

Lasqueti Island

Conserving this Special Place



Coastal Douglas-fir forests, rare species, wildflowers, forage fish, abundant birds and a caring community.

The Heart of Our Island

The size and type of forests on our island are rare. Lasqueti Island lies at the heart of the *Coastal Douglas-fir zone* (CDF), a provincially-listed ecosystem which is less than 1% of B.C.'s land base. The ecosystems in these forests are among the most endangered in B.C. Lasqueti contains one of the largest areas of the Coastal Douglas-fir forest in BC! We have an opportunity to protect the heart of the *Coastal Douglas-fir Zone*.

Species at Risk

Our island is a sanctuary for a number of officially listed species at risk of disappearing in B.C. These are categorized provincially as red listed (facing imminent extinction) or blue listed (at risk). Our



Blue Camus at Finneties, Gordon Scott photo

forests support the threatened giant chain fern and hosts one of the only populations of hairy gumweed in the province. As well, asqueti is one of only a few homes providing critical habitat for the red-listed Rigid apple moss.

Population Growth

We have a relatively small population, yet it continues to grow. Between 2006 and 2011, Lasqueti and the surrounding islands' population grew by 18%. Although 11.9% of the Lasqueti local Trust Area is protected, much of that protected area lies in the surrounding islands and islets. With continued growth and development, areas on Lasqueti are threatened with fragmentation.



The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC), formed in 1997, provides information on conservation and works with partners to acquire legal interests in land for the benefit of nature and the public. (lasqueti.ca/linc)

The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) is a conservancy for Canada's islands in the Salish Sea.

Together we can help protect natural and cultural values for the future.

Legacies on Lasqueti

A number of people have left legacies by creating protected areas on the island. These places are gifts to the community where people can go to be immersed in nature, and plants and animals can remain undisturbed. We hope you will help us continue these legacies.

Kwel Nature Sanctuary

In 1999, Amelia Humphries donated her 21 ha. forested property at Tucker Bay so that the people of Lasqueti could continue to experience its beauty. Kwel Nature Sanctuary now protects maturing and old-growth forest, a reminder of the magnificent stands that formerly occupied much of Lasqueti.

Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve

In 2005, the Gordon family donated 58 hectares to create the Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve. Because of the foresight of the Gordons, future generations will always be able to enjoy the beauty and wildlife found on Lasqueti's highest peak.

Squitty Bay Provincial Park

In 2008 many people joined the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy and the Islands Trust Fund to successfully raise \$250,000 towards the purchase of the Iverson/Tyler property, which quadrupled the size of the Squitty Bay Park.

Mt. Trematon from the Osland Nature Reserve, Islands Trust Fund photo



Johnny Osland's Legacy

For 62 years, Johnny Osland cared deeply about the veteran old-growth firs he shared his property with. He wanted to ensure they remained protected past his lifetime.

In his will, Johnny left his 64-hectare property to the Islands Trust Fund to be protected as a nature reserve. Walking through the John Osland Nature Reserve today, we are grateful for his legacy.

What's At Risk?

Forest Ecosystems:

The Province describes ecosystems using the italicized categories below.

Lasqueti is lucky enough to still have a few areas of Old Forest (older than 250 years). Mature Forests (80 – 250 years) comprise 66% of Lasqueti's forests. These forests are vital for their biodiversity, providing habitat for wildlife. In our world of changing climates, these forests are the lungs of our planet, absorbing carbon while cleaning the air and releasing oxygen.

The *Woodland Ecosystem* is dominated by a mix of deciduous and coniferous species, including maple, alder, arbutus and the treasured juniper tree. These woodland areas connect to other sensitive ecosystems - the *Cliff* and *Herbaceous Ecosystems*. All three of these ecosystems are found on Lasqueti, providing habitat for wildflowers, lichens, ancient mosses, butterflies and several rare species.



Mergansers in Boat Cove, Sheila Harrington photo

Marine & Fresh Water Ecosystems:

The diverse ecosystems associated with water are: *Wetland, Freshwater, Riparian, Marine Riparian* and the *Beaches, Bluffs, and Nearshore Ecosystems*. Even though Lasqueti is a relatively dry and rocky island, the small pockets of these ecosystems that still exist are fragile, providing nesting and feeding grounds for birds and fish. There are a few bays on Lasqueti that are spawning grounds for remnant populations of Pacific herring, Pacific sand-lance and Surf smelt. We also have a few of the dwindling kelp and eelgrass beds, which are essential shelter and feeding grounds for fish.

Birds:

The forests, gardens, lakes and the ocean surrounding Lasqueti Island provide birds with nesting sites, food and wintering areas. Many birds we commonly see migrate to nest here: robins, white-crowned sparrows, rufous hummingbirds, common and hooded mergansers and Pacific wrens.

