

TREAD LIGHTLY

– a guide to living lightly on Mayne Island

TREAD LIGHTLY, 2nd edition, is intended to serve as a resource to help Mayne Islanders make day-to-day and long-term eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle choices. This booklet is for new and long-term residents as well as for short-term visitors. 'Day-trippers', please see the one-page leaflet for visitors.

The Mayne Island Conservancy thanks all those islanders who contributed their knowledge and expertise to the sections below. The organizations that have helped fund this publication are acknowledged on the inside back cover.

Index	Page
Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS)	2
Water Stewardship(MIIWSS)	2
Fragile Eco-systems	4
Gardening	5
Local Organic Food	7
Resilient Mayne	8
Sustainable Living (ISUNI)	9
Car Stops	10
Parks (MIPRC)	12
Marine Use (AMIB)	13
Recycling & Waste Reduction (MIRS)	14
Fire Management (MIFD)	16
Conserving our Heritage	17
Land Stewardship (MICS)	18
Mayne Island Local Island Trust Committee (LTC)	20



The Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS) works with the community to preserve the ecological integrity of Mayne Island for future generations. It does this through a varied programme of educational workshops and community events. It also encourages community participation in the conservation of ecologically sensitive land through stewardship initiatives, covenants and land purchase.

We, the directors of MICS, hope that this booklet will highlight some of the ecological issues relevant to the island and will prove both informative and useful to its readers.

MICS is a registered charitable organization. If you want to get more involved, please join us. You can write to us at Box 31, Mayne Island, BC, V0N 2J0; email us at info@conservancyonmayne.com; visit our website; or stop at our booth at the Farmers' Market during the summer.

Reference: www.conservancyonmayne.com

Contact: Leanna Boyer 250-539-5168 leannabee@gmail.com

Michael Dunn 250-539-5745 mdunn@gulfislands.com

Water Stewardship

Mayne Islanders rely 100% on groundwater and our aquifers are regarded as a community resource. A sense of stewardship prevails in the protection of this finite resource as water is a rare gift of life and a sustainer of property values.

Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society (MIWSS), a volunteer umbrella group, focuses solely on water conservation, aquifer protection and preservation and the enlightenment of aquifer users. Our website covers all facets of water resource and conservation: systems information, rates and contacts, government resource links, technical information for single well owners, workshop updates. Library enthusiasts use our Water Resource Shelf, including "how to" books on rainwater collection systems for long summer droughts. Visit our website for titles (see below).

Integrated Water participates in the Welcome Box, reaching new Islanders in order to ensure their participation in conservation measures by installing dual flush toilets, low consumption washers and water saving devices. We encourage grey water (from dishes, laundry and showers) re-use on the *roots only* of vegetables, and the use of rainwater for toilet flushing.



Our annual April water workshop and fall technical workshops offer speakers from across Canada with information of benefit to every well owner. One-on-one consultants attend our Fall Fair booth.

Island water lifestyle requires constant diligence: turning off valves before leaving the island; using rainwater for hot tubs and pools; accepting dusty cars and brown lawns; repairing leaks immediately; and teaching guests water conservation practices.

Island *septic systems* often challenge the urban visitor or homeowner. Toilets are for human processed edibles only. Never use 'Drano' or dump pharmaceuticals or over-the-counter

medication down the drain. Pump your tank every 3 to 5 years. When returning home after more than two weeks, give the septic bacteria a couple of days to recover before doing laundry.

Approximately half of the Island's population is served by private wells. Residential areas are supplied by twelve legal water systems of varying sizes which are audited by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, ensuring potable water supplies. Most systems have usage restrictions during summer drought periods.

Integrated Water hopes that, while enjoying our island, residents and guests will also respect our finite water resources.

References: See "Water" section in the Library
www.mayneisland.com/water

Contact: Mary Cooper, President 250-539-3491
watersociety@shaw.ca

Fragile Ecosystems

Did you know that the plants, plant communities and some of the associated animals found here are ecologically unique within Canada? Recently, the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) Zone, as this region is officially called, has been ranked as globally imperiled due to its limited occurrence on the planet. This uniqueness is primarily due to its position on the West Coast that creates a Mediterranean-type climate with mild moist winters and warm dry summers. Human pressures have altered much of this landscape from its original state so that only about 10% remains relatively intact. Coupled with this is the fact that about 85% of the CDF is privately held which means that intact and recovering remnants are even more in need of stewardship by island residents. This is a global responsibility.



