

Islands Trust enews

SPRING 2010



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Welcome to the spring 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 visit: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/default.cfm.

Top right: Scenic Entire-leaved Gumweed. Photo by Kate Emmings.

Islands Trust Weighs in on Three Provincial Consultation Processes

Islands Trust staff responded to three provincial government initiatives this spring: the BC Oceans and Coastal Strategy, Water Act Modernization; and, Local Government Elections Task Force. The first two were staff submissions, based on informal consultation with concerned islanders while the elections submission was reviewed by all trustees and approved by the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Promotes Islands Trust Issues at AVICC Convention

The Islands Trust's Executive Committee sponsored two resolutions at the recent convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) in Powell River. The first, which was unanimously endorsed at the convention and will be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), calls on the province to endorse the National Marine Conservation Area proposed for the southern Strait of Georgia. The convention also endorsed a second Islands Trust resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to address the growing problem of abandoned vessels that litter local beaches. Because several other coastal communities proposed resolutions on this topic, AVICC agreed to forward a combined resolution to UBCM and to request a provincial forum on the topic in September.

Council to Meet June 16–17 on Saturna Island

The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly business meeting June 16–17, 2010 on Saturna Island at the Recreation and Cultural Centre. The public meeting starts Wednesday, June 16 at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to finish by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17.

The 26-member Council makes decisions about overall policy, staff resources and financial management for the Islands Trust and has broad responsibilities to uphold the Islands Trust mandate. Trust Council invites members of the public to participate in a town hall session, a regular forum to promote informal dialogue between islanders and trustees, starting at 3:15 on Wednesday, June 16. This session will begin with those who have previously requested and been given appointments to make formal delegations. Other members of the public who wish to speak to Trust Council may do so after the formal delegations, as time permits. Guidelines to help those planning a presentation to Council are available on the Islands Trust website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/tc/addresstips.cfm. Please note that the Islands Trust Council does not make local land use decisions, which are the responsibility of the local trustees within their respective local trust area. A copy of the agenda package for the June Council meeting is available for viewing at our Victoria, Salt Spring and Gabriola offices. Trust Council Sessions are open to the public and will include:

Gulf Islands National Park Update – Parks Canada staff will provide an update regarding the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

Marine Shipping Safety Session – A panel of experts from all over the coast will provide trustees with an overview of shipping in the region and oil spill risk prevention and response measures. Inspired by issues in the southern Gulf Islands' Plumper Sound, this session promises to be informative and thought-provoking.

San Juan County Liaison – Trustees will meet with the San Juan County Council to discuss common issues and interests with a focus on shoreline stewardship and climate change.

Delegations and Town Hall Session – Trust Council encourages members of the public to participate in dialogue between islanders and trustees. The public is invited to discuss issues, ask questions and make suggestions about the work of the Islands Trust.

Refresher on Orientation Topics – This session will provide trustees with a refresher on some of the topics initially covered during their December 2008 orientation and an opportunity to request clarification on a variety of topics.

Planning Session – Trustees will receive a presentation about how to incorporate Temporary Use Permits into local planning. They will then review work programs and priorities with staff from the Northern, Southern and Salt Spring Island planning teams.

Information and Decision Items – Trust Council will consider a variety of routine business updates and decisions and will review recommendations from each Council Committee regarding its proposed work program for the coming quarter. Highlights will include a decision about the recipients of Council's annual Community Stewardship Awards and further work by the Community Housing Task Force.

Community Housing Task Force

The Islands Trust Policy Statement recognizes the importance of healthy communities and requires island communities to address housing needs in their Official Community Plans. An important objective of Trust Council's Strategic Plan is to restore and protect socio-economic diversity by promoting a choice of housing types. To support this objective, Trust Council created a Community Housing Task Force in 2009 including Local Planning Committee members and planning staff. The Task Force held a workshop on Salt Spring Island in November 2009 to explore the issues around community housing. At the workshop, attendees heard from providers of affordable housing about the opportunities and obstacles they face in the Trust Area. Participants identified additional obstacles and suggested solutions and ideas for consideration. The Islands Trust hired contractor Janis Gauthier to research and develop a Community Housing Tool Kit (go to www.islandstrust.bc.ca/communityhousingpublic/communityhousingpublichome.cfm). This tool kit provides a variety of recommendations from advocacy and education to policy and regulatory amendments designed to remove obstacles to community housing in the islands. Local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality may refer to this kit as they pursue local community housing goals.

The Task Force also entered into a contract with Planit Solutions Inc. to develop a seniors housing strategy, using a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The strategy reviewed literature, practices elsewhere and island demographics. It recommended short, mid and long-term strategies to accommodate aging in place, which LTCs can consider when making their own local zoning decisions in consultation with their communities. The seniors housing strategy will be presented to Trust Council in June and then circulated to local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality and will be posted on the Islands Trust website. Trust Council has extended the Community Housing Task Force for one more year.

Gabriola OCP Review

As part of Gabriola Island's Official Community Plan review, 70 islanders participated in a workshop hosted earlier this spring. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the context and overall goals of the existing OCP and to identify new community goals and potential shifts in direction. Next steps for trustees include confirming key issues for the OCP review, assigning staff research and hosting more community meetings, particularly to attract seniors and youth prior to determining the next stages of community consultation.

Gabriola OCP community meeting.
Photo by Louise Bell.



