

# A change in plans: Old growth and wetlands protected

By Thea Cacchioni, Chair, Savary Island Land Trust Society

Thanks to your fundraising efforts, SILT has been able to purchase lands of great ecological value, to preserve for generations to come.

As we reported earlier this year, after years of fundraising for the Johnson Forest campaign, Mrs. Edna Johnson sadly passed away in September. When we learned that the Johnson family was no longer in a position to donate 4 lots to SILT, we contacted our donors to see if we could raise additional funds to purchase all 8 lots. This effort was not successful.

Last summer was such a joy to see the community come together in such generous support of this project. SILT was determined to find an alternative plan to preserve lands with equal or greater ecological value.

We are now thrilled to report that using the funds raised by the community last summer, SILT is in the midst of purchasing alternative lands with significant ecological value. The board considered 10 possible acquisition projects over the island and ultimately endorsed one project which included 5 lots, in 2 different parts of the island.



Old Growth Lots

## **A** Old Growth Lots (Vancouver Blvd)

The first parcel for purchase is a 4 lot old growth forest of Western Red cedar and Douglas fir that is over an acre in size. The land is located on Vancouver Blvd between Salisbury and Julian. The old growth forest is owned by Tom Robertson's company. The board was delighted to learn that Tom and Ursula Robertson were willing to donate \$30,000 towards the purchase and protection of this forest.

## **B** Wetland Lot (Rodgers Road)

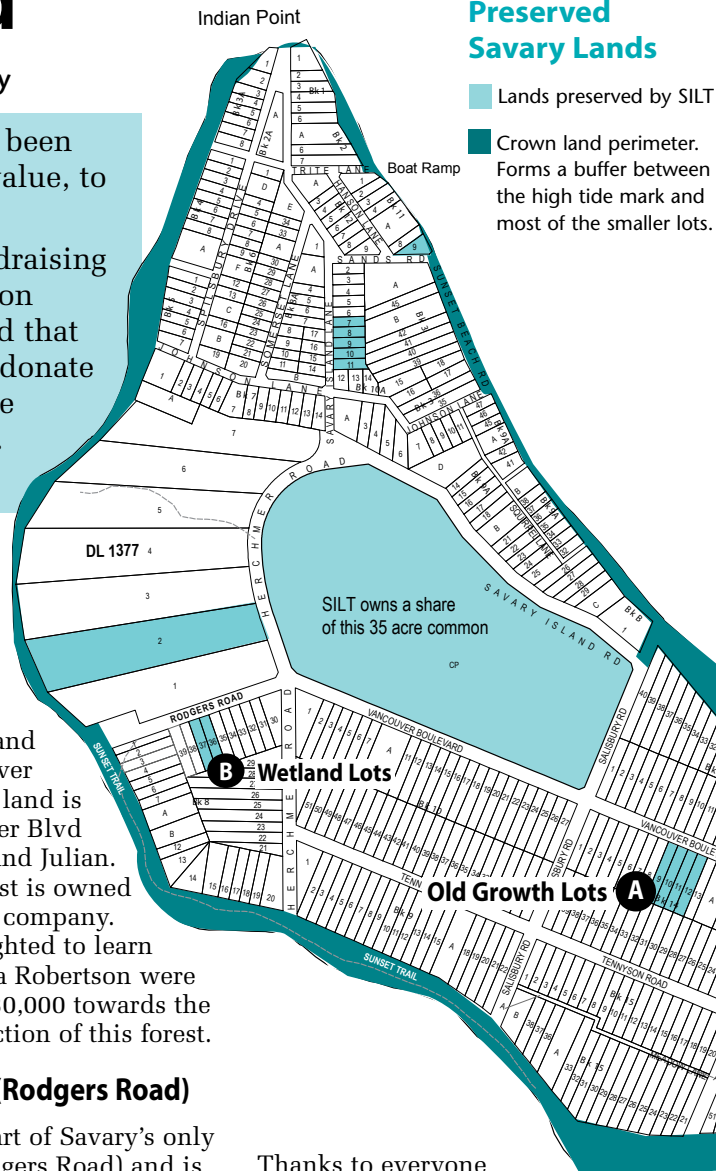
The second lot is part of Savary's only wetland, (along Rodgers Road) and is next to a lot recently donated to SILT by the Outtrim family. Being the only wetland on the Island, protecting this land is very significant for Savary conservation.



