

Islands Trust enews

FALL 2010

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Welcome to the fall 2010 edition of the Islands Trust's electronic newsletter. We have designed this for everyone interested in the activities of the Islands Trust—a federation of the local governments responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment on BC's southern coastal islands and waters through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies and land conservation.

Please forward this newsletter to friends, neighbours or colleagues who you think may be interested in this information.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or if you would like to add or change a subscription, please [click here](#)

Trust Council Highlights

The Islands Trust Council held its quarterly business meeting September 14-16, 2010 on Bowen Island. The next Trust Council meeting will be in Victoria, BC December 7-9, 2010 at the Harbour Towers Hotel. For advice on how to address Council with an important issue, please [click here](#)



Joint Session with Bowen Island Municipality—Protocol Agreement

The Islands Trust Council originally entered into a Protocol Agreement with Bowen Island Municipality in 2000. Both parties recently identified the need for amendments, especially to clarify the bylaw approval process. The Protocol Agreement facilitates good communications and assists in the maintenance of positive relations between the parties. The updated version has been sent to the Minister of Community and Rural Development for final approval.

Sheila Malcolmson, Chair, Islands Trust Council and Bob Turner, Mayor of Bowen Island Municipality sign a Protocol Agreement between the Islands Trust Council and Bowen Island Municipality.

Photograph by Peter Luckham.

The Green Shores for Homes project will educate property owners about how to design their projects and enable Islands Trust decision makers to evaluate shoreline modifications in a consistent and objective way.

The Islands Trust Green Shores for Homes Project

The *Islands Trust Policy Statement* requires local trust committees and island municipalities to work toward the protection of natural coastal processes. When these processes are interrupted, habitat destruction, erosion and loss of property can result. How can we educate landowners and evaluate and regulate shoreline development to reduce the environmental impact of shoreline construction?

To answer that question, the Islands Trust Council unanimously approved the *Islands Trust Green Shores for Homes* project, a multi-year program to find the best ways to protect and improve coastal ecosystem function on private land. This work will lead to improved decision making on land use and development for single-family waterfront properties in the Salish Sea by developing and using a rigorous environmental impact rating system. The rating system will inform property owners and local governments about the environmental sustainability of proposed coastline developments before they happen. As part of this project, the Islands Trust could train independent rating assessors and find ways to motivate property owners to achieve the highest possible rating on their projects.

The *Green Shores for Homes* project partners the Islands Trust with Washington State's San Juan County and the City of Seattle, BC's Green Shores group of the Stewardship Centre of British Columbia, the British Columbia Climate Action Secretariat and the Pacific Climate Impact Consortium. The *Green Shores for Homes* project will educate property owners about how to design their projects and enable Islands Trust decision makers to evaluate shoreline modifications in a consistent and objective way.

The Islands Trust is grateful for the funding for this ambitious project from the Stewardship Centre of BC and the Pacific Climate Impact Consortium.

Food Security Session

“Our food system is in crisis,” is the message delivered by North Pender Island Local Trustee and farmer Derek Masselink in the hard-hitting session on food security that opened September Trust Council.

Achieving local food security is an objective in Trust Council’s current strategic plan. The September session was developed to identify ways that local governments in the Trust Area could support food security while making land use decisions. Islands Trust Planners Kaitlin Kazmierowski and Alison Fox began the session by revealing striking facts from Kaitlin’s draft report entitled *Exploring Food Security in the Islands Trust Area*, such as:

- Only a three day food supply exists on the islands at any one time, posing problems for emergency planning.
- Limited access to markets, food processing and storage facilities leads to limited incomes for farmers on the islands.
- 13.5% of the Trust Area is in the ALR (10,700 hectares)
- 57% of farm operators are over the age of 55, while only 4% are under the age of 35.

The session explored a range of tools and policy ideas to support food security. Bowen Island Councilor Peter Frinton spoke in detail about edge planning and buffer areas. Derek Masselink outlined 10 principles that Islands Trust should consider when encouraging food security, including putting healthy foods first, thinking systematically about farming and ecology, facilitating food production, pursuing a different relationship with the land and taking more risks.

The session concluded with an engaging break-out session and a “dotmocracy” exercise which saw the most dots put next to the following action priorities:

1. Support a regional farming trust fund.
2. Create policy/ advocacy to develop infrastructure for on-island food processing and storage.
3. Find ways to reward good land management and water use (e.g. an agricultural stewardship award).
4. Support small-scale farms in proving the need for worker housing.
5. Serve as a facilitator linking consumers, producers and social organizations/ encourage communal composting facilities.
6. Map productive/ arable agriculture lands, including those not within the ALR.

Overall, the session revealed that the Islands Trust is poised to be a leader in food policy action due to strong agricultural traditions, local food culture, existing policies and regulations, and community food initiatives. A final version of the report will include more statistics, trustee feedback and recommendations for further action. When Trust Council receives the final report in December, it will consider the next steps for supporting food security in island communities.

