

# GaLTT AGM minutes 2010 to present

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## AGM 2010

February 23, 2010 at the Roxy, with 23 members in attendance.

**Called to order** at 7:15 by *Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, President* to welcome members and review the agenda.

**Dyan introduced Guest Speakers from** the Nanaimo Area Land Trust, Stephanie Mills, Coordinator, Chantale Poulin and Rachelle Evans who gave an interesting presentation on Nanaimo Area Land Trust Native Plant Nursery and Edible Plants project

**Business Meeting** called to order by Dyan at 8:15

Adoption of the 2009 AGM Minutes moved by D. Boehm and seconded by Steve Struthers. Carried.

## Annual Report 2009-2010

Each year life in GaLTT seems to get more intense: more activities, more issues and all supported by lots of enthusiasm and member support. The following are highlights of the key areas of activity for the organization this past year as well as an outline of some of the challenges we will face moving forward.

### Policy and Planning Activities

GaLTT has been involved in five major policy and planning initiatives this past year: the 707 park management planning process; the issue of invasive plant management; investigating the possibility of holding covenants; Sustainable Gabriola; and government relations.

#### 707 Management Planning

GaLTT board and members participated in the planning activities for the new 707 regional park. This included participating in meetings and events and submitting a formal position paper which was circulated to the membership for input prior to submission. A significant issue appears to be between people who want to leave the 707 alone and 'let it heal' and those who are interested in sustainable management to protect against further degradation. It is disappointing that there is still no draft plan for the community to respond to. When a plan is tabled, GaLTT will continue to seek member input in developing a response.

#### Invasive Plant Management

Another area of great concern for Gabriolans is the proliferation of Scotch broom on public and private lands. GaLTT spent considerable time in discussions with BC Parks staff about approaches to addressing the Scotch broom and other invasive plants in Drumbeg Provincial Park, and although our request for funding for our work crews was turned down, BC Parks indicated they will be working with the Invasive Plants Council to address

the situation in Drumbeg. Of course, GaLTT will continue to have crews work on the Scotch broom, daphne laurel, and vinca invasion.

### **Covenants**

The GaLTT board of directors decided that GaLTT is now well enough established to become a registered covenant holder and have almost completed the registration process. Although we do not currently have a particular covenant in mind, it is important that we are ready to take that step when the time comes.

### **Sustainable Gabriola and Inter-Organizational Relations**

The GaLTT Board, as well as many of our members, have been involved in the activities of Sustainable Gabriola. The value in this relationship is that it brings organizations and individuals together around common objectives. For example, GaLTT's interest in trails and Sustainable Gabriola's bike path proposal and transportation initiatives are a great fit. GaLTT's interests also intersect with topics like community resilience and well-being. Participating in Sustainable Gabriola has expanded our breadth of connections and helped to raise our profile. As well GaLTT continues to have a strong collaborative relationship with the Gabriola Conservancy.

### **Governmental Relations**

GaLTT has invested significant energy in developing strategic and effective relationships with local, regional and provincial government agencies. We have a strong working relationship with the Islands Trust Fund and the RDN, Parks and Recreation Department and will continue to develop those relationships. We have turned a corner, insofar as we are now frequently asked to comment on or participate in policy discussions. We value the confidence placed in us and will continue to work hard to conduct our business with thoughtfulness and integrity.

### **Projects**

GaLTT has been involved in three major projects this year, in addition to our regular bi-weekly trails projects, and, weekly booths at the Farmers Market and Christmas events. They are Elder Cedar Nature Reserve; the Tunnel trail proposal; and, The Commons Boardwalk.

#### **Elder Cedar Nature Reserve**

We have completed our second year of contracting with the Islands Trust Fund for management activities in Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. This year, we formally engaged in a contract to take over management oversight responsibilities as well as a contract for specific projects. One of those projects was the building of board walks in the marshy areas and at the upper creek crossing. We also removed Scotch broom and tansy ragwort from the well-head area.

## Tunnel

Our proposal to develop a roadside walking trail from Elder Cedar Nature Reserve to the corner of the 707 park transecting North Road received approval in principle from the Local Trust Committee of the Islands Trust (confirming that the project did not contravene any bylaws, policies or regulations) and was endorsed by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors to proceed. This means that RDN staff will submit our proposal to the Ministry of Transportation. We are hopeful that this will happen soon. GaLTT has committed to fund the construction of the trail with the understanding that the RDN would be responsible for public liability coverage.

## Commons

GaLTT was pleased to partner with the Commons to construct a boardwalk through the Commons wetland to the Redwood undeveloped road allowance, allowing people in the South Road area more direct pedestrian access to the school, Rollo Centre and Village. GaLTT paid for the construction materials and the Commons and GaLTT provided the volunteers who did the construction. And it is a thing of beauty.

## Financial Outlook

GaLTT is in good financial shape and for the first time in our history was required by the Canadian Revenue Agency to spend a portion of its funds (\$6000). CRA regulations require that a non-profit organization must spend a certain amount of their funds each year. We do have approval for an acquisition account and have slightly over \$30,000 in that account. In addition to the funding we receive through contracts (e.g. Elder Cedar) the most significant amount of our revenue comes from our members, primarily through membership fees and donations (approximately \$7,500 this year).

## Challenges moving forward

Early in GaLTT's life we committed to trying to create a network of trails and parks that would go from Drumbeg to Descanso by 2010. We are very close to achieving this objective and have several projects underway involving both public and private landholders. We will redouble our efforts over this next year to achieve our objective and hope that we can report success at the 2011 AGM.

