



THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Thank you for your support in 2025

Reflecting on the 2025 achievements of the Galiano Conservancy Association we are struck, yet again, by the dedication of our many supporters, including staff, volunteers, board members, interns and donors, in ensuring the continued success of GCA. Our community of incredible people is the backbone of the GCA and we would like to thank everyone for the hard work, vision, creativity and resources that you have provided.

In the area of programming, 2025 marked the first year of the Q'úyél q'úwen (Restoring the Balance) project. This unique initiative is creating a solid framework for respectful engagement and reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Galiano and beyond. The relationships being forged, through workshops, training, gatherings, dialogue and joint stewardship, will set us on the path to healthier and more resilient local ecosystems, and a respectful future together.

Our sustainable food systems program (that welcomed 450 participants to workshops and events), education program (that delivered programs to almost 1400 local and off-island participants) and ecological restoration program (that restored 5.5 ha of wetland and forest ecosystems) all continue to set the GCA apart as a leader in conservation innovation. These programs depend on the energy and dedication of staff and volunteers.

A highlight of 2025 has been the completion of our Strategic Plan 2026-2030. The Strategic Plan provides a north star to help GCA remain resilient, adaptable and able to respond effectively to emerging opportunities. It sets out the goals for our programs and ensures that we remain focussed on our vision and mission. It is also a step along the way to GCA obtaining the Conservation Excellence Certification offered by the Canadian Centre for Land Conservation (CLC). This certification will provide further assurances that GCA effectively and ethically manages its lands in perpetuity.

Another highlight of 2025 has been our ongoing relationship with the University of Victoria. Together, we undertook an infrastructure planning initiative to further a shared vision of improved facilities and resources for research and education programs at the Millard Learning Centre. A big thank you to UVic for their continued partnership, and to all those who contributed to the joint vision.

Finally, in 2025 we thanked three departing directors, Sheila Anderson, Suzanne Fournier, and Pearl Roberts, for their many years of service, and were grateful to three new directors, Tahirih Rockafella, Michael Keefer and blake danis, for their willingness to jump in and contribute. Julie Gardner, another long-standing board member, is stepping down in 2026. Julie's significant contributions on many committees throughout the years will have a lasting impact on the GCA. You too will be missed, Julie.

A final big thank you to everyone who makes the GCA such a fantastic organization to be part of.

Nancy Wilkin & Risa Smith,
Board Chair & Vice-Chair

GALIANO CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Nancy Wilkin
Chair

Risa Smith
Vice Chair

Sid Fels
Treasurer

Emily Gonzales
Secretary

blake danis
Director

Julie Gardner
Director

Michael Keefer
Director

George Maddison
Director

Tahirih Rockafella
Director

Holly Schofield
Director

Laurene Stefanyk
Director

We acknowledge that we live and work within the shared, asserted, unceded and traditional territories of the Hul'qum'num-speaking First Nations Peoples and those who hold traditional rights, responsibilities, and Indigenous rights and title in and around what is now known as Galiano Island, where Coast Salish Peoples have lived on and cared for the land for millennia.

COVER PHOTOS: Fungus, photo by Lúthien Teel (top), and Wetlands, photo by James LaBounty (bottom)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Connecting people with nature continues to be central to our mission. In 2025 we:

- Delivered **58 days of programming** to **845 off-island students** and **168 chaperones**
- Offered **38 days of local programming** for **549 local participants**
- Hosted **476 overnight campers** at the Millard Learning Centre for unforgettable, place-based learning experiences
- Delivered **9 adult workshops** to **175 participants**
- Welcomed **7 post-secondary groups** for field-based learning

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION:

Restoration efforts converted degraded land to a more natural state at the Quadra Hill Nature Reserve and in the Galiano Community Forest. In 2025, we:

- Restored **3+ ha** of wetland ecosystems including removal of **1.7+ km** of old logging roads and **270 m** of ditches
- Constructed **20** individual wetland pools
- Planted **500+** native trees and shrubs
- Restored **2.5+ ha** of young plantation forest in the Community Forest
- Established **815+ m** of natural spillways
- Established **14** permanent forest monitoring plots in partnership with the UBC Dendrochronology Lab
- Fenced **1 ha** area to facilitate recovery and exclude deer

