

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2013 Nominee Profile

Jan Slakov, Salt Spring Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Environmental and social justice leadership
Nominator(s):	Bob MacKie
Letters of Support:	Island Pathways President Brenda Guiled Member of Parliament Elizabeth May

Project Description:

Jan Slakov lives her life in a way that reflects her deep love for the world and her distress about human actions that threaten the earth's ecosystems and create pain and suffering for people. Jan "walks her talk".

Jan's actions and lifestyle are consistent with her desire for a peaceful, just society that genuinely honours and cares for the earth. She models how people can make daily decisions that limit harm to the earth's natural diversity and its ability to support human civilizations. For example, Jan travels mainly by bike and bus and spends her money and time getting old equipment to work, rather than buying mass-produced "planned obsolescence" items.

As a busy organizer and collaborator on Salt Spring Island, Jan eagerly supports community initiatives that promote sustainability and social justice. Groups she supports include: "Stewards in Training", the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, "Salt Springers for Safe Foods", Transition Salt Spring, Copper Kettle; and the Gulf Islands Alliance.

Currently, Jan is coordinating "Bike to Work Week" for Salt Spring and other Gulf Islands. Jan has served on the board of West Coast Climate Equity. She is also active with the Citizens Climate Lobby. Through the CalmUnity group that she was instrumental in founding, Jan worked to help Salt Spring islanders with widely differing values to communicate constructively.