

Islands in the Salish Sea

Portrait of a renowned community in transition

"Mapping as a cartographic tradition is ancient. Mapping as an art form is new. Artistic Community Mapping is a new genre that reveals the collaboration between science, art and the community. These maps preserve significant natural and cultural heritage. It's almost as though it's not the final product - the map - that saves the place, it's the collaboration, the actual process of linking together. The final art is a visual statement of the collaboration."

Media Release - March 7th, 2003

Islands in the Salish Sea Mapping Project

Exhibition at Winspear Centre, Sidney, during GSX Hearings

An exhibition of 30 maps created by professional artists from 17 Gulf Island communities will be displayed at the Myfanwy Pavelic Gallery of the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney beginning Tuesday of next week.

This exhibit will provide a meaningful backdrop to the National Energy Board (NEB) independent review panel hearings in to the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) gas pipeline project proposal currently underway at the Centre. These hearings are the final round of public review of the environmental, economic and social effects of the proposed pipeline from Washington state to Vancouver Island. The pipeline would run along the ocean floor of the Strait of Georgia, past the shores of several of the Gulf Islands.

The "Islands in the Salish Sea" maps were created through a two year long community inventory and bioregional mapping project. They portray selected important natural, economic and cultural features of these sensitive islands - considered one of the most threatened ecosystems in Canada. Community groups on each island sponsored the project, and the final maps are statements about the values held by local communities and which should be respected in land use and development decisions.

One of the maps in the collection is an Energy and Transportation Map for the region as a whole. This map is bristling with facts and figures about energy use in this region, including Lasqueti Island, an island of 250 people who do not use piped electricity at all.

This incredible show of artistically rendered maps is a treat in itself. It was not scheduled to appear in Sidney, but the coordinators of the project welcomed the invitation from a coalition of island conservancies and marine

conservation organizations to show the maps at a time and place that would reflect the primary goals for the project - to inform community planning and development decisions in the years ahead.

Whatever your views on the pipeline, the maps are a virtual tour of the Salish Sea that you will never forget.

The exhibition will be showing at the Myfanwy Pavelic Gallery of the Mary Winspear Centre March 11-21st 9-5 and open most evenings – Call for confirmation *Mary Winspear Centre - 2243 Beacon Ave. Sidney, BC, V8L 1W9 (250) 656-0271*

For more information, contact:

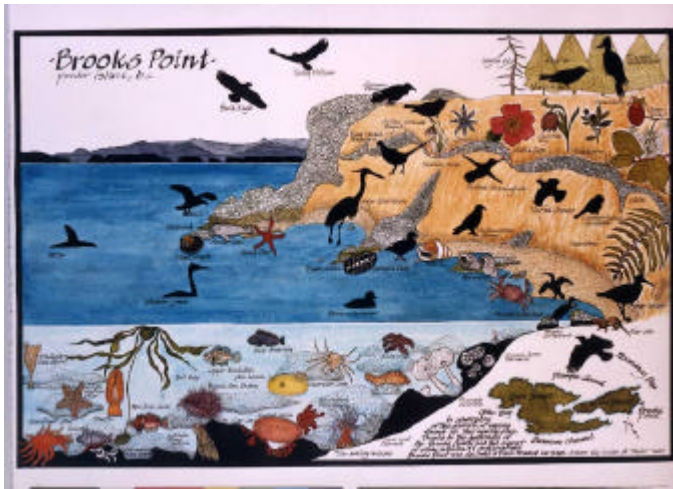
Sheila Harrington, The Land
Trust Alliance of British
Columbia; 204-338 Lower
Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island,
B.C. V8K 2V3, 250-538-0112
www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

Peter Ronald, Marine Habitat
Program Coordinator
Georgia Strait Alliance
#12 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P7
250-381-8321 www.GeorgiaStrait.org

A project co-sponsored by:

LTA Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia & West Coast Islands Conservancy
204-338 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3, TEL/FAX: 250-538-0112

Salish Sea Map Samples



- Map #1 Brooks Point, Pender Island, Coordinator Don & Lisa Harrison, Artist Susan Taylor
 Map #2 Quadra Island, Coordinator, Ian Douglas, Artist Leanne Hodges
 Map #3 Salt Spring Island, Coordinator, Caffyn Kelly, Artist Margaret Threfall
 Map #4 Mayne Island, Coordinator Tina Farmilo, Artist Tania Godoroja