The natural communities that add so much to our quality of life on Mayne Island include forests, woodlands, coastal bluffs, grasslands, wetlands, rocky outcrops, watercourses and estuaries. All of these features contribute to our healthy and attractive community. They help recharge groundwater, filter wastes, maintain humidity and offer inspiration. These systems also support our diverse bird, mammal and amphibian species. A dawn chorus of birds or the early spring chorus of frogs are some of the events that make this a special place to live.

These ecosystems are limited and we, as the present stewards, must learn about their importance to our well-being and what we can do to ensure that we leave these priceless gifts to future generations. A great first step is to become familiar with the Sensitive Ecosystems Map of Mayne Island that can be found at the Mayne Island Library.

References: Maps – available in the Library

Contact: Michael Dunn 250-539-5745 mdunn@gulfislands.com

Gardening

It is important to preserve and protect our rare and unique Gulf Island *Coastal Douglas Fir Ecosystem*. In creating attractive gardens and surroundings, it is wise to use plant materials that will enhance but not damage our environment. Native plants are encouraged but many ornamental plants and food crops grow well and suit our purposes.

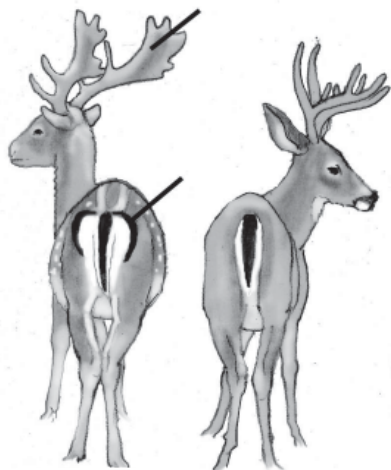


Our dry, sunny summers and limited groundwater mandate the use of little water. Drought tolerant plants suitable to our growing conditions are attractive and abundant. These plants are often resistant to browsing or destruction by our native black-tailed deer. Xeriscaping, or dry land gardening, becomes a useful technique in creating the gardens we desire with minimal impact on our resources. But, in your selection of plant materials, consider their flammability and where you intend to place them around your home and outbuildings. Fire on a small island with limited water and dry forests (naturally combustible) is a serious concern.

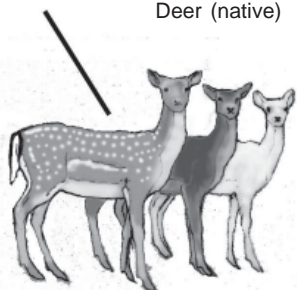
Invasive plants (often non-native garden escapees) choke out our beautiful and sometimes endangered natives. Be vigilant in removing invasive plants such as Scotch broom and gorse (which are also fire hazards). Purple loosestrife, spurge daphne and English

ivy spread rampantly and become difficult to eradicate. Watch out for other ornamentals that do *too well* in your garden and threaten to escape into the wild. If you must grow a potentially invasive plant take the responsibility to remove its seeds before they ripen and spread. Confine invasive roots in containers that will keep them in check.

Another invasive species that does a great deal of damage to our gardens and native flora is the fallow deer. You can report sightings of fallow deer to Richard Brown (250-539-5612) to assist our attempt to eradicate them as well. They are larger than our native black-tailed deer and range in colour from brown mottled with white to dark, even black.



Fallow Deer Columbia Black Tailed Deer (native)



Colour Variations

References: Mayne Island Garden Club MICS' brochure on "Invasive Species" available at the Farmers' Market and on racks around the island

Contact: Trish Hoff 250-539-2598 trishhoff@shaw.ca

Local Organic Food

Historically, Mayne was a major exporter of produce, especially tomatoes, to the lower mainland. We are fortunate to have a number of certified organic farmers here and many others who are organic gardeners – that is, we grow our own food with the use of our own compost, locally available animal manure and washed-up seaweed. We do not use pesticides or chemical fertilizers.



