

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

The Hornby Quilters Project, Hornby Island

- Category:** Group
- Project:** 36 years of fundraising through the yearly Hornby Quilt
- Nominator(s):** Mary MacKenzie
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

The Hornby Quilters Project raises funds for Hornby Island non-profit organizations while raising awareness of the goals and aspirations of community organizations. The project has run for 36 years, raising \$252,000 (an average of \$7,000 per year), involved hundreds of volunteers, and benefitted more than sixty non-profit agencies

The first quilt was conceived as a fundraiser for Hornby Residents' and Ratepayers' Association in 1976 by Eleanora Laffin who, with a friend or two, made the first pictorial quilts and sold tickets. Over the years, more people collaborated and created an informal quilting group to keep a wonderful idea going by producing astonishing, historical pieces of art.

The project modernizes the traditional quilt process by turning it into a themed project. For instance, the 1978 quilt depicted Island wild flowers and the 2012 quilt will depict the essential element - water. The funds raised in 2012 will benefit the Hornby Water Stewardship Project and the First Edition, a free community newspaper aimed at keeping residents informed about issues affecting them.

This large, sustained project attracts an eclectic collection of participants and supporters on the island. Every year, twenty-five to thirty people create squares on the relevant theme with some unifying fabrics, another group of ten or twelve then assembles and stitches the work. Volunteers sell tickets every day from June to September. The interactions between quilt creators, ticket sellers and the public offer wonderful opportunities to generate awareness of island issues, foster appreciation of island life and promote protection of the island.