



# News Release

200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria B.C. | V8R 1H8

Telephone 250.405.5151 | FAX: 250.405.5155

Toll Free via Service BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421 | in B.C. 1.800.663.7867

[information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca) | [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

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## **Islands Trust Council Announces 2026 Community Stewardship Awards Nominees**

Ləkʷəŋən, METULIYE/Victoria, BC – Five individuals and three organizations have been nominated for the 18<sup>th</sup> Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program. Nominees are being recognized for a wide variety of efforts including conservation, island-wide community clean-ups, biodiversity planning, and building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members. Award recipients will be announced after the June 2026 Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting and recognized locally at local trust committee or Bowen Island Municipality meetings over the coming months.

“Across the Islands Trust Area, people are stepping forward in remarkable ways to care for the places and communities they love,” said Laura Patrick, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “This year’s nominees reflect the strength of island stewardship through environmental leadership, community service, cultural connection, and a deep commitment to building resilient and caring communities. Trust Council is honoured to recognize and celebrate their contributions.”

The 2026 Community Stewardship Awards Program nominees are from Bowen Island, Gabriola Island, Keats Island, Lasqueti Island, and Saturna Island.

### **Individual Nominations**

- Sheila Harrington, Lasqueti Island, is nominated for her book *Voices for the Islands*
- Dan Rogers, Keats Island, is nominated for community leadership in the Keats Island and Howe Sound region
- Douglas Leatherdale, Keats Island, is nominated for clean-up initiatives on Keats Island
- Dr. Wendy Palen and Dr. Tom Sisk, Bowen Island, are nominated for their work on the Nexwłélexwm/Bowen Island Biodiversity Plan

### **Organizational Nominations**

- Bowen Island Conservancy, Bowen Island, is nominated for its work to protect the Cape Roger Curtis area
- Breaking Bannock, Gabriola Island, is nominated for its Building Bridges initiative
- Saturna Scribbler, Saturna Island, is nominated for publishing the Saturna Scribbler since 1990

Since 2008, the Islands Trust’s Community Stewardship Awards program has recognized individuals and organizations demonstrating exceptional leadership in preservation and protection of the Islands Trust Area. The program is offered once per elected term.

Islands Trust Council will select the award recipients during its quarterly meeting in June 2026. Learn about this year’s nominees and past recipients [here](#).

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Islands Trust is a special-purpose government representing over 30,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to many Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment through

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***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

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conservation-oriented land use planning and regulation, education, and cooperation with First Nations and other agencies. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

**Contact:**

Laura Patrick, Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee - 250.210.2553

Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer, via Communications Specialist - 250.405.5197