

Islands Trust **e**news

Celebrating 35 Years

1974-2009

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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.

Winter 2009

Welcome to the winter 2009 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: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/default.cfm>.

Council to Meet December 8-10 on Salt Spring Island

The Islands Trust Council will hold its next quarterly business meeting December 8-10, 2009 at ArtSpring on Salt Spring Island. The public meeting starts December 8 at 1:45 p.m. and finishes by 2:00 p.m., December 10.

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 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9. 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: <http://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 December 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:

Tuesday, December 8

INTRO 2010-2011 BUDGET SESSION – This session will provide an overview of the Islands Trust budget process, the base budget, potential new programs and revenue requirements. This session will prepare trustees for the decisions regarding the 2010-2011 budget that they will make at the March 2010 Trust Council meeting.

“NEXT DOOR TO NATURE” VISITOR EDUCATION PROJECT – Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Directors will give trustees and anyone else who wishes to attend, a sneak preview of some visitor education videos not yet released to the public.

TRUSTEE FORUM/ROUNDTABLE – Trustees will discuss and learn from each other about issues, experiences and challenges common to island communities.

Wednesday, December 9

TRUST FUND BOARD SESSION – Trustees will have an in-depth session about the relationship between Trust Council and the Trust Fund Board and the history of conservation success throughout the Islands Trust Area.

DELEGATIONS AND TOWN HALL SESSION – Trust Council encourages members of the public to share their ideas and concerns with the trustees. The public is invited to discuss issues, ask questions and make suggestions about the work of the Islands Trust.

Thursday, December 10

PLANNING SESSION – Trustees will hear presentations on the status of planning projects such as greenhouse gas emission reduction and the Community Housing Task Force, followed by a regular review of regional work programs with trustees and staff from Northern, Southern and Salt Spring planning teams.

UBCM Convention

Members of the Islands Trust Executive Committee, which includes Sheila Malcolmson (Chair) Gabriola Island, Louise Bell (Vice-Chair) Denman Island, Peter Luckham (Vice-Chair) Thetis Island and Gary Steeves (Vice-Chair) North Pender Island, attended the annual convention of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in Vancouver in September. Bowen Island Municipal Trustee Alison Morse attended the convention on behalf of Bowen Island Municipal Council and Chief Administrative Officer Linda Adams also participated.

The annual UBCM convention allows Island Trust representatives to share ideas with MLAs and Electoral Directors, participate in debate on resolutions to be forwarded to the provincial government and attend a variety of workshops. The Executive Committee met with the following Trust Area MLAs and Electoral Area Directors during the convention:

MLAs

- **Don McCrae** (Lib) – Comox Valley
- **Nicholas Simons** (NDP) – Powell River Sunshine Coast
- **Murray Coell** (Lib) – Saanich North and the Islands

Electoral Area Directors:

- **Bruce Jolliffe** – Comox Valley RD Area A (Hornby and Denman LTAs)
- **Mel Dorey** – Cowichan Valley RD Area G (Thetis LTA)
- **Garry Nohr** – Sunshine Coast RD Area B (Gambier LTA)
- **Lee Turnbull** – Sunshine Coast RD Area F (Gambier LTA)
- **Merrick Anderson** – Powell River RD Area E (Lasqueti LTA)
- **Garth Hendron - Capital RD (Salt Spring LTA)**

Trustees and staff also attended workshops on a wide range of topics including:

- Aboriginal Recognition and Reconciliation
- Living Water Smart – Modernizing our Bylaws
- BC's Champions in Climate Change Preparation
- Farmland and Futures: Local Government Toolkit for Agriculture
- Rural Development

The Convention ran out of time to debate all its resolutions, including the resolution sponsored by the Islands Trust regarding a strategy for the southern ferry routes. However, along with other un-debated motions, this resolution was referred to the UBCM Executive Committee for appropriate action, along with a recommendation of endorsement by the Resolutions Committee. The UBCM Executive Committee will consider referred resolutions and will advise sponsors of the outcome.

