

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2011 Nominee Profile

Henning Nielsen, Denman Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** New provincial park on Denman Island
- Nominator(s):** Michael White
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Henning created a development plan for the North Denman Lands that struck a balance between conservation and other land uses providing the economic possibility to create one of the largest conservation and recreation areas in the trust area. This plan resulted in Denman Island Local Trust Area having one of the highest percentages of protected land base in the trust area, from having one of the lowest.

Henning worked with a number of Denman Island community members to design and promote the project. He organized public information meetings and public surveys and met with various levels of provincial and local governments. Henning sacrificed much of his personal life for the past five or more years to make his vision come to fruition – a development that includes residential and agricultural lots plus a conservation and recreational area forever under public protection where forests can regenerate in balance with the regional ecology of the island.

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2011 Nominee Profile

Gisele Rudischer, Gabriola Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Raising public awareness of the Islands Trust mandate
- Nominator(s):** Rick Jackson
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Gisele Rudischer ensured that the public was aware of the Islands Trust mandate and ensured that the mandate was followed, both on Gabriola Island and throughout the Islands Trust Area. She did this by bringing the value of the Official Community Plan (OCP) to the public's attention, and drawing attention to the fact that an effective OCP ensures the community develops in as careful a way as possible. She also did this by writing many articles that explained the Islands Trust mandate, the reasons for it, and the need to support it. Gisele also developed innovative policies that led to a great increase in the amount of protected land on Gabriola. The awareness she fostered has strongly reinforced the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust. Gisele put long hours of consideration into her work. Gabriola is a much better place today thanks to Gisele's efforts.

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2011 Nominee Profile

Nadia Krebs, Galiano Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Galiano Island Recycling Resources Society (GIRR)
- Nominator(s):** Paul LeBlond, supported by the Directors of GIRR
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Nadia Krebs has been associated with the Galiano Island Recycling Resources Society for nearly twenty years. The recycling facility provides 'blue box' service to Galiano Island on contract with the Capital Regional District; commercial recycling services to local businesses; operates a used-goods exchange 'redirectory'; and, periodically stages hazardous and electronic waste collection events. It is funded partly by the CRD, partly by membership fees and donations, and partly by reselling refundable recycled materials. Nadia has been the manager since the beginning, handling the flow of recyclables and managing staff and community volunteers. More than 250 individuals and families are fee-paying members. Her work helps keep Galiano Island clean.

Nadia is passionate and innovative, always looking for more efficient ways to handle materials, new solutions for disposing of recyclables and better ways to manage the recycling centre. The 'redirectory' was her brainchild and has become a magnet for families, particularly for children who participate in a toy exchange.

In 2005 she stepped beyond her GIRR commitment and was a leading participant in a group on Galiano formed to educate islanders about the dangers of pesticides and other casually used chemicals. Her knowledge, energy and commitment to removing such hazards led to changes in what local stores stocked on their shelves and how road problems were addressed.

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2011 Nominee Profile

Wayne Hewitt, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Protection and restoration of lakes on Salt Spring Island
- Nominator(s):** Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Wayne Hewitt has been working to protect and restore major lakes on Salt Spring Island since the 1990s. He is known as “Mr. Lake Steward” on the island. He originated the Cusheon Watershed Stewardship Committee and served as chairman for nine years. The committee monitors water quality and draws government attention to problems.

In 2003, he was again the catalyst for a group of volunteers to create a management plan for the Cusheon watershed. Cusheon Lake is the source of drinking water for over 200 people. The plan took four years to complete and involved local trustees and planners from the Islands Trust, the Director of the Capital Regional District and local experts and volunteers. This was a major accomplishment – the first watershed management plan on the island. It served as the template for the St. Mary Lake management plan which followed two years later.

From 2005 to the end of the decade, Wayne was a director of the Water Preservation Society and president for one year. This society is an active advocate for conservation and protection of the island’s surface water.

Wayne has shown continuing devotion to lake protection for more than a decade. He is clearly recognized by people on the island as a primary advocate for the lakes.