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Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:36:20 PM
Subject: Nomination for Lasqueti Trust Committee Island Stewardship Award

I am nominating Jenny Vester for the Lasqueti Trust Committee Island Stewardship Award. Jenny has lived on Lasqueti around 20 years now, coming when she was around 20 or so. She has been our major social event organizer for quite a few years, has been a big force in enriching the culture of Lasqueti, has volunteered many hours of service to the community in various ways, and has been fearless in expressing herself to the community in a variety of ways, on different aspects of life.

For quite a few years Jenny has been the main organizer of dances, bringing musical talent, and recently a drama production to the island. For about 5 years we've had a burlesque event in November, "The Tsk Tsk Revue." Jenny conceived this idea, organized it, usually emceed it, and performed in it too. The year before last, she organized an off island tour of the show with about 20 people visiting 3 other Gulf Island, Errington, and Cumberland. It was very happily received.

About 3 years ago, Jenny was involved in Lasquirkus, a Lasqueti circus troupe, which also did some off island touring. Jenny was the ringmaster, and I believe part of organizing the tour.

For the last number of years Jenny has emceed the evening of readings of poetry and writing that starts our annual arts festival. She also always reads a piece of her work in that, and helps organize that event. She has also won a literary award. I think it was a B.C. wide competition.

Jenny has brought talented people to the island to lead workshops in storytelling (3 times at least), creative singing, and yoga.

For a number of years, Jenny organized a gathering at the hall on Winter Solstice called Giver, which was inspired by a dream she had one night.

For many, probably most of the 9 years that Jenny's son attended False Bay School, Jenny was the President of the PAC Association, and very involved in fundraising events for things like the school field trips. She spearheaded social events put on by PAC, such as the Christmas Craft Fair, Annual Lip Synch, and Spring Fling.

Jenny was a Lasqueti First Responder for at least 3 years. This involves being on call with your team for a week at a time, every 3 or 4 weeks to respond to medical emergencies on the island. It requires some intensive training and a meeting every month as well.

Jenny has been president of the Lasqueti Community Association for 3 years now, and was on the executive in other capacities I believe before that. The LCA deals mainly with issues relating to the hall. They have recently been involved in major grounds improvements, including a permanent outdoor stage.

Jenny has had the job as the Free Store Coordinator for a number of years now. She does a great job, and has been encouraging the community, through occasional write ups in our local paper, to be more responsible about

dealing with our waste and our choices when we consume, to cut down on the waste. She has encouraged us to not buy food in styrofoam, especially the black and colored, because it doesn't get recycled around here, encouraged us to get our meat wrapped in paper, informed us about the Texas sized island of plastic swirling in the mid Pacific Ocean. She has influenced me on these issues.

One of the major ways Jenny earns her living is growing food and plant starts for other islanders. She sells her food at the Farmer's Market, at a neighborhood food stand, and through Rucoco, a group of neighborhood growers who deliver boxes of produce on a regular basis to regular clients. She also does garden and yard work for people, and used to be on building crews. She swings a mean hammer.

Along with all of this Jenny has been in the women's dance class for years, which each June is part of the the dance school performance.

She performs in the annual Lasqueti Comedy Festival too. This past year I saw it for the first time. She was in 3 numbers at least, one of them being an ad lib stand up routine. She has courage. This extends to being upfront and honest with people in all situations, and done with sensitivity if it's called for.

As you can see, Jenny has been incredibly busy, creative and generous with her time and spirit. I don't know how she's done it. And though she's so busy and involved, she has a sense of spaciousness, taking things in stride, going with the flow, and definitely a compassion and time to talk and listen. And a big love of life and sense of humour.

Yours sincerely, Shawna Karras