

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



2009 Recipient Profile

- Nominee:** Patricia McLaughlin, Denman Island
- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Marine Stewardship, Chair of Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee
- Nominator(s):** Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee executive and members

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description: Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee (DIMSC) works to foster community stewardship and ensure commercial and recreational marine activities are conducted on a scale and in a manner that conserves the diverse values of the marine environment. The Committee's work focuses on issues that include the use of petroleum-based plastics in marine environments, shoreline erosion, destruction of sensitive vegetation and habitat, and leaching of toxins and pesticides into streams and oceans.

Patricia McLaughlin is one of the original founders of DIMSC and has acted as Chair since 1998. Patricia – now over 80 years of age – continues to bring leadership, inspiration, and a spirit of collaboration to DIMSC. Over the past 25 years, Patricia has worked tirelessly as a steward of the marine environment. Her work with DIMSC has included opposition to increased loss of marine habitat in Baynes Sound; contribution to development of community marine policy in the OCP; input on the Ministry of Agriculture's 'Baynes Sound Coastal Plan for Aquaculture;' formation of a marine stewardship coalition with other coastal communities; organization of an annual beach cleanup event involving students, seniors, businesses, and other community residents; and implementation of a local Complaint and Reporting System for marine related issues.