To stay current with this project, please visit the [food security](#) section of our website.



Marine Environment Now Top Priority for Trust Council's Advocacy Program

Islands Trust marine advocacy will focus on influencing federal and provincial policies on marine shipping safety and oil spill prevention and response.

Trust Council has now amended its strategic plan to make protecting the marine environment the top priority of its advocacy program. This will put a focus on influencing federal and provincial policies on marine shipping safety and oil spill prevention and response. The decision follows an information session at the June Trust Council meeting on Saturna Island which introduced trustees to the state of shipping in the region and warned of BC's poor preparedness for oil spills. That session included a number of key players in shipping:

- Captain Stephen Brown President, Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia;
- Fred Felleman, Marine Consultant;
- Graham Knox, Manager, Environmental Emergencies, BC Ministry of Environment;
- Oonagh O'Connor Marine Shipping Safety Advocate;
- Jim Lawson, Regional Director, Transport Canada;
- Yoss Leclerc, Director, Operations and Security, and Harbour Master, Port Metro Vancouver;
- Captain Kevin Obermeyer President and CEO, Pacific Pilotage Authority;
- George Karras, Victoria Transport Canada Centre Manager, Transport Canada; and,
- Michael McGuire, Community Liaison and Special Projects Manager, Pacific Pilotage Authority.

One goal of the marine advocacy program will be to seek transparency and openness from regulators and industry. The marine industry has traditionally been a

closed community and modern threats mean it is time for citizens to be included in decision-making. A principle that drives the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council is one that also applies to our communities: "Those who have the most to lose when things go wrong should have a role in making sure things go right."

Traffic in local waterways is predicted to increase as the provincial and federal governments push for more shipping activity through their Pacific Gateway and Asia-Pacific Gateway programs. There is also increasing industrial pressure to increase oil export via tankers on the West Coast. An oil or hazardous material spill, whether from an oil tanker or the fuel tanks of a cargo vessel could severely harm the ecology, livability and economy of the region.

In September, the Islands Trust was proud to support resolutions endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities to ban off-shore oil and gas exploration and development, to oppose any expansion of bulk crude oil tanker traffic on the north coast, and to oppose tar sands being shipped in pipelines across northern BC for loading onto crude oil tankers.



Marine Shipping Panel at June Trust Council meeting on Saturna Island.

Plumper Sound Advocacy Successes

Years of complaints about gypsum dust clouds in Plumper Sound have finally been heard. As of mid-August 2010, there are chutes installed on the two ships that deliver gypsum to barges in Plumper Sound—the CSL *Acadian* and the M/V *Pioneer*. Nevertheless, there are still concerns about protecting the Plumper Sound environment from shipping activity.

In January, 2010, Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson wrote to the Honourable John Baird, then federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities regarding freighter safety in Plumper Sound. Plumper Sound is an anchorage of the Port Metro Vancouver and presents a uniquely hazardous situation for anchoring because of its geography, sea floor and wind conditions. The Chair asked Minister Baird to:

- describe the safety procedures required for freighters anchoring in Canadian waters, and what kind of safety-review has been conducted by what agencies following the *Hebei Lion* incident on November 18, 2009;
- advise us if there are any restrictive provisions in federal legislation that could apply to freighters anchoring in an area that has special ecological designation under provincial and/or federal legislation; and
- advise us what options may be available to change the regulatory framework, either in law or in practice, to better protect such specially designated areas.

In March Minister Baird responded and stated: “Because of this (the grounding of the *Hebei Lion*) and other similar incidents where vessels in Plumper Sound have dragged anchor, Transport Canada has informed industry that the department intends to issue a strong advisory regarding the anchoring of vessels in the designated anchorages within Plumper Sound during winter months (October 31 – April 1). It is important to note that this would not prevent vessels from using the anchorage during this period for unusual or extenuating circumstances for short periods when strong wind warnings are not forecasted.”

Earlier this year, there was strong public opposition to a proposal to test a Washington-based fast ferry in Plumper Sound. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada recently indicated it will not permit such tests to proceed given its current design.

The Islands Trust has also raised concerns about the risks posed by car carriers as their height makes them vulnerable to high winds. Over the winter, Islands Trust staff will continue to document concerns about industrial activity in Plumper Sound. If you see car carriers or other shipping practices in Plumper Sound that concern you, contact Clare Frater, Policy Analyst at cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca

National Marine Conservation Area

The Islands Trust Executive Committee has renewed its campaign to support a Parks Canada National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the Southern Strait of Georgia. Along with other local governments and allies such as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Georgia Strait Alliance, trustees and staff have been writing to and meeting with elected officials and staff of the agencies responsible for negotiating the new protected area. At its annual meeting in Whistler, members of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) endorsed the Islands Trust resolution in support of an NMCA. Islands Trust representatives recently met with B.C. Environment Minister Barry Penner during the UBCM convention, encouraging him to take a significant step in support of the NMCA in time for the 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress to be held May 2011 in Victoria.