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS:

The Food Forest and Native Plant Nursery continued to thrive as a community-centered space for growing food, propagating native plants, and sharing knowledge. In 2025 we:

- Propagated **190+ species** of native and/or edible plants
- Supplied **1674 individual plants** for restoration and community gardens across the island
- Welcomed **450 participants** to workshops/events that explored food security, traditional knowledge and ecological gardening
- Benefitted from **928 volunteer hours**: 419 from community members and visitors, 509 from our dedicated interns
- Further **improved water sustainability** by trialing self watering planters in the greenhouse
- **Irrigated the Nursery and Food Forest** 100% with solar energy, and predominantly with captured rainwater

Tal Engels with students, photo by Adam Huggins (top inset), and Janice with garlic bounty, photo by Cedana Bourne (bottom inset)



School field trip to Mt. Galiano, photo by Ria Okuda



Restoring a wetland, photo by UVIC Restoration Group



Using ropes to remove Scotch Broom on cliff face, photo by Lúthien Teel

Fall Restoration Tech Bronte at Quadra Hill, photo by Adam Huggins



Q'ÚYÉL Q'ÚWEN - RESTORING THE BALANCE PROJECT:

2025 marked the first year of this emerging initiative, focused on building a strong foundation for long-term ecological restoration and community collaboration. A key priority was strengthening relationships with local Indigenous communities through respectful engagement, creating space for Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and stewardship practices to guide the work.

This initial phase emphasized listening, learning, and partnership-building, alongside early research into Indigenous land stewardship and the development of demonstration areas to address the impacts of past industrial logging. The project also brought together diverse community members through cultural learning, hands-on training, and land-based experiences, fostering shared understanding and connection.

Together, these efforts represent an important step toward reconciliation and collaborative stewardship, laying the groundwork for continued restoration, deeper relationships, and Indigenous-led approaches in the years ahead.

In 2025, the RTB project:

- Delivered **18 events** engaging **448 participants** through workshops, training, and community gatherings
- Ensured consistent and meaningful **Indigenous participation** across all aspects of the project
- Hosted **culturally grounded activities** such as forage walks, drum-making, and shared meals, as well as land-based learning with an Indigenous Fire Keeper
- Provided **hands-on training and certifications**, including faller training and danger tree assessment for parks and forestry, plus field-based restoration training with partners
- **Engaged community members** through public events, youth programming, and intergenerational workshops like “Feed the People”
- **Facilitated stewardship dialogue** through roundtables, talks, and speaker events on forests, deer, and wildfire resilience
- **Strengthened partnerships** with academic institutions, nonprofits, and community organizations
- Received **provincial recognition** at the Heritage BC Awards for the “Feed the People” workshop in the Reconciliation, Redress, and Expanded Recognition category

Chef and helper at the Elders' Feast (top inset), and Participants at the Medicine Walk (bottom inset), photos by Bobbi-Jo Basarab

Medicine Walk and Elders' Feast, unknown photographer

Medicine Walk and Elders' Feast, unknown photographer

Terry Wilson, photo by Bobbi-Jo Basarab



Restoring the Balance logo, by Sylvie Hawkes and Marvin Wilson (above), and Rosemary Georgeson and Bobbi-Jo Basarab receiving Heritage BC Award, photo by Heritage BC (left)

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

At the Galiano Conservancy Association, we are continually inspired by the time, energy, and care our volunteers bring to this work. Whether you're out in the field, helping at events, or contributing your expertise on committees or the board, your involvement is truly integral to all we accomplish. Every effort, no matter the scale, helps move our mission forward: protecting Galiano Island's ecosystems and nurturing a culture of stewardship.

We are sincerely thankful to everyone who has contributed, from hands-on restoration work and invasive species removal to

supporting educational initiatives and sharing specialized skills. Each act (planting native species, maintaining trails, or lending support behind the scenes) plays an important role in stewarding the landscapes we all cherish.



