

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2008 Nominee Recipient Profile

Nominee: Mary Cooper, Mayne Island

Category: Individual

Project: Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society

Nominator(s): (3) Louise Vallee and Marie Elliot, Diane Plucinak, Al Maxwell

Letters of Support: (1) Susan DeGryp

Project Description: Mayne Island is one of the smallest of the Gulf Islands, with no natural bodies of water. As the island reaches its maximum density, the availability of water resources are being increasingly strained. Both long-term residents and visitors need to be aware of, and active in, water conservation.

Mary Cooper has been involved with the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society for eight years, and has served on the Board as a Director, Chair, or co-Chair for six of those. Mary Cooper disseminates information about conserving water on the islands in the *Island Tides* and other islands papers, a website, speaking at off-island events, educational displays at island events, and widely attended annual workshops on topics that range from 'Septic Savvy' to this year's 'Year of the Aquifer.' By using her role as Chair, Mary also lobbies the Islands Trust, the CRD, provincial, and federal governments to improve laws that regulate hydrofracturing and water conservation. Mary Cooper is truly dedicated to the preservation and protection of one of the Trust Area's most precious resources.