

O.U.R. Commemorative Conservation Grounds



Media Kit

For further inquiries, please visit our website:

www.ourecovillage.org

Or contact us at

communications@ourecovillage.org

T. 250.743.3067

Contents

Backgrounder on O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE

Backgrounder on OUR Commemorative Legacy Project

Backgrounder on TLC

Backgrounder on Green Burial

Map of our Commemorative Conservation Grounds at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE

FAQ

Press Release

O.U.R. (One United Resource) Ecovillage Backgrounder

VISION: Sustainable well-being for the land, ourselves, and our worldwide village.

MISSION: To educate, inspire and transform by co-creating a thriving learning community and permaculture demonstration site.

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE began operations in 1999 after a number of people came together with a shared vision to create a model demonstration sustainable village community rooted in social, ecological, and economic well being.

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is the host site for O.U.R Community Association – a registered nonprofit society, O.U.R. Cooperative and TOPIA – a sustainable learning community institute. Individuals come from all over the globe to participate in our courses and educational programs on Natural Building, Permaculture, Sustainable Food Production and Community Building. At any given time there are also a number of interns and volunteers doing ongoing research and projects onsite, including the recently launched Commemorative Legacy Project. As an incubator for sustainable solutions, innovation, leadership development and regulatory change, O.U.R.'s work supports over 8,000 people a year.

Commemorative Legacy Project Backgrounder

The Commemorative Legacy Project is a new Green Burial initiative at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE. We are offering people a natural space to spread the ashes of their loved ones and commemorate their lives; providing the departed with a way to make their final wishes their legacy.

The mission behind the Commemorative Legacy Project is to provide a burial alternative, which creates a lasting natural legacy of life whilst protecting the land and activities of O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE.

The Commemorative Conservation Grounds are at the heart of this project. The Grounds are approximately 11.6-acres in the Woodland Conservation sector, and include Vision Hill of O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE. The Commemorative Conservation Grounds are one option under the “Protect O.U.R. Ecovillage Forever” campaign with TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, to protect the entire 25 acres of land and the activities of O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE for generations to come.

For more information on the entire Protect O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Forever Campaign, go to <http://ourecovillage.org/get-involved/protect-our/>

TLC The Land Conservancy of BC Backgrounder

Since 1997, TLC has been saving special places throughout the province for today and future generations. As B.C.'s leading charitable land trust, TLC has protected more than 300 properties or 125,000 acres of fast disappearing natural areas, historic sites, farms and ranches, and places of community and recreational importance.

TLC and go towards the purchase of a conservation covenant to secure the unique land and values of the site will receive all gifts to the Protect O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Forever Campaign. As the conservation partner, TLC is responsible for the protective covenant. TLC will issue charitable tax receipts to donors. For more information, please visit www.conservancy.bc.ca

Green Burial Backgrounder

A green burial – or natural burial – is defined as a burial alternative that allows the body to be returned to the earth and naturally recycled into new life without the use of toxic embalming fluids, metal caskets and concrete vaults.

O.U.R.'s Commemorative Conservation Grounds is a burial alternative, for those – approximately 80% of British Columbians who wish to be cremated (Statistics Canada, 2009). As an environmentally friendly option, we are committed to the most ecologically sensitive practices possible in association with cremation, and protecting the land to which our ashes will return.

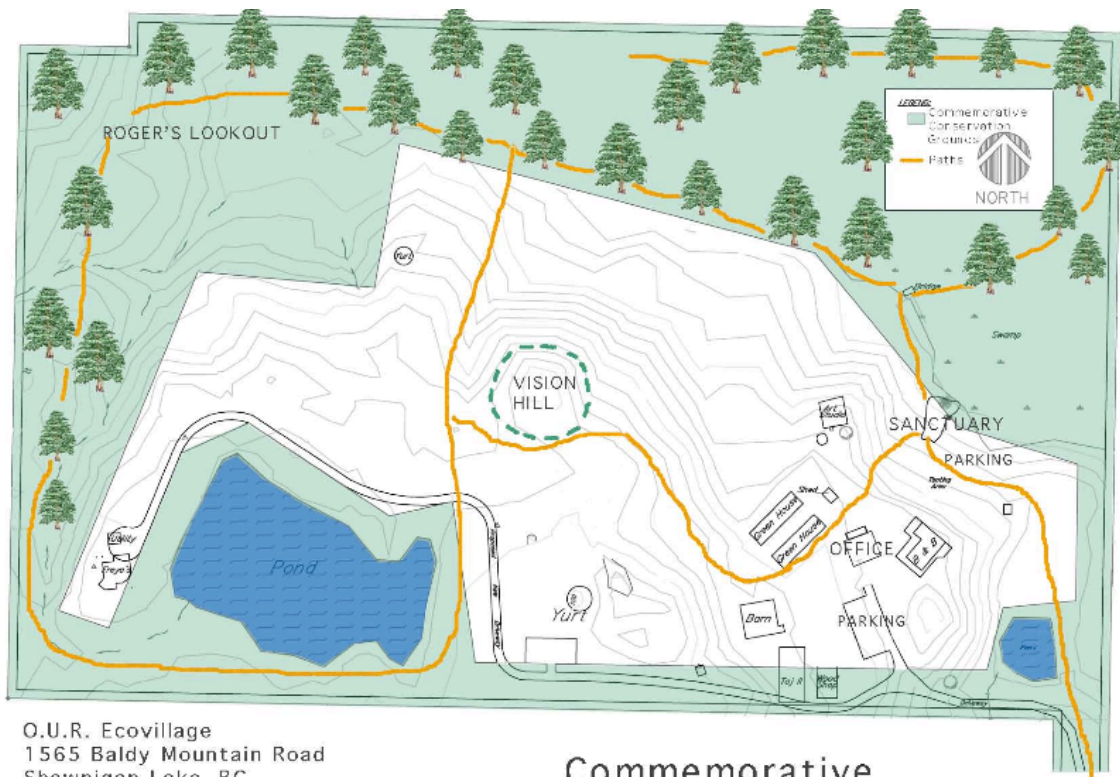
The Green Burial Council says (www.greenburialcouncil.org) approved Conservation Burial Grounds must be protected in perpetuity an area of land specifically and exclusively designated for conservation. A Green Burial Ground must also involve an established conservation organization that holds a conservation easement guaranteeing long-term stewardship. O.U.R.'s grounds meet the criteria through our partnership with TLC. O.U.R.'s Commemorative Conservation Grounds also adhere to the following Green Burial Council certified operational practices and requirements:

