



News Release

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ISLANDS TRUST LAUNCHES ONLINE MAPPING TOOL

VICTORIA – The Islands Trust has now launched its new online mapping system – MapIT – identified on their web site with a new logo for easy access: www.islandstrust.bc.ca

“This is a very exciting new online mapping tool that gives islanders quick online access to much of the same mapping information that our staff and trustees use during the land use planning process,” said Linda Adams, Chief Administrative Officer. “Now you can explore the islands with the click of a mouse in your own home. Or you can build your own custom map of a single property or an entire island. I think this will be a particularly useful and interesting tool for homeowners, community groups, students and businesses that need property information, but anyone interested in knowing more about the islands or specific properties will find it helpful.”

Over several years, Islands Trust staff have assembled mapped data in cooperation with several other agencies. MapIT puts it all in one place, matches it to legal property lines and makes it easily accessible to the public. The new mapping interface provides many new features, such as more frequent updates of geographic information and simple, fast and informative data exploration and discovery tools. Highlights include:

- intuitive easy-to-use interface;
- up-to-date information, including sensitive ecosystems, zoning and publicly-available property information such as assessment and land title data;
- access to Trust-wide topographic, contour, road, lot line, and air photo data;
- standard web map tools and functionality that allow you to control visible layers, adjust transparency, and explore associated features;
- mark-up tools for adding text and graphics to your map;
- measuring tools to determine distance or area;
- access to current and historical air photos;
- integration of Google Street View (where available);
- printable maps and reports; and
- compatible with standard web browsers.

“MapIT will be a living tool, continuously growing and evolving”, said Adams. “The next step is to link the zoning classification for each property directly to the relevant land use bylaw. The best part is MapIT is friendly to the environment and to the public as we won’t need to charge now for printed maps.”

The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment 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 including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox (excluding Texada Island). The area is approximately 5200 square kilometres in size and includes 13 major islands and over 450 smaller islands.

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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
