




the Heron



A newsletter from the Islands Trust Conservancy, protecting islands in the Salish Sea | islandstrust.bc.ca/conservancy SUMMER 2023

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Our first Conservation Covenant on Lasqueti Island *p.2*



Wetland in Livingstone Forest PHOTO: D. HOPWOOD,
INSET: Livingstone Family, stewards of the land for 60 years, in 1915. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: K. HACKETT



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

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



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**Field Season
in the Salish Sea *p. 5***

PHOTO: C. FUNK



PHOTO: J. GREEN

**Reflections from Summer
Student Eve Ruth *p. 6***



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, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, łaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, W JOĒĒLP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalkwu, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy.

PHOTO: LISA WILCOX

Introducing Livingstone Forest NAPTEP Covenant on Lasqueti Island

Land conservation has always been an important value to Christine Ferris and Doug Hopwood.

Doug, a Registered Professional Forester, alongside Christine led work in ecosystem mapping, small scale forest management, and ecological research throughout their careers. “For close to 25 years, Doug and I worked for the Islands Trust Conservancy annually monitoring conservation areas, and we saw how a covenant can allow landowners to protect conservation values while retaining the use of the land,” says Christine Ferris.

“We met many owners who were so grateful to know that the features that make their properties so special will be protected for the long term.”

– Christine Ferris

In 1992 when they bought the property on Lasqueti Island, they wanted to create a demonstration forest to show ecologically sustainable forest practices. As time passed, Christine and Doug realized that “it was best to leave the forest alone.”

They decided to register an 11.35 hectare covenant on the land through the Islands Trust’s Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) to ensure the long term protection of the property’s biodiversity and carbon stores.



Facing page: Livingstone Forest wetland

PHOTO: D. HOPWOOD

This page: Mature cedar tree and Western Toad in Livingstone Forest PHOTOS: D. HOPWOOD AND C. FUNK

continued next page >



Livingstone siblings with their father at the Livingstone property in 1957. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: K. HACKETT

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The Livingstone Legacy

Prior to Ferris and Hopwood's purchase, the land was stewarded for 60 years by Kate Livingstone, who settled on the land in 1912 and raised her six children there. When it came time to choose a name for the covenant, Christine and Doug couldn't think of a better way to commemorate her.

"A large area of the island had originally been homesteaded by their family, but their name doesn't appear anywhere on the roads or anywhere else on the island, so when it came time to choose a name, we thought, let's call it the Livingstone Forest", said Doug.

In August, both families will gather to place a commemorative plaque on the property. "It was Christine and Doug's idea to name it after the Livingstones, and we are so very touched by their suggestion," said Kate Hackett, granddaughter of Kate Livingstone.

The covenant protects a mature and productive second-growth coastal forest ecosystem, a wetland, and species at risk including the Northern Red-legged Frog, Western Toad, and Little Brown Myotis bat. Tree species including coast Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and red alder are also protected on this property, acting as a carbon sink.

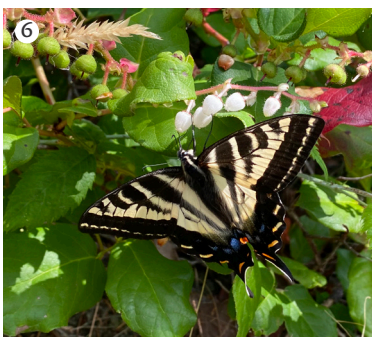
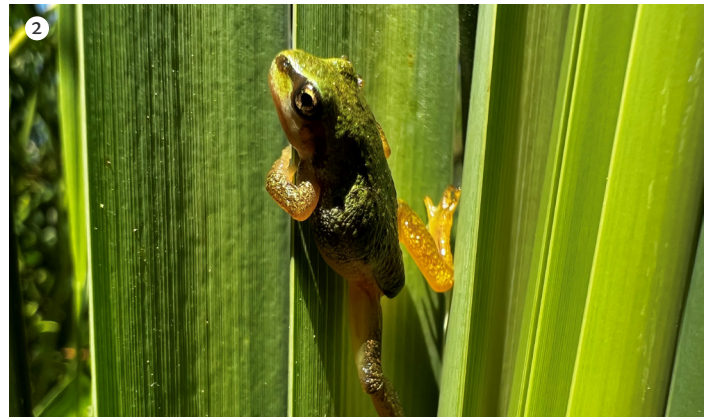
Ultimately, Christine and Doug believe that Livingstone Forest's greatest value is as a natural area that will be protected for generations to come. 🌿



