



photo: D. Gordon

Lasqueti forest secured for next generation

Islander protects 64-hectare property with donation to the Islands Trust Fund

Born in Woonsocket, South Dakota in 1918, John Osland served aboard US Coast Guard ships during the Second World War before coming to Lasqueti in the summer of 1948. He found a piece of land near the base of Mount Trematon with ancient trees and green pastures that would support a quiet, simple life.

John lived lightly on the land, leaving only his bicycle tracks along his grassy driveway. Despite the heavy logging on the island in his early years on Lasqueti, John's ancient trees remained.

"John got immense pleasure walking among his big firs; his trees were a source of marvel to him," said Donald Gordon, a long-time friend of John's. "When one fell around 1980, he counted the rings at 520 years. 'Almost more than the human mind can grasp' he said."

John spent 62 years on his Lasqueti property. He cared deeply for the nature around him and all it provided him with.

"He truly and deeply loved the many delights of his land, whether it was his old trail up the mountain or ancient watermarks on boulders," said Donald.

John worried about the future of his trees, his land and the animals he shared it with. With the help of his friends and a lawyer, John made a plan for his property for when he was gone. He bequeathed the land in his

will to the Islands Trust Fund, specifying that the land be protected as a nature reserve after he passed away.

"John hoped people coming here would enjoy the delights of nature and care for the land with as much love as he did."

– Donald Gordon

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Arbutus covered slope at John Osland Nature Reserve

John's final wish of leaving a natural legacy was aided by Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program which provides tax benefits to individuals (or their estates) who protect land with the Islands Trust Fund or other qualified recipients.



photo: K. Ovaska

photo: D. Hopwood

Above: The restored wetland at the John Osland Nature Reserve

Left: Red-legged frog, a species considered of Special Concern found on the new nature reserve

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“He told me that he hoped his land might give people an opportunity to immerse themselves in Nature, including those who don’t usually get a chance to, because he felt that is what the human mind desperately needs,” said Donald.

John passed away at his Lasqueti Island homestead on March 10, 2010 at the age of 91. In keeping with his final wishes, his property was transferred to the Islands Trust Fund in late 2011, and is now protected as the new John Osland Nature Reserve. John was a notable Lasqueti Island character, and his gift has created a beautiful and permanent testament to a life lived gently on the land.

Volunteers help realize John’s dream

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of John’s neighbours Mike Mundy and Cindy Craven and several other volunteers, John’s cabin and belongings were carefully removed from the new nature reserve last fall. Over the winter, the field returned to an open wetland, complete with ducks. To the unknowing eye, there are few traces of John’s six decades lived on this land. But for those who knew him, his legacy remains in the giant trees that are protected forever, even now that he’s gone.

It is the end of a wonderful era with John’s house having come down. It was a place that held delightful memories for me, going back to when I was a kid. But there is no better legacy for John’s life lived gently on the land than a row of exuberant autumn crocuses leading to the site where his house once stood, in the heart of a new Lasqueti nature reserve”

– Donald Gordon, October 2011

You Can Help: Talking about conservation

John Osland was inspired to take the formal steps to protect his land by friend and fellow island property owner Alasdair Gordon, who donated the Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve to the Islands Trust Fund in 2006. Close to John’s property, Mt. Trematon was partially logged and had been the subject of a development proposal before the Gordon family purchased and protected the property. Alasdair’s son

Donald spoke to John about their inspiration and experience protecting their Lasqueti property and helped John navigate through the process of donating his own property in his will.

You know about protecting land. Perhaps you have donated land, registered a conservation covenant on your land, or contributed to a campaign to purchase conservation land.

But not everybody knows. Despite a strong desire to see land remain natural

for the future, not everyone knows how to help protect island ecosystems. Not everyone knows they can make a difference for their island. That’s where you can help.

Your experience conserving island nature might inspire others to do the same. Talk to your neighbours, friends and family; tell them why you gave and what your gift gives back to you. You’ve invested in the future, by helping to protect land in the islands. Help grow that investment by spreading the word.

Making Conservation Affordable on Bowen Island

Support needed to bring tax exemption program to island municipality



photo: mtsvancouver

Bowen Island

In 2005, the Islands Trust Fund partnered with the Islands Trust to pilot a conservation incentive program – the first of its kind in B.C. – on the southern Gulf Islands and Gambier Island. NAPTEP (the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program) gives annual property tax exemptions to landowners who protect natural ecosystems on their land with a covenant. Since that 2005 launch date, your support of the program has helped protect nearly 70 hectares of island ecosystems, and has expanded to include almost the entire Islands Trust region.

