



News Release

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Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards Program suspended for one year Trust Council to revisit program activation at the end of 2021

Lək'wəḡən, METULIYE/Victoria, B.C. – After consideration of competing priorities for staff resources during 2021, the Islands Trust Council decided at its September 2020 quarterly meeting to temporarily suspend activity on the Community Stewardship Awards Program, with a commitment to review the decision in December 2021. The program, with a multi-year legacy spanning the entire Trust Area, recognizes community groups and individuals for their leadership in the preservation, protection, and stewardship of the Islands Trust Area's environment and amenities.

“The Community Stewardship Awards have been a celebration of the work of Trust Area community members for close to 20 years,” said Islands Trust Council Chair Peter Luckham. “It has been an honour to recognize them. In the beginning, when Maureen Milburn was recognized for her work on the Salt Spring Island Maxwell Lake Conservation Covenant in 2002, and just recently when Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson (C'tasi:a) received the award for sharing knowledge and volunteerism with community for 19 years through the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society. The Islands Trust Council, through this program, has honoured individuals and groups that have supported the preserve and protect mandate in ways that the Trust is unable to deliver on its own. It is important to emphasize that the decision to suspend the program for 2021 is only temporary as we grapple with COVID-19 and reprioritize complex and numerous projects – Islands Trust Policy Statement amendments, reconciliation and climate change initiatives, to name just a few. Taking a pause on the stewardship awards will enable us to deliver on our mandate with the greatest possible success.” He added, “I look forward to a time when we are once again able to come together to honour and recognize the important work that individuals and organizations do in our communities. I thank you all.”

Since program inception in 2002, the Islands Trust Council has recognized 92 individuals and organizations across the Trust Area. Selected projects have addressed a wide range of issues including: leadership in land, water, and marine conservation, agriculture, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, community publications, and the compilation and management of community records. The list of previous recipients is available on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-awards/previous-years/>.

During 2021, the Trust Programs Committee will be considering options for changing the Community Stewardship Awards Program to better align the program with the Islands Trust Council's Reconciliation Declaration.

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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen, Denman, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the Islands Trust Area's unique environment and amenities by planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major islands and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometres.

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