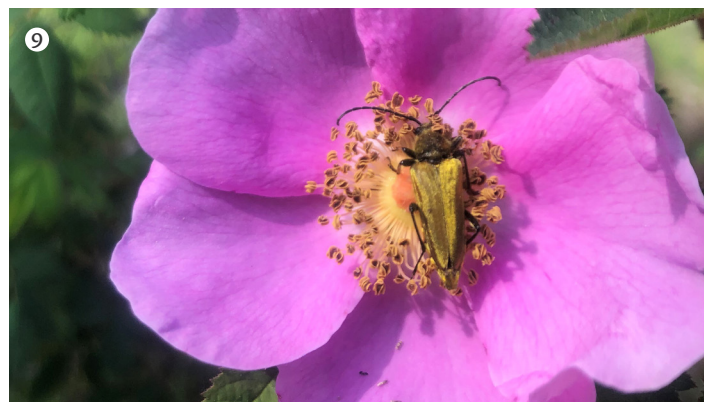
What is a NAPTEP Conservation Covenant?

Through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP), landowners receive a 65% property tax reduction on the portion of their land protected by a conservation covenant. To learn more about NAPTEP conservation covenants, visit <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/natural-area-protection-tax-exemption-program/>.

Field Season in the Salish Sea



1. Eve on Saturnina Island PHOTO: W. TYRRELL 2. Northern Pacific Treefrog PHOTO: C. FUNK 3. View of Spider Monkey Islet from Link Island PHOTO: E. RUTH 4. Nuala and Wendy removing invasive plants on Link Island PHOTO: C. FUNK 5. Common Sharp-tailed Snake on Pender Island PHOTO: E. RUTH 6. Western Tiger Swallowtail PHOTO: M. YAWNEY 7. Jemma and Eve monitoring on Sidney Island. PHOTO: C. FUNK 8. Team retreat on Sidney Island PHOTO: M. YAWNEY 9. Yellow Velvet beetle on Nootka rose PHOTO: E. RUTH