View over Georgia Strait from the west side of Gabriola Island.

Photograph by Annie Weeks.



Islands Trust Seeks Solution to Abandoned Vessels

Derelict vessel on Salt Spring Island (top) and Kuper Island (bottom).



Sheila Malcolmson addressing the derelict vessel problem at the UBCM convention.



Up and down the coast, the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges, and docks continues to plague local governments and harbour authorities in British Columbia. The growing costs of removal and the risks of environmental contamination and visual pollution spurred the Islands Trust and other coastal communities to address this issue at the 2010 UBCM annual convention this fall.

The Islands Trust worked with three other local governments and the AVICC to bring a joint resolution forward. The final resolution wording was crafted by Sechelt Mayor Darren Inkster, View Royal Councilor John Rogers and Central Saanich Councilor Adam Olsen. On September 30, UBCM voted to petition the provincial and federal governments to develop a coordinated approach to the timely and adequate removal of all types of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks in all situations and consider the following strategies:

- funding mechanism(s) such as a fee on vessel registrations or a surcharge on marine fuel to fund the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks;
- designated disposal areas where owners can take their unwanted boats and structures to provide an alternative to abandonment on public property; and
- education and vessel product stewardship programs, for example fiberglass boat recycling centers.

The same partners joined the Islands Trust Executive Committee in a meeting with Minister Pat Bell (responsible for the Integrated Land Management Bureau) while at the UBCM convention. Minister Bell indicated an interest in resolving the situation and suggested a follow up meeting later in November when a time-table for action would be presented.

Islands Trust staff also organized a workshop at UBCM focused on resolving the derelict vessel problem. Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson opened the September 30 session with real-life stories of stray barges and other vessels. Her key messages were that local governments want to work with senior governments to solve this problem before it gets worse and that a comprehensive approach is needed. Her presentation was followed by a well-received talk by Melissa Ferris of the Washington State Derelict Vessel Removal Program. In Washington State, a small surcharge on vessel registration provides a \$500,000 annual fund dedicated to the removal of derelict vessels. Bob Gowe of Transport Canada provided a brief summary of the current status of Canadian policy and legislation in this area and Duncan Williams from the BC Integrated Land Management Bureau provided the provincial perspective. He indicated that provincial and federal staff are working together to develop options for their respective ministers. The workshop was attended by 80 UBCM delegates, virtually all experiencing derelict vessel problems in their jurisdictions.

To stay current with this project, please visit the [marine stewardship](#) section of our website.

Community Housing Task Force

The Islands Trust's Community Housing Task Force received strong support from Trust Council in March 2010 for its new report: *Islands Trust Community Housing "Toolkit"; A Guide to Tools Available to Support the Development of Affordable Housing in the Trust Area*. Building on that success and lessons learned from the production of the "Toolkit," the Task Force has a renewed mandate to create another guide to assist community groups to navigate the land use development application process for affordable and special needs housing. The guide will address Islands Trust processes (from rezoning to development variance permits), regional district requirements (building permits), regional health requirements (septic system approvals), and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requirements (subdivision process) and will be completed in the spring of 2011.

To stay current with this project, please visit the [community housing](#) section of our website.

Islands Trust Area News

Shoreline Stewardship Workshop on Thetis Island

Adapted from an article by Lynda Poirier published in the Thetis Island Quarterly

If you live near the waterfront and are considering cutting down some trees you may want to ask yourself whether a better view and additional sunshine are more important to you than salmon for supper. Most of us know that trees hold our banks together by absorbing lots of water. But did you know that they also provide shade and insect habitat essential for the survival of salmon fry? Shoreline modification is the biggest threat to the survival of our salmon stocks. This is what islanders learned while attending marine biologist Ramona de Graaf's animated presentation about forage fish and their habitats.

The August presentation and beach walk was organized by Thetis Island local trustees Peter Luckham and Sue French. They had seen Ramona's presentation earlier in the year and felt they and other islanders needed to learn more and perhaps participate in this new research. It was a great morning with 47 people attending.

The next job is to identify three beaches on Thetis Island that volunteers would like to monitor, then organize a group of people who are willing to collect a sample once a month for Ramona, who will provide training and support to make this as easy as possible. If you are interested in volunteering, contact local trustees Peter Luckham or Sue French.



Islands Trust Seniors Housing Strategy

The Islands Trust has developed a strategy for seniors housing in the Trust Area with the help of PlanIt Solutions and funding from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). In June 2010, Trust Council received the report which recommends short, mid and long-term strategies to accommodate aging in place. Local Trust Committees can consider these recommendations when making their own local zoning decisions in consultation with their communities. To read the Islands Trust's Seniors Housing Strategy, [click here](#).

