

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



### **2009 Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Salt Spring Island Conservancy

**Category:** Organization/Group

**Project:** Stewards in Training School Program

**Nominator(s):** Fernwood School Staff and Students

**Letters of Support:** N/A

**Project Description:** The Stewards in Training School Program was started by SSI Conservancy six years ago. The program provides 700 elementary and middle school students on Salt Spring Island with an all-day nature field trip each year to a location of special ecological interest – including Ford Lake, Burgoyne Bay, Cusheon Cove, and the Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve. By the time students complete middle school, they have participated in a total of 8 nature field trips. Organized by Conservancy School Coordinators and delivered and taught by over 50 volunteers, the field trips are free of cost to students and staff. Conservancy coordinators visit each class prior to the field trip to prepare students, lead hands-on learning activities during the field trip, and revisit classes afterwards to reinforce learning. Exemplifying the effectiveness of place-based learning, the program provides Salt Spring Island students with an opportunity to spend time in nature and fosters a sense of stewardship, curiosity, and wonder for the natural environment that will become a part of the fabric of values they take forward as individuals, citizens, and eventually parents.