



To Our Valued Members,

May 23, 2019

Thank-you for your support in 2018. The Wild Pacific Trail Society had a very exciting year with new projects being brought to fruition and ongoing plans being conceptualized for the future. Among the highlights of 2018 are:

◆ **Completion of the Bog Interpretive Trail:**

The Bog Interpretive Trail was unveiled and officially opened to the public. Located on the Lighthouse Loop, this section of the Trail explores a woodland bog and was hand-built in such a manner to preserve the delicate environment. Eleven interpretive signs guide you through this ecosystem offering fascinating information of the unique features of a bog. Thank you to the District of Ucluelet, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, and Andrew Mackinnon and his students for their support in the project.

Please stay on the trail to protect delicate bog plants

Westcoast Bonsai




Why are trees twisted into a giant broccoli forest?

Bonsai gardeners prune plants in shallow containers to make miniature trees—in a bog nature does the same thing. Tree roots can only grow a few inches (~10 cm) before they are killed by the high water table. This creates a lack of food that stunts growth so severely that trees the size of children can be hundreds of years old. Growing tips of branches are also pruned by summer droughts and a lack of minerals.

Dwarf trees can be hundreds of years old
Notice how the height of trees increases as the land gets better drainage. The tall trees can be younger than the dwarfs growing on moss hummocks. Shore pines are the signature tree in a bog woodland, but western hemlocks, red cedars and even yellow cedars are common.

Shore pine
(*Pinus contorta*)
This slow growing pine is a coastal variety of lodgepole pine, native to mountainous regions.

First Nations
Bogs are a great place for traditional foods, medicines and tools....





◆ Storm Impact:

In January 2018, the Wild Pacific Trail experienced the perfect storm conditions for maximum impact on the coastline. The largest storm surge ever measured delivered wave and elevated tides, pounded the trail resulting in one viewpoint being destroyed, two decks being displaced, bridges and trails being washed out and storm debris being brought ashore. The emergency response was effective and efficient, preventing casualties.

The public response to repairing the damage was of equal magnitude to the waves, and for that we were truly grateful. We would like to express our gratitude to the District of Ucluelet, Director of Parks and Recreation, Abby Fortune and the Public Works team for their efforts and commitment in maintaining public safety and for their assistance in the Trail assessment, clean-up and restoration. Our donors were amazing in contributing to the

restoration of the Trail. Oyster Jim Martin and Danielle Francis worked diligently to restore the Trail and we could not have asked for a more dedicated team for such a task.

Thank you to our donors!

In January 2018 massive storm waves swept through this forest.

This bridge, two decks and many sections of the trail were damaged.

Thanks to over **50 generous donors**—most notably the District of Ucluelet, Ocean Village, Barb & Harry Lee, Alan & Toddy Landry, Dennis & Leanne Ohman, Corinne Zahn, Doug & Kathleen Cole, Karin & Harry Rannala and Judy Gray—repairs were quickly made!

Thanks also to our miracle repair team: Oyster Jim, Danielle Francis and Russell Roper.

This is a cautionary lesson in the power of the ocean, please stay on the trail!

Photos: Russell Roper

Tanya in action as Trail Ambassador, 2018 season

◆ **Trail Ambassador Program:**

The Wild Pacific Trail provides a unique outdoor classroom that presents incredible opportunities to connect people to nature. With our education component growing immensely, the Trail Society was fortunate to have Tanya Nestoruk in the role of the WPT Ambassador for the 2018 summer season. She offered a friendly presence at the Lighthouse overseeing the Discovery Tent display, led interpretive walks on the Trail and developed program curriculum. Tourism Ucluelet funded our new tent for the lighthouse that Tanya made good use of for roving interpretation and interactive displays.

Last year mark the first time in the Trail's history that we extended our interpretive programming to encompass year-round learning opportunities for local and visitors alike. Tanya has continued in her role beyond the summer months and we are thrilled having her onboard!



◆ **Wild Pacific Trail Interpretive Walks:**

With over 800 attendees this summer, the Wild Pacific Trail Society's interpretive walks were a huge success! From eating berries, studying slugs, identifying trees and catching crabs in tide pools, nature immersion was at its best. Thank you to the Naturalist with **Central Westcoast Forest Society** and the **Raincoast Education Society** for leading a weekly rainforest walk. To **Ucluelet Aquarium** and their Marine Biologist Keltie Minton and her team for being keen on providing their knowledge for the Intertidal Exploration at Big Beach. To our guest speaker, Karen Topham for being able to share with others your enthusiasm and expertise on geology of Vancouver Island. Silva Johansson shared her "Pass of Melford Shipwreck," program that covered the colourful history behind the **Pass of Melford shipwreck** that led to the building of the lighthouse. Silva also designed a highly informative and engaging **bog interpretive program** to coincide with our bog trail opening.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our supporters: the District of Ucluelet, The Westerly News, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Ucluelet, and the Crow's Nest. Thank you to all of the local businesses and community members who promoted the walks.

◆ **Media Attention:**

Trip Advisor continues to rank the WPT as one of the top attractions on Vancouver Island! People are flocking to see the Trail year-round. Last year, we received a Certificate of Excellence which recognizes our consistent high trail reviews and our ability to deliver superior experiences for the trail users. The Trail continually receives a great deal of media attention thanks to our new trail expansions and our educational programming. Tourism Ucluelet and the Westerly News also provide the Trail with fantastic promotion and coverage of all our successes big and small. Magazine writers and videographers contact us frequently for material on the trail.