Blue-listed birds, whose numbers are decreasing, also nest here: Olive-sided flycatcher, Band-tailed pigeon, Barn swallow and Purple martin. Many birds that nest in the interior of the province come to the coast for the winter. Goldeneyes and buffleheads are common in the bays, while further out it is not unusual to see the blue-listed Marbled and Ancient mur-relets. Large rafts of Long-tailed ducks and Surf scoters, both blue listed, have been seen off the Lasqueti shore.

Conserving Natural Areas on Lasqueti and Surrounding Islands

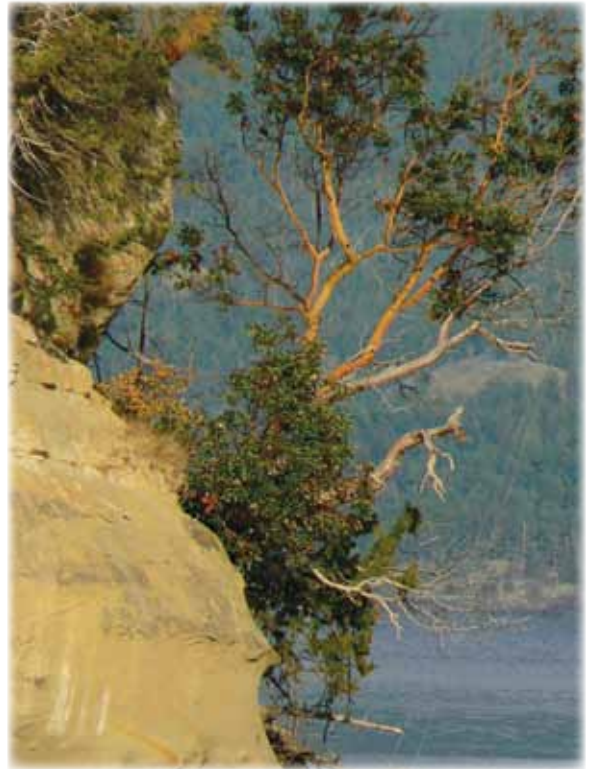
Some land owners want to protect a part or all of their land's natural or cultural features so that it remains intact for future generations. Other motivations may include conserving a particular area, ensuring privacy from neighbours or sorting out the future use of a property now shared by members of an expanding family or community group. Others may see conservation as a way to resolve property or income tax challenges.

Whatever your motivations are, protecting a part of your land will create a legacy. You will preserve biodiversity, wildlife and other ecological services - such as clean water, clean air, and carbon sinks while providing a public benefit that will last into the future.

If you would like to help conserve natural areas on our islands there are a number of creative options for you to consider:

Conservation Covenants: Owning your Land and Protecting Special Areas

Conservation covenants are designed to help landowners permanently protect natural features on their land. A conservation covenant is a legal agreement in which a landowner decides to protect all or part of a property by limiting development and/or land use. It is registered on the land's title, ensuring that future owners of the land will continue to follow the terms of the covenant. Conservation land trusts, such as LINC and ITF, will be registered as covenant holders, helping you protect your land for years to come.



Lindberg Island, Sheila Ray Photo

A covenant ensures the natural features of your land remain, while allowing for natural changes to occur. This is a creative way of leaving a legacy of conservation for the future, while still retaining the regular rights of ownership to live on, enjoy or sell the land.

Tax Exemptions for Covenants

Register your covenant through the Islands Trust Fund and you could be eligible to receive an annual 65% exemption on your property tax bill for the protected portion of your property. This means more money in your pocket in exchange for leaving the natural features on your land alone for native species to enjoy. Learn more at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/naptep

Conservation Options (con't)

The following are some of the ways a gift of land might fit your particular circumstances.

Donation

An outright donation – a straight transfer of title – is the simplest way you can leave a legacy of a nature reserve. In most cases, you will be eligible for a tax receipt for the value of the land.

Bequest

A bequest is an outright donation of land, but delayed until the end of your life. You can make a bequest of land by specifying in your will that your land be transferred to the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy or Trust Fund Board.

Life Estate

By donating a life estate, you can give your property to LINC or ITF now, but continue living on the property for the rest of your or a family member's life. Once you or the person you designate no longer lives on the property, the land will be protected as a nature reserve.

Bargain Sale

You may wish to see your land protected, but you can't necessarily afford to donate your property outright. In some circumstances, LINC and the ITF may be able to fundraise to purchase your property at a reduced cost. If your sale price is 80% or less of the appraised value, you may receive a tax receipt for the difference through Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program.

Subdivide for Nature

By using Section 99 of the Land Title Act, we can help you subdivide the natural portion of your property for a nature reserve, separated from the remainder of the property you live on, without going through the usual subdivision approval process and associated costs. Using Section 99, you can reduce your property taxes by removing a portion of the land, while ensuring the newly created lot is never developed.

