

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2014 Recipient Profile

Galiano Conservancy Association

- Category:** Group
- Project:** 25 years of leadership in sustainable community building
- Nominator(s):** Carolyn Canfield
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

The Galiano Conservancy Association's legacy includes protecting hundreds of hectares of land, supporting community-based conservation land trusts in the Salish Sea and across Canada and advocating for the Southern Strait of Georgia Marine Protected Area. Another long-term contribution is a decade-long biodiversity baseline inventory for detecting and evaluating change using UNESCO's Smithsonian Institution/Man and Biosphere Forest Monitoring protocol. A lasting gift to conservation biology is the association's careful management of its second growth Douglas-fir plantation to demonstrate a community's capacity for scientific best practices in forest ecosystem restoration.

The conservancy has been instrumental in creating innovative models for community-based sustainability. Its programs build pride in the natural and human heritage that attracts visitors and new residents, builds skills by employing young people and builds community by sponsoring multiple local events. The conservancy also offers the 'How Well is Your Well?' program with consultation on interpreting potable water testing to help people learn about and conserve groundwater.

Finally, the conservancy has collaborated with schools and community groups from adjacent islands, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island to engage hundreds of leaders and thousands of youth in learning about the unique natural environment of the Salish Sea.