Bowen OCP Review

Bowen Island Municipality is working hard on reviewing its Official Community Plan. There is a Community Open House on Saturday, June 19, 10-3 at BIM Council Chambers to review the Draft OCP. Islands Trust and Trust Fund Board staff will receive drafts for comment in July 2010, and the formal referral to Executive Committee is expected in October 2010, after the public hearings.

Food Security Update

Food is a highly engaging and personal subject with links to topics such as affordable housing, transportation, health and community development. Food Security is much more than having enough to eat; it is about ensuring that local communities have the kinds of food systems that will make them ecologically, economically and socially resilient. Food security is about supporting local farmers, decreasing the distance food travels from field to fork, enhancing the ecological systems that support agriculture and recognizing everyone's right to good, clean food.

The Islands Trust's Food Security initiative will meet the food security objectives set out the 2008/11 Trust Council Strategic Plan starting with a menu of food policy options for the Trust Area as well as a food security workshop for September's Trust Council meeting on Bowen Island.

Staff are busy conducting food policy research and collaborating with community members, Trustees, and staff from local regional districts and municipalities to gather information about food security initiatives in the Trust area as well as best-practices in food policy. Collating this information will provide Local Trust Committees with the best possible options for food security in their communities. Some highlights of the project to date include the launch of the Islands Trust food security website www.islandstrust.bc.ca/foodsecurity/foodsecurityhome.cfm, a staff presentation at the Inter-Island Conference on Agriculture, Community and Environmental on Galiano Island, and the recent appointment of a staff member to the Capital Regional Food Policy and Planning Working Group (a potential pre-cursor to a Capital Regional Food Policy Council). In addition, education materials have been developed for distribution at farmers markets this summer.

During the coming months, staff will be drafting a comprehensive report as well as finalizing September's Food Security workshop. Any feedback, information or updates regarding food security initiatives would be greatly appreciated, and can be sent to planner Kaitlin Kazmierowski (kkazmierowski@islandstrust.bc.ca).



Local Produce Studied on Salt Spring Island

When Salt Spring Island amended its Official Community Plan in 1998, it was recognized by the Agricultural Land Commission as one of the most 'farming-friendly' in the province. Further amendments in 2008 maintained a focus on local food production. A recent produce study commissioned by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, indicates a significant increase in local food production in the last five years. The study shows that commercial food production in 2009 was 38 percent higher than in 2004, including a 28 percent increase in vegetable and a 45 percent increase in fruit production. And, 46 percent of farmers indicated that they intend to increase production in 2010 over 2009 levels. Of the commercial farms on Salt Spring, 31 percent reported that they are certified organic, and an additional 51 percent said they operate organically, but are not certified.

The study was conducted between January and March 2010 by Pat Reichert, in collaboration with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance. The survey results represent 85-90% of the commercial produce farmers, and 90% of the commercial harvest on Salt Spring in 2009. The total produce grown by the 36 commercial farmers who participated in the survey amounted to 145,431 kilograms on just over 100 acres of land. That means that an average acre of land produced 1,435 kg of food. Despite the significant increase, it's estimated that local produce still represents only about six percent of the total amount of fresh produce consumed annually by Salt Spring residents. The trend is very encouraging, but there is still significant room for growth.

To see the complete report go to www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/pdf/ssproducestudymar2010.pdf

Denman Island Food and Farming

Denman Island has a strong agricultural community, with 46% of Denman Island in the Agricultural Land Reserve and a long history of agricultural production exporting to markets from Courtenay to Victoria to Vancouver.

On May 10, the Denman Island Local Trust Committee hosted a “Talking about Food and Farming” meeting of local agricultural organizations to build understanding of what each group is doing and how efforts can be coordinated. Twelve organizations were represented and another ten interested islanders came to observe and participate in the open discussion. Although agriculture has always been an important sector and way of life for many on Denman there is a “buzz” in the air (beekeepers pardon the pun), and a joint Hornby / Denman farmers institute has recently formed. The discussion included how to enable the next generation to get into agriculture with the price of land higher than most young people can afford, how to access information about grants and collaborate rather than compete against one another for the same grant, and how to obtain and share equipment for harvesting and processing.

“The meeting was positive and collaborative, and was a great success in bringing people together and setting the stage for future collaborations,” says island planner Courtney Campbell.

The meeting is part of an agriculture planning process which also includes a steering committee of nine Denman Islanders who have met several times since January. The goal for this fiscal year is to complete an agriculture strategy that will define the current context for agriculture, engage the community, and identify how agriculture can be enhanced on Denman Island.

Grant Helps Fund Seniors Gardens

In late March, the Islands Trust was awarded a “2010 Age-friendly Community Project Grant” as part of the Union of BC Municipalities’ Seniors’ Housing & Support Initiative. The project is called “On-Growing: Creating Intergenerational Garden Spaces in the Islands Trust Area.” The “On-Growing” project will facilitate partnerships between seniors’ residential facilities, seniors’ groups, local food security groups, schools and island growers to create seniors-friendly garden spaces in the Trust Area.

