



THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Education



Off – Island Groups / Schools

18 single day programs and **12** multi-day programs **6** new groups from off-island. Total participants: **571** (including teachers and adults).

6 new programs developed: **Forest Forensics Field School, Forest Garden School/Community Group Program, Herbal Harvest Fall Edition - Adult Workshop, Sustainability Programming for Galiano, Kids Campout, Digital Forage Multi-day Campout, Bat Workshop.**

Bursaries

17 bursaries given out for a total of **\$14,681** benefiting over **450** participants

5 bursaries to our local school (including Outer Island Middle Years and Penelakut School) for a total of **\$5,570**

7 bursaries to off island groups for a total of **\$ 8,553**

5 bursaries to other local groups/participants for a total of **\$558**

Local Community and School

41 program/workshop days delivered to **601** participants

Agriculture

2016 was an exciting year for agriculture in the Forest Garden and Native Plant Nursery which included:

88 agricultural education participants.

People fed: **15** full meals, **25** salads.

30 weeks of produce delivery to restaurants and market.

23 fresh sheet items available. **120** volunteer hours:

50 Forest Garden, **70** Native Plant Nursery. Garden fresh donations

for **3** community events. **Native plant sales** location

created at Galiano Trading. 2016 included **Forest Garden expansion** to include **Native Plant Nursery.**

Created **interpretive signage** for Forest Garden and a

few perennials. **Education space** created at Forest Garden. **Pond** was dug to increase

water security. **Watering system** was installed at the Forest Garden. **Wholesale**

market sales program began.

Thank you for your support

Organizations, like people, go through stages of life, and the past year has seen the Galiano Conservancy Association emerge from a sometimes-turbulent past into confident maturity. Like individual development, that organizational growth has sometimes been painful. The most painful part of the Conservancy's coming-of-age was founding director Ken Millard's sudden death (at the height of a "blood moon" lunar eclipse, after a fine day of wood-cutting) in the late summer of 2015. This report describes the first full year of the Conservancy's life "after Ken". During that year at least two things have become obvious.

The first is how much of a parent Ken was to the Conservancy, providing firm leadership, a big deep-rooted vision, and friendships with an astonishingly wide network of persons, agencies and organizations. Less obviously, Ken, and his wife Linda, had a seemingly inexhaustible ability to keep the organization running through invisible and thankless tasks like changing the light bulbs and making sure the rent was paid. These gifts and tasks took their toll. The transition to life-after-Ken was sometimes difficult for staff and board, as we came to terms with the reality of "you're-on-your-own-now".

Which leads to the second emerging fact about the Conservancy: the far-reaching importance of its vision and work. It has become a grass-roots organization with a worldwide influence. The pictures and articles in this report illustrate the continuing health of the restoration and education work here which has always been at the heart of the Conservancy's work on Galiano. Harder to illustrate are some of the wider ways in which the Conservancy's influence is being felt.

Recent completion of covenants with local forest owners are signs of healing in this community. And a commitment to a new partnership with the Eco-forestry Institute Society to develop and hold an eco-forestry covenant for Wildwood, a well-known sustainable forest near Ladysmith, indicates the GCA's broader regional influence, as does our partnership with TLC – The Land Conservancy of BC, on the Chrystal Cove Campaign to protect the shoreline of the Millard Learning Centre (MLC). The Forest Garden, in addition to providing increasing amounts of food locally, models a new/old kind of agriculture that attracts increasing numbers of visitors. Interns from Europe—especially Germany—continue to come each summer and take what they have learned on Galiano back to their home countries.

Eric Higgs' fourth UVic course in "Principles and Practices of Ecological Restoration" was completed in July, and the projects from that course enhance not only Galiano, but lead to further graduate work and influence in restoration. That course made use of the beautiful, and increasingly functional, off-grid classroom building, which was the location, in September, of a special recognition event and formal naming of the Centre as the Millard Learning Centre, in recognition of the family's generosity and support over many years.

