

## **A Vote for Derek is a Vote for Our Community**

*November 2008 Pender Post Submission*

Thank you to the Pender Post for providing an opportunity to share a little about myself, and why I accepted the nomination to serve as your Trustee.

My family has owned property in Hope Bay for over 20 years. We became fulltime residents in 2003. I have a design and planning company, *Masselink Environmental Design*, based at Hope Bay. My wife, Michelle, and I run Hope Bay Farm and participate in the weekly Farmers Market. Our daughters, Everest and Quinn, attend the Pender Islands School.

Like many people on Pender, I participate in various groups and activities: the Farmers Market, the Badminton Club, youth basketball, the Farmers Institute, and the Pender Island Film Group.

I have a B.Sc. in Ecology, and a Masters in Landscape Architecture. I am a Professional Agrologist and a Provisional Member of the Planning Institute of BC. I have over 15 years experience working in diverse areas including sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, wildlife ecology, park planning, First Nations treaty negotiations, land use planning and management, and rural community planning.

On Pender I have:

- Served three years on our Advisory Planning Commission;
- Participated in our Official Community Plan (OCP) review;
- Assisted with the implementation of our development permit areas; and
- Engaged in local deliberations on land use, water, transportation, affordable housing, recreation, agriculture, and local food production

I am currently working with the rural communities of Central Saanich and Smithers to update their OCPs.

### **Challenges as Opportunities**

I believe we are facing serious economic, environmental, and social challenges that will directly affect our lives on Pender Island. If elected, I will work to identify practical approaches to these challenges that provide long-term community benefits.

In challenging times, successful communities work together. My work involves bringing people together to address challenging land use issues.

### **If Elected**

I will use my experience to engage the community in open and productive dialogue on important issues like:

- Improving our collective understanding of the Islands Trust form of government and the responsibilities of the Local Trust Committee;
- Local land use decisions;
- Protecting our drinking water and our farmland;
- Local food production; and
- Affordable housing and alternative transportation initiatives.

I will serve the diverse elements of our talented community who make North Pender the wonderful home and place that it is.

I will approach each and every decision with the following questions:

“Is this in the long-term interest of our community?”

“Does this support the object of the Trust?”

“Will it ensure our Island’s future as a community and public legacy for our children and grandchildren?”

I will bring new energy and ideas to the Islands Trust – a government body that I respect and understand. The opportunity to serve as your Trustee would allow me to give back to a community that has already given so much to my family, and to me.

To learn more about me visit [www.masselink.ca](http://www.masselink.ca). Contact me at **250.629.6934** or [derek@masselink.ca](mailto:derek@masselink.ca).