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# Peter Askin

# Lions Mayne Islander of the Year for 2022



# Peter Askin, 2022 Lions Mayne Islander of the Year

Every year the Mayne Island Lions invite nominations for the Mayne Islander of the year. It became very obvious when speaking to Mayne Islanders who have volunteered alongside Peter, that he is an extremely popular winner. While he prefers to work behind the scene and seeks no recognition for his many hours of dedicated service, we heard comments like, “he may appear to be in the background but in reality he is always front and center” or “if Peter says he’ll get involved then it will be full on” or “Peter has been the driving force behind the BAT program (Broom Action Team)”.

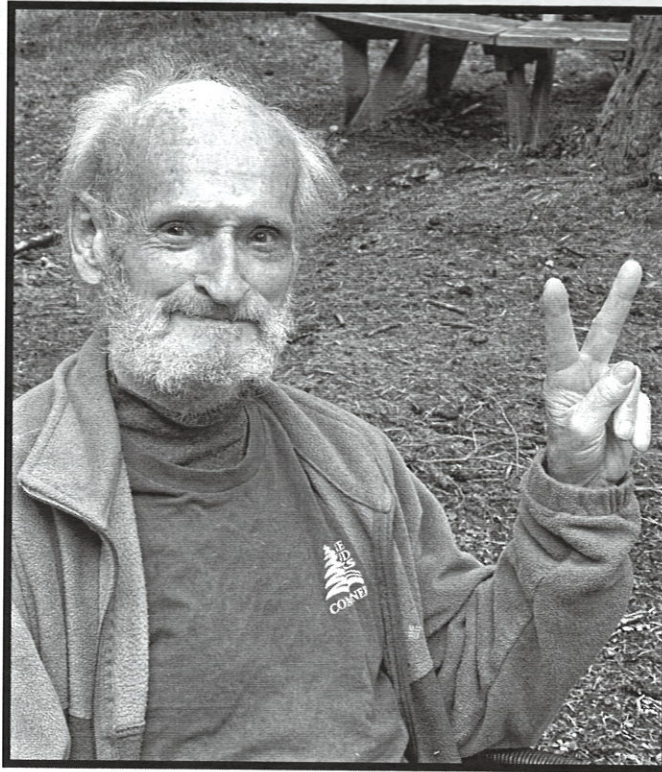
Peter moved to Mayne from Alberta in 1987 and for a while he lived in cabin #1 at Marisol cottages on Wilks Road, until it was sold in 1988. He bought a vacant lot on Waugh Rd. where he lived in a trailer home until he had his current house built, which was completed in 1994.

He worked as a Union Rep. for Canadian Auto Workers Union until he retired in 1999 and described his job as “being paid to kick butt”!

The splendour and diversity of the Island and his love of nature, told Peter from the very start of his time on Mayne, that this would be his permanent home. His first volunteer role in 2000 was with the Japanese Garden where he looked after the “hardscaping” for 9 years. Peter is extremely proud of the Japanese Garden and looks upon it as being one of the gems of Mayne Island. He credits its continued success on the dedication of the volunteers and quality of leadership that the Society is always able to attract.

Over the years, Peter has volunteered with several other Island groups including:

the Recycling Society where he served as Chair in 2001 for four years; with the Emergency Measures Program at the Fire Hall; the Wildlife Natural Care Centre which he joined two years ago and is still part of this program; and is a charter member of the M.I. Conservancy and was a Director from 2004 until 2008.



He is best known for his work with the M.I. Parks and Recreation Commission (MIPRC), which he joined in 2002, and immediately started work on Trail building. Currently his volunteer time is mostly with MIPRC as a Commissioner.

Peter has to admit in his early days working with the CRD Regional Parks that things got done more quickly, but over time, he has learned how to work with the CRD and credits them with being integral in getting the current Trail network developed.

He fondly recalls the first project that he was directly involved with was the Naylor Road beach access trail in 2002 and several more beach accesses have since been added. His first major Trail building project was the Lowland Nature Trail, but not before he had to deal with a dispute over whether Mary Jeffery Park should be designated a Community Park or part of the CRD Regional Park system. In the end a co-management solution was reached. Laying out the Old Gulch Trail was his initiative, and happily CRD Parks liked his plan and completed it following Peter’s proposal.

