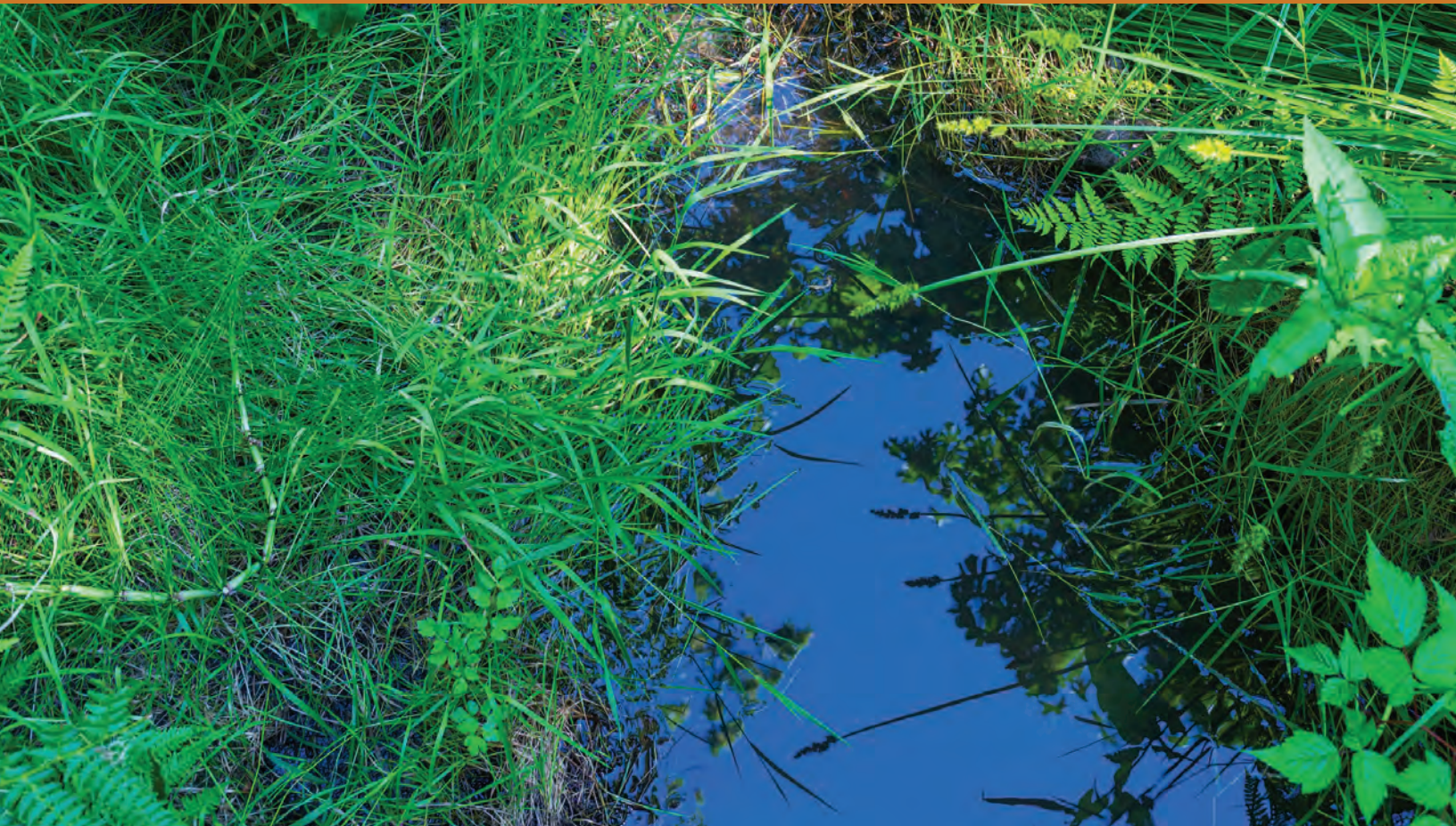




THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Thank you for your support!



