

# Stewardship Centre for British Columbia

## Annual Report 2013-2014

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



## Our Mission:

To strengthen ecological stewardship in BC by providing public education, technical and capacity resources and by fostering partnerships among organizations, groups, governments and the private sector.

Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life.

-Tenzin Gyatso, 14th Dalai Lama

- 1 Message from The Centre
- 2 Our Achievements
- 3 Green Shores™ Projects
- 5 Species at Risk Primer Stewardship Practices Project
- 6 Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice
- 7 Spotlight: Green Shores™ Technical Advisory Committee
- 8 Our Donors and Supporters
- 9 Financial Summary
- 10 Board of Directors and Staff
- 10 Looking Forward
- 10 Stewardship Works!

# Message from The Centre

In preparing the SCBC's annual report we are taking the opportunity to focus for a moment, not on where we have yet to go, but on just how far we have come over the past year. It has been a year of making new connections, renewing partnerships, and of growth in the programs and resources we offer. This year has also been marked by increased patronage from organizations who support stewardship in BC, including ENGO's, government, academic institutions, foundations, donors, landowners and businesses. It is because of this support that a growing number of people looked to SCBC for education and solutions to pressing problems, particularly establishing effective land use management practices that protect ecosystems and encourages ecosystem resilience.

Our sincerest thanks are extended to the individual volunteers and organizations whose dedication to our mandate has made the work of the Stewardship Centre possible. With over 50 professionals volunteering on our various committees, plus in-kind contributions from collaborating organizations and the project contractors we work with – we are able to provide up to date, science-based resources and tools to people who seek to protect and conserve our natural heritage in communities across BC.

The Centre was busy over the 2013-2014 year! Both the [www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca](http://www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca) and [www.GreenShores.ca](http://www.GreenShores.ca) websites were redesigned and now allow visitors to [subscribe to newsletters and join SCBC as a member organization](#). The Species at Risk Primer website, [www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca](http://www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca), is also active. The site provides up to date, easy-access information on species at risk and stewardship practices that help protect and restore critical habitat.

The SCBC is looking forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm generated by the continued and growing support of the stewardship community in BC.

Yours in Stewardship,



Sean Sharpe, RPBio,  
Co-Chair



Peter Abrams, B.A, M.ER,  
Co-Chair



DG Blair, B.Sc. M.Sc.,  
Executive Director





# Our Achievements



**Seven** educational Species at Risk Primer and Stewardship Practices workshops, roundtables, and forums with over **215 participants** educated.



**Three** Green Shores projects completed that highlight soft shore approaches for coastal shorelines and communities.

Education and training for more than **150 professionals, community decision-makers and landowners** to learn and discuss how to use Green Shores to meet changing conditions on our shores.

Complete redevelopment of the SCBC and Green Shores websites, attracting over **2,300 users**, 67% of which are **completely new to SCBC**. Visit the new sites at [www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca](http://www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca) and [www.GreenShores.ca](http://www.GreenShores.ca).



**Five** new Stewardship Practices guides are available on the [Species at Risk Primer website](http://Species at Risk Primer website), developed with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee.



A **two-day** Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice workshop for over **30 participants** from across British Columbia.



# SCBC Programs & Projects:

## Green Shores™

Green Shores™ is a public education and outreach program of the SCBC that promotes sustainable use of shoreline ecosystems through planning and design that recognizes the ecological features and functions of shoreline systems. Green Shores includes the Coastal Development Rating System and Green Shores for Homes. In 2013-2014, SCBC had three Green Shores projects underway:



### Green Shores for Homes

Green Shores for Homes (GSH) is a transboundary project involving several organizations, with SCBC as part of the project Steering Committee. When complete, GSH will be a voluntary, incentive-based program that educates waterfront homeowners, helping them to restore natural shorelines and enjoy the many recreational, scenic, environmental and shoreline-protection benefits they bring. SCBC has been working with the City of Seattle, Washington Sea Grant, Islands Trust and San Juan County to move GSH forward. In May, SCBC Executive Director, DG Blair, presented at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference on Green Shores in BC – Moving Ahead with Soft Armouring Options as part of a panel on shoreline incentives.



