



# News Release

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## **GANGES BOARDWALK VISION DEPENDS ON SALT SPRING ISLANDERS**

VICTORIA — The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee invites residents to learn about, and help set the vision for the island's busiest commercial and social hub, the Ganges Harbour.

"The Ganges Harbour and the boardwalk around it, is the commercial, cultural and community centre of Salt Spring Island and we want to plan now for its continued vibrancy and success," said Peter Grove, Trustee of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. "As we draft the bylaws governing the use of this critical piece of infrastructure, we want to hear from the people who live, work, and play in the area to set the vision for the Ganges Harbour."

The current boardwalk, located between the Rotary Park and Peck's Cove, was constructed in the 1980s as a collaborative initiative between public agencies and community volunteers. However, due to lack of statutory rights of way to ensure public access, many portions of the boardwalk fell into disrepair over the decades, with private landowners making repairs at their own expense.

Recognizing the value of the area to the community, and in order to realize the long-standing community goal of a continuous harbour-side walkway, the SSILTC has contracted IPS Island Planning Services to help develop bylaws and land use plans that reflect the Official Community Plan and community input.

As the first step in the process, islanders are invited to two public meetings to learn more about the project and to help develop the community vision.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Topic:** A review of the environmental and technical issues related to completion of the boardwalk, presentations and a question and answer session with professionals, experts and contractors.

**Date:** Saturday, January 30, 2016

**Time:** 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Topic:** Community visioning for the Ganges boardwalk

Both meetings will be held at the Hart Bradley Hall (Lion's Clubhouse), 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island.

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Preserving *island* communities, culture and environment

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

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The community vision will help the consultants develop the draft bylaw, as well as provide meaningful information to the various agencies involved in the implementation of the Ganges Boardwalk project. Staff will present the draft bylaws to the LTC by the end of March 2016 for consideration and to determine next steps.

More information about the project is available under projects and initiatives at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saltspring](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/saltspring).

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through 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 and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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