As we reflect back on 2024, there is much to appreciate. Our main source of revenue supporting many of our programs continues to be grants, and 2024 was another successful year in terms of funding awarded. Generous donations from members again provided vital funding in the areas that grants cannot fully cover such as core administrative and operations costs, as well as education program bursaries. Our talented staff, energetic summer crew, visiting interns and all volunteers are due thanks and recognition for

keeping projects and programs moving forward. As is our dedicated Board of Directors, who provided responsible oversight and direction, and continued efforts in building up our resiliency as an organization.

For me, a definite highlight of 2024 for GCA and our community was the establishment of the Talking Trees Nature Reserve. Coming less than six months after completing the purchase of Quadra Hill, this expedited land acquisition project was made possible thanks to conservation-minded sellers and a time-sensitive funding opportunity we had not foreseen, but were quick to pursue. The successful protection of Talking Trees, made possible through the Old Growth Nature Fund, offers much to the community and biodiversity conservation. The sellers' excellent stewardship of the parcel is worthy of recognition. We can all look forward to the official opening as soon as trails, signage, and parking are ready to welcome the public to its beauty and peace.

In 2024 we also successfully implemented a forest restoration (thinning) treatment to a dense stand of young second-growth forest on Quadra Hill. We hope to replicate the positive results in similar overly dense stands on other lands in the near future as part of the ambitious 5-year 'Restoring the Balance' project (approved for funding in 2024, but officially starting in 2025), which seeks to improve the health and resilience of Galiano's forest ecosystems through community-led stewardship of forest stands, deer populations, and understory diversity, in collaboration with Indigenous knowledge holders and local forestry professionals. As an organization we continue to strive for greater diversity, inclusiveness and improved community and indigenous relations, and the Restoring the Balance project will help us pursue those ideals while also revitalizing our forests.

In closing I wish to express my deep appreciation and respect for all members, staff, volunteers, and others who contributed to the GCA's continued success in 2024, including Chris Tollefson, who concluded his two-year term on the board last year, and Sid Fels & George Maddison, who joined the board as new directors. I feel extremely fortunate to have played a part, and welcome other members to get involved in this organization's promising future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Anderson". The script is fluid and cursive.

SHEILA ANDERSON, GCA Chair

GALIANO CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

Sheila Anderson

Chair

Pearl Roberts

Vice-Chair

Julie Gardner

Secretary

Risa Smith

Treasurer

Sid Fels

Director

Suzanne Fournier

Director

Emily Gonzales

Director

George Maddison

Director

Holly Schofield

Director

Laurene Stefanyk

Director

Nancy Wilkin

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.

COVER PHOTO: Wetland by Jim LaBounty

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the Galiano Conservancy continued to deepen its commitment to ecological restoration, conservation, education, sustainable food systems and community connection across the lands we steward. This year's achievements reflect the power of collective action and long-term vision – guided by science, strengthened by community, and rooted in place.

LAND PROTECTION

Conserving land and its associated natural & cultural values is at the core of our work as a land trust. In 2024, we:

- Registered a **20-year lease to manage 4.2 ha Mt. Sutil Extension** protected in 2023 in partnership with BC Parks Foundation.
- Secured **42 ha of ecologically diverse mature and old-growth coastal Douglas-fir forest** with financial support from the Old Growth Nature Fund.
- Established the **Talking Trees Nature Reserve** to protect **600 m of undeveloped rocky shoreline and rare habitats**, including coastal bluffs, Garry oak woodlands, wetlands, and riparian forest.
- Raised **\$1.9 M** to date to purchase Talking Trees and establish a land stewardship endowment.



Please consider supporting the Talking Trees Nature Reserve! Additional funding is still needed to complete the baseline report, management plan, and trail & parking infrastructure.



