



THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Thank you for your support!



Dear Friends of the Galiano Conservancy,

Here we are once again at that point each year where we pause, take our bearings, and reflect upon how as an organization the Galiano Conservancy Association is doing. In 2023, the Conservancy achieved a number of important milestones, made possible through the passion, energy, and hard work of our talented staff, the

dedication and diverse expertise of my fellow Directors, and above all the steadfast support of our members and volunteers.

Notably, the multi-year Cedars for the Next Century project reached its ambitious goal to restore degraded wetland habitat across the 64-acre Chrystal Creek watershed at the Millard Learning Centre (MLC). 2023 also saw us surpass 40,000 participants since we started offering nature-based experiential learning programs over two decades ago, and UVIC's Galiano Island Field Study celebrated its 10th anniversary being hosted at the MLC. The 2023 acquisition of Quadra Hill, the 116-acre remainder parcel of District Lot 58, brought to fuller fruition the vision of a nature corridor across the island, which was first achieved a decade earlier, in 2013, when a 100-acre portion of District Lot 58 (Lot 1, now the Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve) was protected to connect the Millard Learning Centre (then the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre) to the Great Beaver Swamp and the Pebble Beach Reserve. The newly established Quadra Hill Nature Reserve vastly improves habitat connectivity across the Mid-Island Protected Areas Network. Habitat connectivity also improved on Mt. Sutil, the Conservancy's first ever land acquisition, where a 10-acre parcel adjacent to the existing nature sanctuary has now been protected in partnership with BC Parks Foundation, allowing us to more effectively steward threatened Garry oak habitat found there.

Reflecting on all that has been accomplished by the Conservancy in the past year, and indeed over the last few decades, always brings up feelings of amazement and optimism for me. I hope this annual report leaves you equally optimistic for the years ahead.

Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Anderson".

SHEILA ANDERSON, *Board Chair*

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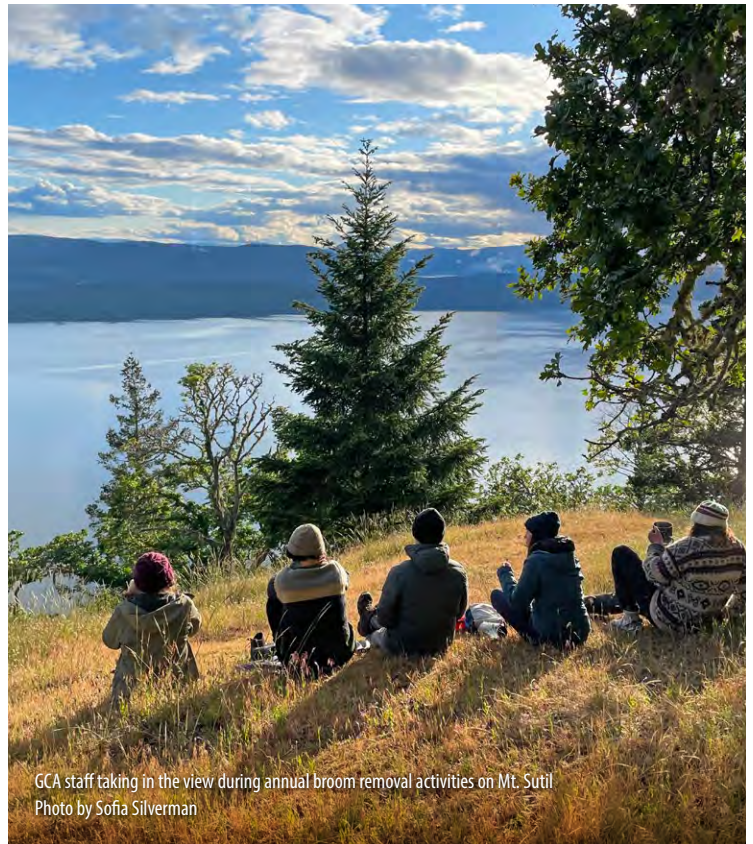
Director

