

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2019 Nominee Profile

Aloha Aina Farm, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area

Category:	Organization
Project:	An organic permaculture farm marking five years of community building
Nominator(s):	Marissa Tonus

Description¹:

Aloha Aina Farm is nominated for using permaculture and organic farming techniques and for encouraging people to consider their personal relationships with nature, food, community, family and themselves.

Since 2014, Aloha Aina Farm has transformed its land from a horse farm with no garden into a self-sufficient organic, permaculture farm. Since inception, over 500 people have been involved with the farm and the farmers work weekly with other farms and groups to grow seeds, and share tools, knowledge, food and labour. The farmers have planted over 200 new trees; retained native species, built water catchment and solar power facilities, and developed two acres into garden.

The farm works with other farms and groups on Salt Spring Island weekly to grow seeds, and share knowledge, food and labour. The farm organizes community events on and off the farm, hosts free community dinners and conducts community work projects. In addition, the farm provides teaching opportunities and empowers the community through resource sharing and building a new culture.

¹ Information based nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.

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2019 Nominee Profile

Andrew Fall, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

Category:	Individual
Project:	Lasqueti volunteer celebrates eight years of dedicated community-based work
Nominator(s):	Sheila Harrington

Descriptionⁱ:

Andrew Fall has been nominated for his eight years of volunteer efforts with five different organizations and working groups on Lasqueti Island. During that time, he has been president of the Lasqueti Community Association (LCA), chair with the Regional District's Emergency Dispatch Advisory Committee, vice-president of the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC), leader of a working group to protect public water access at Tucker Bay, and chair of the Advisory Planning Commission (APC).

His method of work is community based, bringing people together and helping build capacity to resolve issues collectively. Andrew is diligent about providing the necessary background information, both legal and historical, to help resolve issues and provide a context for decision-making. His work gathering historical data on the public access of Tucker Bay will provide a lasting history of the island.

Andrew's work has supported the protection and conservation of natural, cultural, and archaeological areas on and surrounding Lasqueti Island. Andrew's was recently voted in as the gathet Regional District Director. To avoid any perception of conflict of interest, he has had to remove himself from the three formal organizations (LCA, APC, and LINC). His nominator wanted to formally recognize him for his years of effort in various capacities to improve both the community and the environment of Lasqueti Island.

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

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2019 Nominee Profile

Bruce Russell, Bowen Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Ten years of leadership with the Mannion Bay Restoration Project
Nominator(s):	Murray Atherton

Project Descriptionⁱ:

Bruce Russell is nominated for close to ten years of lobbying and conservation efforts with the Friends of Mannion Bay. Russell created the informal group to support the restoration of the beaches, foreshore and waters of Mannion Bay back to the community for recreational purposes, and for the environment for salmon to spawn, eel grass beds to grow and forage fish to use. Over the years the bay has become a home for a number of problem, derelict, abandoned and liveaboard vessels, plus there was a problem with dumping human and manufactured waste. Russell has spent hundreds of hours raising public awareness about the need for a healthy bay and successfully lobbying municipal, provincial and federal governments and officials to take actions that will return the bay to healthy state suitable for enjoyment by all species, islanders and the public. Russell also worked closely with the organizers of volunteer clean-up days/dives, which resulted in the removal of tons of garbage and boats from the bottom of the bay, and have educated the community about forage fish habitat.

Russell continues to work with different levels of government and bring attention to marine pollution and marine restoration issues.

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

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2019 Nominee Profile

Christine Torgrimson, Salt Spring Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Celebrating conservation leadership on Salt Spring Island
Nominator(s):	Bob Weeden

Project Description¹:

Christine has been nominated for her leadership on a range of community and conservation projects on Salt Spring Island. Throughout the past 20 years, she has worked with landowners, partners and the public and played an instrumental role in conserving and restoring the land and waters of the island. Torgrimson has worked with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy as a volunteer, consultant and staff member. She also played an instrumental role in creation of the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust, the Salt Spring Island Housing Council, and the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council.

Torgrimson has been a leader in conservation of a significant amount of Salt Spring Island, with over 800 acres set aside in nature reserves, covenants and stewardship agreements by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy in the past seven years while she has served as executive director. At the Conservancy, she led efforts to protect the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (a key portion of the Cusheon Lake Watershed) and the Howard Horel Nature Reserve (a key portion of the upper Fulford Creek Watershed). She also has overseen the acquisition of 38 new landowner stewardship agreements and conservation covenants by the Conservancy team. Recently, Torgrimson has initiated and is managing a unique conservation planning project to identify lands and habitats on Salt Spring Island that will be conservation priorities in the face of a changing climate. Her hope is to provide a model that other Trust Areas and communities across Canada can use.

Torgrimson also currently serves as board co-chair of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia.

¹ Information based nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.

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2019 Nominee Profile

Saturna Scribbler

Category: Organization

Project: Twenty-five years of connecting community

Nominator(s): Lois Mesner

Project Description¹:

The Saturna Scribbler was nominated for twenty-five years of providing a monthly newspaper for the Saturna Island community. The Scribber connects all residents with information about upcoming events and programs, ideas, historical information, activity reports from community groups, discussions about controversial local issues and personal notices.

The Scribber serves as the primary communication vehicle on Saturna Island with at least half of households subscribed and copies available to others at the General Store. The Scribber creates community and fosters ongoing connections with people who reside off and on the island. In addition, it offers a place for writers to come together and share the stories of the island.

¹ Information based nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.

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Islands Trust

2019 Nominee Profile

Saturna Lions Club

Category: Organization

Project: 45 years of community service

Nominator(s): Sheila Wallace

Project Description¹:

The Saturna Lions Club has been nominated for the forty-five years of community service. Members of the club work to serve the community by directly delivering programs, working with others to deliver programs and services, and fundraising to provide financial support for individuals, groups, or organizations.

The Club has started a variety of organizations over the years, such as, the creation of the Saturna Island Marine Research Education Society, Saturna Scribbler and Meals on Wheels. They have fundraised for various community services: fire department, Theatre on the Rock, medinfrastructure, community hall, baseball field, library, tennis courts, and cemetery just to name a few. They also have provided annual fundraising efforts for organizations through individuals splitting and delivering firewood, hosting fundraiser dinners and events, such as, Prawnfest, Robbie Burns Night, Dogs and Dog show. The Club also runs the island shuttle service, reducing dependence of private vehicles. The Lions have funded projects related to reconciliation, most recently (and in collaboration with others) the Thirteen Moons Calendar sign installation on Saturna. In the past 24 months, the Lions provided educational bursaries, and funding for dental work and eye-care in their community.

¹ Information based on nominee's submission to 2019 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award program.