Broom removal at MLC, and (right inset) Mt. Sutil; (left inset) acoustic bird monitoring at Talking Trees; photos by Sofia Silverman

LAND STEWARDSHIP

We steward a network of protected areas where nature – and a love of nature – can flourish. In 2024 we:

- Maintained **17+ km of public trails**, providing safe, year-round access to nature for the community and visitors.
- Monitored **conservation covenants covering 211 ha** and **stewarded an additional 382 ha of protected land** through fee-simple ownership or management agreements.
- Carried out **invasive species monitoring and removal across 100+ ha** of conservation lands, improving habitat quality for native species.
- Worked with generous **community volunteers & interns** who contributed **538 hrs** towards land stewardship projects.

Marine Investigations program at Sum'n'uw (Montague), photo by Sarah Fleming. (Inset) Backcountry Experience program, photos by Robyn Faraone.



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

Connecting learners of all ages with nature is central to our mission. In 2024 we:

- Delivered **60 days** of environmental education to **968 off-island students** (K-12) and 173 adult chaperones.
- Offered **35 days of local programming for 505 Galiano youth** (Pre-K to Grade 7).
- Hosted **445 overnight campers** at the Millard Learning Centre for unforgettable, place-based learning experiences.
- Delivered **2 adult workshops** with **47 participants** and welcomed **4 post-secondary groups** for field-based learning.
- Received **52 hrs of volunteer support** during education programming.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Monitoring species and habitat informs our other conservation & restoration work. In 2024 we:

- Monitored rates of illegal fishing pressure in 3 Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) for a **10th season**.
- Recorded a **steep decline** in suspected & confirmed fishing incidences in RCAs, to **6.4% of days monitored** (on average), the lowest rate **since 2019**.
- Recorded **9,607 Dungeness crab megalopae** in Retreat Cove light trap as part of the Sentinels of Change project.
- Detected **0 sharp-tailed snakes** across 3 properties monitored (but the species was sighted elsewhere on Galiano in 2024 – the first time in **40 years!**).
- Conducted **acoustic monitoring of bird and bat species**, confirming the presence of at-risk species such as the threatened common nighthawk and endangered little brown bat.
- Continued acoustic monitoring & egg-mass surveys of **red-legged frogs in new wetlands** at the Millard Learning Centre.
- Mapped **5 ha of kelp beds** along Galiano's shores as part of the annual Southern Gulf Island Bull Kelp Monitoring Collaboration.
- Benefited from **74 volunteer hrs** contributed to marine projects.



Belmont Secondary students take part in a Backcountry Experience hike to Qw'xwulwis - Cable Bay, photo by Dayna Christ-Rowling.



ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The focus of restoration efforts shifted in the past year from wetlands at the MLC to forest restoration at Quadra Hill. In 2024 we:

- Completed **restorative thinning and fuel management across 6.5 ha** of a 30-year-old Douglas-fir monoculture plantation, helping to return complexity and resilience to the landscape.
- Established **10 permanent forest monitoring plots** to track changes in biodiversity, structure, and ecological function over time as a result of forest restoration treatments.
- Removed **5,240+ kg of waste, including 11 derelict structures**, from a degraded wetland slated for restoration in fall 2025.
- Celebrated the completion of the ambitious 3-phase '**Cedars for the Next Century**' project, which created **12.5 ha of wetland ecosystems** at the Millard Learning Centre over the past 5 years.
- Received **1194 hrs of help from community members and volunteer interns** to monitor & maintain restored ecosystems on GCA lands.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The Food Forest & Native Plant Nursery continue to thrive as a community-centered space for growing food, propagating native plants, and sharing knowledge. In 2024 we:

- Propagated **170+ species** of native and/or edible plants.
- Supplied **840 plants** to ecological restoration projects and community gardens across the island.
- Welcomed **400+ participants** to workshops, tours, and events that explored food security, traditional knowledge, and ecological gardening.
- Benefited from **770 volunteer hours** – 238 from community members and 532 from volunteer interns.
- Further **improved water sustainability** by adding more shade cloth, water wicking mats, and rain water collection & storage off the greenhouse.



