

UPDATED INFORMATION

Some additional information about this Ballenas initiative. Donations are being accepted at Ballenas Secondary school office. If a receipt is required, then please donate through the BC Parks Foundation website. The two grade 9 cohorts are attempting to raise as much as possible to present to BC Parks on Monday. Teacher, Shayne Vollmer, will drive anywhere to pickup a donation if someone isn't able to get to the school. He can be reached directly at 250 797-0365 and will follow all COVID protocols during pickup.

École Ballenas Secondary Fundraising for West Ballenas Island

The BC Parks Foundation is urgently raising \$1.7 million to purchase the privately-owned West Ballenas Island and grade 9 students from École Ballenas Secondary are helping to fundraise. The funds must be secured by November 17 for BC Parks Foundation to purchase the island by the end of November.

Ballenas students have been working extremely hard to raise as much as they can to protect the island's ecosystem and not see the island lost to development. One of the ways they are raising funds is the sale of firewood. We congratulate Ballenas students for their support of this project, an excellent demonstration of community participation.

We hope residents will consider supporting our Ballenas students with this initiative. Donations may be made as follows:

- BC Parks Foundation website
<https://bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/enhance/west-ballenas-island>
- Canada Helps
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/bc-parks-foundation/campaign/west-ballenas-island>
- École Ballenas Secondary
Contact is teacher Shayne Vollmer, 250 248-5721

West Ballenas Island is described as an undeveloped 100-acre island gem floating in the Salish Sea – one of BC's most threatened environments. Listed as one of the top ten most biodiverse sites in the Gulf Islands, West Ballenas is home to abundant bird populations, rare plants, threatened species, and marine life. It's also in a prime location for human use, being close to the rapidly growing Nanaimo-Parksville region of Vancouver Island. Part of Snaw-naw-as Nation territory, and long popular with local and international boaters visiting the surrounding archipelago, most people are not aware the island is privately held and zoned for development into a number of individual parcels.

https://bcparksfoundation.ca/site/assets/files/3311/west_ballenas_island_-_brochure.pdf

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For more information:

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