There is one major challenge that this organization and many others will face in the coming years. There has been a reduction in provincial government investment in parks and trails and downloading to regional and local governments and to community organizations like GaLTT. The effect for us is that we are being asked to do more and more tasks that would in the past have been either done by government or funded by government. We continue to walk a very fine line between what is the legitimate and appropriate role for civil society institutions like GaLTT and what is ultimately the responsibility of government. We seek this balance in our work on a daily basis and are thankful for the support of our membership in helping us find a clear path.

We look forward to working with you in 2010.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, President

**Year End Financial Report presented** – copies available for members  
**Covenants Presentation** by Steve Struthers- an overview of GaLTT's interest in becoming registered to hold covenants links to GaLTT's mandate, and to the NAPTEP program. A question was asked from the audience about breach resolution? Steve explained that negotiation would be the first course of action. If negotiation was unsuccessful court action would follow for breach of contract.

**Presentation of 2010 slate and election of Directors** by Kerry Marcus, Past President

A slate of 14 Directors was presented. David Boehm declared a self nomination from the floor. Following a brief discussion of protocol and review of the by-laws regarding self-nominations, David's nomination was accepted. Nominations were closed and the Slate of 15 directors are as follows:

<b>Continuing – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term:</b>
Kerry Marcus
Colin Masson
Jenni Gehlbach
Duane West
Steve Struthers
<b>Directors Re-nominated and beginning a new 2 year term:</b>
John Peirce
Barbara Hague
Tom Cameron
Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley
Bob Smith
Randy Young
<b>New Directors</b>
Rufus Churcher
Bob Weenk
Peter Llewellyn
David Boehm

**Thanks to out-going Directors** Carol Boyce, John Orr, and Christine Purfield  
**Thanks to out-going President Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley** and small presentation of the board's appreciation for a job very well done.

**Door Prize Draw** – gift basket was won by Trish Gray.  
Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

## AGM 2011

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST

#### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday March 29, 2011; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven.**

1. Meeting called to order by Tom Cameron, President, at 7.05pm, with 45 members and guests present.
2. Cameron welcomed members and guests to GaLTT's eighth Annual General Meeting, summarized the proposed Agenda, and handed over to Past-President Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley to introduce the Guest Speaker, Dr. Warren Magnusson, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria.
3. Dr Magnusson spoke about "Community Processes and the Evolving Role of Non-Profit Organizations in Governance". Questions and comments were invited from the floor, and the speaker noted that he was impressed with the level of community volunteer commitment on Gabriola.
4. Cameron thanked the speaker, and Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley presented him with a bottle of wine noting that he had refused to accept an honorarium. Cameron also thanked our guests from other Gabriola non-profit organizations for attending (including Gabriola Commons, Sustainable Gabriola, PHC, Gabriola Museum, Friends of the Library, and the Healthcare Foundation, and Islands Trust).
5. **At 7.45, Cameron called the business meeting to order, with 33 members present.**
6. Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the 2010 AGM.

**MOTION: proposed by Bob Weenk, seconded David Boehm, to accept the minutes for the 2010 AGM as presented. Carried.**

7. Cameron presented GaLTT's Annual Report for 2010. He thanked Richard Welsh (in absentia) for many years of sterling service to GaLTT and welcomed Anne Drozd as our new bookkeeper/acountant.
8. Treasurer John Peirce presented GaLTT's year-end financial report and notes, attached to these minutes.
9. Dunsmoor-Farley presented the 2011 slate (attached) of 14 candidates of the Board, including one new candidate and called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

**ELECTION of directors: All 14 candidates were confirmed/elected.**

10. The door prize was won by member Phyllis Fafard.
11. There were no questions or comments from the floor.
12. **There being no further business, Cameron adjourn the AGM at 9 pm.**

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**

## AGM 2012

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST

#### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday February 7, 2012; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven.**

1. Meeting called to order by John Peirce, President, at 7 pm, with about 65 members & guests present.
2. Peirce welcomed members and guests to GaLTT's ninth Annual General Meeting, summarized the proposed Agenda, and introduced the Guest Speaker, Peter Lamb, former Director of the Islands Trust Fund and local trustee for Salt Spring Island, and author of "The Islands Trust Story".
3. Peter Lamb spoke about the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Islands Trust in 1974 and its evolution since that time. He discussed its relevance today in the face of governance challenges and economic pressures, explored the role of non-profit conservancies and land trusts and their relationship to the Islands Trust Fund, and spoke of the importance of the IT mandate in avoiding the "creative destruction" of communities as occurred in Niagara-on-the-Lake village.
4. Tom Cameron thanked Lamb and moderated questions to the speaker from the floor.
5. The draw for the door prize was brought forward so that those not wishing to remain for the business meeting could leave. Peirce drew Peter Barchyn's name as the winner of the door prize.
6. **At 8pm, John Peirce called the business meeting to order, with about 35 members present.**
7. Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the 2011 AGM.

**MOTION: proposed by Norm Harburn, seconded by David Boehm, to accept the minutes for the 2011 AGM as presented. Carried.**

8. John Peirce presented GaLTT's Annual Report for 2011, speaking of the new covenants completed and under negotiation; recently signed trail licences with private landowners; continuing work on trail breaking and maintenance; control of invasive plants on public lands; board and members co-developing a new strategic plan for the next five years; and restructuring the board to enable the resulting new and expanded initiatives. He also discussed the probable need for future fund-raising for covenant and land acquisition expenses.

Peirce announced the completion of the Elder Cedar covenant, to be co-held by NALT and GaLTT on lands owned by the Islands Trust Fund, and the document was signed and witnessed at the meeting.

9. Treasurer Tom Cameron presented GaLTT's year-end financial report and notes, attached to these minutes, explaining some minor accounting procedural changes made this year.

