



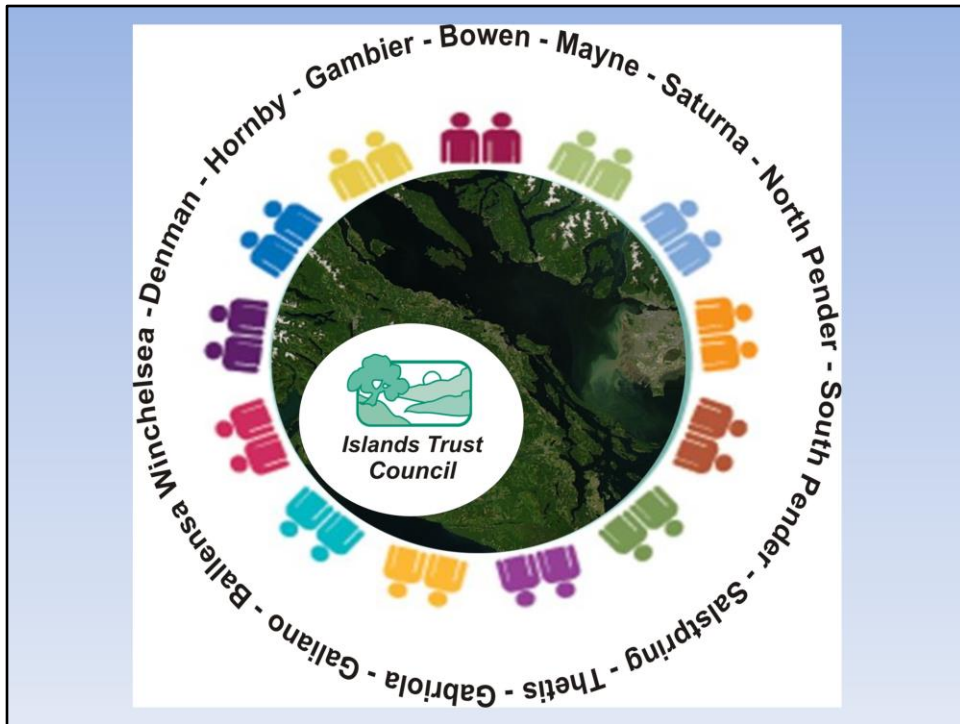
Hello, my name is Peter Luckham, I am a 28 year full time resident of Thetis Island. I like to think I live in the center of my universe, The Salish Sea. I have been elected 9 years on Thetis, this is my fourth term and it is my honour and privilege to be elected by Trust Council to be the Chair. I thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding Islands Trust and thank Bowen Island for hosting this forum and the Squamish Nation for the opportunity to be in their territory.

The Islands Trust

Many things to many people



The Island trust indeed represents many things to many people. 25,000 people live within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners live elsewhere in the province, Canada or around the globe, and yes people confuse us with a financial institution.



The Islands Trust Council is a federation of 13 local government bodies. It is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, land conservation and cooperation with other agencies. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometer's. We are adjacent to the 3rd largest city in Canada. Incidentally Vancouver is North America's second largest Port (in tonnage & physical size - after New York) and is the 4th largest cruise ship terminus in the world.



Islands Trust celebrated its 40th year in 2014 . The formation of the trust by the BC Government in 1974 was a bold and visionary move in what is now called “ecologically-based planning and governance”. The provincial government was advised at that time by an all party select standing committee that “the islands are too important to the people of Canada” and “recommended the creation of an islands trust to be responsible for and coordinate the future of the islands”. *

*Note: paraphrased from the introduction and act 1 scene 2 of Peter Lamb’s book the IT story.

