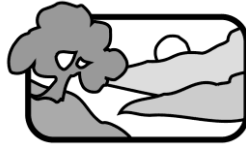


Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2007 Award Recipient Profile

Winner: **Gambier Island Conservancy**

Category: **Group/Organization**

Project: **Mount Artaban Land Acquisition**

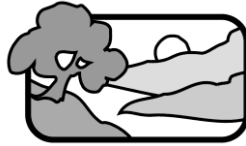
Nominator(s): **Mike Van Der Ree**

Project Description: The Gambier Island Conservancy helped select a major part of Mount Artaban Crown land for protection under the province's Free Crown Grant Program and led the fundraising campaign for it. The Islands Trust Fund applied for the land, valued at \$1.2 million from the Province of B.C. for a nature reserve. The conservancy raised more than \$30,000 in donations towards the costs required to complete the acquisition, improve safety and access to the land, and institute the terms of protection. The condition of the transfer of land is that a Land Act Survey be registered and that it be established as a nature reserve. A management plan is vital to ensure the nature reserve is maintained as a conservation area. Donated funds will be allocated to both aspects of the land acquisition. This parcel will be the second one secured under this program and ensures the perpetuation of the program by making it more affordable to island taxpayers.

The project involved the Trust Fund Board, local trustees, BC Parks, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Gambier Island Community Association, local strata corporation, local summer camps, local businesses, Gambier Island residents and residents of the Sunshine Coast.

The 107-hectare nature reserve on Gambier Island will complete a natural network, connecting areas protected by local, regional and provincial agencies.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2007 Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Salt Spring Island Alternative Gypsy Moth Control Program

Category: Group/Organization

Project: Implementation of an ecologically-friendly program to control the outbreak of gypsy moths

Nominator(s): Island Natural Growers, Gulf Islands Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers

Project Description: In the spring of 2006 the Ministry of Forests and Range applied for the aerial spraying of approximately 389 hectares of land with a pesticide (BtK) to combat an outbreak of gypsy moths on Salt Spring Island. The proposed spraying of agricultural and residential property would have annulled the organic certification of several area farms and would have killed all Lepidoptera species in the areas, including several rare species. It would also have affected Salt Spring's well-deserved reputation as a centre of organic growing.

In response, a group of community activists came together to devise an alternative gypsy moth control program to: stop the planned aerial spraying; and, to assess the gypsy moth risk on the island and implement an ecologically-sound control program in cooperation and collaboration with provincial government authorities. An information meeting was held and task groups were established for communications, research and to identify issue and concern.

The province was persuaded that the community was capable of undertaking a plan that included: searching for gypsy moth egg masses; assembling and placing over 2500 traps; facilitating and arranging permission for provincial ground spraying of a core area; and, collection and opening of all the traps for inspection by the ministry.

The alternative to aerial spraying that was ultimately organized required hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours over many weeks. It

also involved individuals, community groups, many island businesses, the local Islands Trust and Capital Regional District Director.

The Ministry of Forests has agreed to support the alternative program again in 2007.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



2007 Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Jenny Brown McLeod, Gabriola Island

Category: Individual

Project: Gabriola Groundwater Management

Nominator(s): Nancy Crozier

Project Description: When Jenny was elected Chair of the Gabriola Groundwater Management Society in 2005 the society had stopped water testing as a community service, due to possible legal consequences as a result of new legislation. Jenny clarified the new rules and re-established the public service of water tests.

As a result of her dynamism a groundwater sustainability workshop was held with the Ministry of the Environment which resulted in designing a water model for Gabriola Island for groundwater supply projections and to assess the impact of water saving actions on the model. Jenny provides public education by writing articles in local papers and played a strong role in contributing to the Commercial Bulk Water Extraction Bylaw which led to Temporary Use Permits that are now obligatory. She was a presenter at the Water in the City conference held in Victoria this year and brought water systems consultant Ed Heopner to Gabriola to talk about his natural water treatment systems. She also networks with other Gulf Island water groups to share and exchange information on conservation and sustainable methods of water use. Currently the society is collecting data on domestic water use and collection to apply to the water model.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



2007 Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Karl Hamson, North Pender Island

Category: Individual

Project: Seeing the Whole Picture: Preservation of the lands, historical uses
and values and community.

