

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



### **2009 Nominee Profile**

<b>Nominee:</b>	Lasqueti Internet Access Society, Lasqueti Island
<b>Category:</b>	Organization/Group
<b>Project:</b>	Communications network development and access to communications technologies
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Joseph Fall

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Lasqueti Island Access Society (LIAS) is a community-based volunteer network working to improve the communications network and access to communications technologies on Lasqueti Island. LIAS has achieved three significant milestones: 1) Opening of an Internet Centre offering community members access to computing/communications equipment, high-speed internet connection, and help from volunteer staff or a paid youth intern; 2) Development of an interactive community website serving as a communications hub for coordinating island activities, and; 3) Implementation of a broadband network operating almost exclusively on renewable energy that provides high-speed wireless internet for residents on most of Lasqueti and parts of Texada.

LIAS supports economic sustainability and social networking on Lasqueti and serves as a model for community-based communications. Internet access makes it feasible for people to live and work on Lasqueti, reversing a trend towards part-time and vacation homes. The community website allows artists and food producers to make their work/produce more accessible to a wider audience while the site's virtual Farmers' Market allows local food producers to connect with local consumers at nearly zero cost. Both the Internet Centre and community website are widely used -- there are currently 250 registered users who contribute and post/edit content on the site, and the Centre is nearly always busy during operating hours.

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**2009 Nominee Profile**

- Nominee:** Mayne Island Early Childhood Society, Mayne Island
- Category:** Organization/Group
- Project:** Development of programs for families with young children
- Nominator(s):** Annette Witteman
- Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Established in January 2008, the Mayne Island Early Childhood Society is a response to the need for infant to preschool-aged children's programs on Mayne Island. The Society has a volunteer board of directors and a program coordinator who currently delivers eight programs for families with young children, including: Mother Goose and Stay and Play; Toy and Book Lending Library; Preschool Enrichment program; Parent Education Program; Dad and Me; Tots Gymnastics; Community Gardening; and the Strong Start program (in collaboration with School District 64). Most programs are free and grants are available if required. Over 20 full-time families and many additional weekend families currently take part in the programs.

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**2009 Nominee Profile**

**Nominee:** Mayne Island Agricultural Society and Fall Fair, Mayne Island

**Category:** Organization/Group

**Project:** Agricultural Fall Fair

**Nominator(s):** Dereck Atha

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Established in 1962, the Mayne Island Agricultural Society encourages, assists, and promotes agricultural and horticultural on Mayne Island and neighbouring islands, and encourages and promotes the acquisition and exchange of ideas and knowledge among residents interested in agriculture or horticulture. The Society operates the historical Mayne Island Gaol museum and Mayne Island Thrift Shop, and donates proceeds to community-oriented programs and educational grants for local students. The Society also organizes an annual volunteer-run Agricultural Fall Fair. The Fair has been held every year since 1925 and holds much historical and cultural significance for Mayne Island.

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**2009 Nominee Profile**

- Nominee:** Pender Islands Community Service Society
- Category:** Organization/Group
- Project:** Fulfilling the Financial Needs of the Community through Nu-To-Yu
- Nominator(s):** The Pender Islands Trust Protection Society

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Founded in 1983, the Pender Islands Community Service Society – known locally as 'Nu-To-Yu' – is a volunteer-run thrift store that uses its profits to finance local community projects. Over the last 26 years, Nu-To-Yu has grown from 15 to 80 members, and donated a total of \$965,946 – helping to finance and nurture a healthy island community. Nu-To-Yu funding has supported medical clinic expansion, ambulance services, and helipad construction. It has also provided annual student bursaries, and supported the community hall, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power and Sail Squadron (for transportation of injured wildlife to the Island Wildlife Care Centre), junior sailing, and the local school. Project proposals are put before the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, and finally the membership as a whole. The Nu-Tu-Yu store also provides an important social hub and place of interaction for community volunteers.

