

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# **Islands Trust**

## **2013 Nominee Profile**

### **Richard Blagborne, Saturna Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Saving and restoring the Fog Alarm Building at East Point Park
- Nominator(s):** Maureen Welton
- Letters of Support:** N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Richard Blagborne initiated and led the restoration of the Fog Alarm Building, which was scheduled for demolition as part of federal lighthouse de-staffing programs. The building, originally housing the apparatus that made the deep sonorous fog-horn sound, has been completely renovated and now houses storyboards, a media centre, historical photos and written archives charting the island's history. Richard sought and received the support of dozens of community members, raised \$70,000, and sought assistance from MP Elizabeth May, Parks Canada/Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Senator Pat Carney, the Capital Regional District, Saturna Community Club, Saturna Island Parks and Recreation and Heritage Canada. In May 2013 the building will host a symposium with top cetacean experts to celebrate the progress made since Moby Doll, the first orca in captivity, was captured. The building, staffed by over twenty volunteer docents, is likely the most visited spot on Saturna Island.

Richard has been a catalyst for other initiatives and collaborations on Saturna, including: the Saturna Ecological Education Centre, the Saturnina longboat project and the Saturna Heritage Committee. These projects provide education for visitors and residents, leadership for youth, and attract visitors to Saturna Island.