

CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY



CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY 2020 UPDATE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

The Cumberland Community Forest Society (CCFS) formed in the year 2000 by residents concerned about active logging in the forests next to Cumberland. Since then, the CCFS has purchased and protected close to 500 acres of privately owned forest next to the Village for ecological protection and low impact recreation.



**20 YEARS – \$5 MILLION RAISED
500 ACRES PROTECTED**

Our conservation model is based on the CCFS raising 100% of the purchase funds and negotiating a conservation covenant to ensure the long-term protection of the forest lands to be purchased. The lands are then acquired and managed by the Village of Cumberland as the Cumberland Community Forest nature park and protected by guidelines laid out in the covenant.

CCFS TIMELINE

2000

CCFS is incorporated

2005 & 2006

2 purchases formed the original Cumberland Community Forest
177 ACRES

2012

Debt from original purchase (\$1,200,000) is retired

2013

Phase 3 and 4 purchase targets identified

2016

\$850,000 Space Nugget fundraising target met

2016

Space Nugget (Phase 3) parcel is acquired
88 ACRES

2020

\$2,500,000 Perseverance fundraising target met

2020

CCFS is granted conservation covenant holding status

2020

Perseverance Creek (Phase 4 parcel) is acquired
225 ACRES

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

The Perseverance Creek purchase is the largest and most costly to date for the CCFS. This ambitious 2.5-million-dollar project has also been unique from the previous 3 purchases due to historic impacts on the landscape and the complex creek system that runs through it. Perseverance Creek is a salmon-bearing tributary into Comox Lake, the drinking water supply for over 45,000 Comox Valley residents. The protection of the Valley's drinking water is the responsibility of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the purchase was supported as part of Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan (WPP).



NEW ROLE FOR CCFS

The CCFS has recently been designated as eligible to hold conservation covenants by the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia. We will be joining the Comox Valley Land Trust (CVLT) and the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) as covenant holders to support the Village in the long-term protection of the Cumberland Community Forest.

The covenant will be monitored annually by the Comox Valley Land Trust, who identified the Perseverance Creek watershed as a top conservation priority for the region. The CVRD will monitor land use plans within the Watershed Protection Zone to ensure they are in keeping with watershed protection priorities, and the CCFS will have a role as "community covenant holder" supporting the parks management planning process and collaborating with the Village and other stakeholders on future projects.



OUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN

Our work has only just begun, and restoration, regeneration and biodiversity projects are already under development to begin to address historical impacts on the landscape. The business of buying and protecting land doesn't stop once the purchase is made. The CCFS takes our responsibility as stewards and active partners in caring for these lands seriously. We look forward to working with our community partners and sustaining donors to help plan and resource the important work ahead.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Science Pub Series Special event series featuring guest presenters, music, specialty bar, and live screen printing. Science Pubs to date include: Pollinators; The Secret Life of Trees; Dark Creatures; Natures Strangest Dating Scene; Beavers, Wetlands, and Colonialism; We Share a Watershed; and Local land Use.

Forest Stories Project Free after-school program in partnership with Cumberland Community Schools Society; kids summer camp, climate change action theatre and special theatrical events located in the forest linking forest protection to fairy tales and myths to deepen our connection with place.

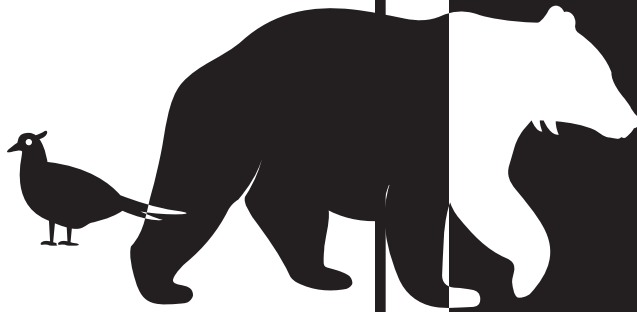
Cumberland Bat Project Working with the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership and the BC Community Bat Program, this project supports bat species at risk through citizen science initiatives, education, and community engagement.

Biodiversity Series Guided walks and talks to learn about birds, western toads, wetlands, plants, trees, fungi, slime molds, and more. Protection of species of concern and at risk, and education about the terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems and the species that call them home.

Watershed Protection and Climate Resilience Working with our regional partners to protect the sources of our drinking water through land protection collaborations, natural asset accounting and public education.

Conservation Education The development of curriculum kits and resource materials for use by local teachers and students, recreation programs and educational partners.

Event Partnerships Collaborating with community and business partners to support special fundraising events and community celebrations including Perseverance Trail Run, Beaufort Gear Swap, The Cumby, Mind Over Mountain Adventure Race, Arts Shows, Plant Sales, Summer Sunset Celebrations and more!



GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST

The scale of land acquisition undertaken by the CCFS would not be possible without the support of our Guardian, Legacy and Sustaining Donors and our Community Partners.

Guardian Donors of the recent Perseverance Creek purchase include the Comox Valley Regional District, the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Village of Cumberland, the Courtenay Fish and Game Protective Association, the Li-Grimmer Family, Rob H. Daniel, the Flanagan Foundation, The Perseverance Trail Run, The Cumby, Cumberland Brewing Company, and generous conservation partners and forest fairies who choose to remain anonymous. For a complete list of donors please visit www.cumberlandforest.com



GOING FORWARD

Going forward the CCFS is focused on 3 goal areas: Land Protection, Restoration and Regeneration, and Biodiversity. These goals support local and global climate adaptation, resilience, and biodiversity targets and align with the #15 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.



Land Protection includes identifying future purchase targets, advocacy for land and watershed protection, advocacy for new public lands, and collaboration with government and conservation organizations to respond to land degradation threats in the region.



Restoration and Regeneration includes restoration and management planning with community partners, research, old growth recruitment initiatives, habitat restoration, trail, culvert, and road remediation.



Biodiversity includes building awareness and action toward protecting species at risk, supporting healthy biodiversity through habitat protection and public education to support national and international goals to protect biodiversity in the face of climate change.

2020–2021 CCFS Board of Directors

Evan Gough, Jason Ross, Andrew Nicoll, Caroline Tymchuk, Annabelle Sproule, Shawn Gabel, Jason Straka, John Gower, Lisa Levesque, Angela Boss and Craig Keeping

Thanks to 2020 board retirees for your incredible contribution:
Marq Diment, Camille Douglas, Nygil Goggins

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BECOME A SUSTAINING DONOR TODAY

Sustaining donors support the land protection, restoration, and biodiversity projects of the Cumberland Community Forest Society. Our sustaining donors are the heart of our organization and they demonstrate the grassroots community support that has made our conservation achievements possible.

Monthly and annual contributions become the matching funds that allow us to leverage funding opportunities from foundations, agencies, and government. All donations over \$25 are tax deductible. Visit www.cumberlandforest.com/protect

