



# HEART OF THE WATERSHED

Symposium on Restoring the Courtenay River Estuary

Presented By:  
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society  
[www.projectwatershed.bc.ca](http://www.projectwatershed.bc.ca)  
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Box 3007 Courtenay BC V9N 5N3

## PROGRAM

Comox Valley Project Watershed Society  
Presents:

### HEART OF THE



### WATERSHED

*A Symposium on Restoring the  
Courtenay River Estuary*

October 3rd & 4th, 2008

*The mission of the Comox Valley Project Watershed Society:  
“To promote community stewardship of Comox Valley Watersheds through  
education, information and action” has inspired the vision of:*



# HEART OF THE WATERSHED

**Symposium on Restoring the Courtenay River Estuary**

*The vision of this event is...  
“to create a community action group with a plan to preserve and restore  
the health of the Courtenay River Estuary ecosystem.”*



## *What is Ecosystem Health?*

“A healthy ecosystem is one that is intact in its physical, chemical, and biological components and their interrelationships, such that it is resilient to withstand change and stressors. It is a system that is not experiencing the abnormal growth or decline of native species, the concentration of persistent contaminants, or drastic anthropogenic changes to its landscape or ecological processes. A healthy and diverse ecosystem is one that provides abundant and beneficial services to its constituents, such as food, water, shelter, economic livelihood, recreation, and natural beauty...”

**<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/whc/seadoc/ehealth.html>**

If rivers are the veins and arteries of a watershed, and wetlands are the kidneys that cleanse the water, then the central element of the watershed must be the heart: in the Comox Valley, that heart is the Courtenay River Estuary.

# Friday October 3rd, 2008

Filberg Centre, upper level Conference Hall



7:30 – 8:30 am Registration & Continental Breakfast Buffet



## *Welcome & Introduction to Symposium*

- 8:30 am
- ◆ Don Castleden, Chair, Project Watershed Society
  - ◆ Welcome on behalf of the Hereditary Chiefs and the K'omoks people: Councillor Barb Mitchell, K'omoks First Nation
- Greeting: Elder Mary Everson, K'omoks First Nation

## *Keynote Presentation*

- 8:45 am
- ◆ The Upside of Down: Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon
- 9:30 am
- ◆ Wedlidi Speck, Wachiay Friendship Centre  
First Nations Perspective
- 9:45 am
- ◆ Function & Importance of Estuaries: Dr. Rob Butler,  
Pacific Wildlife Foundation

## *Refreshment Break & Book Signing*

- 10:00 am
- ◆ Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon book signing
- 10:15 am
- ◆ Comox Harbour Fish Trap Mapping Project:  
Archaeological Evidence for an Aboriginal Intertidal  
Fishery: Nancy A. Greene, Archaeologist
- 10:45 am
- ◆ Ranking of Estuaries in BC: Where Does Courtenay  
Estuary Fit In: Dan Buffett, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- 11:00 am
- ◆ State of the Courtenay River Estuary: Tim Clermont,  
Nature Trust of BC
- 11:30am
- ◆ Planning for Sustainable Systems for the Courtenay  
Estuary: Dr. Will Marsh, UBC

## *Lunch Break*

- noon - 1:30 pm
- ◆ Lunch Buffet, Filberg Centre, lower level Rotary Hall
  - ◆ View & Discuss Display Presentations  
Filberg Centre, upper level Conference Hall

## *Estuary Management Case Studies*

1:30 pm

### Concurrent Presentations

- ◆ **Session A:** Campbell River Estuary Management - Shannon Anderson, Fisheries & Oceans Canada  
Filberg Centre lower level Rotary Hall
- ◆ **Session B:** Englishman River Estuary Management - Michele Deakin, Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society, Filberg Centre upper level Conference Hall
- ◆ **Session C:** Nanaimo River Estuary: Restoring the Balance - Rob Lawrance, City of Nanaimo Environmental Planner  
Native Sons Hall lower level Room 1
- ◆ **Session D:** Cowichan River Estuary Management - Peter Law, Ministry of Environment  
Native Sons Hall lower level Room 2