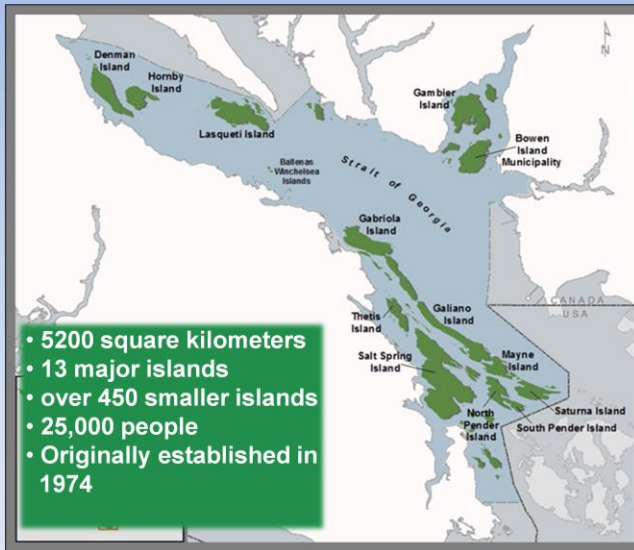
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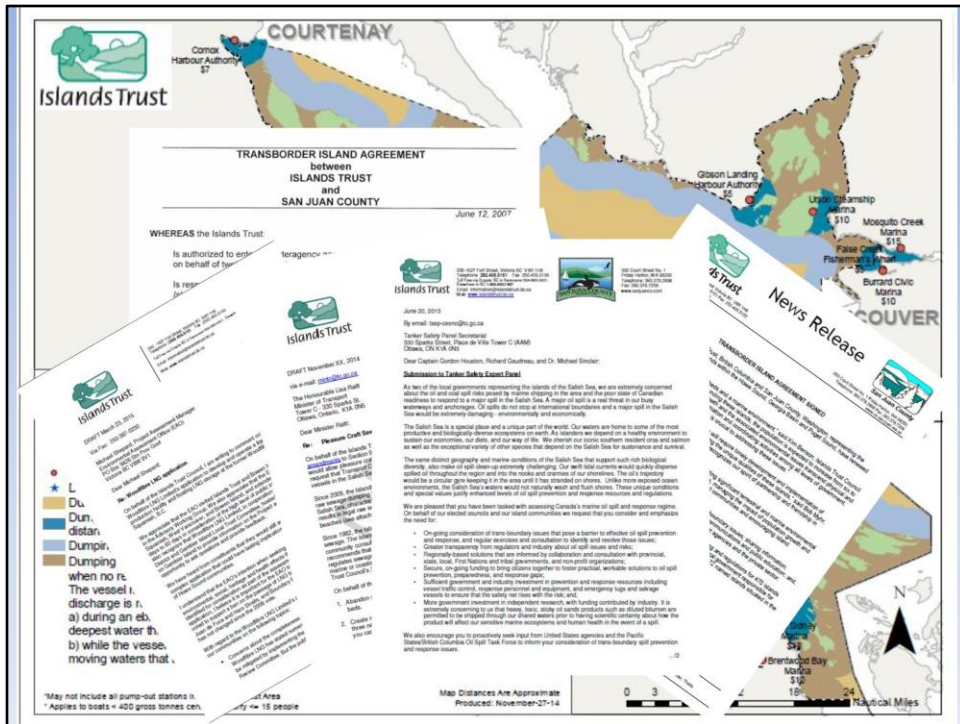
Islands Trust Council

Here is our newly elected council in December 2014. 26 trustees in all. You will find your own Trustees and Councilors here, Sue Ellen Fast, Kate Louise Stamford, Alison Morse and Dan Rogers. I think it is important to put a face to our governments to provide the opportunity to reflect that we are all firstly men & women, husbands & wives, parents and grandparents who have chosen to rise to the challenge of serving their communities. I thank them and I thank all you that also have chosen to serve or be active in your communities.

The Islands Trust Area



A little orientation here, the western extent of the trust area jurisdiction at Baynes Sound, the northern edge in Howe sound and the southern extent at Juan de Fuca strait. I will also point out our friends in the San Juan Islands that we have a unique transborder agreement with.



This agreement has been in place since 2007. We meet annually. This relationship has enabled us discuss issues of common interest and to learn from each other and to draw on each others' knowledge to support our own work and advocacy. Affordable housing, derelict vessels, and marine traffic safety to mention a few.



Now, the Islands Trust Fund is the conservation arm of the Islands Trust. It has an independent board that facilitates land conservation in the trust area. Where Islands Trust is a regulatory body, the Islands Trust Fund is a conservation land trust, protecting land through voluntary measures.

