

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Bob Watson, Salt Spring Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Sustaining Potable Water Supply
Nominator(s):	Salt Spring Island Water Council

Letters of Support: North Salt Spring Waterworks District Board of Trustees and staff; Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society; Angus Mitchell, Chair, St Mary Lake Stewardship Committee and Director, Salt Spring Island Water Council

Project Description:

Bob's work has focused on protecting potable water supplies on Salt Spring Island and promoting effective policies and bylaws. As a trustee for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, he has helped guide the District's future planning and, for over 10 years, has voluntarily undertaken numerous studies to better understand the processes affecting the quality and flow of surface water sources. He continues his work to this day.

Since moving to Salt Spring Island in 1993, Bob's voluntary community activities have included:

- Founding member of the Salt Spring Island Water Council and regular contributor to discussions
- Preparation of "What-If scenarios" for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, addressing future effects of customer growth, climate change, system supply options, water conservation and other factors.
- Long-term engineering study and cost estimates for North Salt Spring Waterworks District
- Member of the Potable Water Focus Group for the 2006-08 OCP Review
- Member of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Advisory Planning Commission
- Member of the Restructure Committee leading to the Salt Spring Island incorporation referendum in 2002
- Member of the Infrastructure Focus Group for the 1995-98 Official Community Plan Review

Bob's efforts to protect finite sources of drinking water on the island are directly related to restoring and maintaining the natural ecology of our lakes. A clean and safe potable water supply on the island is also important to the many visitors to the island who contribute to the Salt Spring economy.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Patricia Forbes, Lasqueti Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** 25 years of community service
- Nominator(s):** Merrick Anderson
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Pat Forbes' dedicated volunteer work has enriched the Lasqueti Island community in many ways for at least 25 years and has been integral to the functioning of the Lasqueti Island community.

Pat has provided expert and accurate secretarial and organizational skills to various groups, including the Advisory Planning Committee, the Ferry Committee and the Ramp Committee. She has also represented the community on the French Creek Harbour Authority and has patrolled parking in False Bay and handled parking permits for the ferry parking lot in French Creek. Pat has worked for years to get unlicensed and derelict vehicles off Lasqueti Island roads, and provided a place for wrecks to be gathered for export. Pat donated waterfront property to facilitate the construction of our loading ramp, solving years of impasse and conflict.

Now in her 80's Mrs. Forbes continues to serve the Lasqueti community on various committees, writing historical profiles of early Lasqueti residents, and eulogizing our passing elders.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Lindsay Hamson, the Pender Islands

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Contributions to community life on the Pender Islands
- Nominator(s):** Devon Jones
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Lindsay Hamson has spent many hours organizing events that enrich the social and cultural life on the Pender Islands and to raise funds for people in need. She inspires community cooperation and creativity and has contributed to a thriving interest in the arts on the Pender Islands. Her efforts and enthusiasm inspire others to pick up the torch of community volunteerism.

For four years in a row, Lindsay has spent months organizing the Pender Island Talent Show at the Pender Island Community Hall. The event attracts 50 volunteers and 100 performers from age five to adult. In addition, Lindsay has organized talent shows, music festivals, concerts, dance shows, karaoke nights, and glamour photo days

Lindsay organized the music and entertainment for the Hope Bay Family Day, an event organized in partnership with the vendors at the Hope Bay store to raise funds for the volunteer fire department and the volunteer Coast Guard auxiliary. She also played a major role in the "I Love Henry Down" fundraiser which supports a local family whose one year-old son was diagnosed with cancer.

Lindsay's events usually promote health and exercise in a fun way. They also promote island social life by bringing Penderites together for days and evenings of fun, music, dance and entertainment.

Lindsay also offers low-cost dance classes for adults and children that improve the quality of life and improve self-esteem by providing an outlet for creativity where previously there were no programs of this type offered on Pender Island. Thanks to Lindsay, children are growing up wanting to be dancers and musicians and adults are taking up dance for the first time.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Shirley LePers, The Pender Islands

Category: Individual

Project: Pender Islands Telephone Book

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

Shirley has volunteered countless hours since 1998 coordinating the annual free Pender Islands telephone book on behalf of the Pender Islands Lions Club. The telephone book is a huge support to the social and business life of the island by providing information specific to the community and facilitating communication amongst residents. The telephone book is the major fundraiser (through advertising) for the Lions Club, which generously supports many community projects.

