

What's On?

VANCOUVER ISLAND & ALL THE GULF ISLANDS

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Sunday, October 18

Book Launch of *Made in British Columbia*—join Maria Tippet as she launches her new book with a talk and book signing • Pender Island Public Library • 2pm–4pm • Admission is free and books will be available for sale by Talisman Books • **PENDER**

Sunday, October 18

Only A Visitor in concert—Pender local Bill Young opening; presented by Colin Hamilton and Ptaringan Music • Hope Bay Studio • 7pm • Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door available at Talisman & Southridge • Info: 250.629.6608, onlyavisitor.com • **PENDER**

Tuesday October 20

Ensemble Caprice—baroque ensemble performs on period instruments; founded by acclaimed recorder soloist Matthias Maute; innovative and adventuresome approach to expanding repertoire • Pender Island School Auditorium • 7:30pm • Tickets available at the door • Info: ensemblecaprice.com • **PENDER**

Friday, October 23, & Friday, October 30

Allison Crowe Band in Concert—pianist Allison Crowe's 'supernaturally agile and exquisite voice' with sublime harmonies and musicianship of guitarist Billie Woods, cellist Celine Greb, and bassist Dave Baird; thrilling rock, folk, Celtic, jazz & soul • **Fri, Oct 23:** Charlie White Theatre, Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney, 250-656-0275; **Fri, Oct. 30:** Port Theatre, 125 Front St, Nanaimo, 250-754-8550 • Both shows 7:30pm • Tickets: \$29 General, \$24 Students/Seniors • Info: 250-537-1286, www.allisoncrowe.com • **SIDNEY/VICTORIA & NANAIMO**

Saturday, October 31

Halloween Dance with Marafani World Beat —dance, enjoy the haunted house, bonfire, food, and fun • Community Hall • 7–10pm • Dance Tickets: \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door, kids 12–18 \$5, and Under12 free, available at Talisman and Southridge, Info: marafani.com • **African Dance Workshop** with Nato 1:30–2:45pm, **Djembe Drumming Workshop**, 2:45–4pm • Workshops: \$20 or \$30 for both, register at 260.629.6608 or colinandwendi@shaw.ca • **PENDER**

Friday November 6

IslandSmart Seminar & Series, 'Socially Responsible Investing'— enjoy morning coffee and presentation • Pender Island Health Centre, Meeting Room; • 11am–Noon • Everyone Welcome, space limited book early; call 250-629-6238, or bclead@islandsavings.ca • **PENDER**

Fri, Sat & Sun, November 6, 7 & 8

Nanaimo Professional Craft Fair—get an early start on Christmas shopping; lots of mid-Island artisans offering a variety of crafts, art and handiwork; hourly door prizes plus a grand prize; **Fri** 12–8, **Sat** 10–5, **Sun** 10–4 • Beban Park Social Centre • Admission (unlimited) \$4 • Vendor info: 1-250-752-2010 or jaynecraftfair@gmail.com • **NANAIMO**

Next Deadline: October 21

The extraordinary life and legacy of Ken Millard (1941 – 2015)

Suzanne Fournier

Ken Millard, the co-founder and coordinator of the Galiano Conservancy Association and a pillar of the land trust movement in BC and Canada, died suddenly at home on September 27, at the age of 74, leaving behind a legacy of lands protected forever and a strong community dedicated to conservation, environmental restoration and education.

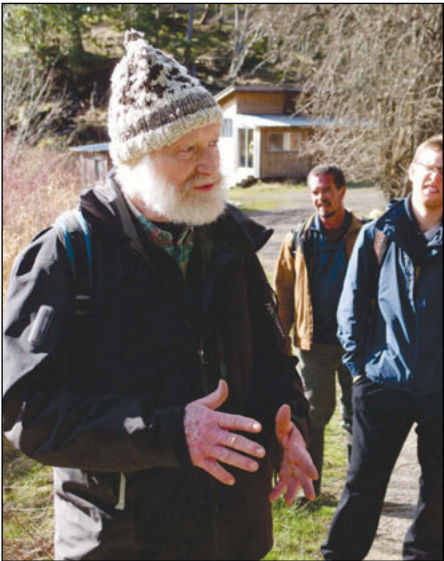
Kenneth Young Millard, born on July 10, 1941 in Tacoma Park, Maryland, dedicated the last decades of his life to land conservation on Galiano Island. He worked in a collegial and self-effacing manner, but his commitment to conservation was deep and unyielding. 'He seemed gentle but beneath the surface there was steel, and people soon found out that Ken had an unwavering commitment to land stewardship,' said Loren Wilkinson, an author and theologian, and a director of Galiano Conservancy since its inception in 1989. 'He died at the peak of a spectacular lunar eclipse, and indeed Ken was a cosmic figure, a quiet, but great, great man, one of a kind,' said Wilkinson.