Nominator(s): The Pender Islands Trust Protection Society

Project Description: Karl Hamson, a resident of North Pender Island for 25 years, was instrumental in forming the Pender Islands Conservancy Association and was a founding member of the board. He spearheaded a campaign to preserve the lands of the Medicine Beach Wetland, with “Karl’s Barn Dance” – raising \$19,000. The Brooke Point land acquisition triggered another “Karl’s Barn Dance”. Next was the need for a new community hall and Karl stepped forward, once again, with a donation of three acres of land in 1998 and more “Karl’s Barn Dances”. Karl was appointed to the Advisory Planning Commission in 1997 and remained on the commission for three years during the onerous task of putting forth the first Land Use Bylaw for North Pender Island. He also served as Director of the Farmers Institute. His life-long project is ‘island living’ – to live sustainably, preserve community and to enhance the rural lifestyle while preserving and protecting the reasons many came and stayed. He practices sustainable farming and forestry on his acreage on North Pender Island.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



2007 Enduring Achievement Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Ursula Poepel

Category: Enduring Achievement

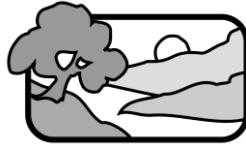
Project: Removing invasive species and parkland donation

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Project Description: Ursula Poepel has been removing invasive plant species from Pender Island's roadsides and parks since she moved to the island in 1986. Now in her 70's, Ursula still pulls broom and thistles almost every day. Last year she removed more than 150 thistles in front of the new fire hall in one work session. She is a well-known roadside sight on Pender and has even had a poem written about her broom-pulling ways. She regularly takes part in "broom bashes" organized by the local Pender Island Park Commission and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association and she is always there for beach cleanup days. Ursula is also a vital member of many organizations on Pender Island. Her tireless efforts at removing broom, gorse and thistles has encouraged many Penderites to remove invasive plant species from their properties.

In addition, this past year Ursula donated .8 acres of land to the Pender Island Parks Commission for a local park at the end of Schooner Way. She wanted to donate the land to preserve it for the community to enjoy.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2007 Enduring Achievement Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Pender Post

Category: Enduring Achievement

Project: Building Community

Nominator(s): The Pender Islands Trust Protection Society and
Pender Islands Conservancy

Project Description: From inception, The Pender Post was instrumental in building the Pender Islands community. The first issue of The Pender Post was April 10, 1971 – a two-page publication printed on a ‘Ditto machine’. The first editor was Edmund Morrison. In the first paragraph it states “The Pender Post aims to bringing you towards the first necessary particulars of events about to take place on the Pender’s”. In the ensuing years The Pender Post has done just that - providing all residents and property owners with the dates and times of events and what’s going on for any given month on the Pender Islands, plus contact information for all these groups – currently 50 + organizations.

The Pender Post became a conduit to bring the community together – bringing into one community all island residents of North and South Pender Islands. With incorporation as a society, the constitution for this community publication came forth on March 7, 1972. The constitution established The Pender Post as a non-profit organization, depending upon free and voluntary contribution of labour and services. It also states that it shall not be used in anyway to promote any political interests or the private or commercial interest of any person or organizations.

Thirty-five years later much of the work of The Pender Post Society is still done by volunteers. Today’s editor is Doreen Ball and the longest standing editor was Maria Watson from 1977 to 1998. Helen Allison is the longest standing board member with decades of dedicated service; Helen Harper comes as a close second.

From the first days of printing on the Ditto machine, technology advanced and in February, 2007, for the first time The Pender Post copy was sent to the printer on

Mayne Island electronically. Circulation has also increased as population increased to the present numbers of more than 1100.