

Photo © Henny Elizabeth Schnare, galiano@gulfislands.com

Life-long Learning in Nature



“We’d rather have stayed a week. It was quiet, it was restful, and it was lovely. I felt really good for some time afterwards. Adriana and me, we’d talk about it all the time, and we’d laugh about some of the things that happened.”

— Marjory Davie

Marjory and her granddaughter Adriana came to Galiano with a group of “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren”. Marjory is 75; her granddaughter Adriana is 12. Marjory’s husband is in hospital and she cares for her granddaughter full-time. Her visit to Galiano is a respite from her care-giving role, and she enjoys sitting with other grandparents as the young people explore the island. She says, “The people were terrific with the kids. The kids had a ball. The Great Beaver Swamp; that was magnificent. Adriana was very interested in that... it kind of thrilled her. I even gave the bus driver a hug when I left”. Today, her granddaughter still remains in touch with new friends from their stay here, and Marjory remains inspired about the native plants on her land.

Easily reached from Tsawwassen or Swartz Bay ferry terminals, Galiano Island is a perfect destination for people of all ages who are interested in nature, love exploration and a “walk in the woods”. Our educational programs and Eco Tours have evolved to provide for students of all life stages to have the experience of nature in the “front country”.



“Directed attention, the kind of attention that we use everyday in our increasingly multi-tasking world, fatigues our brains. By contrast, spending time in nature appears to engage the mind without draining its vitality. The Learning Centre offers an opportunity not only for individuals to restore their brains, but also for scientists to further study the remarkable effects of brains interacting with nature.”

— Dr. Peter Reiner, Galiano Conservancy Director

Heart of the Salish Sea

A local Association on a small island: how the Galiano Conservancy serves a diverse clientele and a big geographic area.

A satellite photograph of the Salish Sea highlights how central the southern Gulf Islands are in the highly populated and growing area between Southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. The photo also shows the entire imperilled Coastal Douglas-fir region of British Columbia, and Galiano Island is at the heart of this zone.





ROCKFISH RECOVERY

Rockfish (rock cod; red snapper) have been on the decline since the 90s, and unlike lingcod, are showing no signs of recovery. This is mainly due to their sensitivity to overfishing and their extremely long lifecycles (the oldest rockfish found to date was 205 years old!) We have long been involved in the designation of rockfish protection areas, and this year began exploratory dive surveys to see how many rockfish are in our Galiano waters.

Since 2007, 164 no-take Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) have been in place in BC, with 86 in the Strait of Georgia alone! Most people don't even realize that they are there – did you know that three RCAs border Galiano Island, accounting for roughly 40% of its shoreline? We have been gathering video footage, and are excited to show you in the coming year what lies beneath the waves!

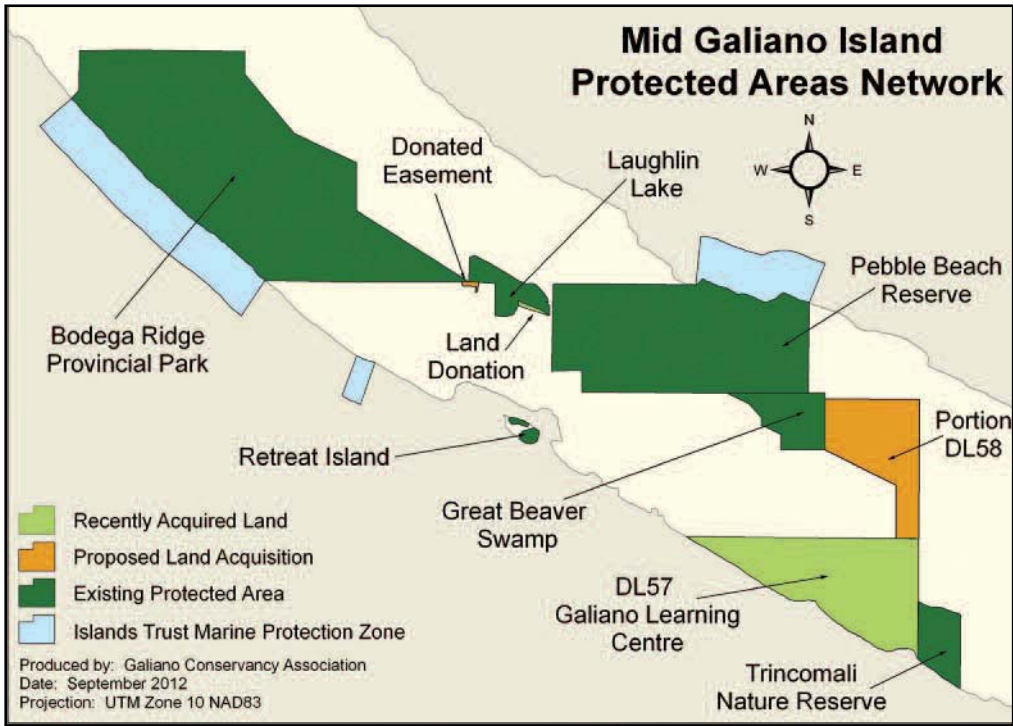
NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

