

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2005 Honourable Mention Winner Profile

Winner: Denman Conservancy Association

Category: Group/Organization

Project: Annual house and garden tour fund-raising

Nominator: Cindy Critchley

Project Description:

The annual house and garden tour is an innovative way to raise funds for Denman Conservancy Association projects and to foster awareness of the need to protect this special place. The first tour started with Sandy and Des Kennedy in 1991. It was a new idea at the time, with Victoria one of the few places to have a house and garden tour. The city tour idea was adapted to the rural island as a fund raiser for conservation projects. In that first year, 13 houses, plus the community hall were featured on the tour and it exceeded everyone's wildest expectations by raising more money than any other single fundraising event in the islands' history. Since its inception the idea has spread to many other communities. 2005 marked the 15th anniversary of the tour, with a new added emphasis on demonstrating sustainable living practices.

The tour involves almost 200 community volunteers, attracts more than 1000 visitors and raises funding (gross revenue in 2004 was approximately \$21,500) for association projects such as an ongoing land acquisition program. That program has resulted in preserving the Lindsay Dickson property, now held as a nature reserve by the Islands Trust Fund and managed by the Denman Conservancy Association and raising funds to acquire the Winter Wren Nature Reserve. Other projects are: the conservation covenant project, which includes procedures, information materials and templates; continued work to establish a conservation covenant on an important marsh; a landowner contact program for land stewardship; and, local ecology education programs.