

## NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 31, 2007

### **New funding to support protection of endangered wildflower in Harewood Plains** *BCTC provides \$5,000 for habitat restoration project*

VANCOUVER/NANAIMO – British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) has donated \$5,000 to The Friends of Harewood Plains to support habitat restoration in the Harewood Plains wildflower meadows near Nanaimo. The funding will go toward the clean-up of refuse and the removal of invasive plant species in order to protect 18 endangered plant species growing in the area.

“BCTC is responsible for maintaining 18,200 kilometres of right-of-way throughout the province, including the area along this unique wildflower meadow habitat,” says Jane Peverett, BCTC President and CEO. “We have an opportunity to make a difference by ensuring that these rare wildflowers remain a part of the local environment and are pleased to be able to support citizens as they work to preserve an important part of Vancouver Island’s ecosystem.”

Friends of Harewood Plains Field Coordinator, Charles Thirkill, explains that restoring the Harewood Plains is particularly important because of a rare plant species in the area. “The site has 18 known rare and endangered wildflowers, including the *Lotus pinnatus*. The BC Conservation Data Centre estimates that 75 per cent of the rare *Lotus pinnatus* plants in Canada are found right here in the Plains. In fact, Nanaimo is the only city in Canada that has this flower growing within city boundaries. This summer, I've been working with a group of dedicated students from every high school in the Nanaimo/Ladysmith school district to cut broom. By taking out the broom, we are making space for these beautiful wildflowers to thrive.”

BCTC and the Friends of Harewood Plains have an ongoing relationship as a section of the Harewood Plains runs alongside a transmission right-of-way. BCTC is responsible for maintaining the vegetation that grows within the right-of-way, and in order to complement the work of the society, BCTC has modified its vegetation management practices. The maintenance work is now more intensive but has resulted in a thriving natural landscape, while also meeting BCTC’s requirement for lower-growing plants, and the society’s efforts to protect the *Lotus Pinnatus*.

In 2005, BCTC donated \$5,000 to the Friends of Harewood Plains in support of an initial clean-up effort to remove 12 abandoned vehicles, clear invasive plant species and block unauthorized recreational access.

The Friends of Harewood Plains is a Nanaimo based community group working to restore and protect Harewood Plains.

BC Transmission Corporation is the Crown corporation that plans, operates and maintains the province's publicly owned electrical transmission system.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Janet Stewart, BCTC Public Affairs  
604.699.7438; email: [janet.stewart@bctc.com](mailto:janet.stewart@bctc.com)  
[www.bctc.com](http://www.bctc.com)

Charles Thirkill, The Friends of Harewood Plains  
250.729.4928; email: [thirkill@telus.net](mailto:thirkill@telus.net)