A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS!

ANNUAL GIVING CIRCLE

SALISH SEA CIRCLE (\$3,000+/YR)

Anonymous
Dan Bloomberg & Irene Beardsley
John & Carolyn Gill
Gulf Island Kayaking
Risa Smith & Tom Mommson
Mary Ruth & Loren Wilkinson

ARBUTUS (\$1,000-\$2,999/YR)

Anonymous (2)
Candace Ayres
Norman & Harriet Falk
Florian Faller & Lena Karlstrom
Emily Gonzales
Valerie Gonzales
Colin Grier & Kelly Derr
Steven Guthrie
Eric Higgs & Stephanie Cairns
Michael & Carolyn Hoebel
Doug & Elizabeth Latta
Barb MacKay & Joe Begin

In memory of Peter Midgley
Dan Moore & Julie Gardner
Peggy Ng & Richard Smith
Rosemary Perera
Pearl Roberts & Roger Allen
Salt Air Fund
Holly Schofield

CAMAS (\$500-\$999/YR)

Anonymous
Dave Ages & Virginia Monk
Ed Andrusiak & Sher O'Hara
Lisa Beck & Daniel Kirkpatrick
Kate Emmings & Keith Erickson
Suzanne Fournier & Art Moses
Galiano Fund
Liz Harmer
Janina Krabbe
Sharon Masui
Catherine Mateer & Kimberly Kerns
Tahiri Rockafella
David & Emily Sheldon
Tom Stevens
Nancy Tamblyn

Chris Tollefson
Cindy Weisbart & Eric Sherbine

SEA BLUSH (\$250-\$499/YR)

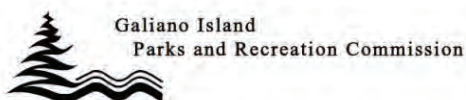
Sheila Anderson
Rob & Cora Ashburner
Marianne Bos
Trevor Bowden
Lorna Brown
In honor of Cathy Buttery & Sandy Pottle
Barbara Dick & Malcolm Burrows
Cassie Doyle
Olga Dudek & Steve Goldberg
Neil Friedenber & Christine Wilson
Geoff & Christine Gaylor
Luc Girouard & Karine Cloutier
Jennifer Gutierrez
Catherine Helliwell
Stephen Helsing
Devon Knight
Susan Ogul-Propas
Brenda & Richard Orr
John Ronsley & Barbara Fitzgerald Ronsley

Geoff Stewart
Lezlie Wagman
Nancy Wilkin
Gwen Will

FRIENDS OF THE CONSERVANCY

Anonymous (15)
Eugenia Adamovitch
Bob Andrew
Joan Bartley
Ric & Jennifer Beirsto
Raymond & Dina Bedard
Catherine Berris
Justine Bookbinder
Stewart Brands
Deb Braun & David Pascal
Lorna Brown
Sandy Brown
Lee Ann & Ken Bryant
Avi Bryant & Emma Davis
In honor of John Cairns
Gillian Chetty
Ian Chunn & Susan Reaney
Don & Valerie Clark
Barbara Cole
Colleen Crowder
Maren Dancer
Susan DeBeck

Marc Destrube
Sheila Dobie
Carolyn Edwards & Jay Tropianskaia
Jeanne Erickson
Marta Farevaag
Sid Fels
Jan Fenby
Greg & Shay Foster
Lorin Gaertner
Chuck & Judy Garland
Emily Giguere
Keith & Margaret Gilley
Sydney Gomez
Nicole Gross & Rene Zich
Andrew Hiscox
Linda Hopson
Mary Jo Hughes
Kate Hughes
Fraser Ince
Tanya Inglis
Cynthia Irvine
Bowie Keefer
Michael Keefer
Sheila Kelton
Jim Kempling & Barbara Forsyth
Richard & Irene Kendon
Nancy Kotani



Working with communities in BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island

