

# Aspa Building Relocation

Connecting participants with the land:  
Initial infrastructure development

September 2014



## Project Timeline

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Summer 2013    | Silva Forest Foundation approaches Galiano Conservancy Association          |
| October 2013   | Initial Reconnaissance trip to building site – is this the building for us? |
| June-July 2014 | Deconstruction in preparation for transport of building to Galiano Island   |
| August 2014    | Reconstruction begins following relocation of building                      |

## Why relocate a building?

The Galiano Conservancy has relocated a building for several key reasons; efficient use of resources and cost-effectiveness, and to honour and develop upon the historical significance of the Aspa building.

Natural resources are in limited supply and their sustainable, careful use is important. New construction projects can use significant amounts of lumber as well as materials detrimental to the environment (and living beings) such as fiberglass insulation. We want to be effective and efficient with our resource use in developing our Learning Centre, and want the next generation to learn the value of reusing.

Above all, this building began as a school for respectful ecosystem-based forestry planning run by Silva Forest Foundation, a long-time supporter of our work. This building will now contribute to a new but similar story at the Learning Centre. Read below for the building's story and our adventures in relocating it.

## Who will benefit?

The Learning Centre will benefit Galiano local community, program participants within our broader region, and many more in the years to come. The Learning Centre will be a place for open and imaginative exploration and knowledge building at a personal level and as a community.





## From the Kootenays to Galiano Island

**The Aspa building was envisioned as a place for learning about respectful ecosystem-based practices; it will continue this legacy.**

Built by the Silva Forest Foundation in 1995, the Aspa building was used as a school complex in the West Kootenays near Salmo, BC. There was “much heart and soul” put into the creation of this forest school and its learning environment (SFF, 2014).

The building itself is 20x50ft including two porches, a kitchen and a larger classroom hall complete with a wood stove and eight sizeable windows to light the space naturally and offer views of the forest.

In the Kootenays, the surrounding 1600 acres of forest land was the outdoor classroom for students. Exploring diverse mixed conifer and deciduous forest and old growth remnants strengthened field activities and familiarized students with a variety of forest types and habitats to apply their learning on.

Several sleeper cabins and a bathhouse accompanied the building in the Kootenays, which were not brought to Galiano. At the Learning

Centre, the infrastructure set up is quite different. At present, sleeping accommodations are strictly camping facilities and will evolve over the years to more permanent structures.

Now on Galiano at the Learning Centre property, the Aspa building remains surrounded by diverse forest ecosystems. While the geography and climate has changed, we anticipate that the enthusiasm of participants to learn will undoubtedly remain just as vibrant.

## Sustainable Practices in Natural Systems

The Silva Forest Foundation focuses largely on ecosystem-based conservation planning (EBCP). Working under the belief that “the Earth is borrowed from our children rather than inherited from our ancestors”, the Foundation emphasizes the need to restore ecological integrity and biodiversity, and to create or evolve human

communities and ways of life to be ecologically sustainable. This planning determines what ecological limits are in an area, and then which human uses can be safely sustained.

Alongside these beliefs have been the goals of the Galiano Conservancy Association, to preserve, protect and enhance the human and natural



environments of Galiano Island. The intrinsic connection between human practices and the natural environments we inhabit is a critical relationship needing repair.



# Deconstructing the Building – Trip 1

In June 2014 a team of 8 traveled from Galiano to Salmo BC to begin deconstruction of the Aspa building over the course of 9 days. A second trip saw 3 more days, at the end of which the building was dismantled and loaded onto a 53 ft flatbed truck.



## Day 1 – Opening up

We woke on Thursday morning to what some might call an overwhelming undertaking. We stood, 8 strong, in front of a 1200 square foot building and imagined it on Galiano. Well, we jumped in with both feet. This was a day for opening up and letting light and air in.

We removed all windows to keep them safe from damage. Meanwhile, we began removing roofing and its underlying fiberglass insulation, taking care to keep as much to reuse as possible. In the kitchen, cabinets, piping, countertops and fixtures were removed. The cinderblock chimney was taken down, and the kitchen wall was knocked down, as we'll be changing the layout when reconstructing.

## Day 2 – Trim and Roofing

Following a very successful first day, we focused on finishing the roofing removal and began taking apart roof strapping as well. By the end of the day we had this half done. Since we are reusing as much as possible, we systematically labeled, de-nailed, sorted and stacked all components of the building.

We confirmed that ceiling and inside wall paneling was tongue and groove, and planned for ceiling takedown later.

To grant better access on the East and West (short) walls, we removed door trim, interior wall paneling and some plywood. The porches (East and West) were a priority early on and we removed trusses and strapping.

## Day 3 – Roof and Cable Yarding Preparation

Once we had the roofing and strapping out of the way, we removed rafters (nearly all off today). Mirroring our wall deconstruction from yesterday, we removed siding off the East and West walls and plywood beneath it.



Preparing for lowering the walls, we set up the cable yarding system. Attaching straps and hoists high up in trees off the East and West sides of the building, we ran a long cable across the building running NE to SW roughly due to a limited selection of appropriately trees.





### Day 4 – East and West walls come down

Today we removed about half of the cross ties and brought both short walls down using the chain hoist system.

The remaining rafters have been removed, de-nailed and sorted.

We discovered upon lowering the West wall that very little held the two halves of the short walls together at the centre post, and the wall came down like an open book. We changed our tactics for the East wall and lowered by halves instead.



