



the Heron



A newsletter from the Islands Trust Conservancy, protecting islands in the Salish Sea | islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy

FALL 2023

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Celebrating Community Conservation



Installing Western Screech-Owl nest boxes. PHOTO: C. FUNK



For links and additional media, visit the Heron newsletter online.

www.islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/heron-newsletter/



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PHOTO: R. BATTEN

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REGINALD HILL CONSERVATION AREA ON SALT SPRING ISLAND
PHOTO: K. MAYES

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Stewardship in Action

Western Screech-Owl

Protected areas shelter species-at-risk habitat from development and other negative human impacts. Our Species at Risk Program works with biologists to learn more about the species at risk on ITC protected lands. One example is our work with the Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii kennicottii*) listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act, and provincially Blue-listed as a species of Special Concern. Due to historic logging, nesting cavities in big trees are limited. ITC staff, biologists, and volunteers have installed nest boxes across three ITC properties to enhance their habitat. Recently, their efforts were rewarded when Western Screech-Owl calls were picked up by audio recorders confirming their presence on the properties.



WESTERN SCREECH-OWL. PHOTO: R. FERGUSON

“Stewardship does great good, even if we have to wait a long time to see the results of that work.”

– Kathryn Martell, Ecosystems Protection Specialist,
Islands Trust Conservancy

Coastal Scouler’s Catchfly & Yellow Montane Violet

High up in the Mt. Tuam Protected Area Conservation Covenant on Salt Spring Island grow the Coastal Scouler’s Catchfly and Yellow Montane Violet, both extremely rare and Endangered wildflowers found within Garry Oak meadows. To support their recovery, ITC installed fencing to protect their critical habitat from deer and other herbivores. In 2022, the catchfly population increased by 42% on Mt. Tuam thanks to work with biologists to augment their naturally-occurring populations with plantings grown from seeds collected on site. Protection of Yellow Montane Violet also helps to ensure the survival of the Endangered Zerene Fritillary (*Speyeria zerene bremnerii*) butterfly, who rely on violets to lay their eggs and feed their larvae.



COASTAL SCOULER’S CATCHFLY. PHOTO: R. BATTEN



YELLOW MONTANE VIOLET. PHOTO: R. BATTEN

Learn more about the species and places we protect at

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy/species-at-risk/>.



PHOTO: LISA WILCOX

Islands Trust and Islands Trust Conservancy respectfully acknowledge that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and that their deep connection to the islands continues to this day. We are committed to reconciliation, to upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples, and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea. The Islands Trust Area is located in the treaty and territorial lands and waters of the BOKEĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K’ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, scəwəθən, səlilw’ətəl, SEMYOME, shishálh, Skw̓xwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune’luxutth’, STÁUTW, Stz’uminus, łaʔəmen, Ts’uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W̓ JOĒELP, W̓SIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalkkwu, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy.

Celebrating Community Conservation



Left to right: Christine Ferris, Doug Hopwood, and Kate Livingstone commemorate Livingstone Forest conservation covenant. PHOTO: M. YAWNEY, Western Screech-Owl nest box installation. PHOTO: C. FUNK, Celebration for Sandy Beach Nature Reserve on Keats Island. PHOTO: W. KAULBACH

Their Legacy Lives On

William Tempest

William Tempest was a Water Resource Engineer and 'quiet environmentalist' who enjoyed hiking, fishing, and conversations on world affairs. In his Will, he bequeathed 10% of his estate to ITC, which the Board has dedicated towards conservation projects on Hornby Island. His vision for conservation on Hornby Island demonstrates that you don't need to own land or a huge estate to make a significant difference.



Susan Bloom

Susan Bloom's Alter Ego Trust generously donated \$100,000 to Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund. Half of that was used to assist the Nature Conservancy of Canada in purchasing Reginald Hill on Salt Spring Island for conservation protection. Long time Salt Spring Islander and a great supporter of conservation, Susan's legacy continues to give beyond her lifetime and contribute to habitat and species recovery in the Salish Sea.




PHOTO: W. HUSBY

How will you be remembered?

Please consider creating a legacy by leaving a gift to ITC in your Will.

Contact our Strategic Fund Development Specialist today to learn how.

 250-405-5171

 itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca



PHOTO: R. UNDERHILL



Welcoming Charles Kahn to the ITC Board

Charles Kahn, Provincially Appointed Board Member

Charles Kahn has lived on Salt Spring Island for over 30 years. His background is in editing, writing, and educational publishing. He is the author of *Salt Spring: The Story of an Island* (Harbour Publishing, 1998), and *Hiking the Gulf Islands* (Harbour Publishing, 4th ed. 2018), which covers all of the Gulf Islands from Bowen to Cortes, as well as a number of the larger marine parks. Charles has also written three smaller history books on Mouat's, Lady Minto Hospital, and Cusheon Cove.

He is an active member of the Salt Spring Island community, currently volunteering with Salt Spring Literacy and Salt Spring Hospice. In his spare time, Charles's enjoys being outdoors and doing activities such as hiking, biking, and kayaking.



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Newsletter Production: Juniper English | rippledesign.info

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Questions? Contact us!

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