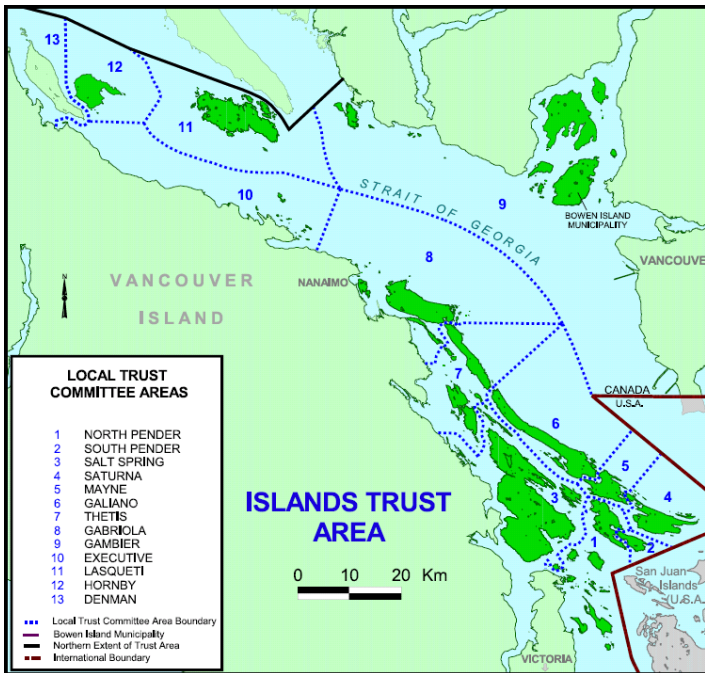




Islands Trust

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES ISLANDS TRUST LOCAL GENERAL ELECTIONS 2008



What is the Islands Trust?

The Islands Trust is a unique federation of local island governments with a provincial mandate (from the Islands Trust Act) to make land use decisions that will “preserve and protect” British Columbia’s Gulf Islands. The Islands Trust also includes a land trust (Trust Fund Board) that holds land and covenants for conservation purposes.

Where is the Islands Trust Area?

The 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 (excluding Texada Island). The area is approximately 5200 square kilometres in size and includes 13 major islands and over 450 smaller islands.

Who makes up the Islands Trust and what do they do?

Like other communities in British Columbia, island communities elect their local representatives for the Islands Trust every three years. There are two **Local Trustees** elected for each group of islands designated as a **Local Trust Area**. Together with an appointed Chair, Local

Trustees are responsible for land use decisions within their respective Local Trust Area, excluding First Nation reserves. Each **Local Trust Committee** has land use jurisdiction over a major island, plus smaller islands and surrounding waters. **Bowen Island Municipality**, an incorporated island municipality with an elected Council, is responsible for municipal functions, including land use. Two Municipal Trustees represent Bowen Island Municipal Council on the Islands Trust Council. British Columbia’s Local Government Act guides land use decisions in the Islands Trust Area.

The 24 Local Trustees and 2 Municipal Trustees form the **Islands Trust Council**, which makes decisions about overall policy, staff resources and budget. The Islands Trust has a staff of 44, with offices on Gabriola and Salt Spring Islands and in Victoria. Positions include land use and policy planners, researchers, mapping technicians and support staff. Funding for operations comes from property taxes, provincial grants and development application fees.

An **Executive Committee**, consisting of a Chair and three Vice-Chairs elected by the Islands Trust Council, guides day-to-day operations and cooperative relations with other levels of government. It also reviews the land use bylaws of Local Trust Committees and Bowen Island Municipality to ensure consistency with the Islands Trust object. Executive Committee members serve as Chairs of Local Trust Committees.

The Islands Trust Object
“to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia”
-- the Islands Trust Act

When will elections be held for Islands Trust trustees?

General local elections for local government officials in British Columbia (including trustees for the Islands Trust) take place every three years. **The next general voting day is Saturday, November 15, 2008.**

What are some of the important dates leading up to the elections?

Here are some dates and deadlines regarding the 2008 General Local Elections:

September 30, 2008	Nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m.
October 10, 2008	List of electors becomes available for review and objection Nomination period ends at 4:00 p.m.
October 14, 2008	End of opportunity to register objections to names on the list of electors 4:00 p.m. – Deadline for challenge of nominations.
October 14, 2008	4:00 p.m. – Deadline for nominations if there is an extension due to insufficient candidates.
October 15, 2008	Last day to move or buy property and qualify as an elector.
October 17, 2008	4:00 p.m. – Deadline for withdrawal of candidates
October 20, 2008	4:00 p.m. – Declaration of election by voting or of candidates elected by acclamation
November 5, 2008	Advance voting opportunity (additional advance voting day may be scheduled in some locations – see local advertisements for details)
November 13, 2008	4:00 p.m. – Deadline to challenge the eligibility of an elector using a mail ballot (applies to residents of Bowyer and Passage Islands)
November 15, 2008	GENERAL VOTING DAY

Who administers General Local Elections in the Trust Area?

The Islands Trust is responsible for coordinating its General Local Elections process. For cost-effectiveness and for the convenience of voters, it contracts with the following Regional Districts for administration of its elections.