Wetland Lots

## Preserved Savary Lands

- Lands preserved by SILT
- Crown land perimeter. Forms a buffer between the high tide mark and most of the smaller lots.



Thanks to everyone for joining in the many fundraising events last summer and making all of this possible. Sadly, the Johnson Forest was lost, yet in the end we will acquire 5 lots for Savary, one wetland and one old growth forest. The generosity of many Savary families and individuals continues to inspire Island conservation, and SILT is happy to encourage and facilitate these efforts for the betterment of the land and community.

The closing dates for both of these purchases are in early August. We look forward to celebrating this success with the community at Savarystock this summer on August 10 at the Red House B&B.

# Sand Dune Signs

By Tamsin Baker



Recently you may have noticed some new wooden signs at or near some of the beaches on the west end of Savary Island. These locally-made, hand-crafted signs were created as part of a larger initiative on the South Coast of BC to raise awareness about unique and fragile coastal sand ecosystems. The signs are meant to remind us to be attentive of our impact on these sensitive ecosystems. The sand dunes of Savary Island contain some of the best areas of coastal sand ecosystems in the Province, and many endangered species and ecological communities call the island home.

There are relatively few areas on the South Coast that contain sand ecosystems. Besides contributing to BC's biodiversity, they provide recreational benefits for many outdoor enthusiasts and buffering to protect inland areas from flooding or storm damage. Since they are popular areas to live next to and visit, they are susceptible to many human-made threats. One significant threat includes invasive plant species, such as Scotch

broom, English ivy and non-native grasses. To stop further degradation, it is also beneficial for people (and their pets) to stay on designated trails. Also, Please pick up after your pet, as dog waste left behind provides unneeded nutrients to the sand and changes the ecological balance.

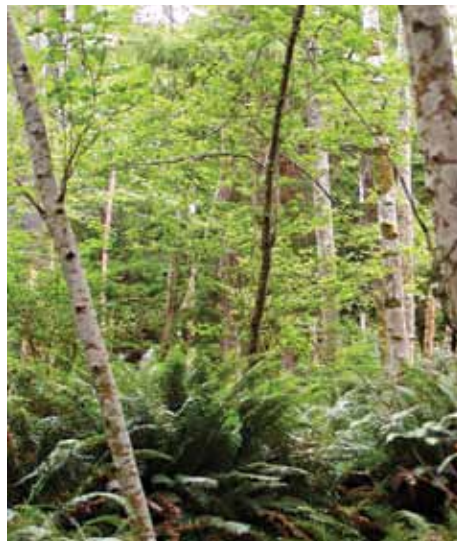
The signs are a partnership between the Province of BC, the Savary Island Land Trust Society (SILTS) and the South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP). The locations were chosen because of their ecological significance and their visibility. Along with the Province, the SCCP also created an informative colour brochure that has photos of the endangered and common species you may find while exploring the sand dunes of Savary Island. Keep an eye out for copies of the brochure around the island. To download your own copy, go to [www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/coastal-sand-ecosystems](http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/coastal-sand-ecosystems). Visit [www.silts.ca](http://www.silts.ca) for more information about the ecology of Savary Island.

*Tamsin Baker is the SCCP Stewardship Coordinator*

# Rare wetland lot donated to SILT

The SILT board is thrilled to receive a lot in Savary's only wetland from the Outtrim family of Calgary and Sunset Trail. The family owned the lot for 36 years along with a waterfront property where they built their summer home many years ago. The Outtrim's recently sold their waterfront home on Sunset Trail and shortly after decided to donate the wetland lot on Rodgers Rd to SILT. It was transferred to SILT on December 31, 2012. In a letter to SILT Colin Ottrim wrote: "We are happy to provide the gift to SILT so that a little more of the gorgeous island is conserved and will remain undeveloped. It is our gift to the other landowners on Savary." The SILT board is very pleased and grateful to the Outtrim family for their generosity.