The year saw many positive conversations with a worldwide network of people who share the Conservancy's concerns "To preserve, protect, and enhance the quality of the human and natural environment"... not just of Galiano, but of many other places. The board and staff of the Conservancy are deeply grateful for all of you who—like Ken and Linda Millard, and other past and retiring board members-- have given so generously to ensure this organization's maturing and flourishing life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Program Highlights



CONSERVATION

This year we made impressive strides towards the integration of conservation measures on working landscapes. Literature suggests that maintaining a full, natural range of healthy species populations and assemblages requires protecting as much as 60% to 70% of the landscape. To achieve a target of this magnitude, degraded habitat must be ecologically restored and mechanisms must be developed to protect the ecological integrity of the 'used' land. The GCA successfully worked with private forest owners Bowie and Anna Keefer, Islands Trust Planners, and The Land Conservancy (TLC) to develop a 'sustainable forestry covenant' for Galiano to achieve these goals. This covenant has been registered on a 50 acre forest land parcel, affirming the stewardship already being practiced by Bowie and Anna and allowing for the

future removal of timber and other forest products from the land while ensuring a healthy, managed forest ecosystem remains in perpetuity. Another important covenant secured in 2016 is the eco-forestry covenant on the "Wildwood" property on Vancouver Island, currently owned and managed by the Ecoforestry Institute Society (EIS). This exciting new partnership presents an opportunity for future collaboration in education, research and applied eco-forestry. On our own lands, we conducted a variety of ecological restoration and invasive alien species control activities. Most notable was the creation of a wetland and the restoration of its riparian habitat associated with a small human-made pond used to store water for irrigation of our forest garden and nursery. This area will provide outstanding habitat for many birds, amphibians, insects and other species.

IN THE GARDEN

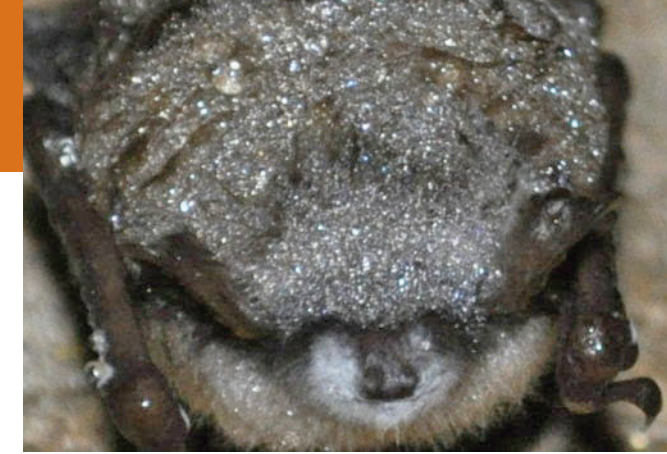
2016 saw the opening of the sales space for native plants at Galiano Trading Company. This new space has been a success and carries a selection of the plants grown at the Native Plant Nursery. This space has allowed the community to easily access native plants year round and makes growing native plants just a bit easier! 2016 was also the start of selling our produce from the Forest Garden to local restaurants, to caterers, and at the Daystar Market. We have had a lot of great feedback from our customers who are enjoying the just-picked quality of our very local food. For those curious about what sort of tasty meals are possible with our Forest Garden ingredients, we launched a blog, at <https://forest2table.com> which highlights both a spring and winter feast made entirely from the Forest Garden bounty. In order to keep the Forest Garden healthy and its produce bountiful, we began an initiative to use a bokashi composting system to take care of the soil. This pilot project uses the compost from Pilgrimme, a local restaurant, to nourish our Forest Garden's soil.



SPECIES AT RISK

Species at risk work broadened to include bat monitoring research led by international student intern Frieda Weinert. Frieda began baseline monitoring around Galiano to improve our understanding of what bat species are on Galiano, and where. Frieda is back in 2017 to continue this research for her undergraduate thesis work. We're thrilled to have her back continuing this exciting research for Galiano.

Rockfish made a splash, with summer monitoring continuing for its 3rd consecutive year. Trail camera monitoring from May to August gave a glimpse into 5 Rockfish Conservation Areas around Galiano. Outreach efforts continued on Galiano and Valdes, and on the Saanich Peninsula for World Oceans Day. 10 outreach efforts reached an estimated 1525 people, sharing 1300 copies of education materials. March saw the first Rockfish Conservation Forum at the Millard Learning Centre. For two days, community members, scientists and conservation groups came together to discuss next steps for stewardship and public engagement. Guidance from this workshop has shaped our strategy moving forward. University of Victoria's dive survey team will return to Galiano in June 2017 for the next round of Scuba monitoring.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2016 was a full and exciting year for environmental education programs. We strengthened our relationship with the Access to Media Education Society by collaborating on a 3-day digital forage camp-out program that involved community members and Penelakut Elders gathering at the Millard Learning Centre to learn and share their experiences. Another highlight was the fall Herbal Harvest workshop, which introduced participants to both native and Forest Garden plants for making herbal products and fermented foods and drinks. Our 6-day Forest Restoration Field School (Forest Forensics) with Saturna Ecological Education Centre linked the BC curriculum with hands-on learning of forest ecology and restoration. We continued to engage new groups in our programs and we will continue to build on our programming for these groups and others.

