



The

# Heron

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE ISLANDS TRUST FUND



Islands Trust Fund

WINTER 2009

## 15% of Islands Trust Area Now Protected

Public and non-profit conservation organizations now protect more than 15% of the Islands Trust Area land base. If combined, these 12,000 hectares of protected area would equal the total area of Galiano and Gabriola Local Trust Areas together.

The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox. This is a unique and special place composed of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering approximately 5200 square kilometres of land and water.

"Reaching this milestone in the Islands Trust Area speaks to the hard work and commitment island communities, conservancy groups and government partners have dedicated to the protection of natural spaces on the islands" said Sheila Malcolmson, outgoing Chair of the Trust Fund Board. "With the significant contributions of our local partners, the Islands Trust Fund celebrates reaching this target of 15% protection two years ahead of our 2010 deadline".

### Why Protect the Islands Trust Area?

The Province of British Columbia has identified the ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area among the most bio-diverse of all in BC in a new report released in June, 2008.

**Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in BC**, a collaborative effort of more than 50 science experts, reports on the state of BC's natural environment and provides the basis for the Conservation Framework, BC's new plan for proactive solutions regarding species and ecosystems at risk and in decline.

**Taking Nature's Pulse** identifies the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone—the zone which encompasses most of the Islands Trust Area – as being the 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

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*Since 2005, the Islands Trust Fund has acquired five new nature reserves and 18 new conservation covenants adding an area of more than 380 hectares—about the size of Stanley Park—to the protected area network in the Islands Trust Area.*

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hundred species at risk are found in the region. The Islands Trust Area supports some of Canada's last remaining Garry oak ecosystems and the associated rare plants, mosses, butterflies,



COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR ECOSYSTEM. PHOTO: BRUCE WHITTINGTON.

and reptiles. Its location along the Pacific Flyway makes the Gulf Islands an important wintering and migratory stopover area for many migratory birds. BirdLife International identifies ten Important Bird Areas within the Islands Trust Area, including Baynes Sound, Active Pass, and Sidney Channel.

The Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone comprises less than one percent of BC's land base and is limited to a part of south-eastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands south of Cortes Island and a narrow strip of the adjacent mainland. The Province of British Columbia has identified the ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area among those of greatest conservation concern in the entire province. Ninety-seven percent of the diverse and rich ecosystems that make up the Coastal Douglas-fir zone are of provincial conservation concern, suffering high rates of conversion due to urban and rural development. Those of us who live, work, and play in the Gulf Islands have an obligation to ourselves, our future, and our global community to protect the remaining natural places this diversity of life depends on to survive.

## Partnerships Key to Protecting the Islands Trust Area

Conservation and stewardship of the Islands Trust Area is vital to the survival of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone. However, establishing new protected areas is difficult and expensive: while ninety-three percent of BC's land base is publicly-owned Crown land, only seven percent of the Coastal Douglas-fir zone is provincial Crown land. This means that the protection of this important ecosystem relies significantly on the stewardship of

private land.

The Islands Trust Fund has worked with communities and private landowners since 1990 to protect natural areas in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound islands. We offer tax incentive programs for conservation covenants and land donations. We also continue to work with local island conservancies to improve the awareness of Gulf Island residents and visitors about sensitive ecosystems and the effects of everyday activities on this fragile environment.

Despite the progress the Islands Trust Fund and its local partners have made in conserving island ecosystems, much work remains. Several islands in the Islands Trust Area fall short of the goal of 15% protection. Furthermore, almost every island in the Islands Trust Area continues to fall short of the protection objectives for the following individual natural ecosystems: streams, wetlands, mature forest, freshwater, shoreline, cliffs, herbaceous and woodland. The Islands Trust Fund and its local partners need community support to continue to protect the unique ecology and character of the islands.

Whether the gift is cash, land or a conservation covenant, donors to the Islands Trust Fund and other conservation organizations give because they care about the future of these beautiful and fragile islands and the rich variety of plants and animals living here. Alasdair Gordon, donor of the Mount Trematon Nature Reserve on Lasqueti Island said "The Gulf Islands are an extraordinary part of the world, but are also under extraordinary pressures. We wanted to ensure that the area we cared so deeply for retained its unspoiled beauty, remaining ancient trees, and great value to the community."

