with twelve registered thus far and an expected number of around 30 in total. An emerging problem was that more and more programs were "double bookings," meaning two classes arriving at one time by bus. It was possible, but took extra coordination so that Bob Harvey and Harry Adcock would have their hands full.

In April, Val Booth reported that she and David, along with Helen Johnston, attended an information meeting at the Bingo hall and were told at that time that funds may be forthcoming, but not until August. She said the Bingo

association felt optimistic about receiving funds. However, it was necessary to continue paying the volunteer that assisted at Morrell's Bingo sessions, who was being paid \$30 a session. If the Society didn't support volunteers in the Bingo hall it would lose its membership in the Bingo group. Bob Harvey reported that bookings for the school programs were coming in steadily, with two in March, seven for April, fourteen for May, and three for June. Bob stressed the need for more volunteer nature interpreters so the Board arranged to post an ad calling for more interpreters in the newspaper, on community television, and via an email to the membership. With regard to fundraising, a scavenger hunt held in April was very successful and realized \$400 in donations after bills were paid. The biggest expense was candy as most of the other food was donated. The remaining chocolate bars would be sold at the Plant Sale. A stuffed heron was expected to be delivered during the first week in June, and Bob Dadds planned to invite the person doing the work on the heron to the Volunteer Luncheon scheduled for June 12th to see if the specimen could be turned over at that time.

With respect to office opening and responsibilities with Paul's termination, keys to the office were distributed to the Morrell Society Executive, Helen Johnston, and Patricia Ansell, as well as office staff and interpreters. The computer would be used only by these people. As well, the existing virus protection on the computer was removed and replaced with Shaw Secure, a free computer protection service to Shaw subscribers. Kazui Fujiki was announced as the new newsletter publisher for the Society. Barbara Densmore would train Kazui and perhaps introduce a new "blogging newsletter." An offer of a free dispenser and bags for dog waste was turned down by the Board because the Society would then have to get rid of soiled bags and make more work for volunteers.

The Plant Sale held in May, 2010, brought in just over \$2000. A new volunteer, Carol Campbell, agreed to work at the Morrell Nature Sanctuary Bingo sessions and accepted \$20 per session for travel and meal allowance. Bob Harvey reported that the school programs were completely booked for the month of June, and May was also very busy for Harry Adcock, Bob Dadds, and Bob Harvey. Two new interpreters were taking the training sessions and this was expected to take the pressure off the three regular interpreters. Patricia Ansell mentioned the Nanaimo Area Land Trust's Green Day that took place at Bowen Park on April 24th; Patricia and Karin Maley attended the event and signed up one new member, a nature interpreter for next season, and told many people who stopped by their table about the beauty of the Morrell Sanctuary. It was noted that the City of Nanaimo was using the Sanctuary for some of their paid outdoor activities, so a letter was sent to the City asking them to provide advance notice when these additional activities were planned.

Bob Harvey and Patrick Ansell spoke to a class at Vancouver Island University and invited interested students to attend the May 2010 Morrell Sanctuary Society Board meeting to see what takes place. However, no one from VIU attended the May meeting. It was decided to cancel the alarm system and Patrick Ansell wrote Price Alarms to inform them of the Board's decision. The alarm still rang in the event of a break-in, but there were no attending alarm personnel. Regarding insurance, it was suggested that directors' liability be increased and coverage for the Woods Room and Office checked. It was pointed out that the Society didn't own these buildings as they were on Nature Trust of BC property and, although the Society paid the premiums, the payout would be to Nature Trust in the event of damage. The Telus fax and phone line was cancelled as it was seldom used and cost \$60 per month.

In June, Val Booth recounted a meeting she and David attended at the Bingo Hall. Beginning in October 2010, the Morrell Sanctuary would have one Bingo a month to be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This reduced the annual number of Bingo sessions from 18 to 12. She also mentioned the new Bingo volunteer was frequently unavailable so hoped that new Bingo help could be drawn from the Society's membership. She noted again that the Bingo Association expected members to supply volunteers to help with many chores in the hall, and the amount received from net profits could depend on supplying volunteers. Bob Harvey reported that the Spring school programs were finished and said they were very successful. Patrick Ansell spoke for the Board in offering appreciation to Bob Harvey, Bob Dadds, Harry Adcock, and the other interpreters who handled a very heavy workload throughout the Spring. The Morrell Entrance sign was refurbished and again hung over the driveway entrance, thanks to Bob Dadds. Trail maintenance recorded 68 volunteer hours over the past month.

Concerning an issue of land encroachment by Dogwood Crescent residents, Patrick Ansell met with Tom Reid from the Nature Trust of BC to discuss the matter. Mr. Reid walked the boundary between the Morrell Sanctuary and the

residences on Dogwood Crescent and noted encroachment. He wrote to all Dogwood residents notifying them of Nature Trust's awareness of encroachment and instructing them to immediately remove personal items and return Morrell Nature Sanctuary property to its natural state or legal action would be initiated to rectify the situation.

The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch held on June 12th was a success with about 27 people in attendance. The stuffed heron was presented to the Morrell group by the taxidermist, Laurel Bohart, and was appreciated by all. It was noted that the rates for Summer Camp would be \$25/day for pre-registered children and \$30/day for drop-ins. Patrick Ansell prepared a waiver form for parents to complete, acknowledging their understanding of the Morrell Sanctuary Society's conditions in accepting their child's participation. A criminal check letter was prepared for new camp leaders to take to the RCMP.

Val Booth reported on a meeting she and David attended at the Bingo Hall on September 12, 2010. The Bingo Association would decide before their Annual General Meeting in December what to do about member organizations that did not participate in meetings or work in the Bingo Hall. The BC Government gave money to the Hall for Bingo advertising that was displayed around the City. Val noted that a Gaming Audit Summary Report had to be submitted to the Bingo Association within 90 days of the fiscal year-end. Dawn Dunphy answered a request for Bingo Hall volunteers. Dave Booth arranged training for Dawn, which she received at the Hall on August 9th. Her first session, along with Dave, was on September 3rd. The Society's Gaming Grant money was received and deposited in the bank account. The money had to be spent before August 31, 2011, and the Society would be notified by November 30th, 2011, whether additional funds would be granted.

Regarding the educational programs, no interpreters returned from the previous year so the Society advertised for new volunteers. Flyers were sent to all schools in the #68 School District. In her trail maintenance report, Val noted that the grass was cut at the lake and gazebo area. Along with usual trail trimming, repairs were made to the Rocky Knoll trail with new logs and rebar. Vi Savage was again looking after the dog water dish and the lower outhouse. The outhouse toilets were emptied on August 4, 2010. The Lookout Trail bridge was replaced with a culvert on August 19th and Bob Dadds cut the wood for it. Also, half of the signage and maps on trails had been cleaned. The 2010 Summer Camp was a success, with a profit of approximately \$2000. The Woods Room Committee and Trail Maintenance crew cleaned up the Woods Room and area outside after heavy use by the summer camp kids. Helen Johnston offered to staff the office weekdays from 10:00-noon until a volunteer schedule was established. Karin Maley put together a notice for the website detailing the requirements for groups wishing to gain permission to use the Sanctuary for organized runs or walks.

At the October 2010 Board meeting, treasurer Val Booth reported that Elaine Wade installed new, easier to use accounting software on the office computer. Regarding Bingo, Val noted that Dave Booth and Dawn Dunphy had volunteered time working in the Bingo Hall. The Gaming Audit Summary was completed and submitted one week late with the permission of the Government Gaming Branch. Helen Johnston reported the Estate/Art Sale was very well attended and quite successful with over \$2000 being raised.

Bob Harvey stated that a number of on-site programs took place in October, with another scheduled for the month of November. As well, several trainee interpreters were finishing the training program and would soon be ready to solo. Interpretive walks took place in October on the Yew Loop and in the Woods Room for four seniors' residences. Bob Harvey acted as interpreter and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Another walk was planned for Long Lake Chateau on November 10th.

An email request was received from a technician, Hitomi Kimura of the Biology Department at Vancouver Island University, requesting access to Morrell Lake to study the Western toads that inhabit the lake. The consensus of the Board was that it seemed a good idea and an invitation was extended to Hitomi to speak to the Board so they would be better informed to make a decision about the project.

The office lighting was repaired, with light fixtures replaced and approved by a provincial electrical inspector. The job cost more than anticipated but was a necessary expense. Patrick Ansell set up a timetable where volunteers could fill in times they would be able to staff the office. The office was planned to be open each weekday from 10



a.m. to 12 noon, and hopefully for a few hours on weekends. People who volunteered to keep the office open were Shirley (Willow Park), Ron White, Marg Smith, Linda Cole, Patricia Ansell, Karin Maley, and Helen Johnston.

Morrell Lake's emergency draining valve required repairs, so Karin contacted the Society's members by email to find a diver among the membership who could have a look at a bent rod that was impeding the turning valve and ascertain what needed to be done to fix it. Patrick Ansell contacted Vancouver Island University to see if they could inspect and report on dangerous trees in the Sanctuary. If they could not assess the tree situation, Patrick would contact companies doing this type of work for estimates. Bob Dadds offered to construct retaining walls in front of Woods Room to hold back the earth using suitable wood on hand; construction would be performed by the Trail Maintenance team. A Memorial Bench/Picnic Table Policy was established. Membership would be necessary to donate a bench or picnic table to the Sanctuary and it would be the Sanctuary's decision where such a bench would be placed. Resin and wood composition was preferable. As well, it was proposed that the Society purchase six lightweight resin tables for use in the Woods Room.

At the November 17, 2010, Board meeting, Bob Harvey announced that Shaw Community TV did an interview with him regarding the Sanctuary's school programs and nature interpreters. They returned the following day to film a school program in progress. The retaining wall outside the Woods Room kitchen door was completed by the trail maintenance crew, and work on the wall on other side of the Woods Room entrance was slated for the following week. There were 69 volunteer trail maintenance hours during the month of October. The Bastion Running Club offered a donation of \$350 for their continued use of the Sanctuary for running events. They asked to have a small ceremony of the presentation, which they would organize with a photographer present. The office was officially open each weekday from 10 till 12 noon and staffed by volunteers doing one day a week each. This schedule seemed to be working well. A decision was made to deposit \$2000 of the proceeds from the Estate/Art Sale into the Legacy Fund.

Patrick Ansell shared a quote from Toole Electric for \$2000 to upgrade the Woods Room heating. The Board considered whether an overhead heater was as efficient as heaters at ground level. Karin Maley proposed spending up to \$4000 on new heating units and wiring in the Woods Room. Decisions were made to put the Morrell Lake Valve issue on hold until the next summer and the Morrell Lake Toad Project on hold until Spring 2011. Patrick presented a Dog Owner Handout prepared by Marg Smith and approval was given to distribute this leaflet out to visitors with dogs arriving in parking lot and also to post it to the website.

In December 2010, the treasurer Val Booth mentioned a sizeable donation from a member during the month of November. It was also decided to transfer the majority of money in the Operating account into a High Interest Savings account to take advantage of interest paid. David and Val Booth attended the Bingo Association Annual General Meeting which was combined with the association's quarterly meeting. Val reported the BC Government would like association members to acknowledge receipt of Gaming funds on their websites. Dawn Dunphy and David Booth still volunteered their time at Bingo sessions. Due to snow and holidays, trail maintenance volunteer hours were lower than usual at only 35 hours for the month. Thirty-seven of Bob Harvey's Christmas photo cards were sent to donors and special friends of the Sanctuary.

An email containing the names of Vancouver Island University Forestry staff who could help identify dangerous trees in the Sanctuary was received. Patrick announced he would contact both VIU and fallers in January 2011 to begin removing danger trees. A photo shoot took place with the Bastion Running Club on December 11th in the Woods Room acknowledging their presentation of a cheque for \$350 to the Society. New heating units were installed in Woods Room for the amount estimated by the contractor and under the amount budgeted. A decision was made to revise office hours as there was very little for volunteers to do while in the office; however, it was agreed the office should be open as much as possible. It was also decided to buy a timer so that lights could be left on all day.

Karin Maley and Marg Smith assembled a Christmas Handout package containing a candy cane, dog treat, membership form and the leaflet regarding dog behaviour in the Sanctuary which was distributed to walkers coming and going from the parking lot for a couple of days during the week of December 20-24. After some discussion about dogs running freely in the Sanctuary on days that school programs were in progress, it was decided to make up a

couple of sandwich boards with the message "No Dogs in Sanctuary today -School Programs in Progress" to be displayed on those days.

City of Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Staff Member, Eileen Bossons, attended the Morrell Sanctuary Society Board meeting on January 19, 2011, to deliver a membership application for the City under the "Organization" category. She explained that taking out a membership in the Morrell Sanctuary Society demonstrated the City's appreciation for the work Morrell volunteers did and that the City of Nanaimo wished to be a good neighbour. She also offered City assistance in a variety of areas such as the "Leaders in Training" program when teenage volunteers would be helpful during events or in producing signage. She described a "Good Neighbour" dog/owner training program the City planned to hold in the Spring, noting that this could perhaps help the Sanctuary as many more City dogs would be trained in recall and good manners. Some time was spent discussing dog concerns in the Sanctuary compared with the City's dog problems and Ms. Bossons suggested some ideas that the City had found helpful, for example, park wardens wearing identifying jackets who explained park rules to visitors.

On the subject of dogs, Patrick Ansell produced a notice asking that dogs be on leash at all time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays beginning February 7th. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to call a special meeting of the Board to discuss the issue of dogs in the Sanctuary and what control options were available, particularly since the Morrell family representative on the Board, Helen Johnston, disagreed with the plan.

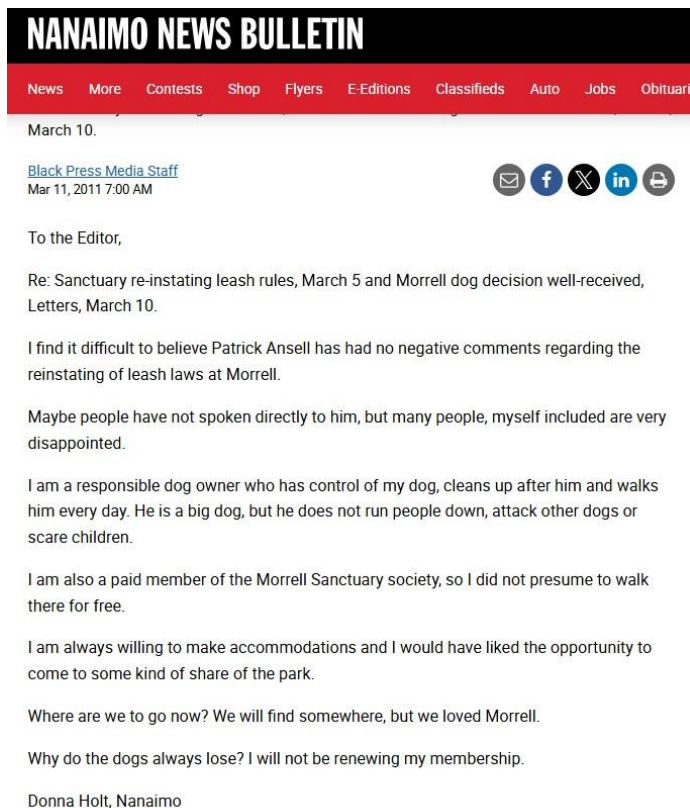
Regarding education, Karin Maley suggested sending out an email to all K-7 schools reminding them that on-site and in-school programs at the Sanctuary were continuing. As well, Shaw Community TV aired a couple of short programs filmed in the Sanctuary. Patrick Ansell noted that schools should also be reminded to use the application form found under School Programs on the website. The Woods Room retaining wall was completed in January and water flow was checked along the roads. There were 57 volunteer hours recorded for trail maintenance during the month of December. The new heating system in the Woods Room was working well, and the office staffing schedule for volunteers seemed to be fine, with someone in the office each day for a few hours. It was also decided at the January Board meeting to give Jean Robinson a Life Membership in the Morrell Sanctuary Society in recognition of her contributions.

In February 2011, Val Booth reported that \$30,000 had been transferred from the Operating Account to the High Interest Savings Account to earn a bit more interest. Val also provided copies of the Bingo Schedule for April to December, 2011, representing six sessions over a nine-month period. David Booth and Dawn Dunphy were still volunteering at the Bingo sessions. Bob Harvey offered to hold a nature interpreter training session during March, with advertising in the local press and community television commencing before the end of February. Volunteer Nanaimo was also asked to post the Sanctuary's search for interpreters on their website and newspaper column. In addition, a mass email would also be sent to membership canvassing for nature interpreters. The trail maintenance crew recorded 56 volunteer hours in January, cleaning up debris on trails left by strong winds and transporting rocks to the lake to fill a hole in the dam.

The identification of dangerous trees on the Yew Loop took place Thursday, February 17th. The committee members who carried out this assignment were Valerie Booth, Bob Harvey, Harry Adcock, and Patrick Ansell. A professional tree company would then be hired to do any necessary tree falling. The Board continued discussing various ways to control the off-leash dog problem in the Sanctuary, which has been of concern for the past few years. Bob Harvey recommended a policy stating that there will be no dogs off-leash in the Sanctuary, which the Board agreed with. The Board was tasked with preparing simple, clear signage with this message to be posted at all Sanctuary entrances.

The Board discussed ideas for projects that needed to be done, supplies to be kept on hand for future projects, or projects that would make good use of Lottery grant funds. The money had to be spent by August 2011 except for funds earmarked for ongoing capital projects. The list of suggestions included such projects as: stockpiling lumber, loads of gravel, sand, and bark mulch; purchasing a new office copier; improving the office exterior to make it more attractive; commissioning artwork for the parking lot; replacing the office floor and office heating system; renovating the kiosk; updating the kitchen; regrading the Fire Lane and area fronting the Woods Room; hiring transport to bring

kids from low income schools in for on-site programs; and hiring a vehicle to convey seniors or disabled visitors on summer Sanctuary tours to Morrell Lake.



Val Booth reported in March 2011 that BC Government funding would be dispersed at the end of August, same as the previous year. There was some response from the Sanctuary's membership regarding the new dog policy, some favourable, some not. One disgruntled member went so far as writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper to voice her complaints. Nevertheless, the Board decided that on-leash dog signs would be posted at Sanctuary entrances on March 31st. Patrick agreed to arrange a visit for Hitomi Kimura so she could explain to the Board her planned western toad project. Bob Harvey asked to be involved in the project.

Major expenditures included removing dangerous trees on the Yew Loop, purchasing a stock pile of lumber, and upgrading the office heating system. Projects under review encompassed grading and gravelling the area in front of the Woods Room, regrading the road in front of Kiosk before the Spring school programs start, and getting electricity supplied to the automatic entrance gate. It was also decided that the Sanctuary newsletter would be published four times a year, with Patricia Ansell to manage publishing.

At the April 20, 2011, Board meeting, Val Booth observed that the Legacy Fund was up because of earned interest, and that revenue from donations and the school Winter Programs was also doing well. Expenditures on the Yew Loop danger trees, removed by Davey Tree Service, and stockpiling lumber were responsible for additional Repairs and Maintenance expenses. Patrick suggested the possibility of hiring an office staff person to keep the office open all day during the summer and to supervise the Summer Camp program, noting that more of the Gaming funds needed to be spent before the Fall. After noticing that school program requests were dropping off, Bob Harvey emailed all the teachers thanking them for using the Sanctuary programs in the past and to consider coming back again. This brought in a lot of requests and 32 programs were scheduled or completed in 2011, compared to 25 during the same period in 2010.

A letter was received from a new member who was pleased about the "on-leash" dog policy at the Sanctuary. However, another member said she was accosted by a man with two leashed but unmuzzled pit bulls that gave her quite a scare as he had trouble controlling them. The Board decided to contact the City of Nanaimo to ascertain the exact definition of the "Dangerous Dog Muzzle Bylaw." The BC Nature Trust requested a meeting to talk about progress managing the Sanctuary without office help and encroachment into the Sanctuary property by Dogwood residents.

Bob Harvey recommended the purchase a laptop and a voice recorder for the Sanctuary and Helen Johnston proposed purchase of a new office photocopier. All three items were approved by the Board, with a total expenditure of up to \$2000. There was continued discussion about changing the Newsletter back to four seasonal editions a year. As well, items would be chosen from the Newsletters and posted on the blog site, with a link from the webpage to the blog site.

Plans were made to announce the job description for Summer Camp leaders during the first week of May. It was suggested that Michelle Fitterer be asked if she would be interested in supervising the office and summer camp programs and leaders rather than actually being a camp leader herself. A request from the City of Nanaimo was granted for one-time use of the Sanctuary's entrance road to the power line to conduct necessary work at the back of Westwood Lake.

In May 2011 it was reported that the school programs were completely booked until mid-June. The trail maintenance crew replaced a culvert at "Dadd's Corner" and installed a drain pipe at the Yew Loop entrance. Proceeds from the plant sale amounted to \$2549.12, plus donations of \$125. Elaine Wade purchased a computer, printer, laptop, software, and set everything up in the office. Bob Harvey recommended purchase of a projector to plug into the laptop. Forty applications were received for the camp leader positions, but there was no confirmation of Federal Government funding at that point. The City of Nanaimo finished their work at the back end of Westwood Lake and committed to delivering a load of gravel to fill in potholes on the Hydro Line access road in payment.

At the June 2011 Board meeting, Hitomi Kimura reported her concerns about the American Bullfrog and tadpole infestation in Morrell Lake. These frogs had been seen predominantly on the north side of lake and she believed a tadpole eradication program should take place before they metamorphosized. She pointed out that Spring was the best time to control this problem. Hitomi offered to put a plan together on how to begin to handle the bullfrog problem and present it to the Board. As the City of Nanaimo's Westwood Lake, adjacent to Morrell Lake, was also infested, Hitomi intended to inquire if the City had plans to clean up Westwood.

Following up on input from teachers, Bob Harvey created a new school program for Kindergarten kids called "Introduction to Life in the Pond." The new program contained elements from both the Pond Dippers and Web Wanderers program. Discussion took place around taking school program outlines to Vancouver Island University's Teaching Department to show students enrolled in teaching programs how they could benefit from becoming a Nature Interpreter at Morrell to gain hands-on teaching experience. The 2010-2011 school programs wound up on June 16th. Bob revised the school program list that was distributed in the Fall to all teachers in School District #68. Some Morrell courses were marked "PLO -Prescribed Learning Outcomes" to alert teachers that these courses incorporated material prescribed by the Provincial Government's teaching outlines.

By June 15, the Sanctuary still hadn't received the promised road gravel from the City of Nanaimo. Patrick Ansell was tasked with finding out the reason for the delay and, if the gravel was not forthcoming, he planned to order four yards of road fill. Two Seniors' visits were successfully held; one on May 28th with Berwick on the Lake residents and another on June 7th with Dufferin Place. The seniors attending had a very good time and there was a good turnout of volunteers to both events. The Volunteer lunch was held on June 11th with approximately 25 in attendance. A wonderful lunch catered by Patricia and Patrick Ansell was enjoyed by all.

An email was received from Tom Reid with the BC Nature Trust stating that he had given permission to a property owner on Dogwood Crescent to cut weeds on Sanctuary property. However, the Morrell Sanctuary Society did not intend to become involved in this boundary dispute and would leave it in the hands of the BC Nature Trust.

Michelle Fitterer was employed as Summer Camp/Office supervisor in June. Michelle reported that two summer camp leaders, Alexis and Kaylee, had been hired and would begin work June 20th. The camp was scheduled to commence on July 4th, Monday through Friday, and end on August 25th. The staff would finish on August 26th. Michelle, Alexis and Kaylee planned to set up a booth publicizing Morrell's Summer Camp at the Canada Day celebrations at Maffeo Sutton Park on July 1st. It was determined that it was too expensive to run an electrical line to the automatic entrance gate. Patrick Ansell said he would check with the Vancouver Island University Shop Department to see whether they could fabricate a metal box to protect the gate electronics. At an extraordinary meeting of the Board on August 18, a decision was made to hire Michelle on a part-time basis during her university year for twelve hours per week at a rate of \$17 per hour. While her hours would be flexible, the office would generally be open during the afternoon hours.



The treasurer, Val Booth, reported at the September 21, 2011, Board meeting that the Gaming Revenue funding had been received and \$5,000 of the Federal Summer Employment Grant was also received. The Board discussed changing the financial statement to present a comparison of current month versus the previous month or the current month versus the budgeted amount, but decided to stay with the present system which displayed the current month versus year-to-date. The office renovations were almost complete and Bob Dadds bought two plastic mats to protect the new flooring. Patrick Ansell initiated dam repairs by contacting Leo Cake of Four Star Waterworks in Parksville to obtain his expertise. It was decided not to renew the Unity Office Photocopier contract and continue using the photocopier until it self-destructed. For very large photocopy jobs, it was suggested that the Vancouver Island University's printing department could be used.

Capital Assets were slightly higher in the October 19 financial report due to installation of the new office flooring. President Elaine Wade explained to new Board members why it was necessary to spend a certain amount of the money received from the Gaming grant in order to meet their conditions for providing funding. Bob Harvey reported that an in-school program was delivered in Duncan and the question was raised as to whether the fee for this should be higher since it was a fair distance to travel. Bob recommended that the fees should remain the same unless programs of this kind were requested on a more continuous basis. Bob also remarked that he, Michelle, and Nancy attended a presentation at Bowen Park on October 12th, entitled "Stream to Sea," where they gave a presentation outlining the school programs provided by the Morrell Sanctuary Society to a group of new teachers.

Four yards of gravel was spread on the Fire Lane potholes. Val Booth reported on the cost of different types of metal mesh for bridges, and the Board agreed that the longer lasting, better quality materials costing \$2.53 per square foot for a total expenditure of \$627 should be purchased for the Yew Loop bridge. Patrick Ansell told the Board about some bear-proof garbage containers that he had seen in a park in the Cedar area which would be suitable for the Sanctuary's requirements and could be made mostly with materials already on hand. Jesse Cummings and Randy Milligan offered to help build the containers.

With regard to fundraising, it was pointed out that BC Housing and Social Services now administered funds which previously came from the Gaming Commission. Applications had to be made before the end of November. While the Society previously submitted an application under the "Environmental" category, that was no longer in effect and it was now necessary to apply under "Education." Karin Maley drafted a sample application for the Society to submit.

Patrick Ansell reported that he had been in touch with Four Star Waterworks, who had previously helped out with problems with the Morrell Lake dam. Patrick told Leon Cake, owner of the company, that there was a problem with the major valve controlling the dam. Leon recommended that divers be sent down as soon as possible to assess the situation and the lake should be drained so that repairs could be effected. Once in a position to drain the lake, the City and Water Board would have to be advised. Patrick also reported that he had been in touch with Davey Tree Services, who would arrive at the Sanctuary at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25th, to cut the branches hanging over the solar panel controlling the electronic gate and would also remove dangerous limbs on a tree overhanging the Hydro Line roadway. The cost was estimated to be \$980. Helen Johnston suggested that a bench that had been removed on the Yew Loop trail due to decay should be replaced, and that other benches should be inspected and replaced if they were deteriorating. Bob Dadds indicated that he would like to eliminate some of the signs within the area of the driveway and parking lot of the Sanctuary and amalgamate some of these on to one board to avoid the proliferation of signs in those areas. He also advised removing the logs on the driveway leading to the parking lot and repairing the waterfall under the Yew Loop Bridge.

In November 2011, Bob Harvey reported that the number of school programs delivered had doubled from those at the same time last year. Bookings were already coming in for Spring 2012. Michelle was asked to mount an aggressive advertising campaign in February 2012 in an attempt to attract much needed new interpreters. The trail maintenance team finished spreading gravel on the road, roadside litter pick-up was completed and a donation from the City was forthcoming, the Yew Loop Bridge was resurfaced with heavy duty mesh, and bark mulch was strewn on the Beaver Pond trail. Patrick Ansell reported that the application for Gaming funds under the new guidelines was almost complete and it would be ready to mail out before the end of November deadline.

The Society's by-laws stated that each application for membership should be reviewed by the Board, but since this would be a rather cumbersome procedure it was agreed at the November 16 board meeting that the Membership Secretary would use their discretion in accepting a new member and if in any doubt refer the application for review by the Board of Directors. Directors would be notified of new memberships at each monthly Board meeting.

Patrick announced that the electronic gate was now functioning satisfactorily after being serviced by Brad Koster, who originally installed the gate. He mentioned that the sign with the telephone number of the towing company who had initially agreed to answer calls for anyone locked in after gate closure should be updated since the company no longer provided that service.

Joe Swaisky had been looking after the Morrell Sanctuary website for some time, but it was thought that since Michelle was willing to take on this task, it was much more convenient to have a person in the office readily available for posting any updates or news items. Bob Dadds had an inquiry from the Nanaimo Museum regarding the possibility of borrowing "Henry," the stuffed heron displayed in the Woods Room, for an exhibit to be held at the Museum. It was decided no decision would be made on loaning the heron until more information was provided, such as the duration of the loan.

At the December 21, 2011, Board meeting, Val Booth announced that she and David had attended a Bingo meeting on Sunday, December 4. The meeting consisted of (1) an extraordinary meeting to present, clarify, discuss and adopt updated amended Bingo Society by-laws, (2) the Annual General Meeting where annual membership dues of \$10 were payable, along with a list of three designated official representatives of which at least one should attend quarterly meetings, and (3) a Quarterly General Meeting. Val said she and Dave would be two of the three designated official representatives and Helen Johnston volunteered to be the third. The new Bingo schedule was received, with 9 sessions in 2012. Dawn Dunphy and David Booth were given copies as Bingo volunteers for the Morrell Sanctuary Society.

In his Education report, Bob Harvey said that he would like to purchase two new puppets from Kool Child at a cost of \$100 each. He also needed a new Mother Duck puppet and was looking into places that might have one available. Michelle told the Board about a Summer Camp video that she had produced, approximately two minutes long, which could be posted on the website. Michelle was advised to seek approval from parents of children seen on the video regarding their public appearance on the Internet. A copy of an essay by Wendy Kirkpatrick on the history of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary, which was part of a university exercise she was required to do, was provided by Wendy for the interest of members.



Henry the Heron (2010)

Val announced she would help Michelle update the trail maps to include distances involved. Invasive holly was removed from the Yew Loop Trail and paths were cleaned up after high winds in November caused some damage, in particular one maple tree which fell across the Tranquility trail bringing down numerous cedar branches. It was decided that Henry the Heron would be moved out of the Woods Room to the office for safekeeping considering that it would best to have a permanent place to ensure its safety, and also that the public would probably have more opportunity to view it in the office. Patrick reported that he had heard back from the Water Board and they suggested Morrell Lake should not be drained until Spring of 2012.

At the first board meeting in 2012, held January 18, Patrick Ansell drew attention to the excellent paper written by Wendy Kirkpatrick as a university project, providing a detailed description of the Sanctuary and its history. He suggested that with Wendy's permission, this paper should be placed on the Sanctuary website. The Board agreed and arrangements were made with the website's editor for its inclusion. Patrick also reported that he had received a complete revision of the Provincial Dam Safety Regulations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and said there were some significant changes and

requirements that would affect the Society's responsibilities respecting the Morrell Lake Dam (officially named the Powerline Dam).

The automatic gate at the main entrance to the Sanctuary had not been working for over a month. David Booth tried to have the gate repaired but was hampered by the apparent lack of electricians in the area who were familiar with the mechanism involved. In the meantime, the gate was being opened and closed manually by Patrick and David. Patrick advised the Board that Nanaimo Search and Rescue had requested permission to have access through the Sanctuary in the event of an emergency search and rescue operation in the Hydro Road area. This would involve supplying keys to that organization and agreement on the conditions that would apply to their use. The Board granted permission provided that a written agreement covering all the conditions necessary to protect the interests of the Morrell Sanctuary Society was prepared and accepted by both parties. Bob Dadds noted that the request by the Nanaimo Museum to include Henry the Heron in a special display at the Museum, which was approved by the Board at the previous meeting, was confirmed and he delivered the heron to the museum on January 18. The display lasted until May 21st after which the heron was returned.

In February 2012, a large group of students from Bayview Elementary School turned up unannounced at the Morrell Sanctuary, apparently to go on a field trip. A letter was sent to the School Principal pointing out the necessity for large groups planning a trip to the Sanctuary to give the office advance notice of their intent to ensure that no conflict would arise between organized groups arriving on the same day or when the Society had events planned that could be disrupted. The trail maintenance crew was busy that month attempting to eradicate the many invasive Daphne plants in the area. A letter was received from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which had turned down the Society's application for further funding and had requested an audit back to 2009. Part of the problem was that when the application for the grant was submitted, it was believed that it had to be in before the end of December. There was some confusion regarding submission dates and it seemed that Gaming administrators believed the application was asking for funding for 2011, which had already been received. The required audit report was sent and the application was resubmitted requesting funds for 2012/13.

Tom Reid, Regional Manager for the Nature Trust in Nanaimo, directed the Society to deal with encroachment on Sanctuary land by various home owners on Dogwood Road. Specifically, the Society was instructed to restore an area where the homeowner had taken down several trees. While the Nature Trust offered \$300 for the purchase of trees to restore the area, Bob Harvey had a contact with Island Timberland who was willing to donate 50 Douglas-fir and Cedar seedlings for replanting the site. The Board agreed to apply for the usual two Camp Leaders for the 2012 Summer Camp and upgrade the minimum wage required by the Government to \$12 per hour in order to secure leaders with the highest qualifications. Michelle Fitterer was asked to once again oversee the Summer Camp and work on a fulltime basis during that period at a salary of \$17 per hour. David Booth contacted Brad Koster who provided an estimate of \$5500 to upgrade the automatic gate. Island Overhead Doors were also giving an estimate on how to get the gate back into working order. It was also suggested that Hydro again be contacted to ascertain the cost of installing electric wiring to the gate.

Bob Harvey reported in March 2012 that bookings for Spring programs were rather slow coming in and said that much would depend on what happened between the Teachers and the Provincial Government over a new bill being brought in which BC teachers were opposed to. Bill 22, the Education Improvement Act, interfered with the collective bargaining process under way, imposing a government appointed mediator with a net zero mandate, introducing further concessions, and declaring any strike action in that round of bargaining an offense subject to heavy fines. Regarding repairs to the automatic gate, the estimated cost of going with Island Overhead Doors, an electrical contractor, and B.C. Hydro would be approximately \$13,000 compared to Brad Koster's quote earlier of \$5,500. After reviewing the merits of both options, it was decided to go with the second option to run electric wiring to the gate to ensure it worked automatically.

A couple members of the Society requested permission to trap the non-native squirrels that were appearing in the Sanctuary, but it was decided to shelve this item for the time being. A letter of complaint was received from a lady regarding how she was approached by one of the Dog Control members. She also made a complaint to the Police which was passed on via telephone by an RCMP constable. The person making the complaint had apparently used

very abusive language. To help eliminate verbal confrontations with persons that flaunt our rules, Patrick Ansell suggested a small hand-out informing such people they would no longer be welcome in the Sanctuary and steps would be taken to remove their vehicles if they continued to ignore the warning. It was also considered desirable to purchase two digital recorders for the Dog Control volunteers so that any dialogue between them and dog walkers could be recorded. In order to maintain continuity in the office, it was decided that the Secretary would check for telephone messages and e-mails every afternoon when Michelle Fitterer was not working, and deal with them as needed. Val Booth was appointed by the Board to be the liaison/supervisor for Michelle, and anyone wanting Michelle to do work for them was instructed to go through Val or one of the other Executive members.

Karin Maley reported at the April 18, 2012, Board meeting that there were 87 memberships in the Society: 39 single, 23 family, 6 group, 18 life (single and couples), and one corporate. A new commemorative picnic table was installed at Morrell Lake and the family viewed it on Easter Sunday. Bob Harvey bought a new copier for the office which was much more compact and faster than the previous one. Bob also looked into the purchase of voice recorders for the Dog Control volunteers, but found that good ones were very expensive. The Board agreed unanimously that the purchase of voice recorders was not necessary at that time. The Board continued discussing the need to drain Morrell Lake to repair the damaged rod opening the valve. According to the new dam regulations, it is necessary to ensure that the valve can be opened and the only way the rod can be reached is by at least partially draining the Lake. It was agreed that Hitomi Kimura should be contacted regarding the breeding season of the Western Toad so that that draining the lake did not interfere with it. With regard to replanting the encroached area off Dogwood Road, Bob Harvey admitted that Island Timberlands may not be able to provide a donation of tree seedlings. Patricia Ansell suggested purchasing some from the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT) Native Plant Nursery.

Patrick Ansell said that while he was willing to collect the Sanctuary garbage each week, he did not want to deal with the recycling bag in the Woods Room which often was quite full with drink containers and liable to attract ants and mice. It was decided to remove the garbage/recycling box from the Woods Room and have a garbage container outside, possibly at the back of the building to avoid having the public dump garbage there. This would eliminate possible odors in the Woods Room and any insect/animal infestation. Patrick performed the garbage collection duty for several years, but eventually responsibility for the task was assumed by teams of four individuals, each picking up the trash once a month. Some of the volunteers who served in this role over the years included Bob Harvey, Tom Grauman, John Anderson, Lance Nordstrom, Hitomi Kimura, Jean Lemieux, and Manon McGinty.