A Farmers' Market is open every Saturday morning from May long weekend through Thanksgiving. There you can find local organic produce and gastronomic treats, including a wide range of vegetables and fruit.

Locally produced organic/free-range eggs, chicken, beef and lamb are also available either at the Market or at the various farms.

We encourage the use of locally produced



products that are not imported from far away. Before you buy, please think about the distance your fresh produce will have travelled with its associated environmental impact, not to mention loss of vitamins and flavour! We encourage local self-sufficiency.

Farm Contacts:

Shanti & Don McDougall 250-539-5456 dvf@gulfislands.com

Joyce Kallweit 250-539-3316 kallweit@gulfislands.com

Ron Pither 250-539-2034 rpither@gulfislands.com

Peter Judd 250-539-2244 farm@judd.ca

Helen & John O'Brian 250-539-5619 heleno@gulfislands.com

Diane Akey 250-539-3623 diane@starrynightfarm.ca

Brian Steele 250-539-9956 raylia3@shaw.ca

Christina Pechloff 250-539-3523 christina@christinasgarden.com

Farmers Market mifarmersmarket@shaw.ca

Resilient Mayne

Resilient Mayne is based on the early success of the Transition Towns model (transitionculture.org) that has been flourishing around the world over the last few years. It is an inclusive, community-led process moving toward a more resilient and self-reliant Mayne Island for the future.

As with the need to ensure the resilience of the ecosystems found on Mayne Island, residents also need to be concerned for the long-term resilience of the social and economic fabric of the island community. The Resilient Mayne Initiative's intent is to facilitate community dialogue on these themes in the context of a changing climate, dwindling cheap energy sources and aging demographics within the community.

Early gatherings have explored what Mayne Island would look like in 2030 and included discussion of energy, transportation, food security, farming, health, wellbeing, water supply, local economy and livelihoods. Early focus has been on the viability of Mayne Island

farming and a move toward creating a local brand for Mayne Island produced agricultural products. The process is open to all residents and interests.

Reference: www.resilientmayne.ca

Contact: Michael Dunn 250-539-5745 mdunn@gulfislands.com

Sustainable Living

Sustainable living is the practice of connectivity. All species are interwoven with the planet in a supportive web of life. Humans are learning how nature has prospered for millennia with processes that are cyclical, waste free and powered by the sun. Pollution and resource depletion are the opposite and degrade the planet and all the biosphere's inhabitants.



We have the knowledge and still have enough natural wealth to modify our take-make-waste methods and thus promote democracy and health. The alternative makes our collective futures finite.

Being islanders we easily see the limits of the land, water, energy, human, marine and biological resources available which can motivate us to be efficient and egalitarian. The imperative of cooperation with neighbours is clear, be they wild, human, governmental or global.

Practical choices:

- Renovate existing, or purchase, 'green' buildings to reduce pollution and create social wealth. 60% of our home heating can come from passive solar design; modern appliances can easily conserve half the water and power we now use.

- Increase walking and cycling weekly. Buy hybrid cars or use smaller electric ones that can run on \$300 per year of energy consumables. Consider wind/wave/hydro/biomass or solar powered hydrogen for transport as it becomes available.
- Grow your own or buy local, organic produce for tasty, biocide-free healthy nourishment for a 1/3 reduction in energy use. This choice sustains local economies and replenishes our depleted top soil bank account.
- Research and teach our children about sustainable economies and bio-mimicry for their own longevity.
- Participate in citizens' activism on perpetual culture. This produces an informed public and guides governments into a chosen future, rather than defaulting to a corporate driven one.

Our children will have a place to thrive and will look back on this generation as having made the change in time.

Reference: Islands Sustainability Initiative (ISUNI)
www.sustainmayne.ca

Contacts: Peter Judd 250-539-2244 input@sustainability.org
 Brian Crumblhulme 250-539-3027 briary2@telus.net

Car Stops

Car Stops is a free, voluntary, alternative transportation system on Mayne Island. There are 25 Car Stops signs at convenient pullout locations on roads around the island.

Pedestrians who need a lift can stand at these green and white highway signs, indicating to cars which way they're heading. We encourage drivers to share the ride, reducing fuel consumption and our ecological footprint. Drivers and passengers



abide by the rules printed on the signs:

*Drivers don't have to take the first in line;
 you don't have to accept a ride - that's fine.
 It's at your own risk if you take a lift;
 the ride is free, so consider it a gift.*

Free Car Stops Map Brochures are at five Car Stops. At the Village Bay Ferry Terminal, there is a box on the walkway. Car Stop #1 is just outside the terminal gate on Village Bay Road, in front of Re/Max. From here, pedestrians can seek a ride either towards Miners Bay or south on Dalton Drive. Drivers on the ferry deck may also display *I Give Rides* dashboard signs before disembarking to assist walk-on passengers.



Mayne is the second Southern Gulf Island, after Pender, to institute Car Stops. We hope that soon all Southern Gulf Islands will be linked and characterized by this environmentally and community-friendly option, so that those who have cars will make good use of them and those who don't will be able to get around well. This type of carpooling may spread in two ways. It can become more formalized through the use of bulletin-board websites that have begun to match passengers and drivers. Car Stops can also become accepted 'Island Style' – spontaneous or planned – for islanders, visitors and boaters who wish to go shopping, visiting, to work, to Market or to other island events.

Reference: Car Stops Map available at various locations and at the Farmers' Market www.mayneisland/carstops

Contact: Julie Emerson 250-539-3295 alwaysunny@telus.net

Parks

Mayne Island is blessed with a range of parks and green spaces, which account for about 4% of our land area. The agencies which administer our parks, trails and beach accesses are the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission, CRD Parks and Parks Canada (GINPR). Our parks range in size from large semi-wilderness parks like Mt. Parke Regional Parke/Plumper Pass Community Park (100 acres in total), multi-use parks like Dinner Bay Community Park (10 acres), all the way down to small neighbourhood parks like Sandy Hook Community Park 1 acre).



The important thing for all of us to realize here is that, barring some very generous bequests or donations of land, there ain't going to be many new parks. So, we all understand that our green spaces are not just places for us to replenish our spirits and carry out low impact recreation, but are also a refuge for many species of flora and fauna (some red-listed!) that have retreated to these small spaces and are making their last stand there.

Parks are also places where our watersheds can re-charge without human interference, ensuring a supply of clean water for the future. Treading lightly on our parks, trails and beach accesses means having respect for what grows and lives there.

While exploring Mayne Island, *please....*

- Remember that some plants are especially sensitive (lady's slipper orchids and chocolate lilies do not transplant well and die when picked). It's best to leave all plants alone.
- Do not molest or feed wildlife
- Stay on the trails; shortcuts cause erosion.
- Keep pets on a leash.

- Refrain from smoking.
- Take only pictures and leave only light footprints!

Help us to stop invasive species from getting into our parks and green spaces because they compromise the integrity of our ecosystems (broom means doom for many of our native species).

Finally, let's remind ourselves that folks 100 years from now deserve parks as pristine as they are today.

Reference: Mayne Island Walking & Hiking Trails Map brochure – available in racks around the island

Contact: Peter Askin 250-539-2199 pjaskin@shaw.ca

Marine Use



As with trail etiquette anywhere, when walking on the seashore look before you step. Please try to leave things as undisturbed as possible after your passage. Marine critters and plants are all somebody or something's food. Caution is always appropriate with the variety of flotsam and jetsam that gets cast up on our shores. Good footwear prevents injury, but going barefoot is a great joy after you've checked the area.

Discharge of bilge and holding tank contents is a strict NO-NO. Pump-out stations exist in locations found in the reference list (see below).

It is really best to check the regulations regarding the harvesting of sea creatures, finned and otherwise. Closures can happen at any time. Conservation areas abound around our shores. We are all anxious to bring the resident marine populations back to their former abundance.



The good marine neighbor is respectful of his fellow boaters and landsmen, but also of all other marine species. They need their space also, especially killer whales. We must be careful and follow the guidelines especially when approaching these beautiful marine mammals. Should you come across a lost looking seal pup, keep in mind that its mother is out there somewhere fishing for dinner and any disturbance to the pup could result in its being abandoned. It is important that you stay away.

