

# The Bitter Sweet of Savary



By Liz Webster

Chocolate Lily and Meadow Death Camas

Savary's magic; the beaches, the long summer evenings, the forest paths, the silence, the sand and the sea. Savary's attraction is powerful and its beauty bittersweet.

In May, the Meadow and south shores of Savary blossom with two lilies, the Chocolate Lily and the Meadow death camas. These two usually arrive together and provide a lovely visual contrast. The Chocolate Lily *Fritillaria lanceolata* is a beautiful brown to almost purple flower with a head that nods as if bowing to the earth. The bitter tasting rice-like bulbs of the chocolate lily was food for First Nations peoples for generations. Chocolate lilies bloom for a short time in early spring. If you get to see one you are lucky. Never pick or try to transplant chocolate lilies. (Native seeds may be purchased for planting.) Found along side the delicate bittersweet Chocolate Lily is the

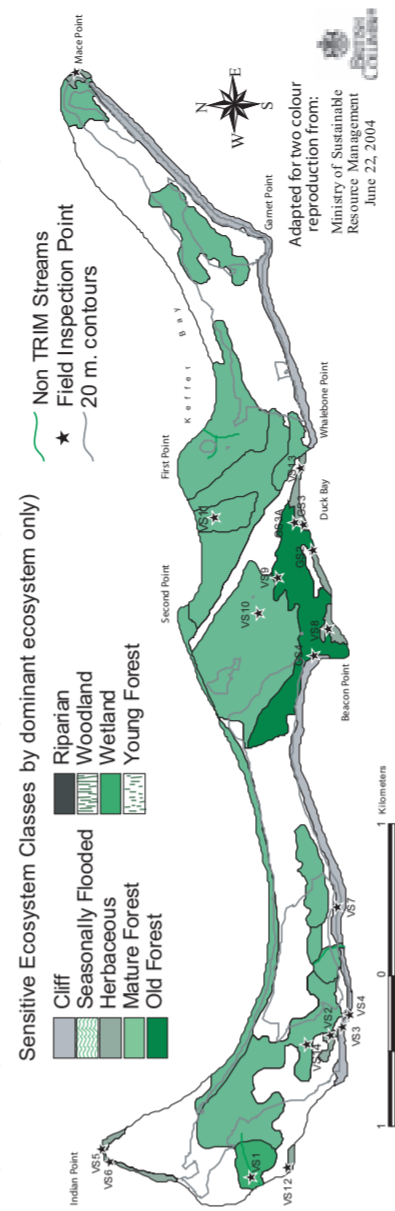
deadly Meadow Death Camas, *Zygadenus venenosus*. This creamy white bell shaped flower looks harmless but the bulb and leaves are poisonous. Don't pick these!!!! BEWARE...this lily can kill. Symptoms include vomiting, lowered body temperature, difficulty breathing and finally coma.

Like Savary, Chocolate lilies are very rare. Savary's beautiful sandy beaches and warm summer weather have drawn people for thousands of years and for generations change was slow on the island. The subdivision of Savary over the last ninety years has created a difficult legacy for future generations. Savary has a lot density nine times greater than Bowen

Island, and twenty times greater than Denman Island and it is tiny compared to either of these. In 1997, Community Plan consultant, Derek Pratt reported that: "Savary is reaching critical development thresholds."

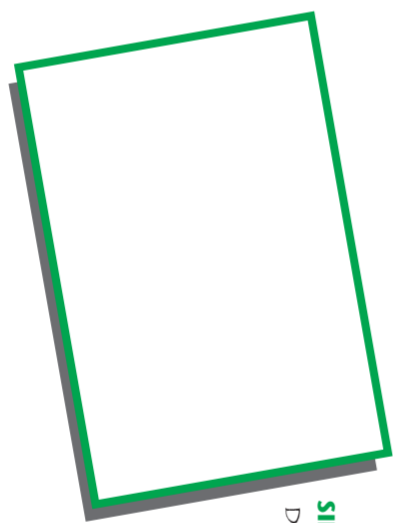
The island, like the lilies, is rare and delicate, bittersweet and potentially poisonous. Some strides have been made in protecting lands, adopting bylaws and amalgamating lots. Much more needs to be done. Environmentally sensitive areas are without any protection, water hydrogeology is poorly understood and erosion is unstoppable. Will we resist the temptation to subdue the island and instead respect the land before its too late?

