



**Southern
Vancouver Island
Nature Trails
Society (NTS)**

Annual Report 2023



Territorial Acknowledgement

We live, explore, and play on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people.

This land has served past communities and we are thankful for this connection with the land.



Culturally modified tree (Photo by Byrant DeRoy, 2021).

Message from the President

The past year has been one of ups and downs. We started strong with many trail-building days and a very successful pilot of the Nature Trails education course with Maria Montessori Academy middle school. The feedback from the course Daniel Cammiade and Mia Barkasy delivered was extremely positive and there's ample opportunity for the Nature Trails Society to build on this education initiative.

The partnership with Pearson College to rehabilitate the trails on their land was progressing well. Daniel Cammiade and Jordan Sandwith mapped the area and assessed the trail conditions, a key step in the process.

Sadly, our founder and Executive Director Daniel Cammiade was injured (not work-related) in August, necessitating a leave. Daniel persevered through his healing process and we're very pleased to have him back at work full time. My sincere thanks to the Board members who stepped up to support Daniel, his partner Mia and the operations during this time. Particular thanks to Josh Prior, Jordan Sandwith and James Mason who supported the music bingo fund raiser. It is truly an honour to be part of such a team.

Towards year end, Daniel and the volunteers focused on completing the Langford Trail project for the opening in February 2024. This was a massive effort and our sincere thanks to all involved!

As I will not be running for the position of President at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, I want to thank the Board and Daniel for their patience and support during my tenure.

I also want to thank to volunteers, supporters, partner agencies and local governments who believe, along with us at the Nature Trails Society that safe, sustainable trails are important to the health, wellbeing and vibrancy of our communities and the natural world.

Onwards

Kimberley Nemrava

President, Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society

Message from the Executive Director

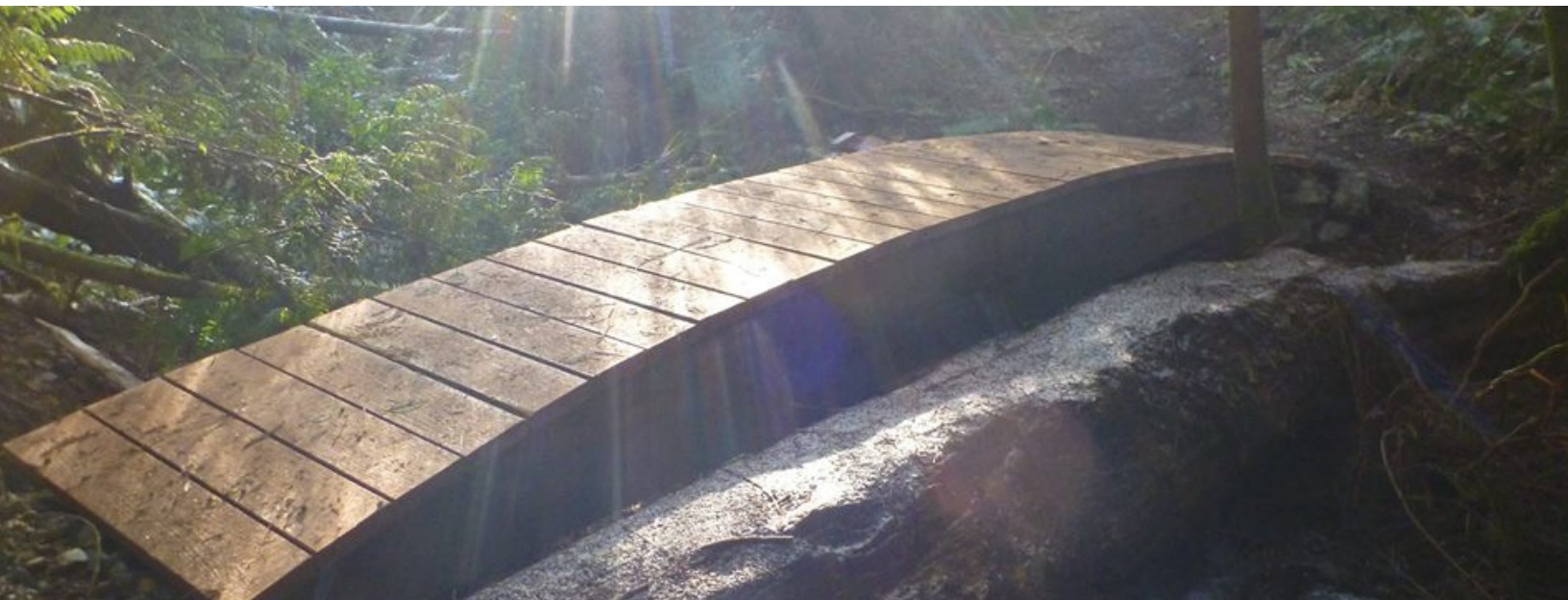
2023 was a challenging year for myself on a personal level, and as a result, there were some setbacks that affected the society. That said we were still able to make some important accomplishments. Some highlights are;

