

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

John Sprague, Salt Spring Island

Category: Individual

Project: Freshwater Preservation and Protection

Nominator(s): Salt Spring Island Water Council

Letters of Support: North Salt Spring Waterworks District Board of Trustees and staff; Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society; Angus Mitchell, Chair, St Mary Lake Stewardship Committee and Director, Salt Spring Island Water Council

Project Description:

Since the early 1990s, Dr. John Sprague has volunteered his time and expertise to community efforts to promote public awareness and analysis of recurring water quality problems and other environmental concerns. Through his extensive experience, knowledge, and efforts he has benefitted Salt Spring Island and Trust Area communities by helping residents understand influences on drinking water supplies and by demonstrating the analytical approach and modeling necessary to address concerns.

His volunteer community activities on Salt Spring Island have included:

- Member, Salt Spring Island Water Council Society
- CRD Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission (2 terms)
- Director, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, (Chair of Governance Committee)
- St. Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan Committee, SSI (Member, and a primary researcher and writer)
- Cusheon Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee, Salt Spring Island (Member and a primary researcher and writer)
- Islands Trust, Advisory Planning Commission (3 terms)
- Vice-President, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society
- Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission, Salt Spring Island (5 terms)
- Secretary, Waterbird Watch Collective, Salt Spring Island.

John has voluntarily provided essential scientific analysis of lake water quality and the relative impacts of sources of contamination in St. Mary Lake and Cusheon Lake, two of Salt Spring Island's major surface drinking water sources. He continues to assist the Salt Spring Island Water Council in addressing topical issues such as their recent submission to the Government of Canada on the proposal to amend the *Fisheries Act*.