**MOTION: proposed by Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, seconded by Rose Jones, to accept the 2011 Financial Report as presented. Carried.**

10. Secretary Jenni Gehlbach presented the 2012 slate (attached) of candidates for the Board, including, six current directors continuing for one more year of their term; six current directors standing for re-election to a two-year term; three new candidates standing for a two-year term. Gehlbach called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

**MOTION: proposed by Tawny MacLachlan Capon, seconded by Anne Drozd to elect the slate of 15 candidates as presented. Carried.**

John Peirce welcomed the new board members and thanked outgoing board members Barb Hague and Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley for their many years of service to GaLTT, presenting each of them with a potted Nandina plant.

11. There were no questions or comments from the floor. **There being no further business, Peirce adjourn the AGM at 9 pm.**

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**

## AGM 2013

### **GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST Annual General Meeting Monday February 4, 2013; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven**

1. Meeting called to order by John Peirce, President, at 7 pm, with about 30 members & guests present.
2. Peirce welcomed members and guests to GaLTT's Annual General Meeting, reviewed the proposed Agenda, and introduced the guest speaker, Ken Millard, Coordinator of Galiano Conservancy.
3. Ken Millard presented a series of maps illustrating the growth of Galiano Conservancy since the 1970s, and the preservation of lands on Galiano Island in various forms of parkland and conservation areas, and their network of connectivity. He also described the organization's affiliations with Canadian conservation bodies (both governmental and non-governmental), their staffing and fund-raising methods, their human-powered, diesel-free restoration and conservation work, and their current plans for developing a Learning Centre for urban youth on their most recent 180-acre land acquisition. He then answered questions from the floor.
4. John Peirce thanked Ken for his presentation and since an honorarium had been declined, said that GaLTT will send a donation to the Galiano Conservancy.
5. **At 8.10pm, John Peirce called the business meeting to order.**
6. Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the 2012 AGM.

**MOTION: proposed by Norm Harburn, seconded by David Boehm, to accept the minutes for the 2012 AGM as presented. Carried.**

7. John Peirce presented GaLTT's Annual President's Report for 2012, speaking of
  - a) Our increased membership, successful fund-raising and recent *in memoriam* donations for Richard Welsh.
  - b) The imminent signing of a covenant on Sally Robinson's land between Cooper and Thompson Roads, by the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts—their first covenant in BC. The meeting acknowledged Sally for her generosity with both land and money.
  - c) Our support for the Gabriola Streamkeepers group formed in June 2012 by (board member) Melanie Mamoser and Jethro Baker. Melanie described their purposes and their work to date, including their map of the major Gabriola streams, stream cleanup activities, a training workshop, and working with Ms Peacock's elementary class.



- d) Publishing our successful new trail map—first edition nearly sold out—and the upcoming second edition on stronger paper and including some old omitted trails, and several newly licensed trails on lands owned by Jenny Marcus and Michael Brown (near Berry Point), Ulrike Porat (connecting Petroglyph Park with Petroglyph Drive, and Dean Gaudry (connecting South Road with 707-acre Park).
  - e) Preliminary work done by David Boehm on locating some of Gabriola's big trees and our hopes to produce a more complete, formal Big Tree Registry in the coming year.
  - f) Our support for the Village Trail and \$1000 donation to Gabriola Commons for the portion through their property.
  - g) Continuing volunteer work breaking and maintaining trails, installing signage, and removing invasive species from public areas.
  - h) Public education about trail usage, environmental protection and invasive species.
8. In the absence of Treasurer Tom Cameron, GaLTT's advising accountant Anne Drozd presented the Financial Statement for 2012, explaining the major items and taking questions.

**MOTION: proposed by Anne Drozd, seconded by David Boehm, to accept the Financial Statement for 2012 as presented. Carried.**

9. Peirce announced that GaLTT had applied to be able to receive Canadian Ecological Gifts and had been advised to add a clause to our bylaws about the disposal of ecological gifts in the unlikely event of GaLTT's dissolution.

**MOTION: proposed by Norm Harburn, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach that Part 9 of GaLTT's Constitution and Bylaws regarding Sale of Land be amended by the addition of Clause 9.3 as follows: "*Further to the protection in perpetuity of Ecological Gifts, all such properties would be disposed to eligible Ecological Gifts Program recipients, before or separate from any payments of the organization's debts.*" Carried.**

10. Secretary Jenni Gehlbach presented the 2013 slate (attached) of candidates for the Board. Five Directors have stepped down. Eight current Directors are continuing for one more year of their term and two are standing for re-election to a two-year term. One new candidate (an ex-Director and ex-President) is standing for a one-year term, and four new candidates are standing for two-year terms. Gehlbach called for further nominations from the floor. There were none.

**MOTION: proposed by Rufus Churcher, seconded by David Boehm to elect the slate of 15 candidates as presented. Carried.**

John Peirce welcomed the new board members and thanked outgoing board members Rufus Churcher, Kerry Marcus, Colin Masson, Steve Struthers, and Duane West for their expertise and years of service to GaLTT.

11. Names were drawn for the door prize (a basket of assorted gifts donated by Board members). New board member Rob Brockley declined to receive the prize, so member Carol Boyce's name was drawn.
12. There were no questions or comments from the floor. There being no further business, Peirce adjourn the AGM at 9.15 pm.