For 26 years, Ken volunteered most of his waking hours to the Galiano Conservancy and to preserving the island's unique coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems, at the same time mentoring literally hundreds of staff and volunteers. He forged strong bonds in the land trust and environmental movement that proved invaluable not only to those he assisted but also yielded significant benefits to his own organization. He reinvested in the Galiano community, both in helping to purchase threatened tracts of land and also by co-owning the island's 'mall,' with a bakery, restaurants and other shops, which has become an island meeting-place.

'When you look around this island, Ken's hand is everywhere,' said Jane Wolverton, president of the Galiano Club. At a two-day Galiano Conservancy board and staff retreat, organized before Ken's death for the first weekend in October, Pearl Roberts said, 'Ken was a philanthropist, in the true sense of the word, he loved humanity'. Young staffers and students who worked closely with Ken grieved as deeply as his longtime friends, saying that Ken 'brought out the best' in them at a 'kindred soul' level, and as one said, 'saw something in myself that I didn't know was there.'

Keith Erickson, the conservancy's longest standing staff member, cited Ken's 'incredible loyalty and complete dedication' to his causes, and to people. Ecologist Risa Smith, a conservancy co-founder and director, cited Ken's 'fearlessness' and willing to take risks in the face of formidable challenges, in pursuit of what he perceived as the greater good.'

Ken lived an active and engaged public life and was as comfortable talking to bankers, major donors and corporations as he was to elementary school or university students. He had two remarkable careers before he became active in land conservation, but his typically understated official biography on the conservancy website said only that he was 'a retired physicist and luthier.'



After he achieved his doctorate in physics, in statistical mechanics, at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, he moved to Canada and taught at Simon Fraser University. Leaving academia, Ken combined his love of woodworking and early music to become what colleagues describe as 'the world's foremost maker of baroque violin bows.' He apprenticed in Salt Lake City, Utah, with the legendary luthier Anton Smith until he was ready to strike out on his own. Ken would search far and wide for the best wood to create his instruments and bows, which became sought after by the foremost musicians in North America, and eventually, the world. He made a living by carefully crafting and selling his extraordinary bows.

In fact, it was Ken's love of music that drew him to Galiano in the late 1970s as part of an early music ensemble, in which he played the viola da gamba. Rose Longini, Ken's friend of 40 years and a longtime conservancy director who played the harpsichord at his memorial service, was among those whom Ken and Linda encouraged to join them on Galiano.

The Millards, enchanted by Galiano soon purchased a 24-acre waterfront property, overlooking Wallace Island. They became full-time residents by the late 1980s, living in a small house Ken built next to his beautiful woodworking workshop. They lived simply in their original cabin, on their land—covered of course by environmental covenants. Sadly an allergy to certain kinds of wood forced Ken to end his 10-year career as a luthier.

Ken and Linda, highschool sweethearts who were married for 54 years, had two daughters. The eldest, Beth Thiessen and her husband Reg Thiessen have both just retired from truck mechanics, based in Surrey, to live on Galiano. Ken is also survived by his daughter Lisa Millard and her five children, older brother John Millard, and younger sister Doris Spencer.

Soon after Ken and Linda moved to Galiano, they became deeply concerned about the wholesale clearcutting of the island's forests by its majority landowner MacMillan Bloedel. Despite a period of cooperation and consultation that led to improvements in MacBlo's logging practices, the company decided to put its forest land on the open market as real estate. Ken spearheaded a drive by islanders to raise more than \$1 million to buy the land, but MB refused to value or sell its property as forestland.

Together with like-minded islanders seeking to preserve Galiano's sensitive forest ecosystems, Ken helped to found the Galiano Conservancy in 1989. One of the Conservancy's chief goals was to preserve the island's forests, watersheds, ecosystems and coastline.

Despite the controversies over land use and the eventual intervention of the Islands Trust, Ken maintained—as one of its strong guiding principles—the strict political independence of the Conservancy, throughout his tenure as coordinator.

Even those who found themselves on the opposite side of Ken in ongoing Galiano land development debates respected his tenacity. Longtime forest landowner and trailbuilder Bowie Keefer paid his tribute: 'Ken had a visionary role in public education to build the strongest possible environmental ethic, and challenging all of us to make Galiano the best possible

KEN MILLARD, please turn to next page

Tom Mulcair 

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Photo: David Greer
A heron and a volcano, viewed from Brooks Point, South Pender.

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Baynes Sound Connector fails sea trials

William Thomas

The newly launched *Baynes Sound Connector*—centrepiece of BC Ferries’ cost-cutting measures—has failed to achieve her required speed in initial sea trials.

Towed from her North Vancouver shipyard to Buckley Bay on Vancouver Island, the world’s longest cable ferry is intended to replace the aging *Quinitsa* on the Denman Island run, which also serves Hornby Island.

