

Lummi Mountain protected as wildlife preserve



Peregrine falcons view the world from their home on top of Lummi Mountain. This property was recently acquired by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Trust played an instrumental role in negotiating this land transaction. (Photo courtesy: Richard Williams.)

The 112-acre parcel will be owned and managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife

In December, the Whatcom Land Trust helped protect 112 acres of land on Lummi Island. The parcel is habitat for a number of species, including endangered peregrine falcons, and will be owned and managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

Even though the Trust acted as neither buyer, seller, nor received a conservation easement to protect this property, we were directly involved in completing this transaction. It was one of the most intense and complex land deals in our history.

Numerous challenges create complex negotiations

The property owner was a Texas businessman who planned to develop the property and was suing surrounding property owners for legal access. The buyer was a state agency (DFW) who had been trying for several years to purchase this land. Seven parties had an interest in these negotiations: the landowner, DFW, Department of Natural Resources, Lummi Island residents, the Trust for Public Land, a state recreational funding committee, and the Whatcom Land Trust.

"One complication was just the sheer number of parties and their divergent interests," said Rand Jack, WLT attorney who negotiated the transaction. "It's hard enough to bring two parties together when they have different interests, but here we had a number of parties, each having their own perspective and their own goals," he added.

In addition to communications that bounced between Texas, Olympia, Seattle, and Bellingham, Jack was involved with settling the

Two new conservation properties announced

Family retreat property protected

In November three brothers, who wish to remain anonymous, donated to the Land Trust a very restrictive conservation easement on 18 acres in the Lake Whatcom watershed at the south end of the lake. For three generations, the property has served as a gathering place and retreat for their family.

Except for a tiny cabin dating from the 1920s and two old orchards, the land is largely covered by second growth mixed forest and three streams. The easement prohibits subdivision, additional structures and long term residential use of the property. As the brothers stated in the easement: "The grantor intends that the character and use of the property remain essentially as it is at the present time."

As the brothers stated in the easement: "The grantor intends that the character and use of the property remain essentially as it is at the present time."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 8)

Holiday volunteers

In December, the Trust was invited to participate in the Port of Bellingham's Holiday Festival. Thanks to WLT volunteers for helping staff a table at the Fairhaven Ferry Terminal: **Tore Ofteness, Cindy Klein, Ann Yow, Rod Burton, Wendy Walker, Aimee Trebon-Frazier, and Bob Keller.**

Land Monitors appreciated

The Land Trust acknowledges and thanks the following volunteers who helped monitor our conservation properties in 1997.

Land Monitors were **Dan Taylor, the Odom Family, Clare Fogelson, Mark Johnson, Steve Irving, Pat Savatgy, Mike Savatgy, Carl and Katy Batchelor, and Cindy Klein.** Our appreciation also goes to Land Stewards **Connie Clement, Steve Irving, Pat Savatgy, and Mike Savatgy.**

And many thanks to **Bob Kandiko and Anne Crutcher** for their photography.

Whatcom Places reviewed in state magazine

In the Fall, 1997 issue of *Columbia, the Magazine of Northwest History*, *Whatcom Places* received favorable mention in a book review.

"This is an advocacy book, seeking the voluntary care of land by citizen groups, businesses and landowners. That is the goal of the land Trust, and their sincerity is evident in each page of honest text and vivid photographs."

This newsletter has something new

Beginning with this issue, businesses advertisers in *The Steward* are underwriting this newsletter; their support helps pay the printing and mailing expenses. When you get the opportunity, thank them.

Newsletter sponsors are: **Ken Ryan** at The Bagelry, **Bob Henderson** and **Barbara Meyers** at Henderson Books, **John Morgan** at John Morgan Service (auto repair), **Mike Hoagland** at Hoagland Pharmacy, **Drew Pettus**, Attorney, **Rick Dubrow** at A-1 Builders, **Michael Hovander** at Bellingham Vision Clinic and Ferndale Vision Clinic, and **Eric Clarke** at Culligan Water, Inc.

