

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Recipient Profile

Bob Turner, Bowen Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Raising awareness and promoting conservation of Howe Sound
- Nominator(s):** Will Husby and the Bowen Island Nature Club

Description:

Bob Turner is nominated for three projects he has worked on in recent years that raise awareness and promote the conservation of Howe Sound: the OceanWatch - Howe Sound Edition report and website; the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative; and Howe Sound Films.

Bob helped design and write the OceanWatch - Howe Sound Edition report, which is a landmark review and assessment of the state of the marine environment, community well-being and the economy of Howe Sound. Bob is also a founding member of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative, a community group working to have Howe Sound designated a Biosphere Reserve, and he leads the subcommittee working on the design of biosphere boundaries and zoning. Bob has also produced, directed and narrated seven films that highlight the wild beauty, rich wildlife and conservation issues for Howe Sound and the Islands Trust Area.

All three projects contribute to the natural environment, community and economic sustainability of the islands. As a natural collaborator with 25 years as a scientist in Howe Sound, Bob fosters strong community support and engagement for these projects.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Bob Weeden, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** 21 years of leadership in conservation and environmental stewardship
- Nominator(s):** George Ehring

Description:

Bob Weeden has been a longstanding, instrumental and committed leader within the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC), almost since its inception in 1995. The SSIC works with landowners and the public to protect the land, waters and wildlife on Salt Spring Island. The SSIC has nature reserves as well as conservation covenants and stewardship agreements on private lands. The SSIC holds public education and training events to help islanders understand and care for the island environment. It also operates a school program that provides elementary students with a day of nature-based training.

As a former university professor and long-time conservation activist, Bob has brought his scientific expertise, organizational savvy, thoughtful mind, and a sense of humor to the SSIC. Bob has served on the SSIC board for 21 years in various capacities from board officer to president. During this time, Bob has worked with over 60 board members, nine staff members, and many volunteers. Bob also fostered community connections with conservation efforts by serving as the SSIC's newsletter editor for many years, and by writing a nature column for the local newspaper. Bob's work with the SSIC ensures that local ecosystems are preserved and protected for years to come.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Everhard van Lidth de Jeude, Bowen Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	30 years of fostering ecological sustainability
Nominator(s):	Bowen Island Conservancy

Description:

Everhard van Lidth de Jeude is nominated for his involvement in conservation activities on Bowen Island over the last 30 years. Everhard's volunteer work has focused on protecting and preserving the island's natural beauty, for both residents and visitors.

Everhard created and upgraded trails and performed restoration work in the local nature reserves. Everhard obtained government funding in the 1980s and led a team that constructed the Mount Gardner trail network. More recently (2012-2017), Everhard created a new trail into Fairy Fen Nature Reserve, including the boardwalk and viewing platform design. He planned and performed the work, and obtained funding, consent, and co-operation of various organizations. Everhard collaborated with local ATV groups to ensure that members understand and respect the layout and boundary of the Fairy Fen Nature Reserve. He also performed restoration in Singing Woods Nature Reserve to upgrade the trail, remove invasive species and reforest the area.

Everhard aims to protect, enhance, and restore the natural environment, and makes it possible for others to experience and enjoy it in a sustainable way, with minimal impact. The trails access memorable destinations, and link to the island-wide network, enabling thousands of people to experience the beauty of Bowen Island.

For the past 10 years, Everhard has been the treasurer of the Bowen Island Conservancy. He was also the president of the Bowen Nature Club and continues to be active in the club, conducting hikes and other events that connect people to nature.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Liz Ciocea, Gabriola Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** 30 years of advocating for wildlife and the environment
- Nominator(s):** Tara-Lyn Megyesi and Bette Lou Hagen

Description:

For the past 30 years, Liz Ciocea has been a wildlife and environmental advocate on Gabriola Island. Liz is involved in various community initiatives and activities promoting wildlife protection. She also educates the community about the Gabriola Rescue of Wildlife Society (GROWLS), and helps people reach positive outcomes when conflicts between humans and wildlife arise.

Liz has donated many hours of her time and poured her passion and creativity into the GROWLS organization. Since 2007, Liz has taught an annual course entitled the “GROWLS Rescue and Introduction to Wildlife” to approximately 70 individuals on Gabriola Island. Liz visits local classrooms and presents at community clubs to educate community members about GROWLS.

She worked to keep GROWLS a visible presence in the community through public outreach at events like craft fairs, fall fairs and parades. Liz wrote a monthly newspaper article on wildlife and the importance of maintaining indigenous plants, and has been involved in a large number of wildlife rescues over the years. Liz’s public education initiatives regarding local wildlife is instrumental in increasing awareness of local ecosystems and wildlife on Gabriola Island.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Denman Island Memorial Society

Category:	Organization
Project:	Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery
Nominator(s):	Roxanna Mandryk

Description:

The Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) was formed in 2009 to provide a 'green' cemetery for the residents of Denman Island and their immediate families. After six years of planning and design work, community consultation, researching regulatory requirements, fundraising, land development and construction, the Denman Island Natural Burial Cemetery opened in October 2015. The cemetery follows the principles of green or natural burial, which is an approach that returns human remains to the earth in their natural state with little or no impact on the environment. The cemetery has room for 1,000 graves, and is intended to meet the Denman Island community's needs for the next 100 years.

