

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2005 Award Winner Profile

Winner: **Mayne Island Japanese Gardens Volunteers**

Category: Group/Organization

Project: Creating a memorial garden to honour the Japanese families of Mayne Island

Nominator: Brian Haller, Mayne Island

Project Description:

Dinner Bay Park on Mayne Island was originally a Japanese farmstead before World War II. A group of dedicated volunteers have spent endless hours of rototilling, weeding, removing trees, and fostering community support for building the garden. The park is intended to recognize the efforts of the past settlers and enhance the lives of people living on Mayne Island and people visiting the island. The park has honoured the descendents of the original Japanese settlers twice. In May, 2002 the garden was officially dedicated by Iona Campagnola. A memorial plaque was also erected showing the location of the original farmsteads on the island with the names of the families.

All labour has been volunteered, with every plant and feature in the garden donated by islanders. The park is self-sustaining through donations from visitors.

Three volunteers were specifically acknowledged in the nomination: Don Herbert, whose vision and untiring efforts got it going and stayed the course; Tosh Saito, an inexhaustible workhorse and role model to all of unselfish community giving; and, Allan Cheek, resident historian who continually worked on the garden, traced all living descendents, and created and paid for the memorial plaque.