"Shoreline Stewardship Morning" featuring Ramona de Graaf, marine biologist and coordinator for the British Columbia Shore Spawners Alliance and hosted by the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee.

Photograph by Neil McDaniel.

Chrome Island
Light Station.



How to Save a Lighthouse

Did you know that Fisheries and Oceans Canada list of “Active Lighthouses Declared Surplus” includes three automated lighthouses in the Islands Trust Area? These light stations are on Ballenas Island in the Executive Trust Area, Sisters Island in the Lasqueti Local Trust Area, and Porlier Pass in the Galiano Local Trust Area.

Under the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*, which came into effect at the end of May 2010, there is a way to prevent demolition of surplus lighthouses. Until May 2010, any group of 25 Canadians can petition the federal government for heritage designation of any surplus light station. In order for a light station to be eligible for heritage designation a person or organization must also submit a commitment to acquire the lighthouse and to protect its heritage character.

For more information on the Act [click here](#).

For information on how people can apply to take over surplus light stations [click here](#).

Islands Trust Lighthouse Advocacy

In November 2009, Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson wrote to the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to convey the Islands Trust Council’s concern about potential de-staffing of light stations by the Canadian Coast Guard. There are staffed lighthouses on Entrance Island in the Gabriola Island Trust Area and on Chrome Island in the Denman Local Trust Area. She expressed Trust Council’s concern that the de-staffing of light stations will have a detrimental effect on public and environmental safety and the heritage values of lighthouse sites. She explained that light keepers provide essential services to mariners, aviators and island communities, and that Islands Trust strongly believes that staffed Canadian light stations should remain staffed. She requested that meaningful consultation with local communities and service users be an integral part of any Canadian Coast Guard lighthouse keeper review processes. The Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans was to have visited BC this fall to talk to communities about potential lighthouse de-staffing but their funding request was denied. They have submitted a new funding request. Islands Trust will continue to monitor this topic.

Stage Set for New Affordable Housing on Salt Spring Island

A housing agreement for 10 affordable dwelling units at 584 Rainbow Road on Salt Spring Island recently received bylaw support by the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. The joint housing agreement involves the Capital Regional District, the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society and the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

The housing agreement is the culmination of the efforts of the Capital Regional District and Local Trust Committee to support the Land Bank Society, a non profit organization that holds land for community benefits such as affordable housing. Six dwellings are expected to be occupied within the next year, with the additional four units to be completed within four years after that.

The Land Bank Society has signed a covenant on the property which includes a number of resource conservation features, such as: energy efficient building standards, a rainwater catchment system, buffering of adjacent lands, and protection of trees and the riparian features.

To stay current with Salt Spring housing projects, please [click here](#).

Community Stewardship Award Recipients



Local Trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgimson, Climate Change Community Stewardship Award recipient Dorothy Cutting and Islands Trust Council Chair Sheila Malcolmson.



Patti Willis, of Denman Island, with her Community Stewardship Award presented in August for her work to preserve the Denman Island environment.

About 50 people attended a special reception in August on Salt Spring Island to honour **Dorothy Cutting** as she received an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award. Dorothy was the first individual recipient of the award in the climate change category for her climate change education work, including the West Coast Climate Equity website. In 2009, the Islands Trust added a new category to the Community Stewardship Award Program to recognize and encourage the actions of individuals and organizations that are working in the area of climate change.

Patti Willis has lived on Denman Island for 40 years. “In 1970 when I came to Denman, it had a population of about 125. There were no lands set aside for conservation, with the exception of Fillongley Park. It was one meeting, one letter, one newspaper article, one fundraiser at a time—the power of many, many, small voluntary acts that, by their slow and steady accumulation, year after year, now result in 10% of Denman Island being dedicated to parks and nature reserves—and more to come,” she said in her acceptance speech. “I know that I stand on the shoulders of these who have gone before me in this work and I honour them.”

“I am particularly proud to receive this award from the Islands Trust, which has received considerable “heat” this summer. I was here before the Islands Trust was even a twinkle in someone’s eye. I can assure you that without the Trust’s support, we would not have the island we love today. I fear we would have become just another small town suburb, with our natural heritage eroded, or at best, highly manicured. Is the Islands Trust imperfect? Yes. It is, after all, a human endeavour. But, the Trust does something extraordinary—it challenges me to think beyond my personal circumstances, beyond my own private little piece of the island, beyond the promise of personal gain, beyond my own entrenched preferences. It challenges me to think big, to think broad, to think future, and to think beyond myself. Ultimately, it challenges me to redefine who I am as citizen in both time and space. Because it challenges me in this way, the Trust is a good, if sometimes strict, teacher. I am hopeful we will continue to embrace the learning it affords us. I accept this award as a “diploma” for perhaps having learned a little of this big lesson.”

