Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program

2019 Nominee Profile

Thetis Island Nature Conservancy Society

Category: Organization

Project: **Land acquisition and conservation efforts Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve**

Nominator(s):   Tatiana Nemchin

Project Description[i]:

The Thetis Island Nature Conservancy Society (ThINC) was nominated for the land acquisition and conservation efforts it has completed over the past seven years, and especially for the protection of the Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve. ThINC is the first conservation organization on Thetis Island, which is almost entirely privately owned.

Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve is 41 acres of Douglas-fir and Arbutus forest, named for the beautiful Fairyslipper Orchid (Calypso bulbosa) which blooms there in the spring. In January 2018, ThINC completed the purchase of the Reserve with support from 140 Thetis Islanders, along with Islands Trust Conservancy, the Cowichan Community Land Trust, Sitka Foundation, the Gosling Foundation and the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Penelakut representatives are participating with ThINC and the ITC in developing the management plans for nature reserves on Thetis Island.

ThINC has delivered nature education programs to hundreds of Thetis Islanders and members of the general public. ThINC operates a Nature House during the summer months, staffed by summer students and volunteers, The Nature House had over 800 visits in 2018.

ThINC runs a number of stewardship citizen science-based programs including a Community Bat Program, a Western Screech Owl Nest Box Program, Forage Fish Monitoring and Species at Risk Watch. ThINC has actively promoted conservation covenants and other conservation tools on private land. All programs and land acquisitions are funded by private donations, grants from various governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, and by program fees.

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[i] Information based nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.