



THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Thank you for your support in 2014

Looking back on the past year leaves us incredibly grateful for our community of supporters, and greatly encouraged at the progress underway in both land protection and in the development of the Galiano Learning Centre. This has been a special year.

The Finlay Lake property was gifted to us to be protected in perpetuity. Our gratitude to the McClelland family for making this happen - Marjorie's wish for this land was to have it protected for wildlife. A beautiful wetland now safe to remain so.

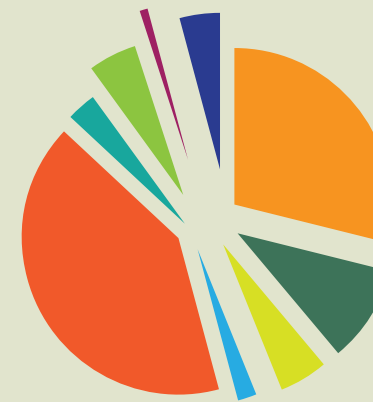
Our education programs reached almost 1,000 people in 2014! 160 participants were able to come thanks to our bursaries. **The 2nd Annual "Walkalong for Learning"** supported bursaries for Education Programs and infrastructure at the Learning Centre. Incredible musicians stationed along the new trail made the event very special and memorable. We continued programming for local and off-island groups of children and youth, and hosted another UVic Environmental Studies Field Course. We hosted Grandparents Raising Grandchildren twice.

2014 saw the first indoor infrastructure additions to the Learning Centre - the classroom building - and with its progressing development, we eagerly look forward to the coming summer season which will be the first to take advantage of the new facility for education programs. **The Native Plant Nursery and greenhouse continue successfully**, with the second year of harvest at the Learning Centre greenhouse being enjoyed by participants and the community. The intensive mill site restoration work is complete and being monitored. Students from the Galiano Community School were actively involved in this. The new kiosk describes this project and the amazing support of the community throughout.

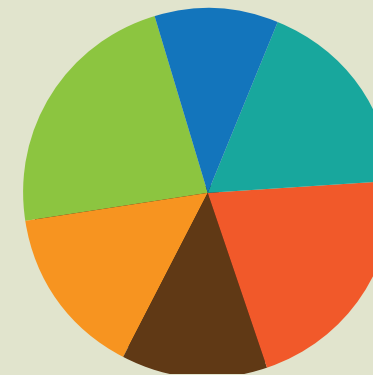
Our summer was blessed with the addition of 2 employed **Summer Students** - Cami and Christian - and 5 German **Student Interns** volunteering from 2 to 5 months - Quirin, Lisa, Pati, Markus and Isabelle. Two new **staff members** - Eric and Jenna - joined the team in April and May. Each bringing more enthusiasm and a commitment to a happy, healthy and vibrant environment for our community.

None of the above could have taken place without your support. Thank you so very much.

— Board of Directors, Galiano Conservancy Association



INCOME		
Donations	CA\$114,631	29%
Federal Grants	CA\$42,832	10%
Wage Subsidies	CA\$22,935	5%
CRD Grants	CA\$7,345	2%
Corporate & Foundation Grants	CA\$163,784	41%
Contracts	CA\$12,906	3%
Program Fees	CA\$19,044	5%
Sales and Services	CA\$2,294	1%
Interest Income	CA\$15,048	4%
Total	CA\$400,818	



OPERATING BUDGET		
General operations / Library / Office	CA\$44,242	11%
Education Programs	CA\$69,844	18%
Land Management / Restoration / Planning	CA\$82,276	21%
Capacity Building / Fundraising	CA\$51,233	13%
Land Protection (includes loan interest)	CA\$59,305	15%
Learning Centre Infrastructure	CA\$91,768	23%
Total	CA\$398,667	

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS





2014 Environmental Education

Our long-held dream for the thousands of people who have been involved in the Conservancy's Education Programs has been to have a permanent place from which we can offer and operate our multi-day programs. This dream was finally realized in 2014!

As a result we have been able to widen the scope of programs, include new groups and be able to host multi-day programs.

