

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# Islands Trust

## **2015 Recipient Profile**

### **Susan Yates, Gabriola Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Contributing to literary arts and environmental stewardship for 30 years
- Nominator(s):** Fay Weller and Judith Roux

#### **Project Description:**

Susan has been working in the community and for the community for over 30 years. She enriches Gabriola Island through her involvement in Friends of the Library team, Poetry Gabriola, Gabriola Commons, Gabriola Elementary School, GERTIE (local bus), Sustainable Gabriola, the Watershed Sentinel newsletter, Gabriola Island Recycling Organization, seniors' bingo, and many other organizations. In addition, Susan is a source of wildlife, plant, and ecosystem knowledge on Gabriola. She shares her knowledge through elementary school programming as well as other eco-system mapping projects on Gabriola.

More than 25 years ago, Susan was one of the organizers behind the establishment of the Recycling Depot on Gabriola Island, and she was instrumental in getting the first official bicycle path built on a Gabriola road. Today, she volunteers several days a week in the elementary school, and puts in several hours a week at the Recycling Depot, in addition to attending board meetings and organizing and supporting community activities such as assisting local authors, encouraging active social connections for seniors, and arranging literary events that attract visitors to the island.

Susan fills a wide range of essential roles: Master of Ceremonies, note-taker, facilitator, board member, teacher, driver, organizer, or general volunteer. Susan's many volunteer efforts and her commitment to bringing people and organizations together in creative ways have supported and shaped many valuable features of Gabriola Island life. By leading through example, Susan inspires a culture of community service, volunteerism and engagement.