



News Release

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GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE APPROVES LAND TRANSFER TO EXPAND PARK

VICTORIA — Sixty-five hectares of forest land, as well as water and foreshore, will be protected on Galiano Island as a result of years of work by the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee, BC Parks and a private landowner. The land will be transferred to BC Parks, expanding Bodega Ridge Provincial Park by more than a quarter of the current area and establishing a protected area link between the east and west coasts of the island.

"We are extremely pleased to have been able to support this application which has received widespread support throughout the community," said Louise Decario, Galiano Island local trustee. "This rezoning and the resulting land transfer to BC Parks will advance an official community plan objective to preserve a forest land base on Galiano while at the same time permitting clustered residential use on a subdivided portion of the land."

"The adoption of this rezoning is the culmination of several years of work by the Local Trust Committee, Islands Trust planners, BC Parks staff and the owner," added Sandy Pottle, also a local trustee. "This could not have been achieved without the support of the community."

In 2011, Galiano Islander Richard Dewinetz, the owner of the property, applied to rezone six lots along Bodega Beach Drive from forest zoning to nature protection and rural residential zoning. The recently adopted rezoning has resulted in more than 70 per cent of 90 hectares being rezoned to nature protection and 24 hectares being rezoned rural residential for future subdivision into 12 lots of a minimum of two hectares. The 65 hectares rezoned to nature protection and to be transferred to BC Parks are a significant addition to Bodega Ridge Park and to protected areas on Galiano and within the Islands Trust Area as a whole.

Funds from the sale of one of the lots will also be transferred to the Galiano Island Housing Society to support community housing on Galiano Island.

This addition to Bodega Ridge Provincial Park contributes to the establishment of a network of protected areas across Galiano Island, linking Trincomali Channel to the Strait of Georgia. The lands include areas identified as sensitive ecosystems, riparian areas, important habitat, and sensitive shorelines, as well as providing opportunities for restoration of former working forest lands.

"A special thanks to the many members of the Galiano community who came out to offer their support for our project," said land owner Richard Dewinetz. "We want to thank the Islands Trust, the Local Trustees and the planning staff in Victoria for their cooperation in bringing this project to completion."

"Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Richard Dewinetz, the Islands Trust, BC Parks and the Galiano community, recreational and conservation opportunities in Bodega Ridge Provincial Park will be enhanced and more land will be protected for future generations to enjoy," said Mary Polak, BC Minister of Environment.

The transfer of lands is expected to occur within a year, following final approval of the subdivision. The lands will then require an act of the Legislature to be designated as part of Bodega Ridge Provincial Park.

- More -

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

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The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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Editors/News Directors: Please see photo with outline and map.

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On the foreshore of the newly protected land to be added to Bodega Ridge Provincial Park on Galiano Island. The 65-hectare addition will expand the park by more than 25% of its current area and establishes a protected area link between the east and west coasts of the island.