Further information about the resolutions is available on the UBCM website: <http://www.civicnet.bc.ca/assets/Library/Publications/Member~and~media~releases/memberRelease/member-release-20091008-resolutions-disposition.pdf>

October 24 Climate Change Event on Salt Spring Island

The day-long event, held on the International Day of Climate Action, focused on building resilient communities in the face of climate change. 137 people from 12 islands in the Trust area attended. Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson gave a presentation on the Islands Trust's work to include greenhouse gas reduction targets and policies in all official community plans by next May. People from across the islands inspired the audience by showcasing grassroots sustainability projects, such as ride-sharing, community gardens, clean energy, public transit, marine protection, and educational programs on why and how to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



On October 24, 2009 eleven Trustees and three Islands Trust staff joined community members from all 13 local trust areas on Salt Spring Island for the Gulf Islands Alliance (GIA) Fall Gathering.

Update on the Visitor Information Poster Project

This summer more than 4000 visitor information posters were distributed to businesses catering to visitors on all the major islands in the Trust Area. Trustees assisted with distributing the posters and placing laminated copies on bulletin boards, ferries and at ferry terminals. In addition to direct distribution the Islands Trust also issued a news release to all trust area newspapers to promote the posters and winning artists.

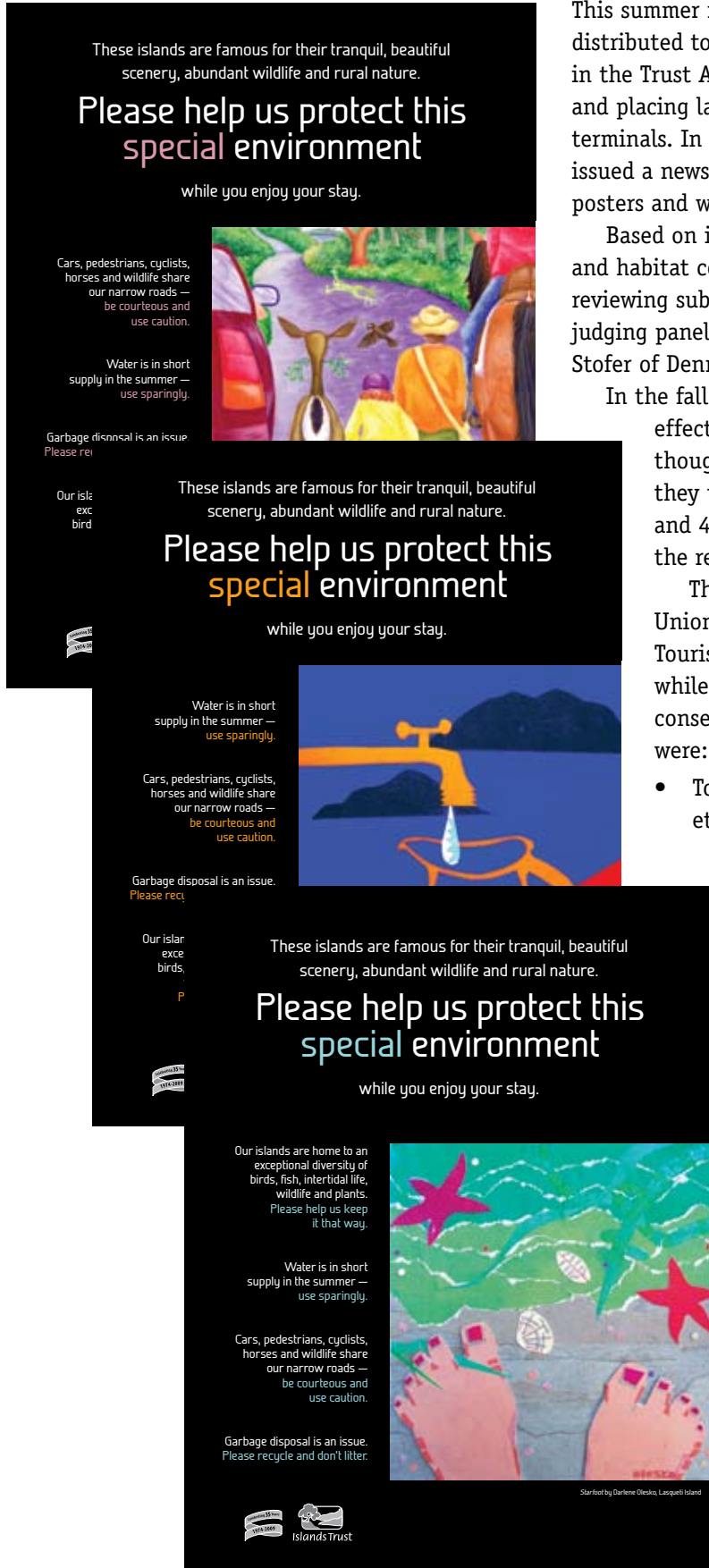
Based on islanders' input, specific messages about water, energy, and habitat conservation were included in the poster design. After reviewing submissions from artists throughout the trust area, the judging panel chose art from Debbie Bowles of Mayne Island, Dawn Stofer of Denman Island, and Darlene Olesko of Lasqueti Island.

