SILT Summer Auction and Art Sale to feature Frances Shaw

Frances Shaw is a recognized west coast artist. Born in Vancouver, B.C., she spent her early years in the village of Sidney on the south end of Vancouver Island where she played amongst some of the most beautiful scenery on the coast that later in life would inspire her to create her beautiful art. The Savary scenes that Frances paints really capture the beauty and spirit of the island. They depict familiar Savary landscapes, forests, paths and homes.

Although Frances’ education was in music, she was always exposed to the arts and now paints full time. She has always given back to the community by donating paintings to political events, Eye Appeal CNIB Victoria, Art & Rags Rotary, Waldorf School, Tonquin Foundation, SILT Art Show, Vancouver Foundation, SILT Art Show, Vancouver Foundation.

Frances’ work has been gicleed for resorts and her originals can been seen in galleries and solo exhibitions. She also does commissions.

The event will be at the home of Wynn and Robyn Woodward, 2752 Malaspina Promenade, on Saturday August 13 at 7 p.m. More than ten Savary scenes will be offered by the artist, who will be in attendance.

SILT AGM
Monday August 1, 2004, Savary Island Firehall, 11 a.m. Transportation from the Wharf and Indian Point at 10:45 a.m.

Lot Consolidation Fund Info Session
An Information session about the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund will follow the AGM. Fund Chairman, Rick Shwartz and Committee member Gail Cochran will be in attendance.

SILT Summer Auction and Art Sale
Saturday August 13th, 7 p.m. Wynn and Robyn Woodward’s home, 2752 Malaspina Promenade.

Preservation Highlights
By Liz Webster
As the spring flowers wither, fade and fall, another Savary Summer rolls around. We are pleased this year to get the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund underway and look forward to receiving applications from property owners. This Fund will help address a long legacy of over subdivision which began in 1910. We are thankful for generosity of the Gouin Family which has made this opportunity possible. Currently, 750 acres of the island are divided into over 1710 parcels, an unsustainable situation that needs our action. (See inside for details on how to apply).

SILT was gifted another lot at Indian Point last fall. This brings land held by SILT to eight parcels. We are grateful to the donors who contributed to this acquisition. Setting land aside for preservation is truly a gift to present and future generations. In the last 10 years development has doubled on Savary. This makes preserving sensitive areas and green places in island neighbourhoods increasingly important. We are very thankful for the visionary thinking of our donors and all who contribute to the preservation of the island. Together we are making a difference.

Canadian donors receive a tax receipt from SILT for their contributions; this can be used to offset income tax the donor owes. American citizens living in the US may make gifts to SILT and receive a US tax credit for the gift. Donations designated to SILT may be made through the Tides Foundation in California. (see inside for more details)
Have you ever wondered why Green’s Point is the only area of bedrock on Savary? Or why those tall esdges grow near Rodgers Road? And why Savary is so sandy? The answers to these questions lie in the distant past, when the earth consisted only of rock, water and molten magma, when land masses drifted on the earth’s surface and when glaciers eroded the earth to form its present-day surface.

Green’s (Mace) Point
Millions of years ago magma in the earth’s crust melted domes into the subsurface base of bedrock covering what we now call the Strait of Georgia. Erosion over many thousands of years has exposed the tops of some of these domes, such as at Green’s Point. These domes consist primarily of granodiorite bedrock which weathered slowly to comparatively large crystals of quartz, feldspar and hornblende. Consequently, soil accumulates only in localized pockets, and any available soil structure is quickly lost. These dry conditions and low nutrient availability cannot support trees.

Grasses and wildflowers thrive here in the early spring when the soil pockets are still saturated from winter rains. Over time, these herbaceous ecosystems add organic material to the developing soils, and shrubs and trees begin to move in. Such woodlands are a mosaic of trees and shrubs, which provide habitat for numerous birds and small mammals and insects. Herbaceous and woodland ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to overuse, as shallow soils are easily eroded and slow to recover. The disturbed soils are readily invaded by non-native plants, which then inhibit the growth of native plants. Past sheep grazing at the Point is evidenced by the amount of introduced grasses present today.