LOCAL TRUST AREA	REGIONAL DISTRICT
Denman Hornby	Comox Valley www.comoxvalleyrd.ca
Gabriola	Nanaimo www.rdn.bc.ca
Galiano / Mayne North Pender / South Pender Salt Spring / Saturna	Capital www.crd.bc.ca
Gambier	Sunshine Coast www.scrd.ca
Lasqueti	Powell River www.powellriverrd.bc.ca
Thetis	Cowichan Valley www.cvrld.bc.ca

Maps showing the boundaries of Local Trust Areas and Bowen Island Municipality are available on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lup/map/default.cfm>

Municipal trustees for Bowen Island are determined as part of the election process for the Bowen Island Municipal Council. Additional information about elections on Bowen Island is available from the Chief Election Officer at Bowen Island Municipality: http://www.bimbc.ca/local_government_elections

Who may run for election?

You may run for local government office in BC if you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- are at least 18 years old on election day
- have lived in BC for at least six months, and
- have not been disqualified from voting in a BC local election

You do not have to live in the jurisdiction in which you are running for office.

For more information for candidates in local elections, please see the **Candidates Guide** in your candidate's package or at: http://www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/Elections/

How do electors learn about candidates?

Candidates may request a list of registered electors from those regional districts that maintain such lists. The Islands Trust is not permitted to release contact information for property owners in the Trust Area.

The Islands Trust will not assist in your campaign, but will post basic candidate information on its web-site. During the campaign period the Islands Trust will post your nomination papers and provide an optional space for a photo and short biographical statement. Please provide this before the nomination period ends on **October 10**. After the election, we will post campaign finance disclosure documents (mandatory for all candidates, even if a candidate withdraws and even if no money is spent or raised).

Candidates must review the new requirements under the Local Government Act regarding campaign organizing and financing. The provisions apply as soon as you or your campaign organizers spend or raise \$500 for a campaign. Please review sections 83 to 93 of the Act:
http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/L/96323_03.htm

What are standards of conduct for elected officials?

All elected local government officials in BC must make an Oath of Office, must disclose financial information, and must comply with certain ethical conduct rules in accordance with the Community Charter. This statute provides rules regarding topics such as conflict of interest, insider information, influence, gifts and confidentiality. Violation of these rules can lead to disqualification from office. Islands Trust Council has also adopted a policy on standards of conduct. Candidates should familiarize themselves with these rules and standards to ensure they are comfortable with them before running for election. Specific guidelines about conduct are available on the Islands Trust website.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/pdf/electionstandardsofconduct.pdf>

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/pdf/electionstatutoryrulesofconduct.pdf>

How much time does it take to serve as a trustee?

Time commitments for trustees vary considerably, based on the population they represent and the number and types of land use issues that face their community.

Most Local Trust Committees meet monthly. Some Local Trust Committees may meet less frequently but there is a minimum requirement of at least two meetings a year. The purpose of these business meetings is to deal with land use planning applications and long range planning projects. Local Trust Committees may hold other meetings to obtain community opinion or to meet statutory requirements. Local Trust Committees are supported by planning and administrative staff. Municipal Trustees (on Bowen Island) do not have Local Trust Committee meetings. They attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Bowen Island Municipal Council which are held twice a month, as well as other meetings related to Bowen Island Municipality.

Trustees also spend time meeting, speaking or corresponding with community members and attending meetings of other organizations.

All trustees attend four annual meetings of Trust Council. Trust Council holds most of its meetings on different islands throughout the Trust Area, although the December meeting is traditionally held in Victoria.

Most trustees also sit on one of the committees of Trust Council (Local Planning, Financial Planning or Trust Programs) or on the Trust Fund Board, each of which meets at least quarterly.

In December 2008, Trust Council will elect four trustees to sit on the Executive Committee, which meets bi-weekly. Each member of Executive Committee also serves as the Chair of one or more Local Trust Committees, leading to a more demanding work load and much more inter-island travel.

The Islands Trust Fund Board is a separate body of the Islands Trust and it consists of three trustees (two elected by Trust Council and one appointed by the Executive Committee) and up to three people appointed by the Minister of Community Services. The Islands Trust Fund can acquire and manage land for conservation, hold conservation covenants on private land and accept donations to help preserve places of natural significance or cultural value within the Trust Area.

Potential candidates may wish to speak to current or former trustees to get a better sense of time commitments. www.islandstrust.bc.ca/contact/trustee.cfm

What is the remuneration for trustees?

Trustees receive remuneration for their service to their community, reflecting the population size and level of work in their community, with the following amounts approved for October 1 2008.

Local Trust Area or Municipality	Annual Trustee Remuneration
Bowen	\$3,036
Denman	\$7,260
Gabriola	\$9,900
Galiano	\$7,760
Gambier, Hornby, Mayne	\$7,520
Lasqueti, Saturna, South Pender, Thetis	\$7,000
North Pender	\$8,300
Salt Spring	\$12,752

Those trustees who serve on the Executive Committee receive an additional amount as listed below:

Executive Committee Position	Annual Remuneration
Chair	\$33,851
Vice Chairs	\$27,081

Trustees who are elected to the Trust Fund Board are paid an additional \$150 for each of six annual board meetings. Trustees are also reimbursed for costs they incur to travel to meetings, according to a standard expense schedule.

Where can I find more information?

General information about local elections in British Columbia is available at the provincial website: www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lqd/gov_structure/Elections/

Please check regularly for Islands Trust election information on-line and sign up for a subscription to receive ongoing election updates by e-mail: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/elections.cfm

Additional information about the Islands Trust is available from Islands Trust staff (250-405-5151) and on the Islands Trust website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca. For toll free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver 604-660-2421 and elsewhere in B.C. 1-800-663-7867

Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment