

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# Islands Trust

## **2012 Nominee Profile**

### **Ken Millard, Galiano Island**

<b>Category:</b>	Individual
<b>Project:</b>	Galiano Restorative Learning Centre property acquisition
<b>Nominator(s):</b>	Cheryl Bastedo
<b>Letters of Support:</b>	N/A

#### **Project Description:**

Ken Millard, a founding Director and a driving force behind the Galiano Conservancy for over 23 years, played the lead role in the decade-long negotiations that finally led to the recent purchase of a 76 hectare property suitable for the planned Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. The ecologically important property includes two kilometres of undeveloped waterfront in the rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem with several related species at risk.

For years, Ken worked with the owners of the property, their agent, directors and members of the Galiano Conservancy and with the Galiano Island community to protect this property. He negotiated with the Nature Conservancy of Canada for \$1.7 million in matching funds towards the purchase, and secured a loan from the Vancity Resilient Capital Fund to meet the closing deadline for the property purchase. Many community members donated to this project with some becoming monthly donors to cover interest payments on the loan, while others guaranteed the loan from Vancity.

As the initiator of the Galiano Conservancy's mapping, forest restoration, and environmental education projects Ken has encouraged a program that aims to restore the wellbeing and behaviour of urban youth. While some urban youth have camped in a Provincial Park for a three day program this does not provide the safe environment most teachers prefer. The purchase of this property will enable the development of the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre which will aim to provide affordable life-changing multi-day programs for inner-city youth.