

**APRIL**  
**22 – 24**  
**2020**

# 3rd Annual Vancouver Island **Symposium on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate**

## Climate Change, Collaboration and Landscape Restoration

This symposium is part of an ongoing series that highlights the power of collaboration between local government, elected leaders, ENGO's and industry professionals. This collaboration is essential to mobilize and respond effectively to the impacts of climate change and to reconnect the ecology and hydrology in the built and natural environments that surround us.

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**The Florence Filberg Centre**  
**411 Anderton Ave, Courtenay, BC V9N 6C6**

**To purchase tickets, please visit:**

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2020/Comox-Valley-Water-Stewardship-Symposium>

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**the partnership**  
for water sustainability in bc



# COMOX VALLEY 2020: Climate Change, Collaboration and Landscape Restoration

## *An invitation from the co-hosts to join us for an exciting and interactive symposium*

Knowing that the symposia in the Vancouver Island Series are building blocks in a process, does a vision for collaboration excite you?

Do you believe that an informed and educated stewardship sector can be THE catalyst for action to ‘improve where we live’?

Does this statement resonate: *“When the combination of citizen talent is aligned with a local government that is both visionary and focused, outstanding achievements are not only possible, but realistic”*? And what would it take to bring this vision to fruition in your community?

What lessons can you share from experience when local governments have partnered or collaborated with stewardship groups to implement actions that ‘improve where we live’?

Are there questions that you would like to ask Tim Ennis, Paul Chapman, Kim Stephens and others on the symposium team about precedents that can be replicated and/or adapted in other communities?

Join us for an interactive Comox Valley 2020. Your questions will set the tone!



**Tim Ennis**  
Executive Director,  
Comox Valley  
Conservation Partnership



**Paul Chapman**  
Executive Director,  
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust



**Kim Stephens**  
Executive Director,  
Partnership for Water  
Sustainability in BC

# Comox Valley 2020 Program At A Glance

**SERIES CONTEXT:** *The rhythms of water have changed faster than climate scientists had anticipated: winters are warmer and wetter; summers are longer and drier; and extreme floods, droughts and forest fires are occurring more frequently. Adapting to this ‘new reality’ requires fundamental changes in how we value nature and service land. In the built environment, strive to reconnect hydrology and ecology.*

<p>Wednesday evening - April 22, 2020</p> <p><b>Changing Climate Public Event</b></p> <p>Special guest speakers to be announced</p>	
<p>DAY ONE (Thursday, April 23, 2020): <b>Nature without Borders</b></p>	
Module	Module Theme
<b>A</b>	Water, Place and Reconciliation
<b>B</b>	Regional Collaboration toward Natural Asset Management
<b>C</b>	Engaging Community in Climate Strategies – Projects and Tactics
<b>D</b>	Stitching Together Altered Landscapes: Conservation, Community & Resilience
<b>Re-Cap Day One and Look Ahead to Day Two</b>	
<p>DAY TWO (Friday, April 24, 2020): <b>Reconnect Hydrology and Ecology</b></p>	
<b>E</b>	BC’s Climate Reality, Inter-Regional Collaboration & Actionable Visions
<b>F</b>	Natural Assets as Ecological Systems and Services
<b>G</b>	International Year of the Salmon – Will Lightning Strike Twice?
<b>Reflect and Look Ahead to Symposium 2021</b>	

## Collaboration & Partnerships

The Symposia programs are built around success stories – inspirational in nature, local in scale, and precedent-setting in scope and outcome. In short, these precedents can be replicated and/or adapted in other communities.

DAY ONE:

## Nature without Borders

KEY MESSAGE:

*Our land ethic determines what happens to water*

OBJECTIVE:

You will learn about what happened on the ground in the Comox Valley to build collaborative relations between the stewardship and local government sectors. And you will learn about the actions that increased the stewardship sector's influence in local government decision-making.