1. The grounds, or a designated portion of the grounds, must be reserved for the burial or scattering of cremated remains only.
2. Decedents are not to have been embalmed, or embalmed only with GBC approved nontoxic chemicals.
3. Cremation containers and urns are to be limited to those made from materials that

are nontoxic/nonhazardous and natural/plant derived.

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is currently **in the process** of working with the Green Burial Council to establish Canadian standards for Conservation Scattering Grounds.

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Commemorative Conservation Grounds Map



O.U.R. Ecovillage
1565 Baldy Mountain Road
Shawnigan Lake, BC
V0R 2W0
Canada
www.ourecovillage.org tel.: (250) 743-3067

Commemorative
Conservation Grounds

FAQ

Why cremation?

Since BC’s 80% cremation rate is one of the highest in the world – we are expanding on what has already become the provincial norm. While cremation is energy intensive and contributes to our carbon footprint, research conducted by Adelaide’s Centennial Park paints a more holistic picture of the environmental impacts of both cremation and burial. The research considers resource consumption, air emissions, waste disposal and soil and groundwater contamination. The study found that 160 kilograms of carbon dioxide is produced on the day of a cremation, almost four times more than a burial. But over the longterm, the study reports that the maintenance of a gravesite, such as watering and mowing, generates more carbon dioxide.

How are the Commemorative Conservation Grounds at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE different from existing Green Burial Grounds in Canada?

O.U.R. Commemorative Conservation Grounds:

1. Are conservation grounds
2. Are placing a covenant on all of the land and activities at O.U.R., not just the grounds
3. Are not a cemetery or a funeral home
4. Only accept cremated remains rather than full-body burials
5. Do not allow memorial markers outside of items from nature

How to begin planning your legacy?

Here’s how you can make your final wishes become a lasting natural legacy for generations to come:

1. Complete an Application Package

Contact us for a package at 250.743.3067

2. Choose to contribute in the following ways

Contribution	Offering	Description
Woodland Contribution	\$5,000 +	Facility use for End-of-Life ceremony, Recognition on Commemorative Conservation Plaque, 1 Orchard or Forest Tree planting
Orchard Contribution	\$2,500 – \$5,000	Recognition on Commemorative Conservation Plaque, 1 Orchard or Forest Tree planting
Commemorative Contribution	\$1,000 – \$2,500	1 orchard Tree (min. donation for scattering right)

Contact us when you are ready to make a **Contribution**, a **General Bequest** or to join our **Monthly Donor Program**.

Once we have received the application form and had a personal consultation, a contribution to TLC can be made through the Green buri page of the O.U.R. website or in person at O.U.R. Office. Once this has been received, we will provide you with a certificate that states t you hold the rights to scatter or bury ashes in Our Commemorative Conservation Grounds.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 22, 2011

Green Burial: Giving Back to the Planet

For many of us being surrounded by the natural beauty of B.C. serves to reinforce our environmentally conscious decisions. When we reach the end of our lives, we hope to put our personal philosophies into practice one last time. Through TLC and O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE's green burials project individuals can leave a final gift to the planet by choosing a ritual that will save a special place.

A man named Bill Blount on Vancouver Island is doing just this. As the former owner of the land, Bill was instrumental in helping to establish O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE, a 25-acre property in Shawnigan Lake that serves as a model for sustainable living.

Over the past 11 years, Bill's connection to the site stayed strong through volunteering and attending various events. His love for the space will also continue long into the future as he is the first individual to sign on with the green burial project at OUR ECOVILLAGE.

"This land is part of who I am and the work at O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is part of our collective future," says Bill. "The Green Burial program is important to me because I feel the desire to leave a legacy as an example to other farmers and land owners as to how they can protect wild spaces."

O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE's Commemorative Conservation Grounds, reserved for the scattering or burial of cremated remains of loved ones, are part of the Protect O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE Forever campaign with TLC. Together O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE and TLC are organizing a new framework within the Green Burial Conservation movement in Canada. Currently, O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE is in negotiation with the Green Burial Council for a full certification as a 'Conservation Scattering Ground'.

For those who wish to participate in the green burial program, please contact O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE at 250-743-3067 or email info@ourecovillage.com. All gifts will go towards the purchase of a conservation covenant to protect the unique land and values of O.U.R. ECOVILLAGE. As the conservation partner, TLC is responsible for the protective covenant.