Expanding our repertoire of programs to include new groups and more programming at the Learning Center was our focus for 2014. This year saw several new groups join us for programming on Galiano Island as well as use the Learning Center for programming and camping. New Groups this year include:

- Boys and Girls Club Coastal Connections;
- Take-A-Hike Program for Youth at Risk;
- Quest University Adventure Club.

Our programming was expanded in 2014 by the funding to create a Navigation and Adventure Geocaching Game which seeks to work with the technological fascination and proficiencies of youth to get them outside. The program is a GPS – based scavenger hunt where participants solve environmental education puzzles to advance the game. This year we also began working with land management on the Galiano Community Food Forest Project which will create learning activities for local and off-island groups for years to come.

GALIANO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A variety of programs for youth in Grades K – 8.

Grades K - 7

Salmon in the Classroom

Salmon Fry Release Day – May 20th

Mill Site Restoration Project Celebration Day – May 8th

This event was a celebration for the entire Galiano Community School and community members who participated in the Mill site Restoration Program.

Grades 3 - 7

Mapping and Navigation Concepts of Geography

– May 20th

Grades K -2

The Life of Trees – November 27

Programs to Off-Island Groups

Groups travel to Galiano Island for one-day or multi-day experiences. All ages, but mainly K-12 school groups. A total of 330 off-island youth and adults participated in our programs in 2014.

Single Day Environmental Education Programs

5 Programs were delivered to a total of 116 participants with an additional 5 programs canceled due to the school strike.

Multi-day Programs and Nature Camps

6 Groups Participated:

Edward Milne Community School – April 30 - May 2nd

Metchosin Technical School – May 14 -16th

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
– August 12-14 and August 19 - 21

Take a Hike Program for Youth At Risk
– November 19th -21

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Galiano Island is a stunning place to live but can be limited in the services that it offers. In response, the Conservancy makes the local community its priority by offering nature and science programming to youth and families.

We continued upon some of our successful programs from the previous years that included:

Nature Buddies – a preschool outdoor program for families – 16 sessions

Activity Centre Summer Programs – outings for youth – 4 programs

Woodstone Residence – island explorations with an ecotherapy twist – 22 outings

Ecotours – public tours of the great outdoors – 2 tours

And we created some new outings to spice up life on Galiano:

Galiano Kids Campout! - Local kids (and their friends) ages 9- 12 camped in tents at the Learning Centre and had fun with activities such as the great sheep hunt, star gazing, garden raiding and circus night - 3 days and 2 nights

Science Camp for Kids – Galiano kids ages 8 - 12 entered The Chemistry Lab to make slimes and goos, rockets and explosions – 4 classes

In 2014, our local programs entertained and educated 474 participants!

BURSARY PROGRAMS

A total of 160 bursaries were given to assist youth in attending our programs.

TOTAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

Of all the youth, adults, teacher and leaders in our education programs, there were a total of 330 off-island participants.

EDUCATION STAFF

Our staff was composed of Patti Pringle, Pauline Brest van Kempen, Eric Jacobsen and summer student Christian.





Photo: Peter Luckham

Species at Risk Focus for 2014



Galiano Conservancy Native Plant Nursery



White Meconella (*Meconella oregana*) on Mt. Sutil

- following our first attempt at reintroduction seeding in 2013, we found one plant in 2014 on the site and seeded again, this time within a deer-proof wire cage.
- no sign of any plants in or out of cage so far in spring 2015, and deer browsing around cage seems significant.

Purple Martin

- Nesting project continues to be a success on pilings along Galiano's western coastline.



Quillback Rockfish

- we are undertaking a rockfish conservation project from 2014-2016 in partnership with the Valdes Island Conservancy focusing on public outreach, education, and dive surveys to monitor populations around Galiano and Valdes.

Jenna Falk
Galiano Conservancy Association
Learning Centre Development Coordinator

LEARNING CENTRE GARDEN

During the growing season, our food production was limited (but plentiful) to the greenhouse. Our crops included tomatoes, peppers, watermelons and herbs.

In the fall and winter, we added to the greenhouse and heritage garden infrastructure by building 2 squash heaps and bean teepees, and 6 raised beds. The beds were set up as an educational tool and experiment to discover the most suitable type for the high water table and clay content of the soil in the garden. We hosted a Soggy Gardener Workshop to display the various styles, such as the Hugelkultur technique, and created educational programming for the garden.



NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Three years ago we began in earnest to make the Native Plant Nursery a successful social enterprise. We completed a feasibility study and decided to take the leap. We shifted our focus to include "plants that are desired by the public" and increased our stock for the predicted "upcoming restoration projects at DL57". By the end of 2014, we hit solid ground and made a profit!

Our net revenue for the past 3 years:

2012 Deficit \$3607

2013 Profit \$31

2014 Profit \$4684

With further efforts in marketing and distribution, we believe that the nursery will prove to be a viable business. Revenue from plant sales has provided support for our conservation and education projects.

This venture proved to be successful largely due to the help of our wonderful volunteers, summer students, and interns. Special thanks goes out to Liz and Bob Harmer who have graciously allowed us the use of their property for the past decade rent free.



The New Learning Centre Building

Restoration of the Old Mill Site

The new approximately 1200 sq ft classroom building was a great success for our annual New Year's Day walk, hosting a group for a tour and bite to eat. Wood stove and roof on, it was a cozy retreat after a refreshing walk around the Learning Centre. Great to see everyone out. Next steps are to finish insulating the roof and to get the electrical work in.

The kitchen will be closed in soon, and we are still in the hunt to get a few kitchen appliances donated. It's going to be a lovely view for the cook when that room is completed, overlooking the coming food forest and gardening areas in the lower valley, and a beautiful rocky ridge across.

"This educational opportunity is truly unique since many have never ventured far out of their immediate neighbourhood, let alone traveled on a ferry or visited an island. Many of our students have expanded their goals and career options because of this experience." Dorothy Mills, teacher, Second Street Community School

"The transformation of school kids in nature is an amazing thing. You think you know someone at school. Then you

see them in nature, and they're totally a new person. That happened to me when we were on Galiano, my friends turned into different people. They were not only asking me about nature, but they really cared." Hillary, Grade 6, David Lloyd George Elementary

Several days in a natural setting with inspirational teachers can change the directions of a young person's life.

Galiano Island is an extraordinary place to observe and experience the natural world, offering daily interaction with eagles, sea anemones, and arbutus trees - species not often encountered in urban life. It has been suggested that youth are suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder", "a condition caused by the cumulative human costs of alienation from nature, including diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses." (Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods, 2005)

The Conservancy's Restorative Retreats will create life-changing learning experiences for inner city and marginalized youth, and will be open to people of all ages and backgrounds.

It surprised some people when the Conservancy began talking about purchasing the Learning Centre land. Besides being quite an ambitious project, the first impression many had of the property was influenced by the heavily damaged site at the site entrance off Porlier Pass Rd. However, the restoration of this site represents quite meaningfully one of the very reasons why the Conservancy wanted to conserve this land.

Embracing the human legacies on the land, and teaching the next generation how to live respectfully, is at the heart of the Learning Centre vision. The old mill site is a quarter hectare area used for many years as a small-scale portable milling site by the previous owner. The site was deeply compacted and covered in milling waste and debris.

After completing a detailed baseline assessment with students from the University of Victoria, all of the cedar slabs and mill ends were chipped and removed from the site. The chips continue to provide material for Learning Centre trails and tent pads.

Next we de-compacted the soil with an excavator, and then spread a layer of imported alder wood chips. The alder was inoculated with salvaged forest floor litter providing the site with a diverse array of fungi, soil fauna and micro organisms.

A significant number of large diameter logs were then spread over the site, with a few choice specimens planted vertically as wildlife trees. Over 500 plants from our nursery were planted with the help of the kids from the Galiano Community School.

Over 100 volunteers helped with this amazing project. Just over a year later, the site is looking great. Planted vegetation is looking healthy and lots of volunteer seedlings are starting on their own. We will continue our monitoring efforts to follow the site's return to health into the future.

Jenna Falk
Galiano Conservancy Association
Learning Centre Development Coordinator



The Earth is borrowed from our children rather than inherited from our ancestors.



