

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

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.