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## Transitions

The Islands Trust Fund has undergone some personnel changes this past year. We hope you have had a chance to meet some of our new talent.

**Jennifer Eliason** joined the Islands Trust Fund in early 2008 after leaving the position of Executive Director of Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). Jennifer stepped effortlessly into the role of Manager after former manager Lisa Dunn moved on to her new position as Director of Trust Area Services with the Islands Trust. Jennifer brings a passion for grassroots conservation and a wealth of experience in stewardship education, fundraising, and human resource management.

**Kate Emmings** will be staying with us as our permanent Ecosystem Protection Specialist following the resignation of **Ardice Todosichuk** in December 2008. Ardice, who joined the Islands Trust Fund in 2000, has been fundamental to the growth of the organization and is the person behind many of its achievements, including the Regional Conservation Plan and Islands Trust Ecosystem Mapping. Ardice will take on a

new position as the Performance Audit Analyst for the Office of the Auditor General in January 2009. Kate, who was acting Ecosystem Protection Specialist this past year while Ardice was on parental leave, will continue to use her expertise in land trusts and conservation to protect the natural environment of the Gulf Islands. **Christine Pritchard**, formerly the acting Secretary, found a permanent home with the Islands Trust Fund as the new Communications and Fundraising Specialist. Christine replaces Clare Frater, recruited earlier this year by the Islands Trust as the new Trust Area Policy Analyst. Christine's work experience includes resource planning, and she brings a history of environmental education and communication through her many volunteer experiences. **Nuala Murphy** has joined the team as the Secretary following the resignation of Sandi Miller. Nuala has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and has spent the last four years as a Project Officer with TLC The Land Conservancy of BC working with landowners to place conservation covenants on their property. Her wealth of experience in land trust work is a great benefit for the organization and she is a wonderful fit for the Islands Trust Fund.

## Message from the Outgoing Chair

It never ceases to amaze me that so many significant ecosystems and species exist within the Islands Trust Area. The Gulf Islands have been described as the stronghold for the highest density of species at-risk in British Columbia.

The communities and people of the Islands Trust Area also continue to astonish and inspire me with their dedication and commitment to preserving the special places and unique culture of this area. The permanent protection of more than 15% of the entire Islands Trust Area is a testament to the commitment of local, provincial, and national organizations working in this region.

The Islands Trust Fund continues to be one of British Columbia's leading conservation trusts, playing a fundamental role in protecting fragile ecosystems and cherished places for rare and endangered species, island residents, and British Columbia as a whole. The Trust Fund Board owns 19 nature reserves and holds an additional 56 conservation covenants in 12 of the 13 Local Trust Areas, protecting 975 hectares of ecologically sensitive land.

As I complete my term as chair of the Trust Fund Board, I take great pleasure in highlighting some of the conservation work the Islands Trust Fund has undertaken this past year. In 2008, we completed the Crown Grant transfer of the Mt. Artaban Nature Reserve—107 hectares of lush forested mountainside on Gambier Island. Private landowners donated five new conservation covenants to the Islands Trust Fund, forever protecting more than seven hectares of Gulf Island sensitive ecosystems for generations to come. Through the Opportunity Fund, the Islands Trust Fund donated an additional \$7,200 to regionally significant conservation projects in the Islands Trust Area.

Remaining committed to long term strategic and adaptive planning, the Islands Trust Fund completed its 2007-2008 consultative review of the Regional Conservation Plan. The Board identified the challenges faced in the first phase of the Plan's implementation and identified new strategies needed to achieve our long-term goals. The Trust Fund Board's Long Term Funding Committee continues to work to identify mechanisms for securing long-term funding for the Islands Trust Fund and more importantly, for conservation of the Islands Trust Area that is substantial, reliable and sustainable.

Our successes in this and past years are not our successes alone. Without our island partners and the support of individuals, we would not be celebrating the accomplishment of 15% protection. And without your support, we can not continue to celebrate even bigger successes to come.

