Conservancy Catch-up



Building connections with nature...

We're Hiring!

The GCA will be hiring for TWO positions in February -Agriculture Coordinator and Education Coordinator. Stay tuned to our website for position details soon, or call the office for more information.

SLOG!

Seed Library of Galiano - the big launch! Saturday February 6, 2016

12-2pm @ Galiano Library Come to the launch and join the seed and food security movement on Galiano. GCA is involved in the SLOG project and saves seeds from native plants and agricultural crops.

Rockfish and Marine Conservation Workshop!

March 5 - 6, 2016 at the Learning Centre

Learn - visiting guest speakers with years of marine convservation work in the region. **Steward** - work as a group to envision ways forward for stewardship of rockfish and other marine life in the Gulf Islands. Stay posted!

Science Camp is Back!

Let's do some cool science in the lab. Fridays: Feb 26, March 4, 11, 18. Register NOW! Contact Patti.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with our educational programs and at the nursery.
Contact Eric or Patti for more details.

Seeking Accommodation for volunteer Interns from Germany. Got a place? Let Cheryl know: cbastedo2@gmail.com

Get Involved!

call 250.539.2424
E-mail development@galianoconservancy.ca
Drop by our office 2540 Sturdies Bay Rd.

The Perfect Earthquake

Ken Morisette



Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at 11:39 pm, I was sound asleep. At 11:39 plus 30 seconds, my eyes were very wide open, my hair standing straight up, and I was wondering what the... I had been rudely startled awake by a loud bang and a big bump that almost threw me out of bed and onto the floor. I was very confused. What caused that loud noise?

Did something crash into the house? Did something fall or collapse inside the house?

I turned on lights and walked through the house. Everything appeared normal. I peeked through the curtains and examined the darkness outside. Everything seemed normal. Having to get up before the birds and bees in the morning to catch the early ferry to the big island, I went back to bed.

Next day I learned about our year-ending earthquake which shook the serenity of hundreds of thousands of people in south western BC. I was delighted. It was an almost absolutely perfect earthquake. Mother Nature really "rattled our cages" with a perfect "wake-up call." I say perfect because there were no deaths, no serious injuries, apparently no major damage, no major disruptions to daily business. Yet it frightened thousands of people.

At the time of the quake people wondered, are there going to be after-shocks, or follow-up quakes. Is the building damaged? Many high-rise apartment buildings on the Lower Mainland swayed back-and-forth. That could shake and stir your martini. Some reported cracks in their ceilings and plaster walls.

Here on Galiano, one resident said it was as if their house was on a wave. In my place it felt like something exploded under my bed. No wonder – the quake epicentre was verrry close to where I live – between here and the Saanich peninsula – Latitude 48.62 degrees North, Longitude 123.3 degrees West. It was felt as far away as Campbell River and throughout the Fraser Valley and beyond Hope. A total of 6,934 reports were received from people who experienced the quake.

Surely this rumble has removed all doubts about, "Can it happen here?" Only an ostrich with its head stuck in the ground can ignore the overwhelming evidence that we are due for a "big one." And ironically, when the quake does hit, because of his intimate relationship with the earth, the ostrich will be the first know.

So what can we do to prepare for a literal 'rock and roll' experience? Know what to do when the floor or ground starts shaking: duck, cover, and hold on. That is assuming you are in a room with a desk, or table (preferably with four legs instead of the single pedestal type). Don't stand in a doorway that has a door on it; an archway, yes, but nowhere near a window.

If you are outdoors, the absolute best place to be is in the middle of an empty football field or race track oval. If on a city street, get away from brick buildings, tall structures, big glass windows, and overhead wires.

In a car? Pull over to, or off, the side of the road away from power poles or light standards. Do not stop under an overpass. If your car ends up with electrical wires lying on it or under it, stay in the car. Do not touch anything metal on the car, including the ignition key. Wait. Preparing your home — if you have oil, propane, or natural gas heat, know how to turn it off. If natural