



**ISLANDS TRUST FUND**  
PROTECTING CANADA'S ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA

# NEWS RELEASE

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2016-05-ITF

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fairyslipper Forest Campaign Welcomes Matching Funds to Meet Deadline**

*Anonymous donor announces \$40,000 in matching funds in an appeal to protect Fairyslipper Forest*

**Thetis Island, British Columbia, May 24, 2016** — A fundraising campaign to acquire Fairyslipper Forest on Thetis Island has received a much needed boost. An anonymous donor recently pledged to match donations up to \$40,000. Once matched, this gift will help meet the impending campaign goal of 50 percent needed by the end of June 2016.

The [Islands Trust Fund](#) has partnered with the [Thetis Island Nature Conservancy](#) and the [Cowichan Community Land Trust](#) in a three-year campaign to protect Fairyslipper Forest, named after the fairy-slipper orchid that dots the forest floor with its pink blossoms every spring. A total of \$560,000 is needed to purchase and protect 16 hectares (40 acres) of imperilled Coastal Douglas-fir forest in a community watershed that provides essential habitat for several species of concern. Once protected, Fairyslipper Forest will become the first publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island.

The June 2014 agreement to purchase Fairyslipper Forest set fundraising goals for the end of year one and year two of the campaign. In year one, over 100 islanders pledged more than a third of the purchase price, an incredible achievement for a small community of 350 full time residents. The offer of matching funds means new donations can have double the impact.

“This anonymous donation really brings new energy to our campaign, and we hope that it inspires others to give,” said Ann Eriksson, founding director of the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy. “We are asking conservation-minded people who enjoy visiting the islands in the Salish Sea to step forward and help us meet our year two goal.”

“We are thrilled to receive this generous matching donation,” said Tony Law, Chair of the Trust Fund Board. “It couldn’t come at a better time. This target is in reach, but donations made now are crucial to ensuring this acquisition happens.”

Visit Islands Trust Fund’s [Fairyslipper Forest page](#) for more information and to donate. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts over \$20.

The Islands Trust Fund is the conservation land trust for Canada's islands in the Salish Sea. Since 1990, the Islands Trust Fund has protected more than 1,100 hectares and helped partners protect another 300 hectares of island ecosystems.

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## A CONSERVANCY FOR CANADA'S ISLANDS IN THE SALISH SEA

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