

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2012 Nominee Profile

Bob Watson, Salt Spring Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Sustaining Potable Water Supply
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:

Bob's work has focused on protecting potable water supplies on Salt Spring Island and promoting effective policies and bylaws. As a trustee for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, he has helped guide the District's future planning and, for over 10 years, has voluntarily undertaken numerous studies to better understand the processes affecting the quality and flow of surface water sources. He continues his work to this day.

Since moving to Salt Spring Island in 1993, Bob's voluntary community activities have included:

- Founding member of the Salt Spring Island Water Council and regular contributor to discussions
- Preparation of "What-If scenarios" for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, addressing future effects of customer growth, climate change, system supply options, water conservation and other factors.
- Long-term engineering study and cost estimates for North Salt Spring Waterworks District
- Member of the Potable Water Focus Group for the 2006-08 OCP Review
- Member of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Advisory Planning Commission
- Member of the Restructure Committee leading to the Salt Spring Island incorporation referendum in 2002
- Member of the Infrastructure Focus Group for the 1995-98 Official Community Plan Review

Bob's efforts to protect finite sources of drinking water on the island are directly related to restoring and maintaining the natural ecology of our lakes. A clean and safe potable water supply on the island is also important to the many visitors to the island who contribute to the Salt Spring economy.