Today, the only landowners in the Islands Trust Area ineligible for the property tax exemption are those on Bowen, Bowyer and Passage Islands - all within the shared jurisdiction of the Islands Trust and Metro Vancouver Regional District. But we're working to change that. In 2010, the Islands Trust convinced the Province to amend the regulation governing NAPTEP to allow for inclusion of island municipalities. In 2011, Bowen Island Municipal Council provided support in principle to bring NAPTEP to their community. The last step is to seek the Regional District Board's acceptance of the program within its jurisdiction.

This spring, the Islands Trust Fund and Islands Trust hope to partner with the Bowen Island Municipality in asking for the Metro Vancouver Board's formal consent to expand NAPTEP to Bowen, Bowyer and Passage Islands. If successful, landowners on these islands will be able to apply to the program, enjoying the same tax benefits

available to landowners throughout the Islands Trust Area by preserving natural islands landscapes.

We need your help to make land conservation more affordable on Bowen Island. If you own property on Bowen, Bowyer or Passage Islands, and would like to see a tax exemption program for private land conservation brought to your island, please write a letter of support to the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board. We will include your letters in our proposal to Metro Vancouver. Please send your letter by email to itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca or by mail to: **Islands Trust Fund, 200-1627 Fort St. Victoria, BC V8R 1H8**

With your assistance, we can show the regional district how much support there is for using a tax incentive to conserve natural habitat on the islands.

Breaking News! Your donations helped save Galiano waterfront

Last year, your donations to the Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund allowed us to help the Galiano Conservancy Association in its race to secure a property neighbouring our Trincomali Nature Sanctuary. The 75-hectare waterfront property was listed on the open market, and had the potential to be subdivided. If the property were developed, it could have harmed the Sanctuary's sensitive ecosystems and birds nesting in the nearby cliffs.

On February 15th, the Galiano Conservancy Association announced its purchase of the waterfront property. By securing the property, the Conservancy now protects a forest containing endangered ecological communities and a magnificent sculpted sandstone foreshore. The property will also act as a venue to expand the Conservancy's popular ecological education programs for children from Vancouver and Victoria.

"With this purchase, the Conservancy will be able to expand its single-day educational

programs to multi-day adventures," said Ken Millard, Director of the Galiano Conservancy Association. "Few urban children are exposed to wild environments and a single day on Galiano excites their love of learning and discovery."

Your support provided the opportunity to launch an acquisition campaign to protect this property and its endangered ecosystems. Through a grant from the Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund, you provided

some of the first donations to allow the Conservancy to get its 'foot in the door' to buy the property.

Please consider renewing your support for these types of vital acquisition projects today. Gifts to the Opportunity Fund can be made online at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca or by mail to: Islands Trust Fund, 200-1627 Fort St. Victoria, BC V8R 1H8.

Your gift is protecting land! Thank you

photo: Henny Schnare



Conservancy members celebrate the purchase of a 75-hectare waterfront property soon to become the site of the Galiano Island Restorative Learning Centre

North Pender Restoration Efforts Rewarded with Wildflowers

Bob and Fran Rose permanently protect Garry oak meadow with conservation covenant



Bob and Fran Rose had a vision when they bought their land on North Pender more than twenty years ago. Despite the extensive broom growth on the property, up to four feet high in places, the Roses saw the remnants of what used to be a Garry oak meadow. Even before work started on their house, Bob and Fran began a labour of love to create a sanctuary for native species on the lot. "During our weekends and holidays, I pulled oodles of broom. Bob used loppers for the largest plants," recalls Fran.

Today, the Roses are delighted by the camas, fairy slippers, buttercups and blue-eyed Mary that carpet the meadow where the broom once stood. Last summer, one death camas and a harvest brodiaea also made rare appearances. Since building a hive for mason bees near their garden,

the Roses enjoy watching the pollinating insects venture into the meadow of native wildflowers.

Last fall, the Roses permanently protected the natural habitat on their property with a conservation covenant. Bob and Fran registered the covenant jointly with the Islands Trust Fund and their local conservancy, the Pender Islands Conservancy Association, ensuring more than one organization will watch over and protect the habitat they've created even after they're gone.

"Realizing the development pressures on our island, we're relieved that by registering the covenant, we're protecting the natural habitat on our property from being broken up or built on in the future."