Jim LaBounty
Harry & Elaine Lipetz
Marian Lowery & Bruce
Dolsen
Andrew & Gundy Macnab
Lauren Magner & Andrew
Simon
Maureen Mahon
Jennifer Margison & Jim
Henshall
Corinne Matheson &
Wayne Bairstow
Kendall McLaughlin
Jean McRae
Gary & Barbara Moore
Jennifer Moore
Lorraine Moore
Miriam Moses
Naomi Natrass Moses
Agathe & Anthony Nolan
Bonny Norton
Shawn & Anna Ogden
Sue Okuda
Beverly Olds
Martine Paulin & Christian
Nally

Geraldine Peet
Danielle Pepin & Witmar
Abele
Sandy Pottle & Cathy
Buttery
Shirlene Raines
Graham Ramsay
Joan Robertson
Bonnie Robson
Robyn Rossworn
Brian & Helen Russell
Stephen & Susan Rybak
Candice Marie Sage
Leanne Saratan
Colleen Savage
Nicole Sebok
Annette Shaw
Ann & Arnold Shoichet
Lisa & Anthony Smith
Steven Smith
Laurene Stefanyk
Marla Steinberg &
Paul Ross
Susan & David Stone
Gemma Tarling

Reg & Beth Thiessen
Drew Thompson
Andre Touchburn
Sharon Urton
Ruth Waldick
Garth Walmsley
Shirley Webster
Elizabeth Whynot
Jane Wolverton
Susan Yates
Linde Zingaro

LEGACY CIRCLE

Anonymous (7)
Dan & Irene Bloomberg
Carolyn Canfield
Kate Emmings & Keith
Erickson
Joan Henriques
Catherine Mateer &
Kimberly Kerns
Pearl Roberts & Roger Allen
Geoff Stewart
Andy Turner

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, GCA Development Coordinator at development@galianoconservancy.ca so that we can correct it.

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



Thank you for
being with us on this
conservation journey!

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

At the Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA), we are deeply grateful for the dedication and generosity of our volunteers. Whether you contribute a few hours in the field, assist at events, or work behind the scenes on committees or on the board, your efforts are the lifeblood of our organization. Each contribution, big or small, has a lasting impact in the pursuit of our mission to protect, steward and restore Galiano's unique ecosystems.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, whether you've helped with invasive species removal, trail building, plant propagation, learning programs, or shared your skills and time in other ways. Your actions play a meaningful role in preserving the natural beauty and habitats around us.

A special thank you also goes to our volunteer interns and seasonal staff, whose fresh perspectives and enthusiasm enrich our work each year. You play a crucial role in habitat restoration, conservation, sustainable agriculture, environmental education, and ensure the success of our diverse projects. Your hard work and passion help shape the present and future of the GCA.

As we move forward, we continue to offer many opportunities for involvement. Whether you're passionate about restoration, wildlife monitoring, or organizational efficiency, there's always a way for you to contribute.

Volunteering with the GCA is not only about giving your time and efforts—it's about connecting with a community united by a shared vision for the island's environment. To better recognize the importance of volunteers for our organization, annual membership fees are now waived for volunteers who give an hour or more of time in support of GCA projects and programs. To claim your membership, simply provide contact information and 2025 volunteering details to: membership@galianoconservancy.ca



(Square inset) Thursday
Volunteer Day at the
Food Forest; (Round inset)
Rockfish Conservation Project
outreach on World Ocean's Day



Broom removal at the MLC



Staff and interns remove garbage
from Quadra Hill



(Left inset) Quadra Hill
forest thinning; (Right inset)
Red-legged frog



Friday Volunteer Day
at Quadra Hill



Summer staff steward the Chrystal Creek Watershed
All photo credits this page: GCA Staff



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GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

10825 Porlier Pass Road, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0
(250) 539-2424 | info@galianoconservancy.ca

galianoconservancy.ca/volunteer

VOLUNTEER
WITH US!