THE MILLARD LEARNING CENTRE AS UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM

The Galiano Conservancy Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Victoria on Dec. 13, 2016. That agreement formalized a key educational partnership just a few months before Dr. Eric Higgs began teaching for the fifth year his 400-level field course titled "Advanced Principles and Practices in Ecological Restoration." Higgs says he is "proud that 78 bright, motivated students have gone out into the world with a strong model of community-based environmental work and as ambassadors of the Conservancy and Galiano Island." Higgs' students take on intensive research projects once on Galiano, and the island community is invited both to share knowledge and listen to research results. The mutually beneficial partnership between UVic and the GCA contributes that real-world research focus while bolstering the shared knowledge base of the MLC, the Conservancy and the broader community.



Learning Centre Renamed To Honour A Very Special Family



On Saturday September 24th, 2016, supporters from the Galiano and regional community joined friends and family of Ken and Linda Millard to commemorate and honour their family's many years of dedicated service to Galiano Island through their contributions to the Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA).

"This event was long overdue", said Loren Wilkinson, GCA Director. "Ken and Linda have given nearly 30 years of their life into ensuring a better future for Galiano's human and natural communities. Their work has supported the protection of over a thousand acres of land, and through this Learning Centre offers inspiration and education to generations of learners, young and old. They have helped us all learn to live more gratefully and carefully on this gift of an island. Thus it is profoundly appropriate that this Learning Centre will bear their names."

The day gave opportunity for the Millard family to share their remarks on the family's history with the Galiano Conservancy Association. Loren Wilkinson, Pearl Roberts and Eric Higgs spoke to the family's contributions and legacy on behalf of the organization. Loren read Dr. Seuss' book *The Lorax*, which bore resemblance to Ken at times. Beautiful harp melodies by Esther-Ruth Teel welcomed guests to the building. The community came together to celebrate, and the day's finalé was at the property's Porlier Pass entrance. To honour this family's contributions, a new name and entrance sign for the Galiano Learning Centre was publicly unveiled. Musician Jack Garten's trumpet fanfare announced the enthusiastic unveiling.

The Millard family's contributions include significant financial donations and nearly 30 years of volunteer service on the part of Ken and Linda. Linda created and managed the GCA's community library for many years, with Ken acting as the organization's full-time Coordinator until passing away in September 2015. The Millard family's donations helped to purchase and protect land on Galiano Island, including the 188-acre waterfront property that is home to the Learning Centre. On this site, the Galiano Conservancy offers hands-on programs where students of all ages develop skills and creative solutions to help restore the planet. While Ken and Linda's time was given freely and happily, it would not have been possible without their family's deep understanding of the importance of this mission and their generosity in giving up time together. The Galiano Conservancy is deeply thankful for all that the Millard family has given to Galiano, its community and to this organization.

Photos left to right top to bottom : 1) Esther-Ruth plays harp at Ken's Celebration of Life, 2) Linda enjoying a walk at Retreat Cove, 3) Linda overlooking Trincomali Channel, 4) Ken and Linda at both of their 70th birthdays and their 50th wedding anniversary, 5) Ken topping a tree for forest restoration, 6) Ken during 2015 UVIC restoration field course, 7) Galiano community at new sign during naming ceremony of Millard Learning Centre September 25, 2016



Thank You to Our Supporters and Funders

SECURING THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN DONORS

Gifts from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

GIFTS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF THE MILLARD LEARNING CENTRE AND VANILLA LEAF LAND NATURE RESERVE

Dan Bloomberg & Irene Beardsley
John and Carolyn Gill
Google Matching Gifts
Linda Millard
Lisa Millard
Geoffrey Stewart
Beth Thiessen
Tides Canada Foundation
The Land Conservancy of BC
Telus Community Affairs

GIFTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Greater Victoria Savings Credit Union
Legacy Foundation

Open Purse Foundation

NWM Private Giving Foundation

We would like to extend a sincere thank you for the support of guarantors and promissory note holders in making this acquisition possible. Now these incredible ecosystems will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

A special thanks to our partners at Vancity for their commitment to this project's success.