An individual community stewardship award also went to **Tekla Deverell**, of North Pender Island, for her gardening mentorship program for young people. Two additional enduring achievement awards go to Jon Guy, of Saturna Island, for his many contributions to the vitality of Saturna Island’s community life and to **Sylvia Pincott**, of North Pender Island, for her work on preserving the Pender Island environment.

To find out more about the annual Community Stewardship Awards, and to nominate someone you admire, [click here](#).

Salt Spring Island local trustees have launched an independent community Climate Action Council to help ensure that the ambitious targets can be reached.

Province Releases Community Emissions Inventories for Islands Trust Area

The Province of British Columbia has developed Community Energy and Emissions Inventories (CEEIs) for communities throughout BC based on 2007 data. The next inventories will use 2010 emissions data, and will be repeated every two years thereafter. The reports for the Islands Trust Area can be found [here](#).

Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council Launched

Right on the heels of proposing ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for inclusion in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan this spring, local trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson, and Electoral Area Director Garth Hendren, have launched an independent community Climate Action Council to help ensure that the ambitious targets can be reached.

“Reducing GHG emissions by 40% from 2007 levels by 2020 is a serious challenge and one that requires all sectors of the community to work effectively together to achieve,” said local trustee Christine Torgrimson.

To kick off the council, nine community organizations were invited to name representatives. Those representatives, the trustees and regional director then brainstormed names for additional members-at-large.

“We were especially heartened by the interest from quite a few young people, and were thrilled to invite them to the table, especially because their future is the most at stake,” said Torgrimson, who also serves as the council chair.

The 17-member council has begun shaping plans to help the community get behind a climate action plan, and has hired a part-time coordinator. Their work is supported by funds from a community group, the Local Trust Committee, and a Capital Regional District grant-in-aid.

Besides working with the community this fall and winter to develop and begin implementing a climate action plan, the council will also interact with other local, regional and provincial government agencies, support initiatives and partnerships, provide a forum to share information, funding and resources, and implement a communications plan to widely engage the public.

Connecting Computers with Community Groups

If you have ever worked for a non profit organization or community group, you will know how hard it is to work with limited funds and outdated equipment. Recognizing this ongoing challenge, the Islands Trust has once again been able to support community groups working in the Trust Area with gently used computer equipment. Six groups received desktop computer systems with LCD monitors for a nominal fee: Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association, Hornby Heron Rock Friendship Society, Mayne Island Conservancy, Salt Spring Island Community Services, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, and

SeaChange (working with Mayne Island on seagrass conservation). If you know of a group operating within the Islands Trust area who would like to be on our distribution list for future equipment, please contact Sonya Sundberg, Grants Administrator, at ssundberg@islandstrust.bc.ca.



Community Grant Spotlight: Sunlight Green Clean Kids

If you know a child between the ages of 6 and 13 who has a green idea for their home, school or community, the Sunlight Green Clean Kids can provide funds to make it happen. There are five different grant categories to choose from: Water, Nature, Air, Energy and Reduce. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available for buying supplies to make the project happen, such as: equipment for composting, paper and paints for a school poster campaign, rakes and bags for a park clean-up program, etc. Kids can apply on their own or as part of a group or class by submitting a 150 word essay describing how they would use a Green Grant to help protect the planet or inspire others to go green. Submissions are evaluated by a panel of Green Clean Kids and eco-experts. The grant deadline is November 30, 2010. [Click here](#) for details on how to apply.

Lasqueti Island whimsy.

Photograph by Laura Stringer.

Grants Available for Community Groups

There are numerous government, foundation and corporate grants available to assist community groups and non profit organizations with their valuable community projects. The following list provides a sample of grants currently available. As grant deadlines can change and eligibility guidelines vary, please contact each funder directly for full details. Bookmark this [page](#) to get a list of grants available year round.

Funder	Grant	Subject Area	Amount	Deadline
Environment Canada Website: www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/	EcoAction	Clean air and climate change, clean water, and nature.	Varies	Nov. 1/10
Wildlife Habitat Canada Website: www.whc.org/en/conservation-grants/	Conservation Grants	Habitat Conservation, Restoration or Enhancement; Habitat Acquisition; Habitat Conservation Networking	Varies	Nov. 1/10
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Website: www.hctf.ca	Enhancement Projects	Conservation of freshwater wild fish, native wildlife species and their habitats.	Varies	Nov. 2/10
Enterprising Non Profits Website: www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca	Social Enterprise Grants	Social enterprise development. Attendance at orientation session required to apply: Victoria – Nov. 3/10	\$10,000	Nov. 25/10
Toyota-Evergreen Learning Grounds Website: www.evergreen.ca/en/programs/schools/	School Ground Greening Grant	Helps schools and daycares create outdoor classrooms, providing students with a healthy place to play, learn and develop a genuine respect for nature.	\$35,000- schools \$2000- daycares	Dec. 17/10 Mar. 4/11 June 3/11
Walmart-Evergreen Website: www.evergreen.ca/en/funding/grants/walmart.sn	Green Grants	Urban naturalization, restoration and stewardship, or community food garden projects.	\$10,000	Jan. 31/11
Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development Website: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/workplace_training_program/welcome.htm	Workplace Training for Innovation Program	Funding of up to \$1,500 per employee to a maximum of \$5,000 per organisation available for training that meets program goals.	\$5,000	Jan. 31/11 or while funding lasts