We are leading by example to restore the natural ecosystems on Galiano by growing and planting beautiful native plant species. We have used these plants for restoration projects, erosion prevention at disturbed sites, in demonstration garden at the Recycling Resources Society, and in our home gardens. Join us by getting your own lovely plants at our Native Plant Nursery, and ask us for gardening advice!



MARINE PROTECTION

Since 1996, we have been working closely with a variety of government agencies and ENGO's as part of the Southern Strait of Georgia Marine Conservation Network to develop a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the Strait of Georgia. An NMCA would provide some no-take sanctuaries, restrict offshore oil exploitation, and require conservation-minded management of the region from seafloor to seashore. This project has now moved forward to a critical stage, where a proposed NMCA border has been drawn up by Parks Canada and approved by BC Parks, and is entering a public review phase to determine the feasibility of the project. In the coming year we will be increasing public understanding of the issue, and providing research on the important areas and critical habitat for the many species at risk that depend on this vast coastal ecosystem.



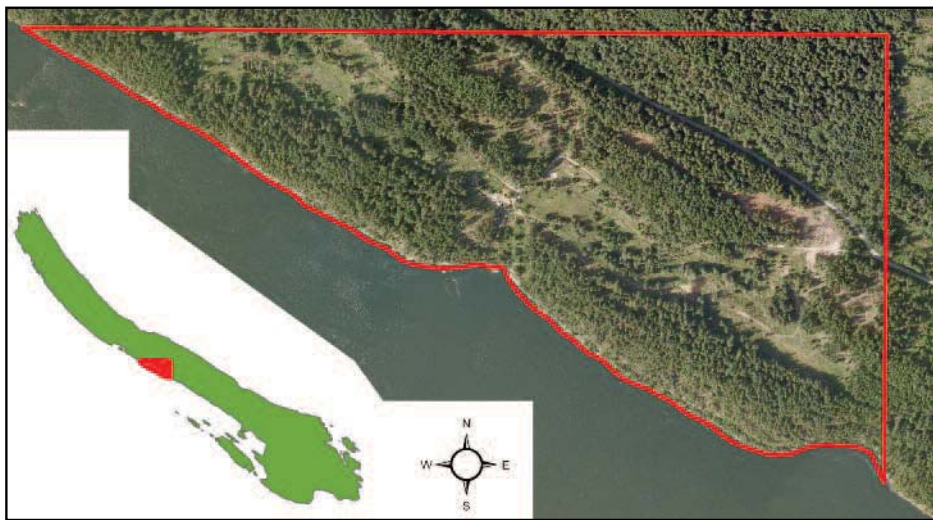
The Mid Galiano Island Protection Network

connects existing protected areas into a contiguous conservation network extending from Trincomali Channel across to the Georgia Strait and back again. It will protect a significant portion of the island's topographic variation and associated ecological diversity and will secure valuable pathways for plant and animal migration from sea level to Galiano's highest ridgeline.

The network includes threatened coastal and inland bluffs with their Garry Oak and associated ecosystems; significant wetlands; mature coastal Douglas-fir forests, and over a mile of undeveloped shoreline. By protecting DL57, the site of the Learning Centre, we will add a Marine Protected Area to safeguard habitat for rockfish and other marine species at risk.

The Galiano Learning Centre

A bold initiative



food security and community gardens (a significant part of the land is in the Agricultural Land Reserve); close relations with First Nations people; and a social enterprise component. The Restorative Learning Centre will enable the Conservancy to expand its offerings to multi-day learning adventures for visiting groups of students, researchers and local community members.