COMOX VALLEY  
**CONSERVATION  
PARTNERSHIP**  
2020 CALENDAR

*"Our model as a conservation partnership is very unique in British Columbia. To the best of my knowledge, we are the only one that focuses exclusively on the arena of local government policy."*

- Tim Ennis



# Day One Modules

## **MODULE A - Opening Session**

### **Water, Place and Reconciliation**

What is the starting place for our work in water sustainability, landscape scale restoration, collaboration and facing the impacts of a changing climate? It starts with an understanding of the culture, land, water and stories of the places where we do our work. Join us for this welcome to the territory of the K'omoks First Nation.

## **MODULE B**

### **Regional Collaboration toward Natural Asset Management**

The Comox Valley has never witnessed the scale of cross-sector collaboration and cross-jurisdictional work toward land and water sustainability than we have in the past 5 years. From Municipal Natural Assets Initiatives, Integrated Rainwater Management, Official Community Plan processes and Watershed Protection planning this session will explore the complexities and opportunities for regional collaboration.

## **MODULE C**

### **Engaging Community in Climate Strategies - Projects and Tactics**

Local government leadership is making it very clear that meaningful community engagement is critical to all levels of community planning. How does this happen without just paying lip service to the idea of engagement? What tactics make a real impact? What kind of projects help to deepen interest, collaboration and engagement. From K-12 programs and OCP Updates to Urban Forest Strategies and Citizen Science, community engagement is on the top of the agenda.

## **MODULE D**

### **Stitching Together Altered Landscapes: Conservation, Community and Resilience**

Human beings have been altering the global landscape for thousands of years. But for the past 150 activities have certainly intensified. Local landscapes have been transformed by logging, coal mining, agriculture, road building, industry and development. These altered landscapes are where the local impacts of climate change - flooding, erosion, and loss of biodiversity - first become evident. But these altered landscapes also hold the greatest potential for building resiliency. Kus Kus Sum, The Courtenay Estuary, Morrison Headwaters, Perseverance Watershed, Comox Lake - these places are at the heart of our local climate story.

DAY TWO: **Reconnect Hydrology and Ecology**

KEY MESSAGE: *Shrink our destructive footprint while growing our restorative footprint*

OBJECTIVE: You will learn what it means to create an actionable vision for 'restorative land development' that enhances the 'package of ecological services' provided by the 'natural commons'. The package of ecological services is the combined range of uses (such as habitat, recreation and drainage) desired by the community.



A strategy that supports this diversity will appear worthwhile to the greatest number of interested parties. After that, it is essential to have an ongoing program which constantly initiates, perpetuates, evaluates and adjusts activities and actions that culminate in restoration of the landscape and the water balance.

Such a strategy would increase confidence in the future of where we live, and build momentum for creating high value public assets.

DAY TWO - MODULE E:

## BC's Climate Reality, Inter-Regional Collaboration & Actionable Visions

What happens on the land matters to water bodies! Water-centric programs underway in the Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Capital regions are foundation pieces for stitching together an altered landscape. Are you aware of the scope, scale and interplay of these regional district initiatives? Do you wonder whether and how they are making a difference?

Join us for a facilitated panel conversation! No set presentations; just spontaneous interaction. Inter-regional team members will share and reflect on successes, challenges and lessons learned over the past decade



**Julie  
Pisani**

Regional District  
of Nanaimo



**Jody  
Watson**

Capital Regional  
District



**Kate  
Miller**

Cowichan Valley  
Regional District



**Darry  
Monteith**

Comox Valley  
Regional District



**Zoe  
Norcross-Nu'u**

Comox Valley  
Regional District

Do you think about BC's new climate reality, and wonder what the practical implications are for the 'water balance' in your community?

Are you curious about an **actionable vision for land and water**?

Have you thought about what their commitment to the 'hard work of hope' entails for the program architects and doers in the four regions?

Do you appreciate that moving from **awareness** to **action** in the local government setting requires a long-term commitment by everyone?

