



# the Heron



A newsletter from the Islands Trust Conservancy, protecting islands in the Salish Sea | [islandstrustconservancy.ca](http://islandstrustconservancy.ca)

AUTUMN 2021



## Leaving her mark

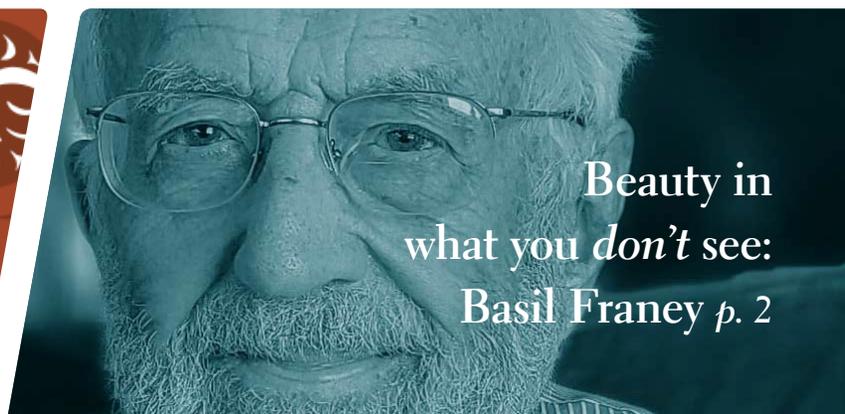
the “powerhouse” who inspired us all [p.3](#)

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Beauty in  
what you *don't* see:  
Basil Franey [p. 2](#)



# Conservation Superhero Focus: Basil Franey

As we sit on a bench on Isabella Point, Fulford Harbour, Basil Franey remarks “I’ll bet 30 ferries go past here every day, and the people on it aren’t aware of the reason they are looking at a natural space rather than buildings and a driveway”. Basil and his late wife Margaret bought land on Salt Spring Island in 1980 to build and retire to from Vancouver. When, five years later, there was a plan for a “gigantic fish farm” on Isabella Point they decided to purchase more land in order to ensure that never happened. Basil placed a conservation covenant on five acres of the land, on a high point. “There is a fantastic view all around, and it’s just beautiful.”

At 97, Basil says, “I feel good about it. I have never had any regrets. It gives me peace of mind to think of it being always unspoiled.”

We all have much to thank those that place conservation covenants on their land, whether we are aware of it or not. As Basil well knows, there is so much beauty in what we’re *not* seeing. 🌿

Are you interested in placing conservation covenants on your land?

Call Kathryn Martell, Ecosystem Protection Specialist 250-405-5176 [kmartell@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:kmartell@islandstrust.bc.ca)



Basil Franey has never regretted placing a conservation covenant on land on Isabella Point, Salt Spring Island.

COVER AND ABOVE PHOTOS: CARLA FUNK



Secrets of the Sharp-tailed Snake are coming to light using eDNA methods.

PHOTO: CHRISTIAN ENGELSTOFT

## Finding fossorial snakes on Salt Spring Island

The Sharp-tailed Snake is secretive and semi-fossorial (burrowing) which makes it hard to find and study. Species-at-risk funding has enabled the Islands Trust Conservancy to use breakthrough methods more typically used for crime scenes: the use of mapping environmental DNA, to survey these elusive snakes. 🌿

Read the scientific article, co-authored by Salt Spring and Pender Island scientists Carrina Maslovat, Laura Matthias and Jared Hobbs.

[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X21008529](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X21008529)

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
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## Reconciliation progress at Islands Trust Conservancy

Since adopting a Reconciliation Declaration in July, 2019, Islands Trust Conservancy Board and staff have received training on identity, place, acknowledgement, history of oppressive legislation, and the role that we all have in reconciliation work. In 2021, Islands Trust Conservancy began conversations with First Nations through property management planning processes. We plan to work with First Nations in a meaningful way to protect significant sites, sacred sites, and culturally significant species and to explore co-management and co-decision making.

Learning, reflecting, and understanding is a focus of the Islands Trust Conservancy in the coming year. To read more about our Reconciliation Declaration visit [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/about-us/reconciliation/](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/about-us/reconciliation/) 🌿



On-site staff cultural training with Harold Joe PHOTO: CARLA FUNK

COVER IMAGE: Elliot White-Hill graphic design



Drum detail. PHOTO: LISA WILCOX

### Acknowledgement

Islands Trust Conservancy acknowledges that we work within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, K'ómoks, Lək'wəḡən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, Quw'utsun Tribes, scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia'new, səilwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, ST'ÁUTW, Stz'uminus, təʔamen, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOLELP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu/ʔop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

# Louise Bell: Actions speak volumes

The words “intentional citizen” leap into mind when contemplating the life of Louise Bell.