NAPTEP on Denman, Hornby and Lasqueti Islands

Denman and Hornby Islands are the most recent Local Trust Areas to become eligible for property tax discounts for protecting natural areas. The Powell River Regional District Board recently agreed to allow the NAPTEP program on Lasqueti Island. As soon as Trust Council finalizes this decision (likely in December 2010), Lasqueti Island property owners will be eligible to apply. [Click here](#) for more information on NAPTEP.

Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist with the Islands Trust Fund describes the NAPTEP program to interested landowners on Denman Island.

Photograph by Fred Hunt.



Salt Spring Fall Fair

Islands Trust, Islands Trust Fund staff and local trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson hosted an information booth at the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair on September 18 and 19. Dozens of islanders stopped in to discuss ecosystem protection, invasive species removal, conservation covenants, zoning bylaws and short-term vacation rentals among other topics. The quirkiest question was: "Where's your nearest teller or bank machine? You don't know ... well, aren't you a bank? (Islands Trust Fund).

Salt Spring Island Fall Fair.
Photograph by Christine Pritchard.



Fairy Fen Becomes 20th Islands Trust Fund Nature Reserve

The Islands Trust Fund joined Bowen islanders on a sunny September afternoon to celebrate the protection of Fairy Fen on Bowen Island—a rare gem of wetland ecosystem in the middle of a mature forest. This is the Islands Trust Fund’s 20th nature reserve, which coincides nicely with its 20th anniversary year.

Representatives of Bowen Island Conservancy, Bowen Nature Club, Bowen Island Municipality, Islands Trust Council, VanCity and Islands Trust Fund celebrated the collaborative five-year effort to protect the fen (also known as Mystery Marsh).

“Standing here in this truly beautiful place shows us why the community worked so passionately to protect Fairy Fen” said Christine Torgimson, Chair of the Trust Fund Board. “Communities are the true heroes in these stories, and we’re so thankful to the Conservancy and Bowen community for helping us make sure this exceptionally rare treasure remains natural forever.”

Torgimson also thanked those who supported the application to the Free Crown Grant program: the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and the Squamish First Nation. The municipality and Vancity covered the cash costs of the application.

Fairy Fen’s protection is a success for not just Bowen Island, but for the conservation of British Columbia’s rare ecosystems as a whole. Fairy Fen is described by biologists as one of the most undisturbed, biologically diverse and ecologically rare fens in southern British Columbia. A fen is a peat-forming wetland fed by ground or surface water, supporting a high diversity of plant and animal species. The nature reserve protects unique plants such as Labrador tea, bog St. John’s-wort, bog cranberry, and a wide variety of sedges and mosses. Rough-skinned newts spawn in the pools of Fairy Fen and Sharp-shinned Hawks hunt from the forest edge.

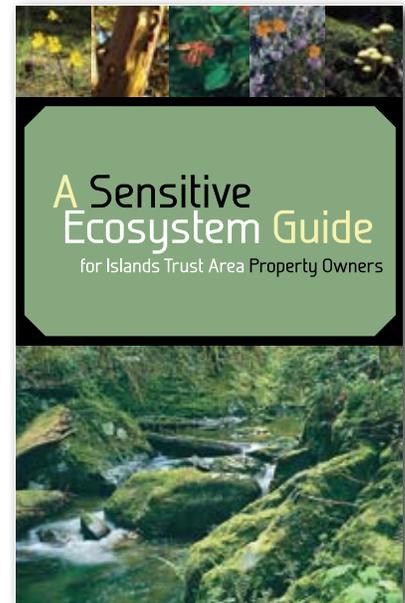
Protecting Fairy Fen doesn’t stop with the transfer of title. The Islands Trust Fund and the Bowen Island Conservancy will now consult the Bowen community about wise management of the property. Issues addressed will include determining appropriate public access to the property which allows visitors to enjoy the beauty of the fen without trampling the fen’s thick sedges and mosses.

“Look down. Your footprints will likely still be here a year from now,” said Sue-Ellen Fast, former Chair of the Bowen Island Conservancy. “We need to ensure Fairy Fen Nature Reserve is afforded the true protection it deserves. Let’s not see it become over-loved like so many other places in the world.”

Management planning for Fairy Fen Nature Reserve will begin immediately. The Bowen Island community will be invited to be part of this process.

Fairy Fen.

Photograph by Christine Pritchard.



