



News Release

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Denman Island Marsh Donated to Islands Trust Fund

VICTORIA — After years of cooperation between the Denman Conservancy Association and an anonymous donor, Islands Trust Fund has received a donation of a significant section of Morrison Marsh on Denman Island.

The 50.5 hectare (125 acre) property contains the southern portion of Denman Island's largest marsh, second-growth forest and rock bluffs. Home to more than 80 bird species, the site is a key waterfowl over-wintering and breeding area. Several species of special concern live on the property, including Great Blue Herons, Hutton's Vireo, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Red-legged Frogs. The property is also home to many other species including beavers, minks, river otters, raccoons, rough-skinned newts, pacific tree frogs, and several endangered/threatened plant communities.

The donor gave the land to the Islands Trust Fund to make sure it would remain in its natural state forever. Under Section 99 of the *Land Title Act* there is a provision for ecological protection that allowed the donor to keep some of the land and donate the remainder as a newly surveyed lot without the usual subdivision approval process.

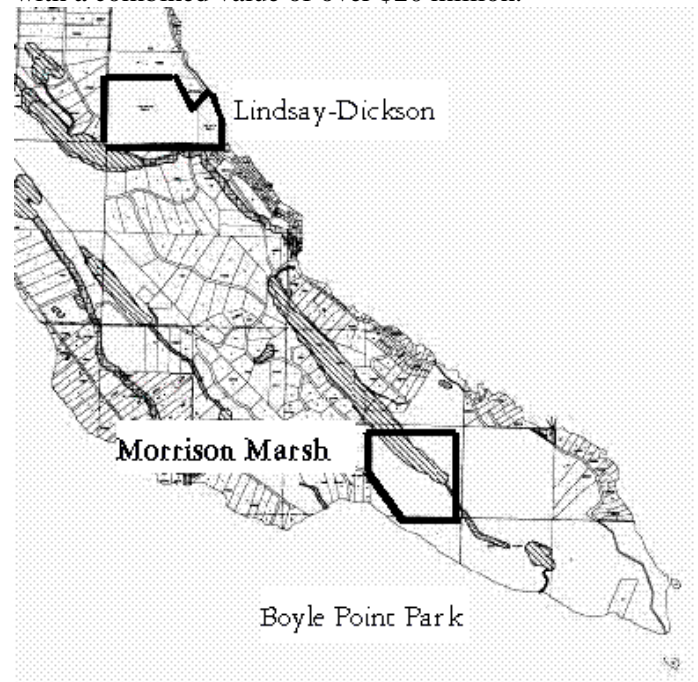
"This donation is regionally significant as freshwater ecosystems make up only 1% of the Gulf Islands. Marshes are essential for migrating birds, contain some of the richest biological areas of the islands, and act as important groundwater recharge areas," said Lisa Dunn, Islands Trust Fund Manager. "We are so impressed by the generosity of the donor and the perseverance of the Denman Conservancy Association."

"It has been a privilege to work with a landowner who has the foresight of 1000 years. The Morrison Marsh is close to the hearts of Denman Islanders and the Denman Conservancy Association looks forward to holding a conservation covenant on the land to further ensure its

protection," commented Patti Willis for the Denman Conservancy Association Board of Directors."

The Islands Trust Fund and the Denman Conservancy will be working with the Denman Island community to develop a management plan for the property. This plan will define short- and long-term management goals for this new nature reserve, including the prospects for public access.

The Islands Trust Fund acts as a regional land trust for the Islands Trust Area. With the generous support of island communities and landowners, it has protected important natural and cultural values on 60 properties with a combined value of over \$20 million.



Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve Location

For more information on Denman Conservancy, and back issues of the Newsletters, see our web site: www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserv