

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Nominee Profile

Michelle Catherine Nelson, Bowen Island

Category: Individual

Project: Food sustainability initiatives and community involvement

Nominator(s): Wild Foraged

Description:

Michelle Catherine Nelson has completed various food sustainability initiatives and is actively involved in the community on Bowen Island. Michelle's projects include: recreation, economic development, tourism, food, and have attracted involvement from people of many interest groups.

Michelle promotes a new way of thinking about human impacts on landscapes and communities. She has developed an educational farm and has facilitated learning and community events on Bowen. Michelle's efforts to educate islanders and others about how to collect wild food sustainably, eat invasive species, design gardens in eco-friendly ways, and preserve local, seasonal produce, increase community resiliency and promote conservation of the natural environment. Michelle started a community dinner series on Bowen Island to teach about collecting and cooking wild food on Bowen Island and to bring neighbors together. She has also written food related articles in the local newspaper and local magazines, and a cookbook that is available in local stores.

Michelle founded and chairs the Bowen Island Women in Business group and she started the first Earth to Ocean Bowen Island Triathlon in 2016. Michelle was appointed to the Bowen Island Council's Economic Development Committee, is the Chair of the Business Retention and Enhancement Working Group, and is appointed to the Tourism Bowen Island Board. Projects she is spearheading or co-chairing include a local economy summit, an economic leakage study and a website to network and promote local products and services.