



News Release



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LAND ACQUISITION COMPLETES MID-GALIANO CONSERVATION NETWORK

VICTORIA — The Islands Trust Fund, Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada have secured 40 hectares (100 acres) of forestland on Galiano Island. Situated between the Great Beaver Swamp and the GCA's new learning center, the property becomes part of a continuous protected area of more than 500 hectares (1,200 acres) known as the Mid-Galiano Conservation Network.

The new nature reserve protects the remaining portion of the Great Beaver Swamp and much of its upland forest. Pockets of old-growth Douglas-fir and Garry oak stand on an inland bluff stretching across the property. Below, a lush forest of red alder, Western redcedar and bigleaf maple drapes over the new protected area. The Salish Sea is notable for an abundance of bird species, and this new nature reserve is no exception, protecting habitat for at-risk species such as Olive-sided Flycatcher and Great Blue Heron.

"The acquisition of DL 58 completes the creation of a network of diverse protected areas," said Ken Millard of the GCA. "This lot joins the Trincomali Nature Sanctuary to Bodega Ridge Provincial Park via a corridor comprising the Great Beaver Swamp, Cable Bay Restoration Forest, Laughlin Lake and the recently purchased Learning Centre Land on DL 57."

The Islands Trust Fund acquired the property thanks in part to generous donations from the members and supporters of the Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA). The Nature Conservancy of Canada joined the partnership, matching the funds raised by GCA with the support of the Government of Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program. The property will be protected by the Islands Trust Fund, with a conservation covenant registered in favour of GCA.

"Working in partnership with the GCA and the Nature Conservancy of Canada has resulted in a major conservation success for the Salish Sea," said Jennifer Eliason of the Islands Trust Fund. "Through GCA's long-term vision, there is now a network of permanently protected habitat across Galiano Island. This acquisition provides wonderful connectivity essential to the survival of many species."

The Islands Trust Fund and Galiano Conservancy Association will consult with the Galiano community to name the nature reserve and develop a management plan that will best care for the special natural features. Join Jeff Ralph of the Islands Trust Fund and Keith Erickson of the Galiano Conservancy on Friday, June 7th at 1:00pm, at the Galiano Community Hall (with a walk to follow) to discuss various issues, such as ecosystem management and public access. If you can't attend, please feel free to submit your comments online at www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca.

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"A Conservancy for Canada's Islands in the Salish Sea"

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