



I am beginning this article with an apology for forgetting to begin December's article with this event. At our last Local Trust Committee Meeting, held on November 8th, Paul and I had the pleasure of presenting an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award to our Saturna Island Ecological Education Centre (aka SEEC). Stewardship Awards recognize individuals and groups for programs or actions that have made a significant contribution towards the object of the Islands Trust.

As many, if not all of you already know, the Saturna Ecological Education Centre is a joint project with School District #64 to create a live-in environmental centre on Saturna for 12 students per semester. The SEEC site (aka Haggis Hollow) has innovative buildings that use state-of-the-art wood sections and other newly developed design features. The school's mandate is to teach, live and learn in a natural system on a micro and macro level on Saturna Island. The school encourages stewardship of the land and provides the opportunity for students to study and understand their impacts on the environment. Integration into the local community is key. The students are valued members of the community and in turn, respect and value the community.

The project benefits the Saturna community by keeping the elementary school viable and by retaining or attracting young families to the island. It benefits visiting students from all over southwestern BC by teaching them about ecological concepts using the unique ecosystems of the Gulf Islands, along with community values and skills. In the photo you can see some of the many people who collaborated, working with determination, enthusiasm, trust and vision to make this school possible. However, as you can see by the other photo, we chose to present the plaque to the project manager, architect, builder and

all round ceaseless SEEC enthusiast, Richard Blagborne who assures us it will find an appropriate site of honour at the SEEC School.

After a break for coffee, tea and goodies supplied by the Bus Girls, we reluctantly went back into meeting mode. The opportunity to make nominations for next year's awards will be in the spring of 2013. Watch this column for further information.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to serve on our Advisory Planning Commission (APC), if you are interested please contact Paul or myself or see the Saturna page of the Islands Trust website. You will find all the details there as well as the agenda for our next Local Trust Committee meeting, which will be held on February 14. You will also find information on all our Local Trust Committee Projects, those just recently completed and those that are coming up soon. Also there are the meeting agendas and minutes from Feb. 2009 to the present, the schedule of our upcoming meetings, our Planning By-laws, Administrative By-laws, Land Use Application Forms (in case you are hoping to subdivide or rezone your property or apply for a variance) contact information and much, much more. Check it out! And please join us on Valentines Day at the Community Hall at 12:30, for our next Local Trust Committee meeting.