Coast Salish Peoples have lived on and cared for the land now known as Galiano Island for millennia. We acknowledge that we live and work within the shared, asserted, unceded and traditional territories of the Hul'qumi'num-speaking First Nations Peoples and those who hold traditional rights, responsibilities, and Indigenous rights and title in and around what is now known as Galiano Island.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

LAND PROTECTION

- Over **\$1M** raised to purchase Quadra Hill and establish a land stewardship endowment, protecting the diverse **47 ha** 'missing piece' in the Mid-Island Protected Areas Network
- **Quadra Hill Nature Reserve** created adjacent to Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve, Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve, and Millard Learning Centre
- Protected **4.2 ha** of Coastal Doug-fir and Garry oak bluff habitat adjacent to Mt. Sutil in partnership with the BC Parks Foundation



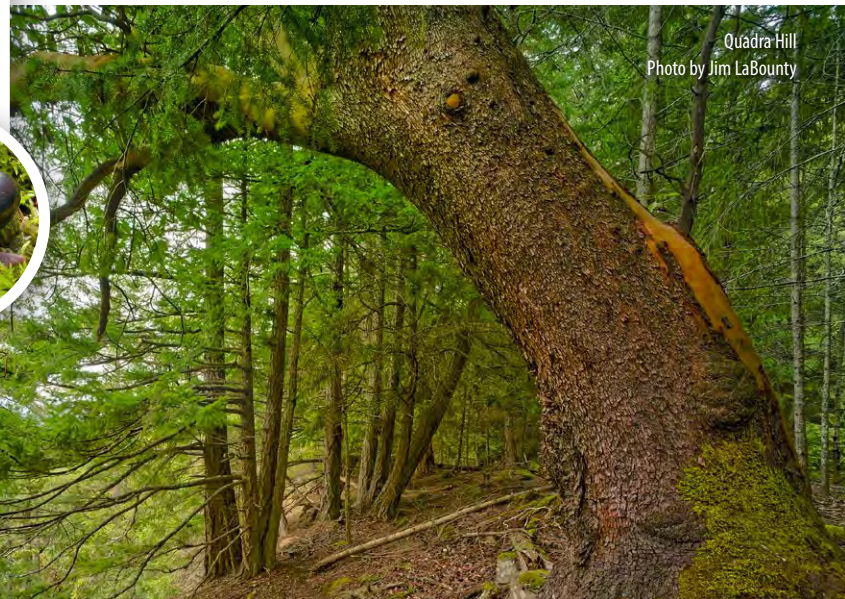
GCA staff taking in the view during annual broom removal activities on Mt. Sutil
Photo by Sofia Silverman

LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Monitored covenants encompassing **231.5 ha**
- Stewarded **334 ha** of protected land through fee-simple ownership and management agreements
- Maintained over **16 km** of public trails and installed **5** interpretive signs on the Tranquility Bluff Interpretive Trail



Quadra Hill (left) by Jim LaBounty,
Pacific sideband snail (right)
by Frieda Weinert



LEARNING & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **97** days of programming provided to **1329** off-island K-12 students
- **34** program sessions provided to **70** local Galiano youth (pre-K to gr. 7)
- **65** participants took part in **4** in-person adult education programs
- **5** volunteer interns from Canada, Germany and Costa Rica contributed **1533** volunteer hours
- **214** community volunteers contributed **1092** volunteer hours
- **6** new tent sites constructed and **9** existing tent sites restored and upgraded to accommodate larger overnight groups at MLC classroom



New solar panels and purple sprouting broccoli in the Food Forest
Photo by Cedana Bourne



Food Forest black currant (left), and artichoke (right)
Photos by Josli Rockafella