After reading this newsletter, I encourage you to continue taking part in the conservation of special places in the Islands Trust Area. By donating your time, money, land, and voice to conservation, your efforts will continue to protect the places that make the Gulf Islands so naturally wild, beautiful and loved.



Sheila Malcolmson, Trust Fund Board Chair, 2007-2008

## Watershed Residents Play Important Role in Protecting Nature Sanctuary

The Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary, protected in 1995 by the Islands Trust Fund and the Pender Island Conservancy Association, is an 8.4-hectare natural haven located on North Pender Island opposite Bedwell Harbour. The sanctuary offers magnificent views of the mouth of the harbour, provides vital habitat for several rare and endangered species and plant communities, and is a valuable outdoor classroom for local schoolchildren.

The Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary contains a salt-water marsh, an uncommon feature in the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone. The integrity of the Medicine Beach marsh is dependent on the quality and quantity of water it receives from other areas of the watershed. Pollutants and increased silt from upland areas have had negative impacts to the Marsh's vegetation, fish and amphibians.

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### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THE WATERSHED YOU LIVE IN?

- Leave a buffer of vegetation along streams and around wetlands to filter run off and prevent erosion
- Re-establish riparian vegetation buffers with red-osier dogwood, native willows, red alder, and western red cedar.
- Store and dispose of toxic products safely to prevent toxic run off.
- Avoid using synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on your property.
- Control invasive species and use native plants in your garden.
- Resist the urge to "tidy up" waterways. Boulders and fallen branches create habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Design and plan construction activities with nature in mind to prevent damage to waterways. Maintain vegetation and build during the dry season to avoid runoff of sediment into water courses.

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As human activities in the upper reaches of the Medicine Beach Watershed have a direct impact on the health of the marsh, the Islands Trust Fund and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association launched the Medicine Beach Watershed Awareness Initiative in the spring of 2008. The initiative was a landowner contact program designed to raise the awareness of neighbours of the Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary about how their actions can harm this community treasure.

The program provided information about the processes occurring in the fragile salt-water marsh. For interested landowners, the program offered on-site consultations to provide guidance on steps they can take to protect the natural

features on their property and reduce their impact on the watershed. To reach additional landowners and to wrap-up the initiative, the conservancy hosted a public celebration of the Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary. Naturalists were on hand, enthusiastic to share their knowledge of the fauna and flora of the nature sanctuary. The program reached more than 85 landowners, connecting them to where they live. We hope this local connection to the land will improve water quality in the Medicine Beach Marsh over the long term.

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*The nature reserve and adjoining protected areas offer an exhilarating hiking experience visible from the Sea-to-Sky Highway.*

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## Crown Land Acquisition Program Permanently Protects 107 Hectares on Gambier Island

Gambier Island's first protected area network was completed this spring with the transfer of 107 hectares (264 acres) of Mount Artaban from the Province of British Columbia to the Trust Fund Board through the provincial Free Crown Grant program. The new Mount Artaban Nature Reserve, when combined with neighbouring local, regional and provincial parks, creates a continuous protected area of 525 hectares (1297 acres)—25% larger than Vancouver's Stanley Park

The Mount Artaban Nature Reserve protects old-growth trees, a wetland, and several at-risk plant communities. The water flowing from this pristine mountain provides

clean drinking water for the surrounding community and feeds aquatic habitats below. Bald Eagles are often seen in the skies above the new reserve, and Steller's Jays, Rufous Hummingbirds and Blue Grouse inhabit the forest.

Island residents and visitors can enjoy trails that extend from the Long Bay and Brigade Bay waterfronts to Mount Artaban's peak. The trail system also extends south through Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park.

The Mount Artaban Nature Reserve is a natural legacy protected by the efforts of a dedicated local community working in partnership with the Islands Trust Fund. The Gambier Island Conservancy succeeded in raising more than \$46,750 towards the protection of the property, including the costs of a land survey and management plan. The conservancy plans to use the surplus funds to pay for improvements to the property such as trail repair and signage.

In 2007, the Gambier Island Conservancy was selected as a recipient of an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award in recognition of its dedication and ambition in the fundraising campaign for the Mount Artaban Nature Reserve.

