



the Heron



A newsletter from the Islands Trust Conservancy, protecting islands in the Salish Sea | islandstrustconservancy.ca

SUMMER 2021

Protecting islands in the Salish Sea

Lisa Baile of SDAYES/
North Pender Island donates
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Zerene Fritillary Butterfly, Yellow Montane Violet. Cover: Coastal Scouler's Catchfly. PHOTOS: LAURA MATTHIAS

Species at Risk – we’ve got your backs!

Islands Trust Conservancy has a new program dedicated to protecting and fostering species at risk within the Islands Trust Area. We’ve begun by searching for the elusive Sharp-tailed Snake, rare lichens, and Western Screech-owl throughout the Trust Area, and by beginning habitat restoration for Yellow Montane Violet and Scouler’s Catchfly on Mount Tuam, Salt Spring Island. In July, Wendy Tyrrell began as our Species at Risk Program Coordinator. We are looking forward to growing Islands Trust Conservancy’s Species at Risk work with Wendy’s help! [\(details online\)](#) 🌿

You have made a difference!

Supporters of the Opportunity Fund have helped to create a \$47-million-dollar (assessed value) conservation legacy in the islands of the Salish Sea. Kick-start grants were delivered to our partners at critical times — just when they were starting up a land acquisition project, or making the decision to place conservation covenants on sensitive land. [\(details online\)](#) 🌿

\$47,000,000!

total appraised value of properties protected by kick-starting grants to conservation partners



Drum detail. PHOTO: LISA WILCOX

Acknowledgement

Islands Trust Conservancy acknowledges that we work within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, K’ómoks, Lək’wəŋən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEL, Qualicum, Quw’utsun Tribes, scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia’new, səliiwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune’luxutth, STÁUTW, Stz’uminus, ʔəʔamən, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts’uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁŁŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwa/ʔop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

31st Nature Reserve

Lisa Baile of SDA̱Y,ES /North Pender Island donates four hectares to expand contiguous network of protected places

Lisa Baile Nature Reserve on SDA̱Y,ES (North Pender Island), is the most recent protected place to come under the care of Islands Trust Conservancy. It is home to a mixed mature forest of largely Douglas-fir and western redcedar, and rises steeply to a ridge with small rocky bluffs and Garry oak and arbutus woodlands, with patches of native wildflowers such as fairy-slipper, camas (a lily), chocolate lily, and fawn lily. Several veteran, old-growth Douglas-fir trees – including one measuring almost four metres in diameter – were previously protected under a small conservation covenant along Clam Bay Road.

The Lisa Baile Nature Reserve expands an existing nine-hectare grouping of conserved lands, increasing this network of protected places in the Salish Sea to nearly 13 contiguous hectares that will provide habitat for regional species in perpetuity.

How this piece connects to a bigger story, to partners, and to community

The islands within the Salish Sea are part of the creation stories of the Coast Salish Peoples and are deeply interconnected to the oral history, well-being, and place that Coast Salish Peoples have now, and have called their homelands for over 14,000 years.