Do you receive duplicate mailings?

Do you receive multiple copies of our newsletter, *the Steward*? Are we sending to people who no longer live at your home or work at your place of business?

To conserve paper and mailing costs, we are asking you to let us know of duplicate mailings. Please send us any mailing labels you'd like deleted. Or call us at 650-9470. If you wish to make a name or address change, let us know as well. Thanks.

Message from the (outgoing) president

Reflecting on the past two years

After two years of serving as WLT president, Gordon Scott is stepping down. Here are some of his responses to questions about WLT events during his tenure.

Why has the Whatcom Land Trust been so successful these past two years?

Gordon: The Trust is more successful every year because of the community's increasing awareness of the need to conserve important properties. As an organization, we can perform that function. We're growing, getting more professional, and more efficient. We

have solid organization and it's tremendous to be able to work with such dedicated, hard-working board members who are doing good things for this community. It takes a lot of time from all of us, but it's been worth it.

What have been some of the Trust's important accomplishments?

Gordon: We've improved the quality of our existing conservation easements by adding properties in the vicinity. We're at the point where we can build on our success and give neighboring property owners the opportunity to conserve their land. Important ecological accomplishments include the preservation of endangered species habitat on Lummi Mountain, and the Great Blue Heron nesting colony on ARCO property at Cherry Point, and also the Kenny Creek Bald Eagle night roost easement with the Trillium Corporation.

(Continued on page 7)



Gordon celebrates with Board member Hilda Bajema at the Squires Lake Park opening last October. (Photo: Whatcom Co. Parks.)

The Mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect unique natural, scenic, agricultural and open space land in Whatcom County through acquisition of perpetual conservation easements or other land interests that insure the protection of the resource value.

Whatcom Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working for voluntary land conservation in Whatcom County. The Steward is published three times each year by the WLT. Your comments are welcomed. Complimentary copies are available by calling the Land Trust office, 650-9470.

Newsletter Committee Chair Chris Moench

Contributors Bob Keller, Julie Carpenter, Pat Karlberg, Dick Beardsley, Sheri Emerson, Gordon Scott, Rand Jack, Gordon Scott, Bill Carroll, Chris Moench

Desktop Publishing Sheri Emerson

Planning for continued success

Chris Moench, Land Trust President

On January 31, (the sunniest day of 1998 so far!), our Board of Directors held its annual meeting at the home of Joan Casey. During the eight hour meeting, the board reviewed accomplishments of 1997 and looked for ways to strengthen and expand conservation work in 1998.

Goals for 1998

1. Reworking the management structure of the Trust. As demand for our services grows, we need to expand the Trust's ability to protect land, reach out to the community, and raise money. At the same time we must not compromise the Trust's strong tradition of volunteerism and flexibility. This year we will seek ways to give decision-making authority to board members, establish clear lines of accountability, and involve more volunteers.

2. Completion of the Nasset Farm/South Fork County Park. In the works for nearly ten years, the pieces are all nearly in place to create a premier county park.

3. Work with other organizations and individuals in new efforts to protect agricultural land. The Trust was originally founded to protect farm land but that goal has been difficult to achieve. Perhaps new dynamics in the economy of farming and in the larger community have opened new ways to approach the problem.

1998 officers elected

New officers for 1998 are: **President: Chris Moench, Vice President: Sharon Digby, Treasurer: Hilda Bajema, and Secretary: Cindy Klein.**

Thanks, Gordon!

The final act in the meeting was to thank Gordon Scott who has ably served as President for two years. Gordon oversaw the Trust through a period of rapid growth and managed several of our most significant conservation projects. Gordon will continue to serve the Trust in the (somewhat) less demanding role of board member.

Fundraising Campaign Review

Campaign raises record amount

Thanks to the generosity of our members, contributions to the Land Trust significantly increased during the last three annual fundraising campaigns.

