

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



**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy, Lasqueti Island

**Category:** Group

**Project:** Squitty Bay Provincial Park Expansion

**Nominator(s):** Ross McMillan

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** In 2007 the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy launched a campaign to permanently protect a 38.5 hectare oceanfront property next to Squitty Bay Provincial Park on southeast Lasqueti Island. Members of the Conservancy played a fundamental role in the acquisition project. They motivated and mobilized a community with a population of less than 400 to work together to raise the \$250,000 needed to protect a cherished piece of the island. Fundraising efforts included the outdoor family event 'A Day in the Park'; collaborative work with the Islands Trust Fund, BC Parks, the Nature Trust of BC, and The Land Conservancy; and numerous education and outreach efforts both on and off-island. With the successful purchase of this property, the community members behind this project can take pride in their success. They expanded the size of Squitty Bay Provincial Park from 13 to over 51 hectares.

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**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Lyall Creek Salmon and Trout Enhancement Project,  
Saturna Island

**Category:** Group

**Project:** Lyall Creek Salmon and Trout Enhancement Project

**Nominator(s):** Priscilla Ewbank

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** Over the last 20 years a core group of Saturna residents has worked to restore Lyall Creek's salmon and cut throat trout habitat. Significant efforts went into replacing a culvert that blocked the stream above the estuary for returning spawning salmon and to develop baseline data about the creek. The group collaborated with numerous government agencies, including the Ministry of Transportation, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Parks Canada, and has engaged the wider community in their efforts. Examples of community involvement include the Saturna Island Elementary School's annual project to raise salmon eggs for release in the stream, the island Parks and Recreation Commission annual barbeque and creek tours, donations from the Saturna Island Lions Club to bring in salmon fry from off-island, and use of the creek in the Ecological Education Centre programming. The Lyall Creek Salmon and Trout Enhancement Project is truly a community effort and makes the most of local skills, values, and commitment.

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**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Mary Cooper, Mayne Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society

**Nominator(s):** (3) Louise Vallee and Marie Elliot, Diane Plucinak, Al Maxwell

**Letters of Support:** (1) Susan DeGryp

**Project Description:** Mayne Island is one of the smallest of the Gulf Islands, with no natural bodies of water. As the island reaches its maximum density, the availability of water resources are being increasingly strained. Both long-term residents and visitors need to be aware of, and active in, water conservation.

Mary Cooper has been involved with the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society for eight years, and has served on the Board as a Director, Chair, or co-Chair for six of those. Mary Cooper disseminates information about conserving water on the islands in the *Island Tides* and other islands papers, a website, speaking at off-island events, educational displays at island events, and widely attended annual workshops on topics that range from 'Septic Savvy' to this year's 'Year of the Aquifer.' By using her role as Chair, Mary also lobbies the Islands Trust, the CRD, provincial, and federal governments to improve laws that regulate hydrofracturing and water conservation. Mary Cooper is truly dedicated to the preservation and protection of one of the Trust Area's most precious resources.

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**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Maureen Moore, Salt Spring Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Save Salt Spring Island's Creekside Rainforest

**Nominator(s):** (3) Joanne Bealy and Evelyn White, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, John B. Sprague

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** The Creekside Rainforest is a unique, eight hectare creek valley which supports a mature rainforest. This patch of forest had been put up for sale and was scheduled for logging and development as a residential subdivision. In September of 2007 Maureen Moore took it upon herself to mobilize the neighborhood, the larger island community and beyond, to raise the funds to purchase and protect this rare ecosystem.

Maureen's belief in the importance of the land motivated her work to bring people together from numerous backgrounds, ages, experiences, socio-economic situations, and points of view. In a very short time Maureen involved hundreds of people in the Creekside preservation project. Through art exhibits, dinners, readings, music events, and other fundraising efforts her group received donations from over 1,000 people, generating the required funds to purchase Creekside Rainforest. Throughout this campaign Maureen Moore exhibited unflagging dedication, a capacity to motivate others, and an ability to respect all people and efforts. Her work is an inspiring example of what commitment and a love of nature can accomplish.

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**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Geri Crooks, Saturna Island

**Category:** Enduring Achievement

**Project:** Saturna Island Rescue

**Nominator(s):** (2) Dawn Woods, Barbara Hicks

**Letters of Support:** (1) Senator Pat Carney (retired)

**Project Description:** In 1987 the community of Saturna Island lost a resident due to the lack of on-island medical personnel and the absence of an organization dedicated to helping victims of accident or illness. Geri Crooks took on the responsibility of identifying the availability and cost of medical first aid courses. She then successfully convinced the community to pay for the training of several volunteers, leading to the creation of Saturna Island Rescue.

Over the years Geri has pursued increasingly higher levels of medical certification for her volunteer position, and worked to recruit new members to the Saturna Island Rescue team. During the past year Geri has also been one of four members of a committee dedicated to raising funds to build an ambulance station for the Saturna Island Rescue ambulance. To date, 175 households and families have made donations – a significant expression of support from a small community! Geri works tirelessly to stabilize the future of emergency medical responses on Saturna Island and has played a key role in providing a sense of security to island residents.

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**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Alasdair and Nancy Gordon, Lasqueti Island

**Category:** Special Contribution

**Project:** Donation of Mount Trematon

**Nominator(s):** Sophia Rosenberg

**Letters of Support:** (3) Jan Austin and Bob Bayless, Sue Wheeler, Sheila Ray

**Project Description:** Alasdair and Nancy Gordon have been part-time residents on Lasqueti Island for 35 years. During this time the Gordons have been ongoing stewards of the land and have worked to minimize their impact in numerous ways, including car sharing, beach clean-ups, and garbage removal.

In 2005 the Gordons purchased the Mount Trematon property and donated it to the Islands Trust Fund in 2007. This property is 57.87 hectares and includes the summit of Mount Trematon, the island's highest point. The landscape of Mount Trematon consists of undisturbed old growth forest, with large arbutus, big leaf maple and fire-scarred Douglas fir trees. This donation has enabled the permanent protection of and access to, a distinctive and important part of Lasqueti Island.