



News Release

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ONE NOMINATION FOR SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUSTEE

VICTORIA — The nomination period for Saturna Island Local Trustee candidates closed today, January 14, with Dian Sandra Johnstone the only person to submit nomination papers. In accordance with the requirements of BC's *Local Government Act*, electors have until January 18 to challenge the nomination. If there is no challenge, the Islands Trust's Chief Elections Officer will declare Johnstone elected by acclamation on January 24th after which she can be sworn in as a local trustee for the Saturna Island Local Trust Area.

The position became vacant in October, 2010, when former Saturna Island Local Trustee John Money submitted his resignation. A by-election by voting had been scheduled for February 19, 2011, but will not be required.

The successful candidate will fill the position vacated by Money until the term ends in early December 2011. Like other communities in British Columbia, island communities elect their local government representatives every three years. General Local Elections for the entire Islands Trust will be held in November 2011 during province-wide local government elections.

Johnstone is retired and has been living on Saturna Island since 1998. She had a 20-year career in tax administration at BC's Ministry of Finance, and served more recently as a consultant to the World Bank and other agencies in Kosovo, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tanzania and Macedonia. Johnstone is also an active community volunteer, serving on the Fire Protection Society Board, Arts and Concerts Society, Saturna Women's Service Club, Community Club, Recreation Society Board as well as being a member of the Lions Club. She also founded the Meals on Wheels program on Saturna Island.

Once sworn in, the new Saturna Island Local Trustee will essentially fill two roles. Johnstone will be a member of the three-member Saturna Island Local Trust Committee, along with Saturna Island Local Trustee Beverley Neff and Chair, Peter Luckham. The local trust committee is responsible for land use planning and regulation in the Saturna Island Local Trust Area. Its responsibilities include preparing and adopting Official Community Plans, rural land use bylaws, zoning and subdivision bylaws, regulating soil removal and authorizing permits under part 26 of the *Local Government Act*. Johnstone will also sit on the Islands Trust Council, which considers broader policy, operational and financial decisions for the entire Islands Trust Area.

The Islands Trust Council is a federation of independent local governments that represents some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment 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. Currently there are thirteen local trust committees and one island municipality (Bowen Island) in the Islands Trust Area. For more information go to the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca

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