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**

## AGM 2014

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST

#### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday February 4, 2014; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven**

13. Meeting called to order by John Peirce, President, at 7.05 pm, with about 30 members & guests present.
14. Peirce welcomed members and guests to GaLTT's Annual General Meeting, reviewed the proposed Agenda, and introduced the guest speaker, Katie Blake, Conservation Coordinator and Analyst (BC Region) for Nature Conservancy of Canada.
15. Katie Blake talked about Conservation work in today's complex world. We need to:
  - Do our work well; not everything can be done. Identify high priority areas and stay focussed, avoiding "mission and scope creep".
  - Secure lands from development by a variety of means such as fee simple gifts, donations, purchase, covenants, and/or forfeiture of mineral rights. NCC uses the "willing seller, willing buyer" principle and does not support forced acquisition.
  - Steward the land for the long term—this is expensive. She recounted the process of restoring a 2-acre sawmill site in Campbell River estuary: purchasing the land after the sawmill closed; removing structures, logbooms, and fill; bringing in new topsoil; replanting native species; removing invasive species for several years while the plantings became established. It cost more than \$1million.
  - Mitigate/reduce net loss of habitat due to inevitable development, for example through habitat compensation funding paid by developers to government or conservation organizations. NCC aims for a 3:1 net gain using biodiversity offsets (*cf* carbon offsets).
  - Bring all your resources (personnel and financial) to conservation.She enlarged on each of these points and then took questions from the floor.
4. Carol Hemrich thanked Katie for her presentation and gave her a gift of wine.
5. The door prize draw was moved forward so that people who did not wish to stay for the business meeting could leave. Board member Norm Harburn's name was drawn for the basket of assorted gifts donated by Board members, but he declined to receive the prize, so volunteer Jamie Doig's name was drawn.
6. **At 8.10pm, John Peirce called the business meeting to order.** He conveyed regrets from Kerry Marcus (founding President and current board candidate) who is sick, and from Sheila Malcolmson (Islands Trust representative), who had a conflicting meeting.

7. Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the 2013 AGM.  
**MOTION: proposed by David Boehm, seconded by Howard Houle, to accept the minutes for the 2013 AGM as presented. Carried.**
8. John Peirce presented GaLTT's Annual President's Report: He noted that 2014 is GaLTT's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Much has been achieved in this time. He acknowledged attending members Carol Boyce and Bart Jessop who served on the first board.
  - a) A major milestone this year was finalizing American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts' first BC cross-border covenant on Sally Robinson's land between Cooper and Thompson Roads.
  - b) We have received \$25,000 in donations this year.
  - c) Gabriola Streamkeepers have been very active and successful in their first year, mapping streams, working with students at Gabriola Elementary, offering workshops on Stream-keeping methodology, cleaning up local streams, examining the health of local streams, culminating in recently finding salmon alevin in Mallet Creek. They have initiated a project through RDN to restore Winthuysen Creek in Descanso Bay Regional Park.
  - d) We published the second edition of our successful trail map on tougher, water-resistant paper, and including several newly licensed trails. Peirce acknowledged the generous donation of time and expertise by Cameron Murray of "Topographics" to this project.
  - e) He acknowledged retiring board member Catherine Adam Legg's strong Community Outreach initiative this year, in particular the very successful series of guided walks: along False Narrows, in and around Cox Community and Descanso Bay Regional Parks, demystifying the trails in 707-Acre Park, investigating pebbles on Whalebone Beach, bird-watching in Coats Marsh and Sandwell Park, and in October, the "end-to-end" walk from Descanso Bay to Silva Bay. In all, over 400 people took part in these walks and activities.
  - f) Seven board members attended an LTABC workshop on covenants, which alerted us to several issues and activities needing our attention as we move forward with covenants and land stewardship.
  - g) We are looking for a volunteer to take our Big Tree field notes and convert them to a viewable, usable register that respects private landowners.
  - h) We have noticed a drop-off in the number of volunteers working on our trails and are unsure why. Nevertheless, our 2013 volunteer log shows that 60 individuals put in 230 hours building trails and boardwalks, and managing invasive plants. Board members put in almost as much time again. We would like to increase participation of younger people, possibly highschool students.

9. Peirce announced that to mark our tenth anniversary, GaLTT wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary on-going contributions of the McCollum family (Don and Louanne) and of Sally Robinson to our work. The Board has offered them Honorary Life Memberships in GaLTT. They are off-island at the moment, but will accept their certificates when they return.
10. Treasurer Tom Cameron, presented the Financial Statement for 2013 prepared by Anne Drozd and approved for presentation at the AGM by the board at January's board meeting. He noted a minor error in the numbering of the endnotes, and explained the major items, taking questions.  
**MOTION: proposed by Tom Cameron, seconded by Norm Harburn, to accept the Financial Statement for 2013 as presented. Carried.**  
Cameron noted that this Financial Statement will be used in our annual report to CRA required to maintain our Charitable Status. Roughly a quarter of annual expenditures are for administrative costs to maintain the status quo. The bulk of revenue is banked/invested related to our long-term mission "to secure, develop, and sustain a network of parkland and trails on Gabriola". Significant expenditures this year were the re-issued trail map, the new brochure, and board training at the covenant workshop, which stressed the need to plan the funding of long-term covenant obligations. Aside from one significant donation this year, our annual income roughly equaled our expenditures, so this year we will engage in strategic planning and fundraising. Our main source of income is receipted charitable donations, including membership fees, for which our members receive no "benefit" other than the right to vote at the AGM. We hope to persuade members to choose to make small monthly donations rather than an annual fee. (\$5 per month is manageable but produces \$60 per person rather than the \$20 for an individual annual membership fee.)
11. Secretary Jenni Gehlbach presented the 2014 slate of candidates for the Board. Four Directors have stepped down (Peter Barchyn, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Catherine Adam Legg, and Bob Weenk). Four current Directors are continuing for one more year of their term and seven are standing for re-election to a two-year term. Three new candidates (Heather Kay, Kerry Marcus, and Josh Taylor) are standing for two-year terms. Gehlbach called for further nominations from the floor. There were none.  
**MOTION: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by David Boehm to elect the slate of candidates as presented. Carried.**  
John Peirce welcomed the new board members and thanked outgoing board members for their expertise and years of service to GaLTT.
12. There were no questions or comments from the floor. There being no further business, Peirce adjourn the AGM at 9.15 pm following a motion to adjourn from Gehlbach.