The board is 3 elected members of Trust Council and 3 appointed members by the provincial government. They have a staff of 5 that manage the office and assets and monitor protected properties. The operational costs are supported by the Islands Trust so that all monies donated or raised for land protection go to land protection. Hornby Island Trustee Tony Law is the chair, and one of your own Trustees Kate-Louise Stamford is your elected board member and the chair of the Gambier Island Local Trust committee is also a board member. I sat on the board for 3 years last term and was amazed and stunned by the hard work and generosity that the staff and community provide in support of the protection of lands within the trust. I would now like to turn the mike over to Kate – Louise to fill you in on some of the local details of the Trust fund work.... Kate - Louise Stamford

Islands Trust Fund -Core Functions



Core Functions

Land Protection

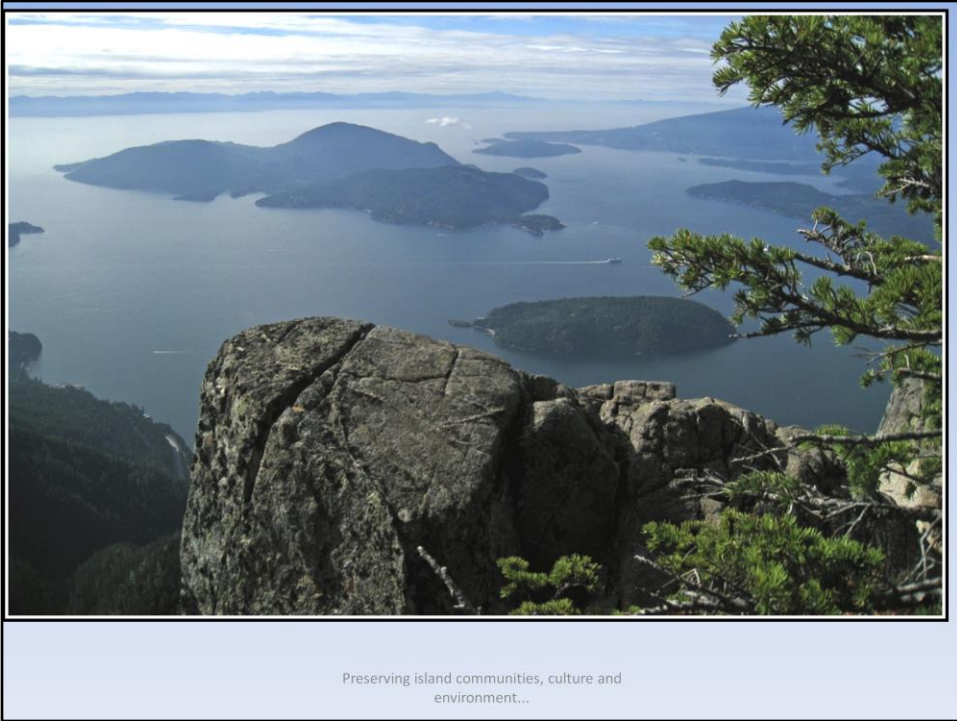
- Conservation Covenants (63)
- Land Acquisition (21) Donation / Purchase

Land Stewardship

- Property management of nature reserves
- Invasive species removal
- Human management (Trail maintenance or decommissioning / Signage)
- Annual Monitoring of owned and covenanted properties

Stewardship Education

- Landowner contact programs
- Conservation information sessions (talks and events)
- Work closely with on-island conservancies and land trusts to reach and educate landowners about conservation initiatives and environmental stewardship



Bowen Island



Preserving island communities, culture and environment...

