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U N I Q U E L Y G A L I A N O



Ken Millard up a tree, in forest restoration work.
R.I.P.

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Ken Millard

Loren Wilkinson

Ken Millard, co-founder and director of the Galiano Conservancy Association, died suddenly at home on Sunday evening, September 27, after a day of cutting wood.

Two weeks later, between two and three hundred friends joined Ken's wife Linda, daughters Beth and Lisa, and other family members in a large tent outside the new building at the Learning Centre to share their memories and appreciation of Ken and his work. His influence on Galiano—and on the Land Trust movement in BC and Canada—has been huge. Many felt the symbolic appropriateness of the fact that Ken died at the height of the "blood moon" eclipse: his loss cast a very large shadow!

Most people on Galiano know of Ken's tireless work for preservation of land on Galiano and his encouragement of environmental education. Fewer on Galiano know of his work as a maker of baroque violin bows; fewer still of his earlier career as a scientist. His Ph.D. in quantum physics was supported by a grant from the American Atomic Energy Commission and the National Science Foundation. Born in the US, he first came to Canada in 1972 to teach physics at Simon Fraser University.

After a few years there, he made a dramatic career change, moving to Salt Lake City to learn violin making, a skill which he perfected. While there, he branched into the making of baroque bows, which required quite a different set of knowledge and skills. On the morning of the memorial, Guy Rabut, an accomplished violin maker from New York City (who got to know Ken at that school in Utah) shared by phone how quickly and impressively Ken mastered both these skills. When Ken decided to do something, said Guy, he would research it, figure it out, do it, and become an expert. Ken has been described as the best maker of baroque violin bows in the world, and his bows are increasingly in demand.

Ken's interest in music was well-honoured at the Oct. 10 memorial. Cam Trowsdale, a Galiano north end resident and former first violinist of the Vancouver CBC Chamber Orchestra, told of how, when Sir John Eliot Gardner was its conductor, he commissioned Ken to make bows for all the string players. Several of Ken's bows were on display in the Learning Center building, and before the memorial, Pat Unruh, a musical friend from Vancouver, played one of them on the viola de gama, accompanied on the harpsichord by Galiano resident Rose Longini, another friend from Ken's days with early music in Vancouver. Annie Brown, daughter of Joan Robertson, another resident and musical friend from Ken's pre-Galiano days played the violin movingly, both before and after the meeting in the tent, and Esther Ruth Teel, a more recent musician friend, sang and played the harp.

It was baroque music which first brought Ken and Linda to Galiano in the late 70s, to perform in an early music concert. Ken and Linda fell in love with the island and soon bought, along with physics friend Dan Bloomberg, their property north of Retreat Cove, where they built a cottage and a workshop. For a few years after moving to the island in the late 80s Ken continued to make violin bows there. Geoff Gaylor, in his remarks at the memorial, recalls then-postmaster Jim Ripley describing the new resident who would regularly arrive at the post office with very long packages, which he would insure for thousands of dollars and mail to people all over the world.

Cam Trowsdale also told the story of the coincidence of two things that led to Ken's immense influence on Galiano. One was a recurring and very serious allergic reaction to the dense tropical woods which Ken used for his bows. The reaction left his lungs permanently damaged and brought his bow-making career to an abrupt end shortly after their move to the island. The other event was the decision by Macmillan-Bloedel, who then owned about 60% of the island, to drastically accelerate their cutting on Galiano Island. This led to the confrontation between residents and loggers which led, in turn, to the formation of "Clear Cut Alternatives" (CCA) in 1987, the Forest and Land Use Council in 1988, and the Galiano Conservancy Association.

Geoff Gaylor and Gary Moore spoke feelingly of Ken's support and increasing leadership in those days. Gary (who was the Conservancy's first employee) said,

"I met Ken on November 23, 1987, at an exciting meeting at the North End Hall. Logging had increased seven-fold over a few years, bringing about 100 citizens to the north hall for a meeting. By the end of the morning we decided to go out to talk to the loggers near Coon Bay, and as the meeting ended, a couple approached me, and Ken introduced himself and Linda. They came as a package. He said, 'We would like to be involved'. I told him where we were meeting next, and he said, 'We would like to be involved'. They have never not been involved since that date."

Ken's leadership in CCA led to the formation of the Forest and Land Use Council, a pioneering—and amicable—effort to shape a different sort of logging practice, with representatives from MacBlo, the government, and the island. It resulted in an impressive experiment in selection logging on Galiano, a healthy alternative to clear-cutting. The UBC School of Forestry, during a tour, were impressed with it, and the Mac-Blo forestry professionals were proud.

But it became increasingly obvious that profit, rather than forestry, was the main goal of this now-defunct logging company, and MacBlo announced their plans to sell their forest-zoned land for residential development. At this point Ken, determined that Galiano's forest lands should be developed in a genuinely sustainable way, initiated the founding of the Galiano Conservancy, the initial purpose of which was to purchase the MacBlo lands and operate them as a community-run forest.

Geoff, Gary, and Carolyn Canfield spoke movingly of that attempt, which came close to succeeding, but ultimately failed. But in the years since then, the Conservancy, under Ken's creative leadership, has steadily grown in its accomplishments and influence. It has purchased, and thus protected, many ecologically sensitive areas on the island, such as the summit of Mount Sutil, Laughlin Lake, the Great Beaver Swamp, and DL 63 (the Pebble Beach Reserve.) The largest of these is the 88 hectare Learning Center property, where the memorial service was held. The Conservancy also holds stewardship covenants on many properties; the land thus protected by the Conservancy is now over 400 hectares, nearly a thousand acres.