Hitomi Kimura expressed concern about dogs jumping into Morrell Lake, harassing the ducks and ducklings, and possibly eradicating some of the endangered species in the lake. Bob Harvey said he would create signage pointing why owners should not let their dogs behave in a way that could put wildlife in danger.

In June 2012, treasurer Val Booth summarized some of the main revenue and expenses for the preceding month: the annual Plant Sale on May 5th earned \$1460, plus \$836 from the sale of Raffle tickets, for a total of \$2,296 (minus expenses amounting \$129); donations received amounted to \$215; and \$145 was received from the City of Nanaimo for Roadside Litter Pick-up. Val also reported on a Bingo Meeting held Sunday, June 3, attended by David and Val. The Morrell Sanctuary Society had a session on June 14 with Lynn Peachy, Executive Director, for help applying for grants. Morrell was now considered a member of the "Environment" category. She noted it was important to contact the Registrar to get a Certificate of Good Standing, according to Bruce Wilby, Bingo Society President.

Bob Harvey said the School Programs were winding down for the summer months. Forty-four classes came through in the Spring, up from 30 the year before, with an average of 25 students per class. Bob expressed hope that some of the teachers retiring from local schools might volunteer as Nature Interpreters. Sixty trees were planted on the site near Dogwood Road, and 28 cedar trees were planted in the Sanctuary by Cub Scouts. Val announced that the Federal Government had approved a grant for two summer students for 11 weeks. Val and Michelle screened applications, and Val and Patricia helped with interviews on June 6. The successful candidates (one male, one female) started on June 18 with two weeks of planning and preparation. The summer camp was planned to run for nine weeks.





Hitomi Kimura borrowed two sandwich boards for posters she had made to deal with the problems of tadpole collection by people and disturbance by dogs. Pete McDonald was relieved as he too had encountered problems with dogs at the picnic table, where many tadpoles had drifted. Hitomi also placed a barrier to stop toad tadpoles from being swept down the spillway. These preventative measures would remain for approximately one to two months during the toad breeding and migration period.

Patrick Ansell raised the matter of a large concentration of broom that was threatening to take over an area around the dam at Morrell Lake unless checked. It was an extensive patch that would take the small Trail Maintenance group some time and effort to eradicate.

A resident of Willow Park who had lost his wife in a tragic accident requested a commemorative bench in the Sanctuary in memory of his wife who loved to walk there. He covered the cost of the bench with donations made in his wife's name. The memorial bench was located on the Yew Loop to replace a previous bench that had deteriorated and been removed.

A special meeting of the Executive was held August 3rd to discuss a replacement for Michelle Fitterer as part-time Office Assistant when Michelle left at the end of August. Michelle advised that Rachelle Tanner, one of the Summer Camp Leaders in 2012, was interested in taking over after Summer Camp as part-time Office Assistant. It was decided to hire Rachelle on a contract arrangement at \$15 per hour, working 12 hours per week at times suitable for her while she continued her education. Her contract would begin on September 4, 2012 and end on June 14, 2013. An emergency meeting of the Board was held on August 9th to approve the sum of \$25,000 to be restricted internally to meet anticipated costs for repair and improvements to the "Powerline Dam" on Morrell Lake. This was necessary in order to conform with the standards and requirements contained in the amended BC Dam Safety Regulations.

In September 2012, treasurer Val Booth reported that \$1780 had been paid to an independent bookkeeper to prepare the Society's financial statements for submission to the Gaming Branch. This was necessary due to the considerable amount of paperwork to be sorted through. Patricia Ansell asked that the Board consider looking into some form of material that could be used for the area immediately in front of the Woods Room. She explained that with the extremely dry weather that year the problem with dust had been far worse than other years, and took a great deal of effort to clean the Woods Room up after the Summer Camp since the dust had permeated all through the building and the taxidermy specimens. Also, two beds either side of the area which had been planted with ground cover had been used as a play area for Summer Camp and it was suggested that next year maybe a small fence could be erected around the area while the Camp was in progress. Michelle Fitterer noted that the 2012 summer camp was the Sanctuary's most successful to date. Even with having to pay for three salaries, Val said there was a profit of \$412. The trail maintenance crew continued to remove broom, and a contractor that Patrick Ansell hired quickly cleared all the broom from the dam with his team. A river otter specimen that had been donated to the Morrell Sanctuary was transferred to the Natural History Museum at Vancouver Island University. Patrick completed work on a bear-proof garbage container and placed it in front of the office. The Board agreed that a plaque in Jean Robinson's memory should be purchased and installed on the Bench that had been installed in the Sanctuary in memory of her husband. Jean, a long-time volunteer, interpreter, and supporter of the Sanctuary, passed away July 24, 2012. Rachelle Tanner was hired to work part-time under contract in the office, for twelve hours per week, the same hours as Michelle Fitterer had worked.

At the October 17, 2012, board meeting, Val explained the arrangement with the part-time contract office worker, Rachelle Tanner, which eliminated much of the bookkeeping needed previously. Bob Dadds replaced the steps up into the office. The trail maintenance team performed work on the steps on the Rocky Knoll trail and some clearing directly across from the Woods Room which is destined to be the future playground for the Summer Camp. Bob Dadds wondered why the water authorities felt the best time for draining the Lake at the dam would be Spring, since this would probably be detrimental to the amphibian habitat. It was decided that no decision on the draining of

Morrell Lake would be taken until further advice was received as to the necessity and timing of the operation. Bob and Patrick checked out the secondary valve supplied and installed by Leo Cake and opened it as required by water safety regulations.

In November, the trail maintenance team moved the picnic table at Morrell Lake back inside the Gazebo, and work was planned to replace some of the edging around the Yew Loop Trail. A new bench was ordered for Life Members Derek and Kathleen Gaye who wished to place it at a spot overlooking Morrell Lake. As funding permits, new benches would gradually replace those on the Yew Loop that are falling apart. Patricia Ansell asked whether the Board should consider disposing of most of the Library in the Woods Room since the books were rarely used and no one was caring for them any more. After considerable discussion it was decided that any books deemed useful to the Society would be retained, while others may be taken by any members interested in having them and the remainder would be sold at the Plant Sale. An official from the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch sent an e-mail requesting further information on the river otter which was donated to the Vancouver Island University museum. Further details were supplied in order to receive the Permit required for the transfer. The automatic gate was up and running at last, on a wired electrical connection instead of batteries. Dave Booth was tasked with finding someone who would buy the batteries for the gate, one of which was relatively new. The December Board Meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm.

In January 2013, the permit to transfer the river otter taxidermy specimen to Vancouver Island University was received from BC Fish and Wildlife and passed on to the VIU museum curator. Helen Johnson questioned why a lifetime membership should cost the same for a single person as a family; that is, \$300. According to the Society by-laws, any changes with respect to membership fees must be addressed at the Annual General Meeting. Since there was no reply to an e-mail sent to the Gaming Branch requesting further information regarding why the Society had been denied funding, it was decided that president Elaine Wade should approach the local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Doug Routley, to see he could provide assistance to resolve the situation.

The Nature Trust of BC inquired about the reasons for denying the City of Nanaimo access through the Morrell Sanctuary to effect repairs at Westwood Lake. Copies of the letters sent to the City, BC Hydro, and Terasen Gas were submitted to the Nature Trust and expanded on the reasons why this step had been determined necessary. After considerable discussion on the subject at the January 16 Board meeting, Wendy Kirkpatrick proposed that, as part of work she was doing as a student at Vancouver Island University, she would prepare an overview that would provide firm justification for the action taken and which would clarify the Society's position by all parties. Patrick Ansell agreed to help Wendy understand the background material. Patrick also outlined plans for updating the kiosk and requested ideas for phrasing the role of the Morrell Sanctuary Society and a short history of Bill Morrell's donation. Helen Johnston volunteered to help with the history.

At the February 20, 2013, Board meeting vice-president Bob Harvey outlined the results of a meeting with MLA Doug Routley. Mr. Routley had sent a letter to the Gaming Branch on behalf of the Society and in response to the letter a phone call was received on February 6 from the Gaming Review department. The following day an e-mail requesting further information was sent to Ursula Cowland, a civil servant involved in the administration of community gaming grants. Since no further word had been received since then, Bob asked secretary Patricia Ansell to send another e-mail to determine the Society's standing with the Gaming Branch. Regarding City of Nanaimo access to the Morrell Sanctuary, it was decided to shelve the project because of possible problems arising from approaching the City on the subject. Wendy Kirkpatrick had been in touch with Nanaimo Search and Rescue, who apparently had not signed an access agreement with the Society as thought and therefore were not in possession of keys for the new gate. Patrick Ansell agreed to contact Nanaimo Search and Rescue to determine the problems they apparently had with the agreement in order to come to a mutual understanding between both parties.

Val Booth reported on a Bingo Society Meeting held March 3, 2013, noting that the Society had lost two members in 2013 and were no longer in good standing. The manager, Lynn Peachey, pointed out that when applying for Gaming grants the "help seminars" were a must for awareness of any changes and that participants should bring the previous year's application, the last Gaming Account Summary submitted, and full financial statements from the latest year-end. It was advised that, in order to satisfy the Gaming Branch when re-applying, Lynn should be consulted before the year-end Financial statements were prepared (before June 30) to present the cash reserves

correctly. Bob Harvey said that bookings for the Spring School Programs were coming in and an e-mail had been sent to all teachers who participated in previous years. Trail maintenance reported that several trees deemed to be a danger had been removed in various locations, and new non-slip mesh had been installed at the Dipper Dock to replace worn-out mesh. Also in March, a corporate membership was received from City of Nanaimo. In order to maintain some control over the placement and appearance of memorial benches, it was decided that a form would be drawn up to be completed by those requesting a bench to be situated in the Sanctuary. Further, it was determined to set the price of a bench at \$350, which would cover the cost of the bench and the plaque purchased by the Society. The printing to be placed on the Kiosk board was received in proof form and, once corrections had been made and returned to the printers, it would be ready shortly. As discussed earlier, the surface in front of the Woods Room needed to be treated with something in order to keep dust and dirt in dry weather from invading the Woods Room, making it an undesirable environment for children and a huge clean-up problem. It was decided that pea gravel would be the best solution for the problem. While awaiting news from an application for Summer Job Employment, Michelle Fitterer would be contacted to ensure that she could once again take on the task of Supervisor of the Camp and office duties.



A Gnome Home on Yew Loop

A proposal was received from Mr. Charlie Pickard to locate several Gnome houses around the Yew Loop to attract the interest of small children and the families who use that area. Several samples of the Gnome houses were displayed to the Board and after some discussion it was decided that permission would be given to Mr. Pickard to install several of the houses on the Yew Loop Trail on a trial basis. Bob Harvey said that the Beaver Pond was once again being overgrown with reeds and other aquatic vegetation and suggested that a group of volunteers attempt to clean it up some time in August. New hip waders needed to be purchased for the project.

A bench acquired in Graham Arnold's memory was installed on the Yew Loop trail near the bridge in April 2013. Considerable discussion took place regarding the material to be used on the forecourt of the Woods Room. It was decided that pea gravel may not be the best solution and all agreed that blacktop would be preferable. Patricia Ansell asked the Board to consider giving blue lapel pins to the membership, which in the past had only been issued to people who had volunteered in the Sanctuary for two years. Few pins had been handed out over the past several years and it was thought that increasing the number and visibility of these pins might be helpful in promoting the Sanctuary. It was also decided that Summer Camp children would not be allowed to play in the gardens on either side of the Woods Room. It not only destroyed some of the plants but looked unsightly and contributed to dust. The area across from the Woods Room where two picnic tables were located was cleared so that the children could play there instead.

In Val Booth's May 17, 2013, financial report she noted that \$740 had been received in donations in the past month, of which \$250 had been contributed by Runners of Compassion to be used for School Programs. The Plant Sale raised a total of \$2150. Patricia Ansell announced that a visit from a seniors' home would be taking place on June 22, 2013. Bob Harvey would conduct a tour of the Yew Loop, then light refreshments would be supplied in the Woods Room. Total memberships in the Society as of May 2013 was 89, with 24 life memberships. Six new memberships had been taken out since January 2013.

A letter dated April 22, 2013, was received from Ursula Cowland with the Gaming Branch, advising that after reconsideration of the Society's application and documents provided to them as requested, \$35,000 had been placed in the Society's Gaming Account. The question arose of how to spend some of the funds in order to be in a position to apply for another Gaming grant. Patrick Ansell brought up the matter of the \$25,000 that had been set aside for repairs to the dam at Morrell Lake. It was decided that the Society should comply with the Dam Safety Regulations issued September 12, 2011, and have an inspection of the dam done as soon as possible, at a cost of no more than \$10,000. Since the Society now had sufficient funding it was decided to buy a supply of Morrell car stickers and reinstate the practice of giving them out to members, as it was an effective way of promoting the Sanctuary.

A refurbished map and new text in the kiosk was thought to be a great improvement and seemed to be getting more attention from visitors. The possibility of having a blackboard installed in the kiosk for visitors to record sightings was considered. The Woods Room forecourt was blacktopped by Royal Paving and some pea gravel was also put down to reduce the likelihood of tripping when stepping up onto the asphalt. It was discovered that the Society's insurance did not cover volunteers who had not taken out membership in the Society. The general consensus of the Board was that anyone volunteering would be asked to take out a membership to ensure that in the event they suffered an accident when working in the Sanctuary they would be covered by insurance.

The volunteer Lunch was set for June 8, 2013, with invitations being sent to volunteers as well as Doug Routley MLA and Janis Morrell. A reporter with Boulevard Magazine in Victoria, who planned to do an article on the Morrell Nature Sanctuary and the Gnome Houses on the Yew Loop, contacted Patrick Ansell and Bob Harvey for information about the Sanctuary and the School Programs offered by the Society. No article was published, but Shaw Cable produced a short clip on the Gnome Houses with a small mention of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. Volunteers enjoyed a fine lunch, the highlight of which was the presentation to Bob and Helen Harvey of a lifetime membership.



Val Booth, Treasurer (2007-present), Helen Harvey, Director (2007-2022),  
Bob Harvey, President (2015-2019, 2021)

At the June 19, 2013, Board meeting Val Booth noted that the Gaming Branch had given a grant of \$2,000 for the Summer Camp, and suggested that the two Camp Leaders be given a sum of money from that account to cover costs of supplies needed for the Camp. It was decided to give the Leaders a budget of \$1,000 from the Gaming funds to purchase supplies needed to set up Summer Camp.

Val also reported that with the potential of \$100,000 profit this year, the Bingo Society Executive considered changing from a society to a company in order to allot each "shareholder" a piece of the profit. They found out that only future profits, after incorporation as a company, could be distributed to shareholders. Since it was expensive to achieve this change, a motion was made to allow expenditures up to \$52,000 to research all aspects before Bingo Society members voted on the proposal at the September 29, 2013, general meeting. Before the final decision in September, the Morrell Sanctuary Society would receive information for consideration regarding the implications for the Society should it become a shareholder in a company. If the Society could not legally change its status, it could remain Bingo Society members but not be entitled to share in any profits.

Bob Harvey said that bookings for the Spring School Programs were the highest since he took over in 2010, with 50 classes attending nature tours. He thanked all the interpreters for their hard work in providing a positive nature experience to the elementary students. The annual plant sale was again very successful, with a final total of over \$2000 from the sale of plants and the raffle. Patrick Ansell was in touch with Bill Sims from the City of Nanaimo with respect to the Society's plan to drain Morrell lake in early September. Mr. Sims was in charge of removing the dams in neighbouring Colliery Dam park and Patrick wished to ensure that draining Morrell Lake would not cause any problems with the City's work in Colliery Dam park.



The 2013 Summer Camp was extremely successful; comparative figures for the number of campers were: 385 in 2011; 586 in 2012; and 684 in 2013. After paying wages and purchasing equipment for the Camp, a profit of \$2,236 had been realized. Congratulations were in order for the excellent supervisor, Michelle Fitterer, and camp leaders, Rachelle Tanner and Kayla. The trail maintenance crew jackhammered a rock outcrop on the Fire Lane to provide more clearance for buses driving children out to Morrell Lake for school programs, and killed wasp nests at the Look-out Summer Camp fort building area and in the parking lot.

The Board considered how to eradicate some of the water plants that were taking over the Beaver Pond. Helen Johnston asked why not just let it alone to turn into a meadow, but Bob Harvey argued that it would mean the elimination of "Pond Dippers," one of the favorite School Programs. Randy Milligan offered the loan of a small skiff that a couple of people could use in the pond to pull out the reeds while a group on shore would rake the them to one side of the pond. Hip waders would be purchased and an email sent to the membership requesting assistance with the project. An application for the next round of Gaming Funds was forwarded on August 16th, 2013. Patricia Ansell said that the installation of blacktop on the forecourt of the Woods Room and application of gravel in the area had cut down drastically on the amount of dust accumulating in the Woods Room, plus the fact that the children no longer played on the garden area in that vicinity.



Bob Harvey (Nature interpreter, 2007-present) identifying pond critters for school class



Morrell Lake drained to repair release valve (October 2013)

Patrick Ansell gave a report at the September 11 Board meeting regarding progress with the draining of Morrell Lake, noting that the divers had done an excellent job and their bill of just over \$2,000 was extremely reasonable. He said he hoped that within another two weeks or so it would be possible to have the valve inspected and hopefully found to be in a good state, requiring only a new rod to be attached to it. He also pointed out that professional help was needed to fill in the area of erosion where dogs entered the Lake to swim.

A list of proposed projects for utilizing Gaming funds was presented: (1) new metal roof for the office, (2) good quality metal mesh for boardwalks, (3) water barrels to collect rainwater from the Woods Room eaves, (4) eliminating odours in the Woods Room, (5) install cement parking blocks in the south side of the parking lot, (6) new benches, (7) new storage shed, and (8) rubbish removal.

A request was received from a teacher at Vancouver Island University who wished to rent the Woods Room from September 30th to November 1st for a course he was teaching. However, the Board decided that this was not feasible since rental of the Woods Room had not proven profitable or viable given that a volunteer had to be on hand to open and close the building and clean up afterwards. Helen Johnston relinquished her position as Morrell Representative on the Board of Directors and Randy Milligan kindly accepted to take over from her. Heather Allen started work as office assistant on contract in September 2013.

In October 2013, treasurer Val Booth reported that the final grant money for Summer Camp was received from the federal government, the Gaming account report had been sent to Victoria on 26 September and accepted, and the annual Registered Charity report was completed and mailed on October 1st. A few large expenditures occurred in September, including a new chain saw, hip waders, and hiring divers to inspect the valve at Morrell Lake. Val also

reported on the Harbour City Bingo Society (HCBS) Meeting held September 29, 2013, to discuss and vote on incorporation. Fifty-eight members of the HCBS voted in favour of incorporation, with one opposed. After incorporation, any monies received by shareholders would be taxable and T5 statements would need to be submitted to Canada Revenue Agency, as already done with T5 statement for the Society's Credit Union investment accounts. In addition, there would no longer be a requirement for volunteers at the Bingo Hall.

The trail maintenance crew was very busy: bulrushes at the Beaver Pond were extracted, outhouses were pumped out on October 8, a new chainsaw was purchased, leaves and debris were cleared from the driveway and parking lot, and metal mesh was ordered for the Candy Cane and other bridges in the Sanctuary. The Society was still attempting to find an organization that would take the discarded library books. Heather Allen noted that, as of October 11, 2013, there were 90 members in the Morrell Sanctuary Society. Of the many suggested projects for utilizing Gaming funds, the following were identified as priorities: (1) a new metal roof for the office, (2) water barrels to collect rainwater from Woods Rooms eaves, (3) eliminating odors in Woods Room (the Library was going to be dismantled and the storage area cleaned out, which hopefully would eliminate odours at no cost), (4) cement parking curbs for the parking lot, and (5) new storage space to accommodate wheelbarrows and tools to enable woodworking to be done in the shed during inclement weather.

In November 2013, treasurer Val reported that the Morrell Sanctuary Society would be purchasing a share in Harbour City Bingo at a cost of \$20. In the Woods Room, the Library was dismantled, with members taking some books and the rest donated to the Rotary Club Book Sale who apparently were very happy to get some educational books. A letter was received from the Gaming Branch approving the Society's application for funding, and a cheque for \$35,000 would shortly be deposited into the Gaming account.

Patrick Ansell said that Leon Cake of Four Star Waterworks refused to submit a bill for the work he and his assistant did on the Dam. Leon mentioned that he would appreciate a donation to the Salvation Army, so the sum of \$1,000 was donated to the Salvation Army in Leon's name. The Board considered whether to change the criteria for persons wanting to place a memorial bench in the Sanctuary. Presently, a payment of \$350 was required for the bench and the person requesting a bench must become a member. Although it was decided that no changes to the present criteria were necessary, it was thought that \$350 barely covered the cost of the bench, so it was agreed that as of January 1, 2014, the cost to have a bench installed together with the plaque would be \$500.

At the December 18, 2013, meeting the Board discussed the idea of purchasing a container to act as an additional storage shed to make the present shed available for use as woodworking area. It was agreed that it would probably be impossible for a container to be brought into the area, so it was suggested that a better idea would be to have a shed built. Therefore, the Board decided to ask the contractor who was hired to install the new roof for the office to provide an estimate of what he would charge to construct an additional storage shed.

The contractor presented a design for the roof along with a mock-up showing how the finished product would look. His estimate of \$20,000 would include cedar cladding on the outside of the office. His original design called for the present deck to be replaced and a new one spanning the whole of the front of the office installed. However, this could not be done and remain within the \$20,000 limit the Board had placed on the project. The directors felt that it would be best to have the whole job done at one time, rather than try to install a new deck at a later date. Therefore it was suggested that the contractor be approached to give a separate quote for the installation of new decking. Finally, the Board was asked to consider what wages should be paid to the two people hired as Camp Counsellors for the Summer Camp. It was agreed that each should be paid \$15 an hour and the Supervisor \$17 an hour as per previous camps.

In January 2014 a letter was received from John Baldwin, the area Dam Safety Officer for the provincial government, reporting on the audit carried out on the Dam at Morrell Lake on November 21, 2013. His letter was acknowledged with explanations about remedial work being taken at the dam by the Morrell Sanctuary Society. It was decided to strike a committee to deal with some of the items needing action by the Society to rectify perceived problems at the dam. As agreed at the last Board Meeting in December, new decking for the office should be included within the roof project. A separate contract was proposed for a total of no more than \$5,000. Patricia Ansell asked the roofing

contractor if he could also build a new shed. However, he was not willing to take on another commitment while still in the midst of planning for the office roof. The Board considered the option of buying a kit model from Home Depot or a comparable source, with volunteers assembling it in place.

The trail maintenance team assisted with the office renovations in February (cladding, roof, deck), and Davey Tree Service removed some danger trees on the Fire Lane as well as a tree and some branches hanging over the office. As of February 13, 2014, there were 82 members in the Society, and 45 people registered on the Volunteer List.



Renovated office building with new cedar deck, skirting and cladding (2014)

Although still waiting for a building permit from the City, work proceeded on the office renovations with the cedar cladding in place and new skirting with proper ventilation installed. Toole Electrical were contacted to install outdoor electrical outlets for the office, repair the bathroom fan in the the Woods Room, fix a faulty light fixture in the Storage Room, and replace one of the two thermostats that controlled the Woods Room heater.

In her April 16, 2014, financial report treasurer Val Booth itemized expenses to-date for the office renovations – building permit - \$403.75; labour - \$11,525; materials - \$7,836.59; excavator, concrete mixer and pumper - \$1,947.38 – for a total of \$21,712.72. Other noteworthy expenses included \$781.82 for electrical repairs in the Woods Room and office, and \$141.59 for a new office printer. On the plus side, a donation of \$900 was received from Friends of Pioneer Forest. As of April 16, nineteen school programs had been booked for the Spring. Work continued on the installation of rain barrels to catch water from the roof of the Woods Room, and a test run was required to see if any more road work was necessary on the Fire Lane prior to school buses driving up to Morrell Lake for school programs. Rachelle Tanner and Michelle Fitterer both agreed to return to work at the Summer Camp as dual Supervisors, splitting the hours required for the Camp Supervisor to be in attendance between them. Another memorial bench was requested and would be placed at the lake just beyond the small rail fence with the "Morrell Lake" sign.

Patricia Ansell disclosed that proceeds from the May 2014 Plant Sale were \$1,521.50 along with an additional \$804 from the raffle. Also, just over \$300 was received from the sale of plants by donation after the event. The trail maintenance crew spread some gravel at the turnaround point at the Lake for school buses and it was thought more gravel might be needed on the road to the lake. It was observed that the ceiling of the Woods Room where the skylights were located had been leaking during recent heavy rainfalls, causing some of the plaster to flake off, and required repair. Apart from sealing some cracks on the spillway, it was determined that no other action was necessary at the Morrell Lake dam.

Heather Allen was taking registrations for the Summer Camp and advertisements had been submitted for Summer Camp counsellors with interviews scheduled for early June. The supervisors and counsellors would begin their duties on June 16, 2014. A dumpster would be rented to collect all the trash remaining from the office renovations as well as other items for disposal that had accumulated behind the Woods Room and shed. Another memorial bench was requested and would replace one of the older benches on the Yew Loop. Concern was expressed about small plastic gnomes and other items placed in front of the gnome houses on the Yew Loop. The Board decided that whenever

these "gifts" were left they would be removed, but no further action would be taken. The Gnome Homes have proved to be very popular and a big drawing card in getting families into the Sanctuary.

The Volunteer Lunch on June 7 was very well attended, and the Woods Room was then thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the Summer Camp. Some caulking was done around the skylight, but it still remained to be seen if the problem was solved until the next heavy rainfall. A letter was received from a Mr. McCartney regarding an unfortunate encounter he had with a vicious dog running free in the Sanctuary. Karin Maley suggested the purchase of a wood chipper for trail maintenance, but it was decided this would pose too many problems in terms of storage and possible danger to volunteers using the machine. President Elaine Wade reported that Heather Allen would no longer be under contract with the Society as Office Assistant, but would become a paid employee because the contract position posed some taxation problems for her.

Effective September 30th, 2014, the incorporation of Harbour City Bingo was formally approved and transfer documents were completed changing the Society to an incorporated company. Bob Harvey pointed out that due to an ongoing teachers strike there were no bookings for the Fall School Programs. Since June, the trail maintenance team constructed a gravel wheelchair ramp up to the office deck, trimmed trails, demolished the Lookout ramp and platform, repaired rails on the Rocky Knoll trail steps, replaced borders on Tsuga Way in the Yew Loop, and removed bulrushes from the Beaver Pond. The leak in the Woods Room skylights had been repaired for the summer, but Erickson Roofing recommended that new skylights be installed and gave the Board a quote of \$1,098 plus GST. The quote included removal of the existing skylights, inserting a foam gasket to ensure an airtight seal, installing two 2'x6' aluminum-framed skylights, and disposing of the existing skylights. The Board accepted the quote and asked for the work to be done as soon as possible.

A group from Woodgrove Centre was interested in doing some community work in the Morrell Sanctuary. It was arranged that volunteers from the Administration and Management of the Centre would spend all day at the Sanctuary on September 12 as their "giving back" day, and tasked with painting the interior of the Woods Room and removing some invasive plants in the area. The Willow Park Tenants Association (WPTA) requested permission to hold a meeting in the Woods Room on Saturday, October 4th. The Association, which was a group member of the Sanctuary, would make a donation for use of the Woods Room. Permission was granted by the Board and Patrick and Patricia Ansell, as members of the WPTA, would attend to open and close the room and ensure everything was left in order.

Although the Camp leaders had been asked to ensure that the children did not play on the gardens directly in front of the WR, but instead use the extensive area that had been cleared for them behind the office, apparently this did not work. Volunteers had spent the Spring trying to plant ferns and other ground cover in the area to help mitigate the dust that usually invaded the Woods Room. In an effort to keep the children out of the garden, it was proposed to erect a fence over the winter months. Helen Johnston informed president Elaine Wade that she was no longer able to look after the team from Nanaimo Supportive Lifestyles that had been coming in each Monday for several years to help clean the Yew Loop Trails and do various small odd jobs to help out at the the Sanctuary. The group was eager to keep coming with their two counsellors, Nadine and John. Nadine was provided with a key to the tool crib, and either Patrick, Patricia or Val would advise them of any special projects they could tackle.

At the October 15, 2014, Board meeting it was announced that the new skylights had been installed in the Woods Room and a team from Woodgrove Centre had painted the interior. All taxidermy specimens and the wall display unit were back in place. Patrick Ansell was updating the logbook showing who had keys to various places in the Sanctuary. Vice-president Tom Grauman referred to an article in the Globe and Mail regarding changes contemplated by the BC Government to the provincial Society's Act. He was tasked with expressing the Society's comments about possible negative implications of the changes. The donation box at the kiosk was broken into and damaged in the process. A quote to have the box repaired was close to \$300, which was considered much too high. Tom Grauman offered to check with Vancouver Island University to see if their students could take on the task of repairing the box, which was originally made by VIU welding students.



Kathleen Gaye asked that a sign be installed at the MC Gate leading to the power line advising that horse riding was not allowed in the Sanctuary. Horses had been encountered at the Morrell Lake dam, which was considered to be a safety issue for visitors. It was agreed that a sign would be purchased and put in place.



"No Horseback Riding" sign at MC Gate

On November 19, 2014, treasurer Val Booth announced that a letter had been received from the Gaming Branch approving the Society's application for \$35,000 in grant money. Bob Harvey commented that even though school programs started late this year because of the teachers' strike action, there had been 12 programs done so far compared to only 6 the previous year. The trail maintenance team removed a small bridge on the trail running parallel to the Hydro line and leading up to the dam on Morrell Lake. This trail was to be left to grow over as its use was causing erosion in places. Val remarked that the wood and debris at the old Lookout site had to be removed since it was unsafe. It was agreed that the removal of the debris was too large an operation for the team and a dumpster from DBL would be brought to the site. Patrick Ansell noted that there were problems with the heating system in the Woods Room and the thermostats did not seem to be working properly. He would approach Toole Electric to see if they could install the type of thermostat used in private homes, which would be far easier to adjust than the present system. Tom Grauman said he had submitted the Board's comments regarding proposed changes to the B.C. Society's Act, and Patrick stated that an instructor in the Welding Department at Vancouver Island University would repair the kiosk donation box. As well, Patrick explained that in order to maintain the electronic entrance gate an overhaul of the system should be performed every six months, therefore this would be an ongoing maintenance cost for the Sanctuary.

Unfortunately, after having the donation box repaired and strengthened, yet another attempt was made to break into it in December. The attempt was unsuccessful, but some damage was done to the bar which was returned to the Vancouver Island University Welding Department for repairs. Bob Harvey displayed signs he had purchased regarding the prohibition of horses in the Sanctuary, as well as signs indicating that bicycles were forbidden on the trails, with the exception of the Alder Trail leading to Westwood Lake from the Fire Lane. The trail maintenance crew was busy fixing parking lot edges, clearing trails, removing some danger trees, repairing water drainage, removing lumber from the Lookout site to the dump, and extracting logs from the spillway at Morrell Lake. New thermostats were installed making it much easier to adjust the heat in the Woods Room. Bob Harvey indicated he would like to purchase ten vests to be worn by interpreters and volunteers during School programs, plant sales, and other Sanctuary events. The purchase of ten vests was approved at a cost of \$500. Keith Brown spoke about the possibility of having purple martin houses installed at either Morrell Lake or the Beaver Pond. He suggested inviting Charlene Lee and Bruce Cousens from the Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society (GBEARS) in Nanaimo, who were heavily involved with maintaining and encouraging the purple martin population, to attend a Board Meeting to explain exactly what would be involved with such an undertaking.

## *Decade 2015-2024*

### ***Historical Highlights***

Fire road graded and rail fencing constructed around Woods Room garden (2015) -- City of Nanaimo staff granted access to Morrell Lake to search for Canada Goose nesting sites (2015) -- Tablets purchased for use by nature interpreters (2015) -- Society's liability insurance raised from \$2 to \$5 million (2015) -- Laminated copies of bird posters sold to raise money (2015) -- Bags of concrete placed along the Lake trail to stabilize the bank (2015) -- Camp leaders wages raised from \$15 to \$15.20/hr and the Camp supervisor's wage from \$17 to \$17.20/hr (2016) -- Patricia Banks appointed as "Morrell's Resident Artist" (2016) -- Morrell Sanctuary website moved from NISA to Weebly (2016) -- Fallen Tree Policy established that any trees felled in the Sanctuary would remain in the Sanctuary to decompose or be used for Sanctuary purposes (2016) -- Bike rack

installed near Woods Room (2016) -- Office manager's wage increased to \$17.20/hr (2016) -- The Morrell Sanctuary Society's constitution and by-laws examined for compliance with changes to the provincial Society's Act (2016-2018) -- Directors' liability insurance raised to \$5 million (2017) -- Volunteers required to obtain membership in the Society for insurance coverage (2017) -- Doggy Doo Wagon contracted to remove dog waste from Sanctuary (2017) -- Nature Trust assumes responsibility for dams at Morrell Lake (2017) -- Vi Savage's 90th birthday celebrated in Woods Room in November (2017) -- First edition of Morrell Nature Sanctuary Guidebook published (2018) -- Boardwalks constructed on Beaver Pond trail (2018) -- Amended constitution and by-laws approved by membership and Legacy Fund removed from by-laws (2018) -- Heather Allen retires and Carol Lefevre hired as office manager (2019) -- Second edition of Morrell Nature Sanctuary Guidebook printed (2019) -- Square Terminal acquired to permit credit and debit card transactions (2019) -- Trail maps replaced with new signage (2020) -- Office manager's wage increased to \$18/hr (2020) -- Seniors trail renamed Deer Fern trail and Lookout trail renamed as Vi's Walk (2020) -- Temporary Sanctuary closures due to COVID pandemic, including Summer Camp (2020) -- Nature Trust undertakes remedial measures to lower risk of dam failure at Morrell Lake (2020) -- Hazelwood Construction donates time and equipment to undertake Yew Loop restoration project (2021) -- Third edition of Morrell Nature Sanctuary Guidebook printed (2021) -- Fall School programs cancelled because of gas rationing (2021) -- Heat exchangers installed in Woods Room (2022) -- New automatic traffic barrier arm gate installed at Sanctuary entrance (2022) -- Outhouses renovated with white paint and clear plastic roofs (2023) -- Concrete dam constructed at Beaver Pond (2023) -- Motion lights and CCTV cameras installed at Woods Room and office (2023-2024) -- Lines painted delimiting parking lot stalls (2023) -- Website revamped with Webflow and transferred from Weebly to Bare Metal (2023) -- Cottage in Sanctuary becomes vacant (2023) -- Woods Room repainted and remodelled with new cabinets and hooks for backpack storage (2024) -- Carol Lefevre resigns and Regan Grill hired as office manager (2024) -- MOVE program instituted (2024)

In January 2015, the issue of fencing around the garden in front of the Woods Room was revisited. The barriers were intended to discourage summer camp children from using that area since they destroyed many of the plants and raised a lot of dust. It was further suggested that fencing should be erected alongside the wheelchair ramp at the office. President Bob Harvey remarked that he would like cedar rail fencing to be used so the matter was deferred until cedar rails were available for the project. Schools were starting to make bookings for the Spring programs and Bob indicated the need for four interpreters. He also mentioned a video titled "The Pacific Northwest Ecosystem" that he thought would be of interest to interpreters, volunteers, and members. Invasive ivy was removed by the trail maintenance crew from various infested sites, and signs designating trails that were off limits to bicycles had been posted. More stiles were planned to prevent the use of bicycles on particularly popular trails.

The Board again engaged in a lengthy discussion about renting out the Woods Room. In the past this had not proven very profitable for the Society and involved having volunteers on hand to oversee the proper use of the building. It was concluded that applications for rental of the Woods Room should be treated on a case-by-case basis, with a \$200 returnable damage deposit. An application for Summer Camp personnel was submitted to Human Resources Development Canada and it was decided to run the camp for twelve weeks because the timing of return-to-school permitted an additional week. The first eleven weeks of Summer Camp would be subsidized by the Federal Government and the remaining week would be paid by the Morrell Sanctuary Society. However, treasurer Val Booth observed that this did not pose a problem because profits from the camp would offset the extra expenditure. Mark Fawdry, who was a Camp Counsellor in 2014, agreed to serve as Camp Supervisor and assist with interviewing applicants for the two counsellor positions.

Posts were purchased in February 2015 for renovating several of the stiles. The date of Sunday, March 15, was set to view the video "The Pacific Northwest Ecosystem" in the Woods Room. The Winter newsletter was completed and sent out to the membership, as well as complimentary copies to Tom Reid at the Nature Trust, MLA Doug Routley, and MLA Leonard Krog. It was also decided to send a copy to the new Mayor of Nanaimo, Bill McKay. Bob Harvey mentioned that he had been asked to do a school program, "Fascinating Feathers," which had not been done for some time. He planned to update that particular program and others and bring them back into the School Programs.

Patricia Ansell reported that charcoal bags were placed in various areas of the Woods Room in attempt to rid it of bad odour. She also noted that the Family Weekend Open House on February 8th was quite successful. Several families enjoyed hot dogs and coffee, the "Touchy-Feely" box, and detecting animals in the forest landscape mural painted on the Woods Room wall. A request was received by a Girl Guide unit to use the Yew Loop for conducting their Girl Guide Advancement Certificate course with the possibility of making use of the Woods Room should the weather prove inclement.