In 1997, contributions reached \$27,330 compared to \$6,210 in 1994. Many of our members increased the amount of their contribution this year and some gave more than once.

Our members are multiplying

We are also proud to boast that the number of WLT members nearly doubled this year. In 1997, the number of donating members grew to over 300 compared to 164 members in 1996.

Thank you! Your support helps local landowners preserve their land for the future and enables the Trust to fulfill its mission of land conservation in Whatcom county.

Can you join this successful team?

The Fundraising committee invites members with fundraising or philanthropic experience to join in our work of building a sustainable funding source for the Trust. In the coming years, we will work to continue improving the Annual Campaign, develop special fundraising projects, identify grant opportunities, and plan an endowment fund.

If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on this committee, contact Julie Carpenter at the Land Trust office, 650-9470.

3310 Northwest Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

A-1 BUILDERS
INC

QUALITY REMODELING

Kindred spirits encouraging sustainability

- Repairing existing homes and businesses
- Maximizing the lifetime of existing resources
- Aggressive job-site salvage and recycling

Rick Dubrow, First Hammer

734-5249
License #A1BUIL*122CP

Another stewardship perspective

Bob Keller

We come to land conservation from many angles, with the Trust itself only concerned about the practical, final conclusion that "land matters."

Land Trusts do have an ideology and philosophy. Anyone who talks about stewardship, responsibility, conservation, and future generations is making philosophical statements. On these we agree. But such statements, in turn, rest upon other philosophical assumptions, beliefs, or basic premises, and here wide divergence exists with the Trust. Why should we be responsible? can we be? can and should humans try to control the future? are we obligated to care for land? by whom or what?

The chapter in *Whatcom Places* on Lynden makes a very clear theological statement about one source of stewardship. Ron Polinder's convictions and obligations arise from historic Dutch Calvinism. Some members of the Trust, especially its founders, share such beliefs; others do not. The current board, to cite four examples, includes a Lutheran, Unitarian, humanist, and spouse of a Yoga teacher. We come to land conservation from many angles, with the Trust itself only concerned about the practical, final conclusion that "land matters."

Yet fundamental assumptions, though not our business, are crucial. Recently a friend who teaches philosophy and religion at the University of Wisconsin wrote to me after seeing a copy of *Whatcom Places*: "The photography is stunning," he commented, "and I was particularly touched by Polinder's essay. Certainly one could argue that that's Christianity at something close to its best."

From time to time, it's worthwhile to give voice to such basic convictions, to think about why we are stewards of land. We did so last year in a provocative essay by Skip Richards. The following sermon (at Holden Village on October 6, 1996) was preached by Martin Wells, a former minister at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Bellingham. Holden is a religious retreat center located above Lake Chelan in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

Christian Stewardship and Land

Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46.

Martin Wells

Two images set the stage this evening. First is the image of harvest. It's a good time to think of harvest because all around us the earth brings forth a bounty during October. The goodness of harvest can be found in those wonderful Chelan apples in our dining hall. If you haven't eaten one, please do, and taste the goodness of harvest.

The second image is more troubling.

We live in orchard country where decisions are made to end the growing of certain fruit, sometimes because the trees grow old, sometimes because of shifts in market "demand," and sometimes because of "higher" human uses for land. If that happens, fruit trees are destroyed. How many of you have driven along

the Columbia between Wenatchee and Navarre Coulee and seen a tractor pulling trees out by their roots?

It can be a picture of devastation. I came upon a three-acre site where fruit trees laid on their side, uprooted, prone, in neat, tidy rows. I felt a deep sickness in the gut, a loss of beauty, life and hope. Once was exquisite life, now all that remained was the fire to come.



