

Save Sickle Point

By Renee Martin

Sickle Point is a beautiful, uninhabited waterfront area on Skaha Lake. Various owners have discussed developing and subdividing this property and it is currently listed for sale for \$3.1 million. This may be our last opportunity to maintain it as a nature preserve / conservation area.

It is essential that Sickle Point be preserved, because it is recognized to have the highest conservation ranking by the South Okanagan Similkameen Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Keeping Nature in Our Future) and it is provincially red-listed for the water birch and wild rose community, which supports endangered wildlife and aquatic species such as the Yellow Breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Rattlesnake and Pallid Bat. It is also part of the migratory path for both resident and migrant wildlife, including the American White Pelican and the Sandhill Crane.

The Kaleden community remains steadfastly opposed to private development of Sickle Point. An ad hoc committee supported by the Kaleden Community Association has been working hard to save Sickle Point and residents of Kaleden and other surrounding areas have demonstrated their commitment by pledging \$106,550 in just 3 weeks. The purpose of this fund is to amass sufficient funds to convince a major foundation and/or government that the community is serious about saving Sickle Point.

The community of Kaleden envisions Sickle Point as a nature park allowing public access from the non-motorized KVR trail to the northern half of the upland area and the beach area for day use only. Access to the riparian and wetland areas would be restricted to appropriate trails and boardwalks, as they become developed. Interpretive signage would document the habitat, wildlife, First Nations culture and heritage and fish resources of the Skaha Lake area and would be available as an educational resource for local schools.

Please help us save this precious area. Your commitment to donate through a pledge can be made to the Kaleden Community Fund, targeted for Sickle Point. Donations will receive an income tax receipt when money changes hands. For further information about this initiative and how to make a pledge, visit www.kaledencommunity.com/sicklepoint or contact chair@kaledencommunity.com. Any donation, large or small, demonstrates community involvement and support. Let's keep this beautiful property in its natural state for future generations.



Photos above were taken in 2005 by Bob Handfield, and before trees were cut down.