

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



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) Trails Committee, Hornby Island

**Category:** Organization/Group

**Project:** Hornby Island Non-Motorized Trails Network

**Nominator(s):** Kurt and Eva Wetzel

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** The Hornby Island Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA) Trails Committee was established in 2001. As a member of the Trails Committee since its inception, Andrew Carmichael has been a prime mover of the initiative and currently serves as chair of the Trails Committee. Andrew and other Trails Committee volunteers have fundraised, built, and maintained trails along many Hornby Island roads, including St. John's Point Road and Central Road, and upgraded the Seadollar Road path to allow use by bicyclists, walkers, and joggers in all seasons. The process used by the Trails Committee to plan the recent St. John's Point Road trail has been highly participatory and community-based – local residents and landowners had opportunity to voice their opinions, make suggestions, and shape trail design through public HIRRA meetings and on-site visits. The Trails Committee also consulted with Jan Bevan, an island authority on native plants.

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



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Salt Spring Island Conservancy

**Category:** Organization/Group

**Project:** Stewards in Training School Program

**Nominator(s):** Fernwood School Staff and Students

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** The Stewards in Training School Program was started by SSI Conservancy six years ago. The program provides 700 elementary and middle school students on Salt Spring Island with an all-day nature field trip each year to a location of special ecological interest – including Ford Lake, Burgoyne Bay, Cusheon Cove, and the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve. By the time students complete middle school, they have participated in a total of 8 nature field trips. Organized by Conservancy School Coordinators and delivered and taught by over 50 volunteers, the field trips are free of cost to students and staff. Conservancy coordinators visit each class prior to the field trip to prepare students, lead hands-on learning activities during the field trip, and revisit classes afterwards to reinforce learning. Exemplifying the effectiveness of place-based learning, the program provides Salt Spring Island students with an opportunity to spend time in nature and fosters a sense of stewardship, curiosity, and wonder for the natural environment that will become a part of the fabric of values they take forward as individuals, citizens, and eventually parents.

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



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

- Nominee:** Kelsey Mech, Salt Spring Island
- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Environmental Action Day, Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility
- Nominator(s):** Jean Gelwicks

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** Kelsey Mech is an environmental and climate change youth activist. In grade 11, Kelsey volunteered as Youth Coordinator for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Group, liaising with secondary and middle schools on climate change educational projects. In 2008, she initiated and led a group of students to plan an Environmental Action Day at Gulf Island Secondary School (GISS) – drawing 600 students, staff, and community members, the event featured 25 notable speakers and 22 workshops on issues from climate change and ecosystem destruction to consumerism and food. Following this event, Kelsey founded and currently leads the Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility (EAGER) at GISS. Through Kelsey’s leadership EAGER has gained representation at School Board policy meetings and works with school staff and administration to green the school’s operations. EAGER also publishes an eco-shopping guide and works with community retailers to eliminate use of paper and plastic bags. Kelsey has written a monthly column for the Driftwood Weekender newspaper addressing environmental issues including climate change and deforestation for two years, and recently co-initiated a letter-writing campaign to federal leaders regarding environmental impact of the Alberta Tar Sands. In 2008, Kelsey attended the provincial Climate Action Youth Dialogue, participated in the Salt Spring Healthy Ecosystems Healthy Communities Initiative, and served as a member of the BC Youth Parliament and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy governance committee.

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



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

- Nominee:** Patricia McLaughlin, Denman Island
- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Marine Stewardship, Chair of Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee
- Nominator(s):** Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee executive and members

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee (DIMSC) works to foster community stewardship and ensure commercial and recreational marine activities are conducted on a scale and in a manner that conserves the diverse values of the marine environment. The Committee's work focuses on issues that include the use of petroleum-based plastics in marine environments, shoreline erosion, destruction of sensitive vegetation and habitat, and leaching of toxins and pesticides into streams and oceans.

Patricia McLaughlin is one of the original founders of DIMSC and has acted as Chair since 1998. Patricia – now over 80 years of age – continues to bring leadership, inspiration, and a spirit of collaboration to DIMSC. Over the past 25 years, Patricia has worked tirelessly as a steward of the marine environment. Her work with DIMSC has included opposition to increased loss of marine habitat in Baynes Sound; contribution to development of community marine policy in the OCP; input on the Ministry of Agriculture's 'Baynes Sound Coastal Plan for Aquaculture;' formation of a marine stewardship coalition with other coastal communities; organization of an annual beach cleanup event involving students, seniors, businesses, and other community residents; and implementation of a local Complaint and Reporting System for marine related issues.

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**2009 Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Jacqueline Booth (Posthumous nomination), Salt Spring Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Terrestrial and marine ecosystem mapping and conservation

**Nominator(s):** Jean Brouard

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Jacqueline Booth will be remembered for 15 years of collaborative service in terrestrial and marine ecosystem mapping and volunteer contributions to countless conservation, species at risk, environmental education and land use planning projects. Co-founder of South & West Conservation partnership, Jacqueline worked on the purchase of the Ford Lake Farm, coordinated the appeal that resulted in purchase and creation of Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park, and coordinated the purchase of two 45 acre parcels in Burgoyne Bay with CRD, BC Parks, and TLC. Jacqueline also worked to purchase and protect a heronry on North End Road, mapped eel grass beds in Burgoyne Bay to protect against barge moorage, co-founded the Fulford Elementary School Nature Club, and helped many groups with ecosystem mapping, including species at risk with SSI Conservancy and burweed with Friends of Salt Spring Parks and Parks Canada. Jacqueline volunteered on the Advisory Planning Commission and Advisory Environmental Committee, and was always actively involved in OCP drafting and revision.