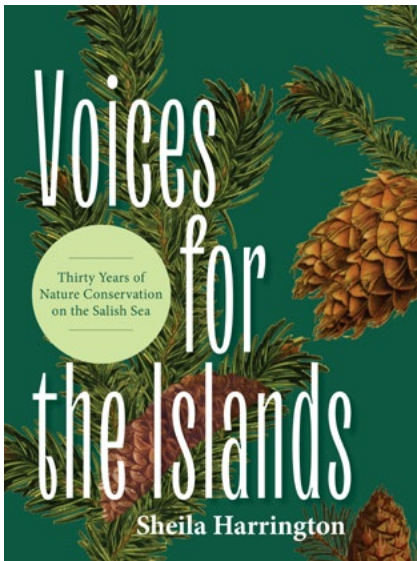




NEW BOOK RELEASE

SPRING 2024

VOICES FOR THE ISLANDS



Voices for the Islands: Thirty Years of Nature Conservation by the Salish Sea

Sheila Harrington

Foreword by Briony Penn

Heritage House Publishing

9781772034929

July 9, 2024

Paperback, \$29.95 CAD, 320 pages,
5.5 x 8.5 inches, full colour throughout

NON-FICTION / CONSERVATION &
ENVIRONMENT / LOCAL INTEREST (PNW)

Author's home: Lasqueti Island, BC

Author photo credit: Doane Grinell



A fascinating compendium of stories chronicling the creation of local nature conservancies, and the people behind them, on seventeen islands on the Salish Sea from the 1990s to the present day.

Voices for the Islands brings together the stories and experiences of those who rose to protect areas at risk within their island communities. Narratively linked by author Sheila Harrington's three-year sailing journey among the islands to interview more than fifty veteran conservationists, the book shares an in-depth view of local protests and the history and evolution of local conservancies from their timely emergence through legal battles and successful partnerships. It highlights how local, provincial, and national support was won, through the collaborative efforts of dedicated locals, resulting in hundreds of new protected areas and parks within one of the most at-risk ecological communities in Canada—the islands of the Salish Sea.

Beginning in the 1980s, when logging and development threatened the fragile ecosystems and natural habitats, and culminating in the creation of more than seventeen local conservancies and the Gulf Island National Park Reserve, *Voices for the Islands* will inspire readers to turn apathy into action and support the cause of conservation and reconciliation in an era of species extinction and climate change.

Full of colour photos, maps, and fascinating first-hand stories by unsung heroes of conservation—many of whom are now elders—this book reveals how local people and grassroots movements have the power to transform the future of our precious planet.

SHEILA HARRINGTON is an author, sailor, and environmental advocate with a thirty-year career in the conservation field. She was the founding executive director of the Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) from 1997 to 2011 and a director of the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy for more than twelve years. She is co-author of the bestselling *Islands in the Salish Sea Community Atlas*, a finalist for two BC Book Awards and third-place winner of the BC Historical Federation prize. She edited and published *Positive Vibrations* magazine in the 90s and *Giving the Land a Voice, Mapping Our Home Places* and the *BC Kingfisher* magazine in the early 2000s. She currently lives off-grid on Lasqueti Island.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Foreword by well-known West Coast author and environmentalist Briony Penn.
- Not a dry history—author has narratively linked the stories about conservation efforts through her trips sailing to each location and shares observations of the unique and at risk species in the region.
- Author has interviewed 50+ people associated with land trusts, their directors, donors, and members plus other professionals connected to land transfers and sales.
- Relationships with First Nations and respect for the treaty process is a strong theme.
- Conveys an inspirational message of collective action to support conservation in an era of restoration and reconciliation.
- Will appeal to a broad audience of people concerned about climate change and invested in environmental restoration and conservation.
- No direct comps—there are no other books about the numerous Land Trusts along the Salish Sea.
- Promotional support from The Islands Trust Conservancy, the regional conservation organization.

MORE ►

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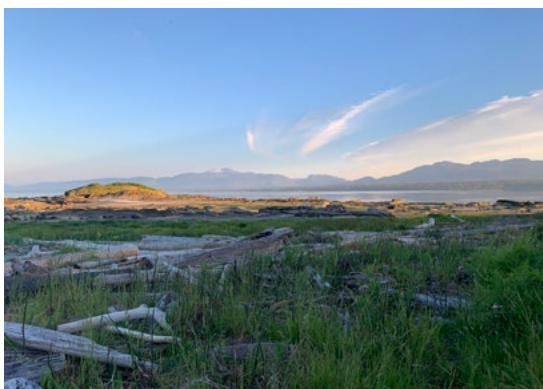
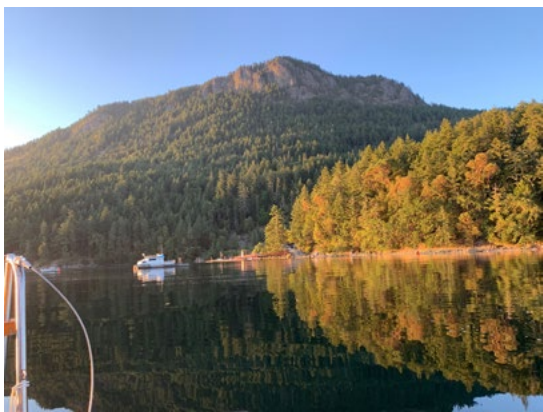
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SAMPLE IMAGES



