

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Peter Karsten, Denman Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Conservation Projects and Programs
Nominator(s):	Denman Conservancy Association
Letters of Support:	N/A

Project Description:

Peter Karsten is nominated for this award in recognition of his recent activities; although he has a lifetime of activities that demonstrate his deep commitment to the preservation, protection and appreciation of our natural world. Peter is truly a force of nature, an inspirational leader, a doer, a creative person, an educator and a tireless worker. As an artist, environmentalist, and retired CEO, Peter unites and transcends the diverse groupings that characterize island communities and involves the whole community in the projects he leads.

Examples of his achievements during the past year alone include:

- His initiative and hard work were instrumental in the activation of three new parks on Denman Island: Stanehill Park (a little over a year ago), Morning Beach Park, and Maple Park, and particularly the construction of a long staircase to access Morning Beach.
- Peter serves as a director and Co-Chair of the Denman Conservancy Association and chairs the Outreach Committee. He serves on (and until recently chaired) the Parks Committee of the Denman Island Residents Association and serves on the association's Wildlife Advisory Committee (which he earlier founded to assist injured wildlife). Peter is heavily involved in all the work of his committees, and liaises with the Denman Residents Association, the Comox Valley Regional District and B.C. Parks
- Peter's efforts to support the recovery of Purple Martins included organizing a tour of his aviaries, educational talks, an art sale for which he created all the drawings, paintings and sculptures, and building and installing new bird houses. An international expert in breeding endangered birds, he also mentors children in this and other nature projects.

- Peter was involved in the building of a community dock, and created not only the sign for the dock, but also a small replica of the sign as a recognition gift.
- He helped build a bridge for the Island Equines group to protect a stream.
- He designed and built a memorial bench with a carved eagle in the back, helped install it and then volunteered for a committee to develop policies for future bench requests to the Denman Conservancy Association.
- Peter was instrumental in organizing a scientific speakers program involving prominent biologists. Peter arranged the speakers, advertising, venue, entertainment and housing.