Serving Whatcom, Skagit & Island Counties Since 1966

Eric Clarke, Owner

P.O. Box 1951
Bellingham 98227

Phone (360) **647-9464**
Fax (360) **647-1023**
Toll Free 1-888 93-water

With that in mind, recall Isaiah's image of God seeking a harvest, God looking at what should have been abundance and finding only tiny, bitter grapes. Isaiah's concept of God is frightening and repulsive: God as destroyer of life. And all that remains was the inevitability of fire to come.

According to Isaiah, the garden of earth, a garden given us to tend, is for growing things. To grow things is to tend to life in a fundamental way: regeneration, growth, harvest. The purpose of growth is that we may eat and live and love and replicate the gift of life. God's creation provides "enough" for all. Enough life, enough food, enough love, so that even in the enjoyment of love the next generation is conceived, a cosmic harmony and balance of ecstatic joy.

Well, that was intended until somebody got the notion that God just set some perpetual life-machine in motion and then disappeared, leaving us an opportunity to rob the orchard. It was harvest time in Eden when human overreaching began. Eve and Adam ate that apple out of turn; they mutinied against the gift of perpetual harvest, everlasting life. Their decision turned out to be Israel's decision, and now is our decision: we want to have it all. And we grab it, hoard it, violating the gift of life for all.

Today it's harvest time once more. Instead of a rich harvest for all, the privileged fill larders with apple sauce and frozen apple crisp, and dried apples, and cold-stored apples for mid-winter. The harvest has been stolen by some while others are invited to go hungry, a kind of murder without the victim's name, for he or she will fall among the nameless dead. God looks at the garden, knows there was enough for all, and watches some eat to obesity while some die of hunger.

God made divine wrath known through

Isaiah: *No more! No more!* If a vineyard cannot or will not produce the fruit of righteousness, if it fails to produce social justice, the original gift of the garden, then the garden/vineyard/orchard/civilization will be pulled up by its roots and destroyed. We wait for the fire.

But God could not do it!

Perhaps God saw uprooted fruit trees along the Columbia River and was overwhelmed with compassion. So God sent Isaiah to warn us to turn from hoarding to sharing. The result has not been good. Servants sent by God have been stoned, run off, or murdered when they called for social justice, when they came to the harvest and asked us to share with the poor.

In our own sophisticated days the Word has been ignored because conventional economic wisdom says that the carrot of riches must be held out as the only sure motivator for human productivity. This theory holds that unless we have every expectation of gaining fabulous wealth far beyond our needs, we will never take risks necessary to provide a harvest for others. That may be true—if we see ourselves as owners of the vineyard, of the orchard, the ground on which we pursue our short lives.

But are we the owners? Or do we believe the line from our Holden prayer: "Merciful God, everything in heaven and earth belongs to you."

Whose creation is it? If ours, we do as we please and the fittest survive to revel in the excess of their works. But if creation is God's and we are tenants, then God has a gift for us, and through us a gift for those who cannot provide for themselves. In Jesus' parable of the tenants, the point is this: if humans want to claim ownership of creation, they must kill Jesus first. We must kill him because he comes at the behest of his Father, the real landowner, to collect that part of the harvest belonging to the poor.

Note that the lord comes for part of the harvest. Creation no doubt provides for us

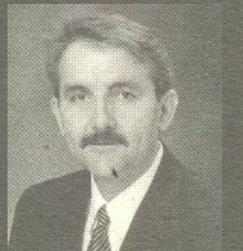
(Continued on page 6)

Can you examine your tenancy on earth and ask if you have kept more than enough, more than your fair share?

Drew D. Pettus

A T T O R N E Y

BUSINESS & CORPORATE LAW
CONSTRUCTION LAW
FAMILY LAW
IMMIGRATION & SEIZURE CASES
US CANADIAN TRANSACTIONS
IMPORT EXPORT LAW



(360)647-8421

ddpettus@pacificrim.net

MICHAEL S. HOVANDER, O.D.