Savary Island (from DRAFT Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of the Sunshine Coast and Adjacent Islands)



Adapted for two colour  
Ministry of Sustainable  
Resource Management  
June 22, 2004

# Savary Island PRESERVATION



SILT Summer Auction at the MacDougall's Saturday August 14, 7 p.m.

Don't miss paintings by Michael Kluckner and the late Helen Griffin. (See article on front page)

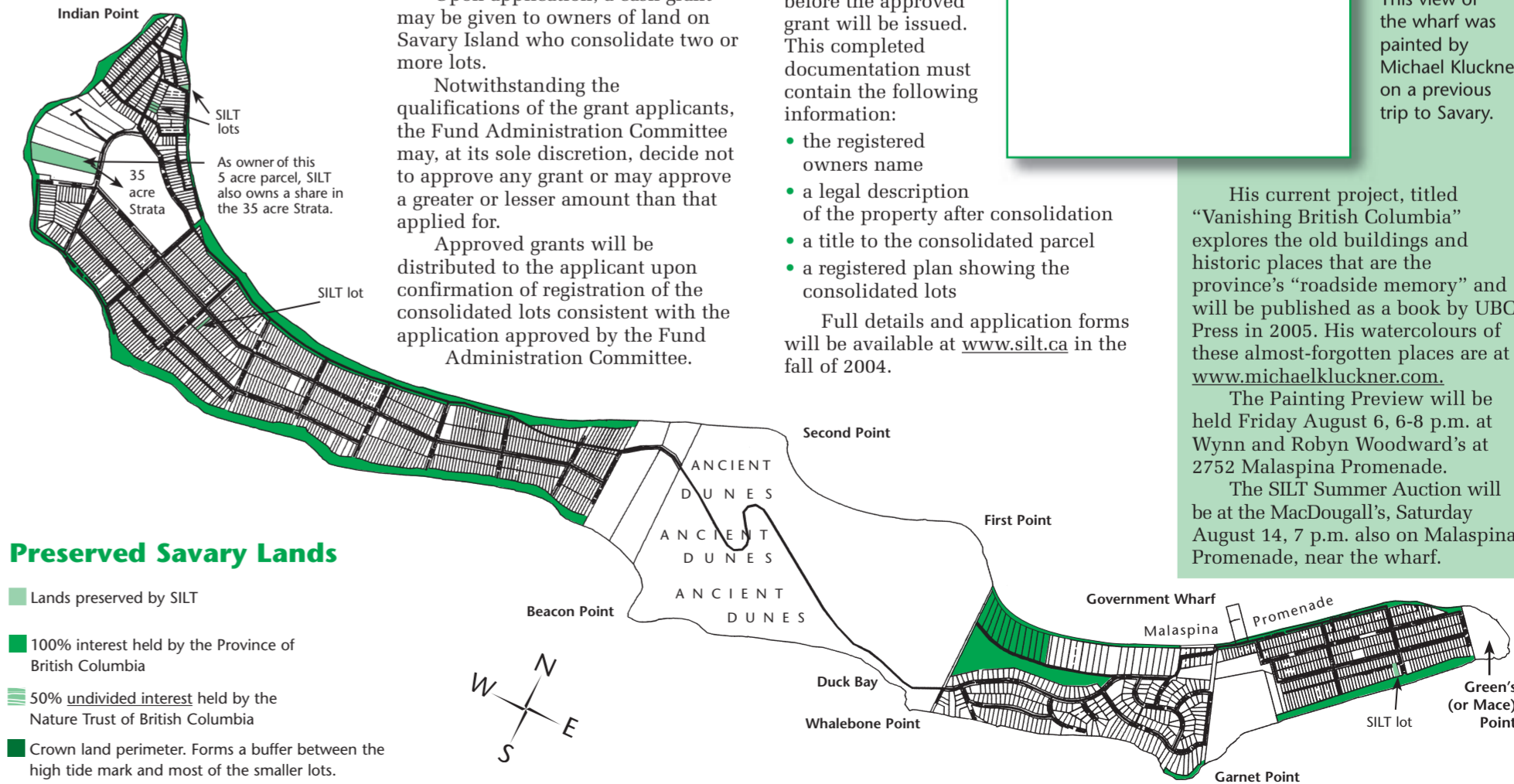
Committed to the preservation of natural areas and biological diversity on Savary Island, for present and future generations.

www.silt.ca silt@shaw.ca silt@armourtech.com

Box 141, Lund, BC V0N 2C0

## Preserved Savary Lands

- Lands preserved by SILT
- 100% interest held by the Province of British Columbia
- 50% undivided interest held by the Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Crown land perimeter. Forms a buffer between the high tide mark and most of the smaller lots.