NATURE STEWARDS PROGRAM LAUNCH

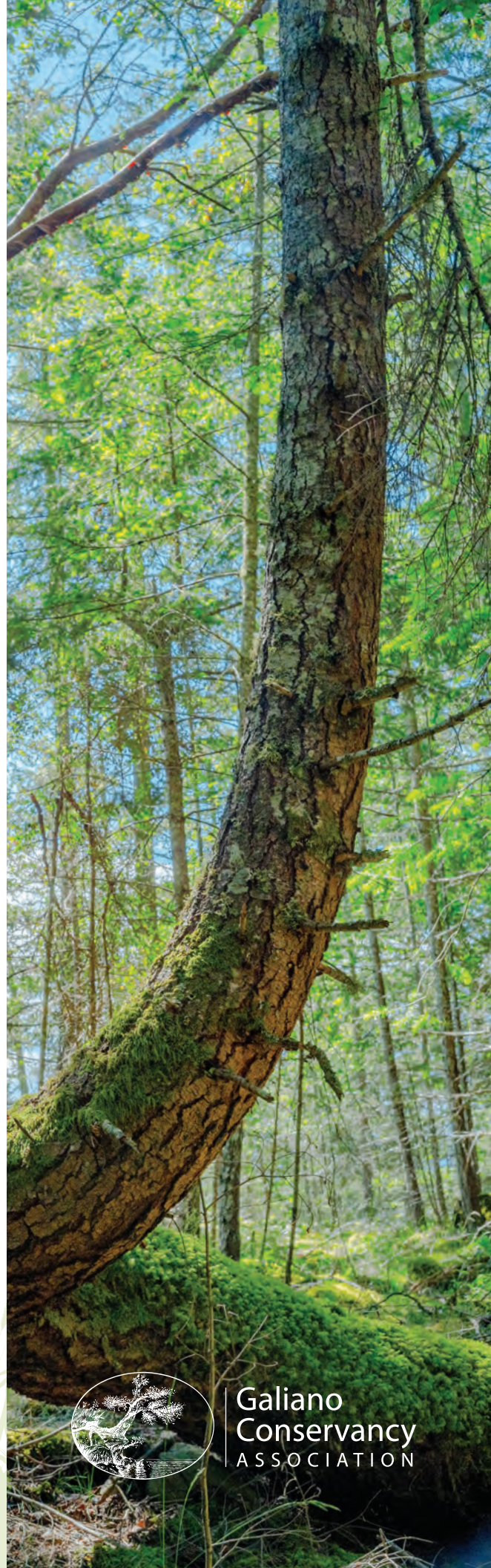
(Re)established in 2024, the **Nature Stewards Program** is an initiative of the **Galiano Conservancy Association** that invites landholders and residents of Galiano Island to take an active role in conserving and revitalizing the natural habitats around their home. This voluntary and non-binding program offers staff support and valuable resources to help participants set and achieve their personal stewardship goals, while fostering a deeper connection with their land.

As part of the program, GCA staff work closely with participants to craft a customized stewardship plan. Whether you're aiming to manage introduced species, conserve water, reduce fire risks, protect rare species, or all of the above, we provide expert guidance every step of the way. Our goal is to help Galiano landowners and residents enhance their property into a thriving sanctuary for nature, biodiversity, and the vital ecosystems that sustain our community.

Joining the **Nature Stewards Program** is simple. All it takes is a heartfelt, voluntary pledge to care for the natural habitats and species on your land. This pledge is built on trust and goodwill—it's not a legal obligation or a formal conservation covenant. Rather, it's a personal commitment to proactively contribute to conservation efforts in a way that fits your land, your lifestyle and your priorities. There are no strings attached, just an opportunity to contribute to conservation at home and on your own terms. Whether you're looking to create a wildlife-friendly garden, restore damaged areas, or enhance the beauty and ecological health of your property, this program empowers you to act. Best of all, the expert support you'll receive from GCA staff comes at no cost—just the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference.

