



News Release

200 -1627 Fort Street Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Telephone **250.405.5151** FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**

information@islandstrust.bc.ca www.islandstrust.bc.ca

March 19, 2014

2014-06-IT

LIFE'S A BEACH - SATURDAY, APRIL 19 IS NORTH PENDER ISLAND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP DAY

A full day of activities on local beaches and events at the Pender Island Community Hall are scheduled for Saturday, April 19 as part of the North Pender Island Community Stewardship Day, sponsored by the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association.

At its February 27th meeting the local trust committee adopted a resolution proclaiming the Saturday on this year's Easter long weekend as Community Stewardship Day. The annual beach cleanup has been celebrated on North Pender Island for 30 years.

Community Stewardship Day begins with the Pender Conservancy's Annual Beach Clean-up, which has been a community tradition for many years usually held on or near Earth Day. Islanders and non-profit organizations will scour local beaches for debris and deliver it to a 'Drop Zone' for sorting and disposal. Volunteers will then proceed to the Pender Island Community hall for lunch prepared by the Pender Women's Circle.

"The local trust committee and the conservancy have both made understanding shoreline issues a priority this term," said Ken Hancock, a North Pender Island local trustee. "We have been incredibly fortunate to work with staff, as well as other individuals and organizations to produce new mapping of Islands Trust Area shorelines, including identifying critical habitats such as eel grass beds and existing or potential forage fish beaches. We have also produced new educational materials that explain why island shorelines need ongoing careful stewardship and we're looking forward to sharing it all with the community. North Pender Community Stewardship Day is an opportunity to learn more about the challenges we face, to celebrate our successes and to examine what can be done to encourage ongoing voluntary stewardship all year round."

The Community Stewardship Fair, which opens at 1 pm upstairs at the community hall, will feature exhibits by: Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre; Habitat Acquisition Trust; BC Coastal Clean-up Campaign; BC Shore Spawners Alliance; Islands Trust Fund; Pender Island Conservancy Association; Pender Island Field Naturalists and the Pender Islands Trust Protection Society. South Pender Island local trustee Mike Jones will also be on hand to demonstrate a new shoreline component of the Islands Trust's popular internet-based Map-It application, which was developed for the South Pender Island Local Trust Committee.

Guest speaker Biologist Ramona de Graaf will present 'More Than Just a Pretty Beach', about local beaches as habitat for forage fish and their role in supporting iconic species such as salmon and orca. At 3 pm, Islands Trust Council Chair Sheila Malcolmson will present, 'Salish Sea Shorelines Under Threat', which outlines Islands Trust Council concerns about increased tanker traffic and potential oil spills.

"Our shorelines are what define us as an island community", added Gary Steeves, also a North Pender local trustee. "They deserve to be protected and I am proud to be part of a community that takes stewardship seriously. We are hoping everyone will find a way to participate in what promises to be a great day. Whether it's cleaning a beach in the morning or coming to hear the guest speakers and see the exhibits in the afternoon, there are many opportunities to participate".

The day wraps up at 4 pm with closing remarks by the North Pender Island local trustees. All events are free and everyone is welcome.

To volunteer to clean a beach please call Trinette Prior at (250) 629-2213. For information about the Stewardship Fair contact Ken Hancock at (250) 629-6610 or Gary Steeves at (250) 629-3595.

more

Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

community stewardship day...2

The Islands Trust Council is a federation of local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

- 30 -

CONTACT

Ken Hancock
North Pender Island Local Trustee
(250) 629-6610
khancock@islandstrust.bc.ca

Gary Steeves
North Pender Island Local Trustee
(250) 629-3595
gsteeves@islandstrust.bc.ca