

Walkalong 2014 Update

Barbara Moore

Save the date - Saturday, August 30 - for the Second Annual Galiano Conservancy Walkalong for Learning fundraiser. Join us for a musical walk through some of Galiano's incredible protected areas!

Last year we raised over \$20,000 with most walkers getting pledges online - an easy way to reach many supporters quickly. Go to our website - www.galianoconservancy.ca/walkalong - to get all the information you need to sign up as a walker and/or to donate to one of the registered walkers.

This year, the goal has been set higher, with a \$40,000 campaign to support not only Nature Education Programs but also the Learning Centre Development needed to sustain those programs. Donors can choose to donate to one or both campaigns.

The Nature Education Programs give urban children and youth the increasingly rare opportunity to foster meaningful connections with nature and their peers through hands-on outdoor experiences. Significant research has shown that all children - and adults - benefit from an enhanced awareness of and time spent in nature. Inner-city children with limited access to natural areas thrive when they are given a chance to get their hands dirty. Through these programs, they will help build native plant gardens, explore the coastline and learn firsthand about Galiano's animals, birds and vegetation. Perhaps more importantly, they will take back to their communities a growing sense of connection to nature and of commitment to the stewardship of their environment.

Learning Centre Development is critical, as having several days in nature significantly deepens the experience for participants. Our goal is to provide comfortable camping facilities for our participants. Funds raised will be used for the establishment of a building with cooking and teaching facilities, and a solar powered water purification system. The building has already been deconstructed and will be trucked to Galiano in the coming weeks.

The Learning Centre will let children learn firsthand about renewable energy generation as they drink water from a year-round spring pumped and purified by on-site solar power. Participants will take part in food forests, sustainable community

agriculture and ecological restoration. In the past, the Galiano Conservancy has been able to offer nature excursions to thousands of children, but many groups often have to seek continued outside funding in order to participate. The Walkalong fundraiser is a way to extend the experience of nature to those by offering bursaries to those who need it most.

At the final celebration there will be food, music and family fun. We have prizes for walkers and donors. The generous list is growing and varied, including two Hennessy Hammocks, pottery by Laurie McCallum, French wind chimes donated by Vilupti Christina Barrineau, two nights at Woodruff B&B and an island-sourced dinner for four by Rose Marie Umana and Leo Engleman. Do you have a prize to contribute?

The celebration will also feature several musicians, including versatile Jack Garton of Galiano and "Maria in the Shower" fame.

There will be more music this year! As you hike the trail, various musicians will be filling the forest air with exquisite sounds. Following on the popularity of Joan Robertson and her daughter, Annie Brown, playing enchanting music last year, they, along with many other musicians, will be in the forest beside the path, performing on a variety of instruments (cello, trumpet, violin, harp) and their own voices. The idea is also inspired, in part, by the hugely successful "Music in the Forest" event at Pacific Spirit Park in Vancouver. (The original organizer of that event, Catriona Day, is helping us on this one and playing her cello). The musicians will be playing on the easier portion of the trail (the loop including Cable Bay and Pebble Beach.) The last stretch through Vanilla Leaf Land (DL 58) we are suggesting be a silent walk so everyone can simply absorb the natural sounds and beauty. A map listing musicians, instruments, and locations will be available at the beginning of the walk.

The entire 6.7 km hike will take walkers "coast to coast," from Georgia Strait across the island to Trincomali Channel, ending back at the Learning Centre land, which is at 10825 Porlier Pass Road. An alternative route is available for those not wanting to walk the full 6.7 km.

Walk: 1 to 4 p.m.

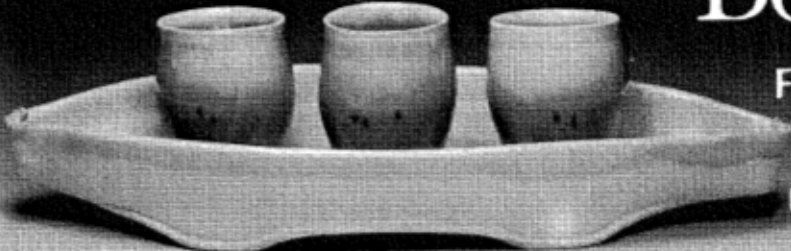
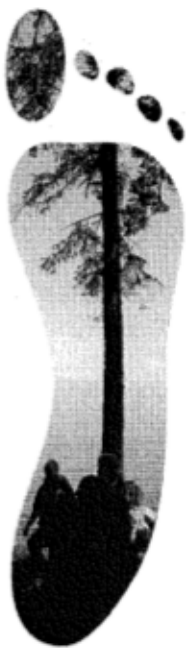
Celebration: 4 to 7 p.m.

Have you or your loved ones benefited from time spent in nature? Share that gift with the next generation and join us in building a resilient and respectful relationship with the earth.

Please walk, donate and come to this musical outdoor event. Future generations will thank you.

For more information contact Barbara Moore at 250-539-2127 or moores.in.motion@gmail.com

...



Bodega Gallery

Friday to Sunday noon to 4pm
call ahead at other times

Pottery by Kasumi & Paintings by Rolando
www.bodegagallery.com

282 Warbler Rd S (near The Bluffs) 250 539-3787