A conservation covenant on the cemetery site, held by the Denman Conservancy Association, protects the land from toxic chemicals, metals, fertilizers and herbicides used in conventional cemeteries. The land is left undisturbed after being used for burials to allow the native vegetation to return and the area to eventually become a Douglas-fir forest.

The DIMS employs a part-time cemetery manager and provides opportunities for islanders to make biodegradable coffins, shrouds and shrouding boards. The cemetery allows islanders to keep the remains of a recently deceased family member in their own community and to provide a more gentle approach to after-death care.

The cemetery addresses climate change by promoting growth of native ecosystems, discouraging cremation, and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transport of remains to funeral homes on Vancouver Island.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Gabriola Arts Council

- Category:** Organization
- Project:** 20 years of supporting and enhancing the artistic, cultural and social environment
- Nominator(s):**
1. Susan Yates
 2. New Society Publishers

Description:

The Gabriola Arts Council (GAC) has supported, promoted, expanded and enhanced the arts and culture on Gabriola Island for 20 years. The GAC brings beauty, joy, pride and cohesiveness to the Gabriola community, while contributing to economic and social well-being in ways that are environmentally sound. With almost 700 members, GAC works hard to support and engage artists and art lovers in the community.

The GAC collaborates with many local groups and agencies to bring events and projects that are educational, inspirational, healing, ecological, innovative, inclusive, and visionary. The GAC hosts three annual art events - Isle of the Arts Festival, Gabriola Theatre Festival, and the Thanksgiving Tour. The GAC also manages a year-round Healing Power of Art program. The GAC also runs arts-related programs in the elementary school and collaborates with local non-profits and community groups.

Since 2016, the GAC has been renovating and upgrading the 90-year-old Gabriola Arts & Heritage Centre, one of the original schoolhouses on Gabriola Island, for use by the community for a variety of purposes including meetings, workshops, classes, performances, rehearsals, and presentations.

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Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society

Category:	Organization
Project:	38 years of providing health care services
Nominator(s):	Pat Young and Cedar Wallace

Description:

The Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society (HDCHCS) provides a range of health care and social services to children, youth, families and seniors on Hornby and Denman Islands, and in the Comox Valley. Beginning as a group of dedicated and concerned volunteers, HDCHCS has been registered as a charity and non-profit society since 1979. With 50 staff, it is now one of the key employers on the islands.

The HDCHCS's vision is "Healthy Islanders". The organization contributes to the health, social and economic well-being of Denman and Hornby islanders through a range of locally-based support and health services and through collaboration with local and provincial groups.

Some of the Society's services and programs include: home support; home assist; child, youth and family counselling and support programs; youth outreach; free equipment loans; a hamper program on Hornby, and community education. Other recent projects include 'Making Connections' to help improve social connections for island seniors; an Age-Friendly survey and report, 'Minding the Gulf', to communicate information about mental health and substance use concerns; and parent support groups including shared meals and child care. In 2013, the Society was selected to be the lead agency in the Comox Valley for the provincial Better at Home program, providing services to assist seniors. In addition, the HDCHCS owns and cares for the community built Hornby Clinic.

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2017 Recipient Profile

Saturna Community Club

Category: Organization

Project: 80 years of promoting social and environmental well-being

Nominator(s): Tom Johnstone

Description:

For over 80 years the Saturna Community Club (SCC) has been a catalyst for community participation, developing and sustaining Saturna Island's services and amenities. The SCC was formed in 1931 and the Saturna Community Hall was built in 1933. The purpose of the society is to foster the well-being of Saturna Island, to liaise with other organizations, to make the community hall available to the community and to provide a forum for discussion of matters of concern to Saturna.

The SCC oversees the Saturna Island recycling center, cemetery, medical clinic, and heritage society. The SCC was the place of origin for the library, volunteer fire department, and Saturna Island Rescue, which are all now stand alone organizations. The SCC also maintains the heritage Saturna Community Hall for various social events including entertainment, parties, business and education. The hall hosts Saturna's theatre programs, the Cine-Club, yoga classes, weddings, celebrations of life, the Candlelight dinner, musical performances, dances, public forums and many community meetings and pot lucks. The main fundraiser for the SCC is the annual Lamb Barbeque, with funds going towards hall maintenance, the medical clinic and other community projects.

The SCC helps protect the Saturna and Trust Area environment by providing support to the Saturna Ecological Education Centre, Saturna Marine Research and Education Society, the recycle center and free store, and through involvement in the working committees who helped develop Saturna's official community plans. The SCC supports programs like Soup for Seniors and Better at Home, allowing aging islanders and islanders with lesser incomes to live on Saturna. The SCC is also collaborating with other organizations and First Nations to engage and educate the community on the history and current concerns of the indigenous peoples who have lived on the islands for thousands of years.