Washington &  
British Columbia

Funding for the GSH-BC pilot project has been approved for 2014-2015 by: Sitka Foundation, Real Estate Foundation BC, District of West Vancouver, Powell River Regional District, Islands Trust, PromoScience and the Ministry of Environment. The shoreline communities of Powell River, West Vancouver, Cowichan Valley Regional District and Thetis Island will participate in the GSH-BC pilot this coming year.

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

### Coastal Development Rating System Demonstration and Training project

The project demonstrated the innovative Coastal Development Rating System (CDRS) for Green Shores (GS) certification of three coastal shoreline developments, provided professional development training, as well as community outreach for GS. The project involved more than 150 professionals and community decision-makers in training and assessing the utility of the CDRS, and created four forums for landowners, community, government and shore professionals to learn and discuss how to use the CDRS. The project demonstrated the field application of the CDRS and provided the opportunity to showcase the results and leadership of the proponents to an audience of professional peers and decision-makers. As a result, there is increased interest to actively implement GS at the individual project planning and local government regulatory level.

Case studies included: Vancouver Parks Board Jericho Beach Restoration Project, Vancouver Island University Deep Bay Marine Station, and the Squamish Ocean Front Development Corporation. Contracts were awarded to Lee and Associates, Murdoch deGreef, and SeaScience Inc. to complete the pilot GS CDRS certifications. A final report is available on our website [www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca](http://www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca)

### Green Shores website

The Green Shores website has been redeveloped and is now accessible at [www.GreenShores.ca](http://www.GreenShores.ca). The new site features a gallery of Green Shores case studies, searchable by shoreline type and location. Also available are Green Shores and Coastal Development Rating System reports and guides, resources and links, bylaw information, blog posts and news updates.



# SCBC Programs & Projects: Green Shores™


## Greening Shorelines to Enhance Resilience: An Evaluation of Approaches to Adaptation to Sea Level Rise

This project completed an initial study to advance policies and practices in British Columbia with regard to the use of “soft” shore armoring alternatives within the context of climate change, sea level rise practices and guidelines, as well as flood protection. The study was completed with the support of Natural Resources Canada and a Project Advisory Committee. The intent of this study was to evaluate several approaches, for specific case studies, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the soft shore armoring alternatives, compared to an equally appropriate hard alternative, based on adaptability, effectiveness and cost.



SNC-Lavalin was awarded the contract to complete the work and sites from Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island and West Vancouver were selected for evaluation.

The project results demonstrate that soft shore approaches can provide effective flood protection against climate change related sea level rise. In the three case examples considered, it was found that the soft alternative always provided a significant cost advantage over the hard alternative. As well, based on the evaluation framework for ecological services developed for this study, the soft alternatives provided improved or similar assessment scores for the provision of ecological resilience of the shoreline. The full report will be available on the Green Shores website [www.GreenShores.ca](http://www.GreenShores.ca)

A screenshot of the Green Shores website. The header includes 'GREEN SHORES' and navigation links for 'ABOUT GREEN SHORES', 'CASE STUDIES', 'COMS', 'NEWS', and 'RESOURCES'. The main content area features a large image of a rocky beach with the title 'BOULDER AND COBBLE SHORES' and a subtitle: 'Boulder and Cobble Shores occur where suitable or heavy gravel sediments is available from eroding rock benches or cliffs.' Below the image is a search bar for case studies and a section titled 'What are the different shoreline types?' which lists 'Sand and Gravel Shores' as one of the types.

## Green Shores for Homes is coming to BC!

Green Shores for Homes –BC Pilot Project will work with four shoreline communities to

- complete a community consultation process to determine the most effective implementation model for Green Shores
- develop Green Shores tools and resources (incentives, education and awareness materials as identified) for pilot communities
- partner with pilot communities to implement Green Shores in their community.