In early 2009, the Islands Trust Fund will work with the Gambier Island community to develop a management plan for the property. This plan will define short and long-term management goals for the new nature reserve.

Free Crown Grants are transfers of Crown land from the province to public sector bodies, in particular municipalities and regional districts. With the support of the Islands Trust, the Trust Fund Board is working to acquire more lands in need of permanent protection through the Free Crown Grant program. For more information about Crown Land Grants visit: <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/crown.cfm>.



**MOUNT ARTABAN LOOKING EASTWARDS FROM THE MOUNT ARTABAN NATURE RESERVE. PHOTO: PETER SCHOLEFIELD.**

# Property Tax Exemption Program Expands to Nanaimo and Cowichan Valley Regional Districts

Starting in 2009, landowners in the Gabriola Island and Thetis Island Local Trust Areas can reduce their property taxes by protecting their land for conservation.

With the recent consent of the boards of the Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Regional Districts, the innovative Islands Trust property tax exemption program is now moving northwards.

The **Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP)** rewards conservation-minded landowners with a 65% property tax reduction on portions of their land protected by a conservation covenant. Launched in the Sunshine Coast and Capital Regional Districts in 2005, NAPTEP offers landowners the unique opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations while also saving money on their property taxes.

NAPTEP participants report saving \$1,300 to \$3,700 annually on their property taxes, while protecting areas ranging in size from 1.8 hectares (4.4 acres) to 23.7 hectares (58.5 acres). So far, the Islands Trust has issued 15 tax exemptions in

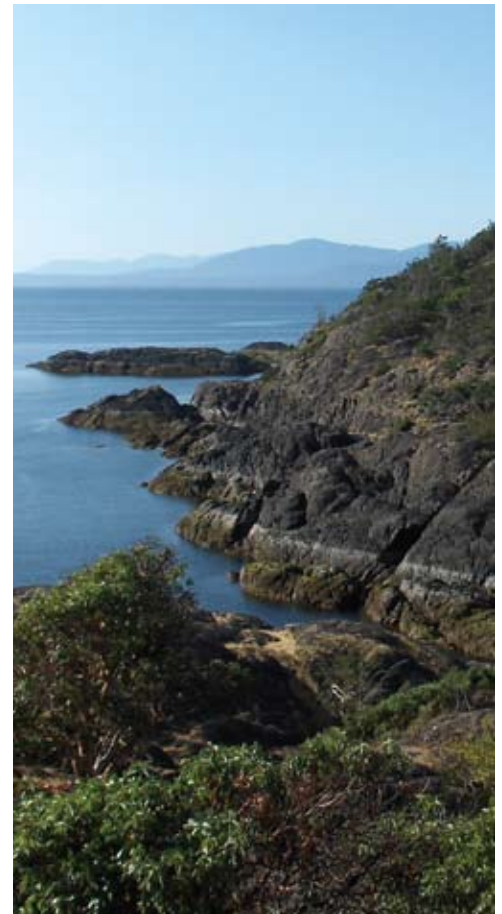
3 Local Trust Areas (Galiano, North Pender and Salt Spring).

The Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund revised NAPTEP in early 2008 to streamline the application process and provide more flexibility for applicants. To learn more, visit the Islands Trust Fund online at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm> or call us toll free through Enquiry BC (1-800-663-7867).

The Islands Trust Fund is now accepting NAPTEP applications from landowners wishing to start reducing their property taxes in 2010. The deadline for applications is April 1st, 2009. Applicants must own property in the Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Mayne, North Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, South Pender or Thetis Local Trust Areas to apply. Staff are seeking legislative change to include Bowen Island in the program and will seek the consent of the Powell River and Comox Valley Regional Districts to include the rest of the Islands Trust Area in the program. If you own property in those areas not yet served by NAPTEP, please send us a letter letting us know of your interest so that we can demonstrate the need to decision-makers.

