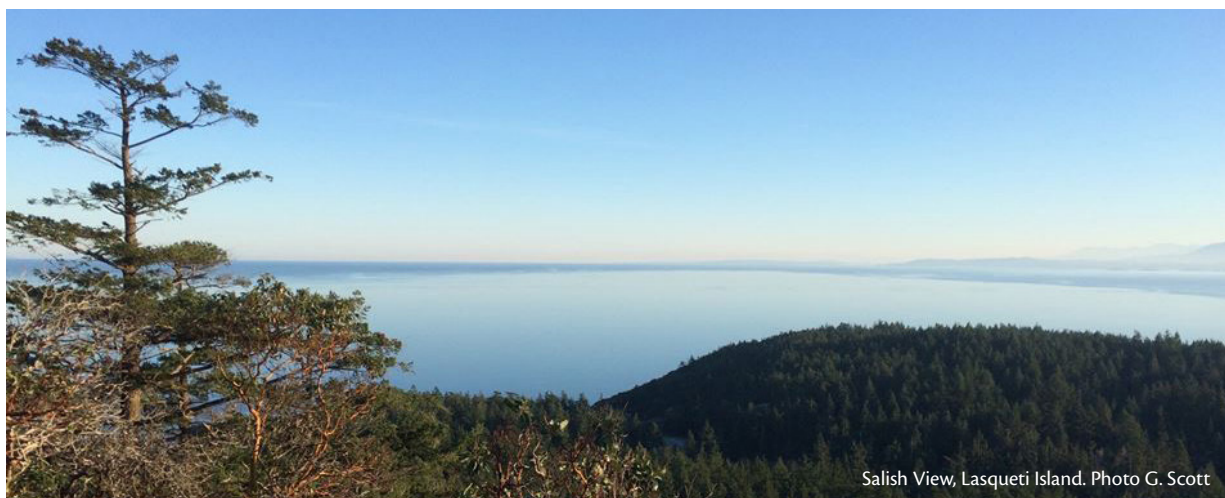




# the Heron



Spring 2018 A newsletter from the Islands Trust Fund, a Conservancy for Canada's Islands in the Salish Sea



Salish View, Lasqueti Island. Photo G. Scott

## Help Create Lasqueti Island's Newest Community Nature Reserve

### Pledge your support for 'Salish View' to protect old growth trees

A joint fundraising campaign is underway to protect a spectacular 11.5 hectare (28 acre) property on Lasqueti Island featuring mature Coastal Douglas-fir forest and rugged cliffs. The Islands Trust Fund and the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy are partnering to raise \$250,000 by December 21, 2018 to create a new nature reserve directly adjacent to Squitty Bay Provincial Park.

The partners have eight months to raise the funds to acquire Salish View—linking the mountain top to the seashore, protecting forests, endangered toads, creeks and salmon!

Salish View rises above Lasqueti's rocky southern coastline to a prominent ridgetop with a stunning 270-degree vista of the Salish Sea. Visitors have described the summit view as one of the best marine views on the West Coast. Once protected, the property will be open to the public, offering opportunities for walking on nature trails through beautiful old-growth trees and rocky bluffs to the viewpoint. The proposed Salish View Nature Reserve will protect habitat for species at risk and an important part of the watershed of Wamer Creek—one of only three salmon-bearing streams on Lasqueti Island.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Lasqueti Island, and for the whole Salish Sea region," said Gordon Scott, President of the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy. "Every donation makes a difference now."

The fundraising campaign has already received a significant amount of community support and a generous \$60,000 grant from the Sitka Foundation. Now, the partners need to raise an additional \$155,000.

"Sitka Foundation supports conservation of special habitats like Salish View. Our mission is to preserve biodiversity, celebrate nature, and protect the environment in British Columbia, across Canada, and in select ecosystems around the world. Salish View is a great example of this, happening in our very own backyard," said Carolyn Beaty of the Sitka Foundation.

Donations for the Salish View campaign can be made to the Islands Trust Fund's [Lasqueti Island Acquisition Fund](#) and the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy's [CanadaHelps](#) page. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts over \$20.





Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly, (*Euphydryas editha taylori*). Photo J. Balke

## Settlement Land Covenant

### A good news story for the federally endangered Checkerspot butterfly.

A new voluntary legal covenant between the Islands Trust Fund and the Denman Conservancy Association protects the rich and diverse forest, meadow and wetland habitats of the Settlement Lands on Denman Island.

The Settlement Lands Covenant protects 64 hectares (157 acres) of large old Douglas-firs, marshy wetlands and breeding habitat for the federally endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly. Taylor's Checkerspot butterflies are extremely rare. Following 2001-2003 surveys, scientists thought this species was lost from the Canadian landscape forever. However, in 2005, they were found on Denman Island where they continue to live and breed. Taylor's Checkerspot butterflies require both nectar plants for food and suitable wetland habitat for breeding. An area of the Settlement Lands where both requirements are met will be managed to maintain open sunny areas for nectar plants and suitable breeding habitat.

The Denman Conservancy Association acquired the Settlement Lands in 2006 as part of the settlement of a legal case. In addition to providing habitat for Taylor's Checkerspot, these lands connect to other protected areas, including the Denman Island Provincial Park, and the Islands Trust Fund's Inner Island Nature Reserve and Winter Wren Wood Covenant. The Islands Trust Fund and Denman Conservancy Association have developed a comprehensive management plan to guide the care of this special place.

"It is amazing that the last remaining known Taylor's Checkerspot breeding location in Canada is on our doorstep on Denman Island," said Tony Law, Chair of the Trust Fund Board. "We congratulate the Denman Conservancy Association for their work conserving and restoring these lands and strengthening that commitment with a voluntary conservation covenant. We look forward to working with them to ensure this special place remains protected forever."

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that the last  
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Thetis Island Nature Conservancy (THINC) Board members, from left to right, Rodney Brownlee, Janice Young, Suzanne Sarioglu, Ann Eriksson, Vicki Walker and Laurel March were instrumental in helping create Thetis Island's first publicly accessible nature reserve. Photo THINC  
Below: Fairyslipper Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*). Photo C. Oberg

## Fairyslipper Forest - A Community Conservation Success Story

### Thetis Island's first public nature reserve - saved forever!

Fairyslipper Forest on Thetis Island, B.C. is now permanently protected as a nature reserve. The new 16-hectare (40 acre) nature reserve on lower Burchell Hill is the result of a partnership between the Islands Trust Fund, the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy and the Cowichan Community Land Trust and is named after the delicate calypso 'fairyslipper' orchids that bloom on the hill each spring.

The property is Thetis Island's first publicly accessible nature reserve, offering residents and visitors opportunities for walking and hiking on nature trails through the forest. To maintain the natural features of the land, only low-impact activities will be permitted.

"I am thrilled by the support we received on this campaign to create the first publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island and sincerely thank each and every one of our supporters," said Ann Eriksson, founding board member of the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy. "This beautiful forest will be protected forever, and each gift, no matter how big or small, is a part of that conservation success story."