Cross Section Southern Cliffs

Sandy Savary
Except for Green’s Point, Savary Island, as we know it, consists almost entirely of bedrock. Glacial deposits (Quada Sands), deposited prior to the last glaciation (Fraser Glaciation). Underlying the Quadra Sands, and of sands, silts and pebbles of the Cowichan Head Formation and the Semiahmoo Drift (40,000 years old). The Quadra Sands were deposited between 29,000 and 25,000 years ago, when the Strait of Georgia was a vast floodplain. Huge amounts of sediment flowed out from the coastal mountains onto the floodplain. Coarse pebbles, cobbles and stones were deposited at the base of the mountains, followed by layers of finer sandy sediments that flowed over the removal. These layers are visible today in the banded sediments of Savary’s eroding cliff faces. During the Fraser Glaciation 14,000–18,000 years ago, Vaushon Drift, made of cobble- and boulder-rich glacial till and glacial sediments were deposited on top of the Quadra Sands. In the thousands of years since their deposition, most of the Quadra Sands in the Strait of Georgia have been washed away. Savary stands in the Strait as an isolated terrace, an exception, a remnant of a once extensive sandy floodplain. With time and erosion, will Savary one day disappear?

Ancient Dunes
Ancestor stabilized sand dunes occur in the central portion of Savary Island. Near the closed airstrip and in much of Savary’s north, 1375 there are extensive areas of forested, mostly surface-stabilized dunes. These dunes developed above the Quadra Sands as a result of strong winds blowing sand dunes upland and inland. These “aerolain” sands have created a pattern of dunes with drier, gentler slopes facing southward, interspersed with steeper, cooler and moister, shaded northerly slopes.

These alternating slopes, ridge and gully sites support rare and vulnerable forest ecosystems. Dune forests include the Western hemlock–lodgepole pine–Racemntronium woodlands that are found on the upper ridges of the forest sand dunes. On the southern section of the dunes, where dune stabilization is more recent, forests of Douglas fir and salal are common. On the cooler, moister, northern side of the island, these forests are replaced by western red cedar–Douglas fir stands. Some of these stands represent remnants of old-growth forests.

Old-growth forest ecosystems influence our environment in various ways, acting as climate regulators, oxygen generators and carbon sinks. Their many unique and important structural attributes also provide important wildlife habitat. The large, old trees in these forests provide cavities and large branches suitable for nesting sites required by certain species, such as eagles and owls. Additionally, these sites contain scattered large snags and large fallen coarse woody debris that provide foraging, resting and breeding habitats for many species, including numerous woodpeckers, small brown bats and ground-dwelling insects. Mature forests are similar to old-growth forests but have not developed to the same level of structural complexity and do not include a significant component of very old trees. They provide habitat for many species and connectivity between ecosystems. The extent of natural old-growth forests is so limited, that mature forests represent the only viable option for increasing the area of old-growth forests over time. Forests are usually considered fairly robust in the face of disturbance, but the occurrence of Savary Island forests on ancient stabilized sand dunes makes them unique, especially since similar areas near Comox have been extensively harvested and developed for housing or sand mining. These dunes are vulnerable to disturbance as the sandy soils are easily eroded by overuse and the removal of stabilizing vegetation. Once removed, recovery of vegetation on these sensitive sites may take centuries.

Stewardship Tip
These uncommon coastal forested dune ecosystems represent the best example of their kind in Canada. Endangered plants and plant communities live here. The dunes are sensitive to surface disturbance and erosion. Stay on paths and do not use wheeled vehicles.

Unlike in wetter coastal areas, fire may play an important role in forest development on Savary Island. The Pacific Forestry Centre of the Canadian Forest Service has been mapping known fire history for the past century. These maps show that on Savary Island, fires occurred at D.L. 1377 and D.L. 1376 in 1920, with the hottest spots on the north side, east of The Meadows, and just west of the forested dunes in D.L. 1375. Another significant fire occurred in 1928 on the north side just west of Green’s Point, past the dock area and just into D.L. 1373. No doubt, other unrecorded fires have occurred on Savary. These fires help explain the age of some of the forests across the island, even though they may have experienced some harvesting and other development since those times.

Dynamic Dunes
Between the base of the steep face below The Meadows and the high water line on the beach, lies a relatively extensive area of sandy deposits that consist partly of wind-reworked beach deposits and
What is a Land Trust?
Land trusts are non-profit charitable organizations that were to protect natural and cultural heritage. Land trusts operate to protect areas critical to the health and survival of threatened plants, animals and wildlife.

What is the Savary Island Land Trust?
The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) was established to acquire and protect natural and biological diversity on Savary Island for present and future generations. SILT was incorporated as a society in Canada in 1997 under the provisions of the federal charity status with Revenue Canada in June, 1998. Today SILT has 150 voting members.

