

# IMPACT

Working together at Royal Roads University

## SUMMER 2017 IN THIS ISSUE



### *Charlie's Trail*

Recognizing local heritage and the people working together to preserve it



### *Croquet, anyone?*

President Allan Cahoon welcomes summer with a garden party to thank our donors and community partners



### *\$25 makes a difference*

Environmental initiatives: Royal Roads staff, students and alumni in the community



### *Healing City Soils*

Alumnus Marika Smith leads an urban mission to grow food right on your doorstep

Charitable Registration #881174528RR0001

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Royal Roads  
UNIVERSITY



## LIFE.CHANGING

### At Royal Roads, we do things differently

Each journey is unique. Each story is personal. Every day, our team crosses paths with inspiring people –students, researchers, alumni and donors—who are changing the world we live in.

Impact came about because we want to introduce you to these remarkable people and share a few of the many ways they use their Royal Roads experience to make a difference in the world.

It's that synergy we want to celebrate. Whether told from the perspective of a student, donor or researcher, you'll find many lives are touched by every single story.

Changing lives through education, learning and leadership: that is what you can make happen.

### Learning that changes lives

Your contribution to Royal Roads can have a lasting impact in so many ways. To explore your goals for giving, please contact:

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# Thank You

Donors and community partners join in for a rollicking game of croquet at the President's Garden Party.



Once again, the President's Garden Party was witness to fierce croquet competition along with a great deal of relaxation in Hatley Park's outstanding gardens.

Head Gardener Barrie Agar and Archivist Jenny Seeman regaled guests with stories of the garden's heritage and Royal Roads students Cindy Forsey, Jenn Benoit and Arbresha Bishaj-Gashi answered questions about their studies and their goals for the future.



"Some of the students I have met here are just beginning careers, while others bring a wealth of professional experience to their programs. . . . It's so encouraging to learn that Royal Roads is working to create more opportunities by increasing student support. I'm excited to be a part of this amazing community as a student and future alumnus of Royal Roads."

**Cindy Forsey, Student**  
BSc Environment and Management program





# Charlie's Trail



## Connection between people, place and purpose is the core of Royal Roads' approach to life-long learning.

**ON JUNE 21, WE CELEBRATED A MEANINGFUL NEW MILESTONE: INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE THAT RECOGNIZES OUR LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE, AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE AND SHARE IT.**

Royal Roads stands on the traditional lands of the Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Lkwungen (Songhees) ancestors and families, who have lived, hunted, fished and gathered here since time immemorial and shared these traditional land resources with the neighbouring Scia'new Nation (Beecher Bay) and T'Sou-ke Nation (Sooke).

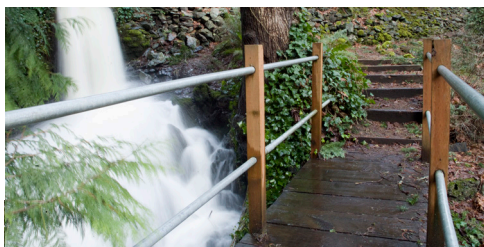
Charlie's Trail runs along Colwood Creek from near Sooke Road to the shores of Esquimalt Lagoon.

Environmental stewardship and maintenance of the trail has been undertaken since 2006, guided by the vision and efforts of former Head Gardener Dave Rutherford and made possible through the generous donation of the Johnson family of Victoria.

The multi-year restoration project funded by the Johnsons involved reconstruction of bridges, installation of boardwalks to protect tree-root systems in sensitive areas, and stewardship of the stream to encourage salmon migration. Their gift now honours the memory of Charlie Johnson, a professional forester, whose love of the natural world and forests inspired his work, his family and his legacy.

As you walk along Charlie's Trail, you will find plants that range from old-growth Douglas-fir trees stretching overhead to tiny mosses and herbs covering the forest floor. The Xwsepsum and Lkwungen people and their neighbours used many of the trees and plants that grow here today for medicine, food, shelter and tools.

The area near Charlie's Trail is a "living classroom" for Royal Roads students in our environmental and sustainability programs.



ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY THANKS ELDER ELMER SENIEMTEN GEORGE OF THE SONGHEES NATION AND EDWARD THOMAS SEENUPIN OF THE ESQUIMALT NATION FOR THEIR TRANSLATIONS OF THE ENGLISH PLANT NAMES TO LKWUNGEN, AND KENNETH ELLIOTT OF THE COWICHAN NATION FOR CONSULTING ON THE PROJECT.





# Sustainability Action For the Environment

## Royal Roads alumni, students, faculty and staff in the community

Since 2007, the Sustainability Action for the Environment (SAFE) Fund at Royal Roads has raised over \$18,000 and supported 14 environmental projects led by students, alumni, staff and faculty around the world.

Professor Charles Krusekopf ignited a conversation among MA/MSc Environment and Management (MEM) students which, over the past ten years, has made a hands-on difference to the environment of local communities.

Krusekopf posed a question regarding the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that students created by their travel to attend residency on campus. This led to group discussion on what it would take to offset the environmental impact and how they could use that information.

Students determined that the carbon footprint of 150 people (the number of students and faculty in an average MEM residency cohort) traveling to campus was 100-150 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Carbon calculators revealed that a contribution of just \$25 per person to an environmental recovery project could offset that impact.

The group then decided to work with the Royal Roads' advancement team to establish a grant-making fund that would encourage, highlight and support local environmental initiatives. The first residency cohort donated \$2,500, a figure



matched by Royal Roads University. Today, donations, which include payroll giving and monthly gifts made by students, staff and alumni, continue to power the fund to make a difference.

Projects funded so far include work on understanding habitat conservation (sea turtles in Hawaii and the Western Screech-Owl in the Kootenays), along with a wide range of projects that are creating change

“Without support from generous donors through Royal Roads University, the Healing City Soils project would not be possible.”

**Marika Smith, Executive Director**  
Compost Education Centre

through recycling, bike transportation and local food security. The fund's most recent grant is to the Healing City Soils program.

You can help the SAFE Fund to encourage, highlight and support local environmental projects. To donate online, visit:

[advancement.royalroads.ca/make-gift-online](http://advancement.royalroads.ca/make-gift-online)

## Healing City Soils

Something to get you growing



Urban soils can sometimes contain heavy metals and other contaminants as a result of our industrial past and present. Soil testing can be expensive and the results confusing or disheartening, which ends up being a barrier to getting more folks growing.

Led by Marika Smith, executive director with the Compost Education Centre and a Royal Roads student, the Healing City Soils project offers free soil-quality information and workshops to people who want to grow food in their backyards, front yards, boulevards and community gardens.

The Healing City Soils project at the Compost Education Centre in Victoria has received a second grant from the SAFE Fund for its excellent work in promoting sustainable, healthy changes to local neighbourhoods. The project, in its second year working with Bachelor of Science students from Royal Roads' Environmental Science program, is a collaboration that provides students with valuable applied research experience and residents with valuable information.

“One of the main goals of the project is to provide social inclusiveness and funding to enable the program to be accessible to all,” says Smith. “It is integral to the shared goal of growing local food, reducing food waste and diverting organic material from the landfill.”

