

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2014 Recipient Profile

Christa Grace-Warrick, Gulf Islands' Island Tides Pender Islands

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** 25 years of promoting community connection through newspaper publishing
- Nominator(s):** Pender Islands Trust Protection Society
- Letters of Support:** Jan Slakov

Project Description:

Christa Grace-Warrick runs the Island Tides as a social enterprise, connecting people with common interests, and generating community debate on important issues. She founded the Island Tides newspaper in 1989 and has published it bi-weekly since then, paid for by voluntary subscriptions and advertising.

Christa's role includes selling ads (sometimes door-to-door), designing ads, editing millions of words, writing news stories, laying out more than 600 issues, negotiating with presses and Canada Post, solving software problems, driving delivery vehicles, stocking newspaper boxes, creating a searchable website, doing the book-keeping, organizing and recruiting content from hundreds of sources. All this Christa has continued to do since she "retired."

During the lifetime of the paper, the editorial policy has supported the Islands Trust mandate with hundreds of articles focused on conserving and protecting ecosystems. The Island Tides has also been publishing articles about climate change, its causes, ways to mitigate change and strategies to adapt to it since the Rio Earth summit in June 1992.

In addition to Patrick Brown, the Island Tides' most prolific contributor, there are many others who have contributed photos and articles – Christa Grace-Warrick has been a mentor to many.

Copies of the paper are delivered by Canada Post to 12,400 households on Denman, Galiano, Gabriola, Hornby, Lasqueti, North Pender, Mayne, South Pender, Saturna, Salt Spring, Thetis, Quadra, Cortes, Read and Texada Islands free of charge. In towns, on ferries and in ferry terminals it is available in newspaper boxes.