

June 5, 2024 – for immediate release

2024-07-IT

Islands Trust Recognises 50 Years of Preserving and Protecting

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – Today, Islands Trust recognises 50 years as a special purpose government mandated to preserve and protect over 450 Islands and the surrounding waters in the Salish Sea.

The Province of British Columbia created Islands Trust in 1974 in response to rates of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the unique amenities and environment of the region. Today, Islands Trust preserves and protects the islands in the context of many complex challenges, including climate change, lack of affordable housing, freshwater limitations, hundreds of species at risk, and development and tourism pressures.

Over the past five decades, the Islands Trust has evolved to meet new challenges and opportunities. The organization is deeply committed to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. It is also working to address housing equity and climate change related challenges. Islands Trust has implemented innovative projects and policies to support sustainable living for islanders, while staying true to the core mandate of preserving and protecting the unique amenities and environment of the region.

"For 50 years, Islands Trust has been working to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of these islands. Our commitment to protecting these islands for future generations remains as strong as ever. We are proud of our history and excited about our future as we continue to adapt and innovate in response to a changing world," said Islands Trust Chair Peter Luckham.

Islands Trust Council is holding its next quarterly meeting on Salt Spring Island, June 18-20, 2024, where it will recognize its 50th anniversary.

"For half a century, the residents of the Gulf Islands have come together to preserve and protect the special context of their community," said Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "That's why, today we are not only celebrating this anniversary by looking back at its legacy but also by looking forward to future challenges that will be taken up by those dedicated to serving their communities, working toward further reconciliation with local First Nations and tackling contemporary challenges head on."

The Islands Trust looks forward to the next 50 years of service during which it will build on its legacy with continued dedication to the principles of preservation and protection, while fostering resilient and vibrant island communities.

- 30 -

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique amenities and environment through conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

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

Contact:

Peter Luckham, Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee – 250.210.2553

Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust via Executive Coordinator – 250.405.5171