



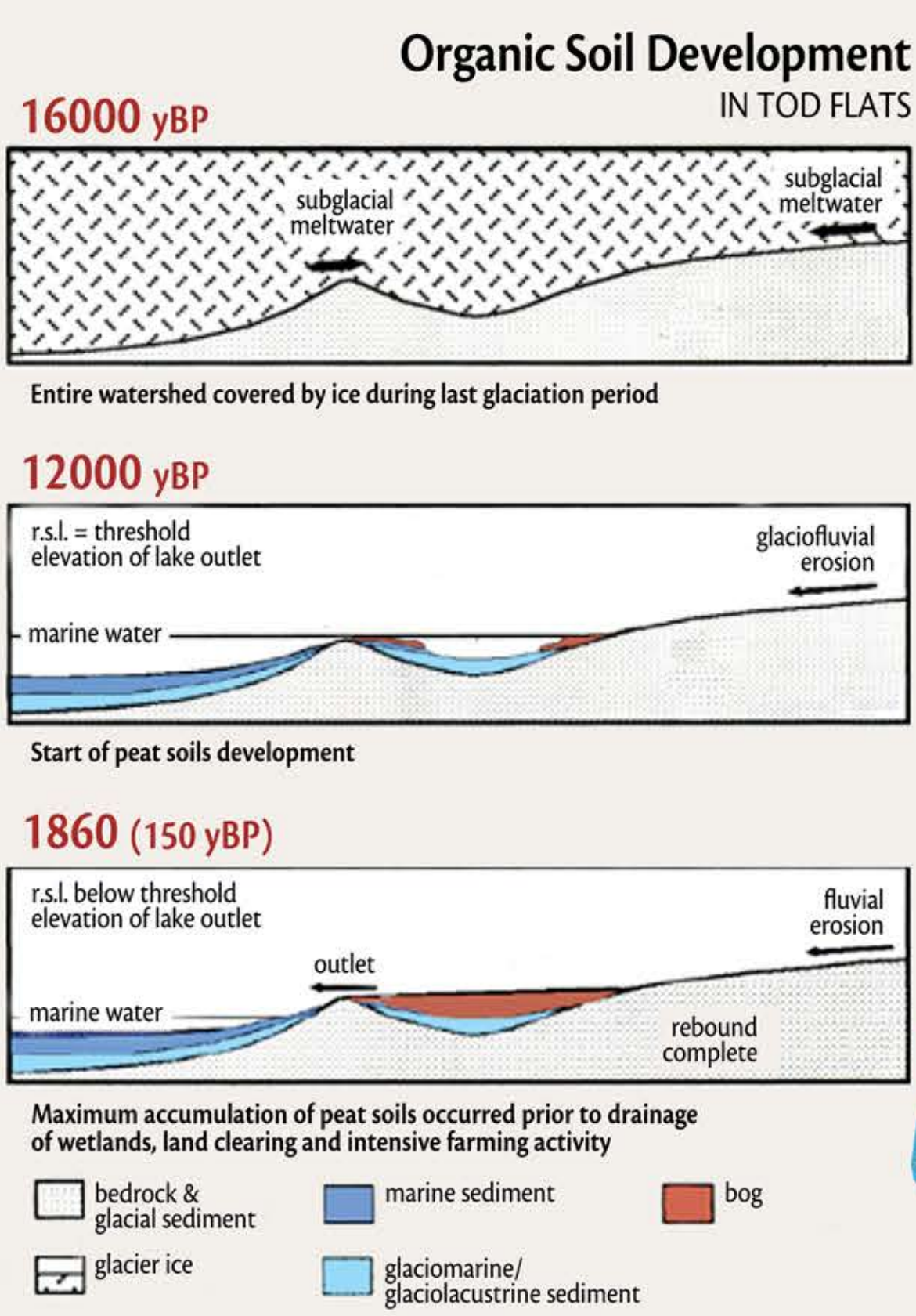
SOOTY GROUSE (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*)

# Tod Creek Flats

## 16,000 YEARS AGO – ICE 850 METRES THICK COVERS TOD FLATS.

Glaciers carve the landscape compacting sediments. As glaciers retreat and ice melts, the sea rises reaching levels 80 metres higher than today.

For 3,000 years the landscape evolves and as the sea level drops, a shallow fresh water lake forms.



