



News Release

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TAX-INCENTIVE TO CONSERVE LAND ARRIVES ON LASQUETI

VICTORIA — Landowners in the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area now have the opportunity to conserve private land while reducing their annual property taxes. The Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund are pleased to announce that with the recent consent of the Powell River Regional District, the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) is expanding to Lasqueti Island and its associated islands.

NAPTEP is a voluntary program that rewards conservation-minded landowners with an annual 65% property tax reduction on portions of their land protected by a conservation covenant. The covenant offers private landowners the opportunity to permanently protect their land while maintaining private ownership, ensuring no matter who owns the land in the future the natural features they love will remain.

While less than 10% of Lasqueti Island is officially protected for conservation, Lasqueti holds some of the last remaining intact ecosystems in the region. With more than 300 hectares of old growth forest and another 4,700 hectares of sensitive ecosystems, Lasqueti offers at-risk species large natural areas in which to live and breed with very little human interaction

The NAPTEP program will give Lasqueti landowners the opportunity to leave a significant legacy for the future, while lessening their financial burden. So far, NAPTEP has helped island landowners protect more than 65 hectares of sensitive ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area. NAPTEP participants report saving up to \$3,700 annually on their property taxes, while protecting areas ranging in size from one to 23 hectares.

“The 65% exemption on our property taxes was what originally enticed us to apply to the program,” said David Collins, recent donor of the Westbourne NAPTEP covenant on Galiano Island. “But the unexpected bonus was learning how we could serve as stewards of our land.”

“While we knew that we would care for our land in our lifetime, we realized that without a covenant there was no guarantee as to what may happen to our cherished forest and Garry oak meadow after we are gone,” said Sylvia Pincott, donor of the Woodwinds NAPTEP covenant. “With a NAPTEP covenant, it is comforting to know those ecosystems will remain on this property in perpetuity. And with the special encouragement of a reduction in property taxes, it is a win/win arrangement.”

To learn more about how NAPTEP could help you protect natural features on your land, please visit the Islands Trust Fund online at <http://islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep.cfm> or contact their office at 250-405-5186 (Victoria) or toll free through Enquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867 (604-660-2421 in Vancouver).

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"CREATING A LEGACY OF SPECIAL PLACES"

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