### Day 5 – North wall comes down

We began by reinforcing the North wall with 2x10's and 2x6's along the top edge and lower exterior edge, which we then separated from the flooring. Wall posts were separated from the floor joists, and we secured three chain hoists via strapping through the windows. A snatch block was used to bolster our leverage due to inopportune tree locations. The wall was lowered onto the floor and supported with N-S tie beams between windows.



### Day 6 – South wall down, North wall onto platform

After making a strong, level platform beside the building, we constructed a ramp and pulled the wall off the floor, flipped it over (exterior side facing down) and onto the platform.



The South wall was reinforced as the North wall had been. We then lowered it onto the floor using both 1-ton hoists behind it (South side) and the 5-ton hoist to the North to pull it over gradually. The pouring rain ceased as the wall touched the floor!



### Day 7 – Wall sandwich, anyone?

We slid the South wall across the floor, down the ramp and onto the North wall and platform with chain hoists again. Once aligned, we reinforced the edges and within the window frames for later transport.



Meanwhile, once the South wall was out of the way, we began removing floorboards, carefully labeling for reconstruction ease.

### Day 8 – Walls upright, more flooring out

For later transport, the roadway beside the building needed to be accessible. We secured the 4 hoists through the windows of both (now joined) walls and pulled them vertical leaning on a tree, having three hoists pulling up, and the 5 ton for kickback safety securing the bottom edge from the South.



### Day 9 – Strapping and Packing

By Friday we were all ready to head home. By the end of the day the floor was half out and everything else was stacked and partially strapped. The East and West walls were placed upright against the long walls, and the driveway was cleared for subsequent loading.

The following day we drove back, narrowly catching an evening ferry.



# Deconstructing the Building – Trip 2



## Day 1 & 2 –

Returning on July 20, a team of 6 finished deconstruction and loaded the building safely onto the flatbed truck. For the first day, the remaining floor was taken apart. The strapping of lumber and other building components (insulation pallets, etc.) was finished.

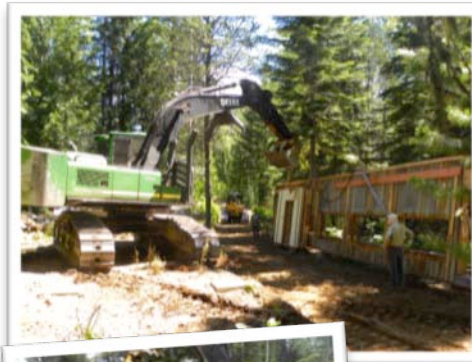


The following day, the team prepared for the loaders to come and arranged final logistics.

## Day 3 -

The truck arrived on Wednesday and with the help of a skidder/front end loader, the building was carefully stacked and loaded.

The walls, previously stacked on the driveway, were moved to where the building was previously situated, to allow more space for loading.



Using the excavator, the 50-ft walls were placed on the truck first. Next the East and West walls came, along with the various strapped piles of roofing, insulation, flooring, beams and so on.



An intense rain, hail and lightning storm delayed our departure for a day when the truck tipped, however we were soon pulled upright and left with little damage.





# Reconstruction Photo-Timeline

**June**

Footprint dug

**July**

Footings constructed



Building arrives



Unloading



Unloading



Unloading and moving down to building site

**August**

Footings poured

**September**

Lower walls begun



Floor reconstructed

**October**

Long walls reattached

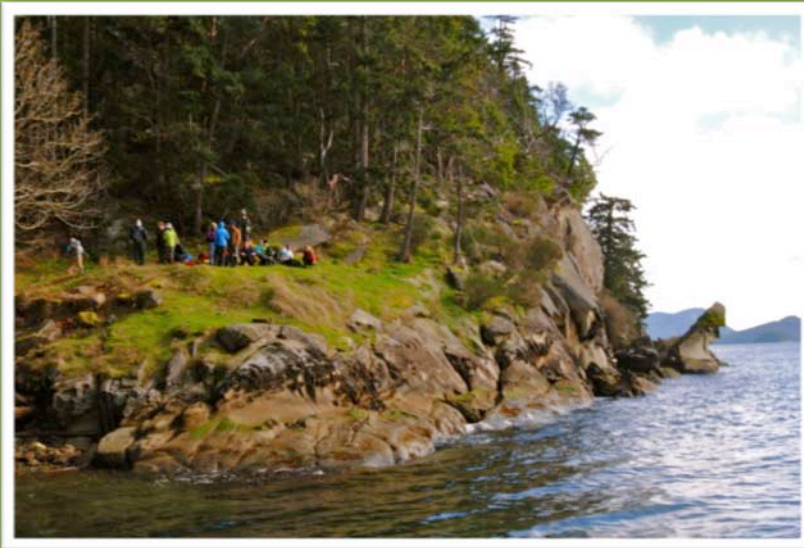


Tie beams added



Rafters added





## **Galiano Conservancy Association**

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**“Planting a seed of hope  
so that life is  
meaningful” – Florence  
James, Penelakut Elder**

The Learning Centre represents hope for the future, through empowering and inspiring children and adults alike to connect with the natural world and live ecologically respectful and sustainable lives while contributing in meaningful ways to their communities. This is a global challenge and opportunity for change.

**Please join us.**

# **Thank you...**

## **Professional services and donations by:**

Vaagen Fiber Canada – building donation  
Glover Contracting – loading materials onto flatbed  
Penta Transport – trucking building to Galiano  
Stevens Excavating – machine and operator time on Galiano  
Galiano Freight – transport and unloading of building materials on site  
Galiano Trading – building supplies

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