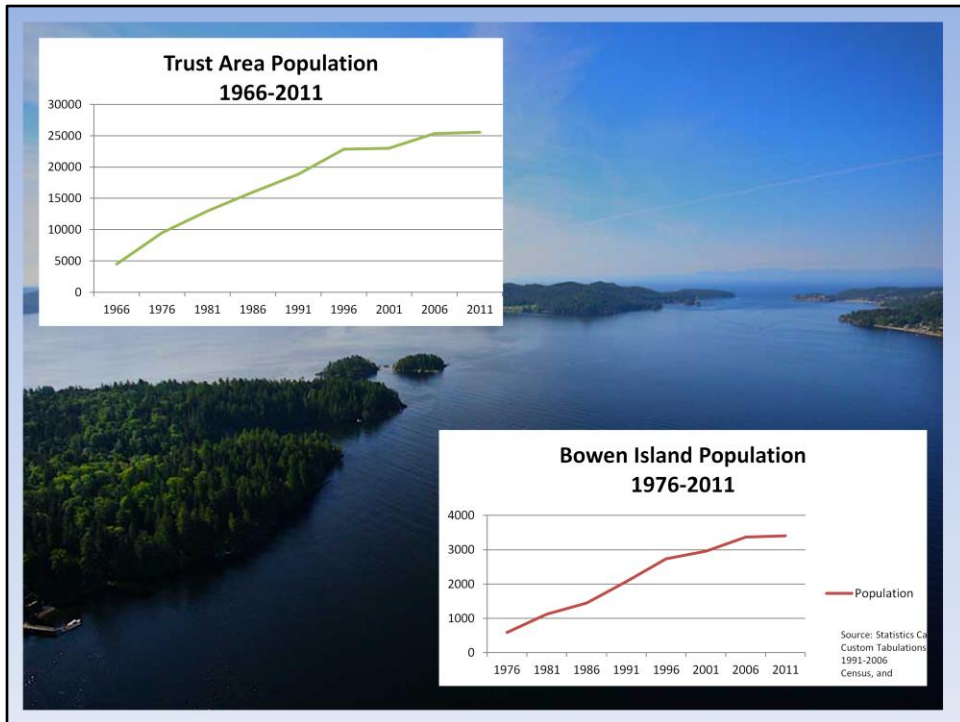
Thormandby Island



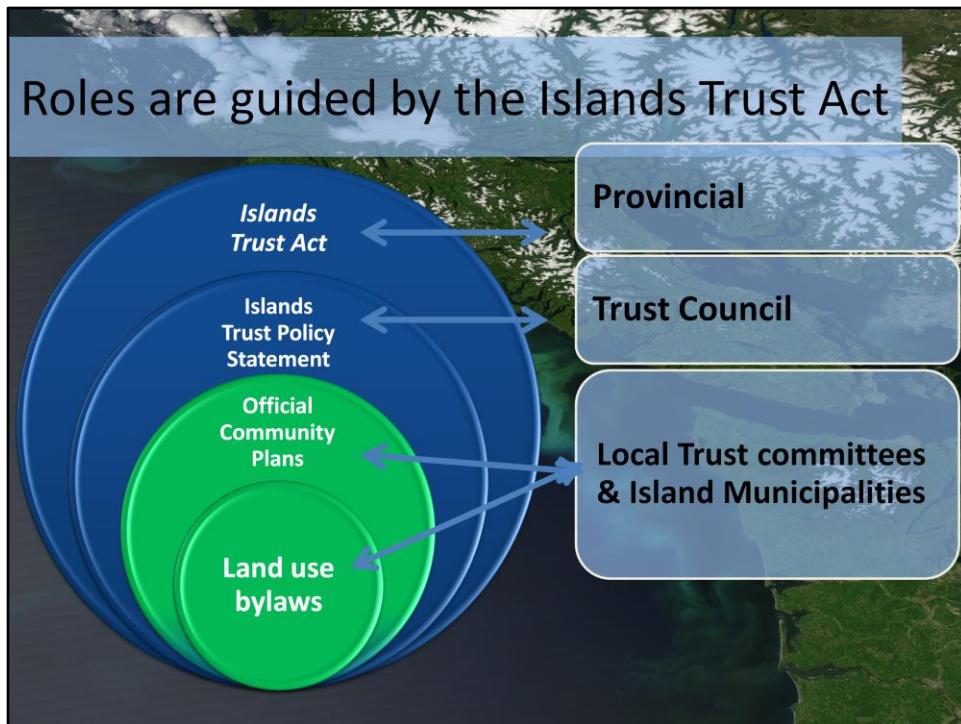
Preserving island communities, culture and environment...

Thank you Kate – Louise.

Gambier Island and Howe Sound are truly stunning places. Trust Council met on Gambier and Keats Island last fall. While I was standing on Keats looking up the sound I could not help but be touched by how beautiful and relatively untouched it is despite being in such close proximity to the 3rd largest city in Canada. This forum and the work going on is essential to retaining the spectacular beauty and diverse environment of this region.



While putting this presentation together I noted that since 1976 the population of Bowen Island has gone from 590 people to around 3500 people in 2011. In this same period the Trust area population has increased from around 10,000 to more than 25,000. Clearly Bowen is a more attractive place and perhaps these numbers give an indication of the pressures from the surrounding urban areas for a rural life style, I am just observing, it's not an official view point but Howe sound certainly warrants our full attention to manage the pressures. Its also significant to note that in the prior 10 years 1966 to 1976 the population of the trust area doubled from 4500 to 9000 people compared to only 2.5 times in the 40 years post Islands Trust. Even so the Trust Area population has grown at one and a half times the rate of Vancouver since if anyone thinks the Trust prevents population growth.



Before I go onto explaining the Islands Trust there are some important details :
 The Islands Trust Act provided to us by the province requires the adoption of the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

Official Community Plans created by local trust committees must be consistent with the with the Islands Trust Policy Statement and the Act.

Land use bylaws created by local trust committees must be consistent with their Official Community Plan the IT Policy Statement and with the Act.

