

SILT Q&A

WEB

www.silts.ca

EMAIL

silts@telus.net



What is a Land Trust?

Land trusts are non-profit charitable organizations that serve to protect natural and cultural heritage. Land trusts operate to protect areas critical to the health and survival of threatened animals, plants and ecosystems. In the last ten years, 40 land trusts have been established in B.C.

What is the Savary Island Land Trust (SILT)?

The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) was established to preserve and protect natural areas and biological diversity on Savary Island for present and future generations. SILT was incorporated as a society in October, 1997 and received registered charity status with Revenue Canada in June, 1998. Today SILT has over 200 members.

What are the goals of SILT?

- To acquire land on Savary Island, in order to preserve it for future generations.
- To promote the establishment of wilderness and other natural habitat preserves.
- To encourage, sponsor, teach and support research concerning the environment of Savary Island.
- To raise money and acquire funds and other assistance to achieve the foregoing purposes.

How much property does SILT hold?

Since the first acquisition in 1999, the Trust has received and preserved nine donations of land on Savary. Five lots are at Indian Point and one lot is in the middle of the Island. In 2001 a ten-acre parcel on Sunset Trail was gifted to SILT. One lot near the highest point of the Island in the Green's Point area was donated to SILT and dedicated as the Helen R. McDonald and J. Douglas Hannay Nature Reserve. This year a 2.5 acre parcel of mature forest near the wharf was donated and will be known as the MacDougall Forest.

What are the tax benefits to SILT donors?

Canadian donors to SILT receive a tax receipt for their contributions; this can be used to offset income tax the donor owes. On May 2, 2006 the Federal government improved the benefits for donors. Gifts of ecologically sensitive land made under the Ecological Gifts Program and donations of publicly listed securities are exempt from capital gains.

How does SILT help to reduce density?

SILT helps to reduce density by acquiring land for preservation and by providing grants through the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund.

Can American citizens receive US tax benefits from donations to SILT?

Yes. American citizens residing in the US who make gifts of \$1000 or more to SILT can receive a US tax credit for the gift. Donations designated to SILT may be made through the Tides Foundation in California. Donors may contact Ruth Bender, Philanthropic Advisor, Tides Foundation, Presidio Building PO Box 29903, San Francisco CA 94129. Tel. (415) 561-6347 rbender@tides.org

How do donations to SILT help to preserve sensitive ecosystems on Savary Island?

Savary's ecosystems are globally significant. There is not protection in place for the many sensitive ecosystems on Savary. Lands held by SILT and the ecosystems they represent are protected by SILT for present and future generations.

Does SILT ever resell the land it acquires?

Under the requirement of a special resolution, the SILT constitution may permit the resale of land. However, lands acquired by donation or purchased specifically upon request by a donor who gives cash for that purpose may not be sold.

SILT Executive Director

Liz Webster
Savary (604) 483-4743
Powell River (604) 414-0073

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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What would happen to SILT properties if SILT ceased to exist?

The SILT constitution states that in such an event, the properties must be transferred to another charitable organization with similar goals. This is a condition of being issued charitable status.