The trail network in Plumper Pass Park (2003) was then added to the existing

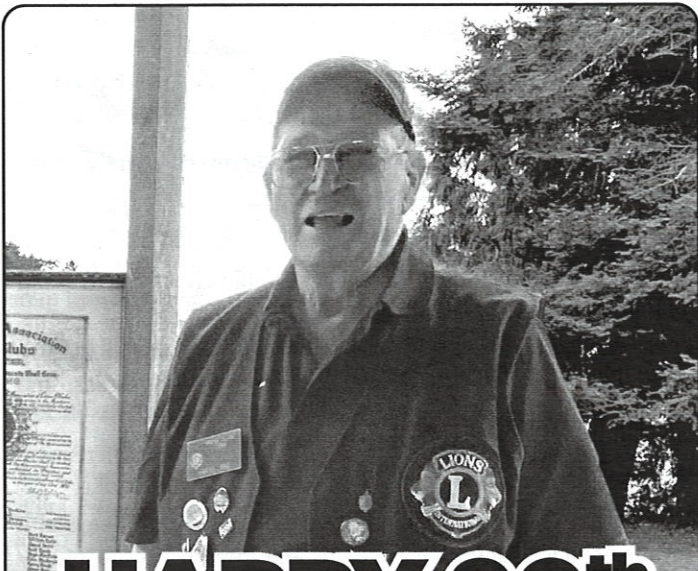
Mount Park regional park network. Henderson Park was added in 2006. The popular Cotton Park overlooking Active Pass was added in 2015 and is a spectacular location for viewing the Orca whales. In 2020, the Flag Hill extension on Mount Park was added. It is a Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MOTI) right-of-way for which the MIPRC was granted the License of Occupation. MIPRC and M.I. Pathways and Trails Assoc. (MIPATA) then collaborated in the construction of the trail.

Peter is especially complimentary of the volunteers of MIAPTA, on their perseverance in the development of the Village Bay to Miners Bay Trail that he says has been on the CRD’s 5-year plan since 2000! It has been designated by the CRD as a Demonstration Trail and an adjunct to the Trans Canada Trail system on Galiano. When completed in 2023, it will be used as a model for other trail projects within the Southern Gulf Islands.

Peter considers the MIPRC Hiking and Walking Trail brochure as being one of his major accomplishments over the past 18-20 years. It started out as a one-page black and white photocopy effort and morphed into a beautiful colour brochure. A wild guess on the number distributed would be 20,000-25,000.

Peter would love to see further Community Park expansion and he paraphrases one of his favourite singers, Hank Williams by saying, “we are just in time to be too late”. This is because the big properties are pretty much all gone. Any expansion of the Community Parks on Mayne can only come from generosity or cooperation of private landowners. Such was the case with St. Johns Point which, through the dedication of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society (MICS) and an impressive financial contribution coming from many Mayne Islanders, matched by the CRD, resulted in the 26 hectares of St. Johns Point being added in 2017 to the MI Parks inventory bringing the total of Island park land to 5.7%. Cooperation between MICS and the CRD saw Lot #7 Glen Echo (Sum-

... Article continued on next page



**HAPPY 90<sup>th</sup>**

**Harry Lane**  
**on Robbie Burns Day**  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> marked**

**Naidae Betker's**  
**100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**The MayneLiner sends her love**  
**and best wishes for reaching**  
**such an impressive milestone.**

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mit Ridge on Mount Park) added. Even more recently in 2022 through the dedication of MICS, the generosity of the Graves family and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the 35 hectares of Edith Point were protected for public use.

Throughout the interview and as we fact checked the final draft of this article, Peter emphasized the huge contribution made by the countless number of volunteers, Trail Guardians and the Trail Network Development Committee towards the building and maintenance of the Trails on Mayne. Peter's selflessness as well as pride in his accomplishments, reaffirms that he is more than worthy of being named the 2022 Mayne Islander of the year, a real Island team player.

Submitted by Allen Slade

## SCAMWATCH

### Watch out for "Canada Post" email and text message scams

A lot of people are ordering a ton of stuff online these days. So there's a good chance that if you receive a fake email or text message purporting to be from Canada Post about your parcel that couldn't be delivered, or needs extra money to get over the border, or some such other money requesting excuse, that you might have something currently on its way and think the fake email or text message is about your delivery.

You have to look and think very carefully at any unsolicited emails or text message that you may receive. I got a few text messages recently telling me that Canada Post couldn't deliver a parcel and that I needed to click a link. The first clue for me was that, although I did in fact have a parcel in the mail, this couldn't be about it, because Canada Post doesn't have my cell phone number. Also, the text was from rodrigoperalta@ua.pt, not a Canada Post email address, nor even a Canadian domain. A .pt domain is from Portugal. I was quite confident it was a scam attempt and deleted it, but if you want to be sure, check your parcel tracking info on the shipment you've ordered or contact the seller.

If I had clicked the link, I would have likely gone to a web page that may have looked a lot like Canada Post's page, and it would have asked me to input credit card or other financial info to be able to pay for the fake extra charges they "required".

Canada Post says that they will not send emails or text messages about their deliveries unless requested and does not send unsolicited emails requesting personal information such as credit card numbers, account or invoice numbers, addresses or passwords.

**Smishing:** Here's a new scam word to learn – "smishing". You've all no doubt encountered "phishing" emails; basically the email is the bait to try and get you to click on a crooked link. Smishing is a combination of SMS (text messaging) and phishing.

Submitted by Jim Traversy

