



From the Nature Trust of BC Website:

Nature Trust's stated goal and objective for the Cowichan Estuary:

The Dinsdale Farm lands “...in search of implementation and development planning.”

Goal #5: “To foster ongoing relationships for the betterment of the conservation area complex and to bring additional resources to assist with the management initiatives.”

1 Objective: “Continue to work with the stewardship groups and local governments on Cowichan Watershed Roundtable.”

Former Dinsdale property now owned by BC Nature Trust of BC

Note large dikes on three sides which channelize Koksilah River and isolates property from the Estuary.

Blocked historic river side-channels

South Arm Koksilah River

Bench Road

Cowichan Bay Road



Image © 2015 DigitalGlobe
© 2015 Google

2004

Imagery Date: 4/16/2015 48°44'59.49" N 123°38'51.24" W elev 10 m eye alt 1

From the Nature Trust web site:

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is dedicated to conserving BC's biological diversity through securement and management of ecologically significant lands.

The Nature Trust acquired lands grouped in three types of projects; one of the three was “Estuarine, riparian and wetland properties in support of waterfowl and fish conservation.”

“...we care for this land in order to protect the natural diversity of wildlife and plants, and their critical habitats.”





Mixed wild grasses and shrubs, complex habitat



Intense monocultural commercial farming



Original Estuary ground cover



Almost whole property in farm fields



Habitat loss has occurred through conversion of intertidal estuarine habitats into intensively farmed croplands which require heavy applications of fertilizer mainly in the form of pungent livestock manure.

Intertidal Shorebird and Riparian Wildlife Habitat Impacted by Diking

Diking restricts movement of tidal waters and eliminates biofilm and invertebrate foraging habitat for shorebirds



Diking restricts the potential for intertidal habitat moving inland as sea levels rise with climate change

Photo: Kurlene Wenberg

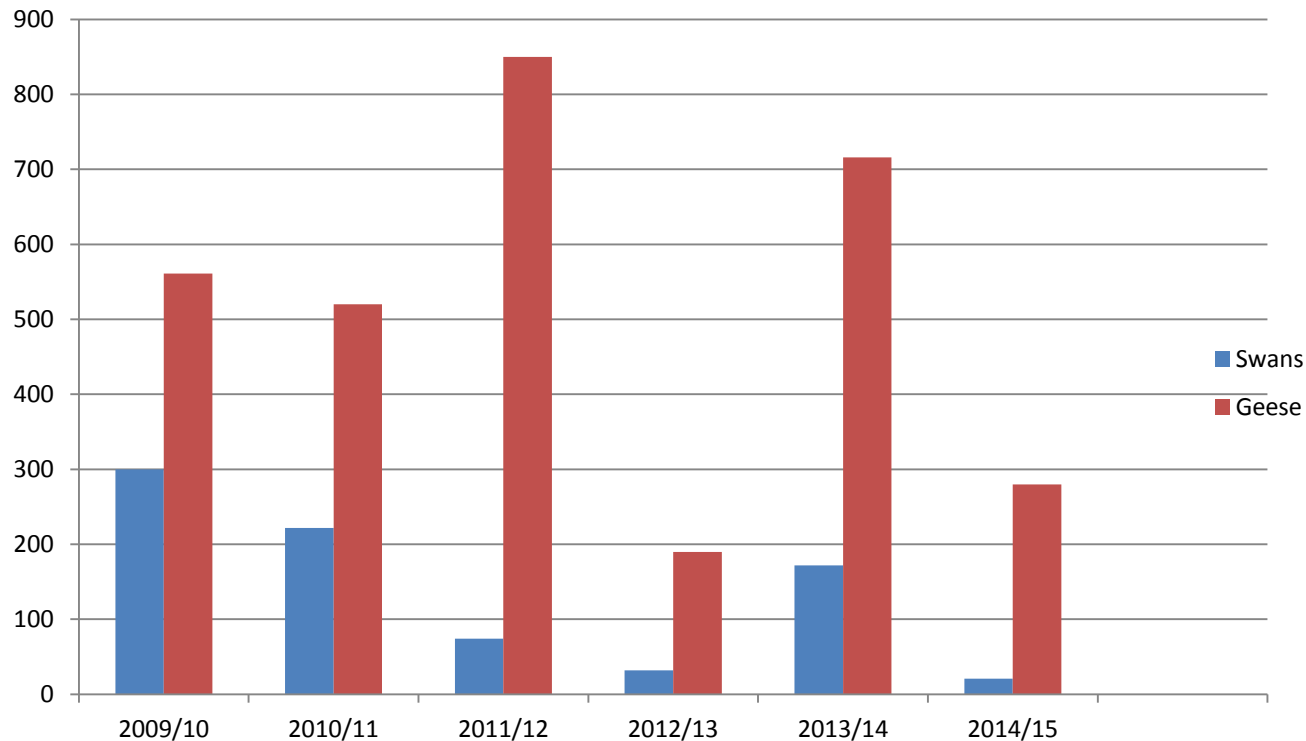
**Use by Trumpeter Swans in decline
on Nature Trust Dinsdale Property**