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- Propagated **167+** native and/or edible plant species
- Provided at least **2239** native and/or edible plants for restoration projects and community gardening
- Over **432** people participated in workshops, tours, and other events at the Food Forest and Nursery
- Added **5000 gal** cistern to double storage capacity of gravity-fed irrigation system
- **1.5 kW** solar-powered pump for rainwater irrigation system (installed summer 2022) reduced gas generator use in 2023 by **75%**



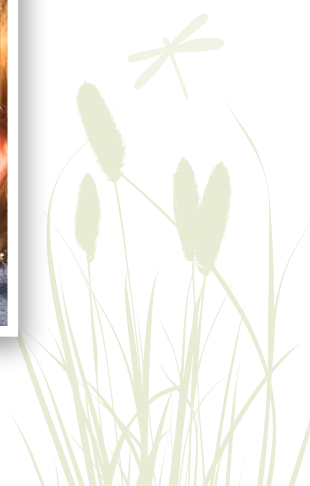
Ria Okuda, Education Coordinator, with a local youth planting native species at the MLC's demonstration wetland
Photo by Cedana Bourne



Salmon release
Photo by Ria Okuda



Rare sighting of a baby introduced red-eared slider turtle during a Galiano field trip
Photo by Ria Okuda



Scan to watch a time-lapse video of Cedars for the Next Century - Phase 3 Wetland Restoration



Broom removal on Bodega Ridge
Photo by Michelle Thompson



Restoring the Chrystal Creek watershed
Photo by Adam Huggins

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

- Final **2.5 ha** of Chrystal Creek watershed restored, including **0.65 ha** of rough and loose soil decompaction, **140 m** of creek reconstructed, **105 m** of ditch removed, **4** wetland pools created, and **754** native plants established
- Monitoring and follow-up treatments conducted throughout Chrystal Creek watershed, including an additional **780** native trees and shrubs to increase planting density
- **2165 kg** of garbage/recycling removed from restoration sites at the Millard Learning Centre

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- **8** cameras monitored fishing pressure in **3** Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) bordering Galiano over **17** weeks
- Suspected fishing incidences in RCAs dropped in 2023, occurring on just **11.6%** of days monitored (on average), the 2nd lowest rate ever recorded
- Recorded **63** Dungeness crab megalopae in Retreat Cove light trap as part of Hakai Institute's Sentinels of Change project
- **3** amphibian species, red-legged frogs, Pacific chorus frogs, and long-toed salamanders, confirmed to be breeding in new wetlands created in Chrystal Creek watershed
- **12** artificial cover-object (ACO) monitoring sites established on Mt. Sutil, **10** ACOs at MLC monitored to detect presence of sharp-tailed snakes
- **6.9 ha** of bull kelp beds mapped in **4** areas surrounding Galiano, as part of a larger multi-year Southern Gulf Islands monitoring program at the Millard Learning Centre



New wetlands in Phase 2 restoration area of Chrystal Creek watershed
Photo by Adam Huggins



Pacific chorus frog (top) photo by Chessi Miltner, Summer technician Becca Gray checks under an artificial cover-object site for sharp-tailed snakes (bottom) photo by Sofia Silverman

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

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On behalf of David Gaylor & Cedana Bourne



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies



On behalf of Irresponsible
RBSS Students

On behalf of Kendall Kyle

On behalf of Susan Yates

Ian Parfitt

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Pilgrimme restaurant

Porlier Pass Provisions

Zoe Port

Holly Schofield

Sea Cider Farm &

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Nancy Wilkin

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We also wish to
acknowledge and thank
our wonderful volunteers
whose generous gifts of
time and physical effort
support so many of our
projects and programs.
You are too numerous to
name here, and so are your
contributions

A note to our supporters: We are grateful for your continued support and want to ensure we recognize your generous contributions with 100% accuracy. If we have made an error or an omission, please contact Martine Paulin at development@galianoconservancy.ca so that we can correct it.