I mentioned earlier 13 local governments make up Trust Council, what is significant about this is the authority those governments have been given through the Act.

The authority is the green circles, Land use Planning tools, if you want to do anything else you must work with other agencies including our own council, and I will get to that shortly.

The Islands Trust Object



Preserving island communities, culture and environment...

Back to the Islands Trust,

The Islands Trust Act provides the following definition of the purpose of the Islands Trust, which is referred to in the legislation as its “object”

To preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Areas and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons, organizations and the government of British Columbia

GOAL ONE



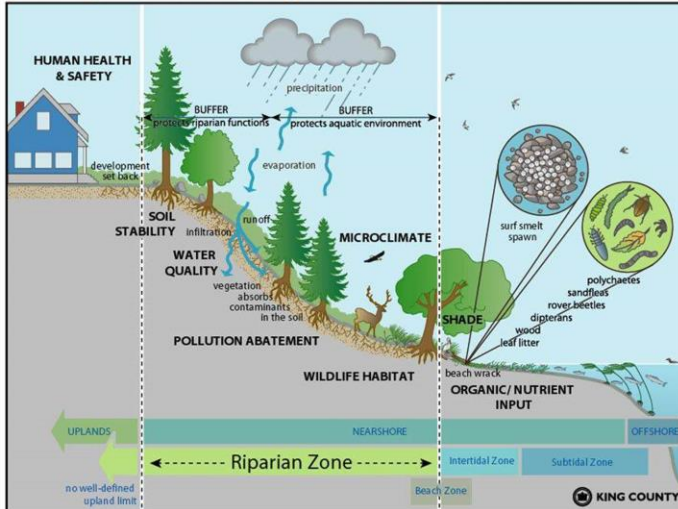
Preserving island communities, culture and environment...

The policy statement required through the Islands Trust Act and approved by the province specifies 3 broad goals :

One: To foster the preservation and protection of ecosystems... Goal one goes on to say "Protection of these ecosystems is essential if they are to remain healthy and productive for the benefit of future generations. And The principle of sustainability must be upheld.

GOAL TWO

Conceptual Model of Marine Riparian Functions



ent...

Goal two states :To ensure that human activity and the scale, rate and type of development are compatible with the maintenance and integrity of ecosystems
The Policy Statement warns that “Indiscriminate use or development of natural resources can threaten the island lifestyles and environments that are valued by the people who live in and visit the Trust Area.”



Goal three: To sustain island character and healthy communities.
In section 5.1.1 of this goal Trust Council holds that the overall visual quality of the Trust Area and its scenic values should be protected from disturbance, particularly those areas that have distinctive features or are highly visible

In cooperation with others...



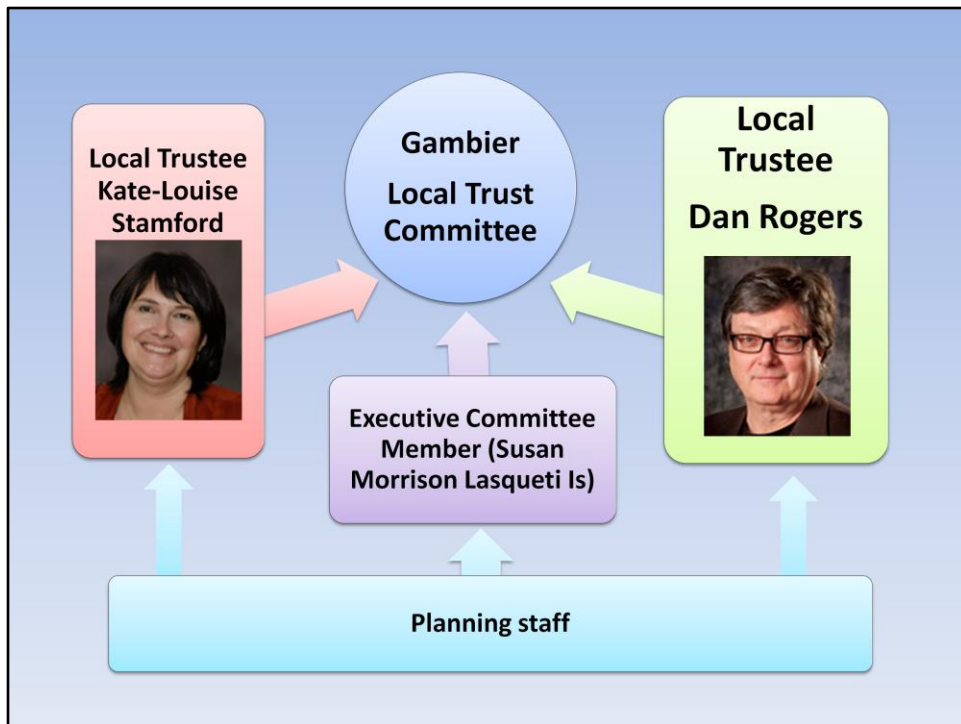
We are told in the legislation through the Object to achieve this work, in cooperation with others.

