

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2013 Nominee Profile

Jill Treewater, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Promoting public participation in island governance
- Nominator(s):** Julia Lucich, Elizabeth Nickson, David Paton, Valerie van de Wint, and Jane Talbot
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Jill Treewater took the initiative to video record meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and the Islands Trust Council. Using her own time and money she spent many hours recording meetings and then dividing the videos into easily identifiable segments which she posted to the website, IslandsTAGTeam (Islands Transparency and Accountability in Governance). Through this process she enabled greater access to the proceedings by members of the public.

Jill's recordings have fostered greater participation in island governance. Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and the Islands Trust Council are held during the day which can be a barrier to attendance for some members of the public. One recording has been viewed 710 times. Making local government meeting proceedings accessible online supports public understanding of local issues and perspectives. Jill's role in building and monitoring the *Islands Transparency and Accountability in Government Team* website has created new channels and opportunities for information sharing between island communities. By connecting island residents online, people have become more informed about and involved in island governance and Islands Trust Area issues. She has also helped islanders throughout the Trust Area conserve resources that would otherwise be needed for people to drive and ride ferries to meet in person.

One outcome of Jill's initiative is that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has been audio recording its meetings and posting the sound files to the Islands Trust website.