

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# **Islands Trust**

## **2011 Nominee Profile**

### **Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Island**

<b>Category:</b>	Individual
<b>Project:</b>	Community and conservation work on Bowen Island
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Bowen Island Conservancy
<b>Letters of Support:</b>	N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Sue Ellen Fast's ongoing community work on Bowen Island over the past 15 years has included a great variety of projects ranging from hands-on fieldwork for habitat restoration to chairing major local community initiatives such as the steering committee for the update of the Official Community Plan.

Sue Ellen has been involved in many initiatives such as heron protection policies, municipal park establishment, tools for watershed education, parks and trail dedications, and land use bylaws. She has also been involved in a variety of education programs such as making presentations to local schools and community groups and organizing speaker programs for different Bowen Island groups. She assisted in reestablishing the local market farm and coordinated a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, working with landowners. She co-chaired the Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society for several years and was a member of the Sustainability Framework Working Group.

As a result of Sue Ellen's five years as a Commissioner for Bowen Island Parks and Recreation there is now a growing island-wide network of trails, parks and public beaches that can be enjoyed by people from Bowen and visitors from the entire region. Sue Ellen's persistence had a significant influence on the creation of the Greenways Advisory Committee by the Bowen Island Municipality. Another innovation by Sue Ellen was the Cove to Cape Greenway concept, a vision of protecting a full spectrum of connected ecosystems at every elevation across the whole island sea-to-sea.

Sue Ellen served as chair of the Bowen Island Conservancy and some examples of the successes achieved by the conservancy under her direction are the conservation covenant on the Betty McIntyre property, several municipal parks, the wetlands inventory of Bowen and continued emphasis on the essential need "to preserve and protect" lands when responding to the many referrals that come from the Bowen Municipality arising from various applications from landowners and developers.

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# Islands Trust

## **2011 Nominee Profile**

### **Barry Mathias, North and South Pender Island**

**Category:** Individual  
**Project:** Car Stops Program  
**Nominator(s):** Amanda Griesbach  
**Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Barry spearheaded a project working on transportation alternatives called Moving Around Pender (MAP). The purpose of this program is to provide transportation on the North and South Pender Islands for those without cars, since there is no bus service. He had a vision and wrote grants for funding this project. Barry noticed that people often moved off-island when they could no longer drive so he wanted to provide an alternative mode of transportation. In 2008, 16 car stops were installed and in 2009, 13 more car stops were approved by the Ministry of Transportation. Mayne Island also put up 26 car stops in 2009 and Barry has now spoken with people interested in establishing car stops on Saturna, Salt Spring and Quadra Islands.

The car stops program means fewer cars on the roads, reduced emissions and less pollution. The program is very popular with tourists, especially cyclists, boaters and people who come by bus to the ferry. Young people working at a large local resort and other people who don't have cars, both young and old, find the service invaluable.

Barry believes that there is no other program quite like it in the world. It seems to work on islands especially well, since there is sense of community and safety. The car stop program is described by the following poem by Don Harrison:

*Drivers don't have to take the first in line;  
You're not obliged to accept a ride that's fine.  
You accept the ride at your own risk,  
The ride is free, so consider it a gift.*

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# **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.

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# **Islands Trust**

## **2011 Nominee Profile**

### **Jane Wolverton, Galiano Island**

**Category:** Individual  
**Project:** Galiano Food Program  
**Nominator(s):** Michael Hoebel  
**Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Jane Wolverton is the Galiano Club's director in charge of the Galiano Food Program. Jane has successfully found funding for this project from foundations and government agencies, and is the driving force and inspiration behind the myriad facets of this excellent community program which involves all islanders from young children to seniors. Jane is a natural leader who inspires others to get involved. She has ensured that the goals of the project and its many accomplishments are well-publicized through regular articles in the local newsmagazine, posters, and a dynamic program website (<http://galianofoodprogram.ca/>). Hundreds of Galiano residents have participated in one or more of the food program's many activities.