BELLINGHAM
VISION CLINIC
1419 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
Tel: 360 734-2870
Fax: 360-738-9741



FERNDALE
VISION CLINIC
2001 Main Street
Ferndale, WA 98248
Tel: 360-384-1463

Member American Optometric Assn.

WLT Board member conserves Skagit property

Whatcom Land Trust board member Bob Keller and his wife Pat Karlberg have granted a conservation easement to the Skagit Land Trust on 30 acres near Marblemount in Skagit County.

The property offers a mixture of forest and pasture and provides habitat to a wide range of wildlife including deer, bear, bald eagle, great blue heron, various duck species, bobcat, pileated woodpecker, coyote, salmon and steelhead. Several small creeks flow across the land into the Cascade River which the property borders for 1,300 feet. After purchasing the property in 1974, Keller built a small log cabin to shelter the occasional human visitors.

The Cascade is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River and the conservation easement is intended to help protect the health of the river system.

Located 1.5 miles east of Marblemount on the Cascade River Road, the property is described in *Impressions of the North Cascades*, chapter 8 edited by WLT member John Miles.

Trust promotes community discussion

"*Listening to Each Other: The Dialogue About Land*," a community forum sponsored by the Land Trust, will be held this Spring.

The forum is scheduled for May 4, 11, and 18, at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1708 "I" Street (next to the Bellingham School district administration building). This event is free to the public.

Among the panelists are representatives from Concerned Christian Citizens, Pulitzer prize winner Bill Dietrich, Skip Richards, and Bill Quehrn. Board member Cindy Franklin will moderate the panel and audience discussions.

Watch for more information about this upcoming community event through local media promotions and Land Trust mailings.

Christian Stewardship and Land

(Continued from page 5)

tenants, who get first crack at the harvest. Our share is enough and more. But the rest of our bounty is for others and Jesus comes to claim it. When the poor are denied food, when justice is left waiting at the gate of the city, it means one thing: someone has claim-jumped Creation and stolen what God created; next, someone murdered the Son when he came to help the poor. Who is that someone? Listen again to the last lines of our reading: "When the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them."

Oh, thank goodness! It's not about *us* but about our corrupt *leaders*. We're safe, at least until the next parable makes it clear that Matthew uses the leaders of Israel as a warning to the new Christian movement. And not just them.

My brothers and sisters, we are all in this together. The divide is clear. If we insist that Creation is ours, then we make ourselves God. Then comes the fire as God inevitably reclaims Creation from us. If we conclude that creation is God's but all the excess is all ours, then we are thieves and murderers, thieves because we take what is intended for others, and murderers because we eventually try to kill God to prevent his claiming the excess of our labor for the less fortunate.

But those of us who otherwise would be counted murderers are given a new chance. God wills to try yet again! Those who see in Christ's death and resurrection an invitation to new life, a new creation, will be given a generous share, more than adequate for a good, full life. We may work the vines one time; the second harvest is for the poor, the homeless, the weak, the children, and others who depend on society's excess. They too must have a full and good life. God provides.

Do you trust God to provide enough for your life? Can you examine your tenancy on earth and ask if you have kept more than enough, more than your fair share? Will you share the second harvest with those in need? We who live in this beautiful mountain valley with so much "enough" must speak. It is easier here, among these mountains and facing winter's vulnerability, to see our presence as temporary tenancy. We had nothing to do with the valley's creation. Life here is sheer gift. When we leave Holden, we must not be tempted back into the ways of "more than enough." Enough is enough.

Enough is enough. The alternative is death. In the origins of the word "enough" we find an Old English root, *oncos* or tumor. Too much of enough becomes cancer, a growth that defies normal limits and leads to death. We live in a culture of cancers, nature's price for too much "enough."

Tonight the Son visits our vineyard again. In bread and wine we stewards are offered enough for a good life, and more. The table extends to all who hunger. There is enough for all. Take the bread and drink deeply from the rich juice of grapes as we recommit ourselves to a life of wise tenancy, to stewardship, to goodness, justice, righteousness, and to respect for all of Creation. Amen.