## LANDS PROTECTED IN THE NATURAL AREA PROTECTION TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

COVENANT	HECTARES PROTECTED	DATE PROTECTED
<b>GALIANO LOCAL TRUST AREA</b>		
BARRINEAU COVENANT	1.8	2006
<b>NORTH PENDER LOCAL TRUST AREA</b>		
LITTLE D'ARCY COVENANT	8.2	2006
KING LOT 12 COVENANT	0.7	2008
KING LOT A COVENANT	0.9	2008
KING LOT 16 COVENANT	0.3	2008
WOODWINDS COVENANT	0.8	2008
<b>SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST AREA</b>		
LEADER COVENANT	1.8	2005
ARTHUR LINEHAM COVENANT	23.7	2005
OWLS CALL COVENANT	3.3	2005
WALTER BAY COVENANT	2.4	2005
MY WHIM COVENANT	2.1	2007
POLDEN COVENANT	3.4	2007
RICHARDSON COVENANT	2.1	2008
WTTEWAALL COVENANT	3.6	2008
WENNANEC COVENANT	1.6	2008



# ELDER CEDAR NATURE RESERVE

a profile of a Special Place

Imagine...you discover a narrow path. The ferns gently caressing your elbows suggest you are the first person to have entered in many months, but the well worn trail beneath your feet tells a story of many generations having touched the forest floor before you. A soft breeze runs through the Douglas-firs and cedars as sun beams dance among the undergrowth. As you let the moment envelop you, the old tree giants start to whisper. Whispers turn to excited chatter, as if excited by your presence and curious of your trespass. When the wind finishes its chase, the forest falls silent again.

This is Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. The Islands Trust Fund received the property from the Province of British Columbia in 2006 as its first Free Crown Grant. The 65-hectare (162 acre) forest contains the last remaining stand of old-growth trees on Gabriola Island. Snuneymuxw linguist and elder Dr. Ellen White honoured the nature reserve with a Hul'qumi'num name—S'ul-hween X'pey or Elder Cedar. Dr. White translates the word 'elder' to mean more than old; it has connotations of unseen ancestors and guardians. A stroll along the nature reserve's trails can reveal the true meaning of the name – visitors may feel the presence of ancient spirits in the veteran cedar giants that watch over this quiet place.

Gabriola Island residents gathered recently to celebrate the official naming of the nature reserve, formally known as the UREP lands. The naming event was also a celebration of the community's dedication and effort in protecting the forest. Island residents worked for more than 15 years to have the Elder Cedar property protected for its ecological values and popular walking trails.

"This is a very special day, because this is a very special place" said Gabriola Land & Trails Trust President Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley at the event. "I am delighted that we have the chance to gather to celebrate this jewel, a place that individuals and groups from across the island worked so hard to preserve and protect."

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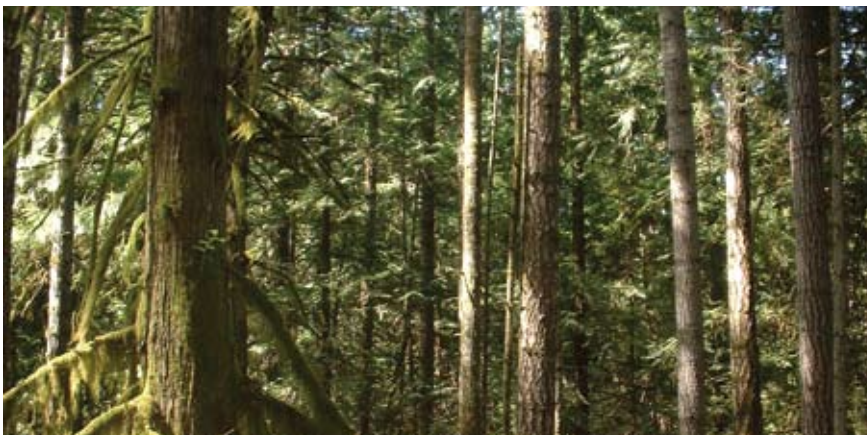
*"When we protect natural areas like forests and marshes, we not only get to enjoy the natural beauty but we also receive real and measurable benefits such as clean air and clean water."* **LEIGH ANN MILMAN, PRESIDENT, GABRIOLA LAND CONSERVANCY**

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The Snuneymuxw First Nation was also instrumental in the efforts to protect the Elder Cedar property. By graciously excluding the land from their Treaty Settlement claim, the Snuneymuxw allowed the Islands Trust Fund to apply to the Crown for its transfer for conservation purposes.

The Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve offers a magical hiking experience. Anyone using the nature reserve in the last few months may have noticed changes to its trails. To protect the fragile plant communities and preserve the unique character of the diverse forest, the Islands Trust Fund is working with the Gabriola Land & Trails Trust (GaLTT) to maintain the trail system in a way that protects the sensitive ecosystems in the nature reserve, while providing recreational opportunities for islanders. The trails are open to walkers, bird watchers, photographers, botanists, or anyone looking for a peaceful retreat in a beautiful place. The reserve is closed to bicycles, horses, and all-terrain vehicles. The Islands Trust Fund requests that visitors to the Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve tread lightly on the protected land. If treated with respect, this community jewel will continue to offer the rich experience of visiting a mature forest for generations to come.

GaLTT continues to work to remove invasive species such as Scotch broom, holly and ivy from the reserve. The exclusion of horses and bikes will prevent the further spread of invasive species. If you are interested in participating please contact GaLTT at [info@galtt.ca](mailto:info@galtt.ca). Those interested in learning more about the management of the Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve or its history can view the management plan online at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/pdf/itfmgmtplancedar.pdf>.



Stoney Creek and several other streams cross the Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Nature Reserve, bringing vital nutrients and biodiversity values to the forest. Wetlands scattered throughout the property provide habitat for amphibians and food sources for many bird species. The property protects several at-risk plant communities and animal species including the Band-tailed Pigeon and the Red-legged frog.

## Partner Spotlight

Conservation success in the Islands Trust Area would not be possible without dedicated and committed community members. Many local island conservancies and community groups devote countless on-the-ground hours protecting natural places. Working together, we can continue to care for the islands in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound.

### Mayne Island Conservancy Society

Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS) is an organization making great strides for conservation in the Gulf Islands. Founded in 2003 in response to the threat of large-scale commercial logging on the summit ridge of Mount Parke, the highest point on Mayne Island, the conservancy has evolved into a multi-issue organization with a long-term vision to "ensure that the island's fragile ecosystems will be enhanced and its natural beauty protected for future generations."

MICS conserves land through landowner stewardship agreements, land restoration, ecosystem mapping, and stewardship education. A small selection of the many diverse projects MICS has undertaken since its inception include the Henderson Park Garry Oak restoration project, and the Helen Point stewardship initiative in partnership with the Tsartlip Nation. A recent grant from VanCity's enviroFund has launched MICS on a marine conservation project that involves eel grass mapping and monitoring, a forage fish survey and the Active Pass Important Bird Area (IBA) Stewardship Initiative working with BC Ferries and landowners.

In its 2005-2010 Regional Conservation Plan, the Islands Trust Fund identified Mayne Island as a priority area for conservation. With only 4.4% protected area, Mayne Island is one of the least protected islands in the Islands Trust Area. With most of its land base privately owned, the Mayne Island Conservancy Society has found creative ways to engage the community in conservation initiatives. MICS's most recent initiative—the Mayne Island Conservation and Sustainability Project—will actively engage island residents through restoration, habitat monitoring and land management, benefiting the island's ecosystems and increasing the awareness of island residents about healthy natural areas.

The Mayne Island Conservancy Society recently received a grant from the Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund to help in its efforts to protect natural areas on Mayne Island. The donated funds will help MICS work with partner organizations to conduct preliminary research into land protection opportunities in the Mt. Parke area. If you would like to join us in helping MICS and other conservancy organizations protect special places in the Gulf Islands through the Opportunity Fund, please visit our website at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donationform.cfm>.

## The Opportunity Fund

The Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund provides donors with a positive and secure way to invest in the ecological health of the Gulf Islands. Created in 2004, the Opportunity Fund grows with donations from the public, from sale of birthday calendars and from interest earned. The Fund is unique in that it helps conservation groups in Gulf Island communities cover expenses most other funders won't reimburse, such as survey or appraisal costs. The Fund also provides funds for land purchase conditional on the community raising a matching amount.

