



Islands Trust

2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

**WINNER: ISLAND STREAM AND SALMON
ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY
SALT SPRING ISLAND**

**CATEGORY: GROUP/ ORGANIZATION
PROJECT: WATERSHED AND STREAM RESTORATION
NOMINATOR: SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY**

Project Description:

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society (ISSES) is one of the largest environmental groups on Salt Spring Island with over three hundred and fifty members. ISSES have been working in the Salt Spring Island watersheds for over eighteen years. They have identified and mapped all of the twenty fish bearing streams and met with the landowners. They have worked in all of the watersheds on the island by assessing the environmental assets and problems in each watershed, and then they have slowly addressed most of the problems.

ISSES also works with local government to obtain covenants along all streams and wetlands during the development process. Covenants are now in place along most of the sensitive creeks and ISSES continues to monitor these covenants for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection. ISSES works with over three hundred different landowners and has stream keepers and school projects in all of the fish bearing wetlands on Salt Spring Island. Over four hundred students from the Island and Vancouver Island have received stream keepers training.

ISSES is a non-profit organization that provides training for at risk youth, displaced fishers, and the disabled and long-term unemployed people. ISSES operate a wetland plant nursery on 25 acres of donated rent-free land. They have planted thousands of native plants at restoration sites on the Island. From the conservation style hatchery on Cusheon Creek, they restock their streams that they restore. Salt Spring Island now has trout in all twenty watersheds with two species of salmon (Coho and Chum) returning to ten streams.

Since 2000, ISSES has become more involved in working with government agencies and other stakeholders to form watershed committees and to develop management plans for the major watersheds on the Island, including the St. Mary Lake-Duck Creek watershed and the Fulford and Cusheon Creek watersheds.



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2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

**WINNER: SALT SPRING ISLAND
RESIDENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE LAND USE**

CATEGORY: GROUP/ ORGANIZATION
**PROJECT: PRESERVATION OF WALKER HOOK
SALT SPRING ISLAND**

NOMINATOR: SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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Project Description:

The purpose of the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Residents for Responsible Land Use is to prevent the destruction of Walker Hook, to protect the sensitive ecosystems and archaeological heritage of Walker Hook and to prevent the industrialization of a rural residential and agricultural neighbourhood. The Residents for Responsible Land Use group have filed an environmental appeal with the Environmental Appeal Board against the permit that allowed Sablefin Hatchery Ltd. to dispose of their effluent into Walker Hook. The project is ongoing with the outcome of the Environmental Appeal still to be heard.

This group of volunteers, spearheaded by Donna Martin and Sharon Bywater, informed themselves about the process that was attempting to change a sensitive ecosystem and archeological site into a large-scale aquaculture hatchery run by a Venture Capital company. The group sought legal opinions, initiated a letter lobbying campaign to government agencies, and informed the community.

The Residents for Responsible Land Use group organized a site visit for the Penelakut Elders to the Walker Hook so that they could see the burial site of their ancestors. The group also organized an educational forum with the Penelakut Elders in the community to hear how their lives have been affected by the digging up of skeletal remains of their ancestors at Syuhe'mum and how their customs require that they watch over and look after their ancestors for all time.

Members of the Residents for Responsible Land Use group were interviewed by CBC, CKNW, the Times Colonist, the Diftwood, and the Vancouver Sun, which resulted in programs and stories and about Walker Hook. They distributed out over one hundred information packages to environmental organizations, government agencies, First Nation groups, media, and scientists. The doors have been opened to acknowledging First Nations long-time use of the islands before colonization and the beginnings of a relationship between our communities built on respect.



Islands Trust

2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

WINNER: KEN MILLARD

CATEGORY: INDIVIDUAL

**PROJECT: DIRECTOR GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION,
GALIANO ISLAND**

NOMINATOR: JANE WOLVERTON

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Project Description:

As founder, Director and Coordinator of the Galiano Island Conservancy Association (1989-present) Dr. Ken Millard has initiated and concluded numerous stewardship initiatives. The initiatives include the following acquisitions of land: Mt. Sutil (42 acres), Pebble Beach Reserve (150 acres), Retreat Island (4 acres), Laughlin Lake (27 acres), the unique wetlands known as Great Beaver Swamp (40 acres), as well as working towards a marine protected area in Trincomali Channel.