Photo: Ray Demarchi

Maximum Winter Counts of Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese on Nature Trust Dinsdale Property 2009-10 to 2014-15

Goose numbers high and stable while Trumpeter Swan numbers declining



Data collected by Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society

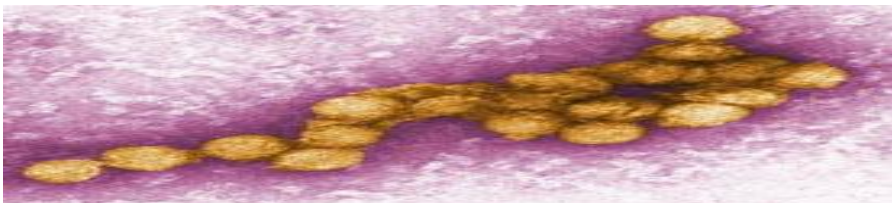


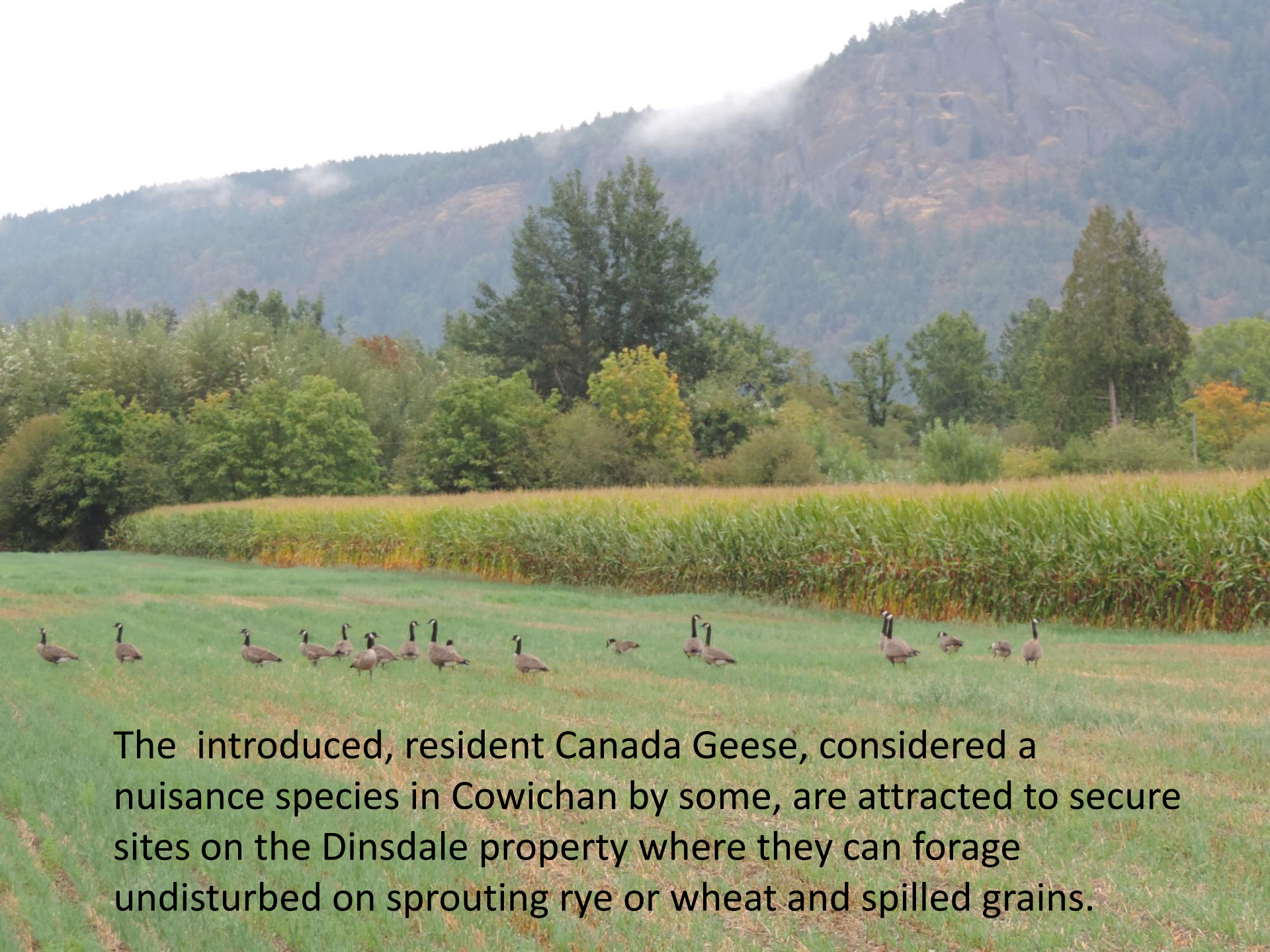
Man made ponds utilized by dabbling ducks in fall and winter months become breeding grounds for mosquitoes during the summer.

West Nile Virus

“West Nile Virus (WNV)-- the most widely distributed vector-borne disease in North America, has now been detected in B.C. [and adjacent Washington State where 20 cases have been confirmed so far in 2015]. It is only one of many diseases around the world that are spread by mosquitoes. Although most people who get infected will not feel any symptoms, the disease can be serious for one person out of about every 150 who are infected. Fortunately, it is fairly easy to lower your risk of infection, by avoiding mosquito bites.”

BC Centre for Disease Control Website: http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/_w/WestNileVirus/default.htm