With the focus of the Opportunity Fund being the protection of ecologically-significant land, each donation creates a legacy that meets the needs of today and tomorrow. If you care about the future of island ecosystems, please consider giving generously to the Opportunity Fund.

### A Glance at the Projects the Opportunity Fund Supported in 2007-2008

In July 2007, the Trust Fund Board approved a \$5,000 matching grant to encourage donations to the **Squitty Bay Park Expansion on Lasqueti Island**. Spearheaded by the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy, the fundraising campaign aimed to raise community funds to contribute to BC Parks purchase of a 38.5 hectare waterfront property adjacent to Squitty Bay Provincial Park on Lasqueti Island. The property features almost a kilometre of coastline with sheltered bays and beaches, older forests, a heritage orchard, a salmon-bearing creek, and windswept coastal bluffs. In November, 2007, BC Parks purchased the property with the help of the combined community contribution of \$250,000.

In March 2008, the Trust Fund Board approved a \$1,500 matching grant to the **Save the Salt Spring Creekside Rainforest Campaign**. The Creekside Rainforest is a small but significant patch of coastal temperate rainforest dominated by Western redcedar, Western hemlock, and mature Douglas-fir trees. Moss-draped trees and lush-green ferns make ventures into this special forest a delight for residents and visitors, both young and old. The Save the Salt Spring Creekside Rainforest Appeal group and TLC The Land Conservancy of BC succeeded in purchasing this beautiful and cherished piece of Salt Spring Island in April 2008 after the community raised one million dollars.

In October 2008, the Trust Fund Board awarded the Galiano Conservancy Association a \$5,000 grant to cover a portion of the costs associated with adjusting the property boundary between a privately owned lot and the **Great Beaver Swamp on Galiano Island**, thereby increasing the protected portion of the ecologically-rich wetland. The Great Beaver Swamp is the headwaters of Beaver Creek and is one of the larger wetlands on Galiano Island which only has 7.8 ha or 1.4 % of its land base in wetland areas.

## Explore the islands year round with the Islands Trust Fund **50 Protected Places** Birthday Calendar



The Islands Trust Fund's 50 Protected Places Birthday Calendar is a perpetual calendar that lasts year after year. This calendar features the work of local photographers and highlights the stunning beauty of our protected places.

**100% of all proceeds go to the Opportunity Fund to benefit local conservation projects in the Gulf and Howe Sound Islands.**

**\$17.95 each or two for \$29.95**

Buy the Islands Trust Fund **50 Protected Places Birthday Calendar** online at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donationform.cfm> or by phone **250-405-5186** and support the conservation of special places on the islands.

### ISLANDS TRUST FUND

**Board Members** Louise Bell, Denman Island; Michael Dunn, Mayne Island; Nerys Poole, Bowen Island; Christine Torgimson, Salt Spring Island; Bruce Whittington, Ladysmith

**Staff** Jennifer Eliason, Manager; Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist; Christine Pritchard, Communications and Fundraising Specialist; Nuala Murphy, Secretary



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**Newsletter Design and Production** Beacon Hill Communications Group

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## A Tribute to Howe Sound and the Gulf Islands

Donate online at <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/donationform.cfm> or by mail at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

### SINGLE GIFT

- I want to make a gift to help protect natural habitat in the Islands Trust Area of  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250 Other  \$  
 I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday Calendars for \$17.95 each or 2 for \$29.95

### TRIBUTE GIFT

- I want this to be a gift in honour of a friend or loved one.

Gift recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

### OCCASION

- Birthday  Wedding  Anniversary  Memorial Gift  Mother's Day  
 Earth Day  Other

Your gift recipient will receive a card acknowledging your gift and you'll receive a tax receipt for the full amount.

### GIFT GIVER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I WISH TO DONATE BY

- Cheque (made payable to the Islands Trust Fund)  Visa  Mastercard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER INFORMATION

I am willing to let my name be known as a supporter:  yes  no

### PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ABOUT:

- How to make a land donation to the Islands Trust Fund  
 How to donate a conservation covenant to protect my land  
 How to leave land or money to the Islands Trust fund in my will  
 Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program  
 Please add me to your e-mail list for Islands Trust Fund updates by e-mail