2014-2015 pilot communities include the District of West Vancouver, Powell River Regional District, Thetis Island (Islands Trust), and the Cowichan Valley Regional District. SCBC hopes to bring GSH-BC to more communities in the future. Contact SCBC for further information about becoming involved!

# SCBC Programs & Projects:

## Species at Risk Primer Stewardship Practices Project

The Species at Risk (SAR) Primer, [www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca](http://www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca), is a website designed to provide accessible information about species at risk in BC. In 2013-2014, with funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program, Real Estate Foundation BC and the Agricultural Environment Initiative, a total of five Stewardship Practices as Pilot Editions and posted to the SAR Primer website. These include Species at Risk Voluntary Stewardship Practices for:

- Climbing
- Drainage Maintenance in Agricultural Waterways
- Guidance for Restoration Activities in Riparian Areas
- Reducing Domestic and Feral Cat Predation
- Riparian Areas in Settled Landscapes
- Reducing Small Animal Road-kill (in draft).

These documents represent many hours of research, writing, and review by technical experts and are designed to provide:

- private landowners with information they can use to inform their actions to conserve wildlife and species at risk
- industry specific stewardship practices that the agricultural sector can consider when making land use decisions and developing land management plans
- local governments with information to consider when developing mechanisms, such as bylaws and community plans, that help protect wildlife and species at risk
- information for conservation and stewardship organizations that can facilitate their work.

The guides present options and examples of good stewardship practices that address major threats to wildlife and many species at risk. They describe different voluntary activities people can undertake to help conserve species and their habitat and links them to resources to take action.



The SCBC held SAR Primer workshops in Langley, the Fraser Valley and the Okanagan, reaching over one hundred participants (landowners, community stewards, municipal staff and business organizations). In November, SCBC presented the Species at Risk Primer and Stewardship Practices for Species at Risk to members of the BC Agriculture Environment Committee at a meeting in Richmond.

The SCBC recently received a BRITE internship award from the University of British Columbia and additional funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program to continue documenting best stewardship practices for species at risk as well as conducting education and outreach for the coming year, 2014-2015.



### Species at Risk website

The Species at Risk (SAR) Primer for BC educational website provides the basic biology and distribution of species in BC in user-friendly terms. Species can be searched by name, habitat and location. The site also contains management strategies, stewardship practices guides and other general SAR information. Visit the site at [www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca](http://www.SpeciesAtRisk.bc.ca).

# SCBC Programs & Projects:

## Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice

SCBC partnered with the University of Victoria to host a two-day Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice (CoP) workshop with 34 environmental stewardship experts from British Columbia and Alberta in October, 2013. Funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connections grant to the School of Environmental Studies, the goal of the workshop was to determine if a CoP could provide a partial solution to major problems in environmental stewardship and if so, to provide some direction and advice on goals, challenges, research questions and governance structure.



The group decided that a proposal should be put forward to fund an Environmental CoP that would meet the following objectives:

- improve channels for knowledge mobilization
- create more effective ways of communicating with volunteers and more engaging approaches to volunteer recruitment
- prevent employee and volunteer burnout
- improve methods for sharing environmental policies and aligning volunteer efforts with government priorities
- coordinate applied research opportunities between universities in their graduate programs and conducting research with immediate social benefit.

The CoP Coordinating Committee is actively seeking funding to make the Environmental CoP a reality.

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



### Spotlight: Building an Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice

BC's environmental stewards see a distinct need to act in partnership in order to focus on priority stewardship issues, yet many say they fall short in resources to do so. Fueled by the momentum of the province's already strong stewardship movement, an Environmental Stewardship CoP could provide opportunities to bridge gaps across organizations by offering forums for collaboration, participatory action, research and sustained interaction.

BC environmental stewards also desire greater efficiency in achieving environmental protection and conservation. Therefore, three critical goals for the CoP are

- championing stewardship and developing an ethic approach
- building capacity in funding, time, and people
- increasing effective education and demonstration of stewardship.



