

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Shirley LePers, The Pender Islands

Category: Individual

Project: Pender Islands Telephone Book

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

Shirley has volunteered countless hours since 1998 coordinating the annual free Pender Islands telephone book on behalf of the Pender Islands Lions Club. The telephone book is a huge support to the social and business life of the island by providing information specific to the community and facilitating communication amongst residents. The telephone book is the major fundraiser (through advertising) for the Lions Club, which generously supports many community projects.

Every fall, Shirley contacts all households and businesses on North and South Pender Islands by mail and personal follow up, if needed, to learn about all new or changed information. She sleuths out changes in the community and makes about 300 changes to the book, which also includes a map for local postal codes. She also contacts advertisers and follows up personally with more than half of them. In 2005, Shirley introduced an e-mail directory section to the telephone book in response to the growing use of home computers. Shirley works alongside Michel Pelletier, who does the layout work, to have the book printed through a carbon neutral printing program.

Each year the Pender Islands Lions Club produces 1500 books, of which 800 are mailed out. Shirley handles the distribution with some help from other Lions Club members.

Shirley has been nominated for her long term work on the phone book, but it should be noted that Shirley has also served the Pender Islands community by running the Lions tourist information bureau (no longer in existence) for nine years; serving eight years on the Board of the Pender Islands Health Care Society, chairing the Board during the last Medical Clinic extension campaign. Shirley also served eight years on the Library Board; and held various positions with the Pender Island Choral Society.