In response to an enquiry regarding the upkeep of memorial benches situated around the Sanctuary, it was explained that new benches were relatively low maintenance and any wooden slats that might be damaged could easily be repaired by volunteers. The Board agreed to purchase a new pop-up tent for use at the Plant Sale and other events since the old tents had outlived their usefulness and were very difficult to erect. Charlie Pickard mentioned placing an additional Gnome House on the Yew loop, but the Board ruled that no more should be installed. Vice-president Tom Grauman suggested that a biologist with background knowledge of the benefits of bat houses installed in the Sanctuary be invited to speak to the Board on the subject.

In March 2015 it was decided that the Girl Guides could use the Yew Loop for their advancement program, but they could not use the Woods Room. Bob Harvey said that the viewing of "The Pacific Northwest Ecosystem" in the Woods Room on March 15th was very successful with 17 people attending. He intended to present two more videos on April 12th, one on mushrooms and the other on bees. A further video on woodpeckers as keystone species was to be planned for another Sunday. The trail maintenance team replaced a bridge on the Alder connector trail, cleaned out ditches and culverts after the grading of the Fire Road, and constructed fencing around the Woods Room garden.

A request was received for another memorial bench to be placed in the Sanctuary. Patricia Ansell spoke to the woman making the request and discovered that she was not a member of the Society; further, the person she was requesting the bench for in his memory had no connection with the Morrell Sanctuary. The bench application form was modified to require that a person who was not currently a member of the Society must take out a five-year membership. This was felt necessary as there had been people who paid a \$15 membership to get approval for a bench, but then let their membership lapse. The form also stated that the final decision on an application was at the discretion of the Board. There were only three or four more benches that could be replaced, and it was suggested it may be prudent to reserve these for long-time volunteers or members who might wish to purchase one.

At the April 15, 2015, Board meeting vice-president Tom Grauman said he had been in touch with Chrisham Engelstoff, an authority on the benefits derived from bat houses. Tom would arrange a convenient date for the specialist to present more detailed information, including the design of bat houses and where they should be sited. It was suggested that tablets would be useful for Bob Harvey and the interpreters to use in the School Programs, and agreed that two tablets should be purchased for their use. In addition to the usual work by the trail maintenance team, a group from Vancouver Island University assisted in the removal of some invasive plants from the Sanctuary.

Pete MacDonald remarked that a hut on "Danger Mountain" (also known as Bare Mountain or Moonrock Bluff) above the Alder trail had been dismantled, but remains of it were hidden in the bush. Val Booth announced that a sign would be erected at the site stating that it was Morrell property and would be monitored regularly to ensure it would no longer be used as a campsite. The City of Nanaimo requested permission to access Morrell Lake to search for potential Canada Goose nesting sites, and the Board agreed that the City could access the Sanctuary for this purpose.

In May 2015 the City of Nanaimo was contacted for the return of a gate key that was loaned to them for investigating goose nesting sites on Morrell Lake. In the future, keys to the gate would not be distributed without signing a form filed in the office; the only exception would be Hitomi Kimura who had proven over several years that she was aware of safeguarding the key and ensuring that the gate was properly secured.

Bob Harvey observed that registrations for the Spring school programs had been excellent and they were fully booked. He also noted that the two tablets had been purchased and were proving to be a great success with the interpreters. The nature videos Bob screened in the Woods Room were increasingly popular with members, and he indicated that more videos would be shown in September.

Keith Brown brought attention to what he called the "dead zone" to one side of the office, which the contractor hired to do the renovations had used as his work area and in the process destroyed a lot of ferns and other vegetation. He offered to contact the native plant nursery operated by the Nanaimo Area and Land Trust (NALT) for replacement trees and shrubs. In the meantime some seasoil would be spread in the area and new plantings could take place in the Fall. Bob Harvey remarked that, with the drier weather, work could begin on the spillway at the dam to repair cracks in the concrete. Also, it was recommended that a contractor be hired to remove broom and other undesirable plants.



School children transported to the Sanctuary by bus for a nature program (2015)

The May plant sale was another great success with \$2509 received from the sale of plants and \$821 from the raffle. In the midst of the plant sale, however, an ambulance drove up to deal with an emergency at the power line. Tom Grauman and Bob Harvey opened the MC gate on the Hydro Road for the ambulance to get through, but after the incident it took Tom and Bob considerable time replacing the chain because at some point the gate had been damaged.



MC Gate in Morrell Nature Sanctuary leading out to the Hydro Line

Tom suggested that the Vancouver Island University Welding department could install a couple new links in the chain. After examining the pop-up tents currently available for functions such as the plant sale, two were found to be in reasonable condition so there was no need to purchase any new ones. The Backyard Birders were granted permission for a group of birdwatchers to visit the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 24th. It was noted that the Backyard Birding Store was a great supporter of the Sanctuary.

A child with severe peanut allergies had registered for Summer Camp, so the Board deemed it necessary to consider the ramifications involved regarding the child's safety. A suggestion that the area be declared a "peanut free zone" was judged unfeasible since there was no control over what visitors might bring to the Sanctuary. The child's mother was informed that a feeding station across from the Woods Room sometimes had peanuts placed there for the squirrels, but she still wanted the child to attend Camp. The Board ultimately agreed that as long as the parents were aware of the possible risks involved, the application would be accepted. However, it was agreed that the waiver form that parents must sign when enrolling their children in camp should be reviewed. Also, the Summer Camp Supervisor was advised to inform other families that any foods containing nuts should not be brought to camp.

With regard to hiring a contractor to remove broom and other undesirable plants at the Morrell Lake dam, Val Booth announced in June 2015 that the person she had in mind was fully employed. Therefore, the trail maintenance team was tasked with undertaking the work. The team also attempted to close off a trail down from the dam which the local Dam Safety official, John Baldwin, said was causing erosion in the area. As well, work began over the summer months to repair cracks in the dam spillway. Tom Grauman offered to get in touch with an arborist to examine the trees which John Baldwin had requested be removed from the dam area. Treasurer Val Booth recommended raising the Society's liability insurance from two million to five million, which would cost an extra \$625 premium bringing



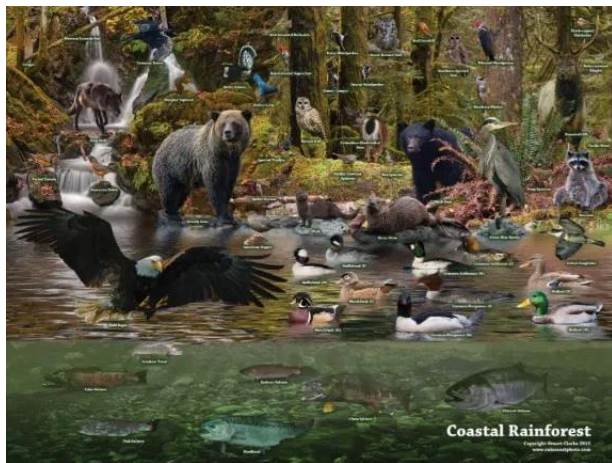
total insurance costs to around \$3,000. This change was approved by the Board. Bob Harvey commented that the Spring school programs had finished, with 1,213 students having participated.

The directors were provided with a summary of the events leading to the vandalizing of the electronic gate. After examining the gate controls a technician ascertained that the control box was beyond repair. It was agreed by the Board that the gate should be repaired and put back into operation as soon as possible. In the meantime, it was decided to keep the gate closed. As well, the Board considered the issue of people locked inside the Sanctuary after closing hours. The consensus was that anyone who had not left the Sanctuary by the time prominently posted must deal with the consequences, and that volunteers should not be called to open the gate. It was also acceded that an article regarding the problems with vandalism of the gate would be inserted in the next newsletter and possibly in the local newspaper.

At the September 16, 2015, Board meeting Patrick Ansell explained that he was preparing a form letter that would have to be completed by any applicant requesting the use of a gate key to enter the Sanctuary. The Executive would then decide whether permission would be granted. Since the BC Dam Safety Board had indicated there were some trees to be removed from the Morrell Lake dam area, Patrick Ansell and Tom Grauman met with an arborist to identify which trees posed a problem. While the arborist said he would have no difficulty taking them down, he was recovering from an accident and unable to perform the task at once. However, he would attend to the job as soon as he was fit to do so. Regarding the MC Gate, Heather Allen solved the problem of trying to get the chain back around the tree to which it was attached by adding a second chain and two padlocks.

Treasurer Val Booth reported that the Gaming Application and Report detailing how funds were spent the previous year was finished and sent to the B.C. Government office before the August deadline. The Registered Charities Return was also completed and sent to Canada Revenue on September 8, and the Canada Summer Jobs Report was finalized and mailed September 4th in order to receive the balance of this Federal grant. Two thirds of the Federal grant was received and Summer Camp revenue was higher than the previous year because of the extra week added to the program in 2015. However, payroll expenses were also higher because the Society was not reimbursed from the Federal government for any employment after August 29th. The damaged electronic gate motor replacement cost was \$1,000 after the insurance covered almost \$4,000.

The trail maintenance crew had a busy summer. Some of the work completed since June 2015 included the painting of trail barriers, clearing of vegetation around the dam, repairing the concrete spillway at the dam, erecting "No entry" signs at both ends of the trail between the dam and the power line road, removing bulrushes from the Beaver Pond, trimming shrubs encroaching on trails and boardwalks, clearing windfall debris, replacing posts and rails on the Yew Loop trail, removing logs, rocks and earth from the waterway next to the Yew Loop bridge, cleaning roofs and windows, and returning the picnic table to the lake gazebo. Bob Harvey, Patricia Ansell and Val Booth had a productive meeting with three members of the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club regarding access through the Morrell Sanctuary to Westwood Lake via the Alder Trail.



"Coastal Rainforest" poster

As a fundraiser, it was suggested that the Sanctuary purchase wildlife posters at a cost of \$6 each for resale through the Sanctuary office. There were four different designs available: Coastal Rainforest, Pacific Coast, Raptors of the West, and Backyard Birds of the West. Backyard Birders sold the posters without lamination for \$9.99 or \$22.00 laminated. The Board agreed to purchase 100 posters at a cost of \$600, then decide what price they should be sold for and whether they should be laminated. Val Booth said that her sister-in-law, Patricia Banks, who was a member of the Society and a well-known local artist, was willing to produce note cards of various views within the Sanctuary that could be sold from the office or at special events. The cost of the cards

to the Sanctuary would be approximately \$2.50, therefore whatever they were sold for above that figure would be a fundraiser for the Sanctuary. Patrick Ansell referred the Board to a new plaque which had been added to the Donor Board. This was for a young girl, Jordan Sutherland, who for the last two years had donated her birthday money to the Sanctuary. With her contribution in 2015, her donations amounted to over \$300. Her family would be contacted and it was hoped that Jordan could come to the Woods Room to view the plaque.

In a conversation with Janis Morrell's partner, a certified electrician, Patrick Ansell mentioned that the alarm system in the Woods Room had not been working for some time. The problem was found and rectified, but since the Society no longer had a security firm responding to the alarm due to the expense and slow reaction time it was agreed that no action would be taken to re-activate the system. It was also recommended that the lighting in the main part of the Woods Room be replaced due to obsolescence. Toole Electric provided a cost estimate of between \$500-\$600, which was approved by the Board.

Heather Allen reported that as of September 16, the Society had 99 members; 37 Single, 31 Family, 27 Life, 3 Group and 1 Corporate. There were 53 people on the volunteer list, 36 of whom were not members. Regarding the "Dead Zone" by the office it was agreed that plants could be transferred from other areas of the Sanctuary to revitalize the spot. Some new soil was needed as the ground was extremely compacted and hard, so it was decided that eight yards of sea soil would be purchased for the area.

The creator of the bird posters supplied quotes of \$6 for paper copy and \$11 for laminated copies. It was decided at the October 21, 2015, Board meeting to order 10 laminated copies of each poster to sell in the office for \$20 each. Bob Harvey announced he would be screening two films on mushrooms in the Woods Room on October 25th, and interpreter training would be held on October 28th. The trail maintenance crews re-installed sign posts on a couple of trails, reinforced some edges of the Rocky Knoll and Lower Lake trails, and trimmed and cleared trails, driveway and parking lot. A large tree across the Tranquility trail was removed and ferns planted between the office and kiosk. The crews also participated in the Fall Roadside litter pick-up along Nanaimo Lakes Road.

On Sunday, October 4th, the Donation Box lock was found hacked off, probably the night before, and for the second time this year. Because the lock was hacksaw-proof, the vandal damaged the box itself. Luckily, not many donations were received at that time of year. Nevertheless, it would be checked for donations and emptied daily in the future. For safety purposes, "Deck Slippery When Wet" signs were acquired for the two decks at the Beaver Pond.

According to a mold inspection report, nothing toxic and only common mold was found in the Woods Room, but steps were recommended to improve the Woods Room environment. This included keeping the heat on consistently at 15 degrees, as well as purchasing a new air purifier for approximately \$200 and installing a ventilation fan on the roof. One of the directors expressed concern there was a lack of communication about things occurring at Morrell Sanctuary, especially for those without a computer and Internet access. It was countered that these members received information in the form of paper copies, and that most members felt that events and happenings at the Sanctuary were openly communicated to all Board members as best as possible.

On November 18, Heather Allen presented a report of her meeting with Steve Flower from Abell Pest Control regarding tips and procedures to repel rats, squirrels, and mice. Holes were found in the wall at both doorjambes near the floor in the Woods Room, and signs that squirrels, rats and mice had been in the lean-to. Recommended measures included filling the holes in the tool crib, placing mesh on office vents and setting up traps and bait stations. Abell Pest Control offered to set up bait stations and monitor them for \$40-\$45 per month, but it was decided to make the recommended repairs and contact Abell later if necessary.

Keith Brown investigated encapsulating mounted animals in plastic cases to help improve the air quality and preserve the specimens. According to correspondence received from Kasey Lee at the Royal BC Museum on November 13, it was pointed out that it was unlikely the animals themselves would smell because all organs would have been removed and the cavity filled with hard plastic, cotton, or straw. Instead, moths and beetles would be of more concern. To eliminate an infestation, the animals have to be frozen at -20 degrees for 10 days. The specimens could

then be cleaned with a vacuum and paint brush. However, animals mounted before 1980 probably would have used arsenic so dust masks should be worn during cleaning. An air purifier was purchased and set up in the Woods Room.

A new job description for the Office Manager's position was presented in November and amended with additions and corrections. It was a salary-based position and not contracted. One addition was to perform miscellaneous duties as required and advise the Summer Camp supervisor regarding daily cleaning of the Woods Room and bathroom. Val Booth prepared a map and list depicting the locations and dedications of all the memorial benches in the Sanctuary. There were twenty-one benches and two picnic tables, five of the benches without dedications.



Mounted animal specimens in Woods Room

An update on December 16, 2015, regarding pests in Woods Room revealed that the tool crib (i.e., lean-to) had all holes filled and vents covered with hardware cloth. No sign of rodents had been found in the Woods Room since the work was done. Remedial work in the office would be deferred until Spring. Heather Allen put vinegar and baking soda in the kitchen drains to help eliminate odors in the kitchen. Barrie Page reported on the progress and cost of repairs to the Lower Lake Trail; 110 bags of concrete and rebar were used to stabilize the bank above the lake edge. The cost to that point was \$1046.55 with another 15 bags of concrete in storage. Three sections along the lake trail were completed. Val Booth attended the Harbour City Bingo Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) on December 6th and reported that membership dues would remain at \$10 per year. The Harbour City Bingo Inc. AGM was also held on December 6, 2015, and dividends amounted to \$1,000 per shareholder. The Morrell Sanctuary Society had one share and could use the money for any purpose because the Gaming Branch did not restrict the type of spending for dividends as they did for Gaming funds. Thirteen bird posters were sold in the office, as well as cards and Christmas pudding. Heather Allen noted that the Society had 105 members in December, with 7 up for renewal.

The Society's application to the Gaming Commission was refused because the Society had 118 percent of the operating expenses of \$55,795 for the fiscal year, as well as a Legacy Fund, thus did not demonstrate a financial requirement for gaming funds. Vice-president Tom Grauman wrote a letter to the Gaming Branch explaining that part of the unspent money represented a reserve for roof repairs and other expenses. He also spoke with MLA Leonard Krog and MLA Doug Routley, who both expressed positive responses. Keith Brown opined that the operating budget was not sufficient for a forest this size considering the cost of firefighting. Regarding another issue, Tom Grauman stated that when Vi Savage no longer resided in the house on the Sanctuary grounds it would revert to the Nature Trust of BC, not to the Morrell Sanctuary Society. He thought it might be worthwhile to have the cottage serve as rental income for the Society.

A request was received from a group "Hiking with Brian" for permission to allow one vehicle to drive to Morrell Lake for a group lunch on December 20th. Because there was no provision in the Society's liability insurance for a group that might be consuming alcohol, and because there was no volunteer available to open the gate for them, their request was denied. Further, it was decided that the Board review insurance coverage regarding public groups using the facilities for functions. Keith Brown reported that McKay precast could install parking curbs for approximately \$1075; however, it was decided to leave the parking lot alone, but check the existing wooden logs for rot and discuss the issue again at the January 2016 meeting.

Applications for Canada Summer Jobs began in January and Val Booth suggested that because of the funding situation the Camp Leaders and Co-ordinator should start in the middle of June, but Summer Camp had to finish by the end of August because the federal program did not run past that date. It was also decided to raise the Camp Leader's wages from \$15 per hour to \$15.20 per hour and the Camp Supervisor's wage from \$17 per hour to \$17.20 per hour. Additional purchases recommended for the Sanctuary included 20 new chairs for the Woods Room, a new hard drive for backing up office files, 250 Morrell Sanctuary pins at \$3.30 each from Able Recognition, and four bicycle racks. A contest to rename the defunct Lookout Trail was deferred to the January 2016 meeting.

At the January 20, 2016, Board meeting, Keith Brown reported that protective specimen display cases for the animal mounts would cost \$150 per box, depending on size and if airtight. Bob Harvey offered to purchase a small vacuum to keep the mounts clean. As well, it was recommended that a taxidermist be contacted regarding proper care of the mounted specimens. A decision was made not to place cement curbs in the parking stalls, but instead use the existing wood painted white. Heather Allen reviewed the agreement concerning Vi Savage's house on the Sanctuary property. Vi had a homeowner's policy and paid for any work required on the house. The building was originally a cabin, and Bill Morrell's son, Lorne, did most of the renovations and construction work. It was noted that the Society was exempt from property taxes as negotiated by the Nature Trust with the City of Nanaimo. However, Val Booth cautioned that if the Society rented out the house it would become a landlord and the City might reconsider the Society's charitable organization permissive tax exemption status.

Heather Allen presented a quote and diagram for some bicycle racks. For a four-bike rack, the cost was \$550 plus a shipping fee of \$85 and sales tax. Gravel was ordered at a cost of about \$216 to be placed around the gazebo at Morrell Lake. Patrick Ansell constructed a bat house for placing at an appropriate location in the Sanctuary. Patrick and Patricia Ansell offered to host the Morrell Sanctuary Open House on Family Day, February 8.



"Stream of Life" - Patricia Banks, Morrell Resident Artist (2017)

In February 2016 the trail maintenance crew removed invasive ivy and daphne laurel, and split logs from felled trees to replace the deteriorated seating at the learning circles. They also secured some log curbs for the parking lot. Patricia Banks was appointed as "Morrell's Resident Artist" for the year. This included adding a link to her webpage under the Community Links page on the Morrell Nature Sanctuary's website. Describing her approach to art, Patricia said "Before settling down to my easel, I wander around for up to an hour, immersing myself in the positive energy of the area until I feel 'right.' Then I quickly set up my paints and like magic, a beautiful painting comes together." Regarding Vi Savage's residence in the Sanctuary, vice-president Tom Grauman planned to speak to Lorne Morrell and Randy Milligan, the Morrell Family's Representative on the Society's Board of Directors, before contacting the Nature Trust.

Morrell volunteer, John Anderson, gave a presentation on the benefits of switching the Society's current website to "Weebly," a website provider that was more current and user-friendly than the current provider, NISA Internet Technologies. The Board decided to move from the current website host to Weebly within six months, with assistance from president Bob Harvey, vice-president Tom Grauman and office manager Heather Allen. Tom also mentioned that Lance Nordstrom, a Morrell volunteer and retired librarian had started to scan the Society's archives consisting of past minutes, leases, and other important documents. The digitized files would be stored offsite in case of a fire which could destroy the office and its contents.

Ferns were transplanted to the office garden by the trail maintenance team in March 2016. As well, the "green" gate controlling access to the Sanctuary proper was sanded in preparation for painting. It was time for the annual maintenance and servicing of the automatic gate, so Tom Grauman made the necessary arrangements with the service provider. Karin Maley's offer to paint the Woods Room doors a green colour was accepted by the Board. The Gaming Branch once again declined the Society's request for a grant because of the Society's positive financial situation. It was decided that the old "Lookout Trail" would retain the same name, even though the Lookout platform no longer existed. The Back Yard Bird posters sold out and a decision was made to purchase twelve more for resale in the office. A Fallen Tree Policy was established that any fallen trees in the Sanctuary would remain on the property, either to decompose naturally or to be used for Sanctuary purposes such as for log benches and seating at learning circles in the forest. A dangerous trip wire had been installed between two trees just off Rocky Knoll by someone, so Heather Allen was asked to notify the police. The Sanctuary's Western Toad researcher, Hitomi Kimura at Vancouver Island University, expressed concern about low water levels at Morrell Lake which could impact toad breeding. This would be addressed at a special meeting in the near future.



The plant sale on May 14th earned \$1,661 plus Raffle sales amounting to \$888; this was about \$800 less than 2015, but at least \$200 more than 2014. An additional \$100 was received for remaining plants sold by donation after the scheduled event. The trail maintenance crew removed Scotch broom, cleared an area at Morrell Lake to serve as a turnaround for buses, installed a bike rack, removed alders and large branches hanging over the lake spillway, and re-painted the green gate leading into the Sanctuary. Plans were made to purchase pea gravel for the Gazebo floor, and driveway chips for the roadway bordering the parking lot outhouse and bike rack. Bob Harvey reiterated his concern that the Beaver Pond may be lost due to drought and encroaching reeds and grasses. Action was planned to remove some of the invading plants and raise the dam higher to capture more rain water during the Fall and Winter months. Attention was drawn to the problem of water seeping into the Woods Room kitchen over the door threshold. Patrick Ansell made another threshold and installed new weather stripping. The Board revisited the notion of renting out the Woods Room, and decided against further rentals of the building.

The problem of animal wastes in the Sanctuary was discussed, pointing out that the City of Nanaimo wouldn't pick up dog feces. It was decided to prohibit dog droppings in the garbage container and acquire a separate receptacle for this purpose, as well arrange collection of the animal wastes by an outside company. There was some debate about installing a flush toilet with sewer and water hookup to replace the outhouse, but no decision was recorded. The Ansell's offered to cater the 2016 Volunteer Luncheon on June 11th at noon. Harry Adcock suggested putting up another bat house near the spillway at Morrell Lake, which was approved by the Board.



Bat house near Morrell Lake dam spillway (2015)

At the June 15, 2016, meeting the Board discussed the possibility of initiating some special projects in the Sanctuary. One of the suggestions was to regravell the Yew Loop trail and hire a bob-cat to do the job. The trail would need to be fairly well compacted to accommodate wheelchairs and other wheeled conveyances such as strollers and walkers. Another proposed project was updating the level of security at the Sanctuary, for example, updating the alarm system as well as installing cameras along trails and in the office. Bob Harvey announced the best year ever for educational programming at the Sanctuary, which increased from 41 programs in 2015 to 64 in 2016. The trail maintenance team built up the Lower Lake Trail with 20 more concrete bags. The outhouse near the office was power-washed and both outhouses were emptied. Five yards of gravel was delivered and spread at the Morrell Lake bus turnaround.

A break-in at the office resulted in the theft of a computer so the office locks were changed. The automatic gate mechanism was reset after it was discovered that the gate was not closing at night. Tom Reid from the Nature Trust sent the Board information regarding a new Land Stewardship Grant Program through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. A 3-year plan detailing proposed expenditures was required for this grant. Keith provided written information on several species of squirrels and suggested a committee or special meeting of the Board to decide whether or not to trap the introduced black squirrels. One option was to remove every feeder in the Sanctuary, but it was decided to defer the issue until the October meeting for further deliberation.

Treasurer Val Booth reported on July 20, 2016, that the Society had spent \$11,629 more than earned over the past year. Although a Gaming grant worth \$35,000 wasn't received in 2016, total current assets were only down \$16,296 from the previous year. Val met with Lynn Peachey at the Bingo Hall to discuss Gaming grants. The formula for receiving Gaming funds specified that the applicant must have less than 50% of the previous year's operating expenses on hand in the form of unrestricted cash and investments. The Society's current assets or unrestricted funds of \$46,433 amounted to more than 50% of expenses, therefore the Sanctuary was ineligible for a grant. Nevertheless, it was necessary to go through the application process because the Society had to submit information detailing how the gaming account funds received in November 2014 were spent. Also, having the past year's financial reports and budgets on hand would make the next year's application easier to complete.

In order to demonstrate the need for funding when applying in 2017, Lynn recommended hiring a bookkeeper for at least 2 hours per week. The bookkeeper would be responsible for everything that Val and Elaine Wade had been doing as volunteers, including banking, paying bills, payroll, source deductions, GST refund, T4's, WCB, computer statements, and financial reports for Gaming. Estimated costs for a bookkeeper at \$30 per hour x 2 hours = \$60 per week x 52 weeks = \$3,120 per year. It was also proposed to increase Heather Allen's office hours by at least 1 hour per day to relieve the pressures experienced by president Bob Harvey in terms of scheduling school programs, training interpreters, and delivering programs. This was expected to cost about \$3,600 more per year. The Board decided to approve the hiring of a bookkeeper and increasing Heather's hours as submitted.

The trail maintenance crew repaired a small bridge over the culvert at the Alder trail-Fire Lane junction, removed trees and debris from the Fire Lane; cleaned the driveway and re-dug a trench for water run-off; and split cedar logs that Davey Tree left behind and transported them to the Beaver Pond to re-inforce the improvised dam.

A letter was received from Parent Support Services Society of BC concerning approval granted by the Board allowing them to use the Sanctuary for their annual Grandparent's Day Stroll on September 11th, 2016. A recruitment drive was initiated to fill vacant seats on the Board of Directors. Heather Allen sent out letters to all Society members asking if anyone would be interested in sitting on the Board. As well, Heather dispatched a letter to Volunteer Nanaimo to advertise openings on the Morrell Sanctuary Society's Board of Directors.

A decision was made to use Adair Tree Care to perform any further professional tree pruning or removal instead of Davey Tree Services. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the cost of alarms and security systems. It was decided to defer this item to a later meeting as more research needed to be done. With respect to resurfacing the Yew Loop Trail, the use of a "Cart Pack" or small soil compactor was suggested. An aggregate was spread to fill water eroded holes on the trail, and the Cart Pack compacted the aggregate to make the trail smoother. A quote of \$5520 before taxes (\$5800 including taxes) was received for this project.

The 2016 Summer Camp Program earned a net gain of \$4500, about \$500 more than the previous year. Over the summer, the trail maintenance crew trimmed the trail across the earthen dam at the north end of Morrell Lake, pulled aquatic grasses and vegetation from the Beaver Pond, removed fallen trees from trails, repaired the Alder Connector stile, cleaned bridges and the driveway, and enhanced the visibility of the "Slow" sign along the driveway. A dilapidated bench on the Yew Loop Trail was dismantled by Patrick Ansell and permission was granted by the Board to purchase materials for a new replacement bench. Some improvements were made to the Yew Loop trail in advance of a visit from a group of seniors in order to level the uneven surface for wheelchairs.

At the October 19, 2016, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth reported that some fraudulent transactions had been drawn on the Society's account with the Credit Union. These mainly involved money held in the Legacy account. She reported the matter to the Credit Union and to the RCMP. Fortunately, the Credit Union accepted responsibility for the loss and reimbursed the Society. Val also noted that the online banking service was cancelled because the newly hired Bookkeeper worked on a weekly basis and expeditiously handled all the banking transactions. As well, Val pointed out that over the summer months Heather Allen had taken on extra responsibilities relating to the Summer Camp. Given that some of this extra work was continuing, the Board decided to increase Heather's wage to \$17.20 per hour and made retroactive to June 27, 2016.



Removing encroaching vegetation from Beaver Pond (2016)

Most of the Yew Loop trail was in very bad condition and a limited trial demonstrated that covering and smoothing the worst areas with fine gravel created a much better surface, especially for visitors in wheelchairs and others with disabilities. It was suggested that the entire length of the trail should be so treated, depending on cost. A director queried if bats had been seen on or around the Bat house installed near Morrell Lake. While there had been no confirmed sightings of bats in or on the box, a researcher who spent considerable time by the lake on a scientific

project reported that she had frequently observed bats flying in the area. The question of whether to build and install a second bat box was raised, but no final decision was made.

Patricia Ansell reminded the Board that the Province had informed all societies that a new Society's Act had been drafted and would take full effect November 2016, but societies had until November 2018 to file their Transition Application. The new Act was expected to require significant changes to the existing Constitution and By-laws before that time. A guide to the necessary changes was obtained from the Province and passed to a small committee comprised of Patrick Ansell, Valerie Booth, and Karin Maley, which was created to examine the Constitution and By-laws and report on any changes that might be required.

Val Booth presented an account of the Harbour City Bingo Annual General Meeting held December 4th, 2016. She noted that the annual membership fee of \$10 had been paid for the year 2017 and that the Society would receive another shareholder's dividend of \$1,000. This amount was not considered Gaming income and could be spent as required by the Society. The trail maintenance team was busy dealing with several problems caused by heavy rain on the Maple Trail and later, following a heavy snowfall, crews were occupied with removing downed trees in many places throughout the Sanctuary. The driveway and the parking lot had to be plowed on December 9th and 10th. As well, the power line to the Woods Room was brought down by a falling tree. There was no interruption of power but the Hydro Company was called to deal with the matter. Copies of the Sanctuary's newsletter were sent to Tom Reid at the Nature Trust, Doug Routley MLA, Leonard Krog MLA, and Sheila Malcolmson MP. Copies were also sent to the Mayor and Council of Nanaimo. One Councillor, Gordon Fuller, replied suggesting that the newsletter be linked on the Sanctuary's website in order to be available to the general public. However, after discussing the matter, the Board decided against such a link. Heather Allen asked whether Society members had ever seen the Society's constitution or by-laws. She was advised that if members wished to see these documents, they were available for viewing in the office. Bob Harvey presented a new trail map for use by Society members and visitors to the Sanctuary. An Open House event was scheduled for January 1st, 2017, from 1:30 pm until 4:30 pm in the Woods Room.

In January and February 2017, heavy snow and difficult access to the trails and roads within the Sanctuary impeded any trail maintenance projects until the weather improved. On February 15, Val Booth and Patricia Ansell reported to the Board on their meeting with the Lynn Peachy, manager of the Bingo Society. Matters discussed included the advantages and disadvantages of the Society's Legacy Fund. Also, advice was given on ways for the Sanctuary to attract more public understanding and support for its values, programs and fund raising. The Board unanimously agreed that the Society should partner with CanadaHelps, an organization that developed affordable fundraising technology and provided free training and education for charities so that, regardless of size, all charities had the capacity to increase their impact and succeed in the digital age. A donation of five hundred dollars to the Society from the Runners of Compassion was accompanied by a proposal that some of the money could possibly be used to allow one or more disadvantaged children to attend the Summer Camp. After considerable discussion the Board agreed that the suggestion would involve a number of issues outside of the Society's programs for children and the Sanctuary should not get involved.

At the March 15, 2017, Board meeting, office manager Heather Allen conveyed an offer from TELUS to take over the Sanctuary's telephone and online services. In discussions with the treasurer, Val Booth, it was decided that there were no real advantages perceived and the matter was dropped. Heather also noted that the office printer was not working and requested authority to replace it with a new one. Her request was discussed and it was agreed that a maximum of \$200 be approved for purchase of a new printer. Signs of mice were observed in the Woods Room washroom along with some minor exterior damage to the hot water heater. Active trapping measures were undertaken to control the mice. Mark Fawdry, the Camp Supervisor in 2016, and Tessa Keel, a camp leader, both expressed a desire to work in those positions again in 2017. The Board agreed that both Tessa and Mark would be appointed as requested and that Heather Allen should cover for Mark in his absences. A budget not exceeding \$500 was approved for the purchase of supplies for Summer Camp. There was some concern that, in certain areas of coverage, the current liability insurance held by the Society did not appear to be sufficient. Val Booth, who managed the Sanctuary's insurance, agreed that the matter should be reviewed. In April 2017, the trail maintenance team

repaired edging in the parking lot which had suffered damage from snow removal and redirected water runoff on the Alder Trail. More gravel was spread on sections of the Fire Lane to improve the road surface. The team also helped with the installation of a new memorial bench on the Yew Loop. A problem was noted with the green gate leading into the Sanctuary; the gate was extremely heavy to lift up to open.



The "Green Gate" leading into the Morrell Nature Sanctuary

In a meeting with Debbie Cosman from Hub International Insurance Brokers, one of the items discussed was coverage provided to the Board of Directors. The current amount was one million dollars, but Debbie pointed out that with the number of directors on the board the amount should be increased to five million. The insurance also provided five million coverage under commercial liability, which protected visitors to the Sanctuary. However, in this respect she also suggested that the Society should erect signage stating that people use the trails at their own risk. In a review of the policy regarding rental of the Woods Room, it was noted that the Board had already decided at the Board Meeting on May 18th, 2016, that the Woods Room would not be rented out. It was agreed by all present that the policy should be adhered to. The Board also resolved that a fundraising committee should be established in June after evaluating the outcome of the 2017 Plant Sale to see if this fundraiser was still worth continuing or whether other options should be contemplated. Lynn Peachy, the Bingo representative, had earlier suggested that the Society might consider publicizing the Sanctuary with an ad in the magazine *One Hundred and One Things to do in Nanaimo*. However, the advertising rates were quite high and the publication appeared to be aimed at tourists visiting Nanaimo, which was thought to be of no direct benefit to the Sanctuary so this idea was set aside.

Val Booth reported in May 2017 that the Society was approved for another Canada Summer Jobs Grant. However, the grant only covered nine weeks of employment rather than the usual eleven because the Federal Government wished to encompass more recipients in their funding. Nevertheless, the camp counsellors would be hired for the full eleven weeks, with the shortfall covered by the Society. The annual Plant Sale and Raffle fundraiser generated \$1801.30 in plant sales and \$762.75 in raffle proceeds. In regard to fundraising, discussion took place as to whether the Annual Plant Sale should be continued in 2018. It was decided to have a wind-up meeting to discuss the results of the 2017 sale to obtain the views of all involved. Water leakage around the doorway to the Woods Room kitchen was discovered, but this item was put on hold until the Fall because Summer Camp was fast approaching and there was limited time before the Woods Room had to be set up for the camp. Preparations for Summer Camp were well underway, with Mark Fawdry once more hired as Supervisor and Tessa Keel returning as one of the two Camp Counsellors. Joshua Yargeau was hired as the other counsellor and both leaders started work on June 19. A volunteer lunch was planned for June 10th at noon in the Woods Room.

After reviewing the information presented in April by insurance broker Debbie Cosman, it was determined that the Society's insurance coverage was adequate except for the Board of Directors. The Board decided that coverage for the Directors should be raised to \$5 million at an additional cost of \$735 per year. Regarding signage warning the public of possible dangers or risks on the trails, Patrick Ansell asked Board members to submit wording they deemed suitable, then a decision would be made to purchase four signs and where they should be located.



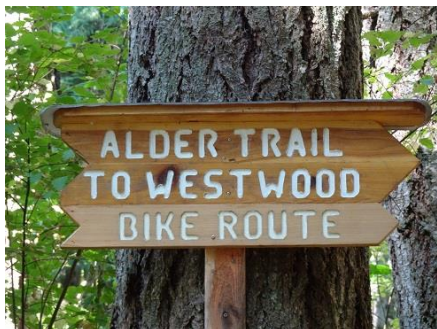
At the June 21, 2017, Board meeting Bob Harvey reported a very busy year with 59 school classes attending the Spring programs. Regarding insurance coverage for Morrell volunteers, it was found that in the Board Minutes dated May 15, 2013, president Elaine Wade said that the insurance did not cover volunteers who were not members of the Society. The general consensus of the Board was that anyone volunteering should be asked to take out a membership to ensure that, in the event of an accident or injury while working in the Sanctuary, they will be covered by the Society's insurance. Patricia Ansell reported that 25 people attended the Volunteer Lunch on June 10th.