# Spotlight:

## Green Shores Technical Advisory Committee

The Green Shores Technical Advisory Committee was initially formed as the Green Shores Technical Working Group in 2004. It is comprised of a group of coastal professionals formed through work associated with the publication and outreach for the *Stewardship Series Coastal Shore Stewardship: A Guide for Planners, Builders and Developers on Canada's Pacific Coast*. The committee provides technical guidance for the development of the Green Shores Coastal Development Rating System (CDRS) and its associated components.

The CDRS functions on an education- and incentive-based program implementation model.

Over the past 10 years, members have contributed professionally, creatively, and with great personal commitment to the ideals of Green Shores and the development of the Green Shores program, including the CDRS and Green Shores for Homes. The Stewardship Centre and coastal communities have greatly benefited from their participation and commitment!



**Brian Emmett**  
M.Sc., R.P.Bio.

With over 35 years of experience in coastal marine and fisheries biology in British Columbia, Brian is a co-founder and director of Archipelago Marine Research

Ltd. He headed the Marine Environmental Services Division of Archipelago, a group of biologists and technicians specialising in near-shore marine habitat inventory and assessment, for 20 years. Brian has been Chair of the Green Shores Technical Committee since 2004.



**John Readshaw**  
P.Eng.

John leads the coastal engineering group at SNC-Lavalin Inc., and has a reputation for applying current technology and creative insight to

challenging design and construction issues in the coastal and ocean environment. John has over 33 years of professional engineering experience as a coastal engineer and is the engineering advisor to the committee.



**Harriet Rueggeberg**  
M.Sc., RPP.

Harriet worked in the private and municipal sectors before retiring in 2010. Harriet worked on policies, plans and public information programs

for a variety of environmental issues – from stream protection and stormwater management to steep slope development and coastal stewardship. She has a keen interest in promoting green infrastructure and a “light footprint” in land use and development. The Green Shores program is an extension of this philosophy into the marine environment, where Harriet has been providing ongoing advice on local government policy and legislative tools.



**Gretchen Harlow**

Gretchen is trained as a community journalist and has spent over 30 years advising and organizing environmental projects and alternative energy programs for the provincial and federal

governments. Gretchen assisted in the development of the Stewardship Centre as a member of the Stewardship Technical Committee and continues her support of the organization and its aims as a member at large.

# Our Donors and Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their in-kind support of SCBC through participation on our Board of Directors, Committees and Project Advisory Committees:

**Alert Bay Marine Research Society**

**Archipelago Marine Research Inc.**

**BC Ministry of Agriculture**

**BC Ministry of Environment**

**City of Surrey**

**Community Mapping Network**

**Dave Zehnder**

**Delkatla Marine Sanctuary Society**

**District of West Vancouver**

**Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada)**

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

**Gretchen Harlow**

**Holger Schwichtenberg**

**Islands Trust**

**Land Stewardship Centre of Canada**

**Linda Allison**

**Liz Stanlake**

**One Sky**

**Pacific Streamkeepers Federation**

**Pearson Ecological**

**Peter Abrams Consulting**

**Rueggeberg & Associates**

**SNC-Lavalin Inc.**

**South Coast Conservation Program**

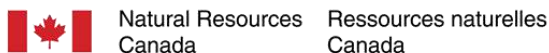
**Town of Qualicum Beach**

**University of Victoria**

**University of Washington Sea Grant Program**

**West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society**

Thank you to the following organizations for their financial support to SCBC:





# Financial Summary

## Revenue

### Government Grants—56%

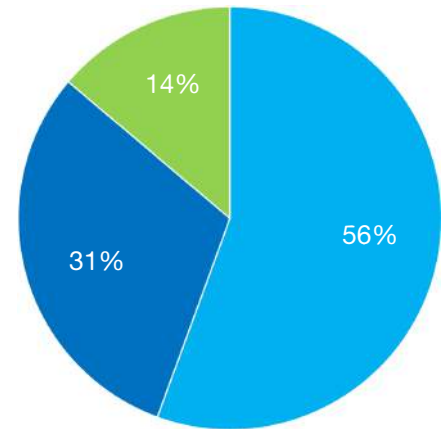
Federal: Natural Resources Canada  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
Municipal: West Vancouver