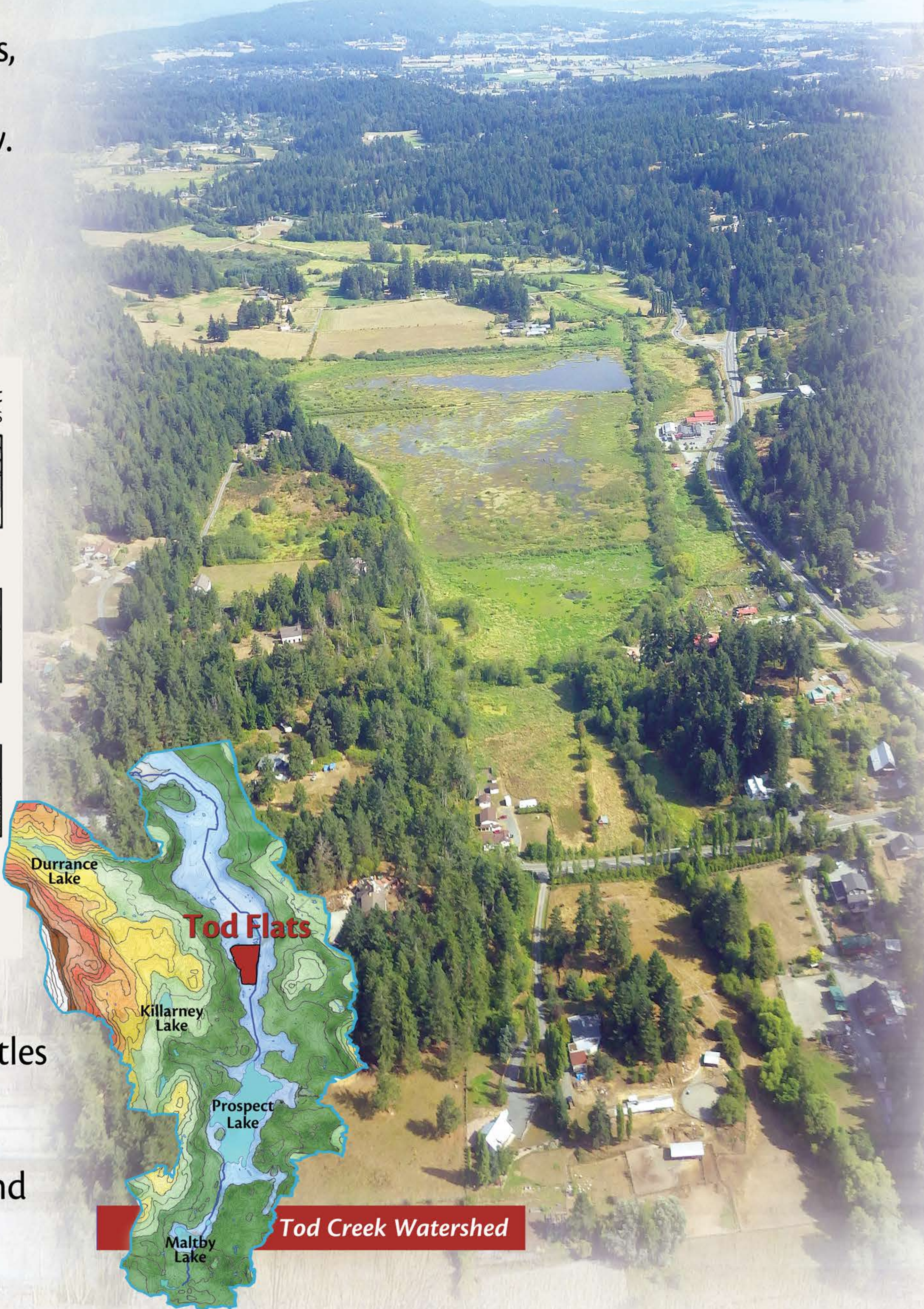
Over the next 12,000 years decaying organic matter settles on the lake floor. Minimal erosion and lack of oxygen creates rich peat deposits and a thriving wetland.

## FOR 4,000 YEARS THE LAND SUSTAINS FIRST NATIONS.

WSÁNEĆ people travel from their village located at Tod Inlet to hunt waterfowl, gather berries and harvest the plants that feed, house, clothe and heal. Stems of the bulrush are dried and woven into baskets, mats and wall coverings, those of Red-Osier Dogwood are used for building materials and medicinal tonics.

## BALANCING AGRICULTURE & BIODIVERSITY

Restoration of Tod Creek Flats is an initiative of Friends of Tod Creek Watershed & Peninsula Streams Society working in partnership with Landowners & the District of Saanich.



HARD-STEMMED BULRUSH (*Tule scirpus lacustris*)

The strong woody branches of Oceanspray are used for digging and halibut hooks, while Willow inner-bark is used for making reef nets.

## 1850 – SETTLERS ALTER THE LAND.

John (Jack) Durrance is the first European in the area, establishing a 400 acre farm at Tod Valley's north end.



African Americans arrive on the invitation of James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver Island. The son of an African Creole mother and European father, Douglas is sensitive to the concerns of African Americans – 800 migrate from California to Vancouver Island. Early settlers were the Spotts family. Alfred “Bossi” Spotts farms 50 acres at the south end of Tod Flats into the mid-1950s.



Fielding Spotts, pioneer farmer and grandfather of Alfred “Bossi” Spotts.

## 1860 – TOD CREEK IS CHANNELIZED

Tod Creek is moved to the east edge of the Flats. The wetland is cleared and drained for various land uses including a rifle range and agriculture. The Flats loses its ecological integrity and diminishes its ability to support salmonid. New roads and railroads enable transport of produce but increase pollution, and pressures on the creek and land.

## 1912 – SISTERS OF ST. ANN ESTABLISH A HOSPITAL FARM.

The Sisters purchase the northern portion of Tod Flats to operate a mixed farm supplying St. Joseph’s Hospital and St. Ann’s Academy. Quon Mon Chee purchases the farm in 1957.



THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FRIENDS OF TOD CREEK WATERSHED, PENINSULA STREAMS SOCIETY AND THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH. [saanich.ca](http://saanich.ca) | [peninsulastreams.ca](http://peninsulastreams.ca) | [todcreekwatershed.ca](http://todcreekwatershed.ca)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: SAANICH ARCHIVES, CANADA ARCHIVES, ANNE ALLEN, MARY HAIG-BROWN, IAN DOUGLAS BRUCE, GWEN CURRY, LORI JAMES DERRY, PAUL HILL,

WINONA PUGH & CARMEL THOMSON.



OCEANSPRAY/IRONWOOD (*Holodiscus discolor*)

RED-OSIER DOGWOOD (*Cornus stolonifera*)

SMALL-FLOWERED BULRUSH (*Scirpus microcarpus*)

SKUNK CABBAGE (*Lysichiton americanum*)

SOFT-LEAVED SEDGE (*Carex disperma*)