



**The Salt Spring (British Columbia, Canada)
Institute for Sustainability Education & Action (I-SEA)**

Sustainability can be a “many splendored thing”, uncovering, illuminating, and advancing all that makes up an enriching, vibrant, and healthful quality of life. While many humans likely have an innate sense of what sustainability is and how it can be nurtured, we all probably can benefit from further exploring, contemplating, practicing, and evolving our sustainability ideas at home, work, and play. **The Institute for Sustainability Education & Action (I-SEA) was created to broaden and deepen the understanding, appreciation, and commitment to sustainability** locally throughout the Gulf Islands of British Columbia, as well as internationally.

The vision of the I-SEA is to be an integral, positive force for multiple communities, organizations, and individuals that are striving to practice sustainability and to play a facilitating role through education, research, and related services in the achievement of sustainability processes and outcomes. **The overarching and interweaving I-SEA imperative is to connect people with one another and with the planet in ways that are holistic, respectful, and celebratory.** While the I-SEA cannot be “everything to everybody”, it does aspire to identify and encourage sustainability values and “best practices” in cooperation with many communities, organizations, and individuals within and beyond Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands of British Columbia, Canada.

In realizing this vision, among the several activities that are currently being planned for I-SEA are: **conducting workshops, conferences, seminars, courses, programs, and other educational events** on the concept and practice of community, organizational, and individual sustainability, which we define as long-term quality of life; **undertaking research on the concept and practice of sustainability**, including sustainability assessments, the results of which will be made available to the public; **providing scholarships and prizes for scholastic achievement** in the development of the concept and practice of sustainability; and, **delivering other sustainability education services as appropriate** to local, regional, and international stakeholders. I-SEA is currently continuing to develop as an organization and **welcomes input from all sustainability advocates, analysts, and practitioners** in how it can best serve the sustainability education and action needs of its multiple stakeholders. I-SEA **also invites organizational partners and allies in the business, government, and civil society sectors** who wish to be involved in its sustainability mission.

I-SEA is a registered non-profit society in British Columbia, Canada, and is directed by a board of non-profit and for-profit organization representatives. For more information, contact either Margery Moore or Mark Starik (co-founders) at sustain@saltspring.com, or at 124 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2S8 Canada (250-537-4400). <http://www.i-sea.org>

The Co-Founders of I-SEA

Margery Moore spent many wonderful summers as a young girl on Salt Spring Island, after her family moved there from Ontario in the early 1980s. She relocated permanently to Salt Spring Island at age 18 with her mother to work and live on the island between semesters **at the University of Victoria, where she received her B.Sc. in Natural Resource Management, and later her Masters in Environmental Management Information Systems (EMIS).** After receiving her Masters, Margery pursued her environmental career in the United States, where she met Mark Starik, and in 1999, they were married on Salt Spring Island. After seven years, once again she calls Salt Spring home, but now with Mark Starik and **a vision to continue their environmental work through the Salt Spring Institute for Sustainability Education & Action (I-SEA), of which she is President.** While building I-SEA, she is also consulting with several organizations internationally on environmental information management research design and development. As President of I-SEA, **Margery has facilitated sustainable tourism workshops and is developing a sustainability data inventory for the Salt Spring Official Community Plan (OCP) process.**

Mark Starik married Margery Moore on Salt Spring Island in July of 1999, after visiting the island with her many times. **He is a Professor of Strategic Management and Public Policy, Chair of the Department of Strategic Management and Public Policy, and Director of the Environmental & Social Sustainability Initiative (ESSI) at the George Washington (GW) University Business School in Washington, D.C. USA.** Mark is a co-founder of I-SEA and currently serves as its Secretary/Treasurer and acting Academic Director. Since 1991, he has developed programs leading to the creation of ESSI, an effort **to advance sustainability research, teaching, and service activities among faculty, students, administrators, and other stakeholders in and beyond GW.**

One of these programs, called the Sustainable Communities and Organizations Consulting Program, is bringing sustainability-oriented graduate students from GW to the Gulf Islands for the third consecutive summer, both to learn from and to consult with local organizations on a variety of sustainability topics. In addition to the Islands Trust and the Capital Regional District, these organizations have included the Earth Festival Society, the Chamber of Commerce, Artspring, and the Core Inn, as well as I-SEA, all on Salt Spring Island. **I-SEA is expanding this program to include students from other educational institutions and from the general public and encourages other sustainability-oriented organizations and individuals to work with our program and students.**

Margery and Mark thank I-SEA's 3 other current (and co-founding) Board members, **Marion Pape** of the Earth Festival Society, **Peter Allan** of the Chamber of Commerce (both of whom are I-SEA co-Vice Presidents), and **Patti Speed** of Royal Lepage Realty, all of Salt Spring Island, for their dedication, vision, and support. Other members of the Gulf Islands sustainability community are welcome to join us in any of several capacities by e-mailing us at **sustain@saltspring.com or calling 250-537-4400** (I-SEA, 124 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V2K 2S8 Canada). **Please visit <http://www.isea.org>**