Morrell Nature Sanctuary Volunteers (2017)

Mr. John Baldwin from the provincial Dam Safety office contacted the Society concerning some issues with the dam at Morrell Lake which the Society had not responded to. One of the items was the amount of vegetation growing on the dam. After inspection, it was clear that this was not something that Trail Maintenance could handle. However, it was a matter of some urgency to contact someone who would be willing to come in and eradicate the vegetative growth. The Board approved the hiring of a contractor to do the work. Mr. Baldwin offered to attend a Board Meeting and give a presentation detailing the responsibilities of the Society regarding maintenance of the Powerline Dam. He also consented to visit the dam with some of the Board members to determine exactly what was needed to remedy what Dam Safety officials saw as problems.

At a special meeting of the Board held on August 11, 2017, two documents prepared for submission to Mr. John Baldwin were discussed. These documents were the *Operational and Maintenance Surveillance Manual* (OMS) compiled by Barrie Page and the *Dam Emergency Plan* (DEP) prepared by Patrick Ansell. The documents were approved by the Board and it was agreed they should be submitted to Mr. Baldwin with minor revisions as soon as possible. A committee was needed to comply with the operational requirements of the OMS, which involved keeping a log of remedial actions taken on the dam, regularly inspecting the dam for any problems, ensuring that proper signage was in place, and submitting required documentation at the appropriate times. Karin Maley, Josef Baur, and Mindy Bourne offered to be part of what would be named the Morrell Powerline Dam Committee. Board members were also given copies of a letter from Tetra Tech, an engineering company, regarding potential costs for an inspection of the dams. Their estimated costs amounted to \$15,000. It was decided that no further action could be taken at that time since the Society was hard pressed to consider spending that amount of money from current resources given that it had not received any Gaming funds for the past three years. It was also something that required discussion and collaboration with the Nature Trust when a meeting could be arranged with them.



In September 2017, office manager Heather Allen was asked to prepare a manual for new Board members containing such items as past minutes, Board committees, and Sanctuary tasks, among other things. An email was received from Mark Perdue, a director of the Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club (NMBC), asking if there were any issues with bikers. While most trails were closed to cyclists, they were allowed to travel along the Hydro Road, Fire Lane, and the Alder trail to Westwood Lake. The Doggy Doo Wagon, which provided pet waste removal and disposal services in the Nanaimo area, was contacted to pick up dog feces from a special container at the Morrell Sanctuary every two weeks on a trial basis until ascertained how often pick-up was needed. The cost was \$10 per pick-up. The laptop Bob

Harvey used for interpretive training sessions, senior visits, and other tasks no longer functioned, so approval was granted to purchase a new laptop at a cost of \$600.

On September 12th, Patrick Ansell, Patricia Ansell, Randy Milligan, and Karin Maley met with Tom Reid and Shawn Lukas, Nature Trust Field Operations Coordinator, to clarify concerns concerning upkeep of the dams at Morrell Lake. After consulting with the Nature Trust of BC head office in Vancouver and taking into consideration correspondence received on the matter from the Society, Tom stated that the Nature Trust would assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Powerline, North and Northwest dams on the lake. This was welcome news as there had been considerable strain put on the Society over the summer months in attempts to comply with BC Dam Safety regulations and any ensuing financial commitments which might be required. The dam would be checked on a monthly basis by either Shawn or Tom, and the Society would keep them informed of any problems experienced with the dams and render any support necessary to fulfill their responsibility for the dams.

At the October 18, 2017, Board meeting, president Bob Harvey announced that 91 teachers had been contacted regarding the environmental education programs offered at the Morrell Sanctuary, and nine programs had been booked for the Fall season. Spring programs were already being pre-booked, particularly the pond sessions. Interpreter training was slated to begin again in November. Trail maintenance volunteers checked the dams periodically and constructed a boardwalk on the Beaver Pond loop near the Candy Cane Bridge. The Doggy Doo Wagon made its first pick-up on October 3rd, and this was planned to continue twice a month. Bob acquired a new laptop and set it up to work with the



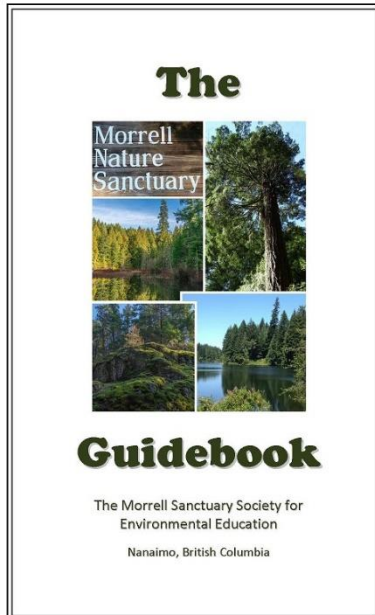
Building a boardwalk near the Candy Cane bridge (2017)

projector. His PowerPoint slides were transferred to the new laptop and Apache OpenOffice software was installed to display the presentations. Permission was granted to Janice Morrell to celebrate Vi Savage's 90th birthday in the Woods Room on Wednesday, November 29. Bob also suggested that Vi be honoured the following Thursday after weekly trail maintenance and that Janice Morrell be granted an honorary lifetime membership in the Morrell Sanctuary Society. Longtime volunteers Patricia and Patrick Ansell were moving to Kingston, Ontario, and in recognition of their dedication to the Morrell Nature Sanctuary and the Society a hardcover coffee table-style book with pictures of the Sanctuary, volunteers, plant sales, and other events was prepared and presented to Patricia and Patrick.

In November 2017, treasurer Val Booth reported that net income for the month was relatively high, thanks to receipt of a summer camp grant and revenue from the Fall programs. The effectiveness of the donation box was discussed, with suggestions for improving visibility. Bob Harvey offered to create a new sign emphasizing that donations went toward maintaining trails and Sanctuary improvements. Bob also agreed to produce Christmas cards for mailing to companies who supported the Sanctuary, as well as to schools along with a list of educational programs at the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. Kent Anders, a retired forester, offered to compile an updated plant list for the Sanctuary. Bob requested that Kent identify any costs involved in such a project, and asked for copies of the plant lists he had already prepared for Linley Valley and Buttertubs Marsh. A special committee comprised of Val Booth, Karin Maley, and Lance Nordstrom was struck to update the Society's by-laws to conform with new requirements specified in the BC Societies Act. The amended by-laws would be reviewed by the Board, then sent out to the membership in advance of a special meeting for a vote on acceptance; approval by two-thirds of the membership attending the meeting was required for assent. Val noted the revision of the by-laws would likely be completed by late Spring 2018.

A feasibility study for a Morrell Nature Sanctuary handbook to extend the Society's educational outreach was approved by the Board. Bob Harvey, John Anderson, and Lance Nordstrom worked on the project, which entailed drafting the contents of the handbook and determining the financial costs of reproducing it for sale in the office.

At the January 17, 2018, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth drew attention to the substantial increase in revenues for Fall programs in 2017 (\$960) compared to 2016 (\$210). On the other hand, trail maintenance costs were



significantly higher in 2017 than 2016 due to the removal of dangerous trees by contractors. Val attended the Harbour City Bingo Society Annual General Meeting on December 3, 2017, and while there were no dividends, dissolution of the HCBS at the end of 2020 was expected to result in a larger payout in 2021 for each member, perhaps as much as \$25,000. Office manager Heather Allen noted that the Society's application for a community gaming grant was rejected again.

Secretary Lance Nordstrom remarked that significant progress had been made on the Morrell Nature Sanctuary Guidebook. The text was revised and numerous photographs of common plant and animals species added, including some excellent bird photos from Geoff Newhouse. Vancouver Island University Printing Service quoted a price of \$3.65 per booklet for printing 100 copies. It was proposed that the guidebook be sold to non-members for \$10 and members for \$8 each. Anticipated production costs were estimated to be about \$400. Bob Harvey investigated different forms of the Morrell coffee table book, as well as cheaper options in the neighbourhood of \$60 per book. It was decided that a Sanctuary copy of the book be produced and made available for display in the office or special events, and orders taken from individuals wishing to purchase a copy.

President Bob Harvey stressed the need for action on amending the Society's constitution and bylaws, explaining that a special meeting of the Society's membership was required to approve changes to the constitution and bylaws, with two-thirds of the members personally showing up at the meeting approving the changes. Val pointed out that access to the Legacy Fund was restricted by the current bylaws and this was causing difficulties obtaining Gaming grants, as well as earning minimal interest income and preventing use of the funds for operational and project expenses. The Board decided that the Legacy Fund should be eliminated and removed from the bylaws.

In a general discussion of signage in the Sanctuary, it was suggested that the Lookout Trail should be renamed as it seemed to be confusing visitors who expected to find a lookout in the Sanctuary. A proposal to create a sign committee to deal with this and related issues was approved by the Board. The problem of invasive plants in the Sanctuary close to Dogwood Road was raised by a property owner who was a member of the Morrell Sanctuary Society and who had indicated a willingness to remove the plants himself. Heather noted that the Nature Trust, as owners of the Sanctuary land, required that work on the grounds be performed by trail maintenance volunteers. It was determined that a trail maintenance crew would remove the invasive plants when the weather improved in the Spring.

In February 2018, the trail maintenance team replaced some steps at the end of the Tranquility trail near the Beaver Pond. Director Josef Baur suggested using natural materials, such as cedar logs, for steps rather than treated wood to preserve the wilderness character of the trails. At Val Booth's request, a new fridge was approved for the office, up to \$300 plus tax. A request from Jessica Duncan to conduct a Vancouver Island University Fire Hazard Assessment exercise on Morrell Nature Sanctuary grounds was authorized by the Board, provided the Board would be given a copy of the Assessment Report for the Society's records. Director John Anderson asked about circulating Board minutes to the membership, with Val replying that the Society's bylaws permit members to receive a copy upon request. Since not all members were interested in receiving the minutes, they were not automatically distributed to the membership. The Board discussed the possibility of a "Members-only" section on the Sanctuary's website, protected by a single username/password shared by all members, that could be accessed to view Board minutes and



other documents of general interest to the membership. However, no decision was made. Val, Karin Maley, and Lance completed a draft of the revised constitution and bylaws that would be reviewed by Tom Grauman for wording and readability. The Board re-examined the problem of water leaking into the kitchen area following heavy rains. The sloping driveway channeled water into a depression near the doorway where it pooled. One option was to cut a drainage channel in the concrete next to the building; another might be to build up the concrete next to and sloping away from the building to shed water draining down the driveway. It was decided to obtain estimates to repair the drainage, with directors Derek and Kathleen Gaye coordinating the investigation.

Concerns were expressed in March 2018 about a cedar log boom that Shawn Lukas from the Nature Trust intended to position in front of the Powerline Dam. Office manager Heather Allen remarked that the Western Toads would be laying eggs soon and that the tadpoles hung out at the dam spillway. She was concerned that if the boom was installed in March it might interfere with the toads. The Board discussed the issue, noting that the boom might be beneficial if it prevented eggs and tadpoles from being swept down the spillway. Heather was advised to contact Shawn and clarify when he planned to construct the log boom. Copies of the amended constitution and by-laws were distributed to Board directors, but a decision by the Board was postponed until everyone had a chance to read the documents. Director Josef Baur recommended meeting again on Thursday, March 22, to discuss the revised constitution and bylaws further. On another matter, Josef obtained an estimate of \$1575 after tax from Concrete Results Contracting to rip up and dispose of the existing sidewalk by the Woods Room, and replace it with 32 megapascals (MPa) broom-finished concrete. As well, roots from a maple tree near the edge of the Woods Room were lifting the sidewalk such that the tree needed to be removed as well in order to ensure adequate drainage. The Board agreed to hire Concrete Results Contracting to perform the concrete work.

Val Booth reported on the various signs posted around the Sanctuary and suggested that one or two of the three signs concerning theft of valuables be removed as redundant; one sign at the far end of the parking lot from the office was almost invisible, while another was actually embedded in the tree it had been attached to. It was recommended that the trail maintenance crew trim the brush and trees alongside the driveway at the parking lot entrance to allow room for overflow parking beside the road. Cars parked in this area infringed on the pavement and made it difficult for traffic to pass by, mainly because owners didn't want the brush to scratch their vehicles.

At a special meeting of the Board held on March 22, 2018, a number of issues regarding the revised constitution and by-laws were raised. Director Derek Gaye asked if there should be a by-law giving the directors authority to change the by-laws. However, by-law 54 stated that "these bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution," so directors were not permitted to alter the bylaws without acceptance from the general membership by special resolution. Josef Baur queried if the directors had legal authority to change the Legacy Fund, in particular, if bequests to the fund were conditional in perpetuity on restrictions placed on the fund. A lengthy discussion ensued, with the general consensus that since the restriction was added to the by-laws by directors of a previous Board then the restriction could be removed from the by-laws by directors of the current Board. Ultimately, the Board accepted the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws.

In April 2018 office manager Heather Allen mentioned that a new sign by the donation box had increased revenues by \$75. Bob Harvey reported that 63 Spring programs had been booked, with May fully booked. Josef Baur suggested raising the fees for educational programs, but Bob pointed out that the Society earned more revenue with the increase in numbers of students attending the programs. With inflation, however, prices may need to increase over time, perhaps by \$5. Bob noted that school boards paid for 95% of the costs, particularly for transporting students by bus to the Sanctuary which was quite expensive. Concern was expressed about interpreter burnout with the increasing number of programs; however Bob replied there were five experienced interpreters, and several more in training (16 interpreters altogether), although he indicated a need for a French-speaking interpreter for French



immersion programs. Vancouver Island University printed the constitution/by-laws packages for distribution to members at a cost of \$119.20 for 103 copies. The tentative date for the special resolution meeting was set for Saturday, May 26, at 11 am. The maple tree beside the Woods Room was removed for an estimated cost of \$1300, in preparation for the concrete work to follow.

Tom Reid from the Nature Trust gave an update on the Morrell Dam situation. He prepared an emergency plan and had submitted it to John Baldwin, the provincial Dam Safety Officer located in Nanaimo. Tom's associate, Shawn, had been conducting monthly site surveillance of the dam. Tom followed up with Hitomi Kimura, the western toad biologist from Vancouver Island University, regarding concerns about the lake and dam. Tom outlined three options regarding the dam: (1) change the risk rating back down to Significant from High; (2) reduce the water level in the lake to ease pressure on the dam; and (3) remove the dam. He was pursuing option #1 and collaborating with BC Hydro, the City of Nanaimo, and at some point with the federal government, to deflect the flow of water draining from the lake in order to reduce the high risk rating without significantly changing the structure of the dam or lake. He pointed out the need to reduce shoreline erosion with "riprap" (large rocks lining the edge of the lake to mitigate wave action), and he sought assistance from the City of Nanaimo in this effort. Tom emphasized the cost of a full geotechnical assessment of the dam was in the neighbourhood of \$80,000. Regarding option #2 (reducing the water level in the lake), he wanted to know what wetland potential existed for the site. Option #3 could be as expensive as mitigation; alternatively, the valve controlling water level could be left permanently open to continuously drain the lake, which could get blocked or clogged, though, if not adequately monitored. Tom also reported that the City of Nanaimo had a covenant on the property stating that the dam must be operated; he wished to see this removed from the title. He suggested that the Morrell Sanctuary Society formalize a legal agreement with the City of Nanaimo that permitted city officials emergency access to the property in exchange for assistance with danger tree removal, culverts, drainage problems, materials (gravel, rocks, wood), and other issues where the City might be able to offer resources and expertise.

At the May 16, 2018, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth remarked that expenses incurred from the constitution/by-laws review amounted to \$309.35 and insurance was adjusted to \$3008.97. Repair and maintenance costs of \$1,712.80 included extra gate fobs for police and emergency personnel, tree removal beside the Woods Room, and the felling of snags on the Yew Loop. On the comparative balance sheet it was noted that \$5,000 was transferred from the high-interest savings account into the operating account. She pointed out in her proposed 2018-19 budget that it would be necessary to transfer more funds from the high-interest savings account, possibly as much as \$17,000. The Canada Summer Jobs grant application was approved for \$2,000 less than the previous year, covering 9 weeks instead of 11, and 30 hours per week rather than the 40 hours requested. It was suggested that summer camp fees might need to be increased in 2019 to cover reduced grant income. Regarding education, Bob Harvey reported that the number of school programs booked for the year from September 2017 to August 2018 was 72 in total. This was a record number for the Society. Two more steps on the Tranquility Trail were repaired by the trail maintenance crew and maple logs from the Woods Room were used to replace seats at the learning circle on the Tranquility trail. Crews set up tables, priced plants, and prepared for the upcoming plant sale. Approximately \$2,600 was raised at the plant sale; about \$1,800 from plant sales and \$800 from raffle tickets. On April 26, electronic gate fobs and green gate keys were delivered to the RCMP, Fire Hall No. 1, and Ambulance station on Labieux Road.



Learning Circle on Tranquility Trail

Val Booth and Mark Fawdry completed interviews for summer camp leaders and two individuals were hired, Melissa Crum and Kristina Laven. By mid-May, 60 children were already registered for summer camp.

Work on correcting the Woods Room drainage problem was completed in May. The maple tree beside the Woods Room had been removed and a curved concrete surface underlain by drain rock to channel water flow away from the doorway was constructed. In general, there was support from the Board for “limited” access by the City for any work required to upgrade the Morrell Lake dam and lower the risk rating from High to Significant. It was recommended that advance notice be given by City officials before large trucks and machinery were brought into the Sanctuary so that measures could be taken to warn and otherwise protect hikers, dog walkers, and other visitors to the Sanctuary.

In June 2018, treasurer Val Booth drew attention to an increase of \$802 in the Gaming account from raffle sales, the writing off of the art collection, and the income received from Spring programs, plant sales, and donations. The major expense in May was for the concrete work to correct the drainage issue at the Woods Room door. Net income for the month was \$1,333.85. Part of the financial plan going forward was to gradually reduce income in order to re-qualify for the government gaming grant, using the Legacy fund as needed to cover expenses in the meantime. The financial report still indicated that the Legacy fund accounts were externally restricted; however, this would remain unchanged until the provincial government approved the Society’s new constitution and by-laws which would remove this restriction, probably by November 2018. Given the society’s non-profit status, revenue shouldn’t exceed expenses by a significant margin. Some discussion focused on the possibility of raising education fees, for example: 1 hr programs from \$45 to \$50, 1.5 hr programs from \$50 to \$55, and 2 hr programs from \$55 to \$60. However, the Board decided against raising fees on grounds that: (1) education was the primary mandate of the Society, (2) the Society was fiscally stable, and (3) the Society needed to maintain its non-profit status by limiting income. Office manager Heather Allen reported that retired forester Kent Anders would be surveying the Morrell Sanctuary flora a couple more times to catch late season species, then would submit the completed plant list. An acknowledgement of Morrell friends and sponsors was published in the June 5 issue of the Nanaimo Bulletin for a cost of \$208.79. Fifty-nine guidebooks had been sold, with 41 remaining. Melissa Crum and Kristina Laven started preparations for Summer Camp. There were 113 children registered, with only about 35 spots left. Plant sales in May amounted to \$1800 and raffle tickets to \$800, for a combined total of \$2600. The trail maintenance team removed invasive species off Dogwood Road, but it would likely be necessary to check on this again next year as these plants invariably grew back. Daphne was also becoming a problem along some borders to the Sanctuary; it was difficult to remove but must be monitored and controlled where possible.

A local naturalist club, Nature Nanaimo, with a common interest in nature with the Morrell Sanctuary Society, sought a venue for an outdoor picnic for club members to be held in June 2019 and the Morrell Nature Sanctuary was considered a possible site for the event. The Board agreed in principle that this was possible, but with some restrictions: (1) it must be held during the last two weeks of June to avoid potential conflicts with education programs, (2) it could not be held on a weekend because the Sanctuary frequently received a high volume of visitors at that time, (3) it should be held on a Monday, Tuesday, or Friday during the week, (4) one vehicle would be permitted to transport food and supplies to the picnic site at Morrell Lake and the club members would have to hike in to the site, and (5) the club would be responsible for all clean-up and removal of garbage from the site after the event. A donation to the Sanctuary would also be appreciated. It was decided that there would be no change to pick-up times during summer camp to accommodate late pick-ups by parents for the following reasons: (1) camp counsellors would have to work more than 8 hours, which invoked overtime pay, (2) the Federal grant supporting the program had been cut back both in hours and pay, and (3) salaries would have to be increased to cover extra

hours. Josef Baur was granted the use of some of the wood from the felled maple tree next to the Woods Room to fashion wooden bowls, some of which would be contributed to the Sanctuary as raffle prizes or for other purposes. During the summer of 2018, all the trail maps were replaced and the sign at the Sanctuary entrance was repainted and improved. MJR Tree Service removed some dangerous, dead trees and lowered the overhead sign for refurbishing. Josef Baur recommended that some design and planning standards should be instituted for the construction of boardwalks and other trail improvements. The Board agreed that Doggy Doo pickups should continue on a weekly basis. Shawn Lucas was informed that the western toads had left the lake so he could test the drain valve. Residents of Oak Tree Manor were taken for a seniors walk around the Yew Loop trail on September 5, with refreshments served afterwards in the Woods Room along with a slide show of the Sanctuary presented by Bob Harvey. The Nature Nanaimo board decided that the best day for a June social event in 2019 would be on Saturday, precluding the event from being held at the Morrell Sanctuary. Summer camp ran for 9 weeks, with 902 spots filled compared to 788 in 2017. The daily limit was increased from 20 to 25 kids per day in 2018. The camp received overwhelmingly positive feedback, and Melissa Crum and Kristina Laven were praised for their leadership. Mark Fawdry recommended that the leaders be paid \$17.30 an hour next year (up from \$15.20), and that summer camp rates be increased from \$25 to \$30 per day. Treasurer Val Booth presented a detailed analysis of Mark's recommendations regarding leader salaries and camp fees, concluding that salaries and employer payments (EI, CPP, WCB) would total \$26,400 and camp fees would total \$25,200, leaving a shortfall of \$1,200 which could be covered by a federal summer employment grant. The Board agreed to increase camp fees to \$30 per day and raise salaries to \$17.30 per hour for the two leaders and \$18 per hour for the camp supervisor.

On the research front, Hitomi Kimura presented a report on the western toad project. She marked another 100 new western toads that returned to breed at Morrell Lake and was currently analyzing the data with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. The findings would be shared with the Society once the report was completed. Hitomi also mentioned that she was unable to catch bullfrogs inhabiting the north end of the lake because of trees and debris in the water. The general consensus was that it may not be feasible to clear all this material from the lake. Kent Anders completed and submitted the updated Morrell Sanctuary plant list to the office. Office manager Heather Allen described the issues associated with visitors parking alongside the driveway leading into the Sanctuary, primarily as they affected access by emergency vehicles. She recommended clearing the ferns and shrubs from under the power line and preparing the site for angle parking that could accommodate up to 8 vehicles. It was proposed that additional information could be posted on the Society's website, including the Society's constitution and bylaws, the names and photos of Board members, Kent Anders' plant checklist, and a read-only version of the guidebook, with print copies still available for sale at the office. Ongoing maintenance of memorial benches in the Sanctuary was discussed, as well as the process for adding new ones. Heather noted that an application form must be completed for new benches, along with a \$500 charge for a dedicated bench. The Board determined where a bench could be placed within the Sanctuary, and the Society assumed responsibility for ongoing repair and maintenance of the benches.

Josef Baur suggested installation of a pump and pipe system to transport water from Morrell Lake into the Beaver Pond and thus raise water levels in the pond to support the "Pond Dippers" educational program. Bob Harvey pointed out that the lower water level and incursion of vegetation into the pond were the result of natural ecological processes, in part accelerated by the summer drought conditions experienced over the past few years. He noted that the winter rains replenished the water in the pond and as long as sufficient



Pond Dippers (2017)

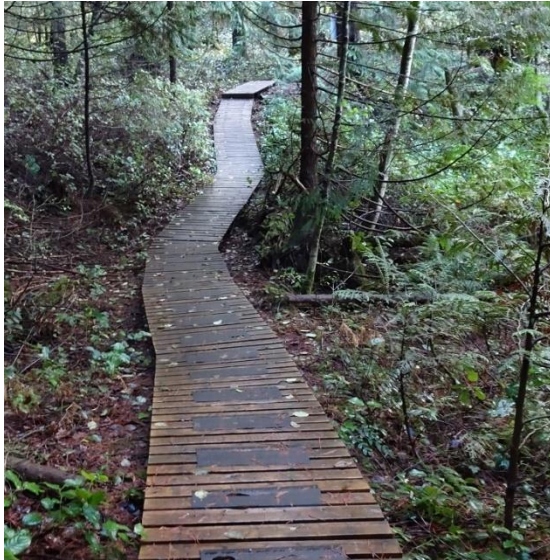
water remained until the end of June the "Pond Dipper" program could continue. In addition, trail maintenance crews could keep the water around the decks clear of vegetation while letting the rest of the pond succumb to succession. Bob Harvey spotted two pine martens, a predatory species contributing to the biodiversity of the Sanctuary. Members of the weasel family or Mustelidae, they are highly territorial so Bob thought they were a male and female breeding pair.

At the October 17, 2018, Board meeting Bob Harvey reported a total of eight bookings to date for the Fall programs. A nature walk for interpreters was scheduled for Thursday afternoon, October 18, and another was planned for Friday morning. Bob hosted nine teachers from the Ladysmith Elementary School on a Professional Development day with a 2-hour session and short walk around the Yew loop. Most of the debris at the north end of Morrell lake was cleared by the trail maintenance crew, allowing Hitomi Kimura unobstructed access to this part of the lake for bullfrog control. Shrubs and understory vegetation were removed along the driveway in preparation for constructing an overflow angle-parking area. Litter pickup along Nanaimo Lakes Road, a paid event undertaken for the City of Nanaimo by Sanctuary volunteers over the past several years, took place October 11th under Karin Maley's direction. Josef Baur was busy refurbishing the overhead sign. Office manager Heather Allen announced that a donation of \$500 was received from the Running Group and a final payment of \$1,939 was received for the Canada Summer Employment grant. Heather also noted that a visiting forestry class from Vancouver Island University planned to dig soil pits well off-trail as part of their field trip to the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. While there was general agreement among Board directors that this educational use of the Sanctuary was acceptable, it was also thought that a letter should be sent to VIU requesting some compensation, perhaps a donation or grant, in exchange for permitting access to the Sanctuary.

Bob Harvey pointed out that a chain saw was required to remove trees below the power lines bordering the driveway in order to proceed with angle overflow parking. As well, it was suggested that ferns in the area should be replanted elsewhere, such as the fern garden next to the office. Director Kathleen Gaye emphasized that in a previous meeting the Board had decided that no new sites within the Sanctuary would be designated for benches; new requests for a memorial bench would depend on the availability of old unassigned benches which could be refurbished or replaced as needed. Kathleen also recommended that cleaning the benches should be added as a trail maintenance task. Josef Baur advised that the cedar benches should be refinished every couple of years due to weathering. While the outhouse interiors could be quite dark at times, it was agreed that the roofs were fine and didn't need to be replaced with clear plastic material to improve lighting. It was suggested that a battery-operated, motion sensing light might be a useful alternative. Bob Harvey offered to give a PowerPoint slide presentation about the Morrell Sanctuary to the Nanaimo Newcomers Club on November 19 at the Oliver Woods community centre. He also volunteered to lead an educational nature walk for Newcomers, as well as interested Morrell Sanctuary Society members.

In November 2018, treasurer Val Booth announced the approval of a Gaming grant request with an award of \$8,500. She also outlined several options for ongoing Internet service through Shaw Cable and recommended that the Board approve a 5-year agreement for \$105.95 plus tax per month. President Bob Harvey gave a well-received presentation on the Morrell Nature Sanctuary to the Newcomers Club on November 19; several membership applications were submitted to the Sanctuary office as a result. Newcomers were getting two nature walks through the Morrell Sanctuary, with one scheduled for December 12 for 6-10 people. A member of the Lantzville Rotary Club encouraged Bob to present to the Rotary club, noting that the Morrell could receive funding from the club for special projects. Josef Baur agreed to obtain a quote for the driveway parking extension project, which could be submitted to the Rotary Club in connection with Bob's presentation.





Boardwalk on Beaver Pond Loop, constructed in 2018 (Photo taken 2023)

recommended replacing the sign in the parking lot that read “Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary” with an updated one reading “Morrell Nature Sanctuary.” Patrick Ansell and Josef Baur installed a motion-sensing battery-powered light in the outhouse next to the parking lot, and director Mindy Bourne demonstrated an inexpensive bright light with a switch that could serve as another option if the motion-sensing light failed.

The vegetation along the driveway was cleared and ferns transplanted to the office garden. The refurbishing of the overhead Morrell Nature Sanctuary sign was completed and the stolen locking bar on the lake outhouse door was replaced with a long bolt and electrical tape. Josef Baur worked on a new bar for the lock on the donation box, which was vandalized on November 14. The donation box had been emptied the day before it was broken into, so it was unlikely the thief found much. Josef estimated that boardwalks cost \$10-15/foot and he thought that about 40 feet of trail around the Beaver Pond could use boardwalks. He suggested that he apply fees he owed to the Society for his memorial bench to the purchase of boardwalk material from RONA, which was approved by the Board. Office manager Helen Allen



Heather presented an application to the Board from Ken Dack for a memorial bench to honour his father-in-law, lifetime Morrell Sanctuary Society member Roderick “Keith” Brown. While Ken himself was not a member of the Society, Keith Brown was, so the request was approved by the Board. Given the possibility of a donation from the Lantzville Rotary Club, it was decided to submit the driveway parking extension as a project proposal to the Rotary Club, along with a presentation by Bob about the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. Concern was expressed about potential damage to underlying water and sewer pipes from parked vehicles, but it was noted that cars and trucks had already been parking on the spot without any discernible problems. With respect to the idea of installing another culvert on the road leading to the Hydro line, it was resolved to continue pursuing this as part of a potential agreement between the Nature Trust, City of Nanaimo, and Morrell Sanctuary Society. In the meantime, efforts would be made to ensure the lower culvert was kept free of debris and other obstructions for unimpeded drainage.

In her presentation to the Board on December 19, 2018, treasurer Val Booth noted the positive impact of the \$8,500 Gaming grant on net income, but cautioned that the Gaming funds needed to be spent by the end of the fiscal year in June 2019. The Gaming funds could be applied to operating costs such as salaries and supplies (e.g., material for boardwalks), but not capital expenditures. Val also attended the Harbour City Bingo Inc and Society Annual General Meeting on December 2. As a shareholder, the Morrell Sanctuary Society was entitled to a \$1,000 dividend which was mailed out before the end of December. Unlike the Gaming grants, there were no restrictions on how the dividend could be spent. Bob Harvey contacted the Lantzville Rotary club regarding a presentation about the Morrell Nature Sanctuary, but hadn’t received a reply. As well, he introduced the idea of nature walks for Morrell Sanctuary Society members, perhaps four 2-3 hr walks per year limited to 6-10 people per interpreter. Walks for Newcomers Club members could also be offered, which could potentially earn income through donations and increase Society memberships. The Board adopted Josef Baur’s design as the new standard for boardwalk construction and more boardwalks were built on the Beaver Pond trail. As of December 2018, eighty-eight guidebooks had been sold, with 12 copies remaining. A successful Christmas lunch was held Saturday, December 15, in the Woods Room.

Val Booth described work done on revising the volunteer application form. In a discussion with James Dunn regarding the necessity of requiring a disclosure statement, he strongly advised retaining this requirement stating that although the risk of an offense was very low in the Society's situation, a signed disclosure statement would be invaluable in any legal dispute that might arise. Heather Allen highlighted a requirement to complete the Volunteer Disclosure Statement annually and also produced a "Volunteer Recruitment, Disputes & Termination Policy" adopted by the Board on October 19, 2005. Heather identified the need for improved air flow and ventilation in the Woods Room and suggested the installation of vents under the eaves, with screens to prevent entry by small animals. There was concern this might increase heating costs. Another idea was a heat exchanger, but it was uncertain what this option might cost to purchase and install.

In January 2019, office manager Heather Allen, treasurer Val Booth, and bookkeeper Margaret Spencer completed and mailed the summer job application form for camp leaders. A major change from 2018 was that summer workers were not limited to students, but could include any qualified individuals 15-30 years of age. Bob Harvey noted that of 16 volunteers who attended his interpreter training sessions, only about four were prepared to lead school programs. Several trail maintenance volunteers put in extra time cleaning up after winter storms. Some wild ginger plants donated by David Fisher were planted in various locations in the Sanctuary. Val priced metal mesh options for anti-skid surfacing on boardwalks: Home Depot had ½ inch square mesh (2x5') for \$2.60/linear foot and Home Hardware had lighter, thinner, more flexible mesh of the same size for \$1.90/linear foot, compared to mesh purchased several years ago from Metal Supermarkets for the Yew Loop and Candy Cane bridges for \$7.60/linear foot. Heather reported that the police and fire departments accounted for the fobs and keys she gave them in April 2018, but the ambulance department had yet to confirm they still had these security devices. Heather raised the problem of visitors leaving their vehicles in the Morrell parking lot, then hiking up Mount Benson or Robert's Roost rather than staying within the Sanctuary. The difficulty of policing the parking area was discussed by the Board on January 16 and the most practical solution suggested was signage stating that the parking lot was for Morrell visitors only and that the vehicles of violators would be towed.

Ventilation issues in the Woods Room continued to be a problem. It was noted that heat exchangers may not be appropriate to improve ventilation as the necessary infrastructure was not in place to support them. Josef Baur took on the task of looking into ventilation options. Bob Harvey expressed an interest in participating in a Science Saturday event hosted by Island ConnectED K-12 and the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society, with the intention of displaying educational material pertaining to the Sanctuary on his laptop. He also pointed out that Island ConnectED K-12 had booked some programs at the Morrell Sanctuary and would be a useful organization to develop ties with. The Board decided that when conditions were unsafe for visitors in the Sanctuary, barricades and signs indicating that the forest was closed would be erected to ensure due diligence in preventing injury to the public and volunteers. As well, the fire hazard sign provided by the provincial forest service would be posted when a summer fire ban was proclaimed. Carol Lefevre brought up the idea of a mentoring program to aid in succession planning for educational programs, trail maintenance, grant preparation, and other functions at the Sanctuary. As well, Carol had been in contact with GT Hiring Solutions with regard to volunteer experience programs as a possible source of additional volunteers, such as unemployed or part-time workers. She commented that such volunteers might be helpful for invasive plant removal.

At the February 20, 2019, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth announced that the Gaming grant had significantly improved the financial picture for 2019 compared to the previous year. Bob Harvey reported that May programs were totally booked, April was almost half-booked, and only one week remained for June bookings. Bob and Helen Harvey attended Science Saturday on February 2. They showed videos of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary and discussed nature-related topics with visitors. A school booking was arranged, and a Cub Scout troop also planned a tour of the

Sanctuary. Event organizers estimated about 500 people were in attendance. The trail maintenance crew spread salt and sand on the driveway and parking lot to deal with ice and snow, and MAXX Contracting was hired to plow the driveway and parking lot on Sunday evening, February 17. Heather Allen recommended that a credit card with a limit of perhaps \$500 be obtained for use by the office manager to handle online transactions. She also announced that Carol Lefevre would be taking over as office manager after she retired, and she thanked the Board for the support she received over her years as office manager. Ninety-two guidebooks had been sold by mid-February, with 8 remaining.

The Family Day Open House planned for February 18 was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions, but it was decided an Open House would be held during Spring break on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17. A letter was received from Melanie Benoit, Program Officer, Client Service Section, Charities Directorate at the Canada Revenue Agency requesting specific amendments to the Society's by-laws dealing with a non-profit clause and a dissolution clause. The general membership of the Morrell Sanctuary Society was required vote on the CRA-required amendments to the Society's by-laws. A special general meeting was therefore scheduled for Saturday, May 25, to vote on the amendments to by-laws #48 and #49 concerning revenue and dissolution of the Society, respectively. As an interim measure until ventilation options could be assessed, it was suggested that the bathroom fan be kept running with the door open to improve air circulation. As well, the use of chemical/silica moisture traps was suggested to remove water from indoor air, and perhaps have a screened window partially open to increase air flow.

Treasurer Val Booth reported at the March 20, 2019, Board meeting that the guidebooks had sold out and would not be available for the plant sale planned for April. However, Bob Harvey and Lance Nordstrom were working on a second edition for publication later in the year. Bob mentioned that a total of 55 classes had been booked for the Spring programs, with an estimated revenue of more than \$2,000. Two more interpreter training sessions were scheduled before the first class arrived in mid-April. Work crews split logs and transported them to the Beaver Pond to serve as benches for students attending education programs. In addition, ice was removed and sand spread on the Yew Loop bridge to ensure better traction for visitors.

The Open House on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, was well-attended and about 25 gift bags were distributed to children visiting the Sanctuary during the event. Helen Harvey announced plans to paint the interior of the Woods Room and the outside doors. A letter was received from Diane Williams, representing a seniors artist group, requesting access to the Sanctuary for landscape painting excursions. While the group was not granted permission to drive up to Morrell Lake, they were invited to use the Yew Loop for their purposes. A quote of \$1100 was provided from Budget Glass to make and install a custom window to improve ventilation in the Woods Room. However, it was determined that the high cost did not justify pursuing this solution further. A meeting with GT Hiring Solutions was unsuccessful because their clients were interested in paid jobs, not volunteer work. Bob noted that the Society would have to rely on current means of recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers. A presentation on climate change by Dr. Eric Krogh from Vancouver Island University was well-received by Board members and nature interpreters. The slides, graphs, and posters illustrating the cause and extent of the issue were highly informative and persuasive. Dr. Krogh emphasized the long time-lags involved in observing the various impacts of climate change, which made local predictions very difficult if not impossible.