In the fall of 2009, stakeholders were surveyed about the effectiveness of the posters. When asked how effective they thought the posters were at attracting readers, 48% said they thought the posters were extremely or very effective and 48% thought they were somewhat effective. Only 4% of the respondents rated the posters not effective.

The project was made possible by a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Tourism Program. The intention was to promote local artists while encouraging tourism that respects the long-term conservation needs of the region. The goals of the project were:

- To promote sustainable tourism and appropriate visitor etiquette.
- To provide a region wide marketing tool related to sustainable tourism.
- To promote the work of island artists.
- To provide regional economic opportunities.
- To engage stakeholders (visitor businesses) in project development, distribution and evaluation.

If you would like a copy of the posters please contact your Islands Trust Office on Gabriola or Salt Spring Island or in Victoria or contact your local trustee.



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. This list provides a sample of those available over the coming months. Please see our website under the *Stewardship Advice* section for additional grants available on a year-round basis. As grant deadlines can change and eligibility guidelines vary, please contact each funder directly for full details.

Funder	Grant	Subject Area	Amount	Deadline
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC Website: www.iafbc.ca/iafi	Islands Agri-Food Initiative	Development of sustainable agri-food sector.	Varies	Dec. 31/09
Shell Canada Ltd. Website: www.shell.ca/sef	Shell Environmental Fund	Environment.	\$10,000	Feb. 15/10
UVIC Website: http://coop.uvic.ca/assets/pdf/slip_grant_form2.pdf	Service Learning Internship Program	Supports co-op positions in community based organizations.	\$1,750/mth	Mar. 1/10
Canadian Wildlife Federation Website: www.cwf-fct.org	-Communities for Wildlife -Blue Schools Program	Environmental Education, Habitat & Wildlife Conservation.	\$10,000	Mar. 1/10
BCTC Website: www.bctc.com	Community Investment Fund	Environment, Education, Safety, Community Development.	Varies	TBA, Mar./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	Mar. 10/10
Hamber Foundation Website: www.hamberfoundation.ca/	Grants Program	Cultural, Educational and Charitable projects.	Varies	Mar. 15/10
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Website: www.hctf.ca	Acquisition Fund	Land acquisition for conservation purposes.	Varies	Mar. 31/10
Canadian Heritage Website: http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/dcap-bcah/index-eng.cfm	Building Community through Arts and Heritage	Local arts & heritage festivals.	\$50,000	Apr. 30/10
BC Ministry of Housing & Social Development Website: www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/directaccess.htm	Direct Access Gaming Grant	Arts, culture and sport	Varies	May 31/10
Sustainable Development Technology Canada Website: www.sdtc.ca/en/SOInfo.htm	SD Tech Fund	Late stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technologies.	Varies	Apr. 21/10
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	Vancouver Area: Feb 12/10 Victoria Area: Mar. 12/10
Real Estate Foundation Website: www.realestatefoundation.com/howtoapply/howtoapply.html	Grant Program	Public and professional education, research, law reform and good works related to sustainable real estate and land use practices.	Varies	Mar. 2/10