His current project, titled "Vanishing British Columbia" explores the old buildings and historic places that are the province's "roadside memory" and will be published as a book by UBC Press in 2005. His watercolours of these almost-forgotten places are at [www.michaelkluckner.com](http://www.michaelkluckner.com).

The Painting Preview will be held Friday August 6, 6-8 p.m. at Wynn and Robyn Woodward's at 2752 Malaspina Promenade.

The SILT Summer Auction will be at the MacDougall's, Saturday August 14, 7 p.m. also on Malaspina Promenade, near the wharf.



This view of the wharf was painted by Michael Kluckner on a previous trip to Savary.

# Savary ISLAND LAND TRUST NEWS SUMMER 2004

## Gouin Family donates \$50,000 for Savary Island Lot Consolidation ERASING BOUNDARIES

Story and photos by Liz Webster

The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) is pleased to announce the establishment of a fund to encourage the consolidation of lots on Savary Island. The SILT board would like to congratulate and commend the Gouin family for their contribution and thoughtful leadership. We encourage property owners to do their part, with the help of this fund, to reduce the overdevelopment threat to an island with too many lots!

The idea for the fund came from Martin Gouin, who has a summer home on Savary. Concerned with the density of the Island and the over-development potential, the Gouin family first proposed the fund in the summer of 2001. In the fall of 2003, SILT was approached to consider taking on the administration of the fund. An agreement in Principle has been reached between SILT and the Gouin family to establish the fund, which will be operational in the fall. The fund will provide financial incentives to property owners wishing to amalgamate their lots. In addition, funds to cover extraordinary costs that may be incurred as part of the amalgamation may be made available.

The purpose of the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund is to provide financial resources and a financial incentive to consolidate lots and thereby reduce potential density on Savary Island. To establish the fund Martin and Sarah Gouin will contribute an initial amount of \$50,000. Additional money may be added to the Fund.

### The Fund may be applied in the following situations:

1. The Fund may be applied to all undeveloped lots when a lot is consolidated with one or more immediately adjacent lots.
2. The Fund may be applied to a developed lot when the developed lot is consolidated with one or more immediately adjacent undeveloped lots.

### FUND ADMINISTRATION

SILT shall hold the money in the Fund in trust for the stated purpose. A three-person Fund Administration Committee will administer the Fund in accordance with the trust deed. It will initially consist of:

1. Martin or Sarah Gouin or a representative appointed by Mr. & Mrs. Gouin.
2. a representative of SILT who has been appointed by SILT.
3. a third person agreed to by the above two members.

Applications must conform to the Fund Purpose and guidelines and be approved by all three members of the Fund Administration Committee. SILT will provide administrative support to the Fund Administration Committee and minutes will be kept of all Committee meetings.

Upon application, a cash grant may be given to owners of land on Savary Island who consolidate two or more lots.

Notwithstanding the qualifications of the grant applicants, the Fund Administration Committee may, at its sole discretion, decide not to approve any grant or may approve a greater or lesser amount than that applied for.

Approved grants will be distributed to the applicant upon confirmation of registration of the consolidated lots consistent with the application approved by the Fund Administration Committee.



South beach density. Photo: Liz Webster

### GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Savary Island property owners who intend to consolidate two or more lots must apply to the Gouin Family Lot Consolidation Fund for a grant in advance of the consolidation.

Though the grant may be approved in advance, it will only be awarded once the consolidation is finalized.

The application for a consolidation grant must contain the following information:

- a completed application form
- the registered owners name
- a legal description of the property to be consolidated
- the titles to the lots to be consolidated
- a plan showing the proposed consolidated lot
- a statement describing the amount of the grant funding requested

The applicant must provide documentation showing the consolidation was completed as stated in the application before the approved grant will be issued. This completed documentation must contain the following information:

- the registered owners name
- a legal description of the property after consolidation
- a title to the consolidated parcel
- a registered plan showing the consolidated lots

Full details and application forms will be available at [www.silt.ca](http://www.silt.ca) in the fall of 2004.