### *Facilitated Breakout Group Discussions*

- 2:00 - 4:15 pm
- ◆ Creating a Vision for a Healthy Estuary
  - ◆ Action Planning
  - ◆ Commitment to Action

### *Summary of Group Discussions*

- 4:15
- ◆ Plenary  
Filberg Centre, upper level  
Conference Hall

### *Evening Presentations*

Filberg Centre, upper level Conference Hall

- 7:00 – 7:45 pm
- ◆ Moving Toward a Sustainable Courtenay River Estuary:  
Dr. Will Marsh,  
UBC
- 7:45 – 8:30 pm
- ◆ Rebuilding Nature in the Strait of Georgia:  
Dr. Rob Butler,  
Pacific Wildlife Foundation



# Saturday October 4th, 2008



## Morning Presentation



K'omoks Hall, 3320 Dike Road Courtenay (by the IHos Gallery)

10:00 – noon    ♦ **Workshop A** ~ Green Boating: Mike Richards,  
Georgia Strait Alliance

## Morning Field Trips

for carpooling, convene at K'omoks Hall 15 minutes before trip begins

- 10:00 – noon    ♦ **Trip 1.** Goose Spit ~ focus: geomorphology & rare plants:  
Chris Pielou: Comox Valley Naturalists Society,  
start at Goose Spit eastern parking lot
- ♦ **Trip 2.** Comox Bay Farm/Duck Slough ~ focus: birds,  
farms/floodplain: Jeanine Bond: Ducks Unlimited  
Canada, start at K'omoks Hall
- ♦ **Trip 3.** Courtenay Riverway Walk ~ Lewis Park/Simms  
Park/Airpark history & habitat: James Nixon: City of  
Courtenay, start at Simms Millenium Park parking lot
- ♦ **Trip 4.** Millard–Piercy Creek~ focus: stewardship protection,  
invasive plant removal: Ronna-Rae Leonard & Lora  
Tryon: Millard-Piercy Watershed Stewards, start at end  
of 31st St in Courtenay by the estuary



## Afternoon Presentations



1:00 – 3:00 pm    ♦ **Workshop B** ~ Naturalists of Comox Harbour:  
Richard Somerset Mackie, Author & Historian  
(includes walking tour to Mack Laing Park)  
1729 Comox Ave, Comox (Lions Den, lower level  
at the back, beside Comox Archives & Museum)

- ♦ **Workshop C** ~ Green Shores: Brian Emmett,  
Archipelago Marine Research & Harriet Rueggeberg,  
HB Lanarc Consultants (includes walking tour along  
Courtenay River)Native Sons Hall, 360 Cliffe Ave,  
Courtenay (lower level, at the back)



## *Afternoon Field Trips*

for carpooling, convene at K'omoks Hall 15 min. before trip begins

- 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- ◆ **Trip 5.** Brooklyn Creek ~ focus: stream protection, salt marsh: Ian Moul, Brooklyn Creek Watershed Stewards, start at east end cul-de-sac of Comox Ave, Comox
  - ◆ **Trip 6.** Comox Bay beach seine ~ Dave Davies, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, start at K'omoks Hall
  - ◆ **Trip 8.** Mansfield Drive mudflats ~ focus: life in the estuary: Michele Jones, Mimulus Biological Consultants & Project Watershed: start at paved parking lot, south end of Mansfield Drive in Courtenay

## *Closing Festivities*

K'omoks Hall, 3320 Dike Road Courtenay (by the IHos Gallery)

- 3:00 – 7:00 pm
- ◆ Field Trip Reports & Door Prize Draws
  - ◆ Complimentary Refreshments: Oysters bar, veggies & savoury snacks, tea, coffee & juice
  - ◆ Music: Blue Planet Songfest



