



# News Release

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## **TAX-INCENTIVE TO CONSERVE LAND ARRIVES ON DENMAN AND HORNBY**

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Fund are pleased to announce the expansion of the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) to the Denman and Hornby Island Local Trust Areas. With the consent of the Comox Valley Regional District Board, this innovative property tax exemption program – previously available in the southern Gulf Islands – is moving northwards.

“The NAPTEP program is unique to the Islands Trust,” said Louise Bell, Denman Island local trustee and Trust Fund Board member. “Given its success on other islands, I feel sure it will prove attractive here and increase conservation efforts in the northern 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 program ensures that the covenanted portion of land will remain in its natural state regardless of who owns it in the future.

The program works well for people who own ecologically significant land, and who want to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the islands. It gives 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.”

Landowners on Denman and Hornby Islands are now eligible for the program. To learn more about the program, please join Kate Emmings of the Islands Trust Fund for a NAPTEP information session:

### **Hornby Island**

**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

**2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (presentation at 3:00)**

**New Horizons Centre  
Sollans Road**

### **Denman Island**

**Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (presentation at 7:30)**

**Marcus Isbister Old School Centre  
5901 Denman Road**

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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

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For additional information, 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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