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**

## AGM 2015

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST

#### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday February 3, 2015; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven**

16. Meeting called to order by John Peirce, President, at 7.00pm. Peirce welcomed about 57 members and guests to GaLTT's Annual General Meeting, reviewed the proposed Agenda, and introduced the guest speaker, Dr Kees Groot, retired researcher from Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, whose work investigated Pacific Salmon migration, and later, problems related to salmon enhancement and global climate change.
17. **SPEAKER: Dr Kees Groot talked amusingly and educationally about "The Sex Lives of Salmon"** describing the behavioural and physical changes that occur in salmon around the time of spawning. After questions from the floor, board member Kerry Marcus thanked Kees for his presentation and gave him a gift of wine.
18. **At 8pm, John Peirce called the business meeting to order with 40 members present.** He conveyed regrets from RDN representative Howard Houle and Board candidate Rebecca Furnell, who had conflicting meetings.
19. **MINUTES:** Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the previous AGM held February 4, 2014.

**MOTION: proposed by Carol Boyce, seconded by Norm Harburn, to accept the minutes for the 2014 AGM as presented. Carried.**

20. **PRESIDENTS'S REPORT:** John Peirce presented GaLTT's Annual President's Report.
  - a) We have acquired four more trail licences for:
    - i. An enlarged trail system in Haven Woods (extending from King Road behind Twin Beaches Centre to Fin Road) granted by UK owner Harriet Thomas;
    - ii. A trail linking Haven Woods to Bruce Lynn Drive, granted by owner Konrad Jaschke. It links to the previously licensed Brockley trail through to Cox Community Park.
    - iii. A trail from Community Hall through Jo Anne Fath and Miguel Johnstone's property, through to Peirce's property.
    - iv. A trail through John Peirce and Nancy Heatherington Peirce's property, completing the connection from Community Hall to Lois Lane, with a Garry Oak loop.
  - b) A new lake-view trail loop has been developed in Cox Community Park.
  - c) Randy Young's trail maintenance crew has worked every two weeks all year. 63 volunteers have logged a total of 358 hours of work.

- d) Gabriola Streamkeepers have placed signs at five stream crossings, and have started their monitoring and restoration work at Winthuysen Creek.
- e) Peirce offered congratulations to retired Board member Melanie Mamoser, who was elected as one of Gabriola's new Island Trustees.
- f) In April GaLTT Board and interested members (around 25 people) held a workshop facilitated by Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley to develop a Strategic Plan for the next five years. They completed the process in the Fall, and accepted the final draft at their January board meeting. Printed copies are available by request, and electronic copies (pdf) will be sent to all members, and downloadable from GaLTT's website. Peirce summarized the six major strategic directions, the goals within them and the expected outcomes.
- Appropriate mandate and scope
  - Enhanced organizational capacity
  - Comprehensive trail planning and stewardship
  - Land acquisition and protection of sensitive ecosystems
  - Strengthened intergovernmental and community relations.
  - Increased public engagement.

21. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Tom Cameron, presented the Financial Statement for 2014 prepared by Anne Drozd and approved for presentation at the AGM by the board at their January 2015 board meeting.

**MOTION: proposed by Tom Cameron, seconded by Norm Harburn, to accept the Financial Statement for 2014 as presented. Carried.**

Cameron noted that revenue and expenditures remain much the same for the last three years, as expected in a stable organization. The main source of revenue is receipted charitable donations, including our membership fees. Any excess revenue is banked/invested toward our aims.

Expenditures were made for trail building, fence construction (Elder Cedar), stream-crossing road signs, and trail signs, trail licences, liability insurance, Streamkeeper projects, and conservation easements. Our fixed administrative costs for insurance, our website, memberships, and PO Box make up the bulk. We also this year purchased a fireproof filing cabinet for our records. The largest expenditure category is maintaining organizational memberships.

The 358 hours of volunteer trail work logged was valued at \$5380 (\$15 per hour) to the community. In addition the board and our accountant logged voluntary hours worth well over \$20,000. Last year we received a \$5000 donation, but we cannot plan for the future based on expectations of such donations. He noted that a small monthly donation transferred to GaLTT's bank account is far easier to administer than annual membership fees, avoiding multiple reminders, and is a convenient way to support GaLTT. As we move forward with our strategic plan, Cameron hopes that we can move toward a project-based budget system with delegated authority, and that we renew emphasis on obtaining grants and partnership funding. Cameron is stepping down as Treasure and Board member Josh Taylor is willing to take on that role. Advising accountant Anne Drozd has also stepped down, and Cameron thanked her for her very extensive work and helpful advice. GaLTT has been unable to find another volunteer to fill this role, and has hired Maureen O'Rourke to keep our monthly books and produce our annual Financial Statement on a fee-for-services basis at a preferred rate. Membership records will be handled by Board member Heather Kay.

22. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Norm Harburn (Vice President) awarded **Honorary Life Memberships** to:

- **Anne Drozd** in recognition of her generous and thorough voluntary contribution to GaLTT's accounting record-keeping and membership tracking for the past four years.
- **Leigh Anne Milman** in recognition of her conservation work on Gabriola for many years, including significant work in preserving Elder Cedar and Coats Marsh.
- **John Peirce** for his service over the past years as President in developing GaLTT's capacity to hold covenants and issue trail licences, and, in particular, for his significant work with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, resulting in the acquisition of their



first BC cross-border covenant last year when Robinson Woods was protected on Gabriola.

