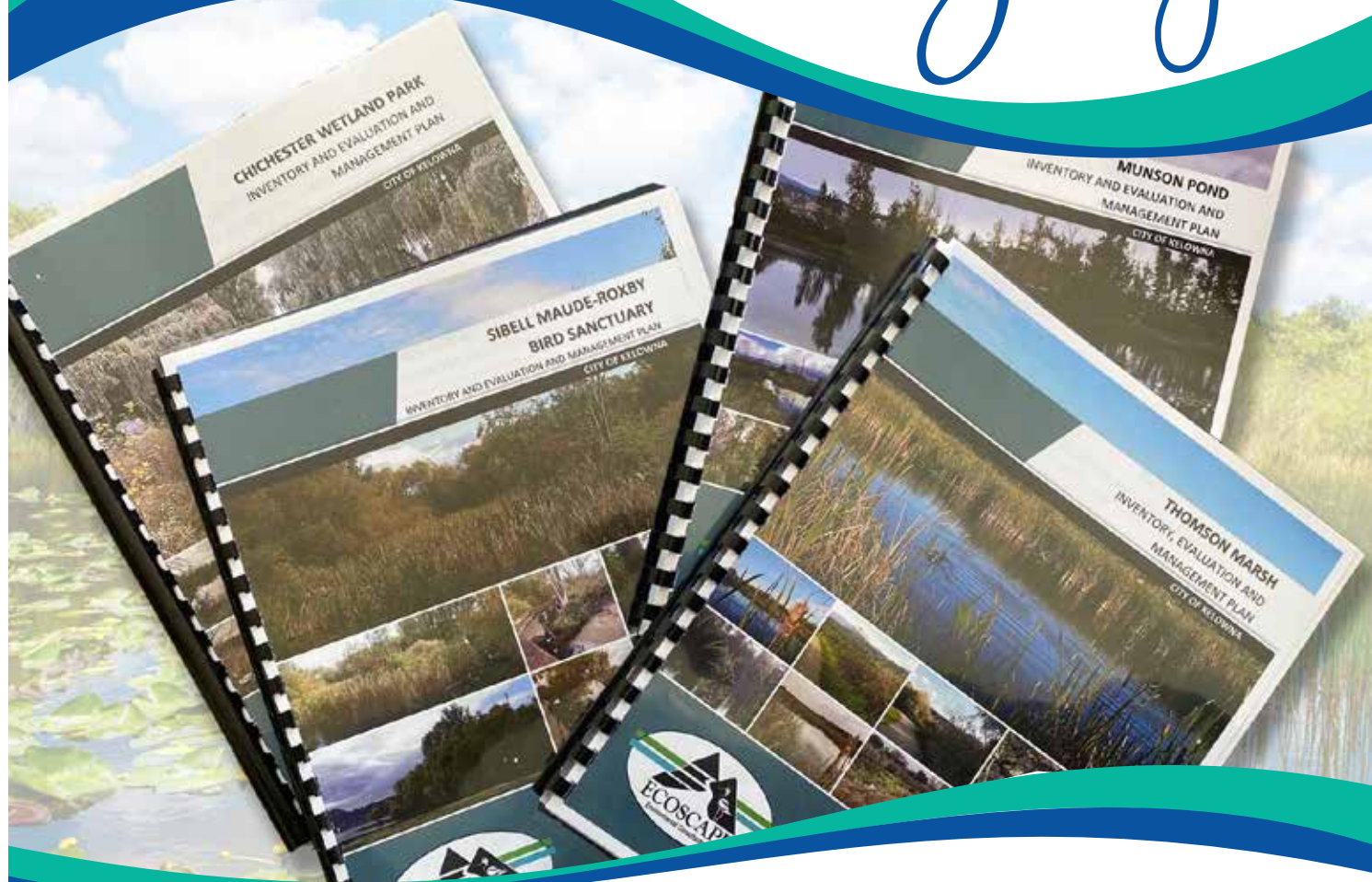


# LAND TRUST

# Legacy

...a newsletter of the Central Okanagan Land Trust



## Partnerships Help Manage Wetlands

by Judie Steeves

The more people and groups all pulling in the same direction, the more ground that can be covered.