The Working with others is an increasingly important aspect of what we need to do in order to carry out our mandate to preserve and protect.

We work directly with regional districts including Economic Development Commissions, Building Inspection, Parks and Recreation, Waste Management etc.

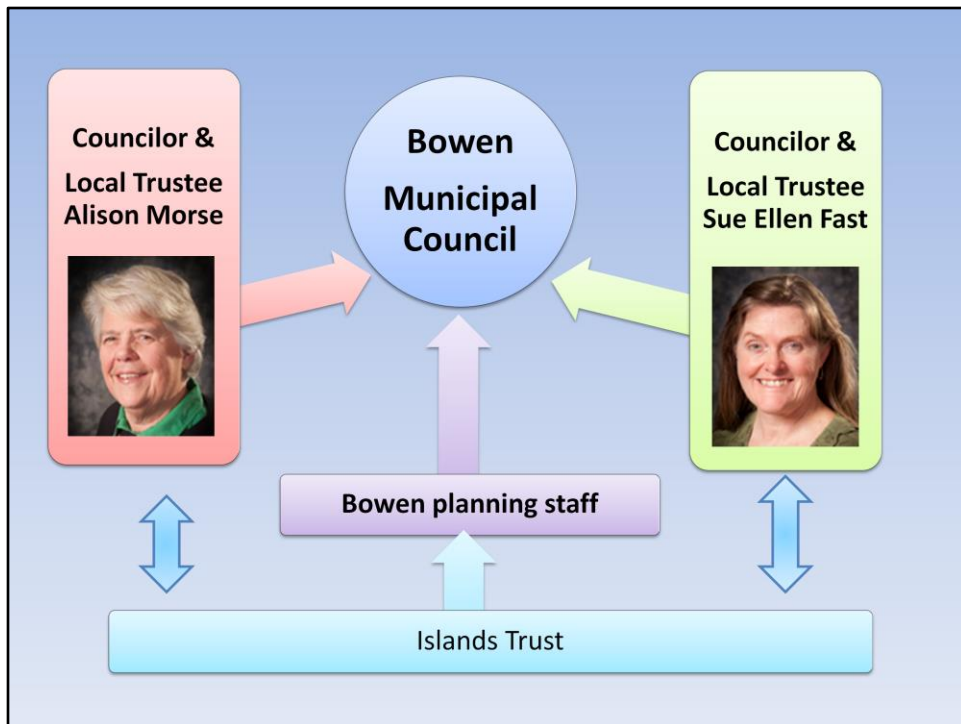
We engage with Provincial and federal ministries responsible for policy and legislation concerning the environment, resources, fisheries, mining to name but a few.

First Nations, let me say our friends and neighbours with whom we must build collaborative relationships, govern together and protect this place for future generations. There are more than 30 Nations that we acknowledge have interests in the Island Trust area and we have been and will continue to work with them. I said earlier how important it is to put a face to our governments. It's even more important in my mind to hear the language of the place in which we live as it is rich in history, and so I say to our Squamish hosts in my poor cowichan dialect Huy ch qu Siem, I lum num a tsun set.