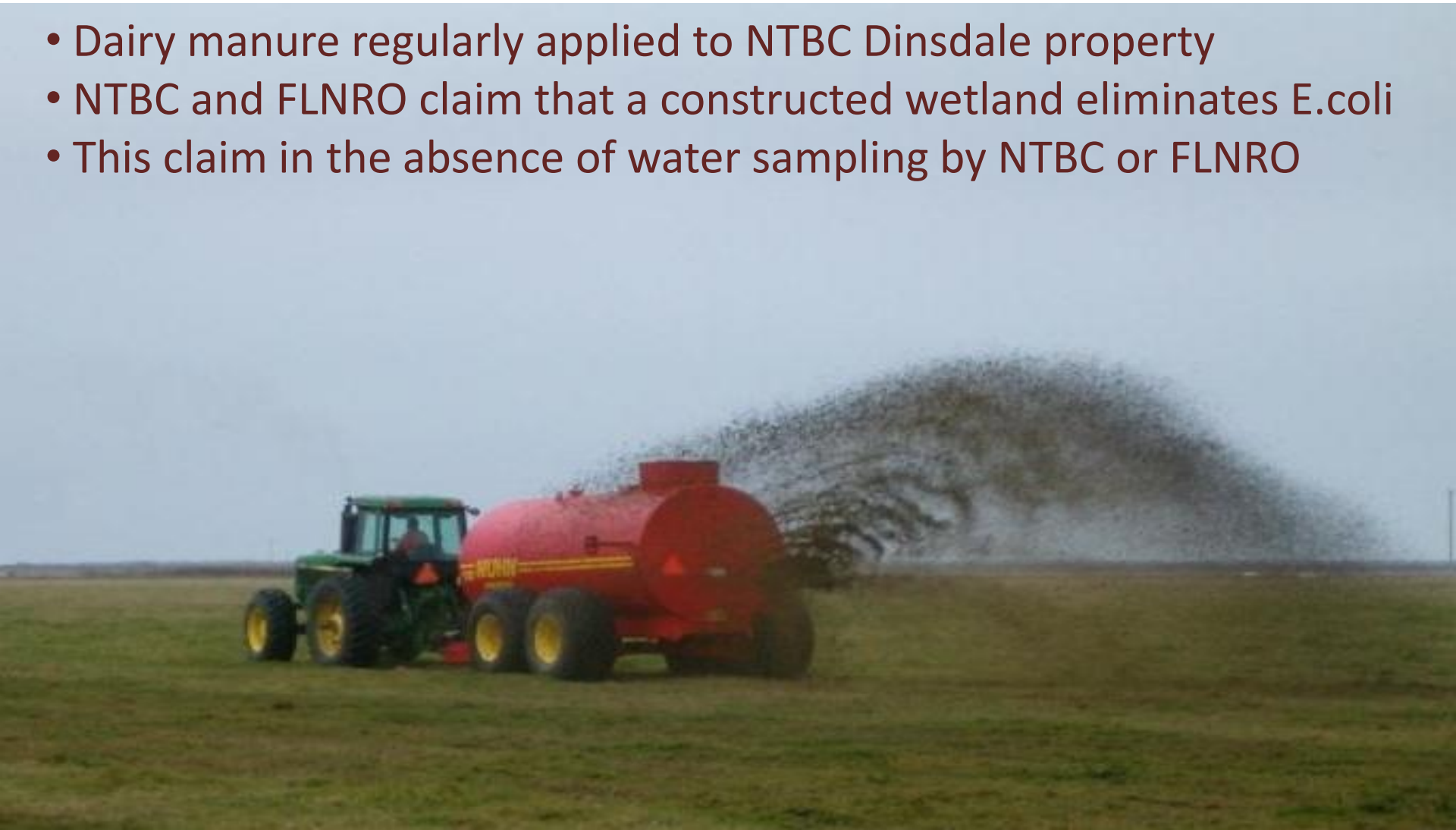




The introduced, resident Canada Geese, considered a nuisance species in Cowichan by some, are attracted to secure sites on the Dinsdale property where they can forage undisturbed on sprouting rye or wheat and spilled grains.

Cowichan Watershed Board 's target is to be able to eat shellfish from Cowichan Estuary by 2020

- Dairy manure regularly applied to NTBC Dinsdale property
- NTBC and FLNRO claim that a constructed wetland eliminates E.coli
- This claim in the absence of water sampling by NTBC or FLNRO



Channelization of the South Arm of Koksilah River by the use of large rock rip-rap has destroyed valuable fish and wildlife habitat on the sides of the Nature Trust Dinsdale Property by elimination of fish rearing side channel habitats, eliminating riparian vegetation and increasing predation.



Shrub and grasses can discourage Canada Geese while attracting more diverse wildlife and providing habitat for nesting and migrating waterfowl.

Shrubs can also provide a security barrier for ducks and other wildlife near dikes where people and dogs travel.





Campbell River Estuary Restoration: An example of cooperative action

**“We should manage conservation lands as part of landscapes to ensure ecosystem resilience and connectivity.”
(Nature Trust of BC Website)**

Update Dinsdale Property Management Plan:

Team Approach:

FLNRO, Nature Trust of BC and Ducks Unlimited to establish a Dinsdale Property Restoration

Steering Committee to work closely with:

- Cowichan Tribes
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Conservation groups including:
 - Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Association
 - BC Wildlife Federation
 - Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association