



2015 Environmental Award Winners

Individual Citizen - Colleen O'Brien



Colleen received the award for Individual Environmental Achievement for her work to restore Garry Oak ecosystems in Playfair Park. She is currently the lead Volunteer Steward for *Pulling Together* in Playfair and has donated more than 4000 hours of volunteer work on restoration and related activities in the Park since the beginning of 2010. She is currently focusing on restoration techniques to remove invasive species and the replanting of rare, native species. Colleen's nomination was supported by over 120 members of the public - a ringing endorsement.

Volunteer Organization - Friends of Swan Creek and *Pulling Together* Volunteers



The Friends of Swan Creek Watershed is a volunteer, citizen-led organization which formed in 2012 in order to participate in stream and riparian restoration projects on Swan Creek. Since then they, in conjunction with volunteers from Saanich Parks *Pulling Together* program and many other organizations, have donated more than 1000 hours of volunteer time to conduct water quality testing, stream channel restoration, invasive removal, replanting of native plants and educational work with elementary school students. The group has been rewarded with seeing salmon spawn in areas of Swan Creek that they have restored.

Business/Commercial - Bernhardt Contracting



Rob and Mark Bernhardt have been pioneering the construction of Passive House concepts and technology in the CRD. Passive House certification requires that the home achieve a 90% reduction in energy use from a normal 'code-built' home, while achieving high indoor air quality at the same time. They built the first Passive House on Vancouver Island in 2013 right here in Saanich, and since then have generously shared their knowledge and expertise with many local designers and builders while continuing to pioneer the industry.

Youth Group/School - Claremont Institute for Global Solutions



This Claremont Secondary School program uses a project-based curriculum to teach students about pressing global challenges such as climate change, urbanization and sustainable energy. Students have been exposed to many initiatives and inspirational speakers intended to provide them with the skills and knowledge to help tackle these challenges in the future.