The WLT Steward invites responses to this sermon.



Hoagland Pharmacy
Phone 734-5413

2400 Yew St. Bellingham, WA 98226

*Well-stocked herbal and
homeopathic medicines*

JOHN MORGAN SERVICE

*Quality Automotive Repairs & Maintenance Since 1969
Foreign & Domestic Vehicles - Green Service Facility*

Conveniently located (Near Skippers & Yorky's off State St.)



AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE
ASSOCIATION®

MEMBER

"Our goal is your satisfaction!"

(360) 734-4610

We are a green service facility
1818 Franklin St. Bellingham
ASE Certified

Conservation Properties

(Continued from page 1)

While the easement permits limited recreational use by the family and their guests, it is probably the most restrictive conservation easement ever given to the Land Trust. The purpose of the easement is to protect plant and animal habitat, water quality, and open space, to allow for natural forest succession, and to limit density in a watershed that supplies drinking water for Whatcom county.

Though motivated by conservation objectives and family history, the gift of the easement also reduced the land's appraised value by more than a quarter of a million dollars. In the eyes of the Internal Revenue Service, this is a charitable donation for which a tax deduction may be taken.

The Whatcom Land Trust is deeply grateful to this family for its generosity and foresight in taking positive steps to protect our environment, including the public water supply.

A significant river bottom donation

After reading about the Land Trust and the Canyon Lake Creek Old Growth in the *Seattle Times*, John Roslyn of Ballard contacted the Trust and offered to donate his property.

When visiting the property site along the North Fork River near the Rutsatz Road, WLT discovered that John and his wife Margaret were offering the Trust a beautiful river bottom riparian forest. The Board enthusiastically agreed to accept the donation of the Roslyn property at its December meeting.

"In terms of overall habitat significance for wildlife, river bottom land like the Roslyn's ranks among the highest in the region. This property is a series of ever changing gravel bars, river islands, back channels and log jams. Salmon, elk, and eagles all utilize the property," said Gordon Scott, WLT board member.

The Roslyns said they purchased this riverfront parcel on the Nooksack River 25 years

ago because they thought it would be perfect for fishing and camping.

A recent property survey showed that due to the river changing course over years, the property is now mostly river bottom. The Roslyns decided to donate the property to someone who could care for and protect this salmon habitat.

"The salmon need all the help they can get," said John Roslyn.

The addition of the Roslyn property dovetails nicely with the Trust's other Nooksack River conservation properties along the Middle Fork and at the Kenny Creek Eagle Night Roost.

"With more conservation opportunities in the upper Nooksack River, the Trust increases its capacity to protect salmon, eagle and elk habitat for future generations," said Gordon Scott.

"In terms of overall habitat significance for wildlife, river bottom land like the Roslyn's ranks among the highest in the region."

Reflections

(Continued from page 2)

The publication of *Whatcom Places* this year has been an overwhelming success. Not only does it highlight this beautiful place we live in, it also raises our profile in the community. WLT membership nearly doubled in 1997. The hard work of our membership and fundraising committees, together with the exposure from the book and our increased conservation projects, all contribute to a growing membership.

How does a growing membership contribute to WLT success?

Gordon: WLT doesn't receive public funding. We operate solely on donations from the community. Increased membership helps spread the word about what we're doing.

What else have you especially enjoyed as WLT President?

Gordon: I've really enjoyed the opportunity to meet people in the community and introduce them to land preservation tools that the Trust can provide. It's been a pleasure to work with Scott Walker at ARCO, Ken and Jan Strömmer of Lynden, the folks on Lummi Island, and others we've met. And I'm looking forward to working with many of these folks in the future.