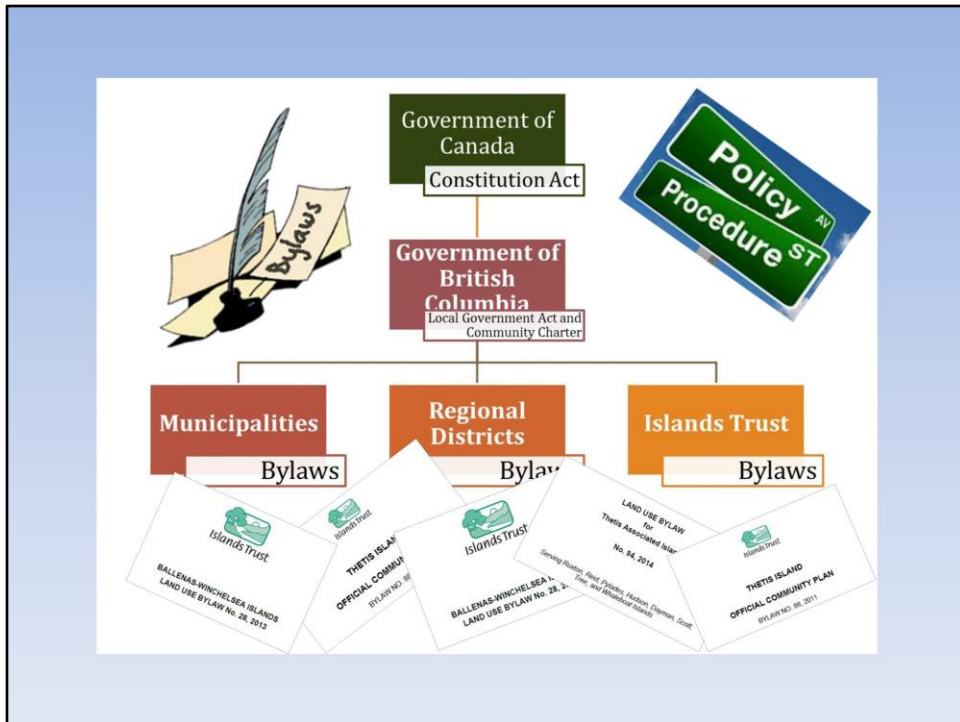
More details, there is a quiz later.

Local trust committees of which there are 13 is where the rubber really hits the road. Each LTC is a three person body, two are locally elected and the Chair is a member of the Executive Committee, appointed by the Chair of Islands Trust. The Chair is full voting member of the LTC who is also a liaison to the rest of the Islands Trust. The Chair is responsible for ensuring LTC meetings follow legal procedures, internal policies, etc.



Now Bowen Island Municipal Council a voting and financially contributing member of the Islands trust council thru its two trustee/councilors that sit on Bowen Council. It is a different creature, no slight intended.

Bowen is the only municipality within the trust and has a unique relationship with the Islands Trust thru the Islands Trust Act and it's letters patent. Bowen Island provides it's own planning services and takes on those responsibilities that regional districts take on at the other LTC's, roads, infnrstructure etc Alison and Sue Ellen can tell you more.



So the theme of this was “many things to many people.” You thought I had gotten lost, right.

So some think there are too many levels of governance, certainly there is plenty but in truth little or no overlap.

The significance for me of the Islands Trust and Bowen Municipality is that it is islanders that are making the land use decisions regarding the Islands.

None the less some think there is too much regulation, some not enough, we honestly try to strike a balance.

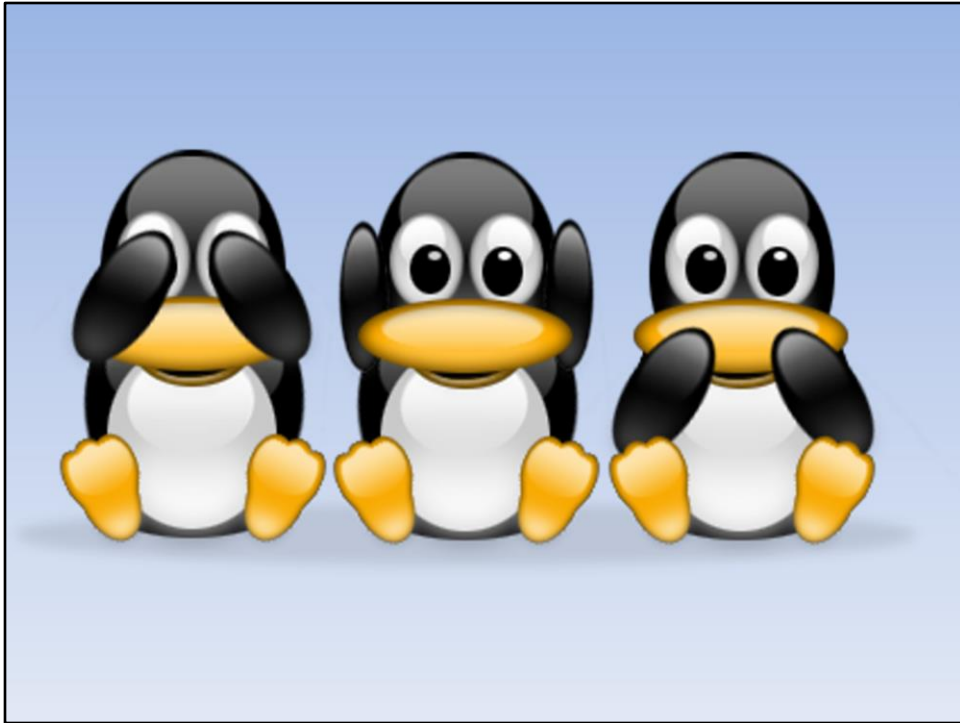
That said within the Island Trust Indeed there are 21 official community plans and 20 land use bylaws, plus various administrative bylaws.