The gift is part of the only wetland on Savary Island. The vegetation is predominantly sword fern and alder with some hemlock, other plants include red elderberry, red huckleberry and oyster mushrooms on the alder. Wetlands are important in so many ways. They filter and purify water, provide habitat for many species,



improve other ecosystems and are vital to the health of wildlife and humans.

Since SILT became a registered charity in 1997 it has received 12 donations of land and stewards more than 14 acres on Savary Island. Land donors receive a tax receipt for their gifts. To learn more about the benefits of land donation and conservation visit [www.silts.ca](http://www.silts.ca) or contact us at [silts@telus.net](mailto:silts@telus.net)

# Save the Trails!

GO to [www.silts.ca](http://www.silts.ca)

Take a Trail walk at our website  
Sign the Petition to Save the Trails

Currently only the trails shown in red are protected.



**"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone." Joni Mitchell**

The developers of DL 1375 have not completed any of the requirements for their subdivision plan. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has granted them an extension until January 30, 2014.





SUMMER 2013

# Savary Island PRESERVATION



## Summer 13 SILT EVENTS

The Savary Island Land Trust Society (SILT) is a non-profit registered charity. Our goal is the preservation of wilderness, wildlife habitat, clean water, and access to greenspace. To join, visit [www.silts.ca](http://www.silts.ca)

**Sat. July 27** 6:30-8:30pm **SILT Summer Art Auction** 2752 Malaspina Promenade  
*This elegant event at the summer home of Robyn and Wynn Woodward features works by Helen Griffin, Robert Bateman, Audrey Doray, Michael Kluckner & more.*

**Mon. Aug. 5** 11 am **SILT AGM** Main Fire hall

**Sat. Aug. 10** 11am-9pm **SAVARYSTOCK Music Festival & Auction**  
*Auction starts at 3pm* The Red House B&B (1265 Vancouver Blvd. & Julian Rd.)

**Sat. Aug. 17** 10am-3pm **Ancient Tree Mapping Fun Field Day**  
*email [silts@telus.net](mailto:silts@telus.net) or call 604-483-4743 to register*

**Sun. Sept. 1** **Nature Walks & Talks: Sand Ecosystems of Savary Island**  
10 am Meadow at Julian Rd.  
noon Indian Point boat ramp  
2 pm Wharf

**SAVARYSTOCK**  
**SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Come for a Music Festival and Auction in the Woods featuring Live Music, Barbequed Food and Kids Activities. Don't miss the AUCTION at 3pm

**Saturday Aug. 10**  
11 am - 9 pm

At the RED HOUSE  
1265 Vancouver Blvd.  
(S. Julian Road)

ADMISSION:  
\$5 before 6pm  
\$10 after 6pm  
\* Free for kids under 10

INCLUDES:  
• Art by renowned local artists  
• Health & Wellness Packages  
• Gourmet Meals and much more

Bring your dancing shoes, your picnic blankets, and your cash and cheques - proceeds help Savary Island!

Sponsor The Red House B&B

All proceeds go to the Savary Island Land Trust Society

For more event information contact 604-483-4743 or [silts@telus.net](mailto:silts@telus.net) or visit [www.silts.ca](http://www.silts.ca)

### MAPPING SAVARY'S ANCIENT TREES A FUN FIELD DAY — Free event —



**Sat. Aug. 17 10am-3pm**  
Join us for a day of identifying the locations of old growth trees on Savary Island. Results will be shared at Savarystock and used to produce the **Savary Island Ancient Trees and Sensitive Ecosystems Map**. Great for all ages and anyone interested in learning how to identify tree types.  
**To register, email [silts@telus.net](mailto:silts@telus.net)**  
Sponsored by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia

### SAVARYSTOCK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! GET FREE ADMISSION

- Get involved!
- Be a part of the festivities
- The funds you help raise go towards preserving Savary's ecology

**TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT**  
• Jennifer Greenwood: [jmgreen47@gmail.com](mailto:jmgreen47@gmail.com)  
• Ruth White: [ruth\\_savary@yahoo.com](mailto:ruth_savary@yahoo.com)  
• The Red House B&B 604-483-4447