

June 20, 2019

2019-15-IT

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED BY ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL

Coast Salish (Penelakut) territory, Galiano Island—The Islands Trust Council announced the recipients of the 16th Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards at its June 19th meeting on Galiano Island.

From among 11 nominees, Trust Council recognized three individuals and two organizations for their outstanding efforts in support of the Islands Trust’s mandate to preserve and protect the unique environment and amenities of the Trust Area. Activities that recipients were involved with include sharing of wisdom, oral history, and knowledge; reducing marine pollution; creating a living field guide; work toward establishing a new nature reserve; and, 44 years of recycling services. In addition, Trust Council, at the recommendation of the advisory committee that oversees the awards process—the Trust Programs Committee—decided to provide posthumously a special lifetime achievement award to honour the work, passion, and commitment of Sara Steil of North Pender Island, who recently passed away.

“The Community Stewardship Awards is our opportunity to acknowledge and thank community members for their dedication and commitment to helping preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area,” said Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “It is never easy to decide on the final recipients from among all the deserving nominees. This year Trust Council decided to present posthumously a special lifetime achievement award to Sara Steil. Sara was a forceful advocate for the preservation of both land and marine environments. She will be deeply missed in both her island community and the wider Trust Area.”

The recipients are from six local trust areas:

Enduring Achievement

- [Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson \(C'tasi:a\)](#), Gabriola Island: celebrating nineteen years of knowledge holding and sharing

Individual Category

- [Mark Bottomley](#), Lasqueti Island: reducing marine pollution in the Salish Sea
- [Andrew Simon](#), Galiano Island: creating a “living field guide”

Organization Category

- [Saturna Community Club Recycling Centre](#), Saturna Island: celebrating 44 years of recycling services
- [Thetis Island Nature Conservancy Society](#), Thetis Island: land acquisition and conservation efforts for Fairy Slipper Forest Nature Reserve

Special 2019 Community Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement

- Sara Steil, North Pender Island

Recipients of the Community Stewardship Awards will be recognized at local trust committee meetings over the coming months.

Since its inception in 2002, the Islands Trust Council has recognized 89 individuals and organizations in the Trust Area. The next award nominations will open in March 2021.

-30-

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, co-operation with other agencies, and land conservation. The 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 5200 square kilometres.

Contact: Peter Luckham, Chair, Islands Trust Council 250.210.2553

Russ Hotsenpiller, Chief Administrative Officer, via Andrew Templeton, Communications Specialist 250.405.5156