REBECCA BENJAMIN CAREY



BACKGROUND

- While focused on southwestern British Columbia, *Voices for the Islands* makes a strong case study for the importance of protecting natural habitats globally, and how independent community groups can make a difference.
- Charitable organizations called land trusts arose out of a very activist time in BC, and provide the legal means to purchase, covenant, and conserve land for the larger community, and to protect the habitats of other species.
- Most of the Islands in the Salish Sea are within a very small ecological niche—the critically imperiled Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic zone. This is the smallest and most at-risk ecological community in Canada; less than 1% of the original forest is left, and less than 10% of the forest has been protected.
- Includes chapters on: Cortes; Denman; Gabriola; Galiano; Gambier; Hornby; Lasqueti, Texada, and surrounding islands and islets; Mayne; North Pender and South Pender; Quadra; Salt Spring; Saturna; Savary; Thetis; Valdes; Provincial Parks on the islands and the Gulf Island National Park Reserve.

ADVANCED PRAISE

“As a sailor, I have had the privilege of visiting every one of the islands in this book and hiked many trails in the parks and protected areas. Each Gulf Island holds a distinct beauty . . . It is a delight to follow in the wake of fellow sailor Sheila Harrington as she meets the people and organizations that have fought tirelessly to preserve these unique ecosystems for future generations to enjoy.”

—Bob McDonald OC, author, journalist, and host of *Quirks & Quarks*, CBC Radio-Canada

“In *Voices for the Islands*, Sheila Harrington takes readers on a delightful sailing journey through the Salish Sea. As Harrington visits each jewel on the long necklace of Gulf Islands, detailing their rich conservation history, she shines a light on the passionate residents who have dedicated so much of their lives to protecting nature in doggedly creative ways.

“*Voices for the Islands* unflinchingly documents the mounting threats facing the islands in the Salish Sea and describes on-going efforts at reconciliation with First Nations, the original stewards of the waters and land. In these troubling times of climate change and biodiversity loss, Harrington’s book is an uplifting testament to how individuals and communities working together to protect what they cherish can make an incalculable difference.”

—Sarah Cox, author of *Signs of Life* and *Breaching the Peace*

“The interconnected islands of the Salish Sea present wonderful diversity—from arbutus groves to intertidal ecosystems, camas meadows, and vital wetlands. But these delicate zones are threatened by biodiversity loss, land clearing, and climate change. As a fellow island dweller invested in conservation, I appreciated learning more about the differences between reserves, conservancies, covenants, and parks, as well as how the Islands Trust movement began. Sheila Harrington reminds us that islands are a construct, and draws our attention to the waterways and desire trails that connect these jewels. Reading about the many individuals and groups working to preserve these lands helps me feel a little less alone, the distances easier to cross.”

—Amanda Lewis, author of *Tracking Giants: Big Trees, Tiny Triumphs, and Misadventures in the Forest*

MORE ►

ADVANCED PRAISE (CONT.)

“At last, a Good New Story. This book details the ongoing successful battles to preserve the natural spaces on the treasured Islands of the Salish Sea. Engagingly written, part chronology, part inspiration and part guide for the future. It details the battles and sacrifices of the many dedicated crusaders for Mother Gaia.”

—Bobbi Hunter, Greenpeace co-founder and Editor/Contributor of *Mr. Mindbomb: A Life in Stories*

“Aboard her small sailboat, Sheila Harrington takes us to the islands in the Salish Sea to tell a remarkable story. As developments began to threaten unique ecosystems, local activists rallied round to preserve them. Determined, creative, and savvy, they often succeeded. Their fights contain lessons for all of us—both timeless and timely!”

—Claudia Cornwall, author of *British Columbia in Flames: Stories from a Blazing Summer*

“Conservation does work. From philanthropy to volunteer hours to policy campaigns, regular people who care about community have shaped and reshaped the Western land and seascape. This book is a beautiful tribute to those people – past and present – who have continuously engaged in the hard work of protecting nature. It is celebration and inspiration.”

—Andrea Olive, University of Toronto Mississauga Professor and author of *Protecting the Prairies: Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation*

“A beautifully-crafted, comprehensive tour of these iconic, fragile islands, seen through the eyes and hearts of those who tend them. Indigenous and Settler. Through colourful photos, and conversations with colourful locals, Sheila Harrington shows us restoration is possible.”

—Pauline Le Bel, author of *Whale in the Door: A Community Unites to Protect BC’s Howe Sound*

SAMPLE IMAGES (CONT.)



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