

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2011 Nominee Profile

Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Community and conservation work on Bowen Island
Nominator(s):	Bowen Island Conservancy
Letters of Support:	N/A

Project Description:

Sue Ellen Fast's ongoing community work on Bowen Island over the past 15 years has included a great variety of projects ranging from hands-on fieldwork for habitat restoration to chairing major local community initiatives such as the steering committee for the update of the Official Community Plan.

Sue Ellen has been involved in many initiatives such as heron protection policies, municipal park establishment, tools for watershed education, parks and trail dedications, and land use bylaws. She has also been involved in a variety of education programs such as making presentations to local schools and community groups and organizing speaker programs for different Bowen Island groups. She assisted in reestablishing the local market farm and coordinated a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, working with landowners. She co-chaired the Cape Roger Curtis Trust Society for several years and was a member of the Sustainability Framework Working Group.

As a result of Sue Ellen's five years as a Commissioner for Bowen Island Parks and Recreation there is now a growing island-wide network of trails, parks and public beaches that can be enjoyed by people from Bowen and visitors from the entire region. Sue Ellen's persistence had a significant influence on the creation of the Greenways Advisory Committee by the Bowen Island Municipality. Another innovation by Sue Ellen was the Cove to Cape Greenway concept, a vision of protecting a full spectrum of connected ecosystems at every elevation across the whole island sea-to-sea.

Sue Ellen served as chair of the Bowen Island Conservancy and some examples of the successes achieved by the conservancy under her direction are the conservation covenant on the Betty McIntyre property, several municipal parks, the wetlands inventory of Bowen and continued emphasis on the essential need "to preserve and protect" lands when responding to the many referrals that come from the Bowen Municipality arising from various applications from landowners and developers.