What are the goals of the Savary Island Land Trust?
• 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, 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 acquired and preserved eighty-eight donations of land on Savary. Five lots are on Beatty Point and one lot is in the middle of the Island. In 2001 a ten-acre parcel on Sunrise 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.

What happens to these properties if SILT ceases to exist?
The SILT constitution states that in such an event, the properties must be transferred to a registered charity, in a manner consistent with the original goals. This is a condition of being currently registered as a charity.

Does SILT ever sell the land it acquires?
Under the requirement of a special resolution, the SILT constitution does permit the resale of land. However, land held will not be sold except under extraordinary circumstances and conditions. So for all intents and purposes, once acquired, land is not resold.

How do land donations to SILT help reduce density on Savary?
The overall density of people on the Island is reduced as property is transferred from developable to preserved status.

What are the tax benefits to SILT donors?
A tax receipt, which can be used to offset income tax the donor owes, is provided. In the case of donations to SILT, the property is part of the sensitive land, the donor may use the entire tax receipt in one year. Donations of stock, property or shares that trade on the stock exchange provides donors with the best return on his/her tax receipt in one year. Donating property to preserve it for future generations.

стведства Tip to the spread of invasive species, and limit damage to native plants when in the area, use existing paths, walk gently, and avoid leaving wheeled vehicles at home. Do not play on, dig into or slide along the dunes. Avoid areas with fragrant vegetation cover.

Sunset Trail and Rodgers Road Wetland
The huge boulders on the beach of the southwestern portion of Sunset Trail, and at Mystery and Stradiotti Reefs, were rafted to their current locations on and in glaciers of the Fraser Glaciation period. Their offshore distribution suggests the former extent of Savary Island and a likely connection south to Harwood Island and north to Hernando Island. Some boulders, still buried by the island sands, are well known by many landowners who have tried to excavate for various purposes.

Wetlands are areas where high water levels (either at or near the soil surface) determine the type and growth of plants and the development of animal life.

Wetlands are important and endangered plant communities include the big-headed sedge, occurring as a single dominant species or interspersed with other species, and the more resilient dune wildrye, beach pea and American searocket community which occurs on the upper beaches where driftwood collects.

Dune plant communities are particularly susceptible to overuse and are easily subject to invasion by non-native species, such as the cheatgrass and barren bromes that presently flourish below The Meadows. Seeded grasses in The Meadows and along eroding cliff faces can create future problems for these ecosystems. Management of these invasive species is difficult and costly, and the invasion is often irreversible.

STEWARDSHIP TIP to reduce the spread of invasive species, and limit damage to native plants when in the area, use existing paths, walk gently, and avoid leaving wheeled vehicles at home. Do not play on, dig into or slide along the dunes. Avoid areas with fragrant vegetation cover.

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Property Owners may now apply for Lot Consolidation Grants up to $2,000

The Savary Island Land Trust Society is pleased to administer the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund. Martin and Sarah Gouin, who represent the Fund, and that the information submitted herein is true.

I consent to an onsite inspection for the purpose of confirming eligibility by a representative of the Fund, and that the information submitted herein is true.

I am enclosing a cheque for my tax deductible donation of: $50 __________ $100 __________ $500 __________ $5,000 __________

Yes, I would like to contribute to the preservation of land on Savary Island. I am enclosing a cheque for my tax deductible donation of: __________

I consent to an inspection for the purpose of confirming eligibility by a representative of the Fund, and that the information submitted herein is true.

Savary Maps are available at SG Images & Giftshop and the Savary Lodge. T-shirts and cards are available by mail or at special events. Email: silt@armourtech.com

SAVARY ISLAND KEEPSAKES

Cards – created by panter Michael Kluckner. Sets of 4 cards with envelopes $15 __________ Set of 40 cards & envelopes $100 __________

Invest in the Preservation of Savary

Help preserve natural areas and biological diversity for present and future generations.

Please fill out contact information

Name __________________________ Email __________________________

Address __________________________ City __________________________

Postal Code __________________________ Tel: __________________________

Fax __________________________

Savary Address __________________________ Tel: __________________________

MEMBERSHIP

DONATIONS

$25 __________

$50 __________

$100 __________

$500 __________

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Savary Island Land Trust Society.

Annual dues $25 __________

Regular $25 __________

Family $40 __________

Phone __________________________ Fax __________________________

Mailing address __________________________ Phone __________________________

Cell __________________________

Signature __________________________ Date __________________________