Island partners will create their own vision of how food security, seniors housing, aging-in-place and community building can intersect in the garden. Along with some funding for garden infrastructure, there are funds to create education programs for participants. Each group of participants will have the opportunity to shape these programs to suit their interests and needs such as gardening techniques, seed saving, canning, horticultural therapy and healthy cooking. The Islands Trust received the full requested amount of \$19,700 and staff will be responsible for project management including support and liaison with partners and reporting to the funder. All project activities must be complete by March 31st, 2011 and a tool-kit will be available after April 30th for other islands wishing to pursue this type of project. Stay tuned for updates on how the On-Growing project is developing and on what our new gardens are producing.

For more information on the project contact: planner Kaitlin Kazmierowski (kkazmierowski@islandstrust.bc.ca).



Denman Food and Farming Meeting.



Lasqueti Seed Saving Workshop

In March 2010, about 30 people attended the Seed Saving Workshop and seed swap hosted by the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee at the community hall. The event included an all-local-food potluck and a talk about saving seed by Dan Jason from Salt Spring Island. Islanders shared information and seeds with each other. The workshop was initiated as part of the Local Trust Committee’s Climate Change Mitigation Project. Photo by Jen Gobby.

Visitor Information Rack Cards Now Available

Last year the Islands Trust produced three different visitor information posters which featured island art and conservation messages. The posters are available free of charge in two sizes for display by tourism businesses and homes with out-of-town guests. The project evaluation last fall suggested that convenient rack cards, which could be given to visitors, would be a useful addition to the posters. With the surplus funds from the poster project (funded by a UBCM grant), the Islands Trust has now produced rack cards with art on one side and the conservation messages on the other. If you would like a poster, would like to replace a worn poster or if you like a supply of rack cards for your guests please contact your local trustee, any Islands Trust office or e-mail Laura Stringer at lstringer@islandstrust.bc.ca.



Student Trustee

Maddee Nash, a Grade 10 student at the Gulf Islands Secondary School, is this year's student trustee on Salt Spring Island. Like former student trustees, Maddee sits with the Local Trust Committee during the Town Hall sessions of LTC meetings, and reports on activities of the student body and student government at the high school. As the school year comes to an end, the students have taken initiatives to combat cyber-bullying, to replace plastic water bottles from vending machines with water coolers, and to organize an inter-school "food fight" to collect food for the local food bank.

"We're delighted to have students represented at our meetings, and it's great to hear about the many good things they're doing," said George Ehring, local trustee. "It's also a wonderful opportunity for them to get a taste of local governance process and issues, and see how local leaders function," added Christine Torgrimson, also a local trustee.



Students Make Presentation to Salt Spring Trust Committee

Salt Spring Elementary School Grade 4 and 5 students made a special presentation at a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting in May. "The students have been working on a Ganges Creek watershed study and they made a fabulous presentation," said Christine Torgrimson. "The experience has taken them in many directions from homelessness to picking up garbage to understanding freshwater biology." The students' eco mentor, Cate McEwen, and teachers Stella Weinert and Marie Mullen shepherded the project. For further detail of this project, a brief power point presentation of the students' work can be found at web.me.com/saltspringelementary/SSE/Water_Project.html

Salt Spring Island Community Energy Baseline Report Completed

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee recently commissioned the Earth Festival Society to update the energy and emissions baseline data part of the Salt Spring Island Community Energy Strategy. This second three-year update is part of the work that began in 2003 to track and reduce Salt Spring's energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. This report will be used to inform target setting, strategic planning and actions in the months ahead.

The Salt Spring Island Community Energy Strategy short-term targets are to reduce island energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 2002 levels by 2012. The purpose of the current update is to track progress in meeting these targets. Current projections show that Salt Spring is very close to meeting its overall 2012 energy and emissions targets to return to 2002 levels of energy consumption and GHG emissions.

Highlights

- Salt Spring will likely meet its GHG emissions targets, largely because of reduced emissions from light vehicles (cars, SUVs and pickup trucks);
- It is possible Salt Spring will not meet its energy targets because BC Hydro's residential customer demand is growing and it is not yet known whether increases in local food production and decreases in heating fuel oil use will offset the increases in electrical consumption by 2012;
- Islanders appear to be driving less, and driving more fuel-efficient vehicles;
- BC Hydro commercial customers appear to be reducing their energy consumption;
- The Salt Spring bus demonstrates small but quantifiable energy and GHG savings, in addition to the indirect savings which are difficult to quantify.

Water Supply and Demand Analysis Completed for Salt Spring Island

A recently completed analysis of water supply and demand on Salt Spring Island will be the focus of a public workshop to be held this fall. The workshop will discuss the results, the implications for future water availability and quality and the implications for land use planning policies and decisions. In the interim the Local Trust Committee welcomes comments on the new report.

The report's purpose is "to consolidate all existing information on current and projected potable water supply and demand on Salt Spring Island in order to assist the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District (CRD) make more informed decisions, both with respect to future density and potable water delivery."

The analysis was prepared by Peter Lamb, coordinator of the Salt Spring Island Water Council.



Salt Spring Island bus. Photo by Laura Stringer.

Both reports and more can be found at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/SS/default.cfm

Salt Spring Water. Photo by Laura Stringer.



Islands Trust Staff Meet Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team on Saturna Island

On April 22, biologist Matt Fairbarns took a few Islands Trust planners and the Islands Trust Fund property manager for a tour of Saturna Island's botany. They walked along goat trails on a steep bluff, learning about the unique habitat and the rare plants that make their home in shallow soil, with very little moisture and constant grazing pressure from feral goats. Regional planning manager David Marlor said about the trip, "I found it extremely useful to see the ecosystem and experience it and see it through the eyes of an experienced botanist. The experience will be useful to the planners in the future as we develop policy, regulations, and advise local trust committees and the public on land use planning decisions."