Other Funding Resources

Grant Title	Focus Areas	Grant Amount
Walmart - Green Grants	Enhancing local community green space. Urban naturalization, native plants, community gardens.	\$10,000
Home Depot -Rebuilding Nature	Environmental stewardship	\$1,000, \$3,000, or \$8,000
Unilver - Aquatic Stewardship and Conservation	Education and restoration projects on sustainable water use and importance of aquatic features.	\$3,500-\$10,000

Featured Grant: Common Grounds Funding

Once a year, the Evergreen Foundation provides grants under the Common Grounds funding program. Community groups working in partnership with their local municipality or other institutional partner are encouraged to apply. A wide variety of projects are supported such as native plant restoration, community food gardening, environmental stewardship, and sustainable water use. Grants awarded are typically up to \$10,000, while the Rebuilding Nature Grant Program also offers an additional \$2,000 in Home Depot gift cards to cover the costs of tools and building projects, plants, trees and other expenses. Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Deadline for applications is January 29th, 2010. Please visit their website at www.evergreen.ca/en/cg/cg-funding.html for full details.

Salt Spring Island Community Stewardship Award Recipients

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee members celebrated the stewardship achievements of three local people on September 3. The annual Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards program is designed to recognize and encourage the dedication of individuals or groups to helping achieve the Trust mandate.

This year, awards were given on Salt Spring to:

Kelsey Mech, for tireless efforts working in particular on climate change. Kelsey initiated and led a group of students to plan an enormously successful Environmental Action Day at the Gulf Islands Secondary School, and founded the Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility at the school. She has also been involved in a wide range of other environmental activities.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy, for its Stewards in Training School Program, which provides over 700 elementary and middle school students with all-day nature field trips to areas of special ecological significance. The program is taught by over 50 volunteers. Jean Gelwicks and Kate McEwen received the award on behalf of the Conservancy.

Islands Trust Council also recognized the late Jacqueline Booth for her work on ecosystem mapping and conservation. For 15 years, Jacqueline worked on terrestrial and marine ecosystem mapping and on countless other conservation, species at risk, environmental education and land use planning projects. She was active in many successful efforts to acquire land for conservation purposes, and served on the Local Trust Committee's Advisory Planning Commission and Environmental Advisory Committees. Jacqueline's daughter Clea accepted the award on her late mother's behalf.



Sept. 3, 2009 Community Stewardship Award recipients on Salt Spring Island. Bottom row: Kelsey Mech (l), Clea Booth (r); Top row: Jean Gelwicks (l), Kate McEwen (r).

Galiano Using Unique Approaches in OCP Review

Blue Sky Sundae' and **OCP**izza are just two innovative events drawing people to get involved in the Official Community Plan review on Galiano Island.

"These events have been a really successful way to get people involved." said local trustee Louise Decarrio.

The Galiano Local Trust Committee kicked off the review in late August when approximately 125 people packed the Lions Hall to celebrate the launch of Galiano's Official Community Plan review. They came to share ideas for shaping the island's future and to beat the August heat with build-your-own ice cream sundaes.

People gathered for conversations around tables in the hall and on the grounds beyond. Each group was asked to "Imagine Your Ideal Galiano" and during the following hour or so the hall buzzed with excited chatter, optimism and creative energy.

The "ideal Galiano" that emerged from these conversations is a place of natural beauty and peace whose unique, rural character has been lovingly maintained. It is home to a diverse and enterprising population sustained by a rich cultural life, a vibrant, year-round economy with vital services in place and housing opportunities for young families, elders and everyone in between. Our watersheds and forest ecosystems will have been carefully protected. Our community gardens will be flourishing—no one will go hungry! And our carbon footprint will be a sustainable one thanks to car-sharing, bike travel and low-impact housing initiatives.

A Steering Committee and seven Advisory Committees were established to address the various issues identified.

