



THE HORTICULTURE CENTRE

COLLEGE ♦ PARK ♦ GARDENS

December 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for funding to the Reynold's Secondary School habitat restoration program.

I have been hired as Executive Director by the Board of the Directors of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) to implement a vision of the HCP being the centre of educational excellence for horticulture on the west coast of Canada. In pursuit of this vision, a core focus has been the restoration and development of our 38-hectare Conservation Park.

Robert (Hoke) Holcomb has supervised the planning and development of the Conservation Park over the past 11 years. He and Jane Hunter, who has recently assumed some of the supervision responsibilities, have provided me with the following information:

The Reynolds's students have been working on habitat restoration projects at the HCP since the fall of 2004. The work involves removal of invasive plant species, stream channel clearing, tree planting, tree protection and propagation of native plants. The students have been very helpful to from the beginning. However, the effectiveness of their efforts increased immensely after one of their teachers, Heather Coey, began working on the program in mid-season last year.

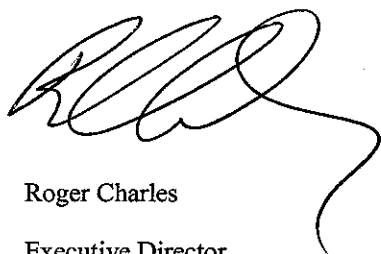
During the fall of 2008, (September to December) Heather and her rotating group of six to eight enthusiastic students worked on two projects in the Conservation Park area. For the first few weeks they planted more than 150 trees contributing to the forest corridor project to increase and connect habitat areas for wildlife. They worked efficiently and independently to plant, mulch and set up protection for the fir, spruce and dogwood trees. They also contributed to the Garry oak meadow flower propagation project. Two groups worked with great care and patience to complete the job of cleaning and planting the native seed lots collected earlier in the season. The students often shared the knowledge they had gained from workshops and classes at Reynolds Secondary School and demonstrated a solid understanding of restoration work and why it is important.

As stressed above, the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific program conducts both educational and habitat restoration activities to enhance our knowledge and transfer it to the next generation. The melding of these activities could not be better exemplified than with the cooperative program between Reynolds School and us.

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Therefore, on behalf of the Board and members of HCP, we strongly support funding for the other habitat restoration work that they are doing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Charles', with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Roger Charles

Executive Director