Every fall, Shirley contacts all households and businesses on North and South Pender Islands by mail and personal follow up, if needed, to learn about all new or changed information. She sleuths out changes in the community and makes about 300 changes to the book, which also includes a map for local postal codes. She also contacts advertisers and follows up personally with more than half of them. In 2005, Shirley introduced an e-mail directory section to the telephone book in response to the growing use of home computers. Shirley works alongside Michel Pelletier, who does the layout work, to have the book printed through a carbon neutral printing program.

Each year the Pender Islands Lions Club produces 1500 books, of which 800 are mailed out. Shirley handles the distribution with some help from other Lions Club members.

Shirley has been nominated for her long term work on the phone book, but it should be noted that Shirley has also served the Pender Islands community by running the Lions tourist information bureau (no longer in existence) for nine years; serving eight years on the Board of the Pender Islands Health Care Society, chairing the Board during the last Medical Clinic extension campaign. Shirley also served eight years on the Library Board; and held various positions with the Pender Island Choral Society.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Ken Millard, Galiano Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Galiano Restorative Learning Centre property acquisition
Nominator(s):	Cheryl Bastedo
Letters of Support:	N/A

Project Description:

Ken Millard, a founding Director and a driving force behind the Galiano Conservancy for over 23 years, played the lead role in the decade-long negotiations that finally led to the recent purchase of a 76 hectare property suitable for the planned Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. The ecologically important property includes two kilometres of undeveloped waterfront in the rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem with several related species at risk.

For years, Ken worked with the owners of the property, their agent, directors and members of the Galiano Conservancy and with the Galiano Island community to protect this property. He negotiated with the Nature Conservancy of Canada for \$1.7 million in matching funds towards the purchase, and secured a loan from the Vancity Resilient Capital Fund to meet the closing deadline for the property purchase. Many community members donated to this project with some becoming monthly donors to cover interest payments on the loan, while others guaranteed the loan from Vancity.

As the initiator of the Galiano Conservancy's mapping, forest restoration, and environmental education projects Ken has encouraged a program that aims to restore the wellbeing and behaviour of urban youth. While some urban youth have camped in a Provincial Park for a three day program this does not provide the safe environment most teachers prefer. The purchase of this property will enable the development of the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre which will aim to provide affordable life-changing multi-day programs for inner-city youth.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Paul and Monica Petrie, The Pender Islands

Category: Individual/Other

Project: Brooks Point Regional Park Completion Committee

Nominator(s): John Chapman

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

The Southern tip of South Pender Island is the site of the astonishingly beautiful Brooks Point Regional Park. The park consists of two parcels, separated by one parcel owned by the Capital Regional District and zoned rural residential. The Capital Regional District retains the option to subdivide the lot for sale to recover the cost of acquiring the lot.

To prevent the subdivision of this lot and enable the Capital Regional District to recover acquisition costs, while integrating it fully into Brooks Point Regional Park, Paul and Monica Petrie formed the Brooks Point Completion Committee, a subcommittee of the Pender Islands Conservancy Association, or PICA. The Petries provide inspirational and organizational leadership to a committee of 10 whose fundraising, publicity and educational work is still ongoing. The Petries formed relationships with Capital Regional District Regional Parks and The Land Conservancy of BC and activated a significant number of Pender residents to organize and support a dance, an auction, a dinner, a bocce ball tournament, and many other fundraising activities.

During a time of economic slowdown, \$130,000 was raised in this community of only 2300 residents, demonstrating the support of Pender Islanders for completing Brooks Point Park.

The work of the committee under the Petries continues, as the Capital Regional District Parks Committee and Board have yet to make their decisions regarding Brooks Point Regional Park.

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Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

John Sprague, Salt Spring Island

Category: Individual

Project: Freshwater Preservation and Protection

Nominator(s): Salt Spring Island Water Council

Letters of Support: North Salt Spring Waterworks District Board of Trustees and staff; Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society; Angus Mitchell, Chair, St Mary Lake Stewardship Committee and Director, Salt Spring Island Water Council

Project Description:

Since the early 1990s, Dr. John Sprague has volunteered his time and expertise to community efforts to promote public awareness and analysis of recurring water quality problems and other environmental concerns. Through his extensive experience, knowledge, and efforts he has benefitted Salt Spring Island and Trust Area communities by helping residents understand influences on drinking water supplies and by demonstrating the analytical approach and modeling necessary to address concerns.

His volunteer community activities on Salt Spring Island have included:

- Member, Salt Spring Island Water Council Society
- CRD Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission (2 terms)
- Director, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, (Chair of Governance Committee)
- St. Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan Committee, SSI (Member, and a primary researcher and writer)
- Cusheon Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee, Salt Spring Island (Member and a primary researcher and writer)
- Islands Trust, Advisory Planning Commission (3 terms)
- Vice-President, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society
- Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission, Salt Spring Island (5 terms)
- Secretary, Waterbird Watch Collective, Salt Spring Island.