Randy Young acknowledged the contribution of three “**super volunteers**” who have logged many hours of trail maintenance work this year. **Sam Betts** was presented *in absentia* with a new machete; **Peter McLaren** was awarded a pouched set of clippers, and board member **Norm Harburn** was thanked.

23. **BOARD ELECTION:** Director Kerry Marcus presented the 2015 slate of candidates for the Board. Two Directors have stepped down (Carol Hemrich and Melanie Mamoser). Eight current Directors are continuing for one more year of their term and four are standing for re-election to a two-year term (see attached slate). Three new candidates (Rebecca Furnell, Christopher Hills, Megan Walker) are standing for two-year terms. Marcus called for further nominations from the floor. There were none.  
**The slate of 15 candidates was acclaimed unanimously as presented.**
24. The door prize was won by Kerry Marcus.
25. There being no questions from the floor, and no further business, Peirce adjourn the AGM at 9.15 pm following a motion to adjourn from Gehlbach.

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**

## AGM 2016

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST

#### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday February 3, 2016; at The Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven

1. Meeting called to order by Norm Harburn, President, at 7:05pm. Harburn welcomed about 28 members and guests and three Haven staff members to GaLTT's Annual General Meeting, presented the proposed Agenda, and introduced the guest speakers, Libby King and Chuck Desorcy from Greenways Land Trust.

**2. SPEAKERS: Dr Libby King and Chuck Desorcy from Greenways Land Trust (Campbell River).**

**Topic: "Looking after our trails and streams".**

The speakers gave a presentation outlining their work on stream keeping, stewardship agreements, 'adopt a trail' program, invasive species management, working with schools (education and working on projects and maintenance) and their Greenways loop project (25km trail loop encircling the city). The speakers answered questions from the audience, mostly regarding invasive species removal. Kerry Marcus thanked the speakers and presented them with gifts.

**3. At 8pm, Norm Harburn (President) called the business meeting to order with 23 members present.**

(regrets from board members: Madeleine Ani, Jenni Gehlbach)

**4. MINUTES:** Rebecca Furnell presented the minutes from the previous AGM held February 3, 2015.

**MOTION: proposed by Rebecca Furnell, seconded by Heather Kay, to accept the minutes for the 2015 AGM as presented. No discussion. Carried (unanimous).**

**5. PRESIDENTS'S REPORT:** Norm Harburn presented GaLTT's Annual President's Report outlining the past year's work and highlights from each of GaLTT's committees.

#### Membership

- Chair – Heather Kay
- Today's membership is 152 vs 150 in 2015
- 57 of those are 5 yr memberships, 11 are monthly memberships.
- In 2015, policy change from calendar yr to full year(s) term from date of joining
- It would be great if we could get more 5 yr and monthly donors to cut down costs for mailings

Trails and Parks Management Committee

- Chair – Randy Young
- Work parties every 2nd Sunday on trails maintenance and invasive plants removal
- New GaLTT funded pedestrian bridge near Joyce Lockwood Park – a HUGE improvement!
- MacDonald East trail surfacing upgrade
- New trails developed – Haven Woods, Mallet Creek
- Signage improvements 707 Community Park, Cox Community Park

#### Acquisitions, Covenants& Trail Committee

- Co Chairs-Rob Brockley and Anne Landry
- Receipt of donations in memory of a community member
- New trail licence with Gabriola Arts Council near WI
- Conducted annual monitoring on covenanted properties
- Trail signage improvements in Cox Park
- Work planning with Islands Trust for Elder Cedar Nature Reserve, and covenant transition from NALT
  - GaLTT is a co-covenant holder with NALT and the has lead monitoring responsibility
  - GaLTT management contract with Islands Trust Fund for maintenance
- GaLTT contributed \$1000 to renewal of the hard surfaced trail at the Gabriola Museum
- To come: Wouldn't it be fantastic to have wheelchair access to the ocean at both beaches at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park? BC Parks lists only one handicapped accessible beach in the Province!

#### Community Engagement

- Chair-Kerry Marcus
- GaLTT presence at Farmers Market and community events
- Name the Spot contest with prizes
- Map supplies to our distributors
- Summer walking series, Forest Bathing, New Years Day
- Trans Gabriola Trek, spring and fall, Silva Bay to Surf Lodge
- Trail map revision work underway for 2016 edition
- Community project policy – Streamkeepers and FIDO

#### Outreach

- Big Tree Registry - Chair Rob Brockley with David Boehm
  - On line inventory by species. Public invited to participate – it's fun!
- Interpretive pamphlets – self guided walks in Cox Community park and Haven Woods, more in the works for 2016
- Walks and work parties with other community groups – led buy various Directors

### Streamkeepers SubCommittee

- Board Representative – Chris Hills
- Focus on Mallet Creek (Rooks-Peacock property) monitoring and assessment, with landowners support in 2015
  - Pumpkin seed fish present, as yet no evidence of salmon (culvert at Taylor Bay Rd impedes access)
- Signage installed on North and South Rd naming several main creeks

### Communications Committee

- Chair - Jenni Gehlbach
- Minutes, correspondence, maintaining paper and electronic records
- New pamphlets design for self-guided walk series
- Newspaper articles
- Website design and maintenance
- Facebook page (LIKE us!)
- Email communication with members
- Produced a printed and downloadable newsletter
- Created the new Gabriola big tree website

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Josh Taylor introduced himself and indicated that Heather Kay will be replacing him as Treasurer in the 2016 year. Josh presented the Financial Statement for 2015 prepared by accountant, Maureen O'Rourke and approved for presentation at the AGM by the board at their January 2016 board meeting along with some information about revenue streams, expenses and donation avenues.