A few of our dedicated volunteers, photos by Adam Huggins



42 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Environmental Education



58 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Biodiversity Conservation



289 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Land Stewardship



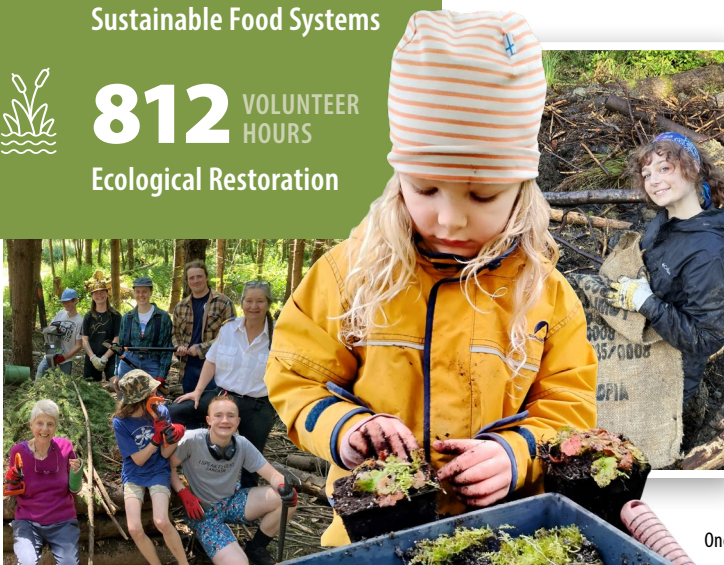
419 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Sustainable Food Systems



812 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Ecological Restoration



One of our youngest volunteers, photo by Lúthien Teel, and a few more of our dedicated volunteers, photos by Adam Huggins

Volunteering with GCA is also about more than giving time. It's about being part of a community connected by a shared commitment to the environment. It offers opportunities to learn, build relationships, and experience the fulfillment that comes from meaningful action. Through this work, volunteers strengthen both their connection to nature and their impact within the community.

We are also deeply appreciative of our volunteer interns and seasonal staff, whose curiosity, dedication, and fresh perspectives enhance our programs year after year. Their contributions are woven throughout our work, from restoration and sustainable agriculture to education and conservation, and are vital to the success and growth of our organization.

As we look ahead, we welcome continued involvement in many forms. Whether your interests lie in habitat restoration, food systems, wildlife monitoring, or program support, there are many ways to get involved. Together, we are building something lasting, for the island, and for future generations. Thank you for being part of this shared journey.

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR 2025 SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS!

ANNUAL GIVING CIRCLE

SALISH SEA (\$3,000+/YEAR)

Anonymous (1)
 Rob & Cora Ashburner
 Dan Bloomberg & Irene Beardsley
 In memory of Victoria Harrison
 Risa Smith & Tom Mommsen
 Philip & Susan Stamp
 Geoff Stewart

ARBUTUS (\$1,000-\$2,999/YEAR)

Anonymous (2)
 Candace Ayres
 Lisa Beck & Daniel Kirkpatrick
 Philip Buller
 Kate Emmings & Keith Erickson
 Norman & Harriet Falk
 Lena Karlstrom & Florian Faller
 Emily Gonzales
 Valerie Gonzales
 Colin Grier & Kelly Derr
 Steven Guthrie
 Michael & Carolyn Hoebel
 Eric Higgs & Stephanie Cairns

Kimberly Kerns & Catherine Mateer
 Dan Moore & Julie Gardner
 Peggy Ng & Richard Smith
 Pearl Roberts & Roger Allen
 Stephen & Susan Rybak
 Nancy Tamblin
 The Arbutus & Salt Fund

CAMAS (\$500-\$999/YEAR)

Anonymous (1)
 Dave Ages & Virginia Monk
 Ed Andrusiak & Sher O'Hara
 Olga Dudek & Steve Goldberg
 Suzanne Fournier & Art Moses
 Galiano Fund
 Chuck & Judy Garland
 Luc Girouard & Karine Cloutier
 Liz Harmer
 Devon Knight
 Sharon Masui
 In Honor of Joan Robertson
 In memory of Walter Roots
 Cate & Hannah Sandilands
 Holly Schofield
 David & Emily Sheldon
 Paul Ross & Marla Steinberg
 Tom Stevens

Chris Tollefson
 Cindy Weisbart & Eric Sherbine

SEA BLUSH (\$250-\$499/YEAR)

