

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2014 Recipient Profile

**Barrie Morrison and Nancy Waxler-Morrison
North Pender Island
(Posthumous)**

Category: Individual

Project: Ecological legacy for the Pender Islands

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Trust Protection Society

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

Barrie Morrison and Nancy Waxler-Morrison were involved in a wide range of works to preserve and restore ecosystems on the Pender Islands. They were founding members of the Pender Islands Trust Protection Society and were members of the Pender Island Conservancy Association. Barrie Morrison was a director in each organization and served a term as chair of the Pender Island Conservancy Association.

The couple placed a covenant on their own property, the Cottonwood Creek Covenant. In Nancy's memory, Barry established the Morrison Waxler Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund to assist other private landowners on North and South Pender Islands to offset the cost of registering a conservation covenant on their land. To date, the fund has assisted five property owners in establishing covenants to protect land including: Frog Song, Garry Oak, Nighthawk Hill, Steil's Forest and Woodwinds. By helping to preserve island properties in a more natural forested state, the fund will also have a mitigating effect on climate change. This fund continues to assist people in fulfilling their dreams of protecting land forever, in memory of both Barrie and Nancy.

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2014 Recipient Profile

Christa Grace-Warrick, Gulf Islands' Island Tides Pender Islands

Category: Individual

Project: 25 years of promoting community connection through newspaper publishing

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Trust Protection Society

Letters of Support: Jan Slakov

Project Description:

Christa Grace-Warrick runs the Island Tides as a social enterprise, connecting people with common interests, and generating community debate on important issues. She founded the Island Tides newspaper in 1989 and has published it bi-weekly since then, paid for by voluntary subscriptions and advertising.

Christa's role includes selling ads (sometimes door-to-door), designing ads, editing millions of words, writing news stories, laying out more than 600 issues, negotiating with presses and Canada Post, solving software problems, driving delivery vehicles, stocking newspaper boxes, creating a searchable website, doing the book-keeping, organizing and recruiting content from hundreds of sources. All this Christa has continued to do since she "retired."

During the lifetime of the paper, the editorial policy has supported the Islands Trust mandate with hundreds of articles focused on conserving and protecting ecosystems. The Island Tides has also been publishing articles about climate change, its causes, ways to mitigate change and strategies to adapt to it since the Rio Earth summit in June 1992.

In addition to Patrick Brown, the Island Tides' most prolific contributor, there are many others who have contributed photos and articles – Christa Grace-Warrick has been a mentor to many.

Copies of the paper are delivered by Canada Post to 12,400 households on Denman, Galiano, Gabriola, Hornby, Lasqueti, North Pender, Mayne, South Pender, Saturna, Salt Spring, Thetis, Quadra, Cortes, Read and Texada Islands free of charge. In towns, on ferries and in ferry terminals it is available in newspaper boxes.

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2014 Recipient Profile

Paul and Monica Petrie, Pender Islands

Category: Individual

Project: Fundraising to complete the Brooks Point Regional Park

Nominator(s): John Chapman

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

Because of the dedicated fundraising efforts of Paul and Monica Petrie, the Brooks Point Regional Park on South Pender Island is complete and protected from development.

Brooks Point Regional Park is a 4.81-hectare area of forests, wetlands, coastal grasslands, beaches and rocky cliffs on the southeast tip of South Pender Island. This ecologically rich habitat supports hundreds of species including several red and blue-listed protected and endangered species (112 species of birds, 21 vertebrates and cetaceans and 81 invertebrates).

Until late 2010 it consisted of two parcels zoned park but was separated by one parcel of private land. It was purchased by the Capital Regional District, which retained the option of subdividing the lot to recover some of the funds. Paul and Monica Petrie co-chaired the Brooks Point Completion committee to raise sufficient funds to enable the CRD to abandon the option of subdividing.

The Brooks Point subcommittee of Pender Island Conservancy Association raised over \$300,000 over three years from North and South Pender Island residents, island businesses, visitors and partner organizations. They inspired many Pender residents to hold a dance, an auction, a dinner, bocce tournaments, a golf tournament and many other fundraising activities.

