

Round the Islands

Sara Miles & Co.

Galiano Celebrates Multiculturalism

Photo: Sheriff Hossain



On October 2, the Galiano Conservancy Association hosted a salmon lunch and educational scavenger hunt at Montague Harbour. Attendees included 35 guests from the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, and members of the Galiano community and Penelakut Nation. The Multicultural Celebration Day was a great success, in part due to the cooperation of many cheerful volunteers.

Stephen Forde headed up the salmon cooking while Florence James, an elder of the Penelakut Nation, gave a traditional drum welcoming to the land and spoke about traditional heritage. The group also learned about the tree of life—Western Red Cedar—from Levi Wilson, a member of the Hwlitsum people. Galiano naturalist Mike Hoebel taught about owls and Alana Jung engaged the group in ‘nature yoga’ postures with focus and

shared facts on bald eagles. Participants also painted a communal canvas during an art therapy session led by Doris Recinos.

At the end of the day, participants were asked ‘What could make Montague Harbour more user-friendly for you?’ The overwhelming response was a need for more interactive interpretive signage.

Galiano has that one covered! The Conservancy’s interpretive sign project, currently underway, will recognize First Nations traditional heritage while reaching out to a broader audience. The goal is to bridge gaps between cultures and create an inclusive atmosphere where new immigrants and local people can share a learning experience.

Look for the project’s inauguration celebration this spring.