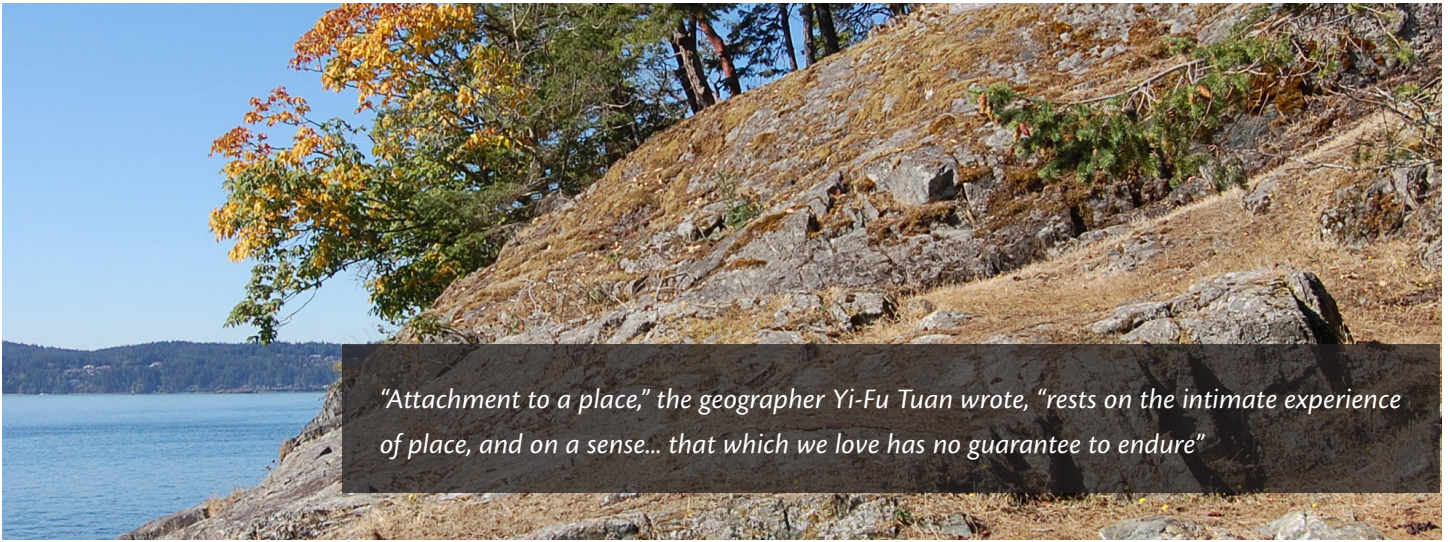
Over three years, Thetis Island residents and other individual supporters raised over half the purchase amount of \$560,000. Inspired by the community's passion for conservation, the campaign received generous contributions from the Sitka Foundation, (\$50,000), the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Environmental Enhancement Fund (\$5,000), and the Gosling Foundation (\$2,500). The campaign finally reached its goal through a generous bequest of \$210,000 from an endowment fund created by Syd Watts and Barbara Dowd, who recognized the Cowichan Community Land Trust in their will.

"The protection of Fairyslipper Forest is regionally significant," said Kai Rietzel, Executive Director of the Cowichan Community Land Trust. "Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve protects a maturing stand of Coastal Douglas-fir forest. These types of forests contain the highest diversity of plant species in British Columbia and typically have a high number of species in need of protection."

"The Islands Trust Fund is proud to have partnered with the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy and the Cowichan Community Land Trust to acquire this wonderful property," said Tony Law, Chair of the Trust Fund Board. "This purchase is a great example of a community working together to ensure the natural areas we enjoy today continue to benefit future generations."



## Providing an Island Legacy .....



*"Attachment to a place," the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan wrote, "rests on the intimate experience of place, and on a sense... that which we love has no guarantee to endure"*

*Isabella Point, on Salt Spring Island, is protected as an Ecological Gift. Photo and article Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Residents of British Columbia's Gulf Islands know the importance of protecting the fragile ecosystems that make their islands so extraordinary, and many have taken concrete measures to guarantee that these places endure. For example, the 58 hectare Mount Trematon Nature Reserve on Lasqueti Island was donated by private landowners to the Islands Trust Fund in 2005, in order to protect a stand of old-growth forest containing trees up to 500 years old. Another example is the "Kikuchi Memorial - Frog Song Forest" Covenant, donated by the Kikuchi family of Pender Island. It includes part of a forest and a wetland, and was donated to the Islands Trust Fund and the Pender Island Conservancy Association in 2010.

Habitat loss and degradation pose the greatest threats to wildlife in Canada. Owners of private land can play an important role in conserving the habitats of many different species of plants and animals. Conservation is often a joint effort, with many groups working together to preserve our environmental heritage: individual or corporate landowners, land trusts, provincial and municipal governments. The Government of Canada partners in these efforts to protect private properties with ecologically sensitive features through the Ecological Gifts Program.

*The Islands Trust Fund has been a frequent participant in the Ecological Gifts Program. This past summer, the Islands Trust Fund celebrated the creation of its 100th protected place in the Trust Area, and twenty-two of these are certified as ecological gifts. In partnership with the Islands Trust Fund and other conservation and government organizations, the Ecological Gifts Program has been involved in the protection of fifty-five ecologically sensitive properties on the Gulf Islands, almost a third of the total ecological gifts for the entire province.*

### Recipients

Ecological gifts are donated to an eligible recipient approved by Environment and Climate Change Canada, such as a land trust or a government body. The recipient ensures that the biodiversity and environmental heritage features of the gift are maintained and managed in perpetuity. The majority of donations have been made to land trusts such as the Islands Trust Fund.

