



Land Trust Alliance

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE

Four awards presented to Savary Island Land Trust, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust and
Lifetime Achievement Award to Ken Millard

Victoria – Excellence in land trusts was the theme of an awards presentation in Victoria today when organizations and individuals were recognized for outstanding contributions.

Paul McNair, Executive Director of the Land Trust Alliance called the recipients both outstanding and inspirational in their achievements, “The collective work of the land trusts and individuals we honour today underscores the vast efforts thousands of landowners, volunteers, donors, staff and Board members are making to the success of land trusts in BC.”

The Alliance’s Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ken Millard a pillar for the conservation community on BC’s south coast. Millard has worked tirelessly towards the protection of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems on Galiano Island and throughout the region for over 25 years. He is a leader in ‘grass roots’ initiatives, cultivating community involvement in information gathering and land use decision-making. From his founding and leadership role in the Galiano Conservancy Association to his vision for a sustainable learning centre on Galiano Island, Ken has provided inspiration and mentorship for countless individuals and groups along the way.

McNair lauded Millard’s efforts are being extraordinary having spanned several decades, “Ken has surpassed the expectation that any organization could have for a volunteer. His expertise and commitment to land trusts has ensured the Galiano Island Conservancy and his own legacy will be lasting for many generations.”

The Savary Island Land Trust (SILT) was a double award winner receiving recognition for Outstanding Non-Land Program and Outstanding Staff. SILT owns and supports 16 acres of land and with a year-round population of only 30 people has raised more than \$100,000 a year over each of the last three years through a number of innovative activities that bring awareness to the fragility of the land base (the island is only 6 miles long and less than a mile wide with literally thousands of lots). The activities include Savarystock (a biannual music and art celebration), individual art auctions, and a concert to which Colin James donated his considerable talent.

Liz Webster is the founder and Executive Director of the Savary Island Land Trust. Before SILT was founded in 1997, there was no protected land on Savary, the most subdivided island off the coast of BC. Webster’s hard work and vision has led to 16 lots and more than 200 acres conserved. Her vitality led to the Nature Trust of BC’s acquisition of one of Canada’s most intact coastal dune ecosystems (and part of

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the last remaining Savary wilderness). Webster has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for land purchase and stewardship; and promoting awareness about Savary's unique ecology.

Anne Kerr of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust was recognized as Outstanding Volunteer. Kerr walked into NALT's Stewardship Centre in 2007 after having recently moved to Nanaimo. At that time, NALT had no one working on covenants, and Anne took on the challenge of becoming NALT's Conservation Covenants Coordinator. While Kerr had never worked with these documents before, she set herself the task of learning all there is to know about covenants, ecological gifts, tax law, and all the supporting documents a goal she achieved in a very short time. She now devotes her efforts almost full-time to the pursuit of excellence for NALT's conservation efforts.

The Land Trust Alliance represents 32 land trusts across BC. Member land trusts have conserved more than 1200 properties totaling 1.4 million acres.

For further information:

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