

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2011 Nominee Profile

Barry Mathias, North and South Pender Island

Category: Individual
Project: Car Stops Program
Nominator(s): Amanda Griesbach
Letters of Support: N/A

Project Description:

Barry spearheaded the Car Stops Program a project of Moving Around Pender (MAP) which has a mandate to provide alternative transportation on the Pender Islands. The purpose of this program is to provide transportation on the North and South Pender Islands for those without cars, since there is no bus service. He had a vision and wrote grants for funding this project. Barry noticed that people often moved off-island when they could no longer drive so he wanted to provide an alternative mode of transportation. In 2008, 16 car stops were installed and in 2009, 13 more car stops were approved by the Ministry of Transportation. Mayne Island also put up 26 car stops in 2009 and Barry has now spoken with people interested in establishing car stops on Saturna, Salt Spring and Quadra Islands.

The car stops program means fewer cars on the roads, reduced emissions and less pollution. The program is very popular with tourists, especially cyclists, boaters and people who come by bus to the ferry. Young people working at a large local resort and other people who don't have cars, both young and old, find the service invaluable.

Barry believes that there is no other program quite like it in the world. It seems to work on islands especially well, since there is sense of community and safety. The car stop program is described by the following poem by Don Harrison:

*Drivers don't have to take the first in line;
You're not obliged to accept a ride that's fine.
You accept the ride at your own risk,
The ride is free, so consider it a gift.*