ANNUAL GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS

SALISH SEA CIRCLE

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Anonymous
Dan Bloomberg & Irene Beardsley
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MEMORIAL GIFTS IN HONOUR OF KEN MILLARD

Gulf Islands Alliance Society
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Cheryl Bastedo

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PLANNED GIFTS

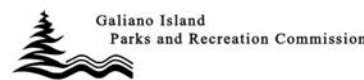
Anonymous (4)
Andy Turner
Pearl Roberts
Carolyn Canfield

WALKALONG 2016

Our sincere appreciation to the 84 walkers and 49 donors at our 4th Annual Walkalong for Learning. Thank you, together we raised over \$12,000 for environmental education.

* A note to our supporters: We appreciate your generous donations to the Galiano Conservancy Association, and we want to recognize everyone accordingly with 100% accuracy. If we have inadvertently made an error, please contact the Galiano Conservancy at 250-539-2424 with concerns or corrections.

AGM annual report design and production by Kelly Brooks/Far&Wide Marketing Communications

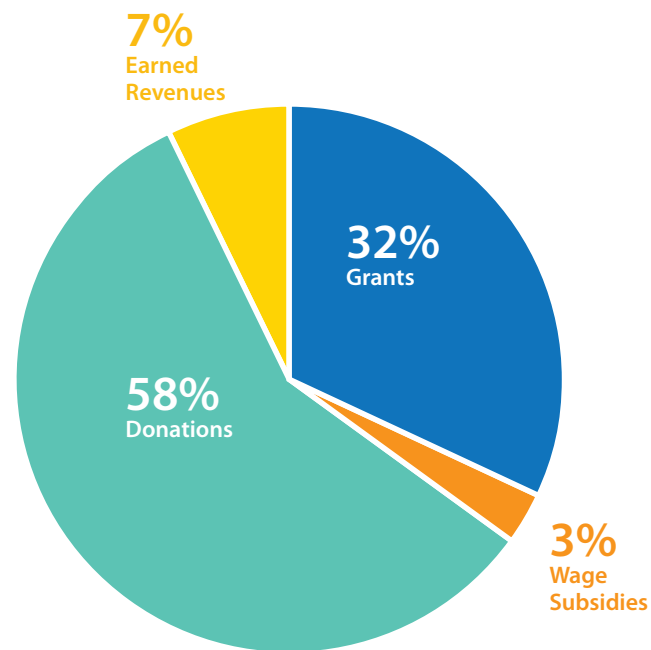


THE FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE FOR 2016 highlights the organization's transitions and adjustments in the wake of losing the volunteer contributions of our Coordinator, Ken Millard. Not surprisingly, an increase in administrative costs has resulted and will over time support stabilizing the organization for a sustainable future. A small but significant increase in revenue resulted in a 2% rise in Earned Revenues (program/bus fees, agricultural and merchandise sales and MLC rentals) from \$45,958 in 2015 to \$50,128 in 2016. Growth in earned revenue is expected to continue in 2017 and beyond.

On the revenue chart below, donations include \$245,000 in forgiven promissory notes and \$50,000 directly applied to our Vancity Loan for the acquisition of the Millard Learning Centre and the Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve. These payments show up as a reduction in our overall liabilities on our balance sheet but are not represented in the expense chart below. This has resulted in a reduction of our promissory notes outstanding to \$326,163 from \$584,663 in 2015 and reduces our Bank Demand Loan to \$470,000 from \$520,000 in 2015.

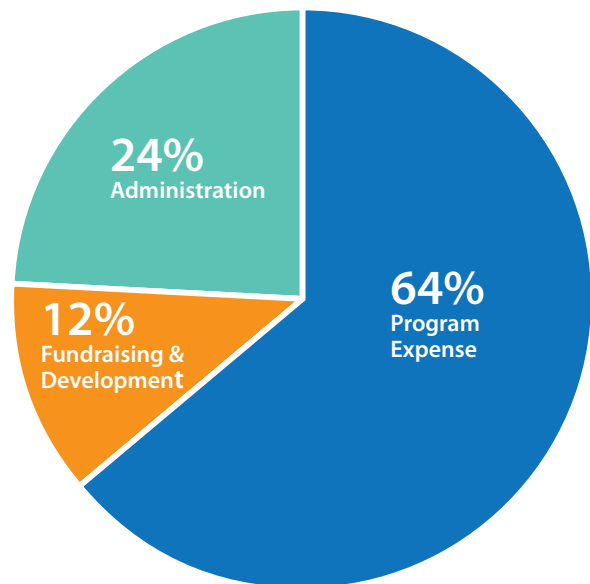
REVENUE SOURCES

Grants	\$241,067
Wage Subsidies	\$21,243
Donations	\$442,761
Earned Revenues	\$50,128
Total Revenue	\$755,199



ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$283,562
Fundraising & Development	\$52,413
Administration	\$107,287
Total Expenses	\$443,262



Conservation Highlight:

PEBBLE BEACH

District Lot 63 / Pebble Beach Reserve



What Pebble Beach brings to mind for our community...