A credit card with a limit of no more than \$500 was approved for use by the office manager, Carol Lefevre, to handle online transactions. Val Booth, Margaret Spencer, and Carol developed controls and procedures for managing the credit card. The Board discussed mentoring as a means of training and developing volunteers to move into positions of responsibility within the Morrell Sanctuary Society. It was decided that a structured mentoring program was unnecessary and that the association would continue to rely on interested volunteers to step forward and carry on

the work of the Society. A question was raised concerning directors' liability and any potential financial or other impacts on individual directors. It was explained that the Board was legally responsible for the actions of the Society and any potential personal injury or negligence claims against the Society. However, the Society had a \$5M liability insurance policy to protect against any such claims and individual directors would not be held accountable. The fact that the Society was a non-profit charitable organization also helped avoid liability. Posted warning signs informing visitors about potential hazards put the responsibility on the visitor, such that their use of Sanctuary grounds was at their own risk.

At the April 17, 2019, Board meeting the directors reviewed estimates to expand the driveway parking area that were received from George Nash (\$1,800) and Maxx Contracting (\$4,700). It was decided to spend no more than \$2,000 on the driveway parking expansion so George Nash was hired to undertake the work. Office manager Carol Lefevre obtained a new office printer for \$40, along with 6 months of free ink from HP. She also updated the website, adding the volunteer application form, announcing the plant sale on the "Special Events" page, appending the membership application form to the "Who We Are" page, and revising the list of educational programs offered at the Sanctuary. She also recommended a second Doggy Doo container to be placed at Morrell Lake to separate dog droppings from other garbage at this collection site. Requests by Hitomi Kimura and the City of Nanaimo to drive up the Fire Lane to Morrell Lake for western toad and Canada goose work, respectively, were received and approved by the Board. As well, the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT) inquired about tree safety requirements and insurance at the Morrell Sanctuary to aid them in setting up guided walking tours on their own property.

President Bob Harvey described the Commercial General Liability Schedule in the Morrell Sanctuary's insurance policy through Northbridge General Insurance Corporation. The Personal Injury Limit was \$5 million, and Each Occurrence Limit was \$5 million, so directors were well-covered by the policy. The Board considered plans by the neighbouring Department of National Defence (DND) to erect fencing along the boundaries of their land. Property adjoining the Maple Trail was apparently no longer owned by the DND so wouldn't be affected by the DND project. Part of Bob's trail was believed to cross into DND land, but previous negotiations between DND and the Morrell Sanctuary Society over this area ended when DND stated that they intended to transfer the property to local First Nations for reconciliation. It was considered unlikely the Sanctuary would be significantly affected if DND went ahead with their fencing plans.

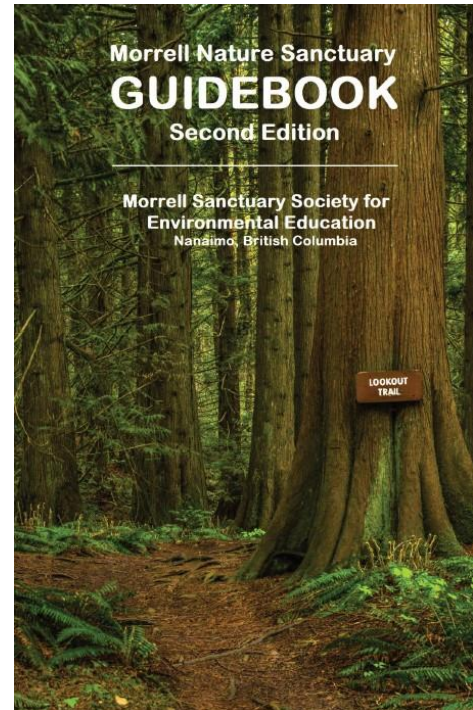
It was suggested that fallen trees in the Sanctuary could be used elsewhere within the Sanctuary for various building projects. The Society had used split logs from fallen trees before for some fences and benches in the Sanctuary. Economics and ease of access to fallen timber were major considerations. The general sentiment was to leave fallen trees to decay on the ground for environmental reasons, but that some material could be used for specific purposes in the Sanctuary when necessary.

In May 2019, treasurer Val Booth indicated that net expenses were essentially the same as last year, but income was higher this year largely due to the Gaming grant. The sum of \$560 was earned on the Raffle, which was about \$200 less than usual, but a total of \$1,923.80 was raised from the plant sale. The insurance policy was up for renewal and Val recommended continuing with the same coverage at a cost of about \$4,000. The driveway parking project was completed at a cost of \$1,890. Glass and other debris was removed from the dirt berm created by the driveway parking project, and it was suggested that sword ferns and other native plants should be established on the berm for aesthetics and stabilization of the bank. A homeless person camping on Sanctuary grounds was evicted and a metal wagon retrieved in the process.



Two hundred copies of the second edition of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary Guidebook were printed by the Vancouver Island University print shop at a cost of \$528.64. Office manager Carol Lefevre reported that 25 copies of the new guidebook had been sold, nine of these at the plant sale. The office manager's credit card was received and activated. Enrollment for summer camp was going strong, and Mark Fawdry hired two camp leaders. The camp leaders would be partly paid through a Canada Summer Jobs grant which covered 8 weeks, 35 hrs/week at minimum wage. The increase in summer camp fees, in addition to the grant, would cover 11 weeks at 40 hrs/week at a salary of \$17.30/hour for the two leaders and \$18/hour for the supervisor.

A Ministry of Environment employee requested permission for a "Scavenger hunt and cleanup" day at the Morrell Nature Sanctuary to take place May 16. About 15-20 Ministry of Environment employees spent about an hour clearing out invasive species in the Sanctuary, followed by a one-hour nature walk. In addition, the Ministry paid the Society \$55. The Board considered and approved a request by Bev Curell for a memorial bench. Bev and her husband had been members of the Morrell Sanctuary Society for many years and lived in nearby Willow Park. The application was for her husband, who had recently passed away.



At the June 19, 2019, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth reported that expenses were up in May due to printing the new guidebook and creating the new parking area alongside the driveway. Since the guidebooks started selling quickly, revenues for those sales were expected to appear in June. Josef Baur and his crew extended the Beaver Pond trail boardwalk and some trees near the lake were trimmed to accommodate bus turnarounds. A memorial bench for Lance Nordstrom's father, Olaf Nordstrom, was installed at Morrell Lake after the old one was dismantled. Ferns and other native plants were transplanted onto the berm at the new parking area. Fourteen people from Eddyfi Technologies volunteered their labour to repair and replace barriers along the Yew Loop and to transplant ferns and other plants along the parking berm. DBL Disposal Services pumped out the septic tanks for the outdoor toilets. Plastic bags with dog feces had been dropped into the tanks, causing problems for the service crew.

Summer camp registration was going well, with 102 kids registered by mid-June, and the new camp coordinators, Brooke and Natalie, started working on the summer programs. Helen Harvey noted that the volunteer lunch went well, with about 30 people attending. Painting of the ceiling and walls in the Woods Room was completed. Derek and Kathleen Gaye recommended that bark mulch or gravel be placed under the picnic shelter at the lake to control dust. Bark mulch dries out and becomes a potential fire hazard, but driveway chips or pea gravel were possibilities, with Share-Cost as an option for delivery. A decision was made to spend up to \$500 for gravel. The Board reviewed the Society's mission statement and generally agreed that the original mission statement proposed in 1984 with the creation of the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education still clearly represented the aims and purposes of the Society.

In September 2019, treasurer Val Booth drew attention to the significant increase in revenue from the 2019 Summer Camp, as well as income from the Canada Summer Jobs Grant and Guidebook sales.

Bob Harvey gave a tour of the Sanctuary for Probus members on Thursday, September 19, and hosted a group of foresters from South Korea during the summer. He also guided a representative from the Arrowsmith Naturalist Club around the Sanctuary. A couple of interpreters withdrew from the Society during the summer, but a few new interpreters were recruited and trained. The trail maintenance crews spread gravel on the floor of the lakeside gazebo and under two nearby memorial benches. Fire prevention signs were installed and several barriers on the Yew Loop were repaired or replaced. A small bridge on the Lookout trail was repaired and covered with mesh. As well, non-skid material was tacked down on the Beaver Pond boardwalk. The office manager, Carol Lefevre reported that 62 copies of the new guidebook were sold, with 135 remaining. Margaret Spencer gave her notice and Elaine Parker was hired as the Society's new bookkeeper. There were 117 members of the Society as of September 18, 2019.

The trail maps were fading and needed replacing. Discussion considered using black and white marking rather than colour, as well as the professional production of more permanent trail map signs similar to the interpretive signs posted alongside the main trails. There were approximately 13 trail maps that needed to be replaced. Carol drew



Josef Bauer and crew removing blowdown trees on Hydro Road (2019)

attention to a significant number of bookings for summer camp that were cancelled at the last minute which made it challenging to fill the vacant spots. She recommended changing the cancellation period from 24 hours to 48 hours, and noted the need for a debit/credit card reader to facilitate financial transactions where cash or cheques were inconvenient.

Director Josef Baur explained some considerations regarding the falling of trees in the Sanctuary: (1) why—for purposes of liability; (2) what—applies to dead trees alongside trails which could injure Sanctuary visitors if they fell; (3) when—indications that a dead tree should be felled include the dropping of branches or tree tops; and (4) who—smaller trees that can be cut to fall in a specified direction could be handled by Sanctuary volunteers, but more dangerous falling situations should be performed by professional arborists.

Details about using the Square Terminal to transact credit and debit card sales were presented by office manager Carol Lefevre at the October 16, 2019, Board meeting. The device was on sale for \$299 (a \$200 savings), with no annual fees. Credit card transactions would be charged 2.65% and debit cards a flat fee of \$0.10; Carol suggested a small surcharge to customers to cover the credit card fee. Signfast Signs recommended budgeting \$25 per sign for 1/8" alupanel with a clear protective laminate finish for trail map signage. Alupanel signs consist of a polyethylene core sandwiched between two co-extruded prefinished aluminum sheets. The washroom in the Woods Room was painted and another sink installed to replace the previous fixture. With regard to the leaking hot water tank located in the bathroom, a quote of \$1366.32 was received from Archie Johnstone Plumbing and Heating. This estimate was considered quite high and other options would be explored.

The Board continued a discussion regarding directors' liability and the idea of adding a provision in the Society's by-laws to the effect that Board members acting honestly and in good faith were not personally liable for anything done or omitted in the performance of their duties. The Societies Act stated that directors must act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the society, but also that nothing in a contract or the by-laws of a society relieved a director from (a) the duty to act in accordance with the Act and the regulations, or (b) liability that, by any

enactment or rule of law or equity, would otherwise attach to the director in respect of negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which the director may be guilty in relation to the society. Division 5 of the Act regarding directors' liability was primarily concerned with money or other property rather than any liability due to personal injury suffered by Sanctuary volunteers or visitors, for which insurance coverage had been obtained.

Shawn Lukas, West Coast Conservation Land Coordinator for the Nature Trust, talked briefly about using the Morrell Sanctuary as a nature site in support of research projects and educational exercises by students enrolled in Vancouver Island University's Resource Management program. Class sizes ranged from 12-13 students, with field work occurring over a period of five weeks starting in October. Shawn noted some concerns about combining field research and public use within the same area, particularly with respect to the potential loss of expensive equipment such as wildlife cameras. It was expected that apparatus would be set up in areas off the public trails and concealed from public view. A major benefit to the Morrell Sanctuary Society would be the sharing of VIU research findings with the Society.

Shawn also provided an update to the directors on the Powerline Dam at Morrell Lake, with Hitomi Kimura from Vancouver Island University joining the discussion where it impacted her western toad studies at the lake. Shawn outlined the Nature Trust's strategy of contesting the high risk rating assigned to the Powerline dam last year by John Baldwin, provincial dam safety inspector. He explained a requirement for a dam safety audit by December 31 of this year, with an estimated cost of \$80,000 for an independent engineering assessment of the dam. This was not a feasible option for the Nature Trust, so the plan proposed was to undertake mitigation solutions that would result in a lowering of the hazard rating back to significant rather than high. Measures currently implemented included the installation of a log boom along the south dam to reduce erosion from wave action, signs to discourage pedestrian traffic over the dam, and monthly inspections. Elevation surveys were also conducted to determine the predicted flow of water from the dam through the wetland below the dam; these surveys indicated that water flowed toward Department of National Defence land rather than Nanaimo Lakes Road. Shawn noted that BC Hydro was committed



Powerline Dam at Morrell Lake with log boom

to working with the Nature Trust by installing culverts on Hydro land to direct water flow away from residential areas. These data would be presented to John Baldwin at a meeting scheduled for November 5 with hopes of convincing him to lower the hazard rating. The two north dams did not hold water back, but were helpful in preventing any potential migration of invasive fish species from Westwood Lake. Hitomi expressed concerns about the timing of culvert construction in October while the western toads were hibernating, and Shawn agreed to take this into consideration.

In November 2019, the Board authorized Josef Baur to purchase and set up a new hot water tank in the Woods Room at a cost of approximately \$400, saving the Society an estimated \$1,000 based on a quote from a private firm. As well, two new Venetian blinds were purchased from Home Depot and installed in the office. A Square Terminal was acquired, giving the Society the ability to process credit and debit card transactions. An application for a memorial bench was received from Timothy Hurt for George and Hilda Costuros, with a request to position it across from an existing bench on the wooden platform beside the Yew Loop trail.

The Board continued to debate the suggestion of adding a directors' liability provision to the Society's by-laws. It was pointed out that if directors were unaware of a potential risk, they were generally not found liable in court cases; however, if aware of a particular risk and no corrective action was taken to remove or reduce the risk, there may be liability associated with negligence. With respect to handling danger trees, it was argued that weekly trail maintenance activities demonstrated the commitment that the Board exercised toward reducing risks to volunteers and visitors, and this in itself was a strong defense against any liability claims. In the interests of transparency, it was decided that a provision be added to the by-laws at the 2020 Annual General Meeting declaring that Board members acting honestly and in good faith were not personally liable for anything done or omitted in the performance of their duties for the Society.

At the December 18, 2019, Board meeting it was reported that a Gaming grant application submitted in August was approved and a sum of \$9,500 would be placed in the Society's Gaming account shortly. It was recommended that this money should be spent by 30 June, 2020. It was announced that the Harbour City Bingo Society would cease to exist in 2021, but in order to continue paying off a loan to HCB Inc. from the HCB Society, no dividend would be paid to shareholders in 2020. However, after dissolution of the HCB Society in 2021-22, the shareholders should expect to receive a large payout or dividend, possibly over \$10,000 each. The Fall nature programs ended with a total of 18 classes, and the Spring programs were almost fully booked. More learning circle seats were created from fallen logs salvaged from the forest by the trail maintenance team, water culverts on the Maple trail and elsewhere were cleared, as well as bridges and boardwalks. The memorial bench for George and Hilda Costuros was approved by the Board and work started on constructing it. Timothy Hurt paid \$500 for the bench, and a further \$500 donation was received from Advantage Oil & Gas, a company in Alberta, to support the bench.

Parking difficulties were experienced with the Nanaimo Day Hiking group, including a confrontation with one hiker in particular. Office manager Carol Lefevre contacted the coordinator of the hiking group and requested that such large groups park along Nanaimo Lakes Road instead of the small Morrell Sanctuary parking lot and the coordinator agreed with her request. Chris Semrick offered the Society several taxidermy specimens, including a pine marten, a sharp-shinned hawk, and a sparrow hawk or "kestrel," but the lack of suitable space to display these items precluded acceptance of the offer. It was agreed that the specimens were not really needed at the Sanctuary and perhaps were better suited for donation to the Vancouver Island University Museum of Natural History.

Some terms of reference for the Sign Committee were presented to define the scope of the committee and what it hoped to accomplish. The main goal of the committee was to make it easier for first-time visitors and infrequent users to find their way around the Sanctuary with the aid of trail maps, trail markers, and trail signs. Three terms of reference were specified: (1) to design and install permanent trail maps at selected intersections throughout the Morrell Nature Sanctuary, (2) to mark selected trails with special geometric symbols (e.g., coloured or uncoloured circles, squares, triangles) to guide hikers around specific routes (e.g., recommended first hike), and (3) to regularly monitor the existing signage throughout the Sanctuary and repair, replace, remove, or create new signs where appropriate.

An instance was related where ashes were spread around a memorial bench on the Yew Loop. The Board discussed the impact this might have on the general public using the Sanctuary trails. While agreeing that visible ashes on or near trails were not particularly sightly or appropriate, it was determined that it would be difficult to regulate such actions. It was also decided that signs prohibiting such actions were not really a good option. Discrete spreading of ashes off the trails were generally thought to be acceptable.



A BC Gaming Grant of \$9,553.96 was received in January 2020. Josef Buar displayed a new trail sign with a protective roof that would serve as a template for future trail signs. A revised system for managing key assignments for volunteers was introduced by the office manager, Carol Lefvre. Bob Harvey reported in February that 45 classes had been booked for the Spring programs. Considering the total of 64 classes booked from September 2019 through to June 2020, this represented an estimated income of \$3,300 derived from educational programs. Eight new trail signs were installed, four on posts and four on trees, with seven more signs yet to be put up. Dan Haslam circulated a spreadsheet detailing the location of signs and maps (proposed and existing) within the Sanctuary, with the intention of creating an accurate map based on GPS coordinates and utilizing the OpenStreetMap database. He edited the OpenStreetMap database to correct errors currently present in the system, but at the moment was prevented from deleting some erroneous data. Dan pointed out that the cost of \$25/sign quoted by Signfast Signs applied whether it was for multiple copies of the same sign or a single copy each of several different signs. There was some uncertainty about how the “flow diffusers” planned by Shawn Lukas for dam water control would affect the Seniors trail and its representation on the trail map. These “diffusers” would consist of large boulders at one end of a natural depression near the Seniors trail that would block and impound any uncontrolled overflow from the dam and slowly release or diffuse the water into an existing stream.

The responsibility for preparing new memorial benches was passed from Patrick Ansell and Derek Gaye to Josef Baur and Lance Nordstrom, who completed assembly of the latest bench and installed it on the Yew Loop trail. Concern was expressed about ongoing maintenance and repair of these benches, in particular the lakeside bench for Olive Roberge which was need of some upkeep. The question was raised if the \$500 paid for a bench was limited to a certain period of time (e.g., 10 or 20 years)? The general consensus was that there was no specified time limit for the benches or accompanying plaques; however, since the Society’s lease extended for 99 years from 1985 and with 64 years remaining, this may serve as a limit subject to renewal of the lease. It was determined that the Board was responsible for ensuring the benches were safe for visitors, and that a regular maintenance schedule should be established along with recommended procedures. It was further decided that a particular bench could have more than one plaque, if the parties involved agree. An animated discussion ensued about dogs off leash in the Sanctuary and what could realistically be done to curb this behaviour. It was determined that there was not much that could actually be done in terms of enforcement, particularly when dealing with aggressive or uncooperative owners. The best approach appeared to be an “educational” one that explained to the owner why the policy was established, such as to protect vegetation bordering the trails and protecting other visitors and leashed dogs from uncontrolled animals.

In March 2020, treasurer Val Booth reported that the Society's finances were in good order, with net income of \$9,072.55 for the period 01/07/19 to 29/02/20. However, there was some uncertainty about the future given: (1) plans to cancel the annual plant sale and (2) reduced revenue from interpretive programs due to school closures, both as a result of COVID-19 protective measures. She indicated the need for a “holly removal blitz” involving all trail maintenance volunteers to help clear this and other invasive species from the Sanctuary. Office manager Carol Lefevre posted a revised Summer Camp registration form on the website that included a \$5 registration fee which would be treated as a deposit and deducted from the final charge after actual attendance in the camp; this was intended to curtail the number of people who registered for free, but then failed to show up at camp.

Dan Haslam noted that he applied GPS technology to accurately represent the Sanctuary’s revamped trail map. He suggested a larger map sign than usual, about 12 inches square, to include additional information along with the map. Dan also presented a sample brochure which included the trail map as well as general information about the Sanctuary. Two trails were due for name changes: some elderly hikers complained that the Seniors trail was not

really designed for seniors and the Lookout trail was misnamed because the lookout no longer existed. It was decided to advertise a "trail naming" contest to Morrell Sanctuary Society members for these two trails.

Dan Haslam described a number of technological improvements for the office and Woods Room: (1) he could set up better WiFi reception for the Woods Room, which would enable summer camp coordinators to conduct business in the Woods Room rather than the office; (2) he suggested a guest account that would ensure office use of the network was not compromised or insecure; (3) office file backups should be performed on a hard drive or removable USB drive that could be stored in the office safe or on the Cloud; and (4) although the office computer had good software already installed, he recommended obtaining access to the free version of "Office 365 for Nonprofits" and downloading Microsoft OneNote for free. Josef Baur walked the Yew Loop with two Nanaimo Parks and Recreation employees to determine what could be done to improve the trail for wheelchair access. In general, they found that the Yew Loop was in good shape but identified a few areas that could be upgraded.

As a precaution, the April 2020 Board meeting was cancelled because of the COVID pandemic, but the directors met again on May 20 where Val reported that the Credit Union was closed temporarily due to the pandemic; however, she was able to deposit cheques through the automated teller machine or ATM. She also recommended, and the Board approved, that the office manager's wage be increased to \$18/hour. The annual budget did not include a BC Gaming Grant given uncertainty about the availability of this award on account of the pandemic; however, the current grant provided funding until October 2020. Trail maintenance was suspended for seven weeks as a result of COVID restrictions, but resumed May 14 with the removal of invasive holly. The Seniors trail was renamed the Deer Fern trail because of the profusion of deer ferns along the trail, and the old Lookout trail was renamed Vi's Walk in honour of Viola Savage; new signs were put up to mark these relabeled trails. Josef Baur outlined the costs associated with the proposed Yew Loop Improvement Project. He pointed out the difficulty experienced trying to obtain contractor access to the Yew Loop trail through neighbouring Willow Park, noting that the only other alternative would result in heavy loads on the wooden bridge.

As a result of COVID restrictions, the parking lot had been closed to visitors in April and early May, but with a gradual easing of these precautionary restrictions by the provincial government, the Board decided to re-open the parking lot to visitors. After considerable discussion, it was determined that it was not feasible to hold a Summer Camp in 2020 given the continuing uncertainty and health risks surrounding group activities and the difficulty in hiring camp coordinators at such a late date. Some of the protocols proposed by WorkSafeBC with respect to the re-opening of parks and outdoor recreation centres were reviewed. The Society was complying with most of these guidelines, specifically: (1) social distancing of volunteers and Sanctuary visitors, including the posting of signs, (2) maintaining public facilities such as restrooms, including provision of hand sanitizers, (3) limiting public events and large gatherings, (4) cleaning shared tools, (5) limiting public access to the office and limiting the handling of cash and credit cards, (6) meeting in small groups in large spaces or outside, and (7) spacing out picnic tables and limiting occupancy.

In June 2020, a federal COVID wage subsidy for \$783 was received and another \$500 subsidy was applied for. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) provided savings to employers by dispensing a subsidy equal to 75% of employee wages on the first \$58,700 per employee, up to a maximum of \$847 per week. The Canada Summer Jobs grant application was declined as expected. Trail maintenance volunteers removed holly and broom from parts of the Sanctuary, with the holly transported to the dump and the broom left onsite. Some graffiti was removed from the outhouse and neighbouring benches at Morrell lake, and some broken signs were retrieved. The spillway at the dam was also defaced with graffiti. Shawn Lukas at the Nature Trust was advised that July and August would be good times to work on the "diffuser project" to control overflow from the dam since Summer Camp was cancelled due to

COVID-19. Painting the Woods Room kitchen was postponed due to COVID-19 and it was decided to cancel the volunteer lunch in June. A request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society to rent the Woods Room for their summer camp was declined because the Society's own summer camp had been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The need for an annual plan was considered by the Board; in general, there was little interest in developing a formal plan because the usual approach to creating the annual budget appeared to work satisfactorily. However, given that regular sources of income were limited in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was suggested that the focus be on low-cost projects such as invasive plant removal and the cleaning and repair of existing signs and memorial benches, particularly those around the popular Yew Loop. Dan Haslam reported that Ethernet cabling was installed in the office and Woods Room on June 16, and he expected the wireless network connecting the two buildings would be in place within a week. The system would be secure, with a guest account set up to control access.

Patricia Ansell resigned as president because of a pending move to Ontario and vice-president Harry Adcock agreed to serve as acting president until a new president was elected at the September 26 Annual General Meeting. Sadly, Patricia's husband, Patrick Ansell, a valued member of the Society with more than 20 years of service, passed away during the Fall of 2020. The electronic gate had been closing too early, causing one Sanctuary visitor to become locked in. A technician was called in to service the gate and configure it to close at 9:30 pm. Hitomi Kimura reported in the Fall 2020 newsletter that over 250 western toads returned to the breeding site at Morrell Lake between March 31 and April 17, one of the largest number of toads counted and one of the longest breeding seasons in the past 10 years. Warm weather and water temperatures in early Spring accelerated egg development and the estimated number of toadlets metamorphosed this year was approximately 2,500.

In September 2020, attention was drawn to the significant decline in revenue resulting from cancellation of summer camp in July and August. Fifteen students from Navigate Compass Nanaimo were booked for a 2-hour interpretive program on October 21. The students would be divided into two groups of 7-8 kids apiece. Bob Harvey recommended purchasing face shields/protectors from Midland Tools at \$5 each for the volunteer interpreters as a health measure. Bobby Horton, suffering from Stage 4 cancer, purchased a memorial bench and a lifetime membership, and intended to donate a portion of his estate to the Morrell Sanctuary. It was decided to place Bobby's bench on the Ducks Deck at the Beaver Pond. Dan Haslam reported that the revised trail maps were in the process of being printed on ½" aluminum panels. Twenty-two locations were identified for installing the map signs.

A grant application to BC Rehab for the Yew Loop Improvement Project was turned down, but volunteers had a good idea of what was needed to improve the trail and how much it would cost. It was suggested that specific sections of the trail be identified as priorities for repair that could be undertaken by volunteers with rented equipment at lower cost. Drainage and grading were essential, otherwise gravel deposited on the trails would simply wash away in heavy rains. The trail must be built up rather than cutting roots and damaging trees next to the trail.

Concern was expressed that directors might be trying to waive liability with the addition of a new by-law. It was recognized that directors could be sued by anyone at anytime, and would not necessarily be protected by the by-law or the Societies Act if found to be guilty of negligence, breach of duty, or breach of trust. However, it was generally decided that it would not hurt to have the statement regarding directors liability added to the by-laws. Subsequently, at the September 26, 2020, Annual General Meeting, Acting President Harry Adcock introduced a special resolution to add the following to the by-laws of the Morrell Sanctuary Society under Part 5—Directors and Officers: "26(3) A director who acts honestly and in good faith is not personally liable because of anything done or omitted in the exercise or intended exercise of any power or the performance or intended performance of any duty of the Morrell Sanctuary Society in accord with sections 53, 59 and 60 of the Societies Act."



Boulders put down as "diffusers" to control water flow in the event of failure of the Morrell Lake dam (2021)



Following up on the Nature Trust's responsibility for the Powerline Dam at Morrell Lake, Shawn Lukas presented a brief historical overview of the dam and measures undertaken to improve its safety on November 18. Dam Safety Officer Dave Scarbo had designated the dam as "high risk," but the risk was lowered with the Nature Trust's remediation efforts, including the placement of large boulders at a strategic location downstream to act as "diffusers" to block and pond any overflow from the dam.

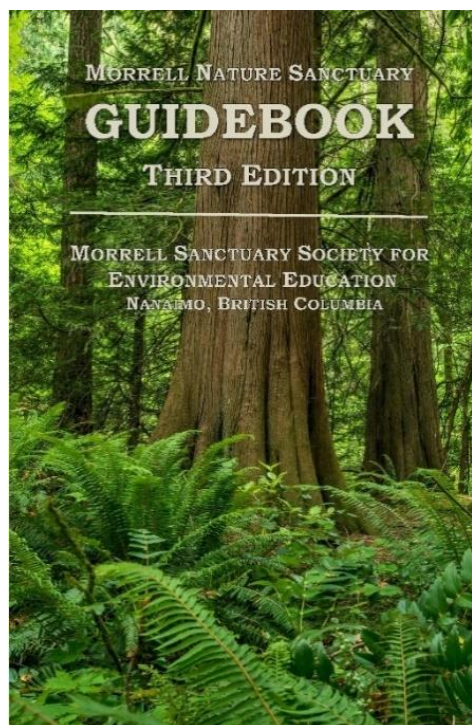
The pandemic continued to affect Sanctuary operations in 2021, but in January three classes were booked for school programs in April and May. The trail maintenance crew continued to remove holly and ivy, and installed stiles at the north and south ends of the Lower Lake trail. Some initial funding was secured from the Coastal Credit Union for the Yew Loop Improvement Project (YLIP). The original proposal was based on a \$7000 budget, excluding an additional \$3000 in estimated volunteer labour, so the project needed to be scaled down to a \$3000 budget for materials and equipment. The previous bookkeeper, Elaine, resigned and a new bookkeeper, Emily Rose, was hired.

The February 2021 Board meeting was cancelled, but the Board re-convened March 17 through a conference call. Regarding the Gaming grant, the Society was unable to apply because of a favourable financial balance and because there were no grants offered in 2021 due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Six school programs were booked for April and another five in May, but there was difficulty finding interpreters because COVID. Of the 200 copies of the second edition of the guidebook printed, 40 still remained for sale in March. The Board again considered the issue of memorial benches in the Sanctuary, including appropriate locations. Other concerns raised covered the lifetime of benches and replacement (wood or plastic), that the \$500 donation did not cover the lifetime expense of a bench, and the option of a central outdoor area for memorials. An optimum 20-year lifetime for benches was proposed. The idea of a Volunteer Memorial Bench discussed earlier in October 2020 was still outstanding business; it would be placed in front of the Woods Room as a memorial honouring past members. The matter was of some direct relevance with the recent death of Harry Adcock, who had served as Vice-President and Acting President in 2020.

Financial support for the Yew Loop project continued to be a problem. About \$10,000 was estimated for materials, but only \$3,000 had been contributed to-date in grant money. It was pointed out that the plan must consider a timeline of sub-projects, whether the trail needed guard rails and for what parts, building a consensus about what materials were required, respecting and meeting the funders' agreements with the Society, and the need for a new itemized budget. At the same time, Dan Haslam was preparing a draft report on parking options, including a requirement for



handicapped parking. In April 2021, members of the Board's Yew Loop Improvement Committee met with two different contractors who were interested in assisting with the project. One contractor said he would contact other suppliers for donations of time or materials. Meanwhile, Carol Lefevre's fund-raising initiative appealing to Sanctuary visitors and the Nanaimo community was proving quite successful, with \$3,000 procured in Go Fund Me "crowd funding" by mid-May 2021. Also in May, the outhouse and gazebo at Morrell Lake were cleaned of graffiti and the gazebo walls were repainted. As well, stiles controlling access to Sanctuary trails were painted. The last twenty-two copies of the Guidebook's second edition remained to be sold. Another Summers Jobs grant was approved and two people were hired for Summer Camp. Sawmill Direct donated boards for new guard rails on the Yew Loop. The Nanaimo Foundation also contributed \$4,500. Dan Haslam was finding it difficult to attain reliable usage statistics for parking at the Morrell Sanctuary, but he proposed one strategy for increasing capacity that would involve utilizing space along Nanaimo Lakes Road and Dogwood Road.



At the June 16, 2021, Board meeting, treasurer Val Booth indicated it wasn't necessary to transfer any money from the Legacy Fund to the operating account, so she recommended that these funds be put into Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) for 2-3 years to earn better interest rates. Liquidation of Harbour City Bingo was taking longer than expected, but the Society's dividend share of \$26,593 was deposited in a high interest saving account on June 9th. Bob Harvey commented that finding interpreters was difficult and outreach efforts to recruit interpreters had not been successful. Carol Lefevre offered to advertise on Facebook, the Sanctuary's website, and with Volunteer Nanaimo. The price of programs was increased by \$5 except for pre-schoolers, but the fees were still very low. Carol noted that only 18 Guidebooks were left for sale, but a new third edition was ready for printing and would be available later that summer. With respect to parking, it was recommended the focus should be on painting lines for stalls to optimize use of the existing lot. In addition, a decision was made to create a pedestrian trail from Nanaimo Lakes Road up to the parking lot for those visitors leaving their vehicles along Nanaimo Lakes Road. The Board also decided to increase the office manager's salary from \$18/hour to \$20/hour effective June 20, 2021. A new

boardwalk was constructed on the Rocky Knoll trail during the summer in memory of Pentti Tikkanen. Pentti's wife, Janet Rowley, wrote "We enjoyed so many days there throughout the seasons walking along the trails. Stresses of daily life and work just melted away ... I have so much gratitude for the memories shared at this place, and for the people that contribute to protecting it and made this memorial possible."

In September 2021, Bob Harvey reported that three programs were scheduled for October but he lacked volunteer guides. Another six programs had been pre-booked for the Spring. In addition to the usual trail maintenance activities, grass and other wetland plants were removed around the viewing decks at the Beaver Pond. The Summer Camp was successful, with 123 children filling 649 spots. The price was increased from \$30 to \$40, earning approximately \$25,000 in revenue. Options were discussed for managing the major invasive plant species at the Sanctuary, specifically holly, daphne, and broom. Broom continued to grow even after being cut down. One suggestion involved using 10% weed killer in solution poured into holes drilled in the stump. This targeted measure would contain the potential spread of pesticides into the environment, but exert a more direct impact on the weeds.

Hazelwood Construction stepped forward to help with the Yew Loop Improvement Project. Since access to the Yew Loop was denied by Willow Park, this involved strengthening the Yew Loop bridge to support the heavy machinery used to transport gravel from the road to the trail. Work on the project commenced September 16th. Bob Harvey observed in October 2021 that things were working out for the educational programs, and teachers seemed pleased with the school tours. Many bookings for April and May were already being scheduled. As well, new interpreters responded to the advertisements, including some young people.

The Yew Loop trail restoration project was finally completed in September with the support of many generous donors, including Hazelwood Construction, Sawmill Direct, Xtend Rentals, Coastal Trucking, Island Aggregates, Herald Engineering, Coastal Community Credit Union, and the Stanley de Vos Fund through the Nanaimo Foundation. Regarding improved ventilation for the Woods Room, three different quotes were presented with various features and prices. The least expensive option was tentatively selected since the higher cost options were hard to justify given the limited use of the Woods Room.

In November 2021, Bob Harvey communicated a directive from a School District 68 transportation official stating that school buses may have difficulty navigating the Fire Lane to Morrell Lake. Bob arranged to have the officer visit the Sanctuary and examine the road with him. Volunteers trimmed roadside trees to accommodate the height of the buses. In addition, a new sandwich board sign was created to warn visitors of potential traffic, "School Program in Process. Caution: Vehicles May be on the Road." Customized magnetic signs were acquired to attach to volunteers' cars temporarily when collecting garbage at the lake or transporting materials and volunteers, identifying them as authorized vehicles in the Sanctuary. The outside door leading into the Woods Room kitchen was deteriorating and the condition of the threshold needed assessment. The Woods Room ventilation problems were discussed further, with different options for remediation. However, a decision was tabled until the next meeting. COVID restrictions were still in effect and the Board reflected on how these restrictions applied to business and the Society's obligation to post a "mask required" sign on the office door. This was of special significance for the office manager who was the main point of public contact and thus the person most exposed to the virus. On the other hand, privacy legislation needed to be respected.



The Yew Loop Trail Improvement Project (2021)



Josef Baur, president (2022-present) with new sign recognizing the help provided by Hazelwood Construction and partners for the Yew Loop Project





At the December 2021 Board meeting Bob Harvey reported that Fall school programs were cancelled because of gas rationing. One school re-booked for early March 2022. Bob pointed out that the nature interpreters were aging and there was a need to train new ones. The trail maintenance crew installed posts and guard rails on the Yew Loop trail, removed a fallen tree on the Deer Fern trail, replaced a broken bird feeder on the Tranquility trail, and transplanted four young Grand Firs in the Sanctuary. The newly constructed footpath leading into the Sanctuary from Nanaimo Lakes Road was named the Sanctuary trail.

A heavy snowfall in January 2022 resulted in trail maintenance being cancelled for two weeks. The parking lot was shovelled, salted, and sanded. The snow brought down trees on Tranquility trail and elsewhere in the Sanctuary. The Board discussed snow removal difficulties and protocols when it became inconvenient or dangerous to monitor the trails and buildings during severe weather conditions. Also, the issue of Sanctuary closures under such conditions was discussed at the January 19 Board meeting. The snow removal contract in place was expensive and the operator's equipment was not capable of removing heavy snow.