In early October about 150 people packed the local hall again to respond to a variety of proposals, ask questions, and add their voices to the animated discourse. They also learned about the progress achieved thus far by the various OCP (Official Community Plan) advisory committees that are hard at work formulating policies for the island's future.

OCPizza was billed as a family event. The kids helped assemble pizzas in the kitchen, slicing and dicing and shaping huge pillows of dough. Another popular feature of the occasion was The Kids' Zone: a cozy corner of the hall made an ideal gathering place for our little ones, all eager to convey their impressions, with crayons and magic markers, of their most valued Island places.

All meetings are open to the public and everybody is invited to participate.



Public Invited to Comment on Draft Sensitive Ecosystem Maps

Throughout November, more than 100 people attended open houses on several islands to review and provide feedback on the draft Islands Trust Area Sensitive Ecosystem Maps.

“Islanders are very knowledgeable and care about the natural landscapes around them. For many, the beauty of island ecosystems is what attracted them to this region,” said Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist for the Islands Trust Fund. “We wanted to give islanders a chance to help document these landscapes. We hope that the information gathered will enable us to better protect these areas that make the islands unique.”

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.



Open house held to review Sensitive Ecosystem Maps on Salt Spring Island November 7, 2009.

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 part of the Islands Trust Area in the Strait of Georgia and provide comments, please visit <http://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

The Islands Trust will be receiving feedback regarding the draft Sensitive Ecosystem maps for the islands in Strait of Georgia until December 31, 2009.



Commitment to Conservation a Cause for Celebration

Did you know that two island couples created legacies this year? The fanfare wasn't grand—a Pileated Woodpecker might have made a noisy show of support. The line of congratulating dignitaries wasn't long—only a Barred Owl made a memorable appearance. But these islanders' contributions should be celebrated. Due to their generosity, two more properties are protected forever. Rare species, essential ecosystem services, and outdoor experiences will be preserved for the future.

Sara and Richard Steil of North Pender, and Dr David and June Collins of Galiano protected natural habitat by registering conservation covenants on their properties. The Steils and Collins' joined 15 other conservation-minded landowners who, since 2005, have protected sensitive ecosystems through the **Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP)**.

The Westbourn NAPTEP Covenant on Galiano Island protects 1.6 hectares of maturing forest overlooking Montague Harbour. Veteran Douglas-fir and red cedar dot the forested site. Garry oak and arbutus line the property's shoreline where the Collins' spent summers gathering oysters with their children. The protected area provides safe habitat for two red-listed plant communities and a diverse gathering of bird species. The covenant is Galiano's second protected area donated through the innovative tax incentive program.

The Steil's Woods NAPTEP Covenant protects several red- and blue-listed plant communities as well as potential habitat for the elusive and rare Sharp-tailed Snake. The property's wetland hosts amphibian critters and visiting Great Blue Herons. Grand fir, western redcedar, arbutus and bigleaf maple stand tall over the property, with wild strawberry, western trillium and sword fern blanketing the forest floor below. The Steil's Woods Covenant is North Pender Local Trust Area's sixth protected area donated through NAPTEP.

The NAPTEP certificate received in exchange for the covenant donation provides the Collins and Steils, as well as future owners of the two properties, with a 65% reduction in their annual property taxes. NAPTEP gives landowners the opportunity to leave a significant natural legacy—permanent protection of natural habitat—while lessening their annual property tax burden.

NAPTEP is available to residential properties in the following Local Trust Areas (including associated islands):

Executive (Ballenas & Winchelsea Islands)

Gabriola

Galiano

Gambier

Mayne

North Pender

South Pender

Salt Spring

Saturna

Thetis

The Islands Trust is working to expand its NAPTEP program to include the entire Islands Trust Area over the next few years.

To learn more about NAPTEP or to obtain an application package, visit us online at <http://islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm> or contact us by phone at 250.405.5186 (toll free 800.663.7867).



The Steil property on North Pender Island.



The Westbourn Covenant, donated by Dr David and June Collins on Galiano Island.

The Islands Trust Fund holds 58 conservation covenants, protecting 490 hectares (1210 acres) of sensitive habitat.