# *Staffed Display Presentations*

Filberg Centre, upper level Conference Hall

Friday October 3rd, 2008

## *Story of the Estuary*

- ◆ 15th Anniversary display: Project Watershed
- ◆ 3D Watershed Model: Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition
- ◆ Courtenay River History: Courtenay Heritage Commission
- ◆ 1998 Courtenay River Estuary Management Plan Maps: Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- ◆ Photo Exhibit: Comox Valley Camera Club

## *Life in the Estuary*

- ◆ Eelgrass, Forage Fish: Seagrass Conservation Working Group & Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement
- ◆ Water Quality & Green Boating: Georgia Strait Alliance
- ◆ Aquaculture: Pentlatch Seafoods
- ◆ Shellfish Research: Vancouver Island University (Malaspina)
- ◆ Pacific Salmon Species: Pacific Salmon Foundation
- ◆ Puntledge Hatchery: Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- ◆ Puntledge River Water Use Plan: BC Hydro
- ◆ Puntledge River Bridge Coastal Restoration: Project Watershed
- ◆ Sensitive Habitat Mapping: Comox Valley Project Watershed Society
- ◆ Important Bird Areas: BC Nature
- ◆ Bird Atlas: Bird Studies Canada
- ◆ Tsolum River Restoration: TRR Society
- ◆ Invasive Plants/Wetland Restoration: Comox Valley Naturalists Society
- ◆ Wetland Restoration: Ducks Unlimited Canada
- ◆ Conservation Lands & Wildlife Management Areas: Nature Trust of BC

## *Human Impacts in the Estuary*

- ◆ CVRD Parks, Planning: Comox Valley Regional District
- ◆ Goose Spit: 19 Wing Comox
- ◆ Parks, Planning: City of Courtenay
- ◆ Parks, Planning: Town of Comox
- ◆ Roads: Ministry of Highways
- ◆ Environmental Farm Planning Program: Ministry of Agriculture
- ◆ Regional Conservation Strategy- Nature Without Borders: Comox Valley Land Trust
- ◆ Commercial Development: Courtenay River Estuary Action Committee

# Biographies

## *Shannon Anderson*

Shannon Anderson is a Biologist with the Resource Restoration Division (RRD) of the Oceans and Habitat Enhancement Branch with Fisheries & Oceans Canada in Campbell River. The RRD is a team of biologists, engineers, engineering technologists and Bio-technicians working together with other sectors and outside partners to restore and enhance the productivity of fish habitat. RRD provides guidance and information for watersheds as part of both major recovery plans and Water Use Planning process. Shannon has worked for RRD for over ten years. She was a fish culturist and seasonal hatchery worker at Quinsam Hatchery for the previous twelve years, and she has a BSc in Biology from the University of Victoria.

## *Jeanine Bond*

Jeanine Bond has been with Ducks Unlimited Canada for a year and a half and has been responsible for managing local projects. DUC is committed to conserving and restoring wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl, other wildlife, and people. DUC has been working with local farmers and other conservation organizations around the Courtenay Estuary to provide habitat for wintering and migrating waterfowl.

Jeanine graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Masters of Science degree in wildlife ecology and has previously worked with Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Simon Fraser University on various research projects.

## *Dan Buffett*

Dan Buffett is the regional biologist for the BC Coast Office of Ducks Unlimited Canada. He is responsible for conservation planning and research. He works with both government and non-government agencies as well as landowners to protect and restore estuarine habitat along the BC Coast. Dan has worked with Ducks Unlimited Canada since 1993. He completed his Masters in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University in 2006.

## *Dr. Rob Butler*

Until his retirement in 2008, Rob Butler was a senior federal government scientist responsible for ecological research with particular emphasis on aquatic birds with Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service. He is best known among the research community for his studies of shorebird migration and ecology of herons. His broad knowledge of birds and ecology has been used to influence conservation decisions of existing conservation programs, or where these are lacking, to establish new programs with broad community support in Canada and abroad.

