

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2006 Award Winner Profile

Winner: Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Salt Spring Island

Category: Group/Organization

Project: Mount Erskine Campaign to create Mount Erskine Provincial Park

Nominators: Judi Stevenson and Nora Layard

Project Description: In the space of just a few months in 2005 a remarkable event took place on Salt Spring Island – the community came together to raise \$650,000 to purchase the peak of Mount Erskine. Now a provincial park, this represents an outstanding achievement by a band of volunteers who set out to engage the hearts and pocketbooks of the community.

In early 2005 the owner of the summit of Mount Erskine offered the Salt Spring Conservancy the opportunity to purchase 100 acres of spectacular arbutus and Douglas-fir forest along the edge of a dramatic cliff. The asking price was \$650,000 and the completion date was August 31 or five months. The conservancy's goal was to conduct an effective fund-raising campaign, under challenging time constraints to secure the purchase.

“In addition to securing the land for protection in perpetuity it demonstrated to our community that it has the capacity to rise to a challenge – to work effectively together in a very short time period to raise a large sum and protect a natural area that they love,” say the nominators.