If you make an interesting find on the beach, consider... Is it some small creature's home? Would someone else like to rediscover that same thing another day? Would taking it home with you really bring you and your family everlasting joy?



Please help keep our shoreline and beaches clean.

References: *Boaters Blue Pages Marina Guide* and *DFO Fishing Guide* – available at the gas station in Miners Bay.
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm> (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Contact: Larry Barker 250-539-5805 larrybarker@shaw.ca
Association of Mayne Island Boaters

Recycling and Waste Reduction

Mayne Islanders take waste reduction very seriously.

The Recycling Depot, located 1 km from Fernhill Road on Campbell Bay Road, takes almost all clean materials including plastics and electronics. White goods (fridges, stoves, etc) and large loads of scrap metal are accepted at cost.

Open hours: 10 - 2 on Wednesdays and 10 - 4 on Saturdays; opening at 9 am during the summer.



The Depot is run by the non-profit Mayne Island Recycling Society (MIRS), with financial support from the Capital Regional District (CRD), supplemented by annual membership fees and donations. It is highly dependent on its enthusiastic volunteers,

many of whom find this activity a great introduction to community life here on Mayne.

The CRD offers a hazardous waste collection service at the Depot every two years.

Composting is the preferred way to handle kitchen and garden waste. For simple instructions, pick up a copy of MIRS' composting brochure at the Depot or in racks around the island.

On Saturdays, check out the Thrift Store (beside the Museum and opposite the Agricultural Hall) and the many garage sales and flea markets held on the Island. The Thrift Store accepts donations of clean clothes and household goods. *Re-use* is more environmentally sound than recycling!

References: *Mayne Island Recycling Guide*, *Guide to Home Composting*, *Household Hazardous Wastes* pamphlets – available at the Depot.

Contact: Ron Willick, Manager 250-539-3380
ggandron@shaw.ca



Fire Management

The Mayne Island Fire Department is a volunteer department of more than 25 well-trained members. Please be advised that Burning Permits are required for all fires. There are two types of Burn Permits issued:

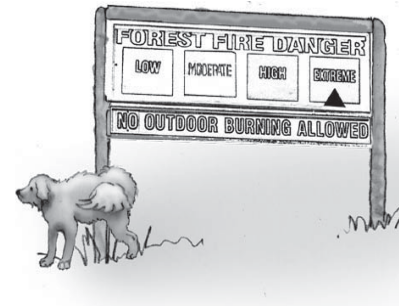
A **Class-B Permit** is for hand piled (smaller) piles and is available at the gas station in Miners Bay. The requirements for a Class-B permit are that:

- hand piles be a maximum of 2 metres (6.5 feet) in diameter and no higher than 1.5 metres (5 feet);
- a responsible adult be in constant attendance;
- there be no burning within 8 meters (26 feet) of buildings or within 5 metres (16.5 feet) of other combustibles;
- on-site, there must be a telephone;
- on-site, there must be an extinguishing agent and a shovel, pulaski or mattock.

Regardless of permit class, there is to be no burning of tires, rubber, garbage, animal organic waste, plastic, drywall, paint, fiberglass, pressure-treated lumber, asphalt products, or any materials that create a noxious odour – outdoors, or in your personal incinerator.

A **Class-A Permit** is for a larger machined-piled fire. The site MUST be inspected by the Fire Chief or his/her agent. Class-A permits are only available from the Fire Chief or his/her agent. With machine-piled fires, the machine and operator must be on site until the fire is extinguished. The pile must be 100 metres (328 feet) from all buildings and only be burnt when wind and weather conditions warrant.

Make certain that your chimney is cleaned regularly as chimney fires can get out of control. You can borrow free chimney cleaning equipment from the Fire Department. And don't let dry combustible debris accumulate on your property.



There are three signs with the current fire danger ratings located around the Island: at the Ferry Terminal, the Health Centre, and the Firehall. **There is NO outdoor burning allowed during the months of July, August, and September.** Please check the

above noted locations to see if outdoor burning is allowed during other months.

Call 911 for any suspected fire and 250-539-5156 for all other non-emergency inquiries.