- We piloted the trail based environmental and safety trail course for middle school students in Maria Montessori Academy. The training went very well, and we received a glowing recommendation back from the staff. They have asked us for costing on another trail related project for the middle school students for this year.
- We also completed the trail project at the end of Ronald Road in Langford. This was a continuation of the work that we had started with the CERIP grant money Susan was able to get.
- We also embarked on a new relationship with Pearson College in an effort to help give some love to the trails around their campus. We have hosted several walks and trail discussions and are working on an ongoing relationship.
- We have had trail counters in the field for approximately a year now and are starting to see some hard numbers on how many trail users have been enjoying the trails that we are building. It is somewhere in the range of 25,000 trail users facilitated each year.

On reflection, we are focusing more on education and partnerships, and trying to decrease the amount of physical trail building that we actually do, but rather help facilitate others to do it well.

Daniel Cammiade

Executive Director, Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society





Thanks to the Board*

- *James Lawson - Finance*
- *Don Monsour – Governance*
- *Josh Prior – Vice President*
- *Kimberley Nemrava – President*
- *Lorna Clark – Volunteers*
- *Mia Barkasy – Human Resources*
- *Morgan Cathrea – Secretary*
- *Noah Snell – Nomination Committee*
- *Jordan Sandwith – Fund Raising*
- *James Mason - Marketing and Communications*
- *Andrew Pape-Salmon – Ex Officio Director*

**As of December 31st, 2023*

With Appreciation to Former Directors

- Priya Chellasamy
- Riddhi Seth

Thanks to our Staff

- Daniel Cammiade (Executive Director)
- Nancy Wyeth (Bookkeeper)

Trail Builders (staff):

- Luc Cammiade

Thanks to our Sponsors, Partners and Supporters

- *City of Langford*
- *Central Saanich Community Association*
- *Coastline Endurance Running*
- *Country Grocer*
- *Cycles West*
- *Fernwood Inn*
- *Front Runners*
- *Lifetime Networks*
- *Pearson College*
- *IG Wealth Management - Evan and Sarah Riddell*
- *Sheringham Distilleries*
- *South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS)*
- *Thrifty Foods*
- *Trek Bike Store*
- *Westshore Bicycles*
- *Urban Systems*

Volunteers:

- Mia Barkasy
- Anna Burrowes
- Bryan Crowther
- Colton Hash
- Dorothea Kink
- Ian St. Laurent
- Amy Robinson
- Carson Warner
- Matthew Pereira Wilson
- Ronan Jodoin Bujold
- Gregory Ciupka
- George Crowther
- Alex Kerr
- Geoff Pye
- Shirley Meaning
- Ben Sparks
- Rich Weiberger

And the wonderful crew from Sheringham Distilleries:

- Alicia
- Cailyn Swaile
- Jay Mac
- Jay Nie
- Elyse
- Chuck
- Rye



2023 Strategic Plan

Intended to govern the organizations goals and direction.

Available at NatureTrailsSociety.com/About



Vision

A world-renowned network of multi-use trails with abundant access, that inspires people to engage with the natural world and respect the environment.

Mission

Champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners.

Core Values

1. Environmental Stewardship

Ensure our forests' natural splendor will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

2. Respect

NTS is committed to a culture of respect for all people, reflected in our work and relationships: internally with our members and externally with all those who we serve and work with.

3. Safety

Prioritize safety for our staff, volunteers and trail users in every aspect of our work.

4. Healthy Living

Promote a lifestyle that fosters physical, mental, and spiritual well-being through connecting people and nature.

5. Collaboration

Work collaboratively with governments, First Nations, landowners and other stakeholders to conduct NTS work.

Key Goals

Goal 1 – Develop, maintain and advocate for shared-use nature trails and trail networks in southern Vancouver Island.

