# Annual Report
of the
# Mayne Island Conservancy Society
# 2018

Photo: Lee Beavington

Photo: Fraser MacLean

Photo: Kelly Fretwell

# President's Report

## Malcolm Inglis

This annual report is intended to inform you, our members and supporters, of the state of the Conservancy Society, as well as some highlights from the past year.

St John Point continues to be a big theme, with a partnership agreement concluded between the Conservancy and CRD Parks in 2018; the agreement also covers Mt. Parke Regional Park where we've been active for several years. To support the Conservancy's long-term commitments to St. John Point, two funds were created with the Victoria Foundation. One is a covenant management fund, whose proceeds will cover our costs of monitoring the terms of the conservation covenant registered on the property title, as a condition of transferring the property to CRD Regional Parks. The other is a covenant defence fund, intended to cover the initial costs of any legal action required to enforce the environmental protections defined in the covenant.

2018 was a record year for memberships: 327 as of October. This very gratifying community support is bolstered by the growing group of conscientious volunteers who help in so many ways. The Conservancy is an ambitious organization engaged in a broad range of activities across the community and the region. In order to accomplish these the Board and staff rely on the contributions of volunteers. Over the past year the role of volunteers has been expanded to include serving on Conservancy Committees. The collaboration of volunteers and board members on the Program Committee that organizes workshops, film nights and talks presented throughout the year has proven to be especially successful, and has contributed to the variety of these events. Last August, we held our first volunteer appreciation picnic at Dinner Bay Park, to recognize the essential role that volunteers have in the Conservancy. This will become an annual event.

Rob Underhill reports in this issue on some significant projects undertaken during 2018, some of which will continue into 2019 and beyond. Other high points included our 10th anniversary potluck celebration last summer of our shoreline care program, which also honoured 10 years of volunteer free-diver mapping of eelgrass beds by members of the Vancouver Apneist Club; and our absolutely fabulous St John Point celebration for the community in February of last year.

Please let us know what you think about the work of the Conservancy and our communication with our community through our annual report. Drop us a line at info@mayneconservancy.ca or come and talk to me or the office staff anytime.

Photo: Andrew Ferneyhough

Photo: Pat Zuest

# Biologist's Report

## Rob Underhill

### St. John Point – Post Acquisition Activities

St. John Point is now a regional park protected forever with a nature/conservation covenant. In 2018, the Conservancy entered into a partnership with the Capital Regional District for the long-term management of invasive plant species in the park, and removal of scotch broom is well underway. The Conservancy is also working with the CRD to mitigate impacts resulting from an increase in human activities. The management plan includes making defining trails so hikers do not stray into sensitive areas and trample rare plants.

### Wetland Habitat Restoration Project

The Conservancy began an exciting wetland restoration project at Hedgerow Farm, one of the last large wetlands on Mayne Island, with three years of funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada. The goal is to restore the wettest 10% of the property to a historic wetland ecology by undoing some of the impacts from draining, soil compaction, mowing, and invasive plants. Maintaining functioning wetlands is an important component to overcoming climate change.

### Shoreline Care

The Conservancy partnered once again with the Mayne Island Recycling Society to coordinate the annual community beach clean-up, and 130 volunteers removed 3,145 lbs of debris from our shoreline. We delivered nine marine themed youth education lessons and hosted three guest speakers. A grant from the Sitka Foundation made it possible to continue monitoring eelgrass and bull kelp. In 2018 seven free divers from the Vancouver Apneist Freediver Club, three local scuba divers, 15 students from the Saturna Ecological Education Class, and two Mayne Island volunteer kayakers participated during 10 field days. Conservancy staff analyzed nine years of bull kelp monitoring data with some of the monitoring sites showing a decline. The cumulative evidence from 10 years of nearshore habitat monitoring helps us better understand our complicated marine systems.

### Science and Nature Education Program

In 2018 Conservancy staff and volunteers delivered a record number of youth-focused science and nature education programs in a partnership with the Mayne Island Elementary School, as well as with the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning and the Saturna Island Ecological Class. Our staff led students on 22 field trips around Mayne Island with programs that inspire youth about nature while helping them develop an understanding of biological systems grounded in science. We received $9,000 in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for 2018, but unfortunately we may have to scale back our Science and Nature Education Program in the future unless new funding sources are found.

# Financial Summary

## Fiscal Year 2018

| EXPENDITURES | | |
|---|---|---|
| CAMAS disbursements | $ | 266,327 |
| Salaries & benefits | $ | 85,619 |
| Accounting and legal | $ | 2,993 |
| Publicity | $ | 4,391 |
| Administration | $ | 8,358 |
| Rentals | $ | 7,151 |
| Meetings & travel | $ | 2,073 |
| Materials & contracts | $ | 31,886 |
| Insurance | $ | 1,254 |
| Guest honoraria | $ | 220 |
| Victoria Foundation | $ | 1,000 |
| Total | $ | 411,272 |

| INCOME | | |
|---|---|---|
| CAMAS Fund receipts | $ | 266,327 |
| Donations | $ | 30,056 |
| Grants | $ | 95,010 |
| Fundraising & other | $ | 12,182 |
| Memberships | $ | 1,755 |
| Total | $ | 405,330 |
| | | |
| CHANGES IN NET ASSETS | | |
| Net assets Jan 1, 2018 | $ | 81,883 |
| Net assets Dec 31, 2018 | $ | 75,941 |
| Deficit for the year | -$ | 5,942 |
| | | |

The external contributions received for the conservation, acquisition, management and stewardship ("CAMAS") of lands and costs associated with establishing binding covenants, has been recorded as a deferred contribution (liability) and is recognised as revenue when the related funds are spent. At the end of 2017, the Society purchased a property (St. John Point) and then immediately transferred it to the Capital Regional District. As part of the transaction, the Society agreed to register a covenant on the St. John Point property to ensure that future owners maintain its agreed ecological status. To this end the Society made two $100,000 contributions to the Victoria Foundation to establish the Mayne Island Conservancy Covenant Defense Fund and the Mayne Island Conservancy Covenant Management Fund. Expenses of this acquisition such as BC's Property Transfer Tax, legal and professional fees were also disbursed during 2018.