GOERT field trip on Saturna Island. Photo by Jeff Ralph.

Murakami affordable housing on Salt Spring Island. Photo by Laura Stringer.

Salt Spring Island Completes Housing Needs Assessment

Earlier this year a housing needs assessment confirmed that the lack of affordable housing on Salt Spring Island is affecting virtually all segments of the population. The most urgent need is housing for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The study shows that the cost of the available supply of housing in 2008 was at least double that which a household earning a median income could afford.

Other key findings include:

- Seniors, families with children, single parent families, single people, couples and youth are all affected by the lack of affordable housing.
- A serious shortfall exists in the supply of housing for people with special needs, and those who need supports for daily living are often falling between the cracks.
- The number of homeless people is increasing.
- The majority of those who accessed the community shelter during extreme weather already have housing – but it is uninhabitable in very cold weather.
- Rental housing is in short supply and is often expensive and in poor condition.

"We're working with housing advocates to create and implement a Community Affordable Housing Strategy," local trustee Christine Torgrimson said. "We must all work together to effectively address this crucial community need. We've already held one very productive session with key people, and we will be working with others and the community as a whole in the coming months to set priorities and ultimately increase our successes," she said.

An affordable housing strategy will identify priorities for action, develop implementation plans, and establish provisions for monitoring and evaluating outcomes. Areas for further investigation include legalizing suites and cottages, amending land use regulations to enable the development of more affordable housing, as well as other options.

The study received funding from the Islands Trust, the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Capital Regional District. The affordable housing initiatives of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee complement the Trust-wide program to address affordable housing through Trust Council's Community Housing Task Force.

Copies of the Islands Trust Housing Needs Assessment are available in the Islands Trust Salt Spring office and on the Islands Trust website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/SS/default.cfm.



Islands Trust Partners with UN International Year of Biodiversity

In March 2010, the Islands Trust Council decided to become a partner with the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), thereby joining a wide group of other partners such as the American Museum of Natural History, Nature Trust and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. As an IYB partner, the Islands Trust will share its success stories in biodiversity conservation with other partners and, ideally, will also learn from others' successes and challenges. The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity after it became apparent that no country had met the biodiversity targets set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992.

There is good reason for biodiversity conservation to be front and centre in thinking about the future of the Gulf Islands. In 2008, a study by more than 100 scientists concluded that biodiversity in BC faces many serious threats. The most threatened area of all is the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, most of which has been lost to housing, agriculture and road construction. A large part of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone falls within the Gulf Islands, so the Islands Trust has a significant responsibility for the conservation of BC's remaining biodiversity.

Fortunately, the Islands Trust does have some great conservation success stories to share with the world—examples such as ecosystem mapping and the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) and extensive protection of areas containing threatened or endangered species. During coming months we'll be sharing these good news stories with the world and reporting back to you on the progress of our IYB partnership. To learn more about the International Year of Biodiversity, explore this website: www.cbd.int/2010/about/ For more information on the state of biodiversity in BC, check out Biodiversity BC's website at www.biodiversitybc.org/

Finally, if you would like to suggest a biodiversity conservation success story for inclusion in the IYB package, or if you have an idea for a biodiversity conservation activity that the Islands Trust or our communities might undertake, please contact either South Pender trustee David Greer (dgreer@islandstrust.bc.ca) or Salt Spring trustee George Ehring (gehring@islandstrust.bc.ca).



Photo by David Greer.

Riparian Area Regulations Made Simple

Under the Provincial *Riparian Area Regulation* landowners are required to hire a qualified environmental professional to either prove that a stream is not fish-supporting or not potentially fish-supporting (therefore not subject to the *Riparian Area Regulation*), or to provide a report to the Ministry of Environment before obtaining from the local government a development permit, development variance permit or temporary use permit near a stream.

To simplify this process for landowners and for decision-makers, the Islands Trust collaborated with the University of British Columbia and the Ministry of Environment to map more than 600 watersheds in the Islands Trust Area. Of these, the Ministry of Environment identified 50 watersheds in the Vancouver Island Region of the Islands Trust Area that are subject to the *Riparian Area Regulation*. Similar work is continuing for that part of the Islands Trust Area in the ministry's lower mainland region (Howe Sound). This means that only landowners within the 50 identified watersheds need to hire a qualified environmental professional before applying for a permit close to a stream.

Local governments also have obligations under the *Fish Protection Act*, and are required to adopt bylaws which ensure that any residential, commercial or industrial development within 30 metres of a fish-supporting or potentially fish-supporting stream cannot occur without a qualified environmental professional's assessment. To do this, local trust committees may:

- develop regulatory bylaws that establish setbacks and require screening within 30 metres of streams in the RAR identified watersheds;
- establish the entire RAR identified watershed as a development permit area for the purpose of fish protection; or
- establish fish protection development permit areas within 30 metres of streams in the RAR identified watersheds.

Mayne, North Pender, South Pender, Saturna and Galiano have all completed a mapping exercise that locates the streams in the fish-supporting and potentially fish-supporting watersheds identified by the Ministry of Environment. These committees are considering creating development permit areas for residential, commercial and industrial development within the riparian areas of these identified streams. The remaining local trust committees all have the same mapping but are still considering their legislative options.

