

*Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program*



Islands Trust

**2006 Award Winner Profile**

**Winner:** Michelle Marsden and the BC Coastal Cleanup Campaign,  
Pender Islands

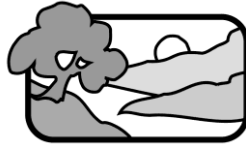
**Category:** Group/Organization

**Project:** Removal of marine wrecks and beach clean up on North and South  
Pender Islands

**Nominators:** Pender Islands Trust Protection Society and the  
Pender Islands Conservancy Association

**Project Description:** The B.C. Coastal Cleanup Campaign is comprised of island volunteers, who band together each spring to clean up the beaches around the islands, document and remove all debris that has washed up on the shores during the winter high tides and arrange to truck it off the island to the appropriate disposal sites. Starting in December, 2005, this dedicated group of volunteers also took on the onerous task of 'wreck removal' in the Port Browning Harbour area and applied to the 'Receiver of Wrecks' to remove such pollutants and navigational hazards from Bedwell Harbour. The BC Coastal Cleanup Campaign is a strong example of the community working together to protect and preserve our marine waters and beaches. Michelle Marsden is the coordinator and founder of the B.C. Coastal Cleanup Campaign.

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**2006 Award Winner Profile**

**Winner:** Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Salt Spring Island

**Category:** Group/Organization

**Project:** Mount Erskine Campaign to create Mount Erskine Provincial Park

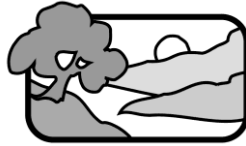
**Nominators:** Judi Stevenson and Nora Layard

**Project Description:** In the space of just a few months in 2005 a remarkable event took place on Salt Spring Island – the community came together to raise \$650,000 to purchase the peak of Mount Erskine. Now a provincial park, this represents an outstanding achievement by a band of volunteers who set out to engage the hearts and pocketbooks of the community.

In early 2005 the owner of the summit of Mount Erskine offered the Salt Spring Conservancy the opportunity to purchase 100 acres of spectacular arbutus and Douglas-fir forest along the edge of a dramatic cliff. The asking price was \$650,000 and the completion date was August 31 or five months. The conservancy's goal was to conduct an effective fund-raising campaign, under challenging time constraints to secure the purchase.

“In addition to securing the land for protection in perpetuity it demonstrated to our community that it has the capacity to rise to a challenge – to work effectively together in a very short time period to raise a large sum and protect a natural area that they love,” say the nominators.

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**2006 Award Winner Profile**

**Winner:** Ann Johnston, Mayne Island

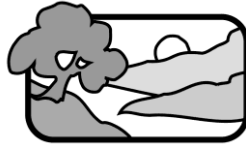
**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Providing the recycling facility on Mayne Island

**Nominators:** Marie Elliott

**Project Description:** Ann Johnston's efforts to provide recycling facilities for Mayne Island have reduced the amount of garbage trucked off the island to the Hartland Landfill and keep the island cleaner and neater. Despite many challenges and due to Ann's hard work, the facility was established in a suitable location and a volunteer group of workers organized. "It (the recycling facility) is always at the forefront of new capabilities such as accepting and recycling used computers and selling bond paper made from recycled material," says the nominator.

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**2006 Award Winner Profile**

**Winner:** Bob Burgess, Thetis Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Ongoing work on designing, installing and servicing rainwater harvesting systems and public education on water conservation.

**Nominator:** Karen McLaughlin

**Project Description:** Bob Burgess, principal of the Gulf Islands Rainwater Connection Ltd., specializes in designing, installing and servicing rainwater harvesting systems in the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Bob's work demonstrates that rainwater can be an alternative, sustainable source of high quality potable water for single family dwellings. Public presentations, seminars and workshop are an important part of Bob's activities and he actively promotes water conservation and the use of rainwater as a sustainable resource. His goal is to encourage more people to become rainwater harvesters and be good stewards of our resources. He has also donated time for several demonstration projects, such as the Alton House Demonstration Project, Milner Gardens near Parksville, Eco Village Cowichan and Community Gardens in Duncan.