Spanning approximately 1900 meters, two guide cables on either side of the ship, as well as a central drive cable, each weigh approximately 15 tons. And that’s the problem.

Tests have revealed that lifting this

deadweight from a depth of over 200 feet in mid-channel soaks up enough horsepower to drastically slow the ship from the its designated 8.5 knots to just 6.5 knots. This means the new vessel can’t keep the scheduled service now provided by *Quinitsa*.

BC Ferries Services says the cable ferry is still owned by Seaspan. Only when the ferry meets contractual specifications will BCFC take over ownership. That might not be easy. Shoehorning bigger engines into the ship will encounter tight space restrictions.

And fuel consumption is already reported to be 2.5 times the *Quinitsa*’s. ☞

KEN MILLARD from previous page

example of that ethic in practice.’

With Ken at the helm, albeit with a ‘flat’ consensus-style decision-making structure, the Conservancy has, over the last 26 years, managed to protect and conserve hundreds of acres of Galiano land, and is a stable organization that has provided nature education to more than 30,000 individuals, while contributing meaningful economic benefits and employment to Galiano. Through partnerships with regional and provincial government and large land trusts, Ken and the Conservancy achieved significant land acquisitions including 42 acres at Mount Sutil, the 150-acre Pebble Beach Reserve, Laughlin Lake’s 27 acres, a 40-acre wetland called the Great Beaver Swamp as well as Marine Protected Areas, and a complete Mid-Island Protected Areas Network.

Ken fostered partnerships with VanCity, the BC Nature Trust, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the Law Foundation of BC, Telus, and BC Hydro, as well as the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The Galiano Conservancy maintains a comprehensive library, state of the art global positioning mapping, a native plant nursery and also provides nature education ranging from elementary schools to university-level classes and groups such as grandparents raising grandchildren, along with visiting scientists.

Perhaps the jewel in the Conservancy’s crown has been the acquisition of the 188-acre Learning Centre, a mid-Island site boasting wide-ranging ecosystems including two kilometres of intact waterfront of old growth Douglas fir and arbutus. Once slated for a

development of 16 waterfront homes, it is this unique place that, perhaps, embodies of all of Ken’s goals in life: land acquisition, conservation and habitat restoration, and education.

Now graced with a salvaged classroom building, the one-time active logging and sawmilling site provides ample challenges for exploring restoration. The Learning Centre also embodies Ken’s goals as a focus for community celebrations, such as the New Year’s Day Walk and the annual August Walkalong, as well as a base for projects such as permaculture, orchards and a working food forest.

It was at the Learning Centre classroom building that the Galiano Island community and Ken’s wide network of family and friends gathered for a celebration of his life, on Thanksgiving Sunday. Ken’s daughters and his wife Linda, together with the board of the Galiano Conservancy, hosted a remembrance in music, photos, films and maps of Ken’s life, and have requested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made in Ken’s name to the ongoing work of the Galiano Conservancy.

University of Victoria professor Eric Higgs, who has for the past three years taught a class in restoration ecology at the Learning Centre, said many students who knew Ken were overcome with grief. ‘In tragedy is strength, too,’ remarked Higgs. ‘There are so many remarkable people connected to the conservancy who will take forward to future generations Ken’s vision of community-led restoration and conservation.’ ☞

ROUND THE ISLANDS



On September 23, three commissioners were recognized for six years of service on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission. The paddles presented were designed and created by artist Wayne Thomas of Mayne Island. Commission members are appointed by the CRD to represent the local interest of public docks for Saturna, Mayne, Galiano, North Pender, South Pender and Piers. (L to R: Dave Howe, CRD Director; Bryce Young, Piers; Sheila Midgley, Galiano; Mike Callendar, South Pender; Carl Bunnin, Chair, Mayne Island)

Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up

The 2015 Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up began with a September 19 clean-up in Vancouver, at Iona Beach Park in the Richmond area. This year alone there are 762 clean-ups registered in BC alone, according to a government news release. Beach clean-ups will continue until November 30.

Last year, 22,462 BC residents registered to take part in the events, and cleaned 1,136 km of beaches. Learn more at: www.shorelinecleanup.ca/. Living Oceans Society and some twenty volunteers gathered five metric tonnes of marine debris from remote shorelines of northern Vancouver Island. They helicoptered the waste from the beaches. Almost all of it was branded with manufacturer’s marks from Japan and is estimated to have been washed to sea in the 2011 Tohoku tsunami. The clean-ups were in

Cape Scott, Lanz, and Cox Provincial Parks.

Meanwhile in Tofino, Flotsam artist Peter Clarkson is creating artworks with some of the colourful, astonishing pieces of Tsunami debris. They are powerful statements. Lots of



pieces are hung on the walls of Jamie’s Whaling Station new motel acquisition, Jamie’s Rainforest Inn. Pete says, ‘Making art from marine debris came about shortly after I moved to Tofino to work as a park warden at

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