

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Recipient Profile

Liz Ciocea, Gabriola Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** 30 years of advocating for wildlife and the environment
- Nominator(s):** Tara-Lyn Megyesi and Bette Lou Hagen

Description:

For the past 30 years, Liz Ciocea has been a wildlife and environmental advocate on Gabriola Island. Liz is involved in various community initiatives and activities promoting wildlife protection. She also educates the community about the Gabriola Rescue of Wildlife Society (GROWLS), and helps people reach positive outcomes when conflicts between humans and wildlife arise.

Liz has donated many hours of her time and poured her passion and creativity into the GROWLS organization. Since 2007, Liz has taught an annual course entitled the “GROWLS Rescue and Introduction to Wildlife” to approximately 70 individuals on Gabriola Island. Liz visits local classrooms and presents at community clubs to educate community members about GROWLS.

She worked to keep GROWLS a visible presence in the community through public outreach at events like craft fairs, fall fairs and parades. Liz wrote a monthly newspaper article on wildlife and the importance of maintaining indigenous plants, and has been involved in a large number of wildlife rescues over the years. Liz’s public education initiatives regarding local wildlife is instrumental in increasing awareness of local ecosystems and wildlife on Gabriola Island.