## Savary Paintings at SILT summer auction

This years' SILT Summer auction will offer the work of two artists, Savary's well-known late Helen Griffin and artist and author Michael Kluckner. Helen Griffin loved Savary, and the island was the subject of hundreds of her works. The Griffin family has again donated from their collection.

On a recent visit to Savary, Michael Kluckner created several pieces for the SILT auction. Michael Kluckner was the founding president of the Heritage Vancouver Society in 1991. More recently, he served as chair of the board of governors of the Heritage Canada Foundation and as chair of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation.





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**Board of Trustees**

**Executive**  
 Chairman: Keith MacDougall (604) 542-9979  
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**Trustees**

Norma Flawth Christopher Harvey  
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# SILT Q&A

**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?**  
 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 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, 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 has been protected to date by SILT?**

Since the first acquisition in 1999, the Trust has received and preserved seven donations of land on Savary. Four lots are at Indian Point and one lot is in the middle of the island; in 2001 a ten-acre parcel was donated on the west side of the Island; most recently a lot in the Green's Point area and near the highest point of the Island was donated and dedicated as the Helen R. McDonald and J. Douglas Hannay Nature Reserve. These gifts bring the society's holdings to six lots and one ten-acre parcel for a total market value over \$500,000.

**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 another charitable organization with similar goals. This is a condition of being issued charitable status.

**Does SILT ever resell 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.

**What does SILT do with the land it acquires?**

A management plan must be developed for each parcel of land and ratified by the general membership.

**How do land donations to SILT help reduce density on Savary?**

The overall density of parcels 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 of ecologically sensitive land, the donor may use the entire tax receipt in one year. Donating property or shares that trade on the stock exchange provides donors with the best return on their donation.

**Does SILT carry liability insurance on its properties?**

Yes, a liability policy is in force, paid for each year by donations to the SILT.

# WHERE DOES Your Water COME FROM?

Adapted from "On the Living Edge" with permission of The Living By Water Project. [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)

All the planet's water is part of the same interconnected "water cycle." Whether you draw from a well, use surface water, or collect rainwater and filter it, water is recycled over space and time.

Wells tap into **groundwater** – water below the soil surface, which is stored in underground rock and soil formations called **aquifers**. **Surface water** refers to the water found flowing in streams and rivers, and stored in lakes, wetlands, and the ocean.

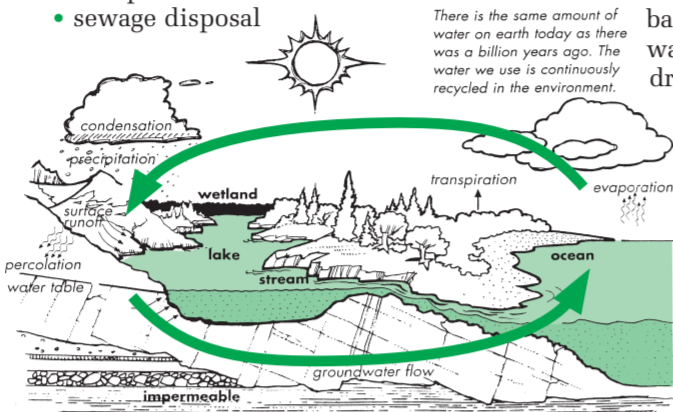
Groundwater and surface water are linked. During times of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, groundwater is replenished by surface water. In times of drought, the water in the ground slowly discharges and helps keep streams flowing.

When we clear land and replace vegetation with turf or pavement, we reduce the ground's ability to absorb water. This causes greater stream flows in the winter (coast) or spring (interior); in the summer and fall, streams dry up more quickly. Over time, it may also cause aquifers to become depleted.

Wells that draw on those aquifers may begin to run dry in the summer.

Land use around you and upstream can affect your water quality, whether your water source is a well or surface water. Things to watch for include:

- direct runoff of road salt and sand into water courses.
- seepage from landfills and garbage dumps.
- industrial leaks and spills.
- improper or heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides
- sewage disposal



**CAUTION!**  
 Whatever your water source, you cannot take for granted that your water is safe.

systems, including septic systems, that are too close or poorly built or maintained.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2002, about 240 BC communities were on ongoing "boil water advisories." Lack of adequate treatment, or treatment failure leading to the growth of fecal coliform bacteria, has resulted in the water being declared unsafe to drink unless boiled.

