



News Release

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ISLANDS TRUST SEEKS HELP TO THANK ISLAND COMMUNITY STEWARDS

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust is seeking the help of islanders to recognize people, groups and businesses who are working to protect the environment and enhance life on their islands.

The 2015 Community Stewardship Awards program is now open for nominations until April 15, 2015.

“The Islands Trust has a mandate to preserve and protect the environment and ecosystems of the Trust Area islands and we cannot do that without the support of the people who call these islands home,” said Peter Luckham, Chair of the Islands Trust Council. “Through the Community Stewardship Award program we celebrate islanders for the time, energy, commitment, creativity and collaboration they dedicate to Trust Area ecosystems and island communities.”

This is the 14th year that the Community Stewardship Awards will be presented to a person, business or group whose actions support the Islands Trust Policy Statement. The [Policy Statement](#) includes policies for ecosystem preservation and protection; stewardship of resources such as, freshwater, agricultural land or coastal areas and sustainable communities, including our cultural heritage and economic opportunities.

Since its inception in 2002, the Islands Trust Council has given 69 awards to individuals and organizations across the entire Trust Area. Nominated and award-winning projects addressed a wide range of issues including land, water and marine conservation, agriculture, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and community publications.

In September 2014, Trust Council made a number of changes to the program effective in 2015. The program will now be offered every two years rather than annually. This is intended to increase the number of applicants in each round while reducing program costs. The eligibility criteria are more clearly explained in the policy about the program.

Program guidelines, including changes to the program and list of past recipients, are available on the Community Stewardship Awards [page](#) of the Islands Trust website.

Award recipients will be announced following the June Trust Council Meeting and presented with awards in their own communities in the fall.

The Islands Trust is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies representing 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and another 10,000 non-resident property-owners. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres.

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Preserving **island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen, Denman, Hornby, Gabriola, Galiano, Gambier, Lasqueti, Mayne, N. Pender, Salt Spring, Saturna, S. Pender, Thetis