– Fran Rose

The new conservation covenant protects the meadow, a grove of Garry oak and a forest of veteran Douglas-firs, arbutus, bigleaf maples and western red cedar. The covenant also protects habitat ideal for Sharp-tailed snake. The Roses are keeping a close eye out for 'sharpies', hoping that the newly protected area one day offers a home for the elusive, endangered species that has been spotted nearby.

Private landowners like the Roses are playing an increasingly important role in protecting some of BC's rarest and

most bio-diverse ecosystems. The Gulf Islands rest within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, a stronghold for many species at risk of extinction or extirpation. The Coastal Douglas-fir zone has the highest density of species of both global and provincial concern in all sixteen zones in BC – more than one hundred species at risk are found in the region. With over 65% of the islands in private ownership and more than 2.6 million people living in the surrounding areas, there's tremendous pressure to develop and change the natural landscapes on these islands. Using conservation covenants, ordinary people are doing the extraordinary – protecting natural habitats on their property from future development. Thank you to the Roses and all of you who have made a promise to the future by restoring and conserving ecosystems on your land. With your help, we're making sure the islands continue to support the diversity of life they do today.

Are you inspired by the Roses?
Do you know other landowners
who would be?

Bob and Fran protected their property with a conservation covenant after being inspired by other families on North Pender Island who've been doing the same. Share the Roses' story with friends and neighbours on the islands. Spread the word and help inspire the protection of island landscapes.



Above left: Fran and Bob Rose. Above: Camas lilies in bloom



False Bay Elementary students last October enjoyed the sun and fresh air while restoring a forest in the Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve on Lasqueti Island

Kids Creating Forests for the Future

False Bay Elementary students help restore protected area on Lasqueti Island

Fourteen False Bay Elementary students went home on a sunny day last October exhilarated and satisfied knowing they'd helped grow a forest. The group of children were on a field trip to the Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve on Lasqueti Island. There, the students helped the Islands Trust Fund restore a previously logged portion of the reserve.

After a quick lesson from Property Manager Jeff Ralph and forester Doug Hopwood, the kids scampered away in groups to start their challenge. Within a few hours, the class had planted more than 30 trees. They carefully surrounded each new seedling as well as other young trees in the area with mesh wiring to protect them from the island's grazing feral sheep. Already experts

at identifying the tree species they were working with, the students soon learned about the different micro-sites that each species preferred.

Other discoveries that day included hidden sinkholes beside rotting trees. Teacher Reid Wilson said, "one student found a cave large enough to hide in!"

"Hands-on experience is a powerful way to learn."

– Reid Wilson, False Bay Elementary teacher

The children's work is part of an ongoing volunteer effort to restore sections of the nature reserve that were logged in the later-half of the last century. The forest has

struggled to regenerate naturally because of heavy browsing by feral sheep. Since the project began in 2010, more than 200 seedlings have been planted and protected with wire mesh. We hope the children who helped last October can return as adults to find a thriving young forest.

Your support has permanently protected places that offer endless learning opportunities for children living in the islands. Protected areas provide spaces for teachers to use as outdoor classrooms. "Hands-on experience is a powerful way to learn," said Reid. We hope the Islands Trust Fund nature reserves that you have helped us protect continue to excite and inspire kids of all ages, for many generations to come.

Together we're Making a Difference

Conservation successes cascading from partnership on North Pender

North Pender Island has recently become a hub of grassroots conservation activity. In the last five years, the Islands Trust Fund and Pender Islands Conservancy Association have partnered with Pender Island property owners to protect nine properties with conservation covenants – an impressive feat for a small island.

Averaging nearly two covenants per year is even more impressive considering the Pender Islands Conservancy Association is a volunteer-driven land trust. The Conservancy's volunteers are experts in reaching out to interested landowners and inspiring them to take the leap, protecting natural areas on their property with a conservation covenant. By partnering with the Islands Trust Fund, the Conservancy can access expertise in covenant writing and registration, and protected area monitoring and management. Also, through the Islands Trust Fund, the Conservancy is able to offer landowners the option of registering their covenant in the NAPTEP program.

One of the secrets to the island's successful covenant program is the Nancy Waxler Morrison Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund. The fund was established to honour Nancy's memory by assisting Pender Island property owners with the costs of establishing



Pender Islands Conservancy members celebrate Marilynn King's Stanley Point covenants and Sylvia and Keith Pincott's Woodwinds covenant with Islands Trust Fund.

conservation covenants. Funding from this home-grown resource helps landowners overcome barriers to protecting their land with a covenant, such as surveying and legal expenses. The Nancy Waxler Morrison Fund has been vital to the successful protection of a number of the island's newly covenanted properties, and is a wonderful tribute to an island woman whose social science work was legendary around the world.

