

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2019 Nominee Profile

**Sara Steil
North Pender Island
(Posthumous)**

Category:	Individual
Project:	Special 2019 Community Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement
Nominator(s):	Trust Programs Committee

Project Description:

Sara Steil was a force for conservation on the Pender Islands. She was a founding member of the Pender Islands Trust Protection Society and an active contributor to land use decision making through numerous North Pender Island Local Trust Committee public processes. She contributed to Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) development and was a champion for the Islands Trust mandate to “preserve and protect” the islands.

Sara was also an active member of the Pender Islands Conservancy Association. In 2009, Sara and her husband Richard (Dick), protected their land through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) by placing a conservation covenant on their land title. Their conservation covenant is a lasting legacy for North Pender, protecting 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres) of coastal Douglas-fir forest and a portion of the shoreline of Gardom Pond. Their wetland in Steils' Woods Covenant is home to amphibians and visiting Great Blue Herons. Wild strawberry and western trilliums fill in spaces on the forest floor between tall firs, cedars and maples.

Sara also worked passionately to preserve and protect the marine environment. She was an active member of the Pender Island Power and Sail Squadron and for more than 20 years she educated boaters about the nature value of the marine environment and ways to steward it. Part of this work included contributing to the Pleasure Craft Pollution Prevention program. Additionally, she volunteered to inventory forage fish beaches to confirm spawning habitats for these small fish that form a critical component of the marine food web.

Sara’s work, passion, and commitment have left a lasting legacy for the preservation and protection of Pender Island.