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2014 Recipient Profile

Brian Hollingshead, Saturna Island

Category: Individual

Project: Championing coastal ferry services

Nominator(s): Susan Jamieson-McLarnon

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

For 15 years, Brian Hollingshead has voluntarily gathered, analyzed and shared information about BC Ferries to support the ferry advisory committees and other agencies. As co-chair (with Tony Law of Denman Hornby Ferry Advisory Committee) of the Ferry Advisory committee Chairs group, Brian provides information about BC Ferries' scheduling, finances and operations information to ferry-dependent communities. He also coordinates the coastal communities' response to the actions of BC Ferries and the provincial government.

Brian's leadership qualities include creativity, expertise, professionalism, analysis and collaboration. Having all of those attributes wrapped into one person dedicated to protecting our basic transportation link is a rarity – that rare citizen is Brian Hollingshead.

Without his thousands of hours of volunteer service in this area, ferry service for island residents, businesses and community organizations would be much poorer. Brian Hollingshead's leadership legacy will last for decades.

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2014 Recipient Profile

David Denning, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Inspiring people about Salt Spring Island's natural world
- Nominator(s):** Jean Gelwicks, Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Letters of Support:** Farley Cannon, Briony Penn, George Ehring, Nora Layard, Paul Burke

Project Description:

Since coming to Salt Spring Island over 20 years ago, David Denning has been educating and inspiring the community about the wonders of the natural environment in many volunteer roles. With a Masters Degree in Science Education, his life work has been developing films, videos, and multimedia programs to inspire understanding and protection of the natural world. On Salt Spring Island, he has focused on protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural environment, especially the marine environment.

David is committed to equipping everyone, especially young people, with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be good stewards of nature. His interpretive seashore walks are island-famous, promoting a sense of awe and wonder. An entire generation of Salt Spring Islanders sees a shoreline differently because of his work.

Recently, David designed and co-organized the very successful Transition Renewable Energy Conference and designed and wrote the Conservancy's Stewards in Training Nature Calendar, which highlights for local children what is happening with nature every month. He has been involved in many Conservancy projects including a key role in the Living with Nature Guide for newcomers that shows how to live with nature and limit one's ecological footprint. Through his extensive contacts in the BC naturalist community and through his enthusiasm, he has helped the Conservancy Education Committee bring over 100 naturalist speakers to island audiences.

David frequently teaches in all the school marine programs, serves on the conservancy scholarship committee and is a member of the Climate Action Council. A founding member of the Transition SS Community Energy Group, he is co-developer of the innovative GISS Solar Scholarship Project for renewable energy education. He is also currently working on a shoreline survey for Salt Spring Island.

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Islands Trust

2014 Recipient Profile

Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards

Category: Group

Project: Protecting the marine environment over a 15-year period

Nominator(s): Graeme Johnston

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

The 200-member Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards is dedicated to protecting and raising awareness of the marine environment through education and hands-on community events, such as an annual beach clean-up. The clean-ups have removed over 20 tons of derelict equipment, plastics and other materials from public shorelines. The association has made more than 300 written submissions about marine-related issues and helped create a forage fish data base. The group has toured most of the islands in the Islands Trust Area making presentations about threats to the marine environment and participates in marine-related events and workshops. The association also meets with federal, provincial and local governments, scientists, biologists and the aquaculture industry to raise awareness of marine issues.

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2014 Recipient Profile

Galiano Conservancy Association

Category: Group

Project: 25 years of leadership in sustainable community building

Nominator(s): Carolyn Canfield

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

The Galiano Conservancy Association's legacy includes protecting hundreds of hectares of land, supporting community-based conservation land trusts in the Salish Sea and across Canada and advocating for the Southern Strait of Georgia Marine Protected Area. Another long-term contribution is a decade-long biodiversity baseline inventory for detecting and evaluating change using UNESCO's Smithsonian Institution/Man and Biosphere Forest Monitoring protocol. A lasting gift to conservation biology is the association's careful management of its second growth Douglas-fir plantation to demonstrate a community's capacity for scientific best practices in forest ecosystem restoration.

The conservancy has been instrumental in creating innovative models for community-based sustainability. Its programs build pride in the natural and human heritage that attracts visitors and new residents, builds skills by employing young people and builds community by sponsoring multiple local events. The conservancy also offers the 'How Well is Your Well?' program with consultation on interpreting potable water testing to help people learn about and conserve groundwater.

Finally, the conservancy has collaborated with schools and community groups from adjacent islands, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island to engage hundreds of leaders and thousands of youth in learning about the unique natural environment of the Salish Sea.