Dr. Butler is well known in the naturalist community for his books, public speaking and media presentations. He is the coordinator of a seven-year province-wide BC Breeding Bird Atlas with Bird Studies Canada. He is an Outstanding Alumnus and Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union, Past President of the Waterbird Society, current President of the Pacific Wildlife Foundation, and on the Steering Committee of the Dialogue Centre in Vancouver. He has been on the executive and served as a committee member of numerous national and international

conservation organizations. Rob is working with his colleagues to develop what he calls the 'Ecological Architecture' of the Georgia Basin that aims to restore and sustain ecological functions and integrity during industrial and residential development.

### *Tim Clermont*

Tim J. Clermont has over 25 years experience in fisheries and wildlife management and the restoration of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. From 1991 to 2007 he coordinated the Vancouver Island Wetlands Management Program and was responsible for the management of over 50 conservation areas - mostly coastal wetlands and estuaries owned by The Nature Trust of BC (TNT) and managed by the BC Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Tim's work in 1993 helped the province establish the Parksville – Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area. Since that time he has successfully garnered support from First Nations, local governments, NGO's, federal and provincial agencies and community groups which led to the creation of 3 more WMA's, 13 Crown fish and wildlife reserves on Vancouver Island and 9 other critical habitat areas throughout BC. Tim has also assisted the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program (founded by Nature Trust, Ducks Unlimited Canada, MOE and the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund) with the securement of 16 private land acquisitions. In total over 8,000 ha of biologically diverse estuary, intertidal foreshore, beach, salt marsh, wetlands, stream, mature forest and riparian habitats have benefited by his efforts.

In the area of land management and habitat restoration, Tim has written and co-ordinated the development of 12 Conservation Area Management Plans and has implemented the restoration or enhancement of several coastal wetlands and streams. In the past 2 years Tim has focussed his efforts on the securement of critical habitats in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island to assist the Province and their conservation partners with the designation of new Wildlife Management Areas.

### *Dave Davies*

Dave Davies is Community Advisor for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Community Advisors are the key liaisons between DFO and community-based projects. Dave's territory covers the east coast of Vancouver Island, from Nanoose to Oyster River; and the west coast of Vancouver Island, from Nootka Sound to Kyuquot Sound.

### *Michelle Deakin*

Michele Deakin has a background in both Business and Recreation/Parks Management. She has worked in environmental education, communications and marketing for several years in government and non-profit settings. For many years she worked for Parks Canada on Haida Gwaii, including a liaison role between the tourism industry, the community, the Haida Nation, and Parks Canada. She has also been involved extensively in public consultation and representing community/business interests to management, policy and planning, tourism planning and promotion, and various communications functions. She has also taught environmental education, outdoor recreation and volunteered in museums and schools. She is a director of the Qualicum Institute and has been involved in the Brant Wildlife Festival.

Michele is co-chair of the Seagrass Conservation Working Group and works with the Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MVIHES) where she coordinates eelgrass and forage fish mapping, and is interested in shoreline management issues. As Chair of the Steering Committee for the Englishman River Watershed Recovery Plan, Michele works with a roundtable of provincial, regional and federal agencies, non-profits and private biologists.

## *Mary Everson*

Mary Everson is an Elder of the K'omoks First Nation.

## *Nancy A. Greene*

Archaeologist Nancy Greene has had a life-long interest in archaeology and anthropology but couldn't have imagined where her interests would eventually lead her. After raising a family and working for many years in the Comox Valley, including a position as the first curator at the Comox Air Force Museum, Nancy returned to school to complete a B.A. in anthropology and liberal studies at Malaspina University College with a special focus in archaeology. For a senior research project she received permission from the K'omoks First Nation in 2002 to conduct a preliminary survey of the great numbers of previously undocumented prehistoric wood stakes at Comox Harbour, stakes that she had noticed while out walking on the tideflats.

Inspired by the extensive distribution and patterns of wood stakes that she had identified during her preliminary survey, Nancy developed a research plan to pursue more extensive mapping. Starting in 2003, Nancy supervised a volunteer field crew to digitally record spatial attributes of wood stakes using a Total Station, a sophisticated surveying instrument, in combination with GPS technology. This information was compiled in a Geographic Information System to produce accurate maps of fish traps. This study represents the first archaeological use of this technology in an intertidal zone.