Late spring I called Louise Bell to request an interview for the Heron Newsletter. She paused, thoughtful. She'd learned about the passing of her valued friend, Sara Steil from Pender Island, in a previous edition of the newsletter ([www.islandstrust.bc.ca/document/the-heron-newsletter-spring-2021](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/document/the-heron-newsletter-spring-2021)). She spoke with sadness about friends and kindred spirits that were dying with an alarming frequency, and she felt there was a “changing of the guard”.

Louise put my interview off until fall. She was working on a book about her thoughts on logging and didn't want to be distracted from that task. I was tempted to push a little; to ask her for an early phone interview which wouldn't take up too much of her time. Yet I didn't want to distract her, so I didn't push. I regret that now.

Sadly she passed away suddenly, June 17, 2021.

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**She is described by friends as a  
Powerhouse. A Go-Getter. A Dynamo.**

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In today's tumultuous world we could all use a positive role model – someone that persists, and pushes past the paralysis created when the world seems chaotic. Louise inspired so many, giving generously of her time, talent, and treasure.

She served as an Islands Trust Conservancy board member for 10 years, helping to shape the future of land conservation on the islands. When she retired from her role as a Denman Island trustee, trustees throughout the Islands Trust Area honoured her 15-year career as a local politician with donations to a cause close to her heart—the Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund which helps to kick-start land acquisition campaigns throughout the Islands Trust Area.

Louise played a pivotal role in creating Canada's first “green burial only” cemetery on Denman Island in 2015. She envisioned the natural regeneration of the forest through this cemetery, a forest in 100 years, and was committed to helping create a model for others to follow.

We are honoured that Louise personally made annual donations to Islands Trust Conservancy from 1999 until her passing in 2021. She chose to give where she lived because she knew and trusted Islands Trust Conservancy, and saw the impact every donation made on her beloved islands of the Salish Sea.

She almost finished her book on logging on Denman Island. Her daughter Barb Legg tells me that, unlike her mother, she is no writer, but that she intends to complete the task. Louise had drafted 3 titles – the one Barb loves is “Buy it. Log it. Flog it.”

Louise Bell was the kind of person for whom ‘business as usual’ did not wash: she made clear statements through her actions, and inspired others to do the same. She was an “intentional citizen” of the very best kind.

The guard is indeed changing. Who will fill these forward-thinking shoes? 

Carla Funk, Strategic Fund Development.  
[cfunk@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:cfunk@islandstrust.bc.ca)



ABOVE: Louise, McFarlane Beach, Denman Island. PHOTO: KATE KROEGER  
COVER: Denman Island Memorial Society Board members, from left to right, Jane Lighthall, Louise Bell and Angela Robinson, stand before The Ancestors, wooden sculptures at the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery.

## Coop Student Devin Hentschel



A 4th-year UVic student majoring in Biology, I was hired as a summer co-op Conservation Technician. I monitored the nature reserves and conservation covenants around the Trust Area. In only a few months I visited 47 properties on 14 islands – a dream job!

It wasn't all fun and games. Imagine the ferry lineups! Monitoring involves walking around the boundaries of each property and along any potential trails using GPS. An avid hiker, this was an enjoyable experience. I took photos of corner pins, points of interest, and invasive species found, and stayed on the lookout for trespasses or infractions to make sure each property maintained its pristine habitat.

Some of my most rewarding days and my fondest memories from the summer were spent pulling invasive species on the properties. You name the invasive, I likely pulled it!

## Welcome to the Board!



Galiano Islander and founding board member of the Galiano Conservancy Association, **Dr. Risa Smith**, Ecologist, brings 25 years of experience developing biodiversity policy, and expertise in Nature-based Climate Solutions. She is a leader of the Climate Change Specialist Group/World Commission on Protected Areas, and advisor to both the Canadian Government and IUCN. 🌿

ABOVE: Dr. Risa Smith, LEFT: Devin Hentschel, BELOW: Kate-Louise Stamford, Islands Trust Conservancy Board Chair. PHOTOS: CARLA FUNK

**It's the giving season!** Please consider making a holiday gift to someone you love, and help [kick-start conservation](#). We'll send a card to let them know of your gift.

Gifts of securities are the most tax savvy way to donate. Call Carla Funk, Strategic Fund Development, for a confidential conversation on giving. 250-405-5171. 🌿



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## YES! I want to preserve and protect the islands!

100% of your donation goes directly to protecting endangered habitat on the islands you love.

Your donations of \$20 or more will receive an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.\*

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**Or mail to: 200–1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8**

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### Questions? Contact us!

📞 250-405-5186

✉️ [itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Yes, I am okay with public recognition of my donation.

**My donation amount:**  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Expiry Date mm/yy	Security Code (back of card)
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