This last winter we purchased 188 acres of waterfront land for the Galiano Learning Centre. In our existing programs, young people who have been labeled “troubled” have radically transformed in the eyes of themselves, their teachers and peers. Through engaging in hands-on ecological restoration work together for a number of days, they become cooperative, self-confident and motivated team members. They gain courage as they realize they can make a real difference. They carry this knowledge of themselves back into their communities.



Other goals of this project include local

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, VISITING THE GALIANO LEARNING CENTRE.



On a Monday morning, a young girl wakes up in a city. She hears the familiar noises of early morning traffic, a garbage truck in the lane, and a distant siren. Looking through the curtain of her bedroom window, she sees the narrow strip of vegetation by the sidewalk pavement and a few dandelion and camomile plants (which she loves in spite of their commonness) under the street light. It is early, and still almost dark, but she sees no stars as she looks upward through the electrical wires and trolley cables. The neon sign from the corner drug store flashes off and on as it has since she was born. She gets dressed and gathers her things for school, has breakfast with her brother and leaves with him for the bus stop. Outside the house the smell of diesel mixes with the aroma of neighbourhood coffee shops and a nearby bakery.

On Tuesday morning the girl wakes to a soft rustling of leaves merged with a rhythmic splash of waves on a nearby beach. She finds that if she listens carefully, she can distinguish half a dozen bird songs, the tapping of a woodpecker, and she is amazed to find even the rustling of wing feathers as a band of ravens

flies over her tent. The aromas of a Douglas-fir forest mix with wafts of kelp and salt water from the shore. She looks through the mesh of the tent flap, sees a grassy road leading through the old forest to the beach, and she remembers... waking in the night to see a blanket of stars above her; singing songs on the bus ride to the Learning Centre; seeing the Orca pod from the ferry. Today, her class would be learning about useful herbs and plants in the forest, and tomorrow they will plant trees and work in a community garden.

On Saturday morning, home again, the girl awakes thinking of her week on Galiano Island, remembering the quiet, and all she had learned about nature. When she looks out onto the street she notices that there are nettles and dock on the narrow boulevard by the kerb as well as the dandelion and camomile, and her mind wanders to the thought of a back yard vegetable garden. At breakfast her family talks about this, and, happy, she decides to ride her bike to the park.



The Galiano Conservancy works with many of the Land Trusts in our region, and the Galiano Learning Centre has significant regional benefits. We urge you to continue your support for your local Land Trust. And we ask you as well to JOIN US ...

...in supporting our successful programs

Since 1989, The Galiano Conservancy Association has played a pivotal role in the conservation and management of large areas of our forests, wetlands, streams and marine areas. Our initiatives to purchase and steward natural landscapes have added significantly to a remarkable network of protected areas. Our restoration program has worked effectively to improve the health of many disturbed ecosystems. And over 30,000 visitors and community members have participated in our hands-on educational programs.

...in this exciting new initiative

The purchase of the Learning Centre land is a bold step forward. Its purchase has been made possible by The Nature Conservancy of Canada; Mountain Equipment Coop; a bequest from the Dr. Betty Kleiman estate; a loan from Vancity Credit Union; and strong support from our membership. Your donation will help to realize a long-term vision: a permanent home for a residential Learning Centre, in the forest by the sea.

...as a financial supporter

Donations from people like you provide the financial foundation for our work. The Galiano Conservancy Association is a registered charity, and issues tax receipts for any donation.



Contact Us:

Galiano Conservancy Association
RR #1, Sturdies Bay Road
Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0

250.539.2424
conservancy@galianoconservancy.ca
www.galianoconservancy.ca

Graphic design: Kelly Brooks/DesignHQ.com

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

☐ I would like to be a member
____ Adults (\$10 ea) ____ Youth (\$2 ea)

☐ I would like to make a donation of
____ \$25 ____ \$100 ____ \$200 ____ other

I am interested in learning about:

☐ making a monthly donation

☐ volunteering

☐ ecological gifts of land

☐ the Conservancy's Legacy Endowment
at the Vancouver Foundation

Name

Address

City.....Prov/State

Postal Code

Telephone

Email

I am a resident/property owner ____ or an off-island supporter ____

Please make cheques payable to the Galiano Conservancy Association
Donations can also be made online at www.galianoconservancy.ca
Credit card donations can also be made online
Charitable tax number: 886092998R0001

Thank you!