

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Nominee Profile

John Peirce, Gabriola Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Cross-border conservation covenant and trail licenses
Nominator(s):	Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Description:

John Peirce is nominated for his work to protect island ecosystems and trail development. As president of Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) from 2011-2014, John led a coordinated process with GaLTT, an American Gabriola landowner named Sally Robinson, and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (American Friends), to establish American Friends' first conservation covenant in British Columbia. John was also instrumental in establishing GaLTT's ability to establish formal trail-use license agreements with private landowners.

The Robinson Woods Conservation Covenant Initiative created ongoing benefits for Gabriola Island and opened the door for future land conservation by American landowners on the Gulf Islands and elsewhere in B.C. The Robinson Woods conservation covenant area protects natural open space and scenic views, sensitive Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem habitat, and the shoreline.

John's leadership in developing GaLTT's process for temporary trail-use licenses has resulted in more public trail connections throughout Gabriola Island, while enhancing recreation and non-vehicle transportation opportunities. By creating new systems, John has laid the groundwork for similar future projects that allow people to protect and enjoy natural spaces with minimal impact to ecosystems.

John is now Vice President of American Friends and active in their effort with Mayne Island Conservancy Society to preserve the St. John Point property on Mayne Island.