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Lasqueti's highest summit donated to Islands Trust Fund

A family with strong ties to Lasqueti Island has donated 58 hectares of land, which includes the summit of Mount Trematon, to the Islands Trust Fund for permanent protection.

With an elevation of 327 metres, the ecologically important property includes Lasqueti Island's highest point of land. From the summit, there is a spectacular 360° view of the northern portion of the Georgia Strait, Quadra and Cortez Islands, Mount Baker in Washington State, and Mount Arrowsmith on Vancouver Island.

Alasdair Gordon, donor of the property, said, 'The Gulf Islands are an extraordinary part of the world, but are also under extraordinary pressures. Many unique and magnificent places have been transformed by logging, subdivision, insensitive construction, and cell phone towers. This was a very likely fate for Mount Trematon. We wanted to ensure that the mountain retained its unspoiled beauty, remaining ancient trees, and great value to the community. With this donation of Mount Trematon, and with the help of the Lasqueti community, we hope to set a standard for stewardship to inspire current and future generations.'

The property contains undisturbed old-growth forest, with large arbutus, big-leaf maple and fire-scarred Douglas-fir trees. Many of the majestic old-growth Douglas-firs on the property are 200-500 years old and up to 1.5 metres in diameter at breast height. The property provides an important ecological buffer to the Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve and has a year-round

creek that flows out of a nearby lake.

'Gifts to nature from generous families like the Gordons are integral to creating a legacy of special places in the Gulf Islands,' said Lisa Dunn, Islands Trust Fund manager. 'Donations of this type of sensitive land are especially welcomed when they come from islands like Lasqueti, with only 8.5% of its area protected. Our regional conservation plan challenges us to protect 15% of each Local Trust Area, and this donation gets us closer to that goal.'

At a recent community picnic celebrating the transfer, Rose Willow, Lasqueti trustee said, 'I am thrilled. In addition to having many beautiful natural features, this property is part of the major watershed on Lasqueti Island. The protection of this area is of great benefit to the entire Island. I have known the Gordon family for over 25 years, their children and grandchildren. They always step softly upon the Island; they are always environmentally conscientious, not just here, but in their daily lives, elsewhere, as well. They demonstrate a deep love for this Island and set an example for all of us.'

At the picnic, the Islands Trust Fund presented a plaque to the Gordon family. Staff will continue to work with the family and the Lasqueti Island community to develop a management plan for the property. ✍

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