In February 2022, fallen and broken trees were taken down, invasive plants pulled, a damaged eavestrough on the Woods Room was fixed, the driveway swept, ditches drained, the office roof cleared, and guard rails installed on the Yew Loop. At the February 17 Board meeting, Dan Haslam presented recommendations concerning the best use of the parking lot, including one 12' handicapped space with room for a future second slot, seven 9' stalls for small cars, ten 10' spots for larger vehicles, and one stall near the office designated for Sanctuary staff. Regarding weed control options, the use of glyphosate (Roundup) for holly was considered. It was thought the herbicide could be applied responsibly by dripping it into holes drilled in the stumps and plugging the holes with cork stoppers to prevent leakage into the surrounding environment. Further, it was pointed out that glyphosate was not persistent and became nontoxic after 14 days.



Sanctuary Office and Parking Lot (Winter 2021-22)

In March 2022, it was reported that the threshold on the outside door of the Woods Room needed repair. As well, there were still ventilation issues to address before Summer Camp commenced in June. A decision was made to paint lines in the main parking lot as soon as the weather improved. Additionally, it was proposed that the angled overflow parking area should be upgraded by spreading and levelling the gravel piled nearby. New signage was required at the entrance to the Alder trail off the Fire Lane to direct cyclists toward Westward Lake. The Alder trail was the only trail in the Sanctuary where bicycles were permitted apart from the Fire Lane and Hydro Road. The use of motorbikes, however, was prohibited in the Sanctuary. Biologist Hitomi Kimura managed the reduce the bullfrog population at Morrell Lake with the aid of students from Vancouver Island University. Hitomi was granted night access to the Sanctuary for a specified period to conduct her bullfrog control program, which was intended to diminish predation on the vulnerable western toads breeding in the lake.

By April 20, 2022, the Spring programs were fully booked from May to mid-June. Pond-Dippers was the most popular program. Over 50 painted rocks scattered throughout the forest, mostly around the Yew Loop, were removed because they detracted from the natural environment of the Sanctuary. Dan Haslam and Josef Baur investigated heating/venting options for the Woods Room and were given approval to spend up to \$4000 on the project. Seven people showed up to pull weeds on Sunday afternoon, April 24, in an area bordering Dogwood Drive. A question was raised about placing a memorial bench at the north end of the Morrell Lake. However, this would need approval from Nature Trust and provincial dam inspectors and was considered unlikely.

At the May 18, 2022, Board meeting, treasurer Val Booth noted receipt of a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of longtime member, Harry Adcock. Bob Harvey remarked that the Spring sessions were not fully attended due to COVID and that fees had been increased \$5 with no issues. Two dangerous trees on the Rocky Knoll Trail and behind the Willow Park homes were felled by trail maintenance volunteers. Seventy-four children had been signed up for Summer Camp by mid-May, and Mark Fawdry and Carol Lefevre were busy interviewing candidates, with two hired and more interviews pending. Three people would be trained in office duties and as leaders so that at least one of them would be qualified to assume Mark's position next year. Unfortunately, there were some problems attracting good candidates at a wage of \$18.50/hour. Three heat exchangers were ordered for the Woods Room in May, with Dan Haslam and Josef Baur installing the units by the end of June. The cost was \$2,926 with taxes and an electrician would be hired to make the final connections. Trail maintenance was cancelled on May 19 due to strong winds, but volunteers made up for that time in subsequent days.

Volunteer David Fisher began planting Pacific yew seedlings along the Yew Loop trail in June 2022. Ventilation work in the Woods Room was proceeding on schedule, with holes drilled through the exterior wall and electrical wires pulled through the attic by June 15. Parking problems persisted with large motorhomes and Dan Haslam volunteered to prepare a new sign prohibiting the parking of recreational vehicles and trailers in the Sanctuary's lot. Sadly, long-time volunteer Karin Maley passed away on June 26, 2022.

Researchers Scott Wilson (University of BC), Amy Wilson (University of BC), and Linda Brooymans (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) surveyed bats at two sites in the Morrell Nature Sanctuary between July 11 and July 13, 2022. One site was situated on the north side of Morrell Lake and the other a meadow bluff located near the Alder Trail. Between the two sites they observed five species (Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, California Myotis, Little Brown Myotis) with four species observed at Morrell Lake and three at the meadow bluff.

The 2022 summer camp ran for eight weeks and three days in July and August, filling 901 spots with 148 children. This was an increase of almost 300 spots and likely the result of changing the maximum number of campers per day from 20 to 25. The three leaders, Lachlann Glennie, Maggie Acorn, and Kim Jager, developed positive relationships with the campers and provided the following thoughts for next year: (1) an experienced nature interpreter to meet the campers and conduct a guest lesson once or twice during the summer; (2) easier access to registration information through an online platform; and (3) an updated webpage describing a typical day at summer camp. Parents suggested adding both e-transfer and credit cards as payment methods.

Summer camp income was over \$31,000. Treasurer Booth Val remarked that the reported monthly net income of \$30,746.53 for September 2022 was the best that she could recall. Several large donations regarding estate bequests and for gate replacement were received in September. Carol Lefevre reported that interpreter training had shifted and was taking a new direction, with the actual demonstration of programs to new guides. Role playing was introduced into training so that novice interpreters would have some practical experience before leading classes. Some restrictions on school bus use resulted in two classes arriving per bus; the large number of students were



divided into four groups, requiring four interpreters. Trail maintenance volunteers tackled broom on the Rocky Knoll and Fire Lane, holly at several locations in the forest, and daphne behind Vi's cottage. Four gnome homes on the Yew Loop were refurbished by Charlie Pickard. Concerns were expressed about the retention of water in the Beaver Pond, pointing out the importance of this site for the Pond Dippers program. The need to set up E-transfers into the Morrell bank account was emphasized and treasurer Val Booth assented to setting this up with the Coastal Community Credit Union.

A donation of \$12,000 was received from the Stanley's through their charitable foundation for replacing the electric gate at the entrance to the Sanctuary, which was severely damaged in late September when a visitor trapped behind the gate after hours drove his truck through the barrier to exit the Sanctuary. The Society's insurance broker advised that a claim would increase rates 10% for the following two or three years, so the Board decided there was no need to proceed with a claim since a \$12,000 donation specifically intended for gate repair or replacement had been received. Dan Haslam described a gate option from a Courtenay firm that consisted of a barrier arm that automatically opened and closed at specified times; the quote was \$5,000, including installation. The arm could be manually operated with a keypad and also connected to sensors that permitted vehicles trapped after hours to exit without the need to call for help or risk damage to the gate by forced egress. Replacing the original gate would cost about \$12,000, while repairs could be made by Island Overhead for \$6,000 (plus \$125 for keyless entry plus \$400 for a ground loop to permit exit after hours). The Board decided in favour of a new gate with exit options to avoid damage, inexpensive repair if necessary, and after-hours access for emergency vehicles.



Automatic sliding gate at Sanctuary entrance damaged by truck exiting after hours (2022)

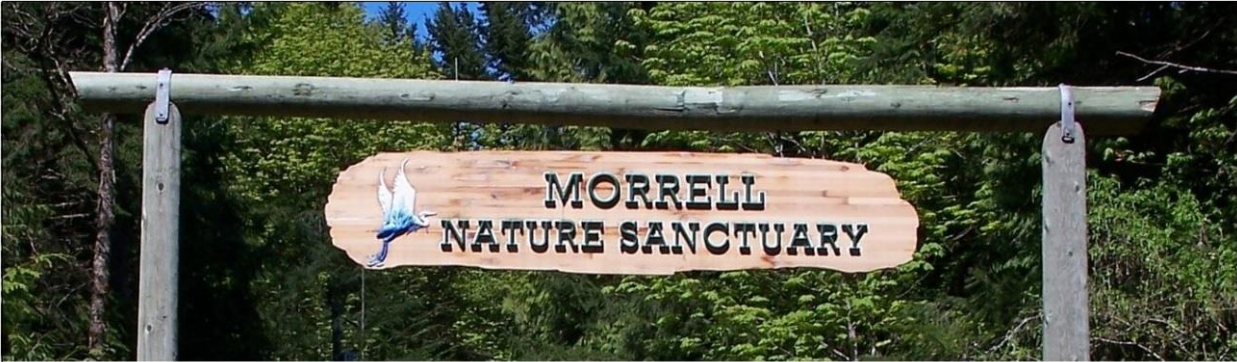


New barrier arm gate (2022)

In November 2022, office manager Carol Lefevre inquired if she should apply for a second grant from the Stanley's charitable foundation to cover costs of proposed improvements, such as wiring the outhouse near the parking lot for electricity, replacing the toilets in both outhouses, and redesigning the website. Director Gill Ross put forward the idea of installing a clear plastic roof on the lakeside outhouse for improved natural lighting. Other suggestions included security lighting and upgrades to the Alder trail. While recognizing the November 30 deadline, it was decided to give this a bit more thought before submitting an application. Several memorial benches were removed for maintenance and three were re-installed. A few trees came down at the beginning of the month due to strong winds, but those found were removed from the trails. Dan Haslam announced that an installation date of Friday, November 25, had been determined for the new UFO automatic traffic barrier arm gate from Innova Doors in Courtenay. He also recommended including security cameras and lighting as part of this project. Director Jay Panchal described his vision of a revamped website, designed to attract younger visitors to the Sanctuary. He noted that websites were often the first access point for many people and suggested using the existing platform with Weebly, but making the site more elegant and navigable.

Carol Lefevre reported in December 2022 that the Society had 139 memberships and 236 members. She also noted the usefulness of PayPal for renewing memberships and receiving donations. A letter of intent requesting additional funds from the Stanley's foundation was submitted. The letter outlined three separate projects that varied in the amount of money required: Alder trail upgrade (\$20,000), heat pump (\$10,000), and website redesign (\$3,000-\$4,000). The December 10 Christmas Pot Luck party was very successful, with good attendance by volunteers. Snow, ice and debris around the office and Woods Room were removed manually, then Kool Kat Excavating did a terrific job clearing the driveway and parking lots. Some invasive plants were removed, but snowfall hampered efforts somewhat. Given the inordinate amount of time spent on removing invasive species, President Josef Baur posed the question of how much effort should be expended on weed control versus other projects needing work.

Dan Haslam announced that the new electric gate had been installed and was operational, including a sensor permitting vehicles trapped after hours to exit the Sanctuary grounds. Police, Fire, and Ambulance personnel would be provided with instructions on opening the gate after hours if necessary for an emergency. Dan and Jay Panchal summarized the results of their initial assessment of the Sanctuary's website. They recommended retaining the domain name [<http://www.morrellnaturesanctuary.ca/>] and pointed out the website could remain with the current host (Weebly) or be transferred to another host, such as WordPress. In any case, they recommended rebuilding the website from scratch. They proposed using Windows 365 to increase functionality, including cloud storage and SharePoint's web-based collaborative platform for "intranet" support. Different levels of security could be applied to control access to specific data used by Board members, interpreters, and Society members.



**Welcome to the  
Morrell Nature Sanctuary**

*The gates to the Sanctuary are open daily from 7:00am-9:00pm*

The Morrell office is open:

- Sunday 10:00-1:00
- Monday 9:30 - 12:30
- Wednesday 10:00 - 1:00
- Thursday 9:30 - 12:30
- Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: Closed

*Hours may fluctuate so please call ahead.*

The Morrell Nature Sanctuary is owned by the [Nature Trust of British Columbia](#). It is leased and managed by the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education. Please stay on the marked trails during your visit. All dogs must be leashed. Thank you for your support!

[View or download a map](#) of the MNS!

Facsimile of Morrell Sanctuary website from the Wayback Machine (2022)

At the January 18, 2023, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth noted that out of \$1,766 received in donations and memberships, only \$425 was received in cash or cheques, indicating the popularity of CanadaHelps, Paypal and Square Terminal for financial transactions. A CanadaHelps donation button was added to the Morrell website since some people preferred to donate through this organization, whose mission was to connect donors and charities.

Carol Lefevre reported that the new format for interpreter training, in which a specific lesson plan or program was demonstrated for the new interpreters, was working quite well. Bob Harvey gave a presentation about the Morrell Nature Sanctuary to a local ProBus group in Nanaimo. Ice and snow were removed from bridges, boardwalks and decks by the trail maintenance crew, deteriorating steps on the Upper Lake trail were dismantled, and two new signs were installed at the main entrance denoting Sanctuary hours and barring large recreational vehicles from entering the parking lot. Dan Haslam purchased a new combination padlock for the green gate by the parking lot, as well as a new router for the wifi link between the office and Woods Room. Installation of the new electronic gate was completed and the final invoice was received as quoted by the supplier. Dan recommended more security at the gate, specifically a camera and lights. Jay Panchal outlined progress on developing a new website for the Sanctuary. He recommended using the WiX website builder and hosting platform and retiring the Weebly site. Before taking over administration of the Morrell Nature Sanctuary website, funding for development should be secured and ownership of the domain name must be transferred from John Anderson's possession to the Morrell Sanctuary Society.

Following up on earlier concerns about the Beaver Pond drying up during summer droughts, one option presented by Josef Baur was to pipe water from Morrell Lake to the pond. Simon Ferguson, a Field Operations Coordinator for the Nature Trust, requested more details about the proposed plan to divert water from the lake to the Beaver Pond. In particular, Simon was curious about the location of the pond, how much water was required, and how it would be moved. Josef noted that the pond was about 200 metres away from the lake, at a lower elevation. The withdrawal of about 4 acre feet from the 100 acre foot capacity of the lake would only lower the lake's level by 4/10 of a foot (or about 5 inches). The most likely route for a pipe was along the upper Fire Lane from the lake intake to a discharge site at a small draw emptying into the Beaver Pond. While the Board was in general agreement with Josef's proposal, it was also suggested that the dam at the Beaver Pond be made more impermeable.

In February 2023, the donation box was broken into again, but losses were thought to be minimal. Various options were considered to improve the security and functionality of the donation box. An opening directly into the office was inadvisable because it could encourage thieves to break into the office itself. The amount of donations in cash at the box was generally quite small so it was not worth the expense of developing a more sophisticated system. A QR code posted near the donation box encouraging visitors to donate electronically was perhaps the safest option. It was decided to leave the current donation box as is, but possibly improve the locking mechanism.

The damaged aluminum gate, as well as an old steel swing gate, at the Sanctuary entrance had to be removed, and Dan Haslam found a company that would pay \$0.77/lb for aluminum. The old steel gate could be removed at the same time. Surplus funds from David Stanley's donation for the new gate would be applied to improving security at the Sanctuary entrance by installing a camera and lights.

Amy Armet from Vancouver Island University contacted the office regarding a Professional Development event at the Deep Bay Marine Field Station scheduled for Friday, April 28th. The workshop was open to any formal educators and teacher candidates interested in attending, but the bulk of the attendees would likely be from regional School Districts. Amy was seeking community partners who could offer STEM-related programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) for K-12 students around Vancouver Island. Jay Panchal volunteered to present on Morrell programs at this event, accompanied by Carol Lefevre. This would also enable Jay and Carol to connect with other community partners to learn about their programs.



Clay Ross and Val Booth began the job of identifying trail sections requiring boardwalks, as well as investigating the dam at the Beaver Pond. They located five very rooty and rocky spots on the Rocky knoll to Beaver Pond trails that needed attention. It was estimated that three 25 foot sections, one 20 foot section, and one 12 foot section was required, totalling 107 feet of new boardwalk. The cost of 214 feet of rails under the boardwalks, plus 963 feet of 2x4 studs for slats, plus concrete footings, screws, nails, and shingles to prevent skidding, would amount to about \$7,500. Regarding the Beaver Pond, Clay and Val figured concrete bags would be more effective for damming than



Tools for removing invasive species

simply piling up more dead and rotting trees to form a natural barricade. They calculated that an area 13 feet by 5 feet by 1 foot high would require 162 concrete bags, which would cost approximately \$1,325. An alternate or auxiliary plan would be to transfer the equivalent of the average annual rainfall for the area (about 1200 mm) from Morrell Lake to the pond. This could be achieved by either siphoning or pumping the water. However, it was decided that the first priority should be to improve water storage in the pond by strengthening the dam. If necessary and approved by the Nature Trust, the second priority would be to proceed with diverting water from the lake.

Clay also recommended installing clear plastic roofs on the two outhouses and painting the interiors white to improve brightness and lighting for a cost of about \$60. There was also a need to tidy up and reorganize the storage areas to accommodate more tools and materials. In the battle against invasive species, Josef Baur crafted more than 100 wooden plugs for sealing treated holly stumps. As well, a new, lighter weed puller was proving effective for removing daphne and small holly.

Income recorded in March 2023 included a \$5,000 dividend from Harbour City Bingo Inc. and \$95 from scrap metal salvaged from the old aluminum gate, while some in-kind donations were concrete deck blocks for boardwalk construction and weed pullers. Sydney Fetterly, a leader at the Chase River Boys and Girls Club in Nanaimo, brought 45 kids to the Morrell Sanctuary on March 14. Bob Harvey divided the children into groups and arranged guided tours of the Sanctuary. A donation from the club was given in appreciation. A donation of \$251 was also received from Vancouver Island Trail Runners. Some concern was expressed about runners disrupting other trail users in the Sanctuary during their race. It was considered important that the running group submit a map of their route in advance so that it could be reviewed for potential impacts, such as damage to boardwalks. As well, signage should be posted on affected trails warning other Sanctuary users of the event. Heavy snow hindered the start-up of planned boardwalk construction, but some materials were transported and stored alongside the Beaver Pond and Rocky Knoll trails in preparation for this project when conditions improved. Weed pulling continued in the snow, and snow and ice were removed from the parking lot and bridges.

Jay Panchal produced an enhanced, high-resolution digital image of the Sanctuary's blue heron logo. He also outlined plans for improving the Society's internal and external communications. Internal communications would involve the creation of an intranet for use by Board directors, interpreters, and other authorized users. It would serve as a repository for data and information, including an operations manual, interpretive materials, and calendar of events. Authorized users would require individual IDs and passwords to access the secure intranet. External communications would be handled through a revamped public Internet site.



At the April 19, 2023, Board meeting office manager Carol Lefevre reported that the Society had 130 memberships: 31 life, 5 group, 51 single and 43 family memberships. There was a total of 220 members. With respect to a Summer Jobs grant, the federal government reverted to pre-pandemic funding and reduced the grant by 40%. This only allowed the hiring of two Leader positions. Mark Fawdry agreed to return as Supervisor and would be paid from the Society's budget. With only two leaders, a limit of 20 campers per day was recommended. As well, Carol urged that the remuneration for the leaders and supervisor be increased. The Board agreed to pay each leader \$19/hour and the supervisor \$21/hour. Concern was expressed about geocaching activities at Morrell; about 30 geocaching sites were situated in the Sanctuary. A Vancouver Island University instructor agreed to have these geocaches removed. Carol suggested adding a "No Geocaching" note to the website. As well, a note would be appended to discourage the placement of painted rocks along trails and of unauthorized gnome homes around the Yew Loop.



Repainted and re-roofed outhouse by Parking Lot (2023)

Clay Ross renovated the parking lot outhouse by painting the interior a bright white and replacing the old metal roof with a clear plastic one, tremendously improving the natural lighting inside. The white lines demarcating parking stalls were starting to fade so it was recommended they be repainted. Rather than stacking cement bags on top of one another to form a makeshift dam at the Beaver Pond, Josef Baur designed a concrete structure fashioned in sections. The middle section was installed, with two side "wings" and a ramp at the back to serve as a spillway to be completed at a later date. Josef suggested that wooden forms be constructed and concrete poured onsite for the wings.

An email was received from Benjamin Horsman inquiring about the abandoned vehicles observed in the Sanctuary, particularly with respect to any potential environmental impacts. During the ensuing discussion by Board directors it was pointed out that, given the difficulties associated with removing the wrecks, they should remain in place but perhaps be hidden with brush or planted vegetation. The cars were not close to designated trails so were unlikely to be disturbed if hidden from view. It was believed that any environmental impacts would probably be local in nature, with little effect on the surrounding areas.

In May 2023 it was reiterated that the Canada Summer Jobs grant was down \$7,000 from last summer since the Federal government reduced funding by 40%. Although hiring one less staff in 2023, salaries were increased for the two leaders and supervisor. Revisiting a Board decision made in April, it was concurred that camp leader remuneration should be increased to \$20/hour for leaders and \$22/hour for the supervisor to remain competitive with other organizations. Jay Panchal talked about the Vancouver Island University Educator Conference held April 28 at Deep Bay. There were about 30-40 attendees, of which perhaps 15 were presenters, and several attendees expressed interest in bringing classes to the Morrell Sanctuary. Jay and Carol Lefevre connected with other presenters and acquired a Qualicum Culture Kit containing information about local First Nations which could be useful in revising and updating the Society's programs.

The work crews were busy pulling weeds in May, but with the drier weather and harder ground attention was being concentrated on bigger holly trees. Josef Baur suggested girdling large holly trees rather than using Round-up; this would be more environmentally friendly than chemicals, but there was uncertainty about re-sprouting. Some concern was also voiced about standing dead trees versus fallen ones with regard to fire hazards. It was decided to test the effectiveness of girdling versus chemicals on a few holly trees. Concrete was mixed and poured for one wing at the Beaver Pond dam, with further work required to complete the second wing and spillway.



Vacant cottage previously occupied by Bill Morrell and Vi Savage (2023)

Vi's health required that she transition to nursing care and her cottage in the Sanctuary was vacated in May. The future of the cottage would be determined by the Nature Trust in consultation with the Morrell Sanctuary Society and Morrell family representatives. The Society's insurance was up for renewal and it was remarked that, if responsibility for Vi's cottage was transferred to the Morrell Sanctuary Society, there would be additional insurance coverage to consider.

It was observed in June 2023 that Scotch broom was invading the dam at Morrell Lake where the log boom was located. Nature Trust was notified to remove the invading broom and fix the log boom, which had become detached from the

anchor points. Summer Camp was fully booked, and treasurer Val Booth recommended that office manager Carol Lefevre's salary be increased \$3/hour to \$26/hour effective July 1st to match the wage increase for summer employees this year. A culvert on the Beaver Pond loop was replaced by the trail maintenance team and, along with some broom and holly, a laurel tree was cut down on the Yew Loop. Clay Ross replaced the old roof on the Morrell Lake outhouse with a clear plastic canopy and painted the interior walls white. Also in June, the outhouse wastes were emptied out by a sanitation service company. Dan Haslam cleaned the heat exchangers in the Woods Room in preparation for Summer Camp.

The parking lot surface was prepared and powerwashed for line painting. The lines delineating stalls in the parking lot were painted by a contractor and the work guaranteed for two years. The company hired to repaint the lines returned the \$945 payment as a donation. Clay recommended an inventory and reorganization of the equipment and supplies in the tool crib, pointing out several inefficiencies and the inadequate space allocated for this purpose. Clay and Val agreed to work together to remodel the tool crib and workshop.



Parking stalls painted in main parking lot (2023)

After further discussion regarding the pros and cons of allowing geo-caching in the Sanctuary, it was decided that the Sanctuary would be designated a geocache-free zone, but leave the issue open for reconsideration in the future. A meeting was held with Janis Morrell Dunn on Tuesday, June 20, to discuss the status of Vi's cottage. Janis conveyed her preference to have responsibility for the cottage transferred to the Morrell Sanctuary Society as soon as possible. This transfer would take place on July 1, 2023, and Dan would draft a letter of agreement to this effect. Concrete was poured for the second wing of the Beaver Pond dam; a concrete pad serving as a spillway remained to be built, as well as a removeable gate to control water flow over the weir.

At the September 20, 2023, Board meeting office manager Carol Lefevre summarized the outcome of Summer Camp. There were 837 spots and 149 children registered for July and August. In addition to the two leaders hired along with Mark Fawdry, a previous leader from last year was rehired as a part-time backup. It was suggested that camp fees could be increased from \$40/child to \$45/child in 2024 to pay for the backup position. In an evaluation of the Summer Camp program the leaders offered the following comments: (1) junior leaders should be dropped off 15



minutes earlier than other kids to give time for mentoring with the camp leaders; (2) a Powerpoint video should be created for parents with details about registration and camp rules, for example, suitable backpacks for the kids; (3) an email account for the camp leaders should be created so parents could communicate with leaders directly, if necessary; (4) cubby holes should be constructed where kids could store backpacks and other belongings; (5) a new mop and a cleaning caddy were recommended; and (6) a binder for sign-in sheets and an incident report book should be implemented. Also, Carol noted that advertisements for nature interpreters garnered no responses, and only two new volunteers from last year planned to continue. A major problem was that some volunteers were required to take time off work or school in order to participate. A further worry was that school buses were bringing in two classes at a time to save on transportation costs, requiring four interpreters to handle the large number of students.



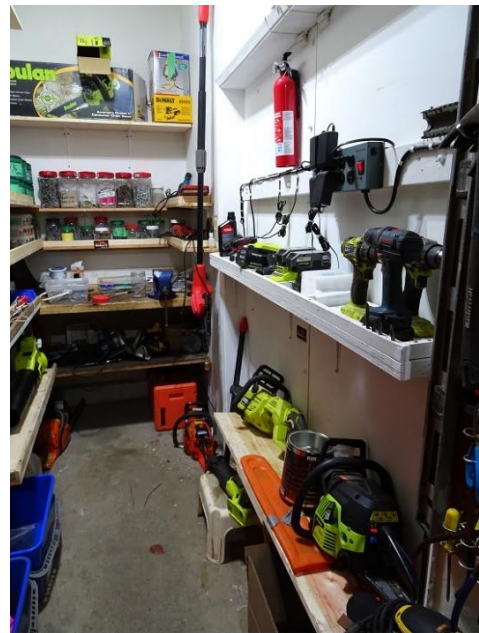
Beaver Pond dam (November 2023)

During the summer months several danger trees were removed by professionals, and volunteer David Fisher kept the young Pacific yew saplings planted by the Yew Loop trail watered. The trail maintenance crew repaired some footbridges, culverts and a signpost, and also trimmed vegetation encroaching the trails. Invasive weed eradication efforts gained twenty extra volunteers from Eddifi Robotics on September 7th, along with the usual dedicated crews. In addition, the Beaver Pond dam was finally completed, fire hazard signs were posted in various locations, and the spillway at Morrell Lake was cleaned out.

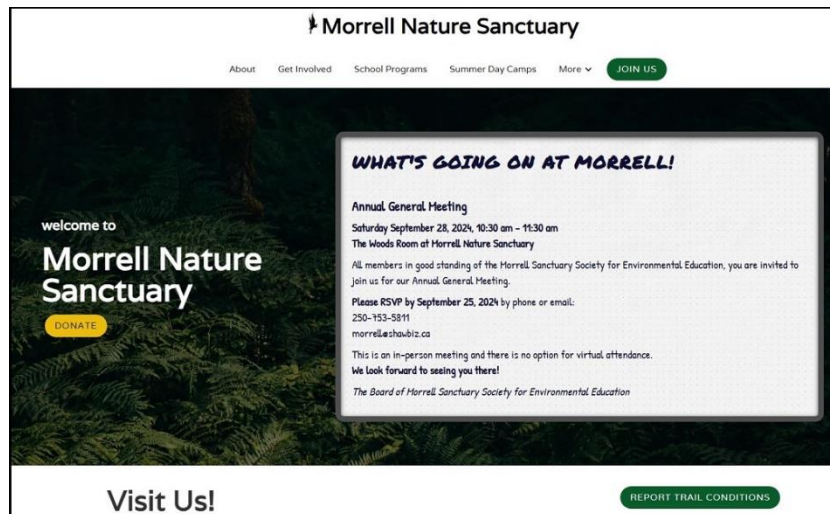
Clay Ross completed a thorough reorganization of the shed and tool room, significantly improving the use and efficiency of these facilities. Fire extinguishers were mounted in the tool crib and Woods Room, and an electric hand blow dryer was installed in the Woods Room washroom. Excess funds donated for the electronic gate were diverted to new security devices (nine cameras and a recording unit worth about \$2,800) which Dan Haslam planned to install in the Woods Room, office, and front gate. Bob and Helen Harvey waxed the floors and did a general cleanup of the Woods Room following the Summer Camp.

In October 2023, work began on installing motion lights outside the Woods Room, as well as setting up CCTV cameras to monitor the Woods room and parking lots. Jay Panchal contacted the Dover Bay Ecological Club and arranged for students to pull daphne for a couple hours on October 29th, November 5th and November 12th. They would work primarily off the Fire Lane near some old abandoned cars.

It was observed that after cutting down large holly, any branches touching the ground exhibited a tendency to root and start new plants. Charlie Bergen recommended experimenting to see if large holly trees could be killed while still standing. The Board decided to investigate replacing the kiosk with a larger one that could accommodate signage as well as keeping people dry. However, repairs to the old kiosk were not contemplated at that time. A Celebration of Life was held in the Woods Room on Sunday, October 22, for Bob Dadds, a lifetime member of the Morrell Sanctuary Society who had passed away on September 24. The Society received \$1,100 in donations from this event.



Reorganized and repainted tool crib (2023)



The Summer Jobs grant of \$10,666 was received in November 2023, replenishing the operating account. There was a good response to the latest training session for nature interpreters and a number of teachers planned to sign up for the Pond Dippers program in the Spring. In addition to the usual jobs on the trails, access roads, and in the bush, volunteers repaired some steps on the Rocky Knoll trail. The watering hoses and office deck blinds were stored for the winter, the Woods Room door was fixed, and tools

were sharpened. Dan Haslam cleaned the Woods Room vents, heat exchangers, and filters, while Clay Ross continued reorganizing the lumber racks by the shed. Charlie Bergen experimented with three Holly trees to determine if they could be drilled and chemically treated while still standing. The revamped website was set up on Webflow with the domain name morrellnaturesanctuary.ca and moved to Bare Metal, a Canadian Internet host and registrar in Victoria and a reseller for the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), at a cost of approximately \$24 per annum.

The Board considered acquiring safety vests for Sanctuary volunteers. Costs varied widely depending on material quality, design, and accessories. Lightweight vests could be purchased from \$7 or \$8, with the Sanctuary logo printed on each vest for an additional \$8. It was decided to purchase twenty vests: ten large, five X-Large, and five XX-Large. Some water was observed leaking around the ends of the Beaver Pond dam, but otherwise the structure was operating as planned. A log was positioned to slow the leakage, but a more permanent solution would have to be found when water levels dropped again in the summer months. Internet access was improved with installation of an upgraded Shaw Wireless Router with faster Internet speed.



High Visibility vests for Trail Maintenance (2023)

At the December 20, 2023, Board meeting treasurer Val Booth reported that Yeoman Tree Service had donated half of the cost of their work in the Sanctuary, resulting in a net charge of only \$367.50. A Harbour City Bingo dividend of \$5,500 was deposited in the Society's high interest savings account on December 1. There was only one day left unbooked for the Spring educational programs, with the Pond Dippers program being requested most often. Busses continued to bring two classes at a time; each class was then split into two groups so that four interpreters were required for each morning or afternoon. More interpreters were urgently needed. Clearing overhanging vegetation from the verges of the Fire Lane made a big difference for the bus drivers, garnering positive feedback. Dan Haslam continued working on the security cameras; four cameras around the office and four around the Woods Room were in operation. To install a camera at the front gate, however, it would be necessary to extend the wi-fi to the gate. Orange safety vests were purchased and stored in the tool shed. Volunteers working in the Sanctuary were encouraged to wear them for identification and visibility purposes. After discussing the harmful effects that running groups had on the trails the Board decided to ban running group events in the Sanctuary.



In January 2024 the Board was advised to consider prepping the Woods Room for coats and packs before Summer Camp. About 25 cubicles and hooks for children's packs and jackets were needed, as well as an email for summer camp leaders to enable direct communications with parents when necessary. The office water lines froze during a cold spell, and insulation was recommended for the pipes. A \$5,500 dividend was received from the Society's Harbour City Bingo membership, and the money was deposited in a high interest savings account. The trail maintenance crew split logs for fence rails, which were then used to replace or supplement deteriorating railing at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Regarding invasive species, it was believed that the bigger holly trees near the trails were under control, but significant amounts of scotch broom were found on bluffs and the Rocky Knoll trail that required attention. The kiosk near the office was showing its age, and the Board decided it was time to come up with a design for a new kiosk. In particular, the map needed to be updated and more information about the Sanctuary's flora and fauna added. It was also suggested that electric power should be cabled to the kiosk to mount a transmitter with a direct line of sight to the front gate. This would allow for remote control of the gate and of cameras deployed at the gate through a wireless connection. A meeting with the Nature Trust was requested to update the lease agreement with the Morrell Sanctuary Society and to discuss liability issues in the event anyone was injured on Sanctuary property.

The Nature Trust arranged to have an arborist come to Morrell Nature Sanctuary on February 22, 2024, to remove a few trees along the dams. The arborist worked under the direction of Society volunteers to remove specified trees found to be impeding or posing potential threats to the dam structures; such trees had to be removed according to provincial dam and dike safety regulations. The Board was informed about a Community Environmental Sustainability Project Grant that was created to support small and creative environmental projects not already covered by existing City of Nanaimo grants. A total of \$20,000 in grant funds was available annually beginning in 2023. Up to \$5,000 in project funding would be granted per application. Eligible community organizations, including environmental nonprofits, local stewardship groups, school groups, religious organizations, and participants in the Acting for Climate Together program, were encouraged to apply. Funding would be used to support projects designed to improve the environmental health of natural systems, enhance residents' connections to nature, provide educational values, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and/or prepare the community for climate change impacts. The treasurer Val Booth reported that the total revenue for the year to-date was almost \$64,000 and total expenses were only about \$400 higher than revenue, thus maintaining a relatively good balance. The Society was paying Hydro bills for the vacant cottage, which had to be heated during the cold periods even with no one living in it. The bill for the cottage for the past two months was greater than for the office, which was very well insulated. The Spring programs were fully booked, but some requests had to be turned down due to a lack of nature interpreters. A camera positioned at the automatic gate was now active, and a radio transmitter was planned to be installed on the kiosk.

The Society had 267 members as of March 20, 2024. Bill Lesiuk, another longtime volunteer, passed away unexpectedly on March 14, 2024. The Board considered getting some of the older volunteers from the City leadership course to assist with Summer Camp for 3-4 hours a day. To enhance First Nations Partnership/training for Sanctuary volunteers, it was decided to ask Beau Wagner, a journeyman canoe carver at Stz'uminus First Nation, to meet with the directors at the April Board meeting. Office manager Carol Lefevre informed the Board that her position didn't provide for nature interpreting or training unless working 30 plus hours a week, pointing out that if needed at the office, that had to come first. A meeting was scheduled with the Executive and the office manager to address her concerns. Nature interpreting was fully booked from the middle of April through the end of June, but more interpreters were needed when two core people advised they were no longer able to continue. The kiosk wiring was completed and the automatic gate could now be monitored through a security camera. A new memorial bench was installed near the intersection of the Beaver Pond and Rocky Knoll trails, making use of two preexisting concrete posts as supports.

Bikes had been observed on the Maple Trail so it was recommended that signage be erected to direct bikers to the Alder trail in place of the Maple trail. All nine CCTV cameras were in operation and Dan Haslam offered access to the video feed to other member of the Board using their smart phone or tablet.

Josef Baur presented an option for storing the backpacks worn by children attending Summer Camp. It consisted of wooden pegs inserted and glued into holes drilled in horizontal boards and mounted on a wall in the Woods Room. With regard to using a Community Environmental Sustainability Grant to compensate interpreters, it was decided that the Society wasn't able to pay volunteer nature interpreters until a ruling from the Canada Revenue Agency was received. Jay Panchal organized two Sunday weed pulling sessions with the Dover Bay Eco Club in March. The same core group of students attended both sessions and showed great interest in land stewardship. Jay reported they continued to clear an infestation of daphne at a chosen site and commented on what industrious teens could accomplish when motivated. The students asked good questions about the biology and ecology of the forest.

At the April 17, 2024, Board meeting office manager Carol Lefevre reported that the Society was approved for funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program, but the amount of \$5,543 was about half of what was requested. To increase revenue from the Summer Camp, the Board raised camp fees to \$45 a day. The trail maintenance crew replaced the deteriorating steps on Vi's trail with split logs in April, and assisted workers from Hazelwood Construction with road repairs and to create a rock-lined water run-off channel alongside the driveway. To mitigate water pipe freezing in the office during the winter, it was recommended that \$200 be budgeted for the project: \$30-\$50 for a pipe heater with thermostat, \$25 GFIC electrical outlet in the crawl space, plus breaker switch, conduit, wire, and electrical fittings.

In an effort to control bicycle use on Morrell's trails the Board considered the effectiveness of adding more signs and stiles versus restricting bicycles within the Sanctuary to the access road leading to the powerline. If the former approach was taken, a sign designating the Yew Loop as strictly for wheelchair and pedestrian use was needed because a stile was not feasible. As well, signs and possibly stiles would be required at three sites: at the two Maple Trail junctions with the Fire Lane, and at the intersection of the Maple and Alder trails. An alternative would be to position a sturdy post in the middle of each trailhead with a "No Bicycles" sign. Another idea was to terminate bicycle access on the Fire Lane at the Alder trail rather than at Morrell Lake since the accepted bicycle route followed the Alder trail to Westwood Lake. However, no decisions were made at this time.