NAPTEP Continues to Grow

Early this year, Stanley and Maxine McRae became the first Gabriola islanders to register a conservation covenant through the Islands Trust Fund's Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP). By permanently protecting the natural area on their property, they lowered their annual property taxes on that portion of their land by 65%.

Saving money wasn't the biggest reward for the McRaes' conservation efforts. Since purchasing the property thirty years ago, the McRaes have been delighted by the colourful diversity of plants growing on their land and the wildlife attracted to it. Stanley and Maxine now have the peace of mind knowing the safe retreat they've maintained all these years will remain intact, even after they're gone.

Starting this year, more Islands Trust Area landowners than ever have access to NAPTEP. With the recent addition of Denman and Hornby Island to the program, NAPTEP is now available in the following Local Trust Areas (including associated islands):

Denman, Executive Islands
Gabriola, Galiano
Gambier, Hornby
Mayne, North Pender
South Pender, Salt Spring
Saturna, Thetis

The Islands Trust is working to expand the NAPTEP program throughout the Islands Trust Area, focusing next on Lasqueti Island. Lengthy efforts to tweak provincial legislation to include Bowen Island were successful, creating a good chance of expanding to Bowen next year. To learn more about NAPTEP or to obtain an application package, visit us online at islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm or contact a staff member by phone at 250.405.5186 (toll free 800.663.7867).

Islands Trust Fund Celebrates 20 Years of Collaboration for Conservation

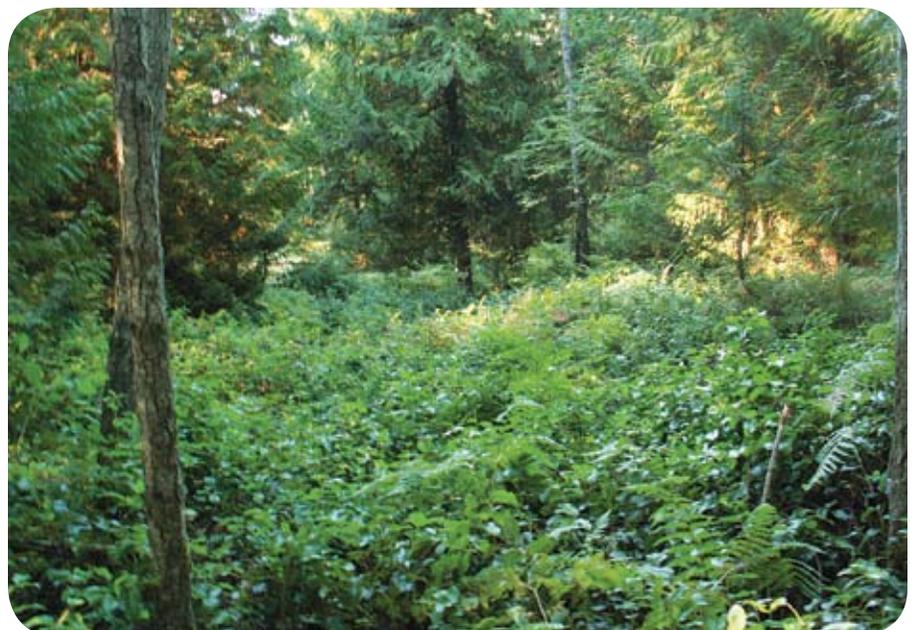
It was May 17, 1990 when three trustees convened the inaugural meeting of the Trust Fund Board. They were determined to translate the Islands Trust's 'preserve and protect' mandate into direct results for the Strait of Georgia. By the year's end, they had already succeeded in protecting 72 hectares of Salt Spring Island forest.

Today there are 19 nature reserves and 58 conservation covenants, creating a legacy of more than 990 hectares of protected sensitive habitat. The Trust Fund Board also pioneered innovative land conservation tools, such as British Columbia's only tax-incentive covenant program (NAPTEP) and inexpensive subdivision options for nature reserve donors (Section 99).

The Islands Trust Fund has grown to become an essential link between island communities and the provincial government, protecting cherished community treasures through the Free Crown Grant Program and spearheading several provincial park acquisitions. They have also supported local island conservancies with Opportunity Fund grants, and by collaborating on regional conservation initiatives.

As the Islands Trust Fund matures with experience, so does its approach to land conservation. The scientific basis for the work contained in the 2005-2010 Regional Conservation Plan is about to be updated for the next five years. In revising the plan, we're including the goals and priorities of the many conservation organizations working in the Islands Trust Area. The goal is to align our individual conservation efforts, creating a highly focused and effective partnership for land conservation in our region.

Two decades ago, those first Trust Fund Board members envisioned an organization that would have a positive influence on land conservation in the islands. Please work with us as we continue to fulfill and renew their original vision: to see the islands and waters of the Islands Trust Area serving as a sanctuary for all life, where intact ecosystems are maintained forever, and where islanders experience a deep personal connection to natural island landscapes.



New McRae NAPTEP Covenant on Gabriola Island. Photo Islands Trust Fund.

