



News Release

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ISLANDS TRUST FUND ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIRPERSON

VICTORIA — Christine Torgrimson has been named the new Chair of the Islands Trust Fund Board. Torgrimson, a Salt Spring Island local trustee, was elected by the Board at its first meeting of 2009.

First appointed to the Trust Fund Board by former Minister of Community Development Ida Chong in December 2007 and elected to the Board by Trust Council in December 2008, Torgrimson brings more than 30 years of experience working with land trusts, conservation groups and other public interest organizations.

“I am delighted with the Board’s decision” said Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust Council Chair. “Christine is highly energetic and a strong supporter of the conservation work the Trust Fund Board undertakes. With her combination of experience and success in the land trust movement, I am confident she will provide strong leadership for both the Board and staff”.

Prior to joining the Trust Fund Board, Torgrimson held the positions of founding Chair of the Gulf Islands Alliance and Vice Chair of the Salt Spring Official Community Plan Economic Sustainability, Jobs and Tourism Focus Group. Torgrimson served as Strategic Advisor, Associate Director and Development Director for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, and co-founded one of the largest and most successful land trusts in the United States.

“I appreciate the vote of confidence from the Board,” Torgrimson said. “I know that, together with our hard-working staff and dedicated conservation partners throughout the islands, we will continue to successfully protect more of the rare and lovely places of the Trust Area. These islands are Canada’s West Coast gems, and I am pleased to be a part of a team pledged to ensure their ongoing natural beauty and integrity.”

Torgrimson replaces Sheila Malcolmson, who was elected Islands Trust Council Chair in December 2008. Torgrimson becomes the seventh chair elected to the Board since its inception in 1990.

The Islands Trust Fund Board governs the Islands Trust Fund, a regional conservation land trust established to help preserve and protect the unique character and environment of the islands in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound. The Islands Trust Fund protects natural areas through voluntary land donations, conservation covenants, land purchase and stewardship education programs. The Islands Trust Fund currently protects more than 975 hectares (2,409 acres) of land on 75 properties.

The next Trust Fund Board meeting is on April 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Islands Trust Victoria office. The meetings are open to the public. The complete meeting schedule for 2009 is posted online at <http://islandstrustfund.bc.ca/board/meetings.cfm>.

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