Goal 2 – Promote safe, sustainable trail building design and techniques through education

Goal 3 – Grow and sustain the Nature Trail Society

Trails, Education and Advocacy Activity in 2023

Trail Maintenance and Construction

- Lanford Trails off Ronald Road

Advocacy and Training

- Coastal Connector Project
- Andrew Pape-Salmon sitting on Saanich Active Transportation Committee
- Maria Montessori Academy Middle School
- Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific
- Partnership with Lifetime Networks for volunteers

2024 Priorities

- Build and expand education opportunities. Continue with Maria Montessori Schools and explore other education opportunities e.g. Saanich.
- Explore trail project with Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific
- Continue to work with City of Langford on trails in the Westhills and other areas
- Continue to work with Central Saanich Community Association on trail across Cooperage Gully for a safe path to school
- Continue to strengthen revenue generation and diversification
- Continue to improve organizational systems, project management and communication

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND NATURE TRAILS SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES

For the year ending December 31, 2023

	2023			2022	2021
REVENUE	Unrestricted	Restrict ed Funds	Total		
Donations & Sponsorships	\$ 10,076		\$ 10,076	\$ 8,872	\$ 3,240
Provincial grants	-	13,500	13,500	349,613	10,500
Fees for service	70,529		70,529	1,510	150,619
Events	685		685	1,300	-
Federal CEBA Grant	-		-	-	-
Federal Wage Subsidy	-		-	-	35,538
Interest	29		29	308	336
Total Revenue	<u>81,318</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>94,818</u>	<u>361,603</u>	<u>200,233</u>
EXPENSES					
Contractors	-		-	-	-
Payroll Expenses	67,727		67,727	340,052	139,983
Advertising, Promotion and Events	577		577	589	390
Amortization	675		675	354	110
Interest & Bank Charges	185		185	607	236
Licenses, Fees & Subscriptions	729		729	655	1,288
Insurance	3,564		3,564	2,678	2,828
Penalties & Interest	-		-	-	76
Professional Fees	1,559		1,559	5,260	2,002
Office & Printing	1,336		1,336	3,906	600
Trail Building Supplies	5,215		5,215	27,000	7,132
Training, workshops and staff development	-		-	4,439	600
Volunteer recognition	1,058		1,058	530	-
Other Expenses	1,108		1,108	971	2,074
Total Expenses	<u>83,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,732</u>	<u>387,043</u>	<u>157,319</u>
NET INCOME / (LOSS)	(2,414)	13,500	11,086	(25,440)	42,913
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, beginning	36,492		36,492	61,932	19,019
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, ending	<u>\$ 34,078</u>	<u>\$ 13,500</u>	<u>\$ 47,578</u>	<u>\$ 36,492</u>	<u>\$ 61,932</u>

*Other expenses includes 'employee compensation - non wage' which is Daniel's mileage and connectivity

*Advertising and promotion includes event expenses



Statement of Financial Position

SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND NATURE TRAILS SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At December 31, 2023

ASSETS	2023			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restrict ed Funds	Total		
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalent	\$ 3,224	\$ 17,213	\$ 20,438	\$ 68,782	\$ 37,387
Accounts Receivable	26,957		26,957	185	14,595
Prepaid Expenses	2,073		2,073	2,083	664
Total Current Assets	<u>32,255</u>	<u>17,213</u>	<u>49,468</u>	<u>71,050</u>	<u>52,646</u>
LONG TERM ASSETS					
Credit Union Shares	10		10	10	5
Tools & Equipment (Net of Amortization)	1,350		1,350	2,024	552
Incorporation Costs	130		130	130	130
Total Long-term Assets	<u>1,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,490</u>	<u>2,164</u>	<u>687</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 33,744</u>	<u>\$ 17,213</u>	<u>\$ 50,958</u>	<u>\$ 73,215</u>	<u>\$ 53,333</u>
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	\$ 937		\$ 937	\$ 816	\$ 580
Payroll & Vacation Payable			-	-	1,837
Payroll Remittances Payable	1,422		1,422	1,254	1,247
Worksafe BC Payable	1,021		1,021	4,653	1,114
Loan from Board Member			-	-	-
Federal Government Loan Payable			-	30,000	30,000
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,379</u>	<u>36,722</u>	<u>34,778</u>
EQUITY					
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	<u>47,578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,578</u>	<u>36,492</u>	<u>18,555</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$ 50,958</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 50,958</u>	<u>\$ 73,215</u>	<u>\$ 53,333</u>

Notes: Restricted funds include \$13,500 from Gaming Grant and \$3220 for Triple Shot Racing donation which are to be used in 2023.

These financial statements are approved by the board of directors and certified by:

Name: James Lawson

Signature: 

Title: Treasurer

Date: March 26, 2024



Summary Reports from the Board

Human Resources Mia Barkasy, Chair

2023 was a busy year for HR support with NTS. We saw some great successes including;

- Development and implementation of a 3 day middle school trail curriculum piloted with Maria Montessori Academy, resulting in a very positive testimonial and experience for future opportunities.
- Standardization of process for working notice for ED and contract renewal.
- Participated in two trail building volunteer days (one as team lead)
- Supported ED through medical leave to ensure continuity and coordination of communication and required Society activities.
- Presented at Outdoor Education focused Collation/District Parent Advisory Council for Saanich schools which has led to the request for a proposal for a 'train the trainer' curriculum.