Sensitive Ecosystem Mapping Update

Island communities reviewing Official Community Plans have a new resource at their fingertips to help protect island habitats. With the support of Vancity, the Islands Trust Fund incorporated feedback from more than 60 islanders to put the final touches on the sensitive ecosystem maps for Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Hornby, Salt Spring, and Thetis Local Trust Areas in time to be used for OCP reviews. The updated maps are available at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/sem/default.cfm.

The public feedback received regarding the sensitive ecosystem maps for Lasqueti, Mayne, and North and South Pender Local Trust Areas will be incorporated into those islands' final maps this summer. Until then, the Islands Trust Fund will continue to receive comments regarding the maps at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/sem/default.cfm.

With the support of the Sunshine Coast Regional District's Grants-in-Aid Program, the Islands Trust Fund will draft the sensitive ecosystem maps for Gambier Island Local Trust Area and Bowen Island Municipality and unveil them at open houses on those islands this fall. Stay tuned for more details.

Ecosystem mapping for the Howe Sound islands has recently been completed and will be available on-line in the near future at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/sem/default.cfm.



Open house held to review Sensitive Ecosystem Maps on Salt Spring Island.

Left to right: Old Forest, and Herbaceous Ecosystems.



Sensitive ecosystems are defined as those which are fragile and/or rare because of the diversity of species they support. Being near to the most highly populated cities in the province, sensitive ecosystems on the Gulf Islands are under threat from natural resource extraction and residential development.

What are Sensitive Ecosystem Maps?

Maps that identify the location and range of sensitive ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area.

To view the maps for the Georgia Strait and provide comments, please visit www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/sem/default.cfm.

Ecosystem mapping for the Howe Sound islands has recently been completed but is not yet available on-line.

How were the Sensitive Ecosystem Maps created?

Mappers reviewed aerial photographs to interpret and categorize different types of natural landscapes at a scale of 1 : 16,000.

Ecologists visited the mapped areas to verify aerial photograph interpretations and collect ecological information.

Local island communities and citizen experts provided feedback on the mapping.

Why were the Sensitive Ecosystem Maps created?

To provide information for decision-makers to improve land-use planning in and around sensitive areas.

To create a coordinated plan for conservation organizations to protect those ecosystems under greatest threat.

Island-Hopping Music Tour Benefits Land Conservation

Musical bands Woodland Telegraph and Happy Feet Howe have been serenading the islands this spring while raising money for land conservation in the Gulf Islands. During their island hopping tour, the musical ensemble donated a portion of their CD sales to the Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund. The funds raised will help local island conservancies protect fragile ecosystems throughout the Gulf Islands.



2010 Nominees for Community Stewardship Awards

Six people have been nominated for the ninth annual Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program. The nominees' projects include a wide range of initiatives, from climate change education to a young people's garden mentorship program.

"There are so many dedicated individuals and groups who volunteer their time and energy to the stewardship and communities of the islands in the Trust Area," said Sheila Malcolmson, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. "This award program is an opportunity to recognize those people for their support of the Islands Trust mandate."

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.

Nominees are from four local trust areas: Denman Island, North Pender Island, Salt Spring Island and Saturna Island.

Individual Nominations:

- Dorothy Cutting, Salt Spring Island, for the West Coast Climate Equity website and her climate change education work
- Tekla Deverell, North Pender Island, for her gardening mentorship program for young people
- Jon Guy, Saturna Island, for his many contributions to the vitality of Saturna Island's community life
- Sylvia Pincott, North Pender Island, for preservation of the Pender Island environment
- Pat Ropars, Saturna Island, for his actions to improve community safety
- Patti Willis, Denman Island, for preservation of the Denman Island environment

The Islands Trust Council will select the recipients during its quarterly meeting on Saturna Island in June. The recipients will then be notified and their awards will be presented at local trust committee meetings later this year.

Community Stewardship Award Recipient now an EcoStar!

Mary Cooper of Mayne Island has won this year's EcoStar award for water stewardship from the Capital Regional District. The award was presented on June 1 at a special ceremony honouring nine EcoStar award winners. Mary won the award for her work with the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society. In a note to society members Mary said: "I am up there receiving and representing you, your support and work. The extra nice part of this is that they are presenting June 1, my 75th birthday, and included all three of our daughters at the ceremony."

"Mary's work is known throughout the Trust area," said Jeanine Dodds, a local trustee on Mayne Island, who wrote a letter of support for Mary's award nomination. "During the approximate three years of reviewing the Official Community Plan, then the Land Use Bylaws, Mary fiercely lobbied for the strongest possible protection of the water resources of Mayne Island. She uses her knowledge acquired from this experience to mentor other island communities facing the same challenges. In addition to her local advocacy role, Mary has also spear headed the

Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society, which has set up a well-designed web site allowing information to be quickly disseminated to any user with concern of interest in the areas of water conservation.”

Mary has also organized five annual water workshops on Mayne Island, with speakers from provincial government ministries, universities and other agencies providing information on water issues, concerns and solutions to residents of several islands in the Islands Trust Area.

In 2006, Mary was awarded an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award for her work in water conservation education.

‘Salish Sea’ tops ‘Twitter’ for Name of the Year

A news article by Christopher Dunagan in the News Tribune, Tacoma Washington announced in earlier this year that the name “Salish Sea” has been chosen over “Twitter” as the American Name Society’s Name of the Year.

The Salish Sea is defined as the inland waterway in Washington and British Columbia that includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia.