To learn more or sign up as a Nature Steward, reach out to **Sofia Silverman**, our Conservation Coordinator, at conservation@galianoconservancy.ca. Together, let's nurture the land we love and create a lasting legacy of care for future generations.

Talking Trees Nature Reserve;
Photo credit: James LaBounty



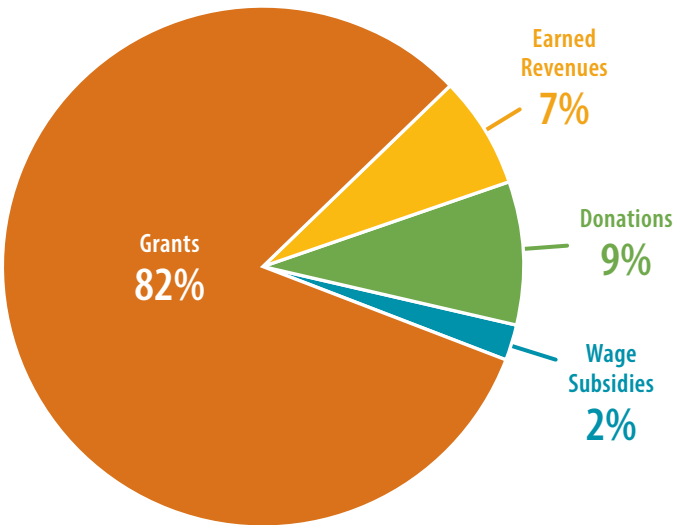
**Galiano
Conservancy**
ASSOCIATION

Financial Landscape for 2024

2024 was a busy and productive year, with ambitious progress in areas of land protection and ecological restoration. High grant revenue reflects funding for restoration activities on Quadra Hill and elsewhere, as well as the purchase of the 103.5-acre (42-ha) Talking Trees property, through a large grant from the Old Growth Nature Fund. Donations are also higher than 2023 due to Talking Trees: the previous owners provided a generous contribution to a land stewardship endowment for the property. Other donations, as well as membership, are down slightly relative to last year, but participation in the Annual Giving Circle rose slightly. Earned revenues remain strong, a reflection of the popularity of our programs, the hard work of staff, and sound investment of endowments by the Board. Expenses grew modestly, largely due to inflation, with programs and projects accounting for three-quarters of expenses. Net cash revenue includes \$239,250 added to endowment funds.

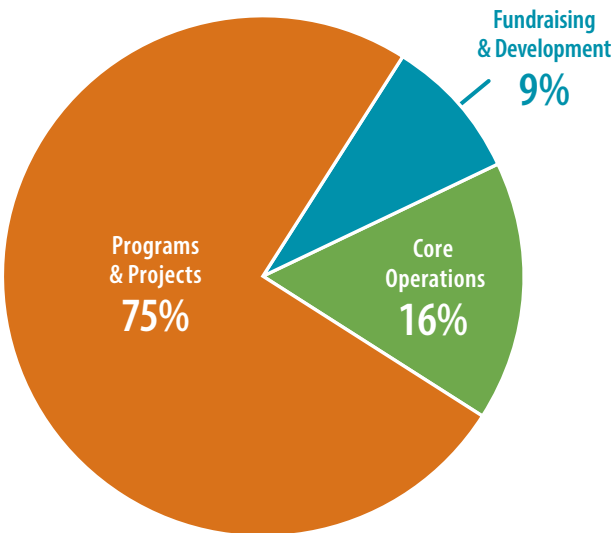
Revenue Sources

Grants	\$ 2,358,210
Wage Subsidies	\$ 61,508
Donations	\$ 269,760
Earned Revenues	\$ 188,445
Total Revenue	\$ 2,877,923



Organizational Expenses

Programs & Projects	\$ 640,549
Fundraising & Development	\$ 81,050
Core Operations	\$ 134,643
Total Expenses	\$ 856,242



NET REVENUE	\$ 2,021,681
Talking Trees Purchase	\$ 1,750,000
NET CASH REVENUE	\$ 271,681



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