CEREUS FUND*
*through the Victoria Foundation;
established by the late environmental
philanthropist Susan Bloom



Cedar grove, Quadra Hill
Photo by Jim LaBounty

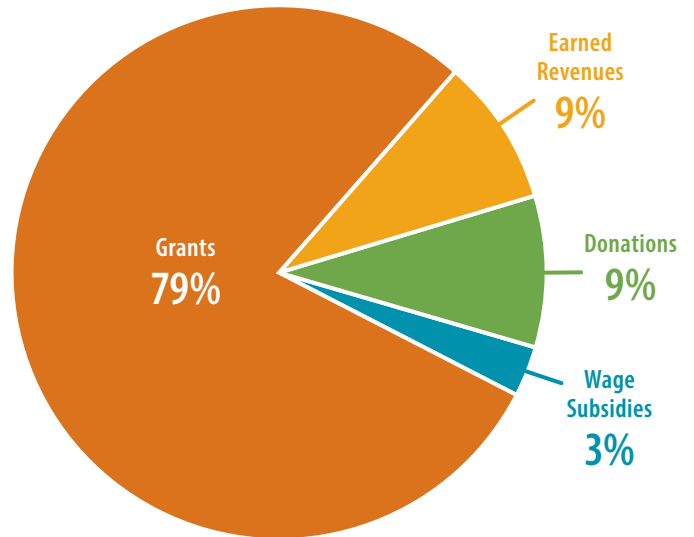


Financial Landscape for 2023

In 2023, we continued to have both strong demand for our hands-on nature-based learning programs, native plants, and other products, as well as high interest rates, resulting in earned revenues similar to 2022 and higher than previous years. Total donations were lower in 2023 than previous years, but Annual Giving Circle (AGC) contributions were steady, and AGC membership increased. This program, and donations generally, provide vital operating revenue that enable us to maintain programs and pursue ambitious projects. Grant revenues received include over \$1 million in Federal and foundation grants to acquire the 116-acre (47-ha) Quadra Hill property and establish a land stewardship endowment. Fundraising and development expenses include staff time and other costs related to land acquisition projects. Cost of living adjustments and inflation contributed to higher expenses across all departments.

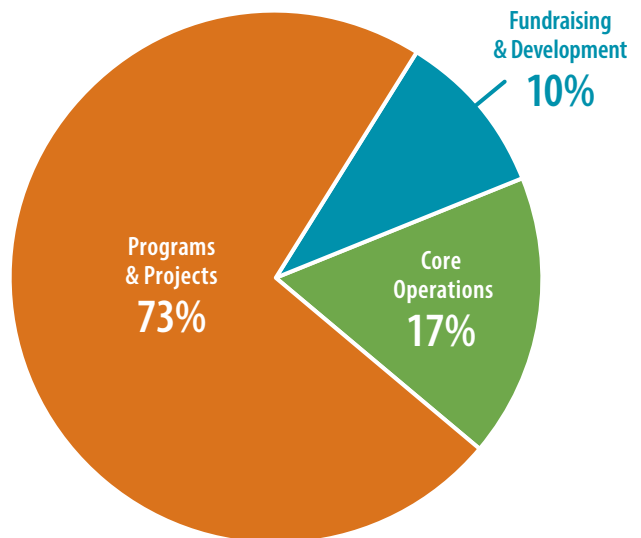
Revenue Sources

Grants	\$ 1,398,973
Wage Subsidies	\$ 54,031
Donations	\$ 162,467
Earned Revenues	\$ 164,268
Total Revenue	\$ 1,779,739



Organizational Expenses

Programs & Projects	\$ 583,134
Fundraising & Development	\$ 80,773
Core Operations	\$ 133,599
Total Expenses	\$ 797,506



NET REVENUE	\$ 982,233
Quadra Hill Purchase	\$ 871,250
NET CASH REVENUE	\$ 110,983



**Galiano
Conservancy**
ASSOCIATION

GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION
10825 Porlier Pass Road, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0
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