HENDERSON BOOKS

734-6855

Cash Paid for Books

Bellingham's Largest Used Book Store
Used - Rare - Recent Titles

35 Years Book Buying Experience Shows in Our
Quality Stock and the Prices We Pay

112 & 116 Grand Downtown Bellingham



**I Eat Bagels
and I Vote**

**THE Bagelry
INC.**

*"A tradition
since 1984"*

Open

Mon-Fri: 6:30-5:00

Saturday: 7:30-4:00

Sunday: 8:00-3:00

1319 Railroad Ave. Downtown Bellingham

Whatcom Land Trust

Managing Board

President
Chris Moench, Bellingham

Vice-president
Sharon Digby, Van Zandt

Secretary
Cindy Klein, Everson

Treasurer
Hilda Bajema, Laurel

Registered Agent
Bruce Smith, Bellingham

Carl Batchelor, Whatcom Co.

Dick Beardsley, Bellingham

Julie Carpenter, Bellingham

Bill Carroll, Ferndale

Joan Casey, Bellingham

Sharon Digby, Van Zandt

Cindy Franklin, Bellingham

Rand Jack, Van Zandt

Bob Keller, Bellingham

Gordon Scott, Squalicum Lk.

Advisory Board

Henry Bierlink, Lynden

Mike Finger, Bellingham

Rosemary Flora, Everson

Clare Fogelson, Bellingham

John Gillies, Lynden

Elaine Gold, Bellingham

Phyllis Graham, Blaine

Herman Miller, Everson

Cornie Noteboom, Lynden

Sharon Schayes, Bellingham

Kerry Thalhofer, Acme

Roger Van Dyken, Lynden

Shirley Van Zanten, Lynden

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Sheri Emerson

301 W. Holly St.

Suite #U-1A

Phone: 650-9470

Fax: 650-0495

Email: wltrust@juno.com

Office Hours:

10:00 am-1:00 pm M.-Th.

Lummi Mountain

(Continued from page 1)

lawsuit, resolving a disputed appraisal, agreeing on a selling price, securing a private \$200,000 donation to help meet the selling price, preserving sensitive wildlife habitat, and complying with state agencies who operate under restrictive procedures and policies.

These complications needed to be resolved by the end of 1997 due to a state funding expiration date and the seller's threat to end negotiations. When it appeared that the transaction was close to satisfying all parties, the Land Trust put \$10,000 in escrow as a down payment. The state recreational funding committee paid \$276,000 of the total purchase price and the donor contributed the remaining \$200,000.

What was gained?

What was at stake on Lummi Mountain? (1) the advent of logging and residential development; (2) protecting a rare peregrine falcon nesting site; (3) settling a lawsuit, (4) protecting the view of Lummi from Bellingham, the San Juans, and the water—one of the best sea-to-mountain vistas on the West Coast; (5) preserving a complex ecosystem that

integrates saltwater, rock cliffs, beaches and forests.

Rand Jack, Larry Daugert, (Brett and Daugert Law Office), and Chris Rogers (Trust for Public Land, Seattle) and the other players in this transaction spent several hundred difficult hours in the space of a month to achieve these objectives.

Thanks to all their efforts, the sale was completed and this beautiful piece of Whatcom County has been preserved. Together with the nearby 500 acres purchased several years ago from the Trillium Corporation, the new acquisition helps consolidate a significant wildlife habitat area on Lummi Island for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Squires Lake Park opening last October was an exciting example of public-private partnership. Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony are (l to r): Rand Jack, WLT; Ward Nelson, Whatcom Co. Council; Harvey Wolden, Skagit Co. Commissioner; Pete Kremen, Whatcom Co. Executive; Robert Hart, Skagit Co. Commissioner; Martin Squires, representing the Squires family; and Whatcom Park Commissioners DeeEtta Pullar, Joan Tezak, and Dan Taylor. (Photo courtesy: Whatcom County Parks Department.)



WHATCOM LAND TRUST

P. O. Box 6131 • Bellingham WA 98227

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 219

TOP OF MAILING LABEL