Help The Islands Trust Fund Protect Land into the Future

By registering a conservation covenant on their property, a landowner enlists the help of a conservation organization to ensure the ecosystem features on the property are protected forever—even after the landowner is gone. Reasons for protecting land vary from person to person. They could include a wish to prevent future development, or to protect a special wetland. The landowner may want to create a lasting legacy, ensuring that the natural beauty of the property that they cherish will be enjoyed and appreciated by generations to come. Whatever their motivation, landowners can get the help they need to achieve their goals from land trusts like the Islands Trust Fund.

For each conservation covenant the Islands Trust Fund receives, there is a new and permanent responsibility to ensure that the covenant area's ecological features are protected in perpetuity. Whether that responsibility includes regular monitoring, active land management (e.g. invasive species removal), or enforcing the terms of the covenant, the Islands Trust Fund must be prepared to take the necessary steps. The costs associated with these aspects of being a covenant holder, particularly defending or enforcing a covenant, can be significant and draining on the resources of a land trust.

To help meet this responsibility, the Trust Fund Board established the **Covenant Management and Defence Fund**. The Fund is dedicated to providing the Islands Trust Fund, its conservation partners, and covenant landowners with the resources needed to monitor, care for, and defend our conservation covenants and the sensitive habitat they protect over the long-term. We hope to grow the Covenant Management and Defence Fund with donations from the public. All donations made to the Fund receive a receipt for income tax purposes.

Help your community protect sensitive habitat for the future. Please make a donation to the Islands Trust Fund's Covenant Management and Defence Fund today.



2009 Community Stewardship Group Award presented to Hornby Trails Committee. Left to right Lee Farrell, Charles Western, Han Van Vugt, Dale Chase, Tony Law (local trustee), Andrew Carmichael, Dan Johnson.

Hornby Island Group Presented with Stewardship Award

The Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) Trails Committee was established in 2001. As a member of the Trails Committee since its inception, Andrew Carmichael has been a prime mover of the initiative and currently serves as chair of the Trails Committee. Andrew and other Trails Committee volunteers have fundraised, built, and maintained trails along many Hornby Island roads, including St. John's Point Road and Central Road, and upgraded the Seadollar Road path to allow all-season use by bicyclists, walkers, and joggers. The planning process used by the Trails Committee for St. John's Point Road trail has been highly participatory and community-based—local residents and landowners had opportunity to voice their opinions, make suggestions, and shape trail design through public HIRRA meetings and on-site visits. The Trails Committee also consulted with Jan Bevan, an island authority on native plants.



Yes! I want to help protect nature habitat in the Islands Trust Area

To donate online, visit us at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donationform.cfm>

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

My details

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

I am willing to let my name be known as a supporter: yes no

I wish to donate by

Cheque (made payable to the Islands Trust Fund)

Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Please mail to 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

The Islands Trust Fund will issue a charitable tax receipt for all donations of \$20 or more.
The Islands Trust Fund is defined a Qualified Donee by the Canadian Revenue Agency.

Salt Spring Island trustees and staff teamed up with Islands Trust Fund staff this fall to host a booth at the annual Salt Spring Fall Fair. Hundreds of people dropped by to see their home on an orthophoto of the island and to enter a draw for 35 Garry oak seedlings.



Living on Hornby

A new publication is now available to Hornby Islanders. Written by local trustee Tony Law, the two-page background provides tips on water conservation, living in the forest and practices to sustain ecosystems. Contact local trustees Tony Law or Fred Hunt.

Photo by Joanne Ovitsland.



Staff Notes

New Gabriola Island Planner Appointed

Patricia (Pat) Maloney MCIP, a Gabriola Island resident, joined the Northern Regional team in October as Gabriola Island Planner.

“Pat comes to us with an extensive planning background including international, national, provincial, and local planning experiences,” said Mac Fraser, Director Local Planning Services, in making the announcement.

Pat is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners with a BA in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson Polytechnical University, as well as a certificate in Public Administration from the University of Alberta and a Certificate in Management from the University of Calgary.

**Patricia Maloney, new
Northern Office Planner.**