That was proven again this past year when the Central Okanagan Land Trust, Okanagan Basin Water Board, the Central Okanagan Foundation, City of Kelowna, Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club and local environmental consultants all worked together on a template for Wetland Management Planning.

In the end, four plans were completed—for Munson Pond Park, Thomson Marsh Park, Sibell Maude Roxby Wetland and Chichester Wetland Park—plus a template which can be used for management of similar small ponds or wetlands throughout the Okanagan Valley. With these plans in place resources can be allocated as restoration and enhancement work moves forward.

Andrew Hunsberger, Urban Forestry Supervisor for the City of Kelowna, explains it's important when managing a property, especially when there are a variety of influences on it, that a management plan be in place, so priorities can be set and issues resolved in order.

He says the new plans are already in use at the city, with live staking and planting already underway at Munson Pond Park.

He was enthusiastic about the coordination between local volunteer groups, other agencies and the city because it provides access to volunteer help and also to grants that otherwise would not be available to a government body.

COLT executive-director Wayne Wilson agreed, noting "The project benefited from good working relationships between COLT and the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club, which continues to provide the land trust and other agencies with valuable 'on-the-ground' data on flora and fauna health."

The project was coordinated by COLT and carried out with \$25,000 from the OBWB, \$12,855 from the City, plus \$9,081 in in-kind work; \$2,760 from COLT, as well as \$1,000 in-kind; \$5,000 in-kind help from the CONC; \$4,600 in-kind from Ecoscape Environmental; and \$10,000 from the COF.

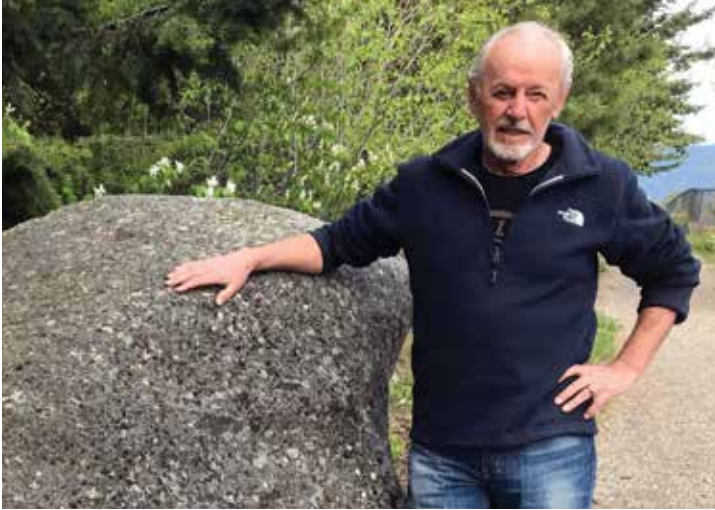
Not only were four site-specific Wetland Management Plans completed, but there is now a template for creation of similar planning documents for ponds elsewhere in the valley.

Project funding generally is easier to come by for restoration work than for planning, noted Wilson, so having the template in place should be a big help.

"This project demonstrated the value of having the collaborative support of environmental groups that maintain a broad community profile, support and reach," he commented.

## President's Report

Gord Savage



It's springtime in the Okanagan. Time to pack away the skis and snowshoes, dust off the bikes, gardening tools, and hiking gear. It's a time to reflect on our place in these challenging times. We have just come through two years of living with a global pandemic that has not quite run its course yet and a futile war rages in eastern Europe which is impacting all of our lives. For the past two years the Central Okanagan Land Trust has forged ahead on a number of initiatives. We have had to meet via Zoom over this period but as of this March we have started meeting face-to-face again.

