## **Mount Tzuhalem**







## A Priority Site for Conservation

One of a series of such sites identified by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

For more information about Garry oak and associated ecosystems see www.goert.ca

Garry oak and associated (coastal meadows, coastal bluffs, vernal pools, grasslands, rock outcrops, and transitional forests) ecosystems are among the rarest and most endangered ecosystems in Canada, and are home to more than 100 species at risk. The Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team has identified a series of currently unprotected sites in south-western British Columbia as priority conservation targets. These sites represent the largest remnant patches of habitat and/or key occurrences of species at risk.

Mount Tzuhalem The steep bluffs and rocky outcrops of Mt. Tzuhalem, with scattered Garry oaks, overlooks Satellite Channel and Cowichan Bay. This area, located within the Cowichan Valley Regional District, is important habitat for raptors and redlisted Purple Martins and Peregrine Falcons. A diverse habitat, Mt. Tzuhalem also supports blue-listed Ermine, a blue-listed butterfly, 9 red-listed and 3 blue-listed plants as well as 3 red-listed plant communities.

The panoramic views make the aesthetic value here very high. Historic and current use by First Nations, including middens and burial areas, also mean very high cultural values. This beautiful site is threatened by possible development and recreational pressures.