Daniel Blocksom & Emily Buttery
 Marianne Bos
 Trevor Bowden
 Barbara Dick & Malcolm Burrows
 In honour of Cathy Buttery & Sandy Pottle
 In honor of John Cairns
 Barbara Cole
 Geoff & Christine Gaylor
 David Gingrich
 Nicole Gross & Rene Zich
 Catherine Helliwell
 Steve Helsing
 Bruce Dolsen & Marian Lowery
 Kenneth MacCrimmon
 Susan Ogul-Propas
 Judy Parrack
 Lezlie Wagman
 Nancy Wilkin
 Gwen Will

FRIENDS OF THE CONSERVANCY

Anonymous (8)
 Mya Allisandra

Sheila Anderson
 Bob Andrew
 Dana Ayotte
 Michael Beach
 Travis Beaulieu
 June & Errol Beckford
 Raymond & Dina Bedard
 Rita Beiks
 Catherine Berris
 BOCCI
 Cedana Bourne
 Sandy Brown
 Martha Brownill
 LeeAnn & Ken Bryant
 Anthony Bryson
 Sarah Burgess
 Ian Chunn & Susan Reaney
 Tesni Clare
 Fionnula Collins
 Susanne Collins
 Ryan Cooper
 Karoline & Gary Cullen
 Deborah Curran
 Maren Dancer
 blake danis
 Suzanna Denholm
 Marc Destrube
 Rainbow Dunk
 Steven Dunk
 Brian Ellison
 Sid Fels
 Jan Fenby

Ilana Fonariv
 Greg & Shay Foster
 Jillian Froebe
 Raphael Gasc
 Lorin Gaertner
 Rosemary Georgeson
 Sandy Goldman
 Lynette Grants
 Becca Gray
 Auriel Grey
 Brendon Gross
 Carol Guin
 Gulf Islands Kayaking
 Eric Hagen
 Herb Hammond
 Meghan Hamp
 Sylvie Hawkes
 Rachelle Hayden
 Dorothy Henneveld
 Kathryn Holm
 Linda Hopson
 David Innes
 Cynthia Irvine
 Zoryan Ivakhiv
 Anna & Bowie Keefer
 Michael Keefer
 Demi Kelly
 Margot Kimmel
 Robin Kort
 Millie Kuyer
 Heather Legal
 Reed Legal



Diana Lilly
 Brenda Lomax
 Andrew Loveridge
 Maxime MacInnes-Cann
 Corinne Matheson & Wayne Bairstow
 Kendall McLaughlin
 Robin McLean
 In memory of Peter Midgley
 Marianne Mikkelsen
 Barbara & Gary Moore
 Anthony & Agathe Nolan
 Janice Oakley
 Shawn & Anna Ogden
 Lua Okuda-Gerber
 Brenda & Richard Orr
 Uladzimir Parkalau
 Martine Paulin & Christian Nally
 Geraldine Peet
 John Poppleton
 Linda Joan Quiney
 Shirlene Raines
 Graham Ramsay
 Joan Robertson
 Bonnie Robson
 Tahirih Rockafella
 Ana Sofia Roldan

Melissa Rossi
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 Paul Sanborn
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 Jane Wolverton
 Christine Yamashiro
 Bodega Ridge Resort

Islands Trust Conservancy
 Swallow Tail Culinary Adventures
 Transmountain Corporation
 United Way of the Lower Mainland

LEGACY CIRCLE

Anonymous (6)
 Dan Bloomberg
 Carolyn Canfield
 Kate Emmings & Keith Erickson
 Dan Moore & Julie Gardner
 Kimberly Kerns & Catherine Mateer
 Pearl Roberts & Roger Allen
 Geoff Stewart
 Andy Turner

The GCA gratefully received Legacy gifts from long-term supporters Geoff Stewart and Victoria Harrison, who passed away in 2025. Our deepest sympathies go out to their respective families.

A note to our supporters: We are grateful for your continued support and want to ensure we recognize your generous contributions with 100% accuracy. If we have made an error or an omission, please contact Martine Paulin, GCA Development Coordinator at development@galianoconservancy.ca so that we can correct it.



Backlit sword fern, photo by Lüthien Teel



Garter snake, photo by Sarah Fleming