### Types of Gifts

There are many reasons for donating an ecological gift and the Ecological Gifts Program offers several options to allow landowners to choose the type of gift best suited to their situation. The majority of donors choose a **fee simple** gift, in which landowners donate all or part of their land and receive income tax benefits based on its fair market value. This provides both the maximum ecological protection and the greatest tax benefit.

If the landowner receives an 'advantage' (partial payment) in return for the donation, the provision known as **split-receipting** is used to assess the amount of the gift which is eligible for a tax benefit.

For landowners wishing to protect their land while keeping their connection with it, the best option may be to register a conservation covenant on the title. The covenant would protect the conservation values of the property, or a surveyed portion of the property, while the donor could continue to live on the land, sell it, or pass it on to their heirs. The restrictions placed on the property are followed in the future, regardless of who owns the land. Donors may also use a "life estate" to donate ownership of the land, but retain the right to live on the land throughout their lives.

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## ..... with the Ecological Gifts Program

### Tax Benefits

For most people donating ecological gifts, interests in conservation outweighs financial motivations. However, benefits offered by the *Income Tax Act* can provide an additional incentive for those who choose to donate through the Ecological Gifts Program as well as offering assistance to those otherwise unable to afford to make a donation.

Either individuals or corporations may donate ecological gifts. Individual donors are eligible for a non-refundable tax credit, while corporations may claim a deduction directly from their taxable income. In both cases, the eligible amount is determined by the assessed fair market value of the gift. Ecological gifts may be claimed in the year of the donation and any unclaimed amount may be carried forward for a period of ten years.

Unlike most other charitable gifts, there is no capital gain tax on ecological gifts and no limit on the total value of ecological gifts eligible for deduction or credit in a single year.

**Thanks to the generosity of private and corporate landowners in British Columbia, over 68,000 hectares of ecologically sensitive land worth over \$250 million have been protected through the Ecological Gifts Program.**

Inquiries about the Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program may be directed to the program co-ordinator for BC: [David.Cunnington@canada.ca](mailto:David.Cunnington@canada.ca), office: 604-350-1987 cell: 604-329-7716 Visit [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) and search for "ecological gifts program"

## NAPTEP – Special tax savings for the islands.

### Protect natural habitat while reducing property taxes

The Islands Trust Area is home to some of the most beautiful and rare ecosystems in Canada. Landholders in the Trust Area love living here for the stunning beauty and rural charm of the islands but living in paradise has become expensive.

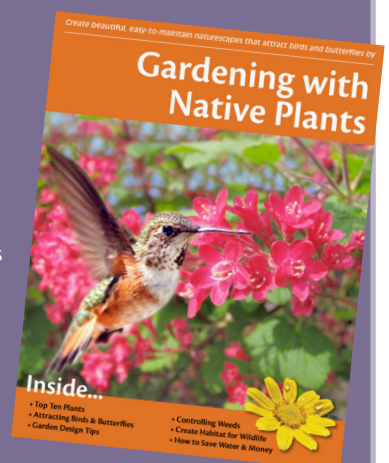
Did you know? The Islands Trust Council offers an innovative program that combines ecosystem conservation and tax savings. The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) is a unique program available exclusively to landholders in the Islands Trust Area. NAPTEP provides landholders with an annual exemption of up to 65% of their property taxes when they permanently protect the natural features of the land.