Last year board member, Angela Cormano completed her report on invasive plant species at Munson Pond. This led to a community effort involving the City of Kelowna, the Rotary Club of Kelowna, and COLT conducting a weed pulling event to go after Purple Loosestrife that was taking hold in the wetland south of the pond. This year we will lead another event to continue this work and also target the Yellow Flag Iris in this same area.

We continue to work with landowners who wish to donate lands for habitat conservation. Two of these are moving forward and hopefully we will be able to announce them publicly within the next year.

Three of our board members have decided step down this year reducing the size of our board to twelve. Barry Jones and Kurt Zander had both served on our board for several years and have contributed greatly to our success. Colin Pritchard had only been with us for one year but he made an impact in initiating and leading the tree planting efforts at Munson Pond.

As this region seems to continue to grow and develop rapidly it is evident that the work we do in preserving natural habitat is abundantly important. I would like to thank all of our board, past and present, for their dedication to what we do and to all of our donors and community partners for their valuable support in our conservation efforts.

Gord Savage  
President – Central Okanagan Land Trust

## Executive Director Report

Wayne Wilson



As we roll into 2022, a reflection of the previous year's work shows some important accomplishments for the Central Okanagan Land Trust—work that supports the region's environment, wildlife habitat, and species at risk. A couple of specific projects demonstrate that in tangible ways, I think.

First, we collaborated with the Central Okanagan Naturalists'

Club and with the Parks Department of the City of Kelowna to complete four small site-specific wetland management projects. These included plans for Munson Pond Park, Maude Roxby Wetland, Thomson Marsh Park, and Chichester Wetland Park. Ecoscape Environmental carried out the work for us, and the result is four documents that will help guide environmental work on these lands. In particular, we are grateful for the financial support of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Central Okanagan Foundation to complete this work.

In more 'on the ground' work, COLT worked to organize a weed-pulling event at Munson Pond. The focus of these efforts was Purple Loosestrife, but we also made some headway on invasive Yellow Flag Iris plants in the area.

Lots of other work kept the board and I busy as well: working with two land owners who plan to donate their properties for parks and wildlife; strengthening of our financial resources; and important work with our collegial groups such as the Friends of the South Slopes, the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, and others. As we move through the coming year, this foundational work will help us do even more.

Thank-you to everyone who has supported COLT in its work across the region.

Wayne Wilson – Executive Director

# Invasive Plants to be Targeted

by Judie Steeves

The volunteer board members of the Central Okanagan Land Trust not only provide their expertise in areas such as biology, education, finance, legal, promotional and administration—they also head out into the field to pull weeds.

It's all in the interests of fulfilling the COLT mandate to conserve natural landscape features in this region.



Photo — Judie Steeves

Such features are not only endangered by human development, but also by encroachment from invasive weeds, so board volunteers got together with members of Rotary, friends and families for a weed-pulling party at Munson Pond Park last August. The two main species targeted were Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Flag Iris, both of which colonize wetlands, choking out native plants as well as open water in marshy areas such as around ponds.

Both those plants have escaped from gardens into the wild where they have no natural enemies and where they out-compete native plants.

Grasslands ecologist Tanis Gieselman, a member of the COLT board, notes each has strategies which allow the plant to propagate easily and widely, such as roots which will entwine with such native species as Cattails, choking them out; or floating seeds which can travel great distances before sprouting; or the ability to let loose thousands of seeds to ensure at least a few reach hospitable conditions in which to sprout.

*continues...*



Photo — Judie Steeves

Create a legacy  
CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
**LAND TRUST**

## Our Mission

...to protect land for wildlife and parks so biodiversity and natural features are preserved for future generations.

