



Islands Trust 2004 AWARD WINNER PROFILE

WINNER: KEN MILLARD

CATEGORY: INDIVIDUAL

**PROJECT: DIRECTOR GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION,
GALIANO ISLAND**

NOMINATOR: JANE WOLVERTON

Project Description:

As founder, Director and Coordinator of the Galiano Island Conservancy Association (1989-present) Dr. Ken Millard has initiated and concluded numerous stewardship initiatives. The initiatives include the following acquisitions of land: Mt. Sutil (42 acres), Pebble Beach Reserve (150 acres), Retreat Island (4 acres), Laughlin Lake (27 acres), the unique wetlands known as Great Beaver Swamp (40 acres), as well as working towards a marine protected area in Trincomali Channel.

In addition to the acquisition of these 263 acres of land, Ken is currently working on the management of an ecological reserve of 50 acres and this will increase to 250 acres of managed lands with the finalization of the Pebble Beach Reserve. In total over 500 acres are protected. Substantial community participation has been involved in all projects starting with acquisition, funding, creating management plans as well as work carried out upon the lands.

As a tireless volunteer, Ken has introduced and proven to other Gulf Islands as well as British Columbians generally the enormous potential of the “community-based land trust” to make local environmental responsibility a reality. Ken founded the Galiano Conservancy Association as a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to developing models of compatibility between settlement and their ecological setting through public education and stewardship. His devotion to this goal has inspired the formation of and success of dozens of similar conservancies throughout British Columbia.

As Coordinator, Ken has led a strong Board of Directors in a remarkable fulfillment of conservation, public awareness, and research objectives. Unique arrangements involving outright purchase, partnerships, covenants, and management agreements now protect a substantial portion of Galiano’s land and marine habitat. State of the art global positioning mapping, youth work teams, First Nations oral history, scientific and visitor information have all played a role in achieving these objectives. A permanent resource centre and outstanding library attracts public and academic researchers.

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program

The Galiano Island Conservancy Association has initiated a new program aimed at immersing youth in watershed ecology. The “From the Forest to the Sea Watershed Project” will take youth from the urban centers of Vancouver and Victoria to rural Galiano Island in the Georgia Basin.

Ken Millard, to support these acquisitions and endeavors has pioneered funding partnerships with various organizations including BC Nature Trust, the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., the Law Foundation of B.C., B.C. Hydro, B.C. Telephone, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. His efforts have created both permanent and summer employment opportunities on Galiano Island. Ken has built a remarkable legacy, not only on Galiano Island, but also throughout British Columbia.

Clearly, his effort on these projects and the non-confrontational way in which he has accomplished his goals fulfills the mandate of the Trust to preserve and protect these lands for future generations.