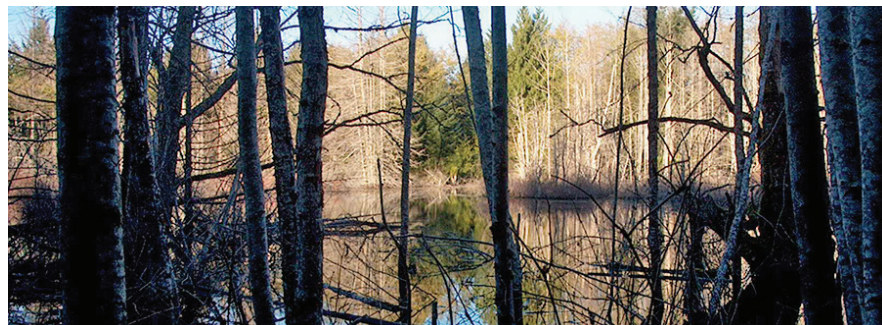
Finlay Lake

In 2001, Marjorie McClelland placed a conservation covenant on the Finlay Lake property. It was her desire that this area be protected in its natural state. In 2014, Marjorie's estate donated the land to the Galiano Conservancy. It is a 17 acre parcel of land containing one of the larger wetlands on Galiano. It is home to beaver and listed dragonflies. It will be protected in perpetuity.



Learning Centre Land

The Learning Centre land is 188 acres. It has a varied landscape, including 2 km of waterfront, agriculture land and intact old growth forest. It provides an excellent site for the future infrastructure for the Centre. The purchase price in 2012 was \$3,025,000. A stewardship endowment for the land has been established, which is in excess of \$350,000.



Great Beaver Swamp

The Great Beaver Swamp is a large wetland adjoining the Pebble Beach Reserve. The 45 acre parcel was purchased in 2003 for \$185,000. There has been a boundary adjustment so that the present parcel includes all of the wetland. Its present assessed value is \$358,000.



Laughlin Lake

Laughlin Lake is the largest lake on Galiano and provides a connecting link between Bodega Ridge Provincial Park and the Pebble Beach Reserve. The 27 acre property was purchased from a court ordered sale for \$148,900 in 2000. Its present assessed value is \$378,000.



Retreat Island

Retreat is a 7 acre island located off Galiano in the Trincomali Channel. As part of an estate planning process, the owners placed conservation covenants on approximately one half of the Island and then in 1999 donated that land to Galiano Conservancy Association. The present assessed value is \$770,000.



District Lot 63

District Lot 63 provides a connecting link between two Crown Land parcels to make up the Pebble Beach Reserve, an area used for recreation by islanders and visitors alike. The 154 acre parcel of land was purchased in 1998 in a partnership between Galiano Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy (federal/provincial partnership) for \$430,000. The title is held by Galiano Conservancy. The present assessed value is \$535,000.



Mt. Sutil

Mt. Sutil is the site of an important Garry oak ecosystem. The 42 acre summit was purchased in 1990 by Galiano Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for \$42,000. This parcel has limited legal access. In 2002 the title was placed in Galiano Conservancy's name only. The present assessed value is \$329,000.

What your continued support will mean in 2015

The coming year will see several new projects.

Species at Risk Conservation. Following a successful reintroduction of the endangered **White Meconella** (*meconella oregana*) on Mt. Sutil - the first known reintroduction in BC! - we are increasing our efforts in 2015. We are also leading a **Rockfish conservation project**, partnering with Valdes Island Conservancy and others to help protect rockfish species in this area through public outreach and dive surveys.

We are creating a **food forest** at the Learning Centre, which will be a teaching tool for participants and the community. A **geocaching** education program is being developed as a 2015 pilot, bringing orienteering and adventure to our repertoire. Efforts will continue to install a water system and construct the new classroom building as a fully off-grid **renewable energy demonstration facility**.

Increasing our Capacity. Moving into 2015, we are for the first time in the position to hire on a third full-time educator, and maintain our staff through the winter months. Our capacity is gradually building which is wonderful to see.

We need your support. Without the commitment and partnership of supporters like you, we could not have accomplished what we have. So please don't forget to renew your membership for 2015 and continue on this exciting journey with us in the coming year!



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