### Financial Summary

- Revenue and expenditures are similar to last year
- Main source of revenue is charitable donations
- Charitable expenditures were made for trail building, trail licences, liability insurance, Streamkeepers projects and conservation easements
- Administrative costs for insurance, website, memberships in other organizations, and our PO Box are fixed, and remain our biggest expenditures
- \$142,000 in the bank is fantastic, but this is not a lot in the context of land costs and our obligations for our covenants and licenses

**MOTION: proposed by Josh Taylor, seconded by David Boehm , to accept the Financial Statement for 2015 as presented. Carried (unanimous).**

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Randy Young related a story to the audience about the last work party he organized putting in a new loop trail at the Honeysuckle gravel pit.

Randy then acknowledged the contribution of work party attendees who put in the most volunteer hours over the past year and presented them with prizes.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rob Brockley (“prize”- log book for future work parties which he will now be organizing!)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phyllis Fafard
- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter McClaren

Heather Kay awarded Honorary Lifetime Memberships to Randy and Lynne Young and thanked them both for their extensive contributions and noted that the new foot bridge at Joyce Lockwood will have a plaque honouring them.

Tom Cameron also personally acknowledged the huge amount of work that Randy has done for trails on Gabriola.

**8. BOARD ELECTION:** Director Rebecca Furnell presented the 2016 slate of candidates for the Board.

2015 Directors who have stepped down (3)

Josh Taylor  
Megan Walker  
Randy Young

Current Directors continuing for one more year of their term (6):

Madeleine Ani  
Rob Brockley  
Rebecca Furnell  
Jenni Gehlbach  
Norm Harburn  
Christopher Hills

Current Directors standing for re-election to 2 year term (6)

David Boehm  
Tom Cameron  
Heather Kay  
Anne Landry  
Kerry Marcus  
John Peirce

New Nomination for a 2 year term

Ron Bilquist

Furnell called for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Furnell proposed the motion to acclaim the board slate as presented, seconded by Rob Brockley. Discussion none.

**The slate of 13 candidates was acclaimed unanimously as presented.**

Norm acknowledged the departure of Megan Walker and Josh Taylor who are leaving the board.

**9. Questions from the floor**

- Deborah Ferens presented a thank you letter from Stream keepers for GaLTT’s help and involvement
- Christie Wilson asked if there was any work being done to protect the eroding petroglyphs behind the United Church. Randy noted that the

archaeological branch of the government is likely the department that would potentially take responsibility for that.

10. The door prize was won by: Ron Bilquist!

11. Norm Harburn adjourned the meeting at 8:47

**Minutes recorded by Rebecca Furnell.**

## DRAFT MINUTES of AGM 2017

To be amended or approved at AGM 2018

### GABRIOLA LAND AND TRAILS TRUST Annual General Meeting Wednesday February 22, 2017; at The Roxy, Twin Beaches

1. Meeting called to order by Norm Harburn, President, at 7pm. Harburn welcomed about 50 members and guests to GaLTT's Annual General Meeting and Presentation. He referred to the proposed Agenda, and introduced guest speaker Elke Wind.

**2. SPEAKER: Elke Wind.**

**Topic: "Frogs, Freshwater Ponds, Fragmentation, and Fish".**

The speaker began by saying that 32% of the world's amphibian population is threatened with extinction due to climate changes, invasive creatures such as bullfrogs, and disease. She said they are greatly threatened in more open, drier areas of North America, and somewhat less so in forested, damp climates such as ours. She stressed the **importance of maintenance of wetlands, and especially ephemeral ponds**, which are less suitable for fish habitat.

Amphibians have semi-permeable skin, depend on aquatic *and* terrestrial habitat, have low vagility (can't escape), and high philopatry (stay on site). She described the species of frogs, toads, and salamanders (including newts) to be found in BC and outlined their characteristics and needs for survival. She took questions on what she said, and on suitable and unsuitable plantings and management of garden ponds to encourage amphibians.

**3. At 8pm, Norm Harburn (President) called the business meeting to order with 37 members present.**

(regrets from board members: Madeleine Ani, Ron Bilquist, Rob Brockley, and Anne Landry.

**4. MINUTES:** Jenni Gehlbach presented the minutes from the previous AGM held February 3, 2016.

**MOTION: proposed by Jenni Gehlbach, seconded by David Boehm, to accept the minutes for the 2016 AGM as presented. No discussion.**

**Carried (unanimous).**

**5. PRESIDENTS'S REPORT:** Norm Harburn presented GaLTT's Annual President's Report outlining the past year's work and highlights from each of GaLTT's committees.

Executive Committee

Chair—Norm Harburn

- Board development
  - Building a strong organization
  - Maintaining membership
  - Board succession planning
  - Insurance considerations
  - Sharing TLC experience 6 years into court-ordered protection

- Policy development: received grant to develop and update operational policies to meet two Canadian Land Trust standards:
  - Evaluating and selecting conservation projects
  - Funding conservation agreement stewardship
- Ensuring compliance with BC's new Society Act—transitioning GaLTT's constitution and by-laws.

#### Membership Committee

Chair – Heather Kay

- Today's membership is 152 active single and family memberships
- 63 of those are 5-year memberships, 23 are monthly donor memberships
- 7 honorary life memberships
- Members are notified when their membership has expired and we are striving to increase the overall number of members and to encourage 5-year and monthly donor memberships.
- The full amount of the membership fee is eligible for a tax receipt.

#### Trails and Parks Management Committee

Chair – Rob Brockley

- Work parties every 2nd Sunday:
  - trail trimming
  - boardwalk installation
  - drainage improvement
  - invasive plants removal
  - trail, beach-access, and park signage improvements
- 470 hours of volunteer labour in 2016
- 28 trail stewards monitoring their assigned trails.