The Galiano Food Program is focused on developing an awareness of food security issues, and on teaching people how to grow and process their own healthy food. As such it is addressing long-term sustainability of the Galiano community. The project's activities encourage sharing and participation and support the social life of this island. By encouraging people to grow food locally, and to make food purchase decisions carefully, the Food Program is undoubtedly having an impact on greenhouse gas production through the reduction of transportation for acquiring food that has a large carbon footprint

Through Jane's efforts, the Galiano Club has received funding from VanCity, the Vancouver Foundation, and the Victoria Foundation to hire volunteer coordinators for various community food programs. The Vancouver Island Health Authority currently is funding a project focused on gleaning teams, establishing a Farmers' Institution, developing a meals program and hosting an all Islands Food Security Conference. In addition, the food program is being funded by New Horizons for Seniors (Government of Canada) for the Food Forever Project.

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**Islands Trust**

### **2011 Nominee Profile**

#### **Hornby New Clinic Committee, Hornby Island**

**Category:** Group

**Project:** Hornby Medical Clinic

**Nominator(s):** Maureen Tierney

**Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

The project involved planning, coordinating and building the new community medical clinic for Hornby Island. The Hornby New Clinic Committee has taken the project from the "dream" to the ultimate completion in the summer of 2011. A committee of twelve, the Hornby New Clinic Committee, was formed in the fall of 2008. Over the last two and half years the committee has organized the design, construction, fund raising, and volunteer coordination, and managed a \$535,000 budget. Fund raising included golf tournaments, silent auctions, dances, barbecues, garage sales, fashion shows, concerts, the Hornby quilt raffle and lectures with Robert Bateman and Dr. Gabor Maté. Stakeholder meetings included doctors, health professionals, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Residential Ratepayers Association in the process. More than 250 people have contributed work of some kind to the project and in-kind donations totaled over \$180,000. No grants were available so this was a project funded for the people and by the people.

This project has added to economic sustainability in a great way as island trades were hired to perform jobs that were beyond the scope and mandate of volunteerism. The benefits of the new clinic are far reaching as it now provides a degree of medical care in a facility which is comparable to or better than those found on Vancouver Island and the rest of the province. The island will be better able to retain and attract doctors. Residents will save many ferry trips as the availability of better equipment, proper treatment rooms and tele-medicine which will provide access to specialists have raised the level of medical care on the island. The clinic will also improve the level of care available to the 5,000 visitors who come every summer.

The old clinic--a 35 year old single wide trailer was poorly laid out, offered very little patient/doctor privacy, had an unmanageable treatment room (doubling as an office for both doctors) and no emergency room. The new clinic is 'state of the art' in design and function, with curved roof, wooden pillars at the front entrance, cedar shingle highlights, water collection system and solar panels; it looks like a true "Hornby building".

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# **Islands Trust**

## **2011 Nominee Profile**

### **Pender Island Fire Rescue North and South Pender Island**

<b>Category:</b>	Group
<b>Project:</b>	Serving and protecting the Pender Islands
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Leigh Hanson
<b>Letters of Support:</b>	N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Pender Island Fire Rescue's purpose is to serve and protect the Pender Islands. The department was first formed in 1972 and responded to less than 10 calls a year. Since 2009, PIFR responds to an average of 200 calls a year. Calls include structure fires, forest fires, bush fires, downed power lines, trapped or escaped animals, marine incidents, burn complaints, flooding, and search and rescue. The department is also trained in hazardous materials response and are the medical first responders for the community.

In addition to emergency response the department helps with fundraising for the local food bank, provides educational classes to all students on fire safety and assists the school for their fun day. PIFR provides fire safety education and demonstrations at the farmer's market every Saturday and hosts fire extinguisher training for the public several times annually. Every two or three years PIFR runs a cadet program to introduce Gulf Islands' youth the value of community volunteerism and protecting their communities from fires.

Since 2005, every Friday during the summer months when forest fires are a great risk, Pender Island Fire Rescue runs a wildfire prevention program out of Swartz Bay. Since that program was founded there has been a 30% reduction in fire related calls in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Pender Island Fire Rescue has over 100 volunteer members, three of whom have received Governor General Awards for their dedication to public safety. Pender Island Fire Rescue volunteers respond to many calls each year that could result in devastating consequences for residents and sensitive ecosystems if left unanswered. These volunteers provide an exemplary model of community members coming together for the common purpose of protecting their community and the wonderful environment in which they live.