Not every bylaw or even avenue of discussion is popular as many of you that are elected will know.

This collage gives you a sample of the many things that we are to many people. You can see that to some we are the villain urbanizing the islands, others look to us to save the Salish Sea or the defenders of endangered species, to some we are failing to protect the shore lines and the marine habitats.

I do have to mention again that neither the Islands Trust nor the Island Trust Fund operate ATM's.



Finally the biggest dichotomy is that some don't know we are here or what we do particularly especially when some bylaw has been contravened.

Some don't hear or understand our message and we like to think we go over and above.

Although our communities do participate in local decision making we often feel we do not hear from the full depth and breadth of our citizens and property owners.

Despite the fact that we have some of the highest turnouts in Canada during election time, when we go out to solicit public opinion regarding budget or strategic planning the response is often small not what you could call statically reliable as stats can tell us when we ask about demographics. One has to assume that those voices are silent for their own reasons and are either content or not interested.

This makes decision making or policy setting particularly around advocacy and regional or global issues difficult for the elected and I am going to talk about advocacy later. You will want to remember the details covered earlier for the linux quiz later.

Salt Spring Island

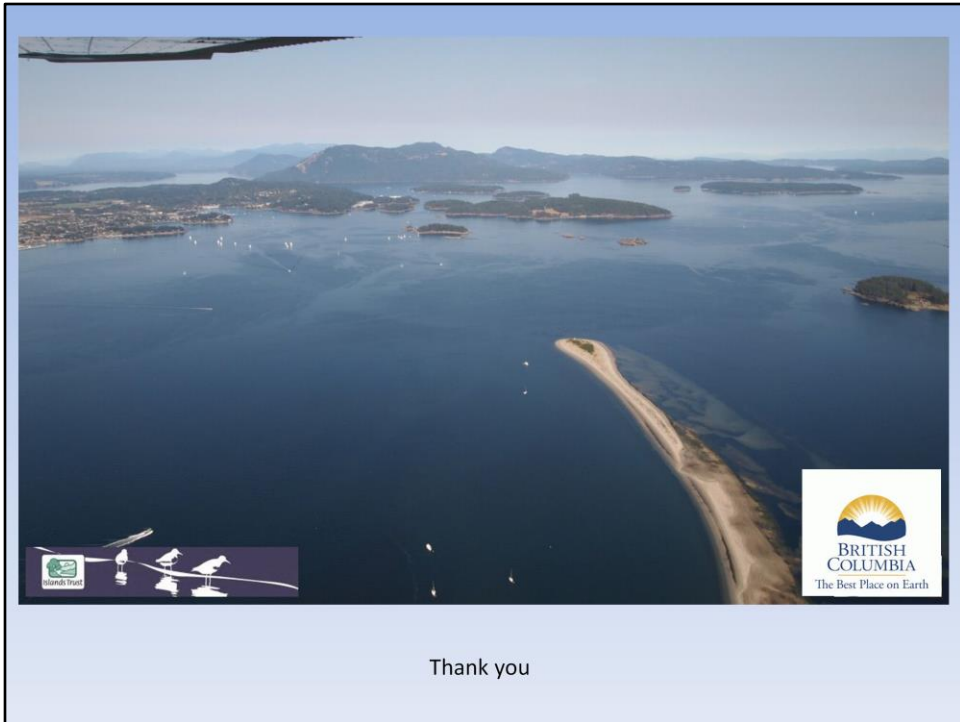
1980s



2008



I am going to leave you with two thoughts. Although this is only one set of photos, in the 28 years between these photos as you can see not much has changed on Salt Spring Island from this particular viewpoint, I will leave it to you to make any conclusions.



Thank you

and to steal from the province's own branding I leave you with this photo of Beautiful British Columbia, the Gulf Island and Howe Sound, indeed "The Best Place on Earth"
Thank you for your patience, see you at lunch