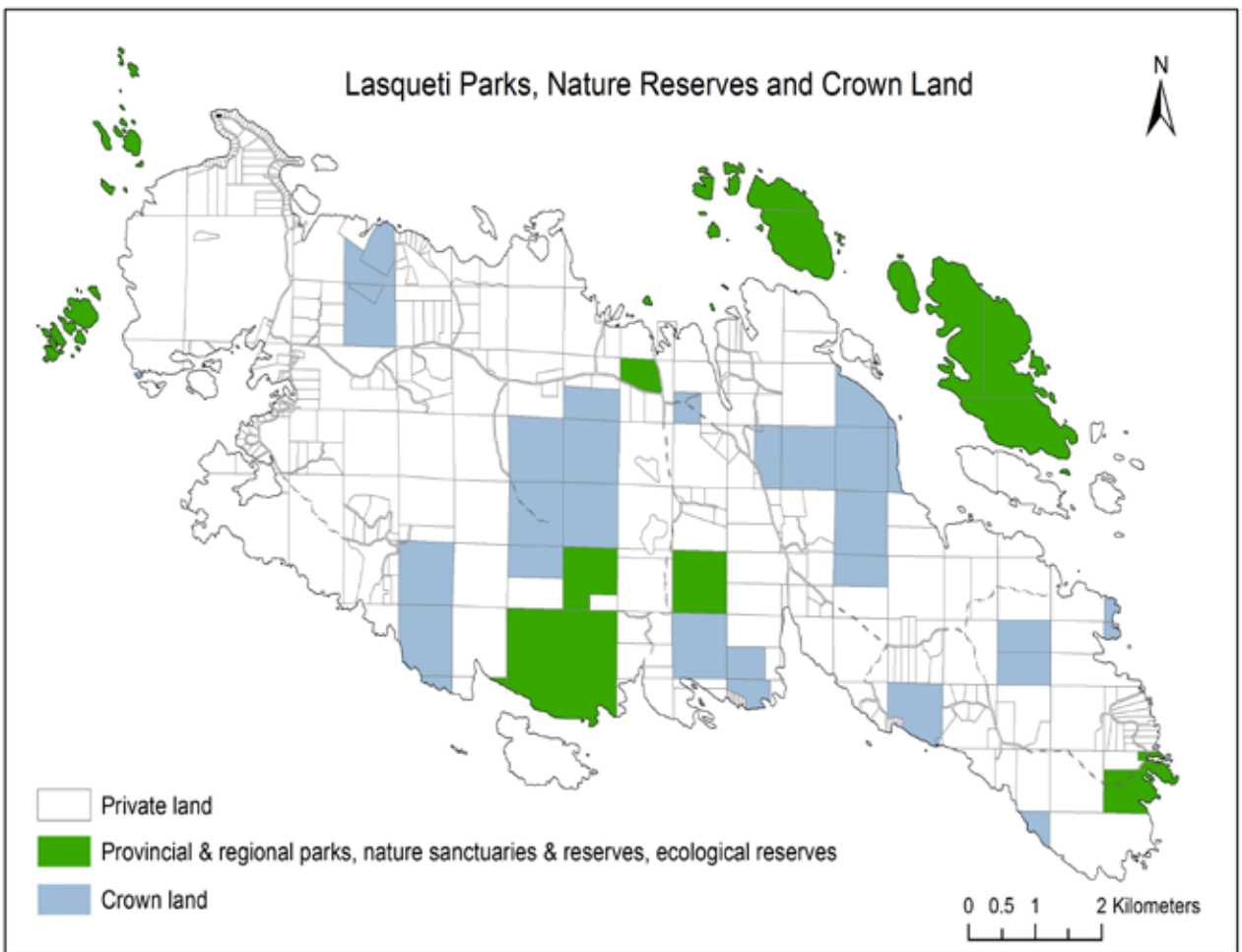




Want More Information on How to Conserve Your Land?

LINC and ITF can help you find ways to meet your land use needs while conserving Lasqueti's natural future. LINC can help you identify the special features on your property and connect you with the resources and professionals you need to create a legacy of protected land. We can also talk about ways land conservation might save you money too.

Contact us to arrange for a LINC or ITF representative to visit with you on your property to learn more. This would be arranged at your convenience so we could walk and share knowledge of the land. A site report can then be generated which would help you plan for the future stewardship, management or conservation of the land.



Graphic Layout: Sheila Harrington, LINC
 Content: LINC and ITF

Squitty Bay Cover, Lisa Gordon, Islands Trust
 Lasqueti Map, Islands Trust Mapping

Lasqueti Island is home to a rich mosaic of ecosystems that are endangered in B.C. You can play an important role in the stewardship of these unique areas. *Please mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope if you want to know more or to join our conservation and stewardship community.*

“Our family chose the Islands Trust Fund as we felt that this conservation group would give local people the strongest role in the protection and care of the land. It has been great to see people take this on over the past seven years through everything from garbage clean-up to tree protection to asking that 4x4s stay out. Now that LINC is a formally-recognized covenant holder, that local role gets even stronger.” (Donald Gordon)