In addition to the acquisition of these 263 acres of land, Ken is currently working on the management of an ecological reserve of 50 acres and this will increase to 250 acres of managed lands with the finalization of the Pebble Beach Reserve. In total over 500 acres are protected. Substantial community participation has been involved in all projects starting with acquisition, funding, creating management plans as well as work carried out upon the lands.

As a tireless volunteer, Ken has introduced and proven to other Gulf Islands as well as British Columbians generally the enormous potential of the “community-based land trust” to make local environmental responsibility a reality. Ken founded the Galiano Conservancy Association as a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to developing models of compatibility between settlement and their ecological setting through public education and stewardship. His devotion to this goal has inspired the formation of and success of dozens of similar conservancies throughout British Columbia.

As Coordinator, Ken has led a strong Board of Directors in a remarkable fulfillment of conservation, public awareness, and research objectives. Unique arrangements involving outright purchase, partnerships, covenants, and management agreements now protect a substantial portion of Galiano’s land and marine habitat. State of the art global positioning mapping, youth work teams, First Nations oral history, scientific and visitor information have all played a role in achieving these objectives. A permanent resource centre and outstanding library attracts public and academic researchers.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program

The Galiano Island Conservancy Association has initiated a new program aimed at immersing youth in watershed ecology. The “From the Forest to the Sea Watershed Project” will take youth from the urban centers of Vancouver and Victoria to rural Galiano Island in the Georgia Basin.

Ken Millard, to support these acquisitions and endeavors has pioneered funding partnerships with various organizations including BC Nature Trust, the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., the Law Foundation of B.C., B.C. Hydro, B.C. Telephone, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. His efforts have created both permanent and summer employment opportunities on Galiano Island. Ken has built a remarkable legacy, not only on Galiano Island, but also throughout British Columbia.

Clearly, his effort on these projects and the non-confrontational way in which he has accomplished his goals fulfills the mandate of the Trust to preserve and protect these lands for future generations.



Islands Trust

2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

WINNER: TOM GOSSETT

CATEGORY: INDIVIDUAL

PROJECT: WATERSHED PROTECTION SALT SPRING ISLAND

NOMINATOR: SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY AND SALT SPRING ISLAND WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Project Description:

For a quarter century, Tom Gossett's focus has been on the protection of the watersheds and lakes used by the Salt Spring community for drinking water. He formed and has worked through the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, actively partnering with other groups like the North Salt Spring Water District and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Tom's indefatigable leadership led to the securing of the hundred acres of the St. Mary Lake watershed and a ban on internal-combustion propelled watercraft on the lake. He led the Water Preservation Society all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada in order to enforce the "electronic motor only" regulation under the *Canada Shipping Act* on St. Mary Lake. As a result of this victory, this little known federal environmental protection law was strengthened throughout Canada.

Tom also worked to protect the critical watershed surrounding Maxwell Lake from logging and other infringements. Tom helped to enforce the covenant to protect the watershed of St. Mary Lake when it was threatened by trespass logging in the lands that were eventually transferred to the Society in 2003. This injunction application was the crucial moment in asserting the public interest in the watershed. He led the successful campaign to secure, unlogged, the secondary watershed of Maxwell Lake in 2002, having earlier succeeded in moving the Islands Trust to place the primary watershed of Maxwell Lake in a 20-acre lot size zone.

Tom Gossett stands out as an individual whose footsteps we can only hope to follow. He has drawn attention to the topic of watershed health and fresh water shortages long before it seemed to be a realistic issue for islanders. He was able to stand up against many foes in the battle to maintain clean drinking water for the island residents. Tom has been the Society's foremost volunteer throughout its life – maintaining the vision and vigilance needed for water protection – and building a track record of integrity and commitment to protecting environmental values. Tom is also a hands-on person, whether the need is fighting forest fires, forcing closure of a garbage dump, or conducting research and litigation.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program

This record of accomplishment is impressive. More important, however, is Tom Gossett's character as he took up the challenge of community service. Tom is an inspiration, a gentleman, an optimist, and a self-effacing leader who respects what others think, do, and offer. He thinks beyond the obvious, beyond the moment; a hundred times he has pointed the way – then buckled down to work to achieve the vision.