The ventilation system filters in the Woods Room were cleaned in April and a new ballast installed for the kitchen light. Regarding the CCTV, a faulty power outlet at the entrance gate was replaced and the master wireless radio had to be repaired when a tree fell on the kiosk to which it was attached. Other enhancements to the system under consideration were an Internet-accessible gate controller for the barrier arm and a static IP address for the router in the office.

Charlie Bergen reported that the experiment to kill holly trees while still standing, as opposed to cutting and treating the stumps, appeared to be working. Clay Ross presented a slide show visualizing a new kiosk, stressing the need to take into account cost, location, purpose, design, start date, and whether the structure should be built by volunteers or a contractor. To prepare the Woods Room for Summer Camp, the Board agreed to purchase and assemble four storage cabinets from IKEA to replace the older free-standing cupboards. Beau Wagner and Keilih Gates gave an in-depth presentation to the Board on indigenous-led education programs. Gill Ross volunteered to liaise with Beau to determine how to incorporate such indigenous knowledge into the Society's present educational programs.

In May 2024, two camp leaders were hired, Victoria McLaren and Vineet Kaur Bhatia. Most revenue for the past month came from donations and the Spring nature interpreting programs. Expenses were high due to large bills submitted at the same time, one for security equipment and the other for IKEA cabinets in the Woods Room. The Spring programs got off to a good start, but there were still insufficient interpreters and back-up trainees to fill the booked spots. The pond water level was holding well thanks to the concrete dam constructed the previous summer, and new species of pond life were being viewed by students. In an effort to attract more interpreters, Josef Baur broached the idea of a poster that could be placed at various locations, such as newcomer clubs, the university, Probuc clubs, libraries, and malls, as well as on the Morrell Sanctuary website. Josef created a poster with the help of his neighbour, and Bob Harvey proposed uploading the poster to the Morrell Sanctuary's Facebook page. To enhance the Summer Camp experience for the children, it was suggested that the arts and crafts activities presented in Beau Wagner's indigenous education programs could be included one day a week during the camp. This would give local children a lesson in First Nations culture.

The Woods Room was thoroughly cleaned and equipped for Summer Camp. The taxidermy shelves were removed, holes in the walls patched, and two walls were repainted. Coat and backpack hooks were fixed to one wall and the IKEA cabinets were assembled and installed. Finally, the taxidermy cases were remounted above the cabinets after all of the preceding work was completed.

Concrete blocks were transported to the Tranquility trail to form foundations for a new footbridge to replace a decrepit structure. Regarding the problem of water pipes freezing in the office during the winter months, an electrical plug and old heat tape was found under the building so all that was needed was to replace the heat tape. A leak in the water line to Vi's Cabin was detected, but was too slow for Roto-Rooter to find. Since the cottage was no longer in use, the water line was shut off at the meter as an interim measure. Aaron Jordens presented a report to the Board on May 15 on an owl study conducted at the Morrell Sanctuary and the Nanaimo Estuary. He reported that Barred owls were almost the exclusive resident owl in the Sanctuary, with a few Great Horned owls showing up during the last few days of the study. Owl populations in the estuary were more diverse, and included other species such as the Short-eared owl.



Wall unit with wooden pegs for hanging the backpacks of summer campers (2024)



New IKEA cabinets in the Woods Room (2024)

The Summer Camp leaders started work on June 19th and spent ten days preparing lesson plans by week for the entire summer. Gill Ross reported that there had been no response from Beau Wagner, so his indigenous programs would not be included. In treasurer Val Booth's financial report, she noted that expenses for office supplies reflected the purchase of new computers, and that the Utilities line item showed higher Hydro bills. Val observed that, so far this fiscal year, expenses were almost \$8,000 higher than revenue.

The last of the Spring school programs was completed on June 14. Overall, it was considered another successful season. A couple of long-standing interpreters had to withdraw from the program, but it was hoped a few new

trainees would fill those positions in the Fall. There was one issue where a school had booked only one class for an interpretive program, but sent a second group of older children along in the bus “to do their own thing.” Bob Harvey informed the attending teacher, who was new to supervising field trips to Morrell, that this was not acceptable because the Sanctuary was dependant on paid school programs to finance them. A guideline for group visits to the Sanctuary was compiled by Jay Panchal to be sent to the Nanaimo Board of Education and several local schools, as well as posted on the Morrell website. A small footbridge on the Tranquility Trail was replaced in June, and the renovations in the Woods Room were completed in time for Summer Camp.

Regarding Vi’s cottage, there had been no further correspondence from the Nature Trust by the end of June. In previous communications, the Nature Trust had mentioned updating the lease agreement with the Society so it was important to find out what these changes might entail. Clarification and advice was also needed from the Nature Trust on any potential liability issues.

The summer camp ran for nine weeks and filled 756 spots with 124 children. This was down from the previous summer, which filled 837 spots with 149 attendees. Families cancelling mid-summer due to last minute camping trips and family visits was an issue since the last minute cancellations were hard to replace on the waiting list. The two full time leaders were Victoria and Vineet, and Lachlann Glennie returned to cover sick days and overbooked days. The leaders enjoyed working with the children attending camp, some of whom had participated every year since they were five years old.



Carol Lefevre, Office Manager 2019-24

In July, Carol Lefevre resigned as part-time office manager, and Regan Grill was hired to fill this position in September. Also in September, the posts supporting the kiosk were straightened to correct the uneven appearance of the structure. Several decomposing boards were replaced on the Candy Cane Bridge and a small footbridge on Vi’s Walk was rebuilt with new materials. A leak in the foundation of the Beaver Pond dam was repaired by trenching and infilling with concrete. Additional concrete was added to either end of the dam to extend its reach, with the goal of maintaining the water in the pond at a higher level for a longer period of time. Reeds were also removed from the Beaver Pond to slow further encroachment near the docks. After inspecting the vacant cottage onsite, the Nature Trust recommended demolishing the building and replanting the area with native vegetation. Vice-president Dan Haslam introduced the Morrell Office Volunteers (MOVE) project in which Morrell Sanctuary Society members would staff the office during days when the paid part-time office manager was absent, with the intention of making the office more accessible to visitors. New combination locks were installed on the office and Woods Room doors to eliminate the need to issue keys to volunteers.



Regan Grill, Office Manager 2024-present

The MOVE pilot program was launched in October 2024, with 5 volunteers trained and scheduled to staff the office during the week. The initial volunteers for this program included Heather Allen, Maureen Frieson, Cynthia Marchessault, Kath Petit, Jennifer Jenkins, and Lance Nordstrom. The trail maintenance crew replaced a small boardwalk at the Alder trailhead and trimmed vegetation along the Fire Lane. Instructors from the Trades and Applied Technology program at Vancouver Island University



examined Vi's cottage as a potential restoration project for their students but decided that it was not suitable for their training objectives. Notwithstanding a decision in December 2023 to disallow trail races, Myke Labelle from Coastline Endurance Running was invited to address the Board at the October 16 meeting with regard to holding a proposed race with 300-500 runners in August 2025 on designated trails in the Sanctuary. Myke offered to compensate the Society with assistance in repairing any trails damaged by the racers, as well as with a financial donation. While a decision was deferred to the November Board meeting, the general sense was that this was not a suitable use of the Sanctuary trails. The directors also discussed ongoing issues with dogs off-leash in the Sanctuary; suggestions included: (1) encouraging better dog and owner behaviour to respect the rules, (2) better, more visible signage, and (3) expanding volunteer dog patrols.

The Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, was jeopardized when a powerful "bomb cyclone" swept along Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland the night before. At its peak, about 100,000 homes and businesses across Vancouver Island were without power. While trees were downed throughout the Nanaimo area, only a couple fell across trails in the Sanctuary and were speedily cleared by the trail maintenance crews the following day. Vice-president Dan Haslam surveilled the situation Wednesday morning and, with the electric gate operating as normal and lights and heat on in the office and Woods Room, it was deemed safe to proceed with the meeting.

The November 2024 Board meeting dealt with a number of administrative questions raised by office manager Regan Grill concerning payment options, tax receipts, and membership and volunteer forms. The use of the Square terminal had proven successful in receiving donations, membership fees, and guidebook sales via credit or debit cards. However, Regan advocated the introduction of the versatile Zeffy platform, which was designed for nonprofit organizations and could be used to manage online payments for school programs, summer camp, memberships, and donations. The Board agreed to add Zeffy as a payment option alongside PayPal and CanadaHelps. Regan also noted that nonprofit society membership dues were eligible for charitable tax receipts and recommended that this be instituted for Society members. Further, it was decided that PDF receipting through email was preferable to print receipts. Application forms for memberships and volunteers were amended to include a code of conduct that members and volunteers would have to follow, including criminal checks for nature interpreters and other volunteers working with children. Revised summer camp procedures were also approved that would (1) change the camp registration opening date from May 1st to March 1st to reduce potential competition with summer programs offered by other organizations and (2) require payment up front and modify the cancellation/refund policy to allow time to re-fill vacant spots.

City access through the Sanctuary on the Hydro Road to the back of Westwood Lake for maintenance purposes by Parks and Recreation staff was again considered by the Board. A meeting between the Nature Trust and the City of Nanaimo negotiated a possible arrangement that would be discussed with Morrell Sanctuary Society Board members later in the month. In return for granting access to City workers, the Society hoped to receive assistance from the City for various endeavours, such as grading and maintaining the access roads.

The issue of unleashed dogs and uncooperative dog owners in the Sanctuary was again debated by the Board. Together with additional concerns regarding bicycle access and requests to use the Sanctuary for trail running races, some Board members advocated closing the Sanctuary to everyone but members only. By agreeing to the code of conduct on membership applications, members would be subject to disciplinary action if found breaking the rules, such as walking their dogs off-leash. While this proposal was under advisement by the Board, other directors thought more could be done to educate visitors towards respecting the goals and aspirations of the Society relating to protecting and conserving the natural values of the Sanctuary, which were threatened by thoughtless and

inconsiderate behaviour. Myke Labelle had not followed up on his earlier request at the October Board meeting to allow trail runners to race across the Sanctuary trails with a proposed route as directed by the Board. Jay Panchal contacted Myke to determine if he was still interested in pursuing his request, but also conveyed the Board's opinion that such a race could only be permitted on the Hydro Road through the Sanctuary and not on the interior trails.

Changes to the Morrell Sanctuary website were also examined at the November 20 Board meeting. While WebFlow was acknowledged to be a powerful tool for building websites, day-to-day maintenance and updating of the site proved to be daunting for casual users. To improve the user-friendliness of the website, vice-president Dan Haslam commenced a rebuild of the site which would then be installed on a server managed by Canadian Web Hosting, a less expensive service than the company which currently performed this function.

Vi Savage, Bill Morrell's partner of many years, passed away December 2, 2024, at the age of 97. Her contributions to the Sanctuary and Society during the decades she lived on the property were immeasurable and she will be remembered through the trail named "Vi's Walk" in her honour.

At the December 18, 2024, Board meeting office manager Regan Grill reported 172 memberships and 228 members in the Morrell Sanctuary Society, with each Family membership category given the equivalence of two members. Her efforts at updating memberships resulted in a significant jump in revenue from membership fees, from \$1655 in 2023 to \$2919 during the same time period in 2024. The Board decided to increase membership fees by \$5 for annual memberships and \$20 for new life memberships, effective January 2025. The small pool of dedicated, experienced nature interpreters have done well in delivering successful Spring and Fall school programs. Part of the technological innovations at the Sanctuary include the development of automated systems to ease some of the administrative and scheduling burden for the school programs off Bob Harvey, but it is too soon to determine how effective this will be. Planned meetings with the Nature Trust to deal with Vi's cottage and with the Nature Trust and the City of Nanaimo to negotiate City access through the Sanctuary's Hydro Road to the back end of Westwood Lake for park maintenance failed to materialize in December. The Board continued discussing the idea of restricting access to the Morrell Nature Sanctuary to members-only to manage visitors, particularly aggressive dog owners, who violate the rules governing acceptable behaviour within the Sanctuary. It was decided that a final decision on the matter should be made by the Society's membership at a general meeting.



Vi Savage (1991)

## Epilogue

As this historical review draws to a close, there are several outstanding issues that will be carried into the new year. The fate of Vi's cottage is undetermined as of yet, a productive meeting with the Nature Trust and the City of Nanaimo regarding city access to Westwood Lake through the Sanctuary has yet to be convened, and the future of the Sanctuary as an ecological site open to all visitors versus members-only is undecided. The last couple of years have been momentous, with the Morrell Nature Sanctuary reaching the half-century mark in 2023 and the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education achieving 40 years of service toward fulfilling Bill Morrell's vision for the property in 2024. It is clear from the historical account presented above that the Morrell Nature Sanctuary has

been blessed with a succession of dedicated volunteers over the years, brought together through a shared affection and vision for this special tract of land and a commitment to preserving it for future generations. There is no doubt new volunteers will join the efforts to protect and conserve the Sanctuary's forest habitats and wildlife as older members retire or move on.

Throughout its history, primary emphasis has been placed on the maintenance of trails and facilities in the Sanctuary, and on the delivery of environmental education programs. Sustained and persistent fundraising in the form of annual applications for grants, as well as the revenue earned from school programs, annual summer camps, and various periodic events such as plant and craft sales, has generated the income necessary to pay the expenses involved with maintaining the Sanctuary. At various times, significant challenges have confronted the Morrell Sanctuary Society Board of Directors, including the establishment of an onsite office, the creation of the Woods Room interpretive centre, the building of substantial structures such as the Yew Loop and Candy Cane bridges and the Beaver Pond observation decks, the loss of an important provincial grant in 2010 and resulting temporary fiscal instability, and questions regarding the integrity and safety of the dam at Morrell Lake. In addition, there have been constant struggles to balance and reconcile the conservation, educational, and recreational values of the Sanctuary, particularly with respect to such activities as dog walking, bicycling, geocaching, and trail running.

While the need to continue maintaining safe trails for visitors and offering environmental education programs for school children and adults in the community is a given for the future of the Sanctuary, new problems are emerging that will require considerable thought and planning to resolve. Perhaps the most significant is climate change, which undoubtedly will impact the nature and viability of the forest. Already, droughts over the past few summers have resulted in mortality of vulnerable red cedars that are rooted in drier sites in the Sanctuary and therefore more prone to damage. The future of the Beaver Pond as a suitable location for the popular "Pond Dipper" educational program is still in question as the force of climate change intensifies. The expected encroachment of urban development around the Sanctuary lands as Nanaimo's population expands is also of concern. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the volunteers of the future will surmount these difficulties and continue to oversee the Morrell Nature Sanctuary for generations to come or, at least, to the conclusion of the 99-year lease agreement between the Nature Trust of British Columbia and the Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education; that is, the year 2084! Finally, this historical review concludes with a commemoration of those comrades who have passed away after many years of faithful service at the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. May the Sanctuary continue to thrive as new volunteers replace old, but without forgetting the many contributions made by earlier generations towards its success.



*Compiled and edited from various sources  
by Lance Nordstrom, December 2024*

## APPENDIX A

## DEED OF LAND 260

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. FOR LAND REGISTRY USE ONLY. VICTORIA, B.C.

## SUBSTITUTE FORM A — PARTICULARS

Address of person entitled to be registered, if different from that shown in instrument:

---

British Subject. Yes/No

Declared Value: \$ 435,000.00

Request for delivery of duplicate C.T. ~~XXX~~ No

Full name, postal address and telephone number of person presenting instrument for registration:

*Robert Whitelaw*  
 Alexander, Guest, Wolfe,  
 Holburn & Beaudin,  
 Barristers & Solicitors,  
 P.O. Box 10057,  
 700 West Georgia St.,  
 Vancouver, B.C. (688-1351)

Signature of Applicant (Solicitor or Agent) Grantee

For Land Registry Office use only.

THIS DEED made the 17<sup>th</sup>

day of December

1973.

IN PURSUANCE OF THE SHORT FORM OF DEEDS ACT

BETWEEN

WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL, Businessman,  
 of 807 Dogwood Road, in the City  
 of Nanaimo, in the Province of  
 British Columbia,

AND

PROVINCIAL LAND COMMISSION

herein called the Grantor

a corporation  
 established under the Land Commission Act,  
 S.B.C. 1973, Chapter 46, and having its office  
 at 4259 Canada Way, in the Municipality of  
 Burnaby, in the Province of British Columbia,

herein called the Grantee

WITNESS that in consideration of the sum of -----

ONE

Dollars (\$ 1.00 )

of lawful money of Canada now paid by the Grantee to the Grantor (the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged) the Grantor grants to the Grantee, his heirs and assigns forever, all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, in the Nanaimo Assessment District

C87756

Lot 4, Section 6,  
 Range 8, Mountain District,  
 Plan 16149, EXCEPT those  
 parts thereof included  
 within the boundaries of  
 Plan 18489, 19566 and  
 24715.

C87758

Section 7, Range 8,  
 Mountain District,  
 EXCEPT the Easterly  
 500' thereof and  
 EXCEPT that part  
 thereof lying within  
 the boundaries of No.  
 4 Reservoir as said  
 Reservoir is shown on  
 Plan deposited under  
 number 766-8562-C

in the Province of British Columbia:

C87757

Section 7, Range  
 7, Mountain  
 District, EXCEPT  
 that part thereof  
 lying within the  
 boundaries of  
 Plan 535-R and  
 EXCEPT that part  
 thereof lying  
 within the bound-  
 aries of No. 4  
 Reservoir as said  
 Reservoir is shown  
 on Plan deposited  
 under number  
 766-8562-C



To have and to hold to the Grantee, his heirs and assigns, to and for his and their sole and only use forever, subject to the reservations, limitations, provisos and conditions expressed in the original Crown Grant.

SUBJECT TO: Undersurface rights in favour of Western Fuel Corporation of Canada Limited, registered under #51764-G.

SUBJECT TO: Easement in favour of British Columbia Power Commission (Deemed to be the registered interest of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority S.B.C. 1964, Ch.7, s.14(5)), registered under number 175358-G, as to Lot 4.

SUBJECT TO: Easement in favour of British Columbia Power Commission (Deemed to be the registered interest of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority S.B.C. 1964, Ch.7, s.14(5)), being an Assignment of i.a. E154658-G, registered under number 204768-G, as to Lot 4.

SUBJECT TO: Easement in favour of British Columbia Power Commission (Deemed to be the registered interest of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority S.B.C. 1964, Ch.7, s.14 (5)), that part included within the area outlined in red on Plans 727 & 729, registered under number 175358-G, as to Section 7, Range 7.

SUBJECT TO: Easement in favour of British Columbia Power Commission (Deemed to be the registered interest of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority S.B.C. 1964, Ch.7, s.14 (5)), assignment from British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited of i.a. E155580-G all i.a., registered under number 204768-G, as to Section 7, Range 7.

The Grantor covenants with the Grantee that:

1. he has the right to convey the said lands to the Grantee, notwithstanding any act of the Grantor;
2. the Grantee shall have quiet possession of the said lands, free from all encumbrances, save as aforesaid;
3. he will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be required;
4. he has done no acts to encumber the said lands, save as aforesaid.

And the Grantor releases to the Grantee all his claims upon the said lands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Deed has been executed the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED  
in the presence of:

Signature of Witness:

Street Address:

City or Town:

Occupation:

LEOYD H. SPROULE

241 SKINNER ST.

VICTORIA

MANITOBA, B.C.

SOLICITOR

*William Alan Morrell*  
WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL

(Or in the case of a corporation)

The Common Seal of

was affixed hereto in the presence of:

02/10/98 WED 10:30 FAX

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS

Province of British Columbia  
To Wit:

DATED DECEMBER 19 73

WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL

of the

City of Nanaimo

in the Province of British Columbia,

I, <sup>do</sup> oath and say:—  
I was personally present and did see the within  
instrument duly signed and executed by

William Alan Morrell

the part <sup>of</sup> Y thereto, for the purposes named therein

2. The said instrument was executed at  
Nanaimo, B.C.

3. I know the said party, and that

he is of the full age of nineteen years.  
I am the subscribing witness to the said instrument  
and am of the full age of sixteen years.

Sworn before me at Nanaimo

in the Province of British Columbia, this

day of December, 1973

A Commissioner for taking Affidavits for British Columbia.

PROVINCIAL LAND COMMISSION

DEED OF LAND

Filed for Registration at the Victoria  
Land Registry Office on the  
Day of December, 19 73, under  
Number

GREER & PARTNERS  
Barristers & Solicitors  
241 SKINNER STREET (P.O. BOX 10)  
NANAIMO, B.C.

File No. 12936 LHS:sa

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OFFICER OF CORPORATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that,

on the day of , 19

at

in the Province of British Columbia,

(whose identity has been proved by the evidence on oath of

who is) personally known to me, appeared before me  
and acknowledged to me that he is the

of

and that he is the person who subscribed his name to  
the annexed instrument as

of the said

and affixed the seal of the

to the said instrument that he was first duly authorized  
to subscribe his name as aforesaid, and affix the said  
seal to the said instrument, and that such corporation  
is legally entitled to hold and dispose of land in the  
Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF

I have hereto set my hand and seal of office,

at

in the Province of British Columbia, this

day of

19 LLOYD H. SPRIGUE

241 SKINNER ST.

P.O. BOX 10

NANAIMO, B.C.

SOLICITOR

A Notary Public in and for the Province of British Columbia  
A Commissioner for taking Affidavits for British Columbia.

NOTE—Where the person making the acknowledgment is personally known to the officer taking the same, strike out the words in parenthesis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MAKER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that,

on the 7 day of December, 19 73

at

Nanaimo

in the Province of British Columbia,

William Alan Morrell

(whose identity has been proved by the evidence on oath of

who is) personally known to me, appeared before me and

acknowledged to me that he is the person

mentioned in the annexed instrument as the maker

thereof, and whose name is subscribed thereto

as part y, that he knows the contents

thereof, and that he executed the same voluntarily,

and he is of the full age of nineteen years.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF

I have hereto set my hand and seal of office,

at

Nanaimo

in the Province of British Columbia, this

day of December, 19 73

A Commissioner for taking Affidavits for British Columbia.

APPENDIX B

DUPLICATE

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NUMBER

S-19738



**Province of British Columbia**  
Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs  
REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

SOCIETY ACT

# Certificate of Incorporation

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

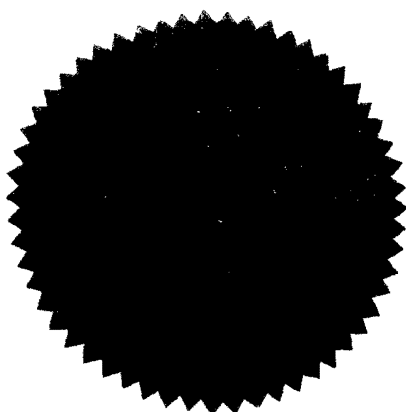
HAS THIS DAY BEEN INCORPORATED UNDER THE SOCIETY ACT

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE

AT VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,

THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1984

L. G. HUCK  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES





S-19738

# Certificate

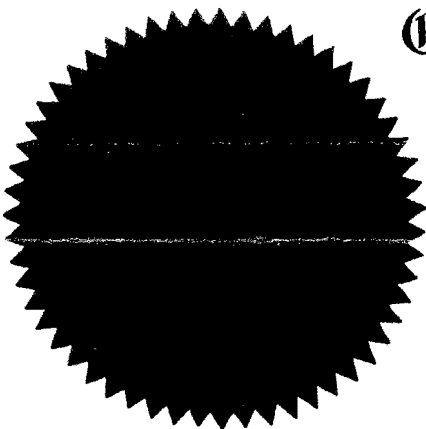
SOCIETY ACT

Canada

Province of British Columbia

I **Hereby Certify** *that* MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION has pursuant to the Society Act altered its purposes and that its purposes now are:

2. a) To protect and maintain the Morrell Sanctuary.
- b) To support the development of the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary as a community environmental Education Centre.
- c) To develop human and financial resources in the interests of educational and environmental programs and research.
- d) To promote and implement community environmental education programs in co-operation with the community.
- e) To develop and support volunteer activities related to the Morrell Sanctuary.



**Given** under my hand and seal of office at  
Victoria, B.C., this ~~twenty-fourth~~ day of ~~February~~ March, one  
thousand nine hundred and ~~eighty-four~~ eighty-five.

**B. BECKWITH**

Notary Public

Registrar of Companies.



# APPENDIX C

COPY

## RUSSELL & DUMOULIN BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

A. M. RUSSELL, O.C. (1974)

R. E. OSTLUND  
R. M. GUILF, O.C.  
JOHN G. SMITH  
JOHN T. STEEVES, O.C.  
J. THOMAS ENGLISH  
MICHAEL W. HUNTER  
CHRISTOPHER HARVEY  
JAMES D. PIERS  
KIRSTI M. GILL  
DONALD M. DALIK  
MARION J. ALLAN  
ALEXANDER S. SZIBBO  
AMY M. ABSOLA  
W. STANLEY MARTIN  
MARCEL J. PIERSON  
JO-ANN M. BAYLEY  
RICHARD J. OLSON  
CYNTHIA A. MILLAR  
SUSAN I. FAISH  
WILLIAM T. MORLEY  
J. CAMERON McKECHNIE

DONALD A. WILLIAMSON  
B. W. F. FODCHUK  
SHERMAN W. HOOD  
JOHN B. L. ROBERTSON  
W. S. BERARDINO, O.C.  
J. M. MCCORMICK  
DOUGLAS G. S. RAE  
ALLAN McDONELL  
NORAH J. HALL  
ROBERT J. ROSE  
GARY R. SOLUS  
JOHN W. STELMASZCZUK  
W. IAN CASSIE  
HELMUT K. JOHANNSEN  
SUSAN M. EYRE  
THOMAS F. BEASLEY  
RALPH D. McRAE  
MURRAY S. BLOK  
ANDREA J. SERAPHIM  
ANNA E. STAVRAKOV

DOUGLAS MCK. BROWN, O.C. (1982)

D. M. M. GOLDIE, O.C.  
BENJAMIN B. TREVINO  
GEORGE W. FORSTER  
ANTHONY P. PANTAGES, O.C.  
GAVIN H. G. HUME  
C. EDWARD BARNES  
H. LAING BROWN  
PETER F. PARSONS  
KEVIN P. O'NEILL  
JAMES H. MACMASTER  
PATRICIA L. JANZEN  
DANIEL S. GLEADLE  
GUY P. HOLEKSA  
THOMAS R. MANSON  
HENRI C. ALVAREZ  
KATHERINE J. MARR  
WENDY M. PITT-BROOKE  
D. JANE DARDI  
PAUL C. WILSON  
FRANCES K. BOYLE

R. BRUCE HARVEY, O.C.  
ARTHUR S. HARVEY  
LEOPOLD AMIGHETTI  
RAE A. ROSS  
JAMES G. CARPHIN  
C. B. JOHNSON  
BRYCE A. DYER  
ROBERT A. GOODRICH  
BRUCE R. GRIST  
KATHERINE J. HELLER  
KENNETH E. G. TAVES  
D. MURRAY TEVLIN  
RAOUEL M. GONCALVES  
ALAN D. WINTER  
D. GEOFFREY G. COWPER  
DINAR MARZBAN  
P. GEOFFREY PLANT  
BRENT G. MULLIN  
FREDERICK M. IRVINE  
JOHN D. WESTON

TELEPHONE: 688-3411

17TH FLOOR, MACMILLAN E

1075 WEST C

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL

L. ST. M. DUMOULIN, O.C.

R. T. DUMOULIN, O.C.

HON. J. O. WILSON, O.C., LL.D.

HON. A. BRUCE ROBERTSON, O.C.

E. O. H. WILKINSON, O.C.

REPLY TO

W. Ian Cassie

June 19, 1985

FILE NO.

NAT-2101

### SPECIAL DELIVERY

Morrell Sanctuary Society  
for Environmental Education  
c/o R. Keith Brown  
Keith Brown Associates Ltd.  
4196 Departure Bay Road  
Nanaimo, B.C.  
V9T 4V7

Dear Sirs:

Re: The Morrell Sanctuary  
Supplemental Agreement dated  
June 13, 1985 relating to the  
Reservoir Lands

As the above referenced agreement has now been signed by or on behalf of all the parties thereto, we are forwarding a copy of same to each of the parties thereto. We therefore enclose a copy of the Supplemental Agreement for your records.

Yours truly,

RUSSELL & DUMOULIN

Per:

W. IAN CASSIE

WE the undersigned, being parties hereto, agree as follows:

1. This Agreement is further to an agreement which is affixed hereto as Schedule "A" ("Other Agreement").

2. The words defined in the Other Agreement shall have the same meaning in this Agreement as in the Other Agreement.

3. The Commission, as well as being the registered owner of the Lands is the registered owner of the lands described in Schedule "B" ("Reservoir Lands").

4. The College, William Alan Morrell ("Morrell"), Viola Savage ("Savage"), Lorne Stanley Morrell ("Son") and Janis Morrell Dunn ("Daughter") agree that all interests in the Reservoir Lands and all rights of any nature with respect thereto held by them or any one of them or a combination of them are terminated and further agree to deliver all necessary assurances and releases to such of the parties hereto as shall request the same in order to confirm such termination.

5. The parties hereto agree that any and all agreements with respect to the Reservoir Lands between the College, Morrell, Savage, the Son and the Daughter or any one of them or any combination of them and the Commission, expressed or implied, oral or written, and all rights arising thereunder are terminated.

6. The Commission shall transfer the Reservoir Lands to the Nature Trust subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "B" hereto together with the Lands in pursuance of the Other Agreement and in consideration of the payment of \$1.00 and the Nature Trust shall accept such transfer.

7. The Nature Trust shall, from the date the Reservoir Lands are transferred to it lease the same to the Society subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "B" together with the Lands for 99 years and for the rent of One Dollar (\$1.00) on the terms and conditions of the form of lease described in the Other Agreement with such additional modifications by the solicitors for the Nature Trust as are necessary to reflect the circumstances of the Reservoir Lands and the Society shall accept such lease.



8. The Nature Trust shall not interfere with the appointment by the Society of Morrell and/or Savage as caretaker or caretakers of the Reservoir Lands in addition to the Lands.

9. Any notice or other communication required or permitted to be given or made under this Agreement shall be made in writing and shall be given by delivering the same at or mailing the same by prepaid registered mail from a place in Canada addressed to the party intended to receive the same at, the address for such party which is hereinafter set forth, or such other address as such party may, in like manner, have notified the others. Any such notice or other communication shall, if delivered, be deemed to have been received on delivery, or if mailed as aforesaid, be deemed to have been given and received on the fourth business day following the day on which it was so mailed. If at the time a notice or other communication is so mailed or between such time and the actual receipt thereof, there occurs any mail strike, slow down or other labour dispute affecting mail service, then such notice or other communication shall only be effective if actually delivered.

10. Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

11. This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns provided however that no party hereto shall assign any right arising under or interest in this Agreement without obtaining the approval of the other parties hereto and that any assignee taking under an assignment which has not been so approved shall not have standing to enforce any rights hereunder whether or not through the assignor or otherwise howsoever.

DATE: ~~MAY~~ <sup>JUNE</sup> 13, 1985

EXECUTION:

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND  
COMMISSION  
Room 133,  
4940 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, British Columbia

Per:  (Affix  
Corporate  
Seal)

Per: 

MALASPINA COLLEGE  
900 Fifth Street,  
Nanaimo, British Columbia

Per:  (Affix  
Corporate  
Seal)  
Per: 



SCHEDULE "A"

WE the undersigned, being parties hereto and persons interested in the lands described in Schedule "A" hereto and commonly known as the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary ("Lands") agree as follows:

1. The Agreement with respect to the Lands, dated the 30th day of October, 1973 between William Alan Morrell ("Morrell"), the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (formerly the Provincial Land Commission) ("Commission") and Malaspina College (formerly the Malaspina College Technical and Vocational Institute Council) ("College") as amended ("Original Agreement") and all interests in the Lands arising thereunder or granted in pursuance thereof are hereby terminated and the parties hereto holding interests in the Lands arising thereunder or granted in pursuance thereof shall deliver all necessary assurances and releases to such of the parties hereto as shall request the same in order to confirm such termination and in particular the restrictive covenant affecting the Lands registered under D20769 shall be specifically released.
2. Nothing in the previous paragraph shall affect the title of the Commission to the Lands.
3. The Commission shall transfer the Lands to The Nature Trust of British Columbia ("Nature Trust") subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "A" forthwith upon the conditions hereinafter described being fulfilled, and in consideration of the payment of One Dollar (\$1.00) and the Nature Trust shall accept such transfer.
4. The Lands shall hereafter be known as "The Morrell Sanctuary".
5. The Nature Trust shall, from the date the Lands are transferred to it lease the same to the Morrell Sanctuary Society For Environmental Education ("Society") subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "A" for 99 years and for the rent of One Dollar (\$1.00) on the terms and conditions of its usual form of lease modified by the solicitors for the Nature Trust to reflect the circumstances of the Lands and especially the licenses hereinafter set forth and to include a provision permitting the Nature Trust to erect signs at all entrances to the Lands detailing the ownership of the Lands by the Nature Trust and the Society shall accept such lease.
6. The Society shall, from the date the Lands are leased to it, license to Morrell and to Viola Savage, ("Savage") for the lifetime of the survivor of the two of them a portion of the



Lands being in area one-half an acre and which shall include their current residence, subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "A" and the terms and conditions of the lease, on such terms and conditions as shall be acceptable to the Nature Trust and its solicitors provided that such license shall contain provisions on terms acceptable to the Nature Trust and its solicitors dealing with the following matters:

- (a) Such license shall not require payment of any consideration by Morrell or Savage to the Society for the use of the part of the Lands subject to the same;
- (b) Such license shall provide for access to and egress from the part of the Lands subject to the license by way of an access road over a portion of the remainder of the Lands from Dogwood Road to the part of the Lands subject to the license;
- (c) Morrell and Savage shall not be entitled to exclusive use of the access road but shall be entitled to install a locked gate where the access road crosses the boundary of the portion of the Lands subject to the license and the remainder of the Lands;
- (d) The part of the Lands subject to the license and the access road over a portion of the remainder of the Lands shall be surveyed by a B.C. Land Surveyor at the direction of and in the employ of the Nature Trust and at the expense of the Nature Trust;
- (e) Such license shall not require Morrell or Savage to pay any real property taxes in respect of the Lands or the improvements thereon and shall include the covenant of the Society to pay such real property taxes, but shall require Morrell and Savage to pay for all utilities consumed by them on the Lands;
- (f) The Society shall agree to pay for the construction of the access road and the placement a water line from Dogwood Road along the access road and to the residence of Morrell and Savage;
- (g) The Society shall agree not to hinder the access of Morrell and Savage to the portion of the Lands subject to the license through the remainder of the Lands except that after the construction of the access road access shall be confined to the access road;



- (h) Morrell and Savage shall repair, maintain and insure their residence on the Lands at their own expense;
- (i) The rights arising under the license shall be personal to Morrell and Savage;
- (j) The part of the Lands subject to the license shall only be used as a residence for Morrell and/or Savage.

6A. The Nature Trust shall contribute to the Society up to the sum of \$2,500 in respect of the cost of building the access road and placing the water line under the license to Morrell and Savage.

7. It is agreed that the Son and Daughter or the survivor of them shall have the right but not the obligation to remove all improvements constructed by Morrell on the portion of the Lands subject to the license whether or not prior to the coming into the force of the license upon the death of the survivor of Morrell and Savage and within 180 days of such death provided that failing such removal within that period of time such improvements shall remain the property of the Nature Trust subject however to the lease.

8. The Nature Trust shall not interfere with the appointment by the Society of Morrell and/or Savage as caretaker or caretakers of the Lands.

9. The Society shall, from the date the Lands are leased to it, license to the Son, for his lifetime, the right to cross the Lands to provide access to and egress from the lands described in Schedule "B" hereto ("Son's Lands") subject to the encumbrances listed in Schedule "A" hereto and the terms and conditions of the lease, on such terms and conditions as shall be acceptable to the Nature Trust and its solicitor provided that such right shall contain provisions on terms acceptable to the Nature Trust and its solicitors dealing with the following matters:

- (a) Such right shall not be used to carry on any trade, business, or industrial enterprise;
- (b) Such right shall lapse in the event access to the Son's Lands is provided by an all weather public road;



- (c) Such right shall not require payment of any consideration by the Son to the Society for the passage over the Lands thereunder;
- (d) Such right shall be personal to the Son;
- (e) The Son shall not use such right to pass over the portion of the Lands subject to the license to Morrell and Savage, except with the consent of Morrell and Savage.

10. Upon the registration of the Lands in the name of the Nature Trust pursuant to this Agreement the Nature Trust shall pay \$40,000.00 to the College and the Commission shall pay \$30,000.00 to the College.

11. In consideration of the sum of \$30,000.00 to be paid by the Commission to the College and in consideration of the Commission causing the Nature Trust to contribute the sum of \$40,000.00 to the College, the College on behalf of itself and its successors and assigns remises, releases and forever discharges the Commission, and its successors and assigns from any and all claims, demands, suits, actions and causes of action whatsoever which the College, its successors or assigns have had, now have or may hereafter have as against the Commission relating to any breach or alleged breach of obligation of the Commission under paragraph 20 of the Original Agreement or of any other obligations of the Commission under any terms of the Original Agreement and acknowledges that payment by the Commission of the said sum of \$30,000.00 is not an admission of any debt or liability of the Commission to the College.