## Board of Directors

**Gord Savage** - President  
**Tanis Gieselman** - Vice President  
**Bill de Bosch Kemper** - Treasurer  
**Steve Thomson** - Director  
**Judie Steeves** - Recording Secretary  
**Laura Hooker** - Director  
**Dorothy Mills** - Director  
**Don Knox** - Director  
**Bob Groves** - Director  
**Angela Cormano** - Director  
**Eve Wegscheidler** - Director  
**Leah Schurian** - Director

**Ex Officio** — Wayne Wilson, Executive Director

**Ex Officio** — Representative, Regional District Central Okanagan

**Central Okanagan Land Trust**  
306-1726 Dolphin Ave.  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9R9  
Email: [info@coltrust.ca](mailto:info@coltrust.ca)  
[www.coltrust.ca](http://www.coltrust.ca)

Charitable Corporation Number: 13695 7198 RR0001

The Central Okanagan Land Trust is a member of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

Legacy is copyright 2021 by the Central Okanagan Land Trust

Printed on recycled paper

Gieselman has organized a workshop in May for professionals looking for new ways of controlling Yellow Flag Iris, featuring Dr. Catherine Tarasoff, of Agrowest Consulting Scientists, who has come up with two strategies for control of the iris. Those include use of a rubber mat temporarily to smother the iris and cutting the plants at the base underwater.

COLT holds a conservation covenant on a portion of the City of Kelowna park where the workshop will be held and that's where last summer's weed-pull was held, resulting in a pickup truck overflowing with garbage bags full of both invasive weeds.

Property-owners are responsible for control of noxious weeds on their properties, so both COLT and the City of Kelowna are required under the Weed Control Act to deal with such invasives as the iris and loosestrife, hound's-tongue, knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, Canada thistle, annual sow thistle and burdock.

The Province of B.C. welcomes reports of invasive weeds complete

with photos and locations of the find. Go to: [www.coltrust.ca](http://www.coltrust.ca) for a link to The Province of B.C. report on invasive weeds. Locally, the City of Kelowna and regional district also deal with reports of invasive weeds, as do the Cities of West Kelowna, Peachland and the District of Lake Country.



## Board Members

### Eve Wegscheidler

Eve grew up in Penticton with the natural environment as her back yard and through her explorations she came to love and appreciate the flora and fauna that makes the Okanagan special. She moved to Kelowna to attend Okanagan College and went on to work at the Regional District of Central Okanagan, predominantly in the Regional Parks Services Administration and Environmental Education/Visitor Services divisions. Time spent doing anything outdoors is her favorite pastime. Encouraging residents and visitors to experience and love the unique natural spaces of the Okanagan valley and preserving this important environment has become life-long purpose. Eve joined COLT in 2019.



### Don Knox

Donald Knox has had a lifelong love of the natural environment and its wonderments. He has lived all but his university years in the Central Okanagan and will be here until the end. His working career was spent trying to 'educate the masses' in SD 23 where he tried to instill an appreciation of the natural world in his young charges. Don currently is a member of three boards dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the natural world and one that is trying to preserve the built heritage we have created.

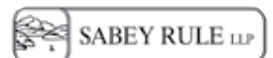


Follow us on Facebook  
at Central Okanagan Land Trust  
and Instagram @colt.landtrust



## Partners

The Central Okanagan Land Trust is fortunate to enjoy the financial, operational and/or development support of individuals, companies, local government, and other agencies. These partnerships help build a stronger network of parklands and conservation areas for wildlife – and we are the collective and individual beneficiaries of those healthy natural spaces. We thank all of them for their continuing support of our work and for their faith in our land stewardship practices.



### Named Endowment Funds

- Central Okanagan Land Trust Fund
- COLT Johns Family Conservation Area Fund
- COLT Munson Pond Fund
- Bootle Family Fund
- COLT Cynthia Hunter Fund
- Dick & Jean Hall Fund #1
- Hobson Family Fund for COLT
- Bernice Mabee Memorial Fund
- Charles & Kay Pettman Family Fund
- J.W. & M.E. Scott Family Fund
- Trinity Fund
- Westheuser Family Fund
- Ruth Nuyens Whitson Fund
- John & Monica Shantz Fund
- Wilson Family Fund