“intertidal, swimming, grounded, beauty, wildlife, relaxing”

“a part of nature’s heart”

“The area is called Qwxwulwi’s, a place to live while resting, gathering provisions and medications, and waiting for good weather. Qwxwulwi’s is the word for the action of paddling...” Florence James, Penelakut Elder.

The Pebble Beach Reserve is comprised of two crown land parcels bridged by the GCA’s District Lot (DL) 63. It is located opposite Retreat Cove on the eastern side of Galiano Island and is a very diverse and special place. Qwxwulwi’s is the Penelakut name for the restoration site at the heart of the Galiano Conservancy’s forest restoration program situated on DL 63. The site embodies the full spectrum of Galiano’s forestry history; the removal of all vegetation from the site, the devastation to the forest floor and the establishment of a uniform single-aged, single-species plantation set the forest on a trajectory where biodiversity and ecosystem processes function on a minimal level. In 2004, restoration treatments were initiated to help shift the plantation’s successional trajectory towards a healthy mature forest. *‘The restoration work being performed... is not only enhancing vegetation regeneration and wildlife habitats; it is also supporting the natural soil system by means of an active nutrient cycling system.’* (Koele, Nina. 2005. Archipelago. Galiano Conservancy..) Today, this area is treasured by locals and visitors alike.

LAUGHLIN LAKE

A 27 acre property with Galiano’s largest lake. Present assessed value is \$378,000.

MILLARD LEARNING CENTRE

A 188 acre district lot including waterfront, agricultural land and intact old growth forest. Present assessed value is \$350,000.

GREAT BEAVER SWAMP

A 45 acre wetland adjacent to Pebble Beach Research. Present assessed value is \$358,000.

FINLAY LAKE

A 17 acre wetland-dominated parcel donated in 2014 by the Estate of Marjorie McClelland. Present assessed value is \$265,000.

MOUNT SUTIL

A 42 acre summit parcel protecting critical Garry Oak ecosystems. Present assessed value is \$329,000.

RETREAT ISLAND

A 7 acre island with around one half covenanted and donated to the Conservancy. Present assessed value is \$770,000.



2017

In 2017 the Galiano Conservancy will focus on deepening our education and forest garden programs, revisiting restoration projects from the past, and introducing new perspectives to our stewardship work.

We are excited to begin working on the creation of a 'forage forest' at the Millard Learning Centre. The forage forest will demonstrate a restoration approach that includes the production and harvest of native flora for food and medicinal values. Shaping the composition of the forest and its ongoing management will draw on the energy of our youth and the traditional and contemporary knowledge held in our community.

Not to be confused with our 'forest garden' where we continue to grow and harvest food and medicinal species from temperate regions throughout the world, the 'forage forest' will be composed of native flora only, and will function as a natural forest ecosystem. Former student interns from Germany, Quirin Hohendorf and Frieda Weinert are continuing their studies with us to complete their graduate and undergraduate research respectively. Quirin will examine the success of our forest restoration work on DL63 and recommend future treatments. Frieda will study local bat populations and conduct public outreach to protect and enhance bat habitat.

Our education team, Reed Osler and Brit McLeod, will continue to engage our local and regional communities with programs that explore the values of permaculture, facilitate gateway 'backcountry' experiences and explore the restoration process. Their efforts are supported in 2017 with the construction of a new shower and washroom facility at the classroom building.

2017 also brings a forward thinking focus through strategic planning. We will draw on expertise within the organization and look to our supporters and partners for their thoughts towards refining our goals and direction. This work is critical as we embark on our 'Chrystal Cove Campaign', the final push to complete the acquisition of the Millard Learning Centre and Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve, securing over 288 acres of contiguous protected lands.

This work would not be possible without the generous donations of time and financial support from our community, partners and funders. Thank you.

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