Did you know that the *CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island* initiative, launched in 2006 to facilitate peer-based learning and sharing of experience, was the genesis for formal inter-regional collaboration?

DAY TWO - MODULE F:

## Natural Assets as Ecological Systems and Services

Do you wonder about a methodology and metrics for valuing ecological assets and services in an asset management strategy?

What do you actually know about MNAI, the *Municipal Natural Assets Initiative*, and EAP, the *Ecological Accounting Process*?

Would you like to learn more in an interactive session built around Emanuel Machado, MNAI Chair, and Tim Pringle, EAP Chair?

Are you curious? Then, **Module F** is what you have been waiting for!

### Emanuel Machado

CAO,  
Town of Gibsons



Emanuel Machado changed the local government conversation. As the ‘face of MNAI’, Emanuel’s philosophy and local government credibility continues to generate momentum for replicating the ‘Gibson’s Model’ in other

### Tim Pringle

Partnership for  
Water Sustainability



EAP is the culmination of a 30-year journey by Tim Pringle. He has thought about and worked hard to develop and evolve a guiding philosophy, pragmatic strategy and meaningful metrics for valuing the services provided by nature.

Do you wonder whether MNAI and EAP are the same, or different?

Were you aware that MNAI and EAP ask different questions, are complementary approaches, and represent recent evolutions along the ‘green infrastructure continuum’ that had its genesis in the 1990s?

Did you know that the ***Primer on Integrating Natural Assets with Asset Management***, released by Asset Management BC in September 2019, “builds on the foundations established by the MNAI and EAP initiatives”?

DAY TWO - MODULE G:

## International Year of the Salmon – Will Lightning Strike Twice?

Are you intrigued by the title above?

Have you heard that history does repeat itself, and that there are ‘once in a generation’ windows of opportunity to seize the moment?

Are you aware that the multi-year program for the *International Year of the Salmon*, launched in 2018, could be a game-changer?

Does it surprise you and give you hope that the *International Year of the Salmon* shows renewed interest and commitment, and timely re-engagement, by senior governments?

Did you know that the *International Year of the Salmon* is not just about the fish; it is about people and how we look at the landscape?

Did you know that the ‘salmon crisis’ of the 1990s galvanized federal-provincial action, cross-border collaboration, and pioneer research?

Will lightning strike twice and inspire a new generation of researchers, managers and conservationists to take the baton and collaborate?



### Voices of Experience:

*Dr. Kim Hyatt (top) and Dr. Peter Tschaplinski (bottom), two senior research scientists, will tag-team to share their federal and provincial perspectives, respectively. They embody a wealth of fisheries-related knowledge. The experience of this engaging duo dates back to the 1970s. Thus, they do know of what they speak!*

*A key message is that past practices have left a legacy of impacts that still exist on the land base, some of which are getting worse rather than “recovering”. **Stitching together altered landscapes** requires connecting people to landscapes, with salmon being a rallying cry for action. The International Year of the Salmon is a way to focus attention on this outcome: **Improve Where We Live.***

Stay Tuned. Stay informed.  
 Sign up for the weekly ***Waterbucket eNews***,  
 at [www.waterbucket.ca](http://www.waterbucket.ca)

*Starting in November and continuing through March 2020, **Waterbucket eNews** will feature a series of eight stories about Comox Valley 2020. Each story will elaborate on a component of the Symposium program. These stories will foreshadow what to expect. By creating early awareness, the process will both inform those who are curious and establish expectations among those who decide to register*

<b>Comox Valley 2020 Pricing</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Early Bird Registration<sup>1</sup> (effective until February 29, 2020)</b>	<b>Full Registration<sup>1</sup> (effective as of March 1, 2020)</b>
<b>Students</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<b>First Nations &amp; Stewardship Sector</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$135</b>
<b>All Others</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$300</b>

<sup>1</sup>rates exclude GST

**TO REGISTER VISIT:**

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2020/Comox-Valley-Water-Stewardship-Symposium>

If you wish to learn more, simply contact either of:

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