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Islands Trust hires new planning director

The Islands Trust has hired a new director of local planning services, a senior position in the organization and one that supervises professional planning staff in three offices.

'I'm absolutely delighted to announce that Mac Fraser will be joining our management team in this key role,' said Linda Adams, chief administrative officer of the Islands Trust. 'Mac is well known in government circles on Vancouver Island and is respected for his leadership, energy, creativity and a strong personal commitment to sustainable community planning principles. We anticipate great things as he brings his talents and passion to the unique challenges that face the Islands Trust Area.'

'Now, more than ever, the Gulf Islands are the focus of international attention and interest, along with increased pressures from development and tourism. New leadership for our planning unit is a significant part of the transformation we are undertaking to ensure that we can uphold our mandate to preserve and protect this special area for all British Columbians.'

Fraser brings more than 30 years of experience in public service management and planning to his new role at the Islands Trust. As the former chief administrative officer for the Village of Cumberland, he played a leadership role in founding and chairing the 'Saving Small Towns' conference, held each spring for the past four years. The conference has focused on the protection and enhancement of the environmental, social and

economic features that keep rural communities strong.

While in Cumberland, Fraser also facilitated several major planning processes, provided regulatory and legal advice to the Village Council and served as subdivision Approving Officer. In addition, he is co-chair of a professional group that advocates for water sustainability in new development, is an associate of the University of British Columbia through the Small Towns Initiative and has participated in the development of Low Impact Development Standards bylaws.

'I believe the Islands Trust Area is one of British Columbia's greatest treasures and I am honoured to have been offered this position,' said Fraser. 'I am attracted by the clarity of the Islands Trust mandate and the passionate commitment of elected officials and staff to uphold it on behalf of the Trust Area residents, and British Columbians in general.'

Before he joins the Islands Trust, Fraser will complete a consulting contract for the Town of Creston. He is expected to begin his first day of work at the Islands Trust at the end of April.

The Islands Trust is responsible for managing development while preserving and protecting the unique environment of the Islands Trust Area. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres. ☞

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