



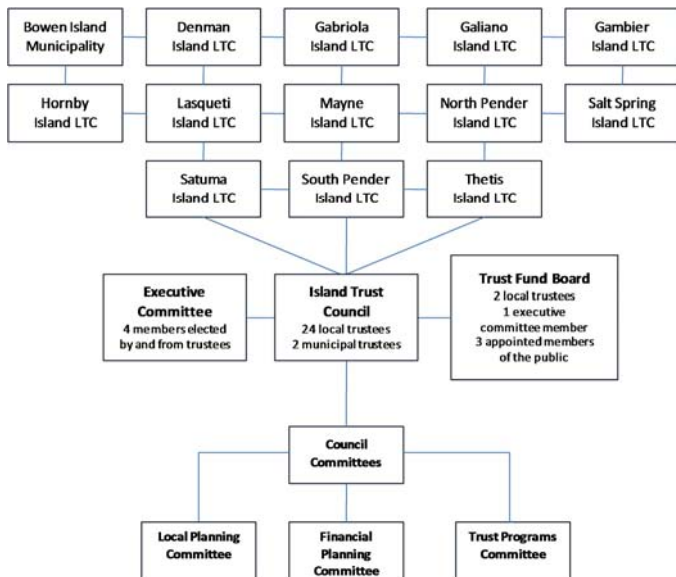
The Islands Trust is a federation of independent local governments, including Bowen Island Municipality, which plans land use and regulates development in the trust area. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island, including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox. This is a unique and special place composed of 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering approximately 5200 square kilometers of land and water - an area almost the size of Prince Edward Island. About 25,000 people live on these islands.

Mark van Bakel is the GIS Coordinator for Islands Trust. He and his small team are responsible for creating and maintaining the cadastral fabric for the Trust area. Island Trust is primarily a land use planning organization; mandated to preserve and protect the natural and cultural amenities of the islands within the trust area. The existing digital fabric has developed from Province hardcopy maps, with a level of accuracy inappropriate to land use planning. In order to deliver on its mandate and gain the confidence of the public, the Islands Trust GIS staff has been continually working to improve the representation of property boundaries.

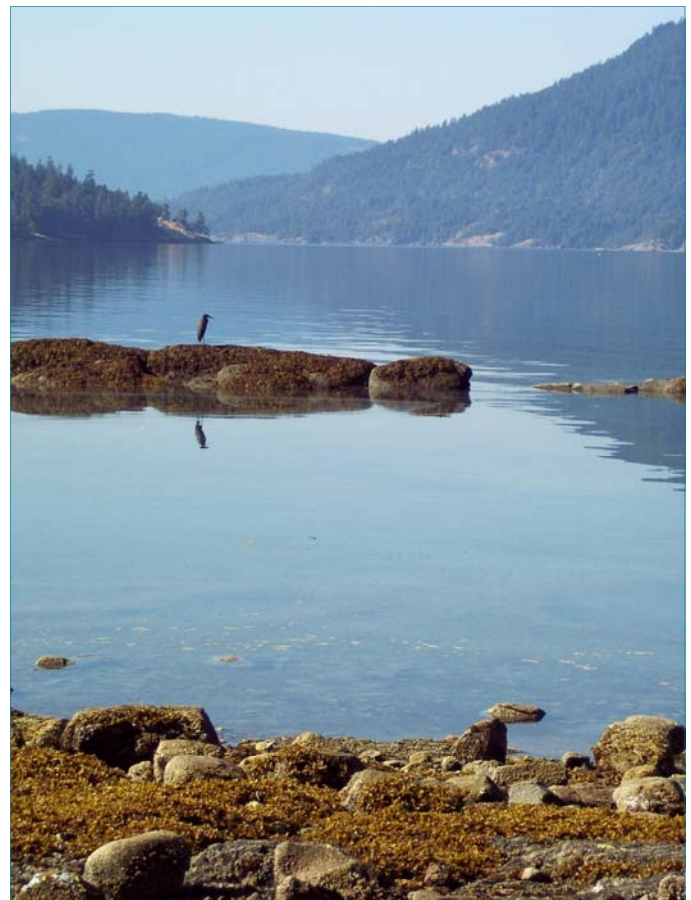
"The Islands Trust cadastral fabric is utilized in both land use planning and conservation workflows", states van Bakel. "Historically, the islands were under development pressure, similar to that of many nearby urban areas. The Province created the Islands Trust as a means to regulate the development process and

Islands Trust Legislative Structure

Local Trust Committees & Island Municipalities



The reasons the province created the Islands Trust as a land use and planning agency 30 years ago are still valid today - to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of the province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, Improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of British Columbia. This mandate underlies the work of the Islands Trust, including the development of official community plans, zoning and other land use bylaws in each of the local trust areas or island municipalities.



Heron in Booth Bay on Salt Spring Island



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outcome such that the character and environment of the islands is preserved. Any improvements to the quality of the cadastral fabric allows planners to make better recommendations; more accurate mapping is needed as we are required to identify and protect sensitive eco-systems, and accurately locate zoning and other planning overlays. Also, an improved fabric helps us gain public confidence in the urban planning and land conservation process on the islands, and ultimately helps garner more support for the Islands Trust mandate.”



Fulford Valley on Salt Spring Island

Islands Trust began the process of improving property boundaries about 5 years ago. This project would prove to be a massive and expensive undertaking. The area in question includes over 25,000 parcels and spans 5,200 kilometers of land and water.

The beginning of this project coincided with Islands Trust becoming a member of ICIS. Funding from the ICIS CivicSpatial Grant Program allowed the group to step up efforts and begin the 5 year long project. Mark van Bakel came on board 2 years ago. “With the ICIS funding, the potential is now there to finish this project within the next two years,” says van Bakel. “Until ICIS was involved there was no foreseeable end to this project. We’ve already finished Salt Spring, Galliano, North Pender and Mayne. The demand is growing as more areas are completed. The other islands are seeing that improving the fabric enables improvements to the planning process.”

A great example of how the cadastral realignment has benefited the area is evidenced in the recently completed Coastal Douglas Fir Terrestrial Eco-system Mapping (TEM). TEM is the most up-to-date regional scale planning tool. “There is now great interest within the Trust to use this information to improve both the development and conservation planning process relative to these TEM identified sensitive eco-systems,” says van Bakel. “Without cadastral realignment the validity of this data in the planning process would be called into question. Public support is significantly increased when data such as this is presented in the context of a reliably accurate cadastral.”

Mark van Bakel, and the rest of the Islands Trust GIS team, is looking forward to continuing their work with ICIS. “ICIS allows us to be more efficient by streamlining the cadastral data sharing process and work flow,” remarks van Bakel. “We’re also looking forward to AddressBC. With over-lapping jurisdictions it would be arduous for us to maintain our own address database. AddressBC will be a welcome addition.”

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