



News Release

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June 3, 2021 – for immediate release

2021-11-IT

Gabriola, Salt Spring and Victoria Offices Open

Lək'wəjən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – The public is again welcome to visit Islands Trust offices in person with the reminder that masks and physical distancing are continued requirements. Islands Trust doors are open at all three office locations: Gabriola Island, Salt Spring Island, and Victoria.

At this time, each Islands Trust office has different days and times of opening and capacity limits:

- Northern Office Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
700 North Road, Gabriola Island
Maximum two people in addition to staff
- Salt Spring Office Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
1 – 500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
Maximum two people in addition to staff
- Victoria Office Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
200 – 1627 Fort Street
Maximum three people, in addition to staff

“We’re pleased to welcome people back into our offices,” shared Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, Islands Trust. “Face-to-face contact has been missed, but it hasn’t curtailed our activity. Since the pandemic started, Islands Trust has experienced a surge of development applications resulting in longer processing times. Staff is working to maximum capacity, and there is a backlog. If you’re considering a development application submission, please understand there are longer than usual wait times, and we ask for your understanding and patience.”

Compared to the Islands Trust five-year average, development applications more than doubled on Salt Spring Island to 105% in the first quarter of this year. In the rest of the southern islands, applications went up 90%, and they also increased by 56% in the northern islands.

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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish treaty and territorial lands and waters. It is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

Contact:

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