### Foundation Grants—31%

Investment Agriculture Foundation (ARDCorp)  
Real Estate Foundation BC

### 2012-2013 Other Funds—14%

### 2013-2014 Revenue Total—\$146,095.00



■ Government Grants  
■ Foundation Grants  
■ Other Funds

## Expenses

### Project Contracted Services—68%

Five Species at Risk and Stewardship Practices pilot documents  
Three Green Shores CDRS case studies  
Green Shores Background Report: Shoreline regulations and permitting processes in BC  
Greening Shorelines to Enhance Resilience Report

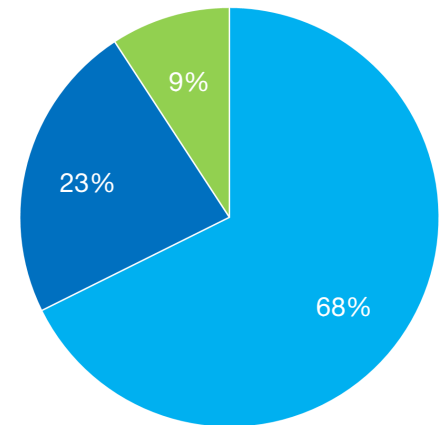
### Outreach and Public Education—23%

Four Green Shores workshops and two conferences  
Seven Stewardship Practices for SAR workshops and forums  
500 participants to SCBC workshops, forums and presentations  
Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice conference  
Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference Green Shores presentations  
New and improved web presence with redesigned websites

### Administration and Overhead—9%

General Administration  
Office Expenses  
Honorariums  
Legal and Accounting

### 2013-2014 Expenses Total—\$146,551.00



■ Project Contracted Services  
■ Outreach and Pub. Ed.  
■ Admin and Overhead

## Board of Directors

**Sean Sharpe**

Co-chair, *One Sky*

**Peter Abrams**

Co-chair, *Peter Abrams Consulting*

**Brian Ilnicki**

Treasurer, *Land Stewardship Centre of Canada*

**Liana Ayach**

Past Chair, *City of Surrey*

**Gretchen Harlow**

Director at Large

**Ken Brock**

*Environment Canada*

**Joanne Day**

*Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

**Margo Hearne**

*Delkatla Sanctuary Society*

**Anne Marie Koch**

*North Vancouver Island Salmonid Association*

**Valentin Schaefer**

*University of Victoria*

## Centre Staff

**DG Blair**

Executive Director

**Lonnie Prouse**

Financial Manager

**Laurie Stott**

Website Coordinator, *Evolve Multimedia*

**Laurisse Noel**

Assistant Coordinator (2013)

**Jenn Barrett**

Assistant Coordinator (2014)

## Looking Forward

Looking ahead, the SCBC is continuing to build on last year's successes and embarking on ambitious new projects. In the coming months, project plans are underway in the following areas:

- Green Shores for Homes BC Pilot
- Species at Risk Primer Stewardship Practices Demonstration project
- Environmental Stewardship Community of Practice
- Continued engagement and collaboration with over 50 organizations who actively work with us to support stewardship in British Columbia.

## Stewardship Works!

The Stewardship Centre has been integral in understanding how to build capacity and making it easier for stewardship groups in British Columbia to achieve. Through the Stewardship Works! project (2008-2011), SCBC published an accessible capacity building framework and demonstrated the incredible value of core funding for stewardship organizations. Organizations were able to recruit, train, and retain more volunteers, conduct more public education, and hold outreach and appreciation events among other things. While project-specific funding allows groups to complete tasks, core funding allows stewardship groups to truly flourish. SCBC is currently seeking funding to continue the Stewardship Works! Project.



**STEWARDSHIP CENTRE**

**FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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