#### Acquisitions, Covenants & Trail Committee

Chair—Anne Landry

- Provided \$10,000 donation toward purchasing land adjacent to Dodd Narrows for a park on Mudge Island. Cooperated with RDN parks department and Mudge Island Conservation to achieve this.
- Monitored three conservation covenants held or co-held by GaLTT to ensure conditions of the covenants are maintained.
- Held and renewed 12 trail licences with private land owners, making important neighbourhood connections and/or supporting GaLTT's trans-Gabriola trail objective “from Descanso to Drumbeg”

#### Community Engagement Committee

Chair-Kerry Marcus

- GaLTT presence at Farmers Market and community events
  - answering questions about parks and trails for cycling and hiking
  - answering questions about the Potlatch density transfer proposal relevant to GaLTT's mandate.
- Producing and distributing the 2016 edition (3<sup>rd</sup>) of the Trail Map—best sales yet: 856 maps sold directly or distributed via vendors.
- Summer guided walk series—one per month.



- Trans Gabriola Trek, spring Descanso Bay to Silva Bay (with Gertie to travel back)
- Place-based school initiative and Girl Guide broom pulling

#### Outreach

- Big Tree Registry (Ron Bilquist with David Boehm)
  - On line inventory by species.
  - Everyone invited to participate – it's fun!
- Self guided walk pamphlet #3: Joyce Lockwood Park and beyond (Rob Brockley and Jenni Gehlbach)
- Walks and work parties with other community groups – led by various Directors

#### Streamkeepers Committee (semi autonomous)

GaLTT Board Representative – Chris Hills; Chair Deborah Ferens

- Community involvement: Girl Guides and the Grad 1–2 class at Gabriola Elementary.
- Information booth at the Commons' Spring Fair and at Oceans Day in Descanso Bay Park
- Continued participation in the RDN's watershed monitoring initiative
- A visit from David Clough to help with new technology
- Starting a thorough baseline survey of Lower Mallett Creek, below Taylor Bay Road.

#### Communications Committee

Chair - Jenni Gehlbach

- Meeting minutes and maintaining GaLTT's paper and electronic records
- Email communication with members and volunteers
- Newspaper letters, articles, and advertisements
- Design and production of a third pamphlet in the self-guided walk series
- Co-production with the museum of a pamphlet about Gabriola's native plants.
- Production and distribution of the 2016 newsletter.
- Helping with production of the 2016 map edition.
- Website design, updates, and maintenance, including the big tree registry.
- Facebook page (LIKE us!); monitoring Community FB pages for GaLTT-related topics

#### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Heather Kay presented the full Financial Statement for 2016 prepared by accountant, Maureen O'Rourke and approved for presentation at the AGM by the board in January.

#### Financial Summary

- **Revenue:** \$24, 021 (\$13, 269 from memberships and donations; \$10,450 from fundraising).

Highlights:

- Slightly increased donations and map sales
- Raffle of John Poirier photo

- Elder Cedar maintenance contract
- **Expenses:** \$25, 794 (\$3983 trail-building; \$5581 printing brochures and maps; \$1331 contributions TCT & museum walkway; \$14150 accounting, legal, insurance, office, rentals, board training, consulting fees). Highlights:
  - Use of restricted funds to put \$10,000 toward buying land for the Mudge Island park.
  - \$1000 contribution to the Trans Canada Trail
  - Investment in Board training and policy development.

**MOTION: proposed by Heather Kay, seconded by Jenni Gehlbach, that the GaLTT Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2016 be accepted as presented. No discussion or questions. Carried (unanimous).**

### **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Our successes are the result of the high value of volunteer time and labour. Ron Brockley being absent, Norm Harburn acknowledged and thanked the most noteworthy of our many trail work volunteers throughout 2016. Each was awarded a pair of specialized clippers.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Helenius (25 hours)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Doig (30 hours)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Frank Rotering (78 hours, singlehandedly managing Haven Woods)

**8. BOARD ELECTION:** Director Kerry Marcus presented the 2017 slate of candidates for the Board. Two current Directors are stepping down: John Peirce and Madeleine Ani.

Ani was unable to attend the AGM, but Norm Harburn acknowledged the importance of her contributions to the Board's work on licences and policies.

Marcus paid tribute to the huge contribution of John Peirce to GaLTT since joining the Board in 2008. He has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President (two terms). Before he lived full-time on Gabriola he also served on the Gabriola Conservancy's board. She noted his organizational strengths and leadership on the board, his special role in developing our capacity to hold covenants and issue trail licences, and the critical role he had in developing with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts BC's first cross-border covenant (for which work GaLTT already granted him an honorary lifetime membership.) He will serve now as Vice President of American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts.

**SLATE of candidates for 2017:**

- Current Directors continuing for one more year of their term (6):  
Ron Bilquist  
David Boehm  
Tom Cameron  
Heather Kay  
Anne Landry  
Kerry Marcus
- Current Directors standing for re-election to 2-year term (5)  
Rob Brockley  
Rebecca Furnell  
Jenni Gehlbach  
Norm Harburn  
Chris Hills
- New Nominations for a 2-year term (3)  
Peter Danenhower  
Nola Johnston  
Lou Skinner

Marcus called for further nominations from the floor. There were none. **There being no other candidates, the slate of 14 candidates was unanimously acclaimed as GaLTT Directors.**

**9. Questions/comments from the floor**

- Nancy Hetherington-Peirce thanked the Board for their hard work in 2016.

**10.** The door prize was won by: Peter Hellenius.

**11.** Member Marilyn Heraty proposed adjournment and the meeting was adjourned by Norm Harburn at 9pm

**Minutes recorded by Jenni Gehlbach.**