Since 1980 there have been 29 confirmed waterborne disease outbreaks in BC – more than in any other province.

**MICROORGANISMS**

Of particular concern are total coliforms and fecal coliforms (E. coli is one type), Giardia and Cryptosporidium.

If your lab talks to you about "bacteriological testing", it will be for coliforms. They are used as indicators of contamination because they are easy to test for and not normally found in drinking water. Waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery are difficult to isolate from a water sample so if coliform bacteria can get into your well, it is likely that other disease-carrying organisms may also.

Some coliform bacteria grow and multiply in soils and decaying plant materials, as well as in human and animal feces. While coliform bacteria are common on the ground and in surface water, they do not usually grow efficiently in well water.

Fecal coliforms are a sub-group of the coliform bacteria; most species, including E. coli, only grow in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. They indicate that your water source has been contaminated with fecal material.

There are many strains of these bacteria, some of which are very harmful. They can cause nausea, diarrhea and in rare cases kidney failure and death.

Giardia and Cryptosporidium are intestinal parasites with a hard cyst form. They are difficult to kill with chlorine, but are fortunately very easily killed by boiling. These parasites are difficult to test for, and their absence in any one test doesn't mean that they won't be there in the future. They can inflict damage on the digestive tract, and are potentially fatal. Again, coliforms in the water sample indicate that there is a chance they may be present.

If you suspect that a septic system may be contaminating your well, do a dye test. Your EHO can supply you with dye to flush down the toilet of the suspect system. If your tap water takes on the colour of the dye, you'll know the source of your problem.

Simple water testing kits that check for the presence of coliform bacteria are available at some hardware stores. If your water is usually good, you may want to use these as a less expensive check between lab tests.

Copies of "On the Living Edge" book will be for sale on Savary at the SILT booth at the Firehall Frolic Saturday July 24, 2004.

**Contact information:**  
 The Living By Water Project—National Office  
 P.O. Box 7, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2  
 Tel: (250) 832 7405 Fax: (250) 832 6874  
[lbywater@jetstream.net](mailto:lbywater@jetstream.net) [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)

# Protecting OUR SHRINKING ISLAND PERIMETER



**By Liz Webster**

More than half of Savary is wrapped by a Crown land perimeter. This public buffer varies in size, according to the Regional District Planner it was originally as much as 132 feet or 2 (66 foot) road allowances in some locations. Some subdivisions on Savary have a dedicated crown perimeter, others do

not, for example, there is almost no crown perimeter in Savary Shores, yet the crown perimeter along Sunset Trail is a significant broad, low bank strip. (See map on page 1)

How much of the Island Crown perimeter remains? I recall stories told to me by Bobbie Wooten of Savary mothers pushing their babies in prams

## SAVARY ISLAND PERIMETER INFORMATION

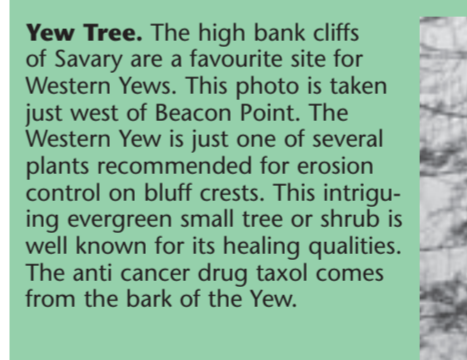


**Crown Trespass.** Late last summer work began on dismantling a cabin on the beach just east of Indian Point. The Ministry of Transportation responded to complaints about the cabin trespassing on the crown perimeter. When the owner purchased the land he was told by the sales person that the property pins were "...somewhere directly behind the Arbutus trees" "If I had known that where the cabin is located was not on the property I would never had put it there." The provincial government took the owner to court and he was ordered to remove the cabin.



**Rest awhile.** Island walks offer the occasional and always welcome bench to rest and enjoy the view. This one on Sunset Trail is a great place to rest and soak up some sun, in winter or summer. The sign offered a welcome and friendly message. "Sit and rest awhile." These precious strips of public property are a community treasure shared by all of us.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Penalties of \$60,000 can be levied by Land and Water BC for modifying or placing improvements on Crown land without proper authorization." (Kipp & Callaway 2002:127)



**Yew Tree.** The high bank cliffs of Savary are a favourite site for Western Yews. This photo is taken just west of Beacon Point. The Western Yew is just one of several plants recommended for erosion control on bluff crests. This intriguing evergreen small tree or shrub is well known for its healing qualities. The anti cancer drug taxol comes from the bark of the Yew.