With the vast majority of the islands privately owned, private landowners are playing an increasingly important role in protecting these rare and biodiverse ecosystems. Most Penderites who've protected their land say they were inspired by other islanders

- friends, neighbours, and acquaintances – who did the same. The cascade effect of community conservation is keeping North Pender natural, one covenant at a time.



Barrie Morrison and Graham Boffey of PICA visiting the Frog Song Forest Covenant with the Kikuchi Family

Giving Native Species a Helping Hand at Home

Gardening guides encourage using coastal plants in your garden

The mild coastal climate of the Salish Sea provides habitat for an incredibly rich diversity of plants and animals. From Garry oak wildflower meadows to rich verdant forests, the landscapes of the islands inspire and delight. These ecosystems are among the rarest in BC, providing sanctuary to more than 100 species-at-risk.



Photo: C. Rikley

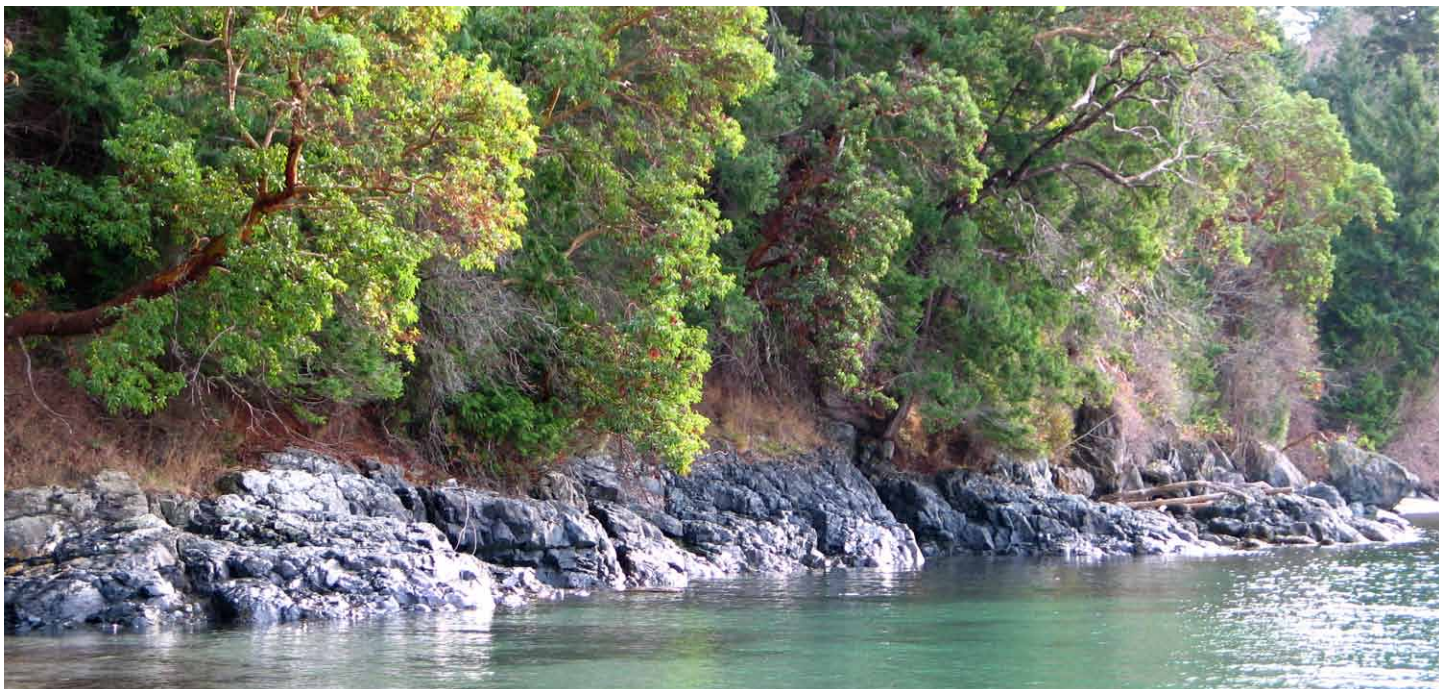
Stonecrop is colourful and drought-resistant

You can incorporate some of the splendour of these island ecosystems in your own home garden with a native plant garden. You don't need to be an experienced gardener or have a large property to mimic the iconic island landscapes we love. Using native plants in your garden, lawn or even balcony can provide food for birds and butterflies. The exquisite colours and textures of many native species are an added bonus to any landscape.

