

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From the committee to elect Derek Masselink

### **Derek Masselink Announces Candidacy as North Pender Trustee**

Pender businessman and farmer Derek Masselink has announced his candidacy as North Pender Trustee for the November 15 election. He holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and has worked in such diverse fields as aquaculture, wildlife ecology, park planning, First Nations treaty negotiations, agriculture, and land use planning. He played a central role in the increasingly popular University of British Columbia Farm initiative, and is widely recognized for his work in ecological landscape planning and design, sustainable farming and urban agriculture.

After moving full-time to the family property on Clam Bay Road in 2003, Derek started his own environmental design business, which is now located in the Hope Bay Store, and has been serving a wide range of clients on the Gulf Islands and throughout the province.

Derek and his wife Michelle also established a productive organic market garden and are regulars at the Pender Island Farmers Market. Their two young daughters, Everest and Quinn, attend the Pender Islands School, where Derek has been active coaching kids' basketball. He has served three years on North Pender's Advisory Planning Commission and participated widely in community initiatives on water, transportation, health, and local food production.

In a statement announcing his candidacy, he said he is "constantly impressed by how our community is able to put aside its difficulties and come together on the important issues." He cited the creation of the Community Hall, the recent addition to the medical clinic, and ongoing support of the recycling centre as examples of Penderites' ability to unite around services that benefit all.

"I hope to bring a fresh, youthful energy to the Trust. But I also believe a Trustee must serve all the diverse elements of our talented community, from young families to the senior citizens who have played such important roles over the years in making the Penders the kind of home in which I hope my children will share a long, happy, and secure future."

A consistent supporter of the preserve-and-protect mandate, he favours programs to protect the island's sensitive ecosystems, drinking water supplies, and productive farmland.

For more about Derek, see [www.masselink.ca](http://www.masselink.ca).