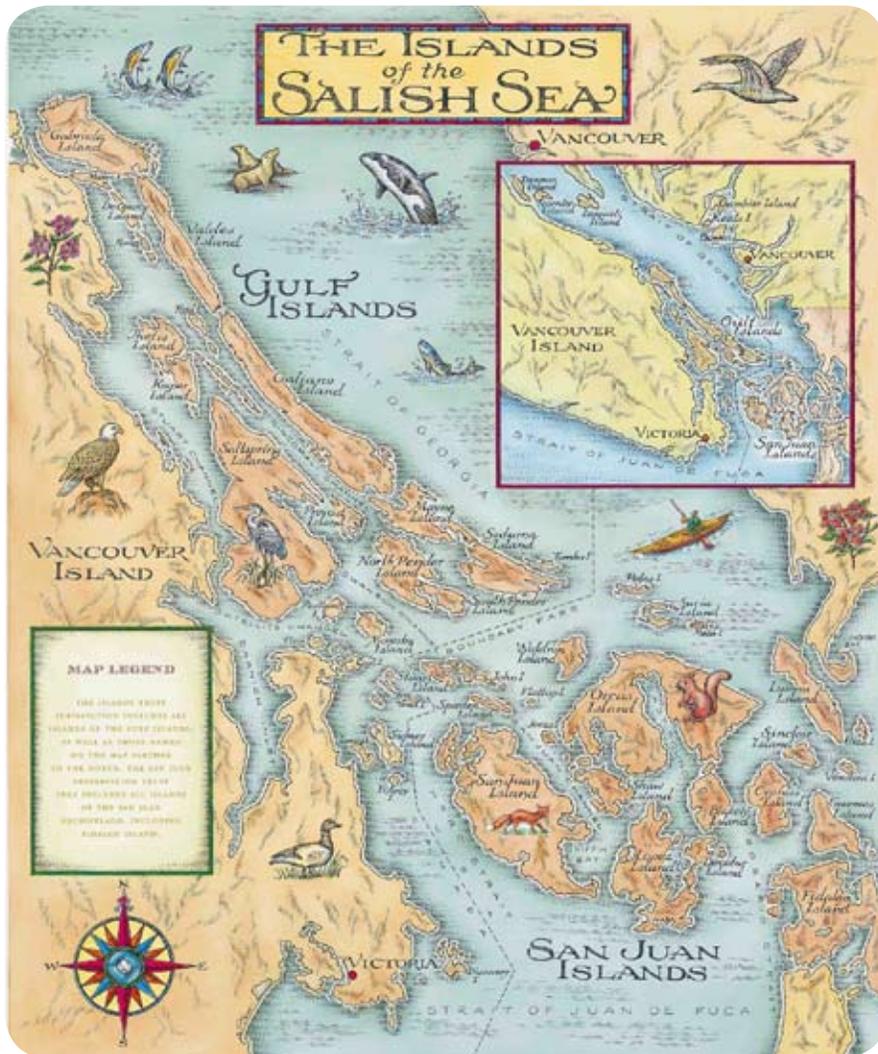
“I think it is significant because it is a brand new name,” said Cleveland Evans, who conducted the competition for the American Name Society, an academic organization with a significant number of Canadian members. “It fits ecological interests, being invented by a biologist. And it has a Native American connection, chosen from a name for a broad ethnic group.”

The name Salish Sea was conceived a decade ago by Bert Webber, a professor at Western Washington University. Webber, a biologist, wanted to stress the ecological connections created by the international waterway. He took Salish from Coast Salish, an ethnographic designation for many of the area’s original residents. Salish Sea became an official name in 2009, when it was adopted by the Washington State Board on Geographic Names, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the Geographic Names Board of Canada.

To become the Name of the Year, Salish Sea first had to be declared the Place Name of the Year. Competitors in that category included Afghanistan and Helmand Valley, a region in Afghanistan. From there, Salish Sea was chosen above the winners in other categories. “Twitter” was selected as Trade Name of the Year. Although Twitter was launched in 2006, it became a global phenomenon in 2009, when it became the fastest-growing word searched on Google.

Ellis said Salish Sea rose above the other names because “we thought, among the candidates, that it was the most culturally and historically significant.”

The American Name Society promotes the study of names and their relationships to geography, psychology, linguistics, sociology and history.



Funding Resources 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.

Please see our website for additional listings of grants available at:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/poi/pdf/itpoifundingresources.pdf

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/foodsecurity/pdf/foodsecurityrelatedgrants.pdf

