

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2013 Nominee Profile

Bowen Island Golf Association

- Category:** Group
- Project:** Creation of a public nine-hole golf course
- Nominator(s):** Robert “Bruce” Russell
- Letters of Support:** Jean Cleator; Adam Zubec and Brett Finlayson, Capilano Golf and Country Club; Constable Mike Reid, Bowen Island RCMP

Project Description:

The Bowen Island Golf Association, a non-profit society, brought the Bowen Island community together to support the planning, construction and ongoing operation of a public nine-hole golf course which opened for play in 2006. More than 550 individuals, on an island with fewer than 3,500 residents, raised almost four million dollars for construction of the course and ongoing improvements. Annually, there are two or three volunteer work parties of more than 40 people to assist with improvements and maintenance. The project continues to be an important venue for social gatherings on Bowen and non-golfers who enjoy the 2.5 kilometre walking trail around the perimeter of the course.

During construction of the golf course, the Bowen Island Golf Association undertook some stream rehabilitation within the course boundaries and installed a 10.8 million gallon reservoir to collect rain water for irrigation. The Bowen Island Golf Association checks stream water quality annually and uses computerized irrigation to minimize water use. During construction, the Association used a special fan to accelerate the burning of wood waste from the project, thereby reducing the release of particulate matter and smoke into the air. The course provides year-round local employment for two people and employs 12-15 people through the summer months. The course benefits Bowen Island’s economy by attracting non-local golfers and tourists to the island.

The final component of the golf course project was completed in May 2012 with the official opening of a modest clubhouse. The Association developed the clubhouse from a recycled former portable classroom; winning first prize in the 2012 Modular Building Institute of North America’s Awards of Distinction for Greatest Renovation under 10,000 square feet. In 2012, the BC Professional Golfers Association chose the course as the 3rd best hidden gem in the province.