Sensitive Ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area

Sensitive ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area act as strongholds for rare species and are especially vulnerable to human activities. As property owners, we play an important role in the stewardship of these unique areas. With the generous support of Vancity, the Islands Trust Fund produced a new and attractive resource for landowners, *A Sensitive Ecosystem Guide for Islands Trust Area Property Owners*. The booklet will help you identify herbaceous and other sensitive ecosystems on your property, and provide you with helpful tips on how to protect these pockets of refuge for rare species. [Click here](#) for more information on the sensitive ecosystems of the islands including updated ecosystem maps. To request a copy of the Sensitive Ecosystem Guide, contact us by e-mail at itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca or by phone at 250-405-5186.



Howe Sound.

Photograph by Craig Elder.



Valdes Island wetland Ecosystem.

Photograph by Christine Pritchard.

Howe Sound Islands Landowners Invited to Check Our Maps: Did We Get It Right?

The Islands Trust Fund, with the support of the Islands Trust and Sunshine Coast Regional District, is mapping the location and types of ecosystems of the Howe Sound islands. This new mapping identifies the ecosystems most sensitive to human interference and at-risk of disappearing. The information gathered through this new mapping will be used by the Islands Trust Fund to identify priority areas for conservation efforts and may be used by local and regional governments to better plan development around our most sensitive ecosystems.

The Islands Trust Fund will host open houses in October to introduce these new sensitive ecosystem maps to Howe Sound island communities. Join Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist with the Islands Trust Fund, as she takes a journey into the world of ecosystem mapping. Drop in early to learn how and why the maps were created and how they might be useful to your community. Stick around to interact with the mapping displays and use your local knowledge to help us to improve the mapping. Everyone is welcome, we'd love to hear from you.

Location	Date and Time
Bowen Island Municipal Hall, 981 Artisan Lane	Saturday, October 23, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Gambier Island Community Centre, Andy's Bay Road	Sunday, October 24, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
West Vancouver Memorial Library, 1950 Marine Drive	Monday, October 25, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

After the October 25th presentation in West Vancouver, Islands Trust Chief Administrative Officer will also provide a short presentation about the Islands Trust, including some history behind its creation 36 years ago, an outline of how it works today and some challenges for the future.

If you're unable to attend an open house, we'd still love to hear from you. [Click here](#) to view and provide comments on the Howe Sound ecosystem maps. All other Trust Area ecosystem maps can also be viewed from [here](#).

Regional Conservation Planning for the Islands Trust Area

The beauty of the islands—sculptured rock, contorted arbutus, towering evergreens and dark waters—leave a lasting impression on all those who visit. The Islands Trust Fund works to conserve natural landscapes in the Islands Trust Area to ensure this natural beauty remains forever, but it can't do this without a solid plan.

The 2011-2015 Regional Conservation Plan will focus the Islands Trust Fund and partner organizations' conservation efforts on protecting the best of the remaining natural ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area. The Plan recognizes the unique attributes of the stunning natural landscapes of the Islands Trust Area, and offers a practical set of goals and objectives to maintain those natural values.

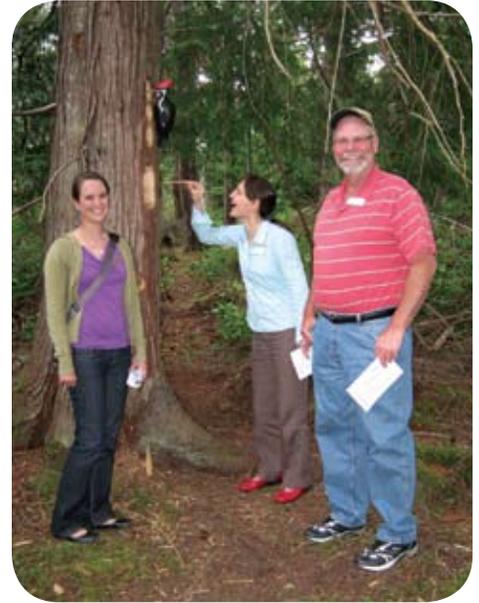
With support from a Vancity Community Project grant, the Islands Trust Fund is talking with local communities to gather data, determine conservation priorities, and set conservation goals for each area. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the draft 2011-2015 Regional Conservation Plan. Please [click here](#) to provide your feedback on the Plan.

Stanehill Park Denman Island

Planner Courtney Campbell recently attended a parks and greenways master plan open house on Denman Island sponsored by the Comox Valley Regional District to explain Local Trust Committee regulations as they relate to parks and trails and conservation. CVRD and Islands Trust staff also received a tour of Stanehill Park. Through the volunteer efforts of several Denman Islanders who collaborated with the Comox Valley Regional District, the regional park has been transformed from an unmanaged lot of second growth forest that was nearly impassable to a place with walking trails and a nature interpretation program.