## NOTICES

**SILT AGM**  
 Monday August 2, 2004, Savary Island Firehall, 11 a.m. Transportation from the Wharf and Indian Point at 10:45 a.m.

**SILT Poetry Night on Savary**  
 Join other Islanders in a lyric, poem or song at Riggers on Thursday August 19 at 7 p.m. Festivities will be conducted by Ken Palfrey. Door proceeds will go to SILT.

**Full colour illustrated Savary map**



Reproduced as colourful posters & laminated placemats. Available at SG Images, just west of the General store.

along Oceanview Esplanade above South Beach. Clearly, erosion rates have reduced this protective Crown buffer over the years. (See Thurber Engineering 2003). Making assumptions about property lines is folly. Only a legal survey can determine public and private property lines.

Whether public or private, protecting the perimeter of the Island is a first defence to help protect our water resources, plant and animal habitat, and private property values.

**PRESERVATION MEASURES**

In February, a measure to protect the beaches of Savary was taken by the Powell River Regional District. On Dec 29th 2003 the Local Health Officer, Dan Glover requested that the Regional District establish a minimum set back to the natural boundary of the tidal waters for sewage disposal systems. At a meeting of the Powell River Regional District on February 26, 2004 the District adopted Section 8 of the Sewage Disposal Regulation. This regulation establishes a minimum setback of 30 metres (100 feet) for

conventional septic systems and 15 metres (50 feet) for extended treatment sewage systems to the natural boundary of tidal waters within the Powell River Regional District.

More recently, in May the Regional District adopted a fire control bylaw for Savary. Campers on Savary could get a \$500 fine if they build a fire. The fire control bylaw gives the Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department the authority to restrict or ban outdoor fires under certain situations. Enforcement officers will include members of the Savary Island Volunteer Fire department, a local assistant to the fire commissioner or members of the RCMP. In addition, an amendment to the bylaw, which extends the boundary of the Savary fire protection service area to 200 meters below the high-water mark, has received third reading.

Getting to know the island is like coming to know a new friend. Savary has such a variety of beaches, trails, ecologically significant plants, places and features, it's a pleasure to explore. The perimeter is part of our common heritage and worth preserving.

Table 1. Some suggested plant species for bluff slope and bluff crest plantings.

common name	scientific name	crest	slope
<b>Trees</b>			
Douglas maple	Acer glabrum var. douglasii		•
Bigleaf maple	Acer macrophyllum	•	
Red alder	Alnus rubra	•	
Pacific crab apple	Malus fusca	•	•
Shore pine	Pinus contorta var. contorta	•	
Bitter cherry	Prunus emarginata	•	•
Douglas-fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	•	
Western yew	Taxus brevifolia	•	
<b>Shrubs</b>			
Saskatoon	Amelanchier alnifolia	•	•
Kinnikinnik	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	•	
Oceanspray	Holodiscus discolor	•	
Tall Oregon-grape	Mahonia aquifolium	•	
Mock-orange	Philadelphus lewisii	•	
Red-flowering currant	Ribes sanguineum	•	•
Nootka rose	Rosa nutkana	•	•
Thimbleberry	Rubus parviflorus	•	
Salmonberry	Rubus spectabilis	•	
Sitka willow	Salix sitchensis	•	
Coastal red elderberry	Sambucus racemosa ssp. pubens var. arborescens	•	•
evergreen huckleberry	Vaccinium ovatum	•	•

Source: Savary Island Dune and Shoreline Study: Ecological Component (DRAFT Report, August 17, 2002) Philip Henderson, Strix Environmental Consulting

Table 2. Herbaceous plants native to Savary – suitable for slopes up to 33°

common name	scientific name
Douglas maple	Acer glabrum var. douglasii
Scouring rush	Equisetum hyemale
Bracken fern	Pteridium aquilinum
Tall Oregon grape	Mahonia aquifolium
Long-stoloned sedge	Carex inops
Gumweed	Grindelia integrifolia
Death camas	Zygadenus venenosus

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Savary Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATIONS**

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:

\$100     \$500     \$1,000  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

Annual dues     regular \$25  
 Family \$40

**SEND YOUR FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**  
 SILT: Savary Island Land Trust Society, Box 141, Lund, B.C. V0N 2G0