Working with a land trust is small but real solution to the loss of nature in the region. Contact us to learn if your property is eligible for this incentive. Find out more at [www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/NAPTEP](http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/NAPTEP)



## Other Ways to Protect Habitat at Home

- Garden with native plant species. Here is a great regional guide: Gardening with Native Plants (HAT) <http://hat.bc.ca/images/Native-Plant-Guide-for-Web-22.08.2017-2.pdf>
- Conserve water by collecting rain water for irrigation and choosing drought tolerant plant species
- Remove and control invasive species. Learn more at: [www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca)
- Maintain habitat - leave natural areas undisturbed to allow native plants to grow and to help species find homes (e.g. maintain rock outcrops for snakes, tree cover over shorelines and creeks to provide cooling and shade, and native flowering shrubs for birds, butterflies and pollinating insects)
- Try companion gardening to naturally repel pests and avoid herbicides and pesticides <https://www.westcoastseeds.com/garden-resources/articles-instructions/companion-planting/>
- Avoid oil and paint spills by safely storing and disposing of toxic chemicals responsibly





Denman Island Memorial Society Board members, from left to right, Jane Lighthall, Louise Bell and Angela Robinson, stand before the The Ancestors, wooden sculptures donated by Denman Island sculptor Michael Dennis for the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery. They are placed just outside the main entrance of the cemetery.

## Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery Conservation Covenant - A legacy for the community and the environment

The Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery is the first exclusively green burial cemetery in all of Canada. While several other cemeteries offer a green burial option, the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery offers only green burial, on a landscape that is protected in perpetuity with a conservation covenant held by the Denman Conservancy Association. This innovative use of a conservation covenant responded to a community need and provides a model for other communities to explore.

From start-up in 2009 to opening in 2015, the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery is the result of the determination and expertise of the volunteer board of the Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS). It was truly a labour of love for this committed group of Denman Island residents. Conservation and restoration of the land was an integral component of the project from its conception. The 1.06 hectares of land for the cemetery was donated by the Denman Conservancy Association on the condition that a conservation covenant was registered on the land title when ownership of the land changed hands.

The cemetery is intended for residents and landowners of Denman Island and members of their immediate families. It provides 1000 graves, and a scattering zone for cremated remains, with the intention of serving the community for 100 years. Once a burial area is full, it will be planted with seedlings from the property and left undisturbed.

“The goal is to allow natural regeneration of the forest,” said Louise Bell, former Denman Island Memorial Society Board Chair. “So in 100 years, there’ll be a forest there typical of the Coastal Douglas-fir Moist Maritime Biogeoclimatic Region, one of the most diverse and endangered ecosystems in British Columbia.”

Green burial standards require that the cemetery not have headstones, concrete vaults or markers and that there be only minimal landscaping. Loved ones can pay their respects in a central reflection area, where each burial is commemorated with a bronze plaque mounted on one of the two memorial walls. The coffin or other container must be biodegradable and free of metal. Remains must be free of embalming, formaldehyde and other chemicals. The aim of a green burial is to return human remains to the Earth with as little impact on the environment as possible.



The terms of the covenant ensure that, over time, the cemetery will continue to follow green burial standards. The covenant also requires that the Memorial Society retain treed buffer zones and heritage stumps from the original logging and use only native plant species in any plantings. The Denman Island Memorial Society is also responsible for maintaining a walking path that connects to an extensive trail network in the neighboring, 59.5 hectare ‘Central Park,’ a recreational property owned by the Denman Conservancy Association. A baseline ecological survey and management plan further ensure the long term ecological integrity of the land and provide guidance for its maintenance.

Currently, 48 Friends of the Green Cemetery are available to care for the natural cemetery covenant area, including the Garry oak garden adjacent to the memorial walls.

Thanks to the foresight and hard-work of the Denman Island Memorial Society and the Denman Conservancy Association, the community of Denman Island can now choose a green burial and be part of a unique natural legacy.

For more information about the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery, please visit: [www.dinbc.ca](http://www.dinbc.ca)



Memorial Centre

## Regional Conservation Planning: A New 10 Year Plan for Conservation

The Islands Trust Fund is excited to announce that we have a new 10 year Regional Conservation Plan to guide our work over the coming decade.

In 2017, we reached out to experts, partners, the public and First Nations with interests in the land and waters in the Islands Trust Area to develop a new plan to guide our work in conserving fragile island ecosystems. The result is a science-based and community informed plan that identifies, prioritizes and plans for the protection of the best of the islands' natural spaces.

Over the course of the Regional Conservation Plan, we'll reassess our priorities to continue to move towards effective protection of the natural landscape of the islands. Read the full plan at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/about-us/our-publications>

For more information, contact [itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:itfmail@islandstrust.bc.ca)



The RCP has four high level goals to protect sensitive ecosystems in our region.

