

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Kelsey Mech, Salt Spring Island

**Category:** Individual

**Project:** Environmental Action Day, Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Jean Gelwicks

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** Kelsey Mech is an environmental and climate change youth activist. In grade 11, Kelsey volunteered as Youth Coordinator for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Group, liaising with secondary and middle schools on climate change educational projects. In 2008, she initiated and led a group of students to plan an Environmental Action Day at Gulf Island Secondary School (GISS) – drawing 600 students, staff, and community members, the event featured 25 notable speakers and 22 workshops on issues from climate change and ecosystem destruction to consumerism and food. Following this event, Kelsey founded and currently leads the Environmental Action Group Encouraging Responsibility (EAGER) at GISS. Through Kelsey's leadership EAGER has gained representation at School Board policy meetings and works with school staff and administration to green the school's operations. EAGER also publishes an eco-shopping guide and works with community retailers to eliminate use of paper and plastic bags. Kelsey has written a monthly column for the Driftwood Weekender newspaper addressing environmental issues including climate change and deforestation for two years, and recently co-initiated a letter-writing campaign to federal leaders regarding environmental impact of the Alberta Tar Sands. In 2008, Kelsey attended the provincial Climate Action Youth Dialogue, participated in the Salt Spring Healthy Ecosystems Healthy Communities Initiative, and served as a member of the BC Youth Parliament and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy governance committee.