12. The College agrees to pay the Society the sum of \$30,000.00 upon the receipt by it of the payments hereinbefore described to be used by the Society to defray future operating costs associated with the Lands and the balance of the monies paid to the College hereunder shall be retained by the College to offset expenses already incurred by the College under the Original Agreement.

13. The Society shall amend its bylaws to delete therefrom any reference to the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation and in particular shall amend bylaws 26(1), 26(3), 27(2), 28(1) and 29 in that regard.

14. Any notice or other communication required or permitted to be given or made under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given by delivering the same at, or mailing the same by



prepaid registered mail from a place in Canada addressed to the party intended to receive the same at the address for such party which hereinafter set forth, or such other address as such party may, in like manner, have notified the others. Any such notice or other communication shall, if delivered, be deemed to have been received on delivery, or if mailed as aforesaid, be deemed to have been given and received on the fourth business day following the day on which it was so mailed. If at the time a notice or other communication is so mailed or between such time and the actual receipt thereof, there occurs any mail strike, slow down or other labour dispute affecting mail service, then such notice or other communication shall only be effective if actually delivered.

15. Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

16. This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns provided however that no party hereto shall assign in any right arising under or interest in this Agreement without obtaining the approval of the other parties hereto and that any assignee taking under an assignment which has not been so approved shall not have standing to enforce any rights hereunder whether or no through the assignor or otherwise howsoever.

17. This Agreement is subject to the fulfillment of the following condition: That the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the Province of British Columbia shall approve of the transfer of the Lands to the Nature Trust.

18. In the event the condition in the previous paragraph is not fulfilled by March 1st, 1986 then this Agreement shall lapse and be void and of no force or effect.

DATE FEBRUARY 18, 1985

**EXECUTION:**

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL LAND  
COMMISSION  
Room 133,  
4940 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, British Columbia

Per: [Signature] (Affix Corporate Seal)

Per: [Signature]



SCHEDULE "A"

- (a) Parcel "A" (DD 49323-N) of Section 5, Range 8, Mountain District, EXCEPT those parts thereof included within the boundaries of Plans 8707, 18489, 24715 and 28135.

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada Limited under No. 51764-G;

- (b) Lot 4, Section 6, Range 8, Mountain District, Plan 16149, EXCEPT those parts thereof included within the boundaries of Plan 18489, 19566, and 24715

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada Limited under No. 51764-G; and  
(ii) Easements in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 204768-G and No. 175358-G;

- (c) Section 7, Range 7, Mountain District, EXCEPT:

FIRST: That part thereof lying within the boundaries of Plan 535-R.

SECONDLY: That part thereof lying within the boundaries of No. 4 Reservoir as said Reservoir is shown on Plan deposited under number 766-8562-C.

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada Limited under No. 51764-G;
  - (ii) Easements in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 204768-G and E175358-G;  
and
  - (iii) Right of Way in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. F3804;
- (d) Section 7, Range 8, Mountain District, EXCEPT the Easterly 500' thereof and EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the boundaries of No. 4 Reservoir as said Reservoir is shown on Plan deposited under number 766-8562-C.

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada Limited under No. 51764-G.

SCHEDULE "B"

City of Nanaimo

Those parts of Sections 7 and 8, Range 7 and of Section 7, Range 8, Mountain District, lying within the boundaries of Nanaimo Waterworks Reservoir #4 as shown colored red on Plan filed under AFB 21.167.8562-G (also see DD 69378-N)

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of The Crown under No. J86490; and
- (ii) Right of Way in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 226283-G; and
- (iii) Covenant in favour of the City of Nanaimo under No. J79320.

SCHEDULE "B"

Section 8, Range 7,  
EXCEPT Reservoir 4 and  
Part registered under  
Certificate of Title 17592 and  
EXCEPT Plan 535 R.



APPENDIX D

---

BETWEEN:

THE NATURE TRUST OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND:

MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

---

L E A S E

---

RUSSELL & DuMOULIN  
*Barristers & Solicitors*  
1700 - 1075 West Georgia Street  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 3G2  
Telephone: 688-3411

Counsel: WIC:jc

File No. NAT-2101

THIS INDENTURE made as of the            day of            in  
the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five  
(1985)

UNDER THE "LAND TRANSFER FORM ACT, PART 2"

BETWEEN:

THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
a company incorporated under the laws of  
Canada and registered under the Society  
Act of British Columbia and having an  
office at 909 - 100 Park Royal South,  
West Vancouver, British Columbia,  
V7T 1A2 (Registration No. 9934);

(hereinafter called the "Lessor")

OF THE FIRST PART

AND:

MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION, a society incorporated under the  
Society Act and having an office at 1050  
Nanaimo Lakes Road, Nanaimo, British Columbia,  
V9R 5P4 (Registration No. S-19738)

(hereinafter called the "Lessee")

OF THE SECOND PART.

WITNESSETH, the Lessor doth demise unto the Lessee, its  
successors and assigns, ALL AND SINGULAR those certain parcels  
or tracts of lands and premises situate, lying and being in the  
City of Nanaimo, in the Province of British Columbia and being  
more particularly known and described as:

- (a) Parcel "A" (DD 49323-N) of Section 5, Range 8,  
Mountain District, EXCEPT those parts thereof  
included within the boundaries of Plans 8707,  
18489, 24715 and 28135

SUBJECT TO Undersurface Rights in favour of  
Weldwood of Canada Limited under No. 51764-G;

- (b) Lot 4, Section 6, Range 8, Mountain District,  
Plan 16149, EXCEPT those parts thereof included

within the boundaries of Plan 18489, 19566 and 24715;

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada, Limited under No. 51764-G; and
- (ii) Easements in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 204768-G and No. 175358-G;

(c) Section 7, Range 7, Mountain District, EXCEPT:

FIRST: That part thereof lying within the boundaries of Plan 535-R;

SECONDLY: That part thereof lying within the boundaries of No. 4 Reservoir as said Reservoir is shown on Plan deposited under number 766-8562-C;

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada, Limited under No. 51764-G;
- (ii) Easements in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 204768-G and No. 175358-G; and
- (iii) Right of Way in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. F3804;

(d) Section 7, Range 8, Mountain District, EXCEPT the Easterly 500' thereof and EXCEPT that part thereof lying within the boundaries of No. 4 Reservoir as said Reservoir is shown on Plan deposited under Number 766-8562-C;

SUBJECT TO Undersurface Rights in favour of Weldwood of Canada, Limited under No. 51764-G.

- (e) Those parts of Sections 7 and 8, Range 7 and of Section 7, Range 8, Mountain District, lying within the boundaries of Nanaimo Waterworks Reservoir #4 as shown colored red on Plan filed under AFB 21.167.8562-G (also see DD 69378-N)

SUBJECT TO:

- (i) Undersurface Rights in favour of The Crown under No. J86490; and
- (ii) Right of Way in favour of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority under No. 226283-G; and
- (iii) Covenant in favour of the City of Nanaimo under No. J79320.

TOGETHER with all buildings thereupon erected, or hereafter during the term hereby granted, to be erected, and also with all ways, paths, passages, waters, water courses, privileges, advantages and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises belonging or otherwise appertaining.

SUBJECT NEVERTHELESS to (1) the subsisting conditions, provisos, restrictions, exceptions and reservations, including royalties (if any), contained in the original grant or contained in any other grant or disposition from the Crown with respect to the said lands; (2) a highway, or public right-of-way, watercourse, right of water or other public easement found on the said lands; and (3) the encumbrances hereinbefore set forth.

From the day the Lessor acquires title to the said premises for the term of 99 years thence ensuing; provided however that in the event the term shall not have commenced by January 1, 1987 this instrument shall thereafter be null and void and of no effect whatsoever without prejudice to any rights of the Lessee arising under any other instrument.

YIELDING during the said term therefor the rent of One Dollar (\$1.00) now paid by the Lessee to the Lessor (the receipt whereof by the Lessor is hereby acknowledged).

THAT the Lessee covenants to pay taxes; and to pay rates for water, electric light, gas and telephone.

AND to repair; and to keep up fences; and not to cut down timber.

AND the Lessor may enter and view state of repair, and that the Lessee will repair according to notice.

AND will not assign without leave; and will not sublet without leave.



AND will not grant a license to use or occupy the said premises or any portion thereof without leave save as hereinafter set forth.

AND that it will leave the premises in good repair.

AND that it will not carry on any business that shall be deemed a nuisance on the premises.

PROVISO for re-entry by the Lessor on non-performance of covenants or upon any assignment, subletting or transfer or conveyance of this lease or any interest herein by seizure, operation of law or otherwise.

The Lessor covenants with the Lessee for quiet enjoyment; PROVIDED that for certainty it is expressly agreed that the Lessor's covenant for quiet enjoyment does not provide the Lessee with any remedy if the Lessee is ejected by title paramount.

#### GENERAL

1. At the termination of this lease, all alterations, additions, and improvements, which were put in at the expense of the Lessee shall be the property of the Lessor, and shall remain upon and be surrendered with the premises as part thereof.

2. The Lessee will, at all times during the term of this Lease maintain and preserve in good order and condition the grounds of the said premises, and carefully protect and preserve the trees, bushes, shrubs, plants and flowers now growing and which may, at any time during the said term, grow therein, from waste, injury or destruction;

3. The Lessor shall not be liable for any injury or damage to any person or property on, in or about the premises, howsoever such damage may be occasioned. All risks of any such injury being assumed by the Lessee, who shall hold the Lessor harmless and indemnified therefrom.

4. The said premises shall be preserved and/or developed by the Lessee as a site of ecological interest for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the people of British Columbia. The sole decision of the Lessor shall determine whether the said premises are being preserved and/or developed as aforesaid and such decision shall be binding upon the parties hereto.

5. The Lessee shall permit the Lessor to erect signs at all of the entrances to the said premises detailing the ownership of the Lands by the Lessor.

6. In the event:

- (a) any covenant or agreement on the part of the Lessee in the portion of this Lease after the word "GENERAL" is breached; or
- (b) the said premises are not used for the purpose hereinbefore set out; or
- (c) the Lessee permits activities on the said premises which in the sole opinion of the Lessor are not conducive to the preservation and/or development of the said premises as aforesaid; or
- (d) the Lessee permits the said premises or any portion thereof to be used and/or occupied without the written consent of the Lessor or its duly authorized agent by any other person or persons than the Lessee and such members of the public as may visit any wildlife sanctuary operated by the Lessee on the said premises during daylight hours or as may visit such wildlife sanctuary other than in daylight hours under the direct supervision of a member of the Lessee, in either case for the purpose of viewing the wildlife found thereon from time to time and for educational or scientific purposes relating to the use of the said premises as a wildlife sanctuary; or
- (e) the Lessee, having entered into an agreement permitting any person or persons the right to use and/or occupy the said premises or a portion of the said premises with the leave or consent of the Lessor or its duly authorized agent, fails, upon notice by the Lessor to the Lessee to deal with the breach of such an agreement pursuant to the agreement and in the manner set forth in the notice and in particular and without limiting the generality of the foregoing by the termination of the rights of the licensee under the agreement pursuant to the terms thereof or the common law in the event that is required by the notice; or
- (f) the person or persons holding any right of use and/or occupation in respect of the said premises or a

portion thereof assigns or purports to assign or agrees to assign such right or grants or purports to grant or agrees to grant any subright of use and/or occupation, without the consent in writing of the Lessor or its duly authorized agent first having been obtained;

this lease shall, at the option of the Lessor cease and be void, and the term hereby created shall expire and be at an end, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding and the Lessor may re-enter and take possession of the said premises as though the Lessee or other occupant or occupants of the said premises were holding after the expiration of the term without colour of right; PROVIDED HOWEVER that any use of the said premises in accordance with any written licence to use or to occupy the said premises or a portion thereof which has the leave or consent of the Lessor or its duly authorized agent by the holder thereof shall not terminate this Lease or permit the Lessor to re-enter the said premises and that any breach of such written license by the holder thereof shall only terminate or lead to the termination of this Lease or permit the Lessor or lead to the Lessor being permitted to re-enter the said premises in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 6(e) and paragraph 6(f) hereof.

7. Any notice required to be given by either party hereto shall be well and sufficiently given if sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to the Lessor:

THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
909 - 100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7T 1A2

If to the Lessee:

MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
1050 Nanaimo Lakes Road  
Nanaimo, British Columbia  
V9R 5P4

and shall be deemed to have been received three (3) days after such notice has been deposited in a post office in British Columbia.

Provided always and it is hereby agreed by and between the parties hereto that if the said Lessee shall hold over after the expiration of the term hereby granted and the Lessor shall accept rent, the new tenancy thereby created shall be a tenancy from month to month and not a tenancy from year to year, and shall be subject to the covenants and conditions herein contained so far as the same are applicable to a tenancy from month to month.

Wherever the singular and the masculine are used throughout this Indenture, the same shall be construed as meaning the plural or the feminine, or body corporate or politic; also the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the respective parties hereto and each of them (where the context or the parties so require).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunder executed this Indenture as of the day and year first above written.

THE CORPORATE SEAL of THE  
NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA was hereunto affixed  
in the presence of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signatory

C/S

THE CORPORATE SEAL of the  
MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
was hereunto affixed in the  
presence of:

R. F. Blann, President  
Authorized Signatory

James D. Ellis, Vice President  
Authorized Signatory

C/S



## APPENDIX E

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BETWEEN:

MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

AND:

WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL and  
VIOLA SAVAGE

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## LICENSE AGREEMENT

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RUSSELL & DuMOULIN  
*Barristers & Solicitors*  
1700 - 1075 West Georgia Street  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 3G2  
Telephone: 688-3411

Counsel: WIC:jc

File No. NAT-2101

BETWEEN:

(hereinafter called the "Licensor")

AND:

(hereinafter collectively called the "Licensee")

WHEREAS:

(hereinafter called the "Lands")

from The Nature Trust of British Columbia ("Nature Trust") for the term of 99 years from the date the Nature Trust acquires title to the Lands on the terms and conditions of the Nature Trust's usual form of lease modified by its solicitors to reflect the circumstances of the lands thereby let (hereinafter called the "Lease");

B. The Licensors has agreed to provide the Licensee with a contractual right to exclusive use of the portion of the Lands which is outlined in red on Schedule "A" hereto ("Licensed Premises"); and

C. The Licensors has agreed to provide the Licensee with access to the Licensed Premises over the portion of the Lands outlined in blue on Schedule "A" hereto ("Road").

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH:

#### ARTICLE I

1.01 The Licensors grants to the Licensee a license, commencing on the first day of the term of the Lease, to reside on and use the Licensed Premises during the lifetime of the survivor of William Alan Morrell and Viola Savage ("Lifetime License") subject however to the terms and conditions herein-after set forth.

1.02 The Licensors grants to the Licensee, commencing on the first day of the term of the Lease, the right to enter onto the Road together with a motor vehicle licensed to operate on British Columbia highways having a gross vehicle weight not exceeding 10,000 pounds ("Motor Vehicle") and to pass and repass over the Road at all times hereafter by day and by night for the purpose of access to and egress from the Licensed Premises and for the further purpose of transporting to and from the Licensed Premises in the Motor Vehicle persons and personal property of all descriptions and for no other purposes whatsoever, such right to subsist during the lifetime of the survivor of William Alan Morrell and Viola Savage ("Access License") subject however to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

1.03 In the event of the death of one of the parties comprised in the Licensee the rights of the Licensee hereunder shall only be enforceable by and shall only accrue to the benefit of the survivor.

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1.04 In the event the term of the Lease has not commenced by January 1st, 1987 this License Agreement shall lapse and be void and of no effect whatsoever without prejudice to any rights of the Licensee arising under any other instrument.

ARTICLE II - COVENANTS OF THE LICENSEE

The Licensee covenants and agrees with the Licensors:

2.01 To pay and discharge when due all charges for utilities supplied to the Licensed Premises but not including the cost of the installation of a water line from Dogwood Road, along the Road and to the Licensed Premises which water line shall be installed by and at the expense of the Licensors.

2.02 To observe, abide by and comply with all laws, by-laws, orders, directions, ordinances and regulations of any competent governmental authority in any way affecting the Licensed Premises and the improvements situate thereon, and the use and occupation thereof.

2.03 And to repair; and to keep up the fences.

2.04 Not to commit or suffer any willful or voluntary waste, spoilage or destruction of the Licensed Premises or do or suffer to be done thereon anything that may be or become a nuisance and in particular not to cut down any trees on the Licensed Premises save those that are or have become dangerous.

2.05 Except as otherwise provided in this Article, not to use the Licensed Premises for any purpose other than as a residence of one or both of the persons comprised in the Licensee and without limitation to the aforesaid:

- (a) not to carry on or permit to be carried on any business or commercial activity on the Licensed Premises;
- (b) not to carry on or permit to be carried on any activity on the Licensed Premises with respect to which the Licensors has notified the Licensee that such activity is in the Licensors's sole opinion not beneficial to the preservation and/or development of the Lands, excluding the Licensed Premises, as a site of ecological interest for the use, enjoyment and benefit of the people of British Columbia.



2.06 To deliver to the Licensor from time to time, upon demand, receipts or other evidence of payment of monetary obligations of the Licensee required to be observed by the Licensee pursuant to this License Agreement.

2.07 To indemnify and save harmless the Licensor against all loss, damage, costs and liabilities, including fees of solicitors and other professional advisors arising out of:

- (a) any breach, violation or non-performance of any covenant, condition or agreement in this License Agreement by the Licensee,
- (b) any personal injury, death or property damage occurring on the Licensed Premises or happening by virtue of the Licensee's occupation of the Licensed Premises or the exercise by the Licensee of the Access License;

and the amount of such loss, damage, costs and liabilities shall be payable by the Licensee to the Licensor immediately.

2.08 Not to construct, erect, or place any buildings, structures or other improvements on the Licensed Premises, except those on the Licensed Premises at the commencement of the Lifetime License; and where the construction, erection, or placement of buildings, structures or other improvements is contemplated, or where any addition to the existing buildings, structures or improvements is contemplated, the Licensee shall not proceed with such construction, erection, placement or addition unless he has delivered to the Licensor written particulars of the same and a sketch plan showing the intended location on the Licensed Premises of the same and the Licensor has approved the same, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

2.09 To pay all accounts and expenses as they become due for labour performed on, or material supplied to, the Licensed Premises save and except for monies that the Licensee is required to retain or hold back under the Builders' Lien Act, and with respect to the amounts so retained or held back to pay and deal with the same in compliance with that Act and to place written notices immediately before the commencement of any construction on the Licensed Premises, in at least two conspicuous places, pursuant to the Builders' Lien Act or other legislation of like effect in force from time to time, giving notice that the Licensor shall not be responsible for the cost of labour, services or materials performed on or supplied to the

Licensed Premises, and to permit the Licensor to enter on the Licensed Premises for the purpose of placing such notices.

2.10 To maintain and preserve in good order and condition the Licensed Premises, and to protect and preserve the trees, bushes, shrubs, plants and flowers now growing, and which at any time during the said term grow thereon from waste, injury or destruction, and to keep the Licensed Premises in a safe, clean and sanitary condition satisfactory to the Licensor and not to permit the accumulation of refuse or rubbish on the Licensed Premises.

2.11 That the acts of any person or persons permitted by the Licensee, expressly or impliedly to be on or about the Licensed Premises, shall for the purpose of this Agreement be deemed to be the acts of the Licensee as if done by the Licensee personally.

ARTICLE III - ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS OF THE LICENSOR  
AND LICENSEE RELATING TO THE ROAD

The Licensor and the Licensee covenant and agree as follows with respect to the Access License:

3.01 The Licensor may erect such gates on the Road and install such locks on the gates erected or already existing on the Road as it shall deem appropriate.

3.02 The Licensee may erect a gate at the boundary of the Road and the Licensed Premises and install a lock on such gate if the Licensee shall deem it appropriate to do so.

3.03 After having passed through the same, the Licensee will close and if possible lock all gates on the Road which the Licensee finds in the closed position.

3.04 The Licensee's right to use the Road is non-exclusive and is a right in common with the Licensor and all others permitted to use the Road by the Licensor.

3.05 The Licensor shall construct, repair and maintain an all weather road surface on that portion of the Road on which there is not now an all weather road surface, which new road surface may be only one car width wide, and the Licensor shall repair and maintain the existing road surface on the balance of the Road.

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3.06 The Licensors shall provide the Licensee with keys to any locks installed on or already in existence on gates on the Road and the Licensee agrees not to provide any other person or persons with such keys or copies thereof and to immediately advise the Licensors of any loss of such keys.

3.07 The Licensee shall not permit or purport to permit any other person or persons to utilize the Road whether or not together with a motor vehicle or otherwise howsoever.

3.08 The Licensors shall not do or permit to be done anything that will damage or destroy the Road except that the Licensors shall have the right to temporarily damage or destroy or cause to be damaged or destroyed the Road or any portion thereof in order to permit construction or installation on or improvement to the Lands to take place;

3.09 The Access License shall cease and determine and be of no further force or effect in the event access is provided to the Licensed Premises by an all weather public road.

#### ARTICLE IV - LICENSE IS PERSONAL TO LICENSEE

4.01 The Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the licenses herein granted are personal to the persons comprised in the Licensee and will not form part of the estate of the first to die of the persons comprised in the Licensee and are not assignable either by the act of the Licensee or by operation of law or otherwise howsoever and that in the event the Licensee shall assign, agree to assign or purport to assign the licenses or either of them or any rights or benefits arising hereunder the Licensee's rights hereunder shall cease and determine.

#### ARTICLE V - EXCLUSIVE USE

5.01 The Licensors agree with the Licensee that provided the Licensee observes and performs the covenants and agreements on the part of the Licensee to be observed and performed hereunder the Licensee shall have exclusive use of the Licensed Premises during the lifetime of the survivor of the persons comprised in the Licensee and the Licensee shall not permit or authorize any other person or persons to enter on to the Licensed Premises.

#### ARTICLE VI - PROVISOS

PROVIDED always and it is hereby agreed as follows:

6.01 The Licensors shall forward to the Licensee a copy of the Lease upon the same becoming available.

6.02 The right, title and interest in and to any buildings, structures, and other improvements now or hereafter constructed on the Licensed Premises shall be and remain in the Licensors subject however to the agreement between the Licensors of the one part and Lorne Stanley Morrell and Janis Morrell Dunn of the other part with respect to the same.

6.03 The Licensors have no obligation to repair, maintain or insure the Licensed Premises or any buildings or improvements found thereon.

6.04 The Licensors shall pay all real property taxes in respect of the Lands, including those in respect of the Licensed Premises.

#### ARTICLE VII - EVENTS OF DEFAULT

7.01 In the event that:

- (a) The Licensee or either person comprised therein fails to perform or observe any of the covenants, agreements, provisions, conditions or provisos contained in this License Agreement on the part of the Licensee to be performed or observed, including without limitation payment of any monies payable by the Licensee hereunder, and such failure continues for or is not remedied within a period of 30 days next after the giving of written notice by the Licensors to the Licensee of the nature of such failure;
- (b) Any person shall take or attempt to take the licenses or either of them hereby granted in execution or attachment or the Licensee commits an act of bankruptcy, becomes insolvent or is petitioned into bankruptcy or voluntarily enters into an arrangement with his creditors; or
- (c) The Licensee does not use the Licensed Premises for the purpose permitted and as required herein;

the rights and benefits of the Licensee hereunder shall cease and determine.

7.02 In the event of a breach of a covenant, agreement, provision, condition or proviso in respect of which written



notice is issued under clause 7.01(a) and which cannot be remedied because it does not consist of an ongoing breach then the written notice shall serve as a warning and in the event of the same or similar breach hereof within a twelve month period from such written notice being issued the rights and benefits of the Licensee hereunder shall cease and determine.

7.03. In the event of a breach of a covenant, agreement, provision, condition or proviso in respect of which written notice is issued under clause 7.01(a) and which is capable of being remedied because it does consist of an ongoing breach and which is remedied within the 30 day period aforesaid then in the event of the same or similar breach hereof within a twelve month period from such written notice being issued the rights and benefits of the Licensee hereunder shall cease and determine.

#### ARTICLE VIII - NOTICE

8.01 Any written notice to be given to either the Licensor or the Licensee pursuant to this License Agreement shall be sufficiently given if delivered or mailed, prepaid and registered to the address of the party intended to receive such notice as noted on the first page hereof and if the notice is mailed the date of receipt shall be deemed to be 3 business days after such notice has been deposited in the post office nearest to the party giving the notice.

8.02 Either party may, by notice in writing to the other, specify another address for service of notices under this license, and where another address is specified under this section, notices shall be mailed to that address in accordance with this Article.

8.03 Notwithstanding Article 8.01, any written notice to be served or given by the Licensor to the Licensee under this License Agreement shall be effectively given or served by posting the same in a conspicuous place on the Licensed Premises.

#### ARTICLE IX - MISCELLANEOUS

9.01 No term, condition, agreement, covenant or other provision hereof shall be considered to have been waived by the Licensor unless such waiver is expressed in writing by the Licensor. The waiver by the Licensor of any breach by the Licensee of any term, condition, agreement, covenant or other provision herein shall not be construed as or constitute a waiver of any further or other breach of the same or any other

term, condition, agreement, covenant, or other provision and the consent or approval of the Licensor to any act by the Licensee requiring the consent or approval of the Licensor shall not be considered to waive or render unnecessary such consents or approvals to any subsequent, same or similar act by the Licensee.

9.02 No remedy conferred upon or reserved to the Licensor is exclusive of any other remedy herein or provided by law, but such remedies shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other remedy herein or existing at law, in equity, or by statute.

9.03 The Lifetime License and the Access License are subject to:

- (a) the subsisting conditions, provisos, restrictions, including royalties, if any, contained in the original grant or contained in any other grant or disposition from the Crown with respect to the Lands;
- (b) a highway, or public right of way, watercourse, right of water or other public easement found on the Lands; and
- (c) any interest or encumbrance registered against or affecting the title to the Lands including the terms and conditions of the Lease and all interests in the Lands subsequently granted by the Licensor of which the Licensee is notified except those creating leasehold estates;

and the Licensee will not, in exercising any of his rights hereunder, breach or in any way violate the provisions of the said interests in land to which this Agreement is from time to time subject including the terms and conditions of the Lease and will indemnify and save harmless the Society from any and all liabilities, expenses, charges, damages, costs, actions and proceedings arising from or as a result of the breach by the Licensee of the provisions of the interests in land to which this Agreement is from time to time subject including the terms and conditions of the Lease.

9.04 Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

9.05 In this License Agreement, where the context so requires, the singular includes the plural and the masculine includes the feminine gender and a corporation, and all

acknowledgments, agreements, covenants, liabilities and obligations made or entered into by or imposed hereunder upon the Licensee shall be joint and several acknowledgments, agreements, covenants, liabilities and obligations of the persons comprised in the Licensee and for certainty it is agreed that a breach by one person comprised in the Licensee shall be a breach by the Licensee.

9.06 The captions and headings contained in this License Agreement are for convenience only and are not to be construed as defining or in any way limiting the scope or intent of the provisions hereof.

9.07 This License Agreement shall be interpreted according to the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

9.08 Where there is a reference to an enactment of the Province of British Columbia in this License Agreement, that reference shall include a reference to any subsequent enactment of the Province of British Columbia of like effect, and unless the context otherwise requires, all statutes referred to herein are enactments of the Province of British Columbia.

9.09 If any section of this License Agreement or any part of a section is found to be illegal or unenforceable, that part or section, as the case may be, shall be considered separate and severable and the remaining parts or sections, as the the case may be, shall not be affected thereby and shall be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

9.10 The Licensee acquires hereunder no estate or interest in the Lands or other than a mere contractual right to use and occupy a portion thereof and to pass and repass over another portion thereof in accordance with this Agreement and the Licensee agrees that no entry onto the Licensed Premises by the Licensor or any person deriving his right to enter onto the Licensed Premises through the Licensor shall be a trespass but shall be a breach of contract only if not otherwise permitted hereunder or expressly or impliedly consented to.

9.11 Where this Agreement contains any of the forms of words in column 1 of Schedule 4 to the Land Transfer Form Act and distinguished by any number in it the License Agreement has the same effect and is to be construed as if it contained the form of words of column 2 of Schedule 4 to the Land Transfer Form Act and distinguished by the same number as is annexed to the form of words used in this License Agreement with the necessary changes being made by substituting "Licensor" for

"Lessor" and "Licensee" for "Lessee" where "Lessor" or "Lessee" appear in the form of words as aforesaid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunder executed this Agreement.

THE CORPORATE SEAL of the  
MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION was  
hereunto affixed in the  
presence of:

R.K. Braun, President  
Authorized Signatory

James D. Miller VICE PRESIDENT  
Authorized Signatory

C/S

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED  
by WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL  
the presence of:

Signature: J. Lauinger

Name: JOAN LAUINGER

Address: Box 16, RR#2

NANOOSE BAY, BC

Occupation: Manager

William Alan Morrell  
WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL





SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED  
by VIOLA SAVAGE the presence  
of:

Signature: J. Lauinger

Name: JOAN LAUINGER

Address: Box 16, Stewart  
Rd.

RR#2 NANOOSE Bay, BC

Occupation: Manager

Viola Savage  
VIOLA SAVAGE



EXPLANATORY PLAN OF PART OF PARCEL A PLAN N<sup>o</sup>  
(DD 49323-N) OF SECTION 5, RANGE 8,  
MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

*This plan lies within the Nondoma Regional District*

SCALE. 1.750

**LEGEND**

no denotes HECTARES

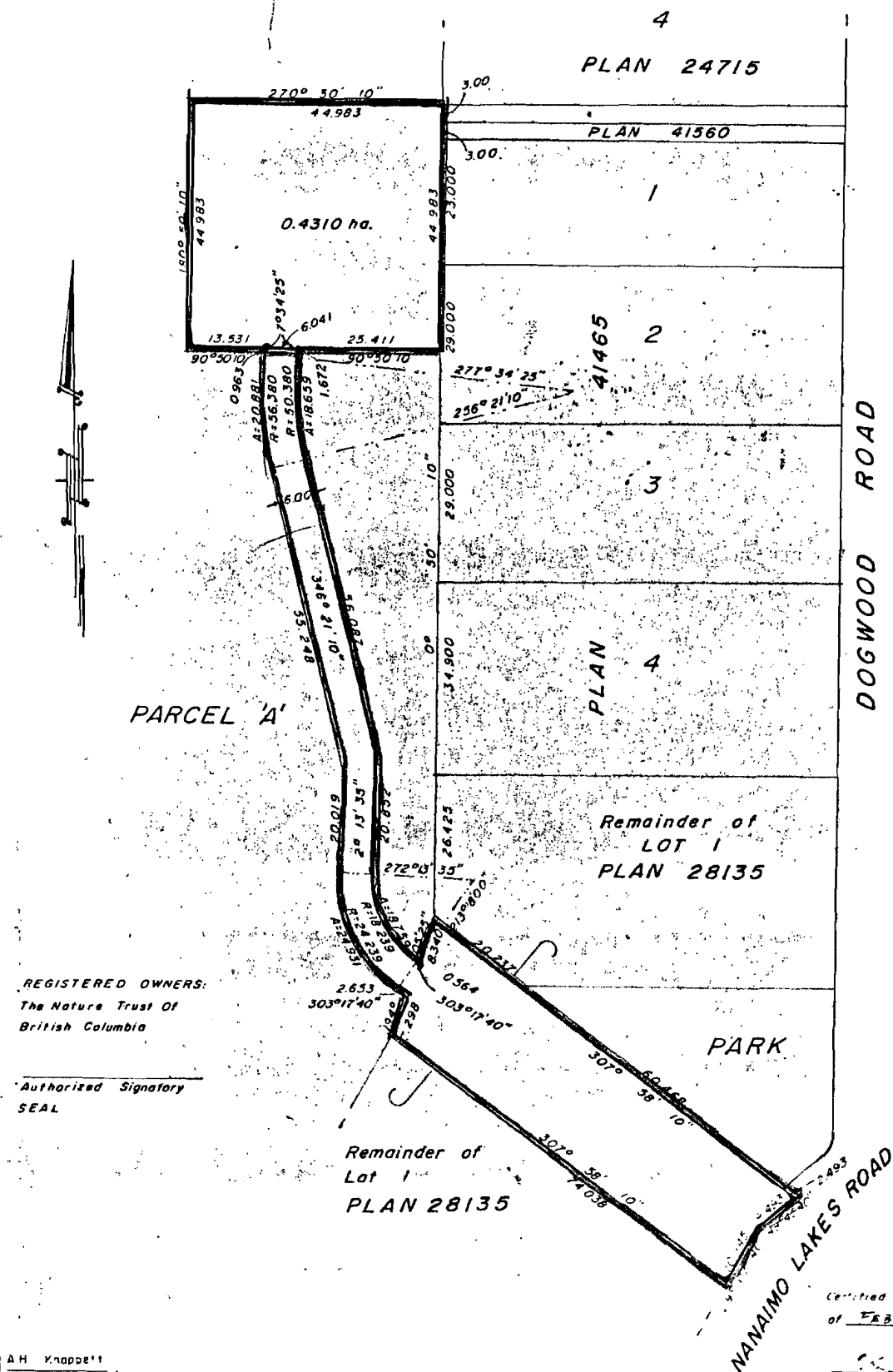
*R* denotes *RADIUS*

*A denotes ARC*

20m 10 0 20 40m

*All distances are in metres*

*Bearings are Astronomic and derived from Plan 41465*



# LAND TITLE ACT

FORM 6  
(Section 46)

## PROOF OF EXECUTION BY CORPORATION

I CERTIFY that on the

4

day of

JUNE  
May

, 1985

at

NANAIMO

in British Columbia,

(\*whose identity has been proved by the evidence on oath of

(State full name, address, and occupation)

Jerome D. Evans

who is personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged to me that he/she is the authorized

signatory of MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

and that he/she is the person who subscribed his/her name and affixed the seal of the corporation to the instrument, that he/she was authorized to subscribe his/her name and affix the seal to it, †(and that the corporation existed at the date the instrument was executed by the corporation.)

IN TESTIMONY of which I set my hand and seal of office at

NANAIMO

this

4

day of

May

JUNE

, 1985

† [Signature]

A.C. G.S. BERGFN  
Commissioner for taking  
Affidavits within British  
Columbia.

\*Where the person making the acknowledgment is personally known to the officer taking it, strike out these words in brackets.

†These words in brackets may be added, if the applicant wishes the registrar to exercise his discretion under the section 162(5) not to call for further evidence of the existence of the corporation.

‡Write name and qualifications under section 162(5) e.g. A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for British Columbia

LAND TITLE ACT

Form 2

Sections 43(a) and 44(a)

**AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS**

I, **JOAN LAUINGER**, of **NANAIMO**  
in British Columbia, make oath and say:

1. I was present and saw this instrument duly signed and executed by **WILLIAM ALAN MORRELL**  
and **VIOLA SAVAGE**,  
the party(ies) to it, for the purposes named in it.
2. The instrument was executed at **NANAIMO**
3. I know the party(ies) who is(are) 19 years old or more.
4. I am the subscribing witness to the instrument and am 16 years old or more.

Sworn before me at

in British Columbia, this

day of

**JUNE**

**473**

, 19 **85.**

\*

**G. S. BERGEN**

A Commissioner for taking  
Affidavits within British  
Columbia.

*J. Lauinger*

\*Write name and qualifications under section 48, e.g., A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for British Columbia.

NOTE: This affidavit must be sworn by a witness who is not a party to the instrument.



## APPENDIX F

### MORRELL SANCTUARY SOCIETY

#### Job Description - Sanctuary Manager

1. To assist in setting Society policy and direction where appropriate and to administer policy as authorized by the Board of Directors.
2. To oversee daily operations of Morrell Sanctuary Society, reporting matters of importance to the Board or relevant Society committee.
3. To conduct all duties in a professional manner and maintain confidentiality of Society matters.
4. To attend Board and committee meetings as required by the Board.
5. To liaise between the Board, staff and other volunteers to maintain communications between all parties. The Board will assign one of its members to work with the Manager in the role of liaison representative.
6. To coordinate repairs and maintenance of Sanctuary lands and to monitor any vandalism.
7. To oversee the *assist the treasurer* keeping of accurate financial records. *in the areas of bookkeeping, purchasing, banking, insurance and correspondence for the operation of the Sanctuary. This is to be done in accordance with applicable legal standards, direction from the Board and funding agencies. The Manager will maintain adequate training to perform the roles that are assigned.*
8. To oversee the Sanctuary's environmental education programs designed for the community; coordinating and participating in the implementation of these programs where required, as directed by the Board.
9. To be responsible for hiring, orientation, training and termination of staff and volunteers, in accordance with the personnel policy of the Society.
10. To assist the Fundraising Committee in making application to funding agencies and to research/implement events as instructed by the committee.
11. To develop public awareness and support of the Society.
12. To network with other non-profit community organizations and educational institutions.
13. To maintain an *comprehensive* office procedures. manual. *in conjunction with the Personnel Committee.*
14. To do what is necessary and appropriate to ensure the President and the Board are able to perform effectively.
15. To ensure posted public hours of operation are maintained.