The unfortunate injury of the ED saw a distraction from previously identified areas of work like succession planning, HR committee recruitment, guided trail walks and monthly 'outdoor gym' membership.

The upcoming year promises to see a strong need for HR support as we strive to ensure a healthy board with clear succession plans. The development of Nature Through Trails an Educational Foundation of Respect, Environmental Sustainability, Fulsome Experience and Trail Knowledge of Trail and Nature for youth.

Summary Reports from the Board

Volunteer Management Lorna Clark, Chair

Accomplishments for 2023

- With 27 trail days and 65 volunteer experiences, we had high volunteer engagement - our thanks to all who came out to build trails.

Looking forward to 2024

- We hope to increase our volunteer engagement by involving more schools, colleges and business in trail building work.
- We'll be looking at ways to improve our volunteer notification and record-keeping systems.

Communications James Mason, Chair

Accomplishments for 2023

- Social media contest for BC Trails Day.
- Promoted music bingo night.
- Increased activity on social media and continued website edits.

Looking forward to 2024

- Continue to build awareness for NTS through social media channels.
- Focus on developing marketing materials aimed at trail education and advocacy.

Summary Reports from the Board

Vice President Josh Prior

Accomplishments for 2023

- Took on Vice-President role and chaired the Special Events committee. Stepped into President role when President was unable to fulfill duties.
- Participate in special/emergency meetings as it pertains to NTS legal liabilities.
- BC Trails Day - Outdoor Recreation Council of BC application for funding to run a social media campaign for BC Trails Day to promote sustainable use of trails, trail building, and volunteering with NTS. Lessons learnt included: the application process and reimbursement of funds used as a gift to promote the campaign, retaining images that were tagged, as well as optimizing paid advertising as part of social media campaign to reach wider audience and participation.
- Camosun College – NTS trail building and special events promotion
- Fundraising Event – Music Bingo event included being a liaison between venue host and NTS, networking with the Music Bingo DJ, promoting the event to get the event to sell out, utilizing volunteers to assist with running the event, and getting sponsors to provide donations (financial, gift certificates, etc.). Event raised at least \$685 for Nature Trail Society.
- Networked for new fundraising opportunities, specifically with Urban Foundations who are now a committed partner with Nature Trail Society, with a starting donation of \$1000. Led communications to enhance partnership and moving forward.

Looking forward to 2024

- Continue to build relationship with Urban Foundations as they have stated that they would like to increase the donation if we can maintain the relationship with Nature Trail Society. The next fiscal year has a potential increase in the donation to \$5000 (or more in subsequent years). Even though they cannot volunteer GIS services, they have expressed interest with volunteering for Trail Building.
- Stepping out of Vice-President role.

Summary Reports from the Board

Governance Committee Don Monsour, Chair

Accomplishments for 2023

- Ongoing support to Board and staff in governance matters.

Looking forward to 2024

- Continue to support governance needs.

Fundraising, Jordan Sandwith, Chair

Accomplishments for 2023

- Submitted and received a BC Community Gaming Grant.
- Hosted successful fundraising night at Fernwood Pub.
- Began process for more comprehensive fundraising plan.

Looking forward to 2024

- Development of fund raising plan involving entire Board.
- Increase grant applications.

Summary Reports from the Board

Nominations, Noah Snell, Chair

Accomplishments for 2023

- Assisted in the recruitment of new board members to ensure important roles were filled.

Looking forward to 2024

- Exploring new methods and opportunities to recruit board members.
- Ensure the retention of board members where possible.
- Proactively address gaps on the board through succession planning.

Membership, Vacant

Accomplishments for 2023

- NTS currently has 84 members. The membership position has been vacant for part of the year. Our thanks to Noah Snell for stepping in to assist as needed.

Looking forward to 2024

- Recruiting a membership chair.
- Increasing communication updates to members.

Get Involved!

Volunteer With Us!

<https://naturetrailsociety.com/volunteer/>

Become a Member!

<https://naturetrailsociety.com/member/>



Have a favourite local trail photo you want to share?


We'd love to see them at:



@Nature Trails Society

NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com





We are a registered charity that is actively advocating, maintaining and building, environmentally, sustainable, and safer nature trails with a focus on connections.

Registered Charity Number: 8919351792 R0001

www.naturetrailssociety.com

naturetrailssociety@gmail.com