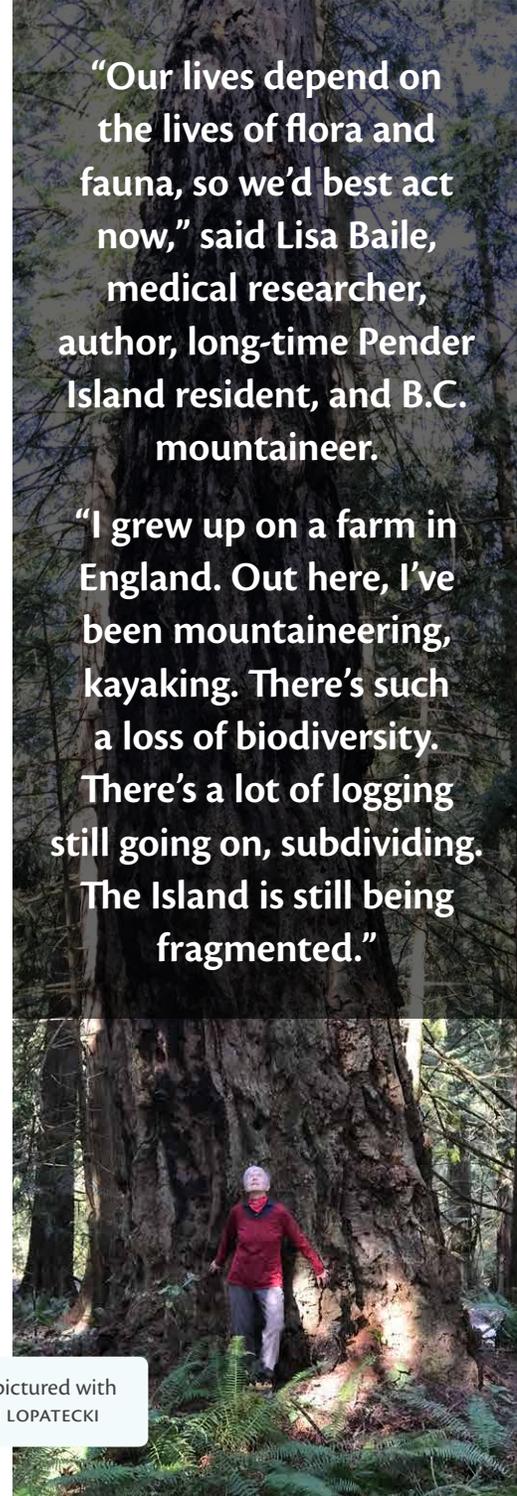
Lisa Baile made this nature reserve possible through her generous gift of mature Coastal Douglas-fir forest to Islands Trust Conservancy – a donation that Baile had intended from the moment she purchased the four-hectare undeveloped property in 2019.

The federal Ecological Gifts Program, which provides income and capital gains tax relief for gifts of qualifying, ecologically sensitive land, also contributed to reaching this milestone – making this the 25th property donated to Islands Trust Conservancy as an ecological gift.

Pender Islands Conservancy Association, co-holder of the existing covenant with Islands Trust Conservancy, worked with Lisa Baile and Islands Trust Conservancy to expand the protected area and create the new nature reserve, which will provide increased protection to the forest and woodlands on the entire property.

“The vision and generosity of donors like Lisa Baile will be crucial to seeing the islands of the Salish Sea, and their surrounding waters, through the climate crisis and concurrent development surge that we are experiencing,” said Islands Trust Conservancy Board Chair Kate-Louise Stamford. “She deserves our thanks. Our next step will be preparation of the management plan for this site, in collaboration with First Nation governments with shared territory on SDA̱Y,ES/North Pender Island and island residents.”

Lisa Baile donated this land to become the Lisa Baile Nature Reserve on February 25, 2021. Lisa Baile Nature Reserve became Islands Trust Conservancy’s 31st nature reserve. 🌿



“Our lives depend on the lives of flora and fauna, so we’d best act now,” said Lisa Baile, medical researcher, author, long-time Pender Island resident, and B.C. mountaineer.

“I grew up on a farm in England. Out here, I’ve been mountaineering, kayaking. There’s such a loss of biodiversity. There’s a lot of logging still going on, subdividing. The Island is still being fragmented.”

Islands Trust Conservancy donor Lisa Baile pictured with old-growth Douglas-fir tree. PHOTO: TAEVEN LOPATECKI

Remembering extraordinary Conservation Superheroes



Louise Bell, Denman Island (d. June 17, 2021)

While serving as a Denman Island trustee for 15 years, and an Islands Trust Conservancy board member for 10 years, Louise helped shape the future of land conservation in the islands. She was a loyal supporter of the Islands Trust Conservancy's Opportunity Fund which has helped support land acquisition campaigns throughout the Islands Trust Area.



Nancy Braithwaite, Salt Spring Island (d. January 27, 2021)

Nancy was a co-founder of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and permanently protected land through the creation of the Ruffed Grouse Conservation Covenant. In a final act of conservation, Nancy returned her body to the forest she loved at the Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery.



Betty Swift, Link Island (d. January 29, 2021)

A Seattleite, Betty loved the islands of the Salish Sea. With her vision and the support of her family, Link Island (21.45 hectares) and the islet Spider Monkey Island (0.17 hectares) were protected, fulfilling a long-time dream to ensure conservation stewardship was in place for future generations, and to contribute a resource for future research.

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