Funder	Grant	Subject Area	Amount	Deadline
Real Estate Foundation Website: www.realestatefoundation.com/grants	Grant Program	Education, research, law reform and good works related to sustainable real estate and land use practices.	Varies	June 14/10 Sept 10/10
Farm Credit Canada Website: www.fcc-fac.ca/en/aboutus/responsibility/agrispiritfund_e.asp	AgriSpirit Fund	Capital community improvement projects.	\$5,000-\$25,000	June 14/10
Investment Agriculture Foundation Website: www.iafbc.ca/iafi	Islands Agri-Food Initiative	Development of sustainable agri-food sector.	Varies	June 30/10 Sept 30/10
BC Transmission Corporation Website: www.bctc.com	Community Investment Fund	Environment, education, safety, and community development.	Varies	July 2/10 Oct. 1/10
Telus Website: http://about.telus.com/community/community_boards/en/community_funding	Community Investment Grant	Arts and culture, health and well-being, and education and sport. Must have a youth or information technology focus.	Varies	July 16/10
Vancouver Foundation Website: www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/index.htm	Community Impact Grants	Animal Welfare, arts and culture, children, youth and families, education, environment, and health and social development.	Varies	July 23/10
Victoria Foundation Website: www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca/web/node/52	Community Grants (Southern Gulf Islands Only)	Arts, culture & heritage, education & literacy, environment, health & recreation, and community service.	Varies	July 30/10 or Sept. 1/10 – see website
Canadian Wildlife Federation Website: www.cwf-fcf.org/en/action/funding-awards/grants/	Grants Program	Research, conservation action programs, and environmental education.	Varies	Sept. 1/10
Mountain Equipment Co-op Website: www.mec.ca	Land Acquisition Capacity Building Research Advocacy & Education Access	Conserves ecologically and/or recreationally significant resources. Strengthens conservation organizations. Supports wilderness conservation and sustainable recreational land use. Supports protection of ecologically significant cores and corridors. Inspires participation, facilitates public access, promotes responsible use of outdoor areas.	\$10,000-\$100,000 \$5,000-\$35,000 \$5,000-\$20,000 \$1,000-\$15,000 \$500-\$5,000	Sept. 10/10
Shell Canada Ltd. Website: www.shell.ca/sef	Shell Environmental Fund	Environment.	\$10,000	Sept. 13/10
Vancity Website: www.vancity.com/MyCommunity/NotForProfit/Grants/CommunityProjectGrants/	Community Project Grant	Climate change, poverty, and social economy.	\$10,000	Sept. 15/10
Hamber Foundation Website: www.hamberfoundation.ca/	Grants Program	Cultural, educational and charitable projects.	Varies	Sept. 15/10
Canadian Heritage Website: www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/dcap-bcah/index-eng.cfm	Building Community through Arts and Heritage	Local arts & heritage festivals.	\$50,000	Sept. 30/10
Environment Canada Website: www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1	EcoAction	Clean air and climate change, clean water and nature.	Varies	Nov. 1/10

Staff Notes

Valerie Sonstenes Passes Away

Islands Trust staff and trustees were shocked and saddened when Valerie Sonstenes, planning secretary with the Northern Office on Gabriola Island passed away suddenly on April 9.

“Valerie began permanent work with the Islands Trust in 2006 and was an important member of our Northern team,” said Linda Adams, chief administrative officer. “She was respected for her attention to detail, for her interest in planning work and for her consistent efforts to ensure work was completed in an accurate and timely way. She was also a dedicated shop steward with the BCGEU. We will miss her.”

“Valerie was very proud of her Viking heritage, said regional planning manager Chris Jackson. “She loved to travel but not to balmy beach resorts—she preferred Norway or Antarctica on a Russian freighter. April 18 would have been her 51st birthday.”

In Valerie’s memory, the Islands Trust made a small contribution to the Gabriola Health Care Society, a preference expressed by Valerie’s family. Our condolences to Valerie’s family and friends. She is missed.



Valerie Sonstenes (standing, far right) with her co-workers last Halloween.

Planner Appointed on Salt Spring Island

Susan Palmer has been appointed to work as a planner during Justine Stark’s parental leave. Sue has been living and working on Salt Spring Island for three years. Former employers include the Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Calgary.

She is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia. Sue has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Environmental Design, Planning, both from the University of Calgary. She has won several awards and scholarships of the course of 20 years experience.

“Sue Palmer is a welcome addition to the Salt Spring team as we work with the community to address emerging issues and complete longstanding initiatives over the next year,” said Leah Hartley, regional planning manager.



Susan Palmer, Salt Spring Island planner.

“The Islands Trust Story”

Former trustee Peter Lamb of Salt Spring Island marked the 35th anniversary of the Islands Trust by self-publishing a 30-page booklet on the history of the Islands Trust. Many Local Trust Committees are distributing it on their islands. The booklet is also available at Salt Spring Books, Volume 2 and Sabine's for \$5.00. It is also available electronically here: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/pdf/islandstruststory-plamb.pdf

New Bylaw Enforcement Administrative Assistant Joins Islands Trust

Stephanie Somers joined the Islands in mid-June as the bylaw enforcement administrative assistant. Stephanie's role will be to ensure the public has someone they can reach every day to answer questions and help resolve their concerns. Stephanie has experience working in administration for the provincial government and a diplomat from Sprott-Shaw Community College in Victoria. Miles Drew, bylaw enforcement coordinator, said the hiring committee was "impressed with her expertise at customer service as well as her ability to manage files and develop reports. We expect the level of public satisfaction with bylaw enforcement to improve, thanks to Stephanie's contribution."

Islands Trust Fund Manager Returns

The Islands Trust Fund welcomes back Jennifer Eliason, Islands Trust Fund manager from her year of parental leave. Shawn Black, who had been acting in the position, has left the Islands Trust to return to the Okanagan.

New Office Assistant for Northern Office

Theresa Vieau joined the Islands Trust's northern office in mid-June as the new office assistant. Theresa has several years of experience in providing administrative and financial support and has an administrative assistant diploma from Sprott-Shaw Community College in Nanaimo. Becky McErlean, who previously held the position, is now the new planning secretary.



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.



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