Over the next several summer field seasons Nancy, assisted by her husband and research partner David McGee (M.Sc. in Geology), continued to refine the study of this large Aboriginal intertidal fishery under a Heritage Investigation Permit issued by the British Columbia Archaeology Branch. Hamatla Treaty Society generously provided funding for radiocarbon dating of wood stakes.

Nancy has presented her research at national conferences of the Canadian Archaeological Association. She has been invited to speak to First Nations representatives and elders. A paper reporting on the mapping results of this five-year study is currently being prepared for publication.

## *Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon*

Thomas Homer-Dixon holds the Centre for International Governance Innovation Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada, and is a Professor in the Centre for Environment and Business in the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo.

He was born in Victoria, British Columbia and received his B.A. in political science from Carleton University in 1980 and his Ph.D. from MIT in international relations and defence and arms control policy in 1989. He then moved to the University of Toronto to lead several research projects studying the links between environmental stress and violence in developing countries. Recently, his research has focused on threats to global security in the 21st century and on how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological, and technological change.

His books include *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* (Knopf, Island Press, 2006), which won the 2006 National Business Book Award and was listed as one of the Financial Times best books in Politics and Religion for 2007. He also authored *The Ingenuity Gap* (Knopf, 2000), which won the 2001 Governor General's Non-fiction Award, and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton University Press, 1999), which won the Caldwell Prize of the American Political Science Association.

### *Michele Jones*

Michele Jones is Principal of Mimulus Biological Consultants. Ms. Jones has been working and teaching in the field for over 25 years. Her specialties are plants and vegetation ecology, with a real passion for wetlands and estuaries. She has worked throughout the province identifying ecosystems and habitats in the field. She has trained and mentored community members, as well as professional crews in inventory and field skills. She is a certified Streamkeepers and Wetlandkeepers instructor, and she instructs for the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Institute.

### *Peter Law*

Peter Law is an Ecosystem biologist with the BC Ministry of the Environment. He has worked on Vancouver Island as a field level biologist for 30 years, working for the Ministry on many fish and wildlife inventories, habitat restoration projects and protection of sensitive ecosystems. Over the past 5 years Peter has been the chair of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee.

### *Rob Lawrance*

Rob Lawrance is the Environmental Planner for the City of Nanaimo and a full member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia. He has worked with the City for the last seven years on a wide range of projects dealing with the monitoring and restoration of the Nanaimo Estuary; creating a development permit area for environmentally sensitive sites and implementing a corporate climate change plan to reducing energy and emissions from City buildings and the vehicle fleet.

Before working with the City of Nanaimo, Rob was the executive director for a local land trust organization in the Cowichan Valley and worked with local landowners on a number of stewardship projects. Rob is currently a member of working committees for both the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team and the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee. Rob holds a Masters in Urban and Rural Planning from Dalhousie University.

### *Ronna-Rae Leonard*

Ronna-Rae Leonard is the Millard-Piercy Watershed Stewards Watershed Coordinator. She has 25 years experience working as a community activist, and for the past 10 years, she has worked with environmental non-profit organizations, specializing in community engagement, policy development research, and educational outreach.

### *Richard Somerset Mackie*

In 25 years of engagement with the Comox Valley, award-winning author and historian Richard Somerset Mackie has written biographies of naturalist Hamilton Mack Laing, surveyor George Drabble, and illustrated histories *Island Timber and Mountain Timber of the Comox Logging Company*. Most recently he has started a biography of environmentalist Melda Buchanan. Richard holds a doctorate in Canadian History from UBC and has taught at the University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University (Malaspina) and the University of Washington.