Check out the Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook at www.goert.ca/gardeners_restoration/garryoak_gardener.php

(Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team) and Gardening with Native Plants at <http://hat.bc.ca/resources.html> (Habitat Acquisition Trust) for planting ideas to match your garden conditions, colour preferences, and even challenges, like deer browsing. Avoid planting non-native invasive species in your garden, such as ivy, holly, butterfly bush, and daphne, and remember that wildlife gardens should always be organic.

No matter how big or small, native plant gardens can help preserve the biodiversity of our islands. Bring the beauty of our native woodlands and meadows to your home. Plant a native garden this spring.



Top: Thormanby Island Photo: C. Rikley Below (L to R): Burgoyne Bay, Salt Spring Island Photo: M. Colin • Calypso Orchid Photo: B. Whittington • Lasqueti Island Photo: G. Scott

How Your Estate Can Benefit Conservation

Protect the islands with a gift of your retirement plan, without sacrificing your future income

You can make a profound impact to ecosystem conservation by planning a deferred gift to the Islands Trust Fund. Naming the Trust Fund Board (the legal name of the Islands Trust Fund) as a beneficiary of your RRSP or RRIF is one of the easiest deferred gifts you can make. Simply visit the institution holding your RRSP and change the beneficiary to the land trust of your choice. By designating the Trust Fund Board or another island conservancy as your RRSP beneficiary, you are donating the unspent value of your plan to projects that permanently protect island landscapes.

If you think this type of charitable gift is a luxury only the rich can afford, you may be surprised to learn that deferred gifts can benefit your estate by substantially reducing the tax payable on it. RRSP's are one of the most heavily taxed assets in your estate. The remaining value of your RRSP upon your death is taxed as ordinary income in the year of death. Unless your RRSP is transferred to your spouse or dependent child, the value of your RRSP will be eroded by the tax liability.

Donating the remainder of your RRSP gives your estate a charitable tax credit for up to 100% of your taxable income for the year

of your final tax return, with any unused amount applied to the previous year's tax return. By naming the Trust Fund Board as a beneficiary of your RRSP, you may trigger a tax refund to your estate. Meanwhile, your gift creates a conservation legacy you never thought was possible.

If you'd like more information about this or other deferred gifts that could help you achieve your goals for leaving a conservation legacy, please contact our fundraising specialist Christine Rikley at 250-405-5171. We also recommend you discuss your plans with your family and your tax or financial advisor.

Support island habitats. Donate today.

Our 100% Promise

When you donate to the Islands Trust Fund, every dollar of your donation goes directly to protecting endangered island landscapes. We take no administrative overhead. Our everyday operating expenses, from our wages to our paper and pens, are covered through our partnership with the Islands Trust.

All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt for income tax purposes.

Save time! Donate online!

<http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donationform.cfm>

YES! I want to help protect natural habitat on the islands

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Thank you for your support!

This past year, individuals and organizations helped the Islands Trust Fund and its partners protect rare ecosystems and habitat. You make this success possible.

Dereck Atha, Louise Bell, Elisabeth Bosher, Dorothy Cutting, Lyndis Davis, Louise Decario, Janine Dodds, Michael Dunn, George Ehrling, Deborah Ferens, Charles and Lucile Flavelle, Sue French, David Greer, Christine and Fred Hunt, Elizabeth and Joseph Jarvis, Marilynn King, Dr. Francis LaCouvée, Dr. Walton Langford, Tony Law, Peter Luckham, Sheila Malcolmson, Mary Mingie, Susan Morrison, Alison Morse, Beverly Neff, William Norman, Nerys Poole, Bob and Fran Rose, Gerald Sandy, Stuart and Wendy Scholefield, Gary Steeves and Marina Horvath, Sara Steil, Eric Tabb, John and Beverley Watson, Gwen Wharton, Eric Wilson and many, many other anonymous donors.

Explore the special places you helped protect with our perpetual Birthday Calendar

Record birthdays and anniversaries while supporting the conservation of island landscapes.



Enjoy photos of the stunning beauty of our protected places, taken by local photographers.

100% of all proceeds go to the Opportunity Fund to benefit local conservation projects on the Canadian islands of the Salish Sea.

To purchase your calendar, visit our donate page online at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca or phone at 250-405-5186.

\$17.95
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Islands Trust Fund

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