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



### **2009 Nominee Profile**

- Nominee:** Pender Organic Community Garden Society
- Category:** Organization/Group
- Project:** Sustainable Living through a Shared Experience of Gardening
- Nominator(s):** The Pender Islands Trust Protection Society
- Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** The Pender Organic Community Garden Society was founded by Tim Kempe and Grace Jordan in 2006 to create space for people to garden as a community through individual plots, shared plots, and community supported agriculture. The project aims to enhance food security, reduce climate change impact, provide affordable and nutritious food, and foster sense of community by bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and ages. The limited pockets of fertile farmland on the Pender Islands and smaller land parcels mean that many people do not have place for a veggie patch. The Garden Society has secured a 100x80 foot garden space at Ross Smith Farm and developed 25 community plots – with one designated as general use and one designed for school children. The Garden Society’s success has been driven by community enthusiasm – membership has grown rapidly to 63 people, including 18 children, and a waiting list has been formed. The Garden Society also hosts what it calls a list of ‘supporters,’ who host another 20-plus islanders.

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



### **2009 Nominee Profile**

**Nominee:** Andrew Carmichael, Hornby Island  
**Category:** Individual  
**Project:** Hornby Island Non-Motorized Trails Network  
**Nominator(s):** Ron Sitter

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Established in 2001, the Non-Motorized Trails Committee constructs trails for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. The extensive network of trails built and maintained by Trails Committee volunteers offers a safe, healthy, environmentally-friendly, and low-carbon alternative to private vehicle use. The Trails Committee uses open community meetings and dialogue to discuss trail expansion options and select high priority areas.

Andrew Carmichael has been a member of the Trails Committee since its inception, and continues to dedicate significant volunteer time to the expansion and improvement of Hornby's non-motorized trail network. As current chair of the committee, Andrew acts as primary coordinator and fundraiser for the Trails Committee, and takes the lead in consultation with neighbourhood groups located in trail proposal areas. Andrew's innovative invention -- a self-designed and self-built gravel mover that is small enough for off-road use -- has greatly reduced both the time and manual labour required to build new trails.

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**2009 Nominee Profile**

**Nominee:** Linda and Peter George, Gabriola Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Contributions to green design

**Nominator(s):** Sylvia and Ron Samborski

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** Sylvia and Ron Samborski have made many contributions to ecological and green design on Gabriola, including construction of a cob house, work on green roofs and green walls, and restoration of an eroded site. They are also working to establish heritage grains on the island. Linda has been involved in organizing greening school grounds projects with dozens of BC schools and conducting academic research on issues around school ground design relating to children's learning and the importance of providing shade trees for children's play areas.

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



### **2009 Nominee Profile**

- Nominee:** Janice Oakley and Martine Paulin, Galiano Island
- Category:** Individual
- Project:** The Galiano Community Food Program
- Nominator(s):** Jane Wolverton, Cathy Buttery, Emma Davis, Ursula Deshield, Doug and Elizabeth Latta, Sharon Masui
- Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** The Galiano Community Food Program was established in March 2008 to increase food security on Galiano Island. Co-coordinators Janice Oakley and Martine Paulin have worked collaboratively with community groups, residents, and the steering committee to develop the Community Food Program into a successful initiative engaging 175 community households in dialogue and action on food security. Projects launched over the past year include: Just Grow It, a project involving 24 residents growing staple crops (quinoa, beans and squash) on three garden plots; a skills-sharing project connecting community residents with foraging, growing, and preserving skills with those wanting to learn; presentations and workshops on year-round growing, community supported agriculture, chickens and eggs, bee-keeping, and cheese making; a 35-member garlic co-op; community suppers with 75-100 attendees; and Food Forever – a multigenerational project linking community elders and school-aged children on a project involving foraging, growing, preserving, and writing a publication. Janice and Martine presented the Community Food Program work to the LTC and, based on their recommendations, a resolution was passed to include food security and food policy in the upcoming OCP review.