Entering the park, visitors can pick up the “Nature Guide” from a waterproof box which contains the key to the coded signs nestled in the woods along side the trails. This allows visitors to test their knowledge and guess what the various trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns, mosses and fungi, animal signs and other features are, before checking their answer in the key. There are even elements of an art gallery of sorts, as artist Peter Karsten, who spearheaded the park transformation, has strategically placed a carved woodpecker to surprise and delight visitors.

Stanehill Park is located at the corner of Greenhill Road and Stanehill Place on Denman Island.



L. to R. Courtney Campbell, Karin Albert (CVRD) and Ian Smith (CVRD).

Staff Notes

New Salt Spring Island Planning Position Filled

Stefan Cermak started in a newly created planning position on the island in July. Stefan has a Bachelor's degree in resource management and environmental studies from the University of Victoria. His honours thesis was about eco-homes on Salt Spring Island. He then accepted a scholarship to the University of Toronto where he recently completed a Master of Science in Planning degree. While in Ontario, he worked on integrating ecologically sustainable practices and processes into planning and development issues at the University of Toronto, the City of Toronto, the City of Mississauga, and with the Transportation Association of Canada.

Originally from Tsawwassen, Stefan has also worked with City of Richmond and the Capital Regional District.

Approval of the new planner position by Trust Council in March completed a three-year plan to upgrade all aspects of Local Planning Services and improves land use planning and application processing services on Salt Spring Island. This was necessary because of the complexity of development applications on Salt Spring Island and the need for proactive planning to address challenges such as affordable housing, agriculture, sensitive ecosystem protection and industrial land uses.

Islands Trust Fund Staff Changes

Nuala Murphy, just returned from parental leave, has accepted the temporary assignment of Ecosystem Protection Specialist and will be filling in for Kate Emings while Kate is on parental leave. Jeff Ralph's assignment as Property Management Specialist has been extended for another year, as he fills the position for Nuala.



Stefan Cermak.

Gabriola Gets New Island Planner

Kaitlin Kazmierowski joined the northern team in August as the new Gabriola Island Planner, a position previously held by Chris Jackson, now Regional Planning Manager. Kaitlin had been a planner in the southern team over the last year, filling in for Alison Fox who was on education leave. Kaitlin also played the leading role in Trust Council's food security initiative and led a workshop on the issue at Trust Council's quarterly meeting in mid-September (see page 3 of this issue).

"Kaitlin comes to us with a strong educational foundation in the sciences, with both a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science (Land Use and Natural Resources), and a Masters of Science Degree in Planning," said Chris Jackson, Regional Planning Manager. "Her experience ranges from working with private planning consulting firms, to serving as a community planner with a non profit organization in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside."



Islands Trust

Preserving **island** communities,
culture and environment

The Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox. This is a unique and special place composed of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering approximately 5200 square kilometres.

New Legislative Services Manager Appointed

Carmen Thiel joins the Islands Trust on October 12 as the Legislative Services Manager, a new position approved by Trust Council in March. Some people may already know Carmen as she worked at the Islands Trust from 1978 to 1988, when she left to join the Capital Regional District where she has been the Corporate Officer since 1995 and was the Supervisor of Administrative Services for seven years prior to that.

Carmen has extensive experience in all aspects of legislative services: local elections, records management, and local government procedures. She also holds an Associate of Arts in Public Administration from Camosun College.

"I am delighted that Carmen has chosen to rejoin the Islands Trust and I am sure we will benefit from the knowledge and skills that she will bring to her work," said Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer. "She is well-known in local government circles as a dedicated, conscientious and very competent professional."

The Legislative Services Manager position will ensure many essential tasks such as local elections, records management, annual reports, freedom of information and procedural certainty are carried out effectively. These tasks were previously managed by staff who have growing responsibilities for important trust area programs such as Crown land acquisition, First Nations relations, implementation of the Islands Trust Policy Statement and advocacy to represent island viewpoints to other levels of government about a range of issues, including forestry, groundwater, ferries, marine conservation, aquaculture and agriculture. In approving the new position, Trust Council confirmed the continuing importance of the many 'trust area programs' in supporting island communities and achieving the Islands Trust's provincial mandate.

New Temporary Planner for Salt Spring as Jasmine Jawanda Joins Bowen Island Municipality

Kristin Aasen will be joining the Salt Spring Office on October 12. Kristin has accepted a six month auxiliary position with the Islands Trust, filling the position vacated by Jasmine Jawanda in June. Kristin brings six years of experience in planning and development, most recently as the Sustainability Coordinator for City of Castlegar. She has completed a Master in Environmental Studies from York University, following a Bachelor of Science from University of Victoria, and is delighted to be returning to the coast.

Congratulations to Jasmine Jawanda who joined Bowen Island Municipality as Island Planner in June.

"We are delighted that Jasmine will remain part of the Islands Trust "family" but sad to see her leave this community, to which she has contributed immensely," said Leah Hartley, Regional Planning Manager.
