

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



**Islands Trust**

### **2007 Award Recipient Profile**

**Winner:** Gambier Island Conservancy

**Category:** Group/Organization

**Project:** Mount Artaban Land Acquisition

**Nominator(s):** Mike Van Der Ree

**Project Description:** The Gambier Island Conservancy helped select a major part of Mount Artaban Crown land for protection under the province's Free Crown Grant Program and led the fundraising campaign for it. The Islands Trust Fund applied for the land, valued at \$1.2 million from the Province of B.C. for a nature reserve. The conservancy raised more than \$30,000 in donations towards the costs required to complete the acquisition, improve safety and access to the land, and institute the terms of protection. The condition of the transfer of land is that a Land Act Survey be registered and that it be established as a nature reserve. A management plan is vital to ensure the nature reserve is maintained as a conservation area. Donated funds will be allocated to both aspects of the land acquisition. This parcel will be the second one secured under this program and ensures the perpetuation of the program by making it more affordable to island taxpayers.

The project involved the Trust Fund Board, local trustees, BC Parks, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Gambier Island Community Association, local strata corporation, local summer camps, local businesses, Gambier Island residents and residents of the Sunshine Coast.

The 107-hectare nature reserve on Gambier Island will complete a natural network, connecting areas protected by local, regional and provincial agencies.