Clockwise from top left: Goal 1. Science based conservation planning, Goal 2. Strong relationships with First Nations, Goal 3. Protection of core conservation areas, Goal 4. A strong voice for nature conservation

## Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve, Gabriola Island

The Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve on Gabriola Island is home to some of the last remaining mature forest on Gabriola Island and features several interconnecting streams and wetland complexes. The reserve is a popular destination for hiking and nature appreciation. However, a most treasured part of this reserve was in danger of being loved to death, as the roots of one beautiful, massive old cedar suffered significant damage from trampling.

Construction of a boardwalk and viewing platform to protect the root system of this ancient cedar tree is now complete. The wooden boardwalk, constructed by Coast Alive Recreational and Ecological Services, was completed thanks to a partnership with the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust and funding from a TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant. Visitors to the area can now admire the tree up close without damaging the sensitive root system, hopefully extending the long life of this much-loved tree.

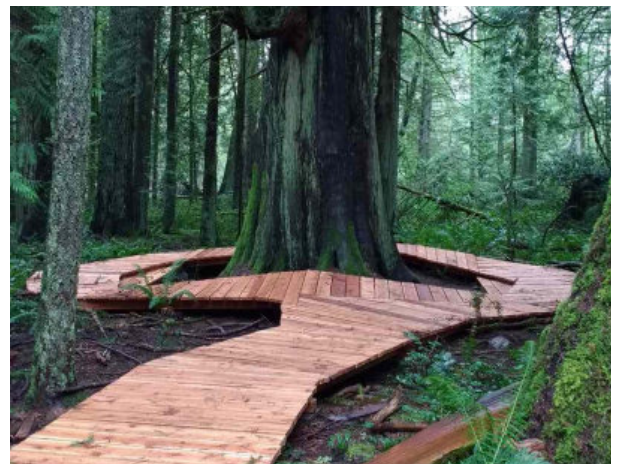


Photo C. Drake

# 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 habitats.

All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt for Canadian income tax purposes. All donations of \$200 or more will receive a small gift in token of our appreciation. The Islands Trust Fund is a qualified donee under the *Income Tax Act*.

### Save time! Donate online!

<http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donate.aspx>

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

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate my donation to: ☐ Where most needed

☐ Opportunity Fund ☐ Covenant Management and Defence Fund

☐ Thetis Island Acquisition Fund ☐ Gambier Island Acquisition Fund

☐ 'Salish View' (Lasqueti Island Acquisition Fund)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### I wish to donate by:

☐ cheque (made payable to the Islands Trust Fund)

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Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please mail to:

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#### To Contact Us:

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Toll free via Enquiry BC: 1-800-663-7867 (604-660-2421 in Vancouver)

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Chocolate lily  
(*Fritillaria lanceolata*)



### Name change news

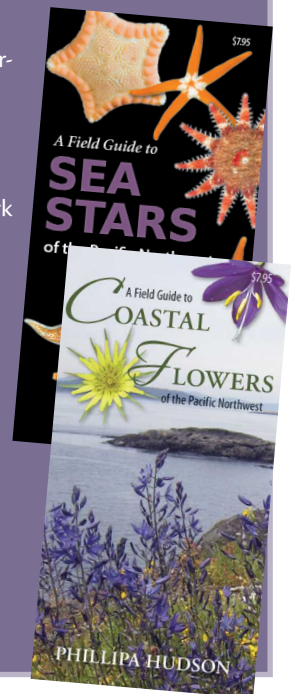
Amendments to the *Islands Trust Act* are in progress to change the name of the Islands Trust Fund Board to the **Islands Trust Conservancy**, to more accurately represent the extent and nature of our mandate. Watch or sign-up for our e-news to stay updated!

### A perfect gift for someone passionate about the islands!

We would like to thank the numerous individuals and organizations that help the Islands Trust Fund protect rare ecosystems and habitat. Your contributions to the work we do are greatly appreciated.

As a token of our appreciation, all donations of \$200 or more will receive a new Harbour Publishing Pacific Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest, including guides to common fishes, seaweeds, sea stars, trees, medicinal wild plants and more.

**Donate annually and collect them all!**



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