Ken was a teacher at heart and, under his leadership, the Conservancy staff has developed an active education program, introducing over 30,000 people, mainly school children, to a deeper understanding of their place in the natural world. (One of the educational projects of which he was proudest was the

annual visit to Galiano of both young and old participants in the Vancouver organization, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.)

Ken's support of young people was perhaps most obvious in the many younger people whom he mentored both as permanent staff and as summer volunteers (from many countries). At the memorial, Akasha Forest said that "all the young people I've spoken to on Galiano had stories of working either with or for Ken." She read these words from her daughter, Orissa, now finishing a medical degree in Ontario:

"... I am thankful for the wisdom that Ken lived and taught every day. I feel fortunate to have known him as a child, worked with him as a teen and been inspired by him always. He taught me that you are never too young to have a voice and never too old to live your passion."

Keith Erickson, who joined the Conservancy staff just out of university and has worked closely with Ken for nearly 18 years, said, "Ken was a dear friend, a mentor, and a role model to me." After giving several examples of Ken's "quirky" sense of humor and good-humored disdain for the work ethic of "young people", Keith concluded that the most valuable thing he learned from Ken was "how to be thoughtful about things. To ask with every decision made and every action taken, how will this benefit my community, how will this benefit the land?"

Keith also read a long tribute from Herb Hammond, a professional forester who has guided the Conservancy restoration projects, especially on DL 63. His words made clear that Ken never stopped being a scientist. The shift from quantum physics to ecology is a large one, but motivated by the same attention to detail and a passion for knowing how things work. Herb felt that the restoration work Ken and he guided was unique and important, and, in the letter Keith read, he described it eloquently: "Being of similar ages, Ken and I often mused that we would be unlikely to live long enough to see and feel natural

processes, structure, and composition return to DL 63. Thankfully, we were both wrong! For a number of years now when you walk through the Pebble Beach restoration project, it no longer looks or feels like a sterile Douglas Fir tree plantation. Now you are walking in a forest. Ken and I have always planned to meet again in that forest in about 200 years to fully appreciate the dedicated efforts of the restoration team. I think that Ken may be busy planning the dress rehearsal for that event as we speak."

Herb Hammond's whimsical words echo what many at the memorial felt: that the spirit of Ken, at least through his work, was still present. Florence James, the Penelakut elder who opened the memorial with a prayer to the Creator, spoke of that presence; the very location, on the land which Ken worked so hard to purchase, near the building with its off-grid solar panels whose re-construction he had overseen nearly to completion, reminded us all that this place was his real memorial. Former trustee Margaret Griffiths whom Ken encouraged when both the Conservancy and the trust were being sued by Macmillan Bloedel for "conspiring to reduce the value of their property", sent a message read by Barbara Moore. It echoes that grateful sense of ongoing presence:

*A flower has fallen
But the roots that he planted
Remain in the earth that he tilled
For other flowers to grow.*

...

*Ken attended every Trust meeting.
His presence is still there
Symbolized by his empty chair.*

Eric Higgs, part-time north end Galiano resident and a professor of environmental studies at the University of Victoria, who has now taught several courses on the Learning Centre

land, gave the final tribute, listing many of the things he felt he learned from Ken. His words sum up what many at the memorial obviously felt:

"What did I learn from Ken? Persistence, and its mirror reflection, patience, are virtues. That difficult interconnected problems don't usually solve themselves. There is an exquisite art in knowing when to push and when to hang back. That simplicity is preferable to elaboration. That unmediated communication is the best. That what we are comfortable doing is not always the right choice. Risk can be good. Listen, even if it is painful."



Friends of Ken Millard gather at the tent at the GCA Learning Centre which housed the celebration of his life. Photo by Henny Schnare, henny.ca.
(More photos, and videos of the service, are available on Henny Schnare's web site).

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Then Eric added another word about that eerie sense of Ken's presence:

"Waves. I had a vision three days after Ken died. He became waves on Trincomali Channel. They crested regularly, and then calmed. There will be times I'll be standing at Crystal Cove and watch a wave coming toward me. It'll be Ken, more wave-energy, more ideas. More to learn."

Loren Wilkinson concluded by reading words by a poet Ken admired. They describe well the sort of person people clearly felt him to be:

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.

...

Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.

...

Practice Resurrection

Thus closed this memorable memorial for a much-loved man whose presence leaves a huge hole on Galiano. But the board and staff, though grieving and shaken, continue the work which he started. The week after Ken's death, supported by a grant and equipment from Mountain Equipment Co-Op, staff members Eric Jacobsen and Brittany Linas led a dozen local school children on a workshop on backpacking that included a trip on the new cross-island trail (through "Vanilla Leaf Land"), ending with camping at the Learning Center. In late October, a sold-out "Food Forest" workshop with two agriculturalists was held on the Learning Center land. The remaining debt on the land is dwindling rapidly, under the leadership of a development committee chaired by Eric Higgs.

Tanya Inglis, former operations manager of the Woodstone facility, has been hired temporarily to help Keith Erickson and Jenna Falk bridge the administrative gap which Ken leaves. The board has appointed an interim committee (Jane Wolverton, Cheryl Bastedo, and Loren Wilkinson) to function as acting director in Ken's place.

The work which Ken started continues unabated.

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GALIANO LIONS PHONE BOOK

We are now finalizing gathering
information for personal/business
listings in the 2016-17 Galiano Lions Phone Book.

BUSINESS LISTING

To place an ad in the yellow pages, call
Jim Estabrook at **250-539-2495** for cost
and to reserve your spot. Print ready
artwork is required.

PERSONAL LISTING

For a new listing or to make changes to an
existing listing, pick up a form at the Post
Office or Galiano Trading.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: DEC 15th



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AND
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