### *Dr. Will Marsh*

Willam Marsh comes to the Landscape Architecture Program at UBC from the University of Michigan where he enjoyed a diverse career as a landscape planner, teacher, author, and consultant. He is a former Chairman of the Department of Earth and Resource

Sciences and a former Director of the Laboratory for Land and Water Management, both at the University of Michigan-Flint.

In addition to being a well-recognized scholar, Professor Marsh is a distinguished teacher. He is the recipient of the Faculty award from the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities and, from 1994-96, held the David M. French Distinguished Professorship at the University of Michigan-Flint. He is an Honorary Member of the Michigan Society of Landscape Architects and in 1985 and 1986 was appointed Great Master of the Design Atelier in Landscape Architecture at the Texas A & M University. More recently, he served on the National Accreditation Board of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

Professor Marsh teaches courses and workshops in landscape analysis for site planning and design, with emphasis on small towns, coastal environments, and watersheds. He also participates in thesis committee work and advises watershed organizations, developers, and communities on problems of land use change, system-based design, and landscape management. He is co-founder of the Will Marsh-Doug Paterson Scholarship in Landscape Architecture at UBC.

### *Barb Mitchell*

Barb Mitchell is a K'omoks Band member and Counsellor, married with three grown children and three grandchildren. Barb has been working for the K'omoks Band for 30+ years as the Social Development Administrator. She also has been on Council since January 2000. Barb enjoys working with people and for the people. In 1992 she was one of four women who created the Laichwiltach Family Life Program out of Campbell River. This Society offered family violence programs to clients both on and off the reserve. She was the first president of the Society, and continued to be very active with LFLS until being elected to Council in 2000.

### *Ian Moul*

Ian Moul is a Professional Biologist. His main area of interest is the interface between wildlife and wildlife habitat with urban, sub-urban, and rural landscapes. He currently works on contracts with The Nature Trust of BC and with the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS), a project of BC Nature. He gives most of his volunteer time to the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society in the Comox Valley.

### *James Nixon*

James Nixon has spent many hours at the Courtenay Riverway, as Gardener for the City of Courtenay. He has been with the City since 2004.

### *Dr. Chris Pielou*

Dr. Chris Pielou is a distinguished author & scientist and member of the Comox Valley Naturalists Society.

### *Mike Richards*

Mike Richards is the Green Boating Program Coordinator for Georgia Strait Alliance. Mike hails from Australia and has a life-long history of sailing and other boating experience - including time in the Royal Australian Navy and as a professional fisherman. His background is in environmental studies, public education and program development.

Mike was recently honoured in Ontario with the Yachtsman Spring Thaw Environment Award, the first British Columbian to receive this national award.

### *Harriet Rueggeberg*

Harriet Rueggeberg has degrees in biology and natural resource planning. She started her career in 1983 as an independent consultant in environmental assessment and policy analysis, managing projects for agencies in BC, Yukon and Northwest Territories. In 1994, Harriet became the City of Nanaimo's first Environmental Planner, developing policies and programs for stream protection, stormwater management, erosion control, ESA protection, steep slope development, environmental and sustainability indicators, and public stewardship. Harriet joined Lanarc Consultants (now HB Lanarc) in 2001 where her work has continued in environmental policy and land use planning for local governments, as well as park planning, habitat compensation policy, and coastal and watershed stewardship.

### *Pam Shaw*

Pam Shaw is the former director of community planning for the Regional District of Nanaimo. Since joining Vancouver Island University in 2002, Pam has been responsible for delivering courses in human geography, geographic communication, urban and regional planning, urban social geography and issues in urban growth management. After spending 20 years in the planning field, Pam has chosen to pursue her PhD in Geography at the University of Victoria.

### *Wedlidi Speck*

Wedlidi Speck is a member of the Namgis First Nation of Alert Bay. He is Hereditary Head Chief of the G'ixsam Clan of the Kwakiutl proper. Self-described as a bi-cultural First Nations man caught in the web of contemporary times, Wedlidi is committed to helping the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community build relationships, safe communities and cross cultural tolerance. He applies this vision to his work, friendships, family and community life.

