



ISLANDS TRUST FUND

Protecting Canada's Islands in the Salish Sea

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Denman Island Conservation Covenant Protects Butterfly Habitat

*Critical habitat for federally endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly is now permanently protected*

**Denman Island, British Columbia, December 4, 2017** — 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."

To learn more about protected places on Denman Island, visit <http://islandstrustfund.bc.ca/protected-places.aspx>.

*The Islands Trust Fund is the conservation land trust for Canada's islands in the Salish Sea. Since 1990, the Islands Trust Fund has protected more than 1,250 hectares and helped partners protect another 330 hectares of island ecosystems.*

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