

## KLTF CHAIR REPORT 2025

Submitted by Theresa Shea (Board Chair)  
October 20th, 2025

### SELECT ACHIEVEMENTS

As I provide the following synopsis of the work the land trust has accomplished this year, once again I think we should be proud of all that we have achieved. I still like to think of us as “the little land trust that could.” We:

- Worked to formalize a board member policy and application process to attract new board members
- Continued to fire-safe the property by removing more of the trees flagged as “dangerous”
- Received two grants:
  - Fraser Fort George Endowment grant would work for the outhouse.
  - Regional District grant-in-aid for funding the Community Event
- Constructed an outhouse
- Investigated and applied for WHC large grant funding to acquire a 23 acre parcel of land nearby for conservation and hired the biologist Jeff Werner to do an ecological assessment; although we did not receive funding in the last round, we are in a good position to apply again to WHC and to other granting agencies
- Continued to update the inventories of plants and other species on the land
- Hired a casual gardener to maintain the flowerbeds and keep the grounds under control
- Renewed our membership with the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia in appreciation of their work and guidance

**The land stewardship committee** was busy this year. Members

- Hosted a bioblitz in June with students from MacEwan University
- Designed and ordered signage for the land trust (No Public Access. Conservation Area.)
- Continued to add to the inventory of plants, animals, and insects
- Uploaded information to inaturalist to further encourage citizen science

### THE HOUSE/COMMUNITY SPACE

Our insurance woes from 2024 were resolved, so this year we will have a better idea of how well the house and community space can sustain itself. We put an ad in the tourism Valemount Guide to generate more awareness of the rental space we have. We are also listed with VARDA (bike park).

We are pleased to say the house is generating enough income to pay for itself without KLTF having to rely on donations. We hosted

- A number of return renters

- A women's retreat
- A Byron Katie retreat
- A bioblitz
- A birdwatching event
- Stéphane Dubé, an instructor in Natural Resource and Forest Technology from College of New Caledonia (CNC) in Prince George, once again brought students to the land
- Musicians from the Robson Valley Music Festival enjoyed a three-night stay as a donation

## **INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

In moving towards fulfilling our goal to improve indigenous engagement, we continue to brainstorm about possible ways of growing these relationships.

### **3rd ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT**

We held a community celebration on May 25th that was well attended.

The event was funded once again by a Fraser-Fort George Regional District-in-Aid grant to help offset costs for the community celebration.

A number of folks are repeat attendees, and we feel that the land trust is becoming better known in the Robson Valley.

- This year's theme was "riparian habitats" and biologist Jeff Werner gave a morning talk at the gravel bar on this theme and others
- Elsie Stanley led another well attended bird identification walk
- We also sponsored tickets for Stellar Descents to take over 30 people out rafting on the Fraser River
- Barb Zimmer led a plant identification walk, and Toni Appleby led a ponderosa pine needle basket making workshop
- We invited Fraser Headwaters Alliance and The Rivershed Society of BC to host information tables alongside the KLTF table
- Over 60 people attended the day's events

## **FINANCES**

Our stewardship endowment fund continues to grow ethically in the VanCity Community Foundation, a Credit Union in Vancouver.

The board once again approved a motion to have our financial statements reviewed by a registered accountant, Daniel W. Roberts (with King & Company), and he validated that our financial procedures are sound. This review engagement report will be useful (and necessary) for future grant applications.

## **BOARD MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT**

The board has undergone some changes this year, with two founding members saying a fond goodbye (Michele and me). In February, we said a fond goodbye to Michele Hayman and now to Theresa Shea, both of whom had served on the board from the start (February 2021).

Our board membership has been engaged about land conservation from the start, and each board member brings unique talents and skill sets. A healthy board is that it attracts new members and/or recruits as the board needs. In February, one of our founding members, Michele Hayman, stepped down from the board, and I am also stepping down with the knowledge that the board remains robust and is welcoming new members who will bring additional skills.

As KLTF enters its next year of operations, I am confident it will continue to expand its public outreach and education, ensure wildlife and species at risk have a safe environment and/or passage, host workshops and visitors, increase its indigenous engagement, and (hopefully!) expand its land holdings. 2026 will be another year of protecting and conserving the ecologically valuable land we've been gifted.