Wedlidi worked for the John Howard Society of North Island for over 18 years working with youth, family and community as an aboriginal therapist, alcohol and drug group leader and counsellor.

Wedlidi is currently the Executive Director of the Wachiy Friendship Centre, and on the Board of Directors of the John Howard Society. When there is time permitting, Wedlidi provides cross cultural awareness training. Wedlidi has been trained in western and aboriginal models of substance abuse counselling and strategies. He is a visual artist, storyteller and traditional dancer.

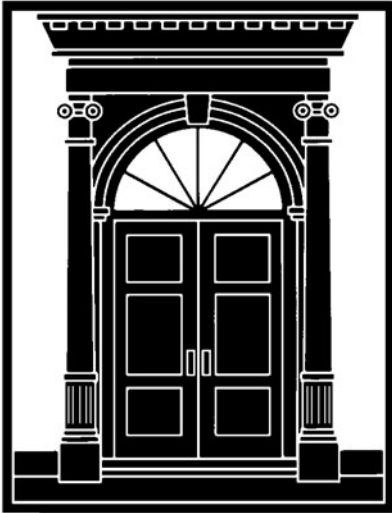
### *Lora Tryon*

Lora Tryon is a Biologist with Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards. She received a BSc Degree from Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, BC in 2000, and has undertaken numerous scientific and stewardship projects both for the Stewards and industry. Steeped in sound scientific knowledge, Lora is an engaging presenter.

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Dr. Colleen Clancy



## Friday Breakfast & Coffee Sponsors



## Tributary Supporters



### *Additional Event Planning Assistance*

Members of:

Comox Valley Land Trust, Comox Valley Naturalists Society,  
Comox Valley Water Watch Coalition,  
City of Courtenay Planning Department,  
Fisheries & Oceans Canada,  
Georgia Strait Alliance, Landworks Consultants,  
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards,  
Puntledge River Restoration Committee,  
Tsolum River Restoration Society

### *Additional Activities*

Blue Planet Songfest Committee, Courtenay & District Museum

### *Saturday Door Prizes*

Best Western Westerly Hotel, Blackfin Pub,  
Crawford Studios Sandblasted Designs on Glass, Kathy Campbell,  
Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa, Park Café on the Riverwalk,  
Tomato Tomato Restaurant & Lounge, Tree Island Kayaking

## *Special thanks to...*

Project Watershed Board & Staff

Wayne Boyce for video ideas & more, Don Chamberlain for technical brilliance

Barb Haffner for taking on all the extra work

Maaiké Pen & Vivian Dean of Building Green for setting the bar so high

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Claudia Boyce for finding coffee sponsors & door prize donors

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Blue Planet Songfest

Bob Farthing & Citizens on Patrol for Saturday parking management

All the newspapers, radio stations, magazines & websites that featured the event

All those who distributed & displayed brochures

Regional & municipal planning & parks staff for significant contributions

All the inspiring speakers, presenters, trip leaders, facilitators & volunteers who contributed

knowledge, energy and resources

The Coordinating Committee for contributing to the planning of this symposium:

Kathleen Kinasewich, Water Watch Coalition; Dave Lacelle, Comox Valley Naturalists Society;

Jack Minard, Tsolum River Restoration Society; Larry Peterson,

Puntledge River Restoration Committee; Richard Porter, Millard Piercy Streamkeepers;

Ron Wall, Comox Valley Project Watershed; Don Castleden, Comox Valley Project Watershed

Thank you to all participants who have demonstrated their commitment to

restoring and preserving the Courtenay River Estuary.

I would especially like to express my appreciation to Krista Kaptein, our Symposium Coordinator,

who has contributed immensely to the planning of this event, identified key resource

persons, promoted the program with municipal councils and staff, co-ordinated

publicity, and attended to the myriad details involved in organizing this event.

*Dr. Don Castleden, Chair, Board of Directors, Comox Valley Project Watershed Society*

[www.projectwatershed.bc.ca](http://www.projectwatershed.bc.ca)