John has voluntarily provided essential scientific analysis of lake water quality and the relative impacts of sources of contamination in St. Mary Lake and Cusheon Lake, two of Salt Spring Island's major surface drinking water sources. He continues to assist the Salt Spring Island Water Council in addressing topical issues such as their recent submission to the Government of Canada on the proposal to amend the *Fisheries Act*.

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Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

John Wiznuk, Saturna Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Fire Chief for Saturna Island Volunteer Fire Department
- Nominator(s):** Saturna Island Fire Protection Society
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

On a Tuesday evening in May 1992, John Wiznuk showed up at the old Fire Hall on Saturna Island. He had been invited there to join in a practice session of the island's volunteer fire department, which consisted of three other residents and a 1950s Dodge fire truck.

What followed were twenty years of service to the community as a firefighter and leadership as Chief. The "Wiz", as John has come to be known, has overseen the steady growth and development of a fire department that, while it remains volunteer, is professional in its training, its equipment and its outlook. Instead of four, there are now close to twenty volunteers. Instead of an aging truck and an old, inadequate fire hall, there are now modern trucks, auxiliary equipment and two brand new, strategically located fire halls. Instead of relying upon the proceeds of pig barbecues, the operations of the fire service are now securely funded by taxes collected from property owners.

John Wiznuk remained a volunteer fire fighter for the next 20 years, with most of that time on Saturna except for three years for North Pender Island. For seven years, until March 2012, John Wiznuk led the Saturna Fire Department as its Chief and he remains a firefighter and a member of Saturna's Firefighters Association.

It is the dedication of individuals like John Wiznuk that enable communities on the Gulf Islands to create and maintain safe, secure environments within which to live, work and play.

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2012 Nominee Profile

Michael Dunn, Mayne Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Preservation of the natural environment of the southern Gulf Islands
- Nominator(s):** Marie Elliott, Louis Vallee, Ann Johnston
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

As an avid naturalist and community educator for 35 years, Michael Dunn is a shining example of a tireless volunteer and good citizen. He is dedicated to helping everyone from children to seniors understand and appreciate the natural world, while protecting, monitoring and restoring ecologically important areas. Michael's efforts have enhanced Mayne Island's social life and benefitted the natural environment.

For many years, Michael has organized school programs and nature walks and led the Mayne Island Christmas Bird Count and other bird watching expeditions. He co-founded the very popular Young Naturalist Club at the Mayne Island school and is generally available year-round to anyone with questions about the natural environment.

As a co-founder of the Active Pass Important Bird Area project, he organized Active Pass property owners to participate in BC's first community-based monitoring program for an Important Bird Area. He also works with the Galiano Conservancy and Parks Canada on interpretive signage and is supervising and raising funds for the restoration of Henderson Hill Park. Michael has also organized many community meetings to help residents consider the ecological future of Mayne Island.

Michael was a valued member of the Islands Trust Fund Board from 2008-11 and is now president of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society. All of Michael's activities support the Islands Trust mandate, including his commitment to riding his bike whenever possible.

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Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Denman Island Residents Association's Parks Committee

Category: Group

Project: Support for facilities at Morning Beach Park and Maple Park, Denman Island

Nominator(s): Brian Allaert, Comox Valley Regional District

Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

In 2011, the Denman Island Residents Association's Parks Committee volunteers were instrumental in establishing park facilities in two Comox Valley Regional District parks that enhance opportunities for residents and visitors to explore the natural beauty of Denman Island.

Committee chair Peter Karsten and several committee members worked in cooperation with the Comox Valley Regional District to consider designs for a staircase that would eliminate the need for visitors to scurry down the slope hanging onto a rope. Visitors can now walk to the beach via a 103 step staircase and trail that protect the sensitive, sandy slope from further foot generated erosion. The committee erected fencing, made and installed both park entrance and interpretive signs, planted trees, and sowed grass seed. DIRA volunteers also played a helpful role in the park's official opening. Members of the committee continue to monitor the park and improvements.

Even before the Morning Beach project was completed, the Parks Committee undertook a second project to open McFarlane Road Park. On the committee's suggestion, the Comox Valley Regional District changed the name of the park to Maple Park. The committee built a trail into Morrison Marsh to allow wildlife viewing. Again, the committee created and erected all the signs while also providing a bench and a log book where visitors could share their experiences. With the exception of the wood for the signs, all supplies and labour were volunteered. This work was done again under the leadership of Peter Karsten.