Reference: www.mayneislandfire.com

Contact: Jeff Francis, Fire Chief, 250-539-5156 mifd@shaw.ca

Conserving our Heritage

Mapping Our Heritage: Mayne Island Agricultural History is an ongoing local bio-regional community art mapping initiative sponsored by the Mayne Island Conservancy, with support and funding from the Agricultural Society, the Library, private donors, the Local Island Trust Committee, and Heritage BC.

This project has its roots in the bio-regional art mapping work first introduced locally through the “Giving The Land A Voice” project in the mid 1990s, followed by the highly successful *Islands In The Salish Sea* sixteen island community millennial mapping project in 2000. Bio-regional art mapping builds on local knowledge and networks, emphasizing the interconnection between local species, landscapes, and cultures. It works to preserve traditional knowledge and create a stewardship tradition that acts to protect significant places within the local community.

The Agricultural History project's goal is to explore and document Mayne Island's rural and agrarian past; to collect and collate local maps, histories and stories; and to create new maps describing our history over time. We plan to establish a local historical archive which will become a resource for future generations of Islanders. We hope through this work to instill a deeper sense of connection with local history and traditions in our community of residents and visitors alike, and encourage better care for our cherished Island home.

We invite participation from anyone with an interest in the history and heritage of our Island.

Reference: *Islands of the Salish Sea, a Community Atlas* – available at Miners Bay Books

Contact: Tina Farmilo 250-539-2402 tinafarmilo@shaw.ca

Land Stewardship

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art anyone could ever want to own." Andy Warhol.



What is it about your property on Mayne Island that you love? A stream that flows vigorously in the Spring? A grove of trees where eagles nest? The little green tree frogs that serenade you? Perhaps it is the foreshore area of your property.

Do you want to care for it well or perhaps even protect it for future generations?

The Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS) can help you in many ways. Our educational programs will help you become familiar with the native flora and fauna as well as with the introduced invasive species such as Scotch broom, spurge daphne, holly, ivy and others.

We encourage the removal of invasive plants and our Broom Action Team (BAT) will advise and possibly even assist you.

If you are interested in maintaining the ecological integrity of your land, MICS invites you to enter into a Stewardship Agreement. Following a walkabout of your property with a MICS representative, we would invite you to enter a non-binding one year renewable stewardship pledge with MICS which focuses on any or all of the nine areas listed, ranging from protecting native plants to removing invasive species to conserving water.



If you are interested in protecting all or part of your land for future generations, MICS can consult with you on Conservation Covenant options. A conservation covenant is a legally binding document that is registered on your land title and held with a registered conservation organization, such as the Islands Trust Fund and/or MICS that would monitor the covenanted land on an annual basis.

MICS encourages Mayne Island landowners to practice good land stewardship. If you are interested in more information on any of the stewardship options listed above, please contact the Mayne Island Conservancy.

References: Mayne Island Conservancy Society
www.conservancyonmayne.com
Islands Trust Fund www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca
(Jennifer Eliason jeliason@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Contact: Ken Brock 250-539-2205 ken.brock@shaw.ca

Local Trust Committee



The object of the Islands Trust Act is "to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of the Province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, other persons and organizations and the government of the Province."

The objectives in the Mayne Island Community Plan are based on this mandate with a focus on two main priorities.

- The first is to provide a balance between preservation of the natural environment and development associated with the human population and necessary economic activities that sustain the population.
- The second is to preserve the unique personality of our community while providing for its needs and those of visitors in a manner and scale that does not over burden the land or its residents.

The Islands Trust offers stewardship opportunities, through a variety of land use tools, for the acquisition and protection of green spaces, public and private.

Only by working with the local and transient community at an individual knowledge and responsibility base, can this community achieve its goals. Your locally elected Islands Trust Trustees support stewardship that comes from the individuals that choose to be a part of this special island.

Reference: *Mayne Island's Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws* – available from the Trustees, or at the Library
www.IslandsTrust.com/Mayne

Contacts: Jeanine Dodds, Trustee 250-539-2411
jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca
Colin Shew, Trustee 250-539-2699
cshew@islandstrust.bc.ca