

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2011 Nominee Profile

Sara Steil North and South Pender Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Community and conservation work on the Pender Islands
- Nominator(s):** Amanda Griesbach for Pender Islands Trust Protection Society
- Letters of Support:** Pender Island Conservancy

Project Description:

Sara Steil has "a great belief in the Islands Trust and the natural environment." She was a founding member of the organization, Pender Islands Trust Protection Society (PITPS), in December 2000, which supports the Islands Trust mandate. PITPS supports the work of the Islands Trust by writing letters to the trustees, attending LTC meetings, contacting community members about important island issues, and encouraging people to come to meetings. Sara's other community work involves the marine environment. She has been an active member of the Pender Island Power and Sail Squadron, and for over 15 years, she has educated boaters about preserving and protecting the marine environment. She has also worked for over 15 years to encourage establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area in the region. Her recent work includes a Pleasure Craft Pollution Prevention program. She is also active in establishing marine pump out stations on all the islands. Sara and her husband Dick have also placed a conservation covenant on part of their land, protecting it in perpetuity.

Through PITPS, Sara takes notes at and attends most, if not all, the North and South Pender local trust committee meetings. PITPS helps with education about the Islands Trust mandate, such as providing welcome packages for new property owners, which includes information on both North and South Pender Islands' OCP's, the Islands Trust Policy Statement, Islands Trust Fund brochures and Pender Island Conservancy Association (PICA) brochures. Sara spearheaded the mapping the wetlands of North and South Pender Islands, with the help of PITPS and PICA. Sara, with PITPS, also worked on the official community plan reviews and 1996-99 Land Use Bylaws. The whole community benefits from Sara's selfless hours of dedication.