

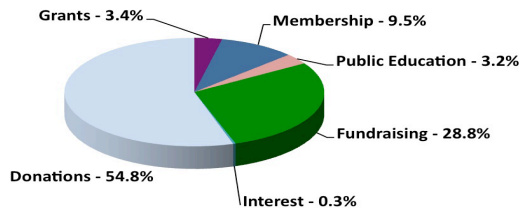
## Financial (Unaudited)

Long term financial stability is an ongoing challenge for the Conservancy and 2010 was no exception. With no obvious sources of new funding available, the board passed a budget in January that would continue using surplus from prior years to cover ongoing and primarily fixed costs.

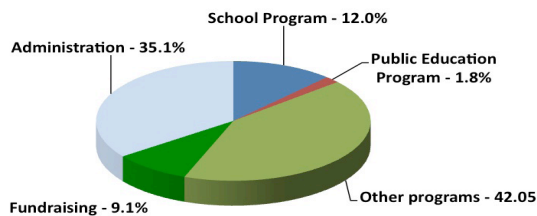
Grants continue to fund many of our programs. These grants have small or no allowances for administrative costs outside of the targeted project funds even though there are costs to SSIC to administer the funds. To build up essential operating funds for the future, the Board set the goal of a \$2M endowment—The Acorn Fund. While there was much excitement about the Fund, raising money has been slow. This shows that we still need to nurture a culture of providing for our long term financial security. The SSIC does not carry any debt.

The figures below do not include funding we received for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011 for our Stewardship and Species At Risk Project (\$208,513 from the federal Habitat Stewardship Program and other matching grants; \$14,942 from the Intergovernmental Recovery Fund). We account for these funds to the government separately.

### 2010 Income – \$72,634



### 2010 Expenses – \$123,120



## Thanks to Our Funders

### Office and Education

John Lefebvre; Salt Spring Island Foundation; Country Grocer; Mouat's Home Hardware.

### Stewards-in-Training School Program

Mountain Equipment Coop; Rotary Club of Salt Spring; Thrifty Smile Card Program; Hamber Foundation.

### Stewardship & Species At Risk Project

Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk; Habitat Conservation Trust Fund; Islands Trust Fund; Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team; BC Hydro Capital Regional District; Canadian Wildlife Federation; Victoria Foundation; Salt Spring Foundation; Vancouver Foundation; BC Ministry of the Environment; Public Conservation Assistance Fund.

### Board of Directors 2010

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Laura Matthias

### 2010 School Program Coordinators

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Cate McEwen  
Kris Fullbrook

### Office Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator

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## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

# Conservation in Action



## From the President and Executive Director

Throughout this exciting year, staff and volunteers worked extremely hard on the largest land acquisition project in our history. The new Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve is named in honour of the late owner of the property, whose family made his wish to protect the land come true.

We also launched a long-term fundraising campaign to build our Acorn Endowment Fund. Eventually, the annual income from this fund will ensure a stable, permanent financial base for the organization. "Our success is in your hands" was never more true than this year, when volunteers logged over 7000 hours of work on Conservancy programs and donors made it our most successful annual appeal yet. Our appreciation and thanks go out to all!

## Acquisitions

The Acquisitions Committee responded to inquiries from landowners interested in permanently protecting their land. We are proud to have been part of the extraordinary effort resulting in the acquisition of another 320 acres, now named the Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve. The ideal chemistry of a generous landowner, unique funding opportunities, many hundreds of volunteer hours, and staff time and talent made it possible.

## Covenants

Conservation covenants enable landholders to protect the natural values of their land in perpetuity. They are voluntary, legally binding agreements, registered against the title. They can usually provide income tax or property tax relief.

We were among the first organisations in B.C. authorized to hold these covenants, and we hold 13 covenants—protecting 754 acres. Eight are held jointly with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia and five jointly with the Islands Trust Fund under their tax exemption program.



## Education and School Programs

The Conservancy offers monthly public talks on natural history and environmental issues, many of them co-sponsored with other groups such as the SSI Trail and Nature Club. Our scholarship was awarded to GISS student Ali Jones. We published three issues of the SSC's newsletter, The Acorn.

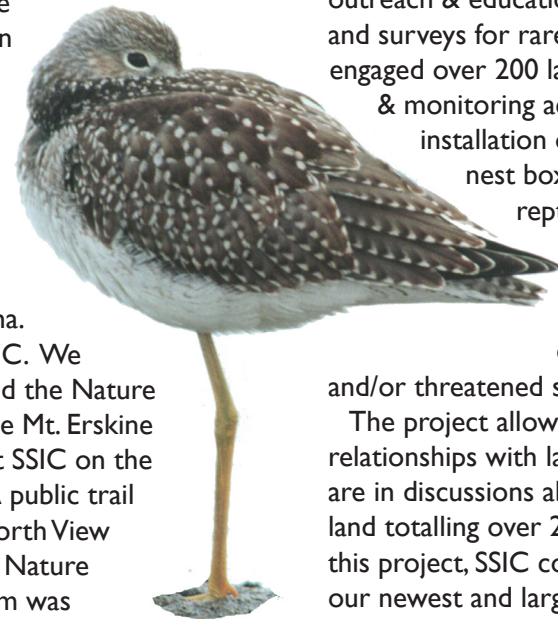
The Stewards-in-Training School Program took some 700 students (grades 1-8) on all-day nature trips to a number of ecologically special places on SSI. We won the prestigious BC School Superintendents Award of Recognition and the BC Retired Teachers' Assoc. Golden Star Award (Honourable Mention). We consolidated and categorized all our photographs thanks to a grant from Mountain Equipment Coop. Over 50 volunteers donated approx. 1500 hours to make this program possible. Other granters to this program are on the back page.

## Environmental Governance

The major work was analysis of damage by off-road vehicles in the Musgrave area, and a recommended inter-agency response. We also assessed environmental impacts of aquaculture; the Island Trust's policy on greenhouse gases, and a proposed modification of St. Mary's and Maxwell Lakes, with recommendations to the Board. The Conservancy's Face book page was consolidated.

## Land Management and Restoration

The Committee cares for 99.2 ha. (245 acres) held under title by SSIC. We also collaborate with BC Parks and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to manage Mt. Erskine Provincial Park Trail and represent SSIC on the Trails Advisory for CRD PARC. A public trail network was completed in the North View Nature Reserve. At Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve a broom removal program was



started thanks to grants from the Islands Trust Fund and Habitat Stewardship Trust. Ecological mapping of the reserve continues with funding from HSP. The Salt Spring Foundation provided funds for trail signs.

## Stewardship Committee

The Committee mapped and monitored 144 Western Bluebird boxes, added 42 and built 40 more. We mounted a major campaign to control invasive plants and contacted nurseries and landscapers with suggestions for non-invasive alternatives. An invasive plant drop-off day was held, and information was distributed to the public. Committee members conducted 5 stewardship visits with landowners, uploaded and improved resources on stewardship on SSIC webpage, and revised the stewardship checklist.



## Stewardship and Species at Risk Project

With over 90% of the island privately owned, our project focuses on landowner contact, outreach & education, habitat enhancement, and surveys for rare species. The Project engaged over 200 landowners in stewardship & monitoring activities. Activities included: installation of turtle basking logs & bird nest boxes; monitoring for amphibians, reptiles, rare birds & plants; and invasive species removal at sites with rare species. Several new sites were discovered this year for rare and/or threatened species.

The project allows SSIC to cultivate long-term relationships with landowners. Five landowners are in discussions about legally protecting their land totalling over 250 hectares. As a result of this project, SSIC completed the acquisition of our newest and largest nature reserve.