◆ Wild Pacific Trail Logo Wear Program:

Our Wild Pacific Trail branded clothing continues to be popular with strong sales. We thank Tracy & Ted Eftink of Majestic Ocean Kayaking for coordinating this program and donating the profits from the sales to the Trail Society. The logo wear is available through the Visitor's Centre and the Water's Edge who donated the full proceeds from the sales.

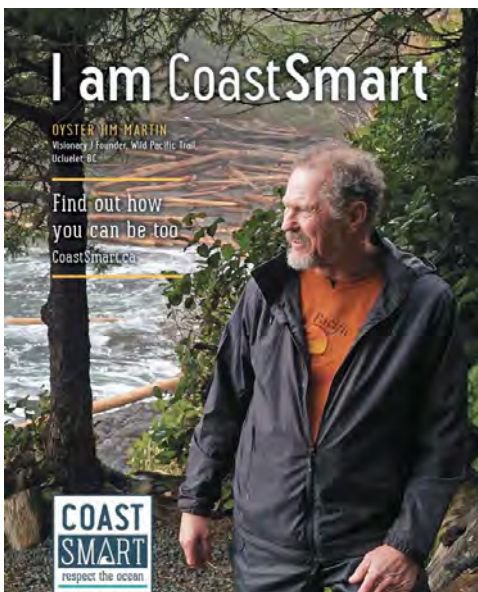
◆ Maintenance of the Trail:

Oyster Jim Martin and Danielle Francis continue to oversee the maintenance contract for the trail and the surrounding areas. We thank them for their hard work keeping the trail in top condition.



◆ Annual Events:

Edge to Edge Marathon remains an annual event, weaving the race route to run the entire trail, popular with 'off road' runners and media. The **Family Day Fun Run** is held every year with a walk/run around the Lighthouse Loop. This event is hosted by Endless Fitness and the District. The **Pumpkins in the Mist**, Halloween-themed walk on the trail, had 500 attendees venture out on the trail to behold the spooky sights.



◆ CoastSmart:

The Wild Pacific Trail is a proud supporter of the **CoastSmart**, a communication and education campaign, designed to enhance coastal safety along the shoreline. The Trail Society is keen to help people avoid hazards along the coastline and keep people safe as they enjoy coastal recreation. CoastSmart universal signage, outlining the potential hazards, was installed on the Trail and Oyster Jim also promotes their safety message in one of their videos online.



◆ Local Fundraising/Volunteer Efforts:

The Ludlow family of Ucluelet (Ukee Cable) have been an ongoing supporter of the Trail and have consistently donated to the Trail. Telus and Ukee Cable also held a special event to generously donate to the WPTS. Trail projects would not get far without the tremendous support of our donors, large and small.

Volunteers have been instrumental in collecting storm debris from the trail that has washed ashore. Thank you for keeping our coastline pristine. A pruning work bee to assist in trimming the trail was a success. Many hands definitely make a lasting impact. Thank you!

◆ **Trail Promotion: Business & Tourism Ucluelet Support**

The Society wishes to thank businesses that have donated generously, your contributions have supported the promotion of the trail and our brochure printing. Tourism Ucluelet continues to promote the Trail in all of their marketing materials. RTown this past year updated our video with great footage of the Trail. We appreciate everyone's efforts in showcasing the value of experiencing the trail.

What's next?

◆ **2019 Interpretive Programs**

This summer, the **Central Westcoast Forest Society** and **Raincoast Education Society** will return once more to lead a weekly rainforest interpretive walk sharing their insight into this unique forest environment. **The Ucluelet Aquarium** will also continue to lead their Intertidal Tidepool walk at Big Beach, exploring local marine ecosystems. Silva Johansson will also offer "The Pass of Melford Shipwreck," program plus interpretive training for our team.

Our very own **Trail Ambassador Tanya Nestoruk**, has exciting walks of her own including the **bog interpretive program**, coastal sea wolves, the amazing lives of trees and forces of nature. We are also excited to introduce our Wild Pacific Trail-er situated at the lighthouse for use by our trail naturalist in the delivery of her programs.

◆ **Upcoming Trail Openings:**

The finishing touches are being done on the Spring Cove Trail. Nestled near the entrance to the Ucluelet harbor and adjacent to the Wild Pacific Trail's Lighthouse Loop, this section of Trail will grant visitors and local residents the opportunity to learn about the tremendous biodiversity of mudflats. It will feature 6 signs on this important bird area, the mudflats and the history of the area. Thank you to the District of Ucluelet, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, IBA and Andrew Mackinnon for their support in the project.

◆ **Anniversary Celebration:**

This year marks the Wild Pacific Trail's 20th year anniversary since its inception in 1999. To mark the anniversary, we are holding a community event on September 28th at the Ucluelet Community Centre to celebrate the many accomplishments the Society has experienced over the last 20 years and to thank those who have been involved with these successes. The celebration event will have food and drinks, exhibits from our educational partners, and a presentation including the unveiling of a new mini-documentary on the Wild Pacific Trail.

◆ **Education Centre:**

The Trail Society's board of directors continue to develop plans for a Wild Pacific Trail Centre. The Centre would offer a centralized location to offer indoor and outdoor educational programs, be a welcome/information centre, provide classrooms, administration office space and amenities (washrooms, snacks and beverages).

Thank-you for your support,

Wild Pacific Trail Society