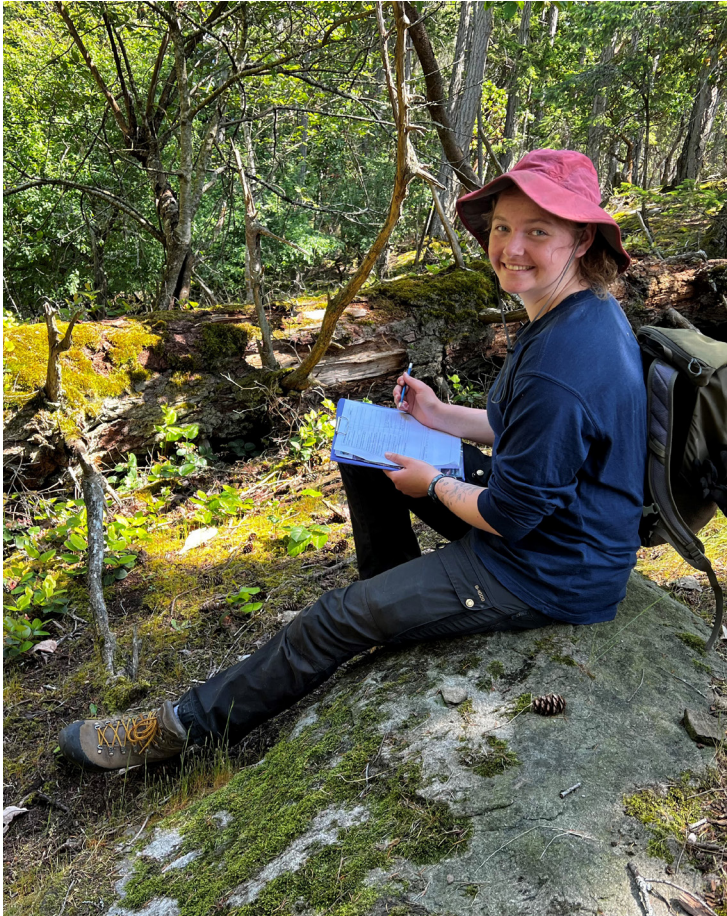


Reflections from the Field



Fun Facts about Eve

- Favourite food: Focaccia bread and raspberries
- Favourite activity: Gardening
- Favourite podcast: Future Ecologies



Above left: Eve Ruth on Link Island. PHOTO: C. FUNK. Above right: Eve Ruth with Death Camas. PHOTO: J. GREEN. Facing page: Eve Ruth removing invasive Scotch broom. PHOTO: J. GREEN.

This past summer, Eve Ruth joined the team as our Conservation and GIS Technician Co-op Student. Here are her reflections from the field!

As a fourth-year Geography and Environmental Studies student at the University of Victoria, Eve’s passionate about restoration, conservation, ecology, and adapting to a changing climate. This summer, she is working alongside our Covenant Management Specialist and Property Management Specialist completing field monitoring in the islands. Eve says this is her ‘dream job’. “I love the balance that this role offers. One day I’m in the field chopping broom and the next I’m doing a deep dive on research into restoration practices.”

Eve is inspired by Islands Trust Conservancy’s collaborative projects with different local conservancies. “It’s been amazing to see how all of the various partners connected to the Islands Trust Conservancy collaborate to achieve conservation goals, from invasive species removal to plant identification,” says Eve. I have met so many interesting people from diverse backgrounds and different walks of life who really care about conservation.”

“There’s so much power in community action and community conservation, and it’s been so cool to see that up close through this position.”– Eve Ruth

Eve’s advice for other young people looking for opportunities to get involved in conservation is to “keep learning!” She recommends getting involved in local community initiatives and using your unique skills, talents, and interests to help your community thrive.

Looking ahead, Eve is excited about what a future career in conservation will bring, with its complexities and the diverse opportunities available within the field. 🌿

Thank you and welcome to ITC Board members



Ken Thomas, Provincially Appointed Board Member

Ken is a member of the Penelakut Tribe with extensive knowledge of the lands and waters of Vancouver Island having worked for the Penelakut Tribe for over 20 years as a Fisheries Guardian. Previously, he was a knowledge keeper for the Hul'qumi'num Lands and Resources Society. Active in his community, he first served as an elected Council member for the Penelakut Tribe from 2014-2016 and was re-elected in 2018. Mr. Thomas is serving in the current Chief and Council term with the next election in 2024. He was a volunteer first responder on Penelakut Island and volunteers each year to harvest elk for the tribe and organizes a team of hunters from October to March to provide meat for cultural events.



Lisa Gauvreau, Trust Council Elected Board Member

Lisa Gauvreau is a Trustee from Galiano Island and was elected to the Trust Conservancy Board in June 2023. She is from the Ojibwe and Chippewa Nations territory, also known as Sault Ste Marie and has been a resident of Galiano for over 20 years. Along with her young family, she operates a year-round eatery on the island. She has many years of experience working in the non-profit sector, mentoring and educating young people. Lisa has been active in two Affordable Housing projects in recent years. She played a central role in successfully navigating the rezoning process for both projects and gained expertise in managing environmental considerations and dealing with conservation covenants. She is eager to continue learning and working collaboratively within ITC partnerships to restore and maintain natural features, habitats, and ecosystems. She believes this is a significant time for taking action toward Reconciliation and addressing the climate crisis. "We must remain committed to positivity and finding solutions that benefit both people and the planet."



Linda Adams, Outgoing Chair of the ITC Board

Linda served as a Provincial Appointee to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board for five years and as Board Chair for the last nine months of her term. A resident of Salt Spring Island, Linda brought her in depth knowledge of local government and land use planning to decision making. Her thoughtful insight will be missed by both the Board and the staff.

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