



## Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by John Peirce

### *Message from the New President*

I am honoured to be stepping into this leadership position, on behalf of the members of GaLTT. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers over the past seven years, GaLTT has developed into a strong and well-organized society.

One of GaLTT's initial goals – "Drumbeg to Descanso by 2010" – is about 70% completed – so we celebrate our achievements, and we commit to keep working towards this goal!

GaLTT's trail-maintenance group, ably led by Randy Young, continues to do excellent work every other Sunday, all over the island. Please thank them when you notice them working on your favourite trails! The RDN has given us a mandate to help them with trail clearing and maintenance in the 707 Community Park, so we will be working on widening the major trails to their standards while they continue defining the overall network of trails.

A few weeks ago, GaLTT was pleased to become the covenant-holder for the Bachman-Koenig property on Wharf Road, under the Natural Area Tax Exemption Program – NAPTEP. We are expecting to sign on as co-covenant-holder with the Nanaimo Area Lands Trust for the Elder Cedar Nature Reserve on North Road, and we are in discussions on some other covenant possibilities. Anyone who has a larger property with some significant ecological features, and who is interested in decreasing their property taxes, is welcome to contact us regarding a NAPTEP covenant.

GaLTT is now able to negotiate licenses, which include liability insurance, with land-owners regarding publically-accessible trails on private land. These trail licences would be for defined time-frames, and would not be tied to the land as conservation covenants are. During the coming year, GaLTT plans to be working with various landowners regarding ideas for licences on connector trails.

GaLTT is looking for more members! Please have a look at our newly revised website ([www.galtt.ca](http://www.galtt.ca)) for more information about who we are and what we do. I encourage you to

become part of this lively and friendly group, "to conserve and connect the natural areas and neighbourhoods of Gabriola".

I hope to see you out on the trails this year ...

John Peirce



Tom Cameron presents winner Phyllis Fafard with the door prize at the Gabriola Lands & Trails Trust Annual General meeting held Tuesday, March 29th



Newly elected Board of Directors. Back row left to right: Norm Harburn, John Pierce, David Boehm, Steve Struthers, Randy Young, Duane West, Tom Cameron, Bob Weenk Front row: Barb Hague, Jenni Gehlbach, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Kerry Marcus Missing: Anne Drozd



## WARREN MAGNUSSON

Guest Speaker at GaLTT's AGM,  
Phoenix Auditorium at The Haven, March 29

### Community Processes and the Evolving Role of Non-profit Organizations in Governance

The Gabriola Land and Trails Trust invited Dr Warren Magnusson to open its 7th Annual General Meeting by discussing "Community Processes and the Evolving Role of Non-profit Organizations in Governance".

Many Gabriolans are actively involved in groups ranging from informal networks to formally structured organizations addressing a wide variety of community concerns such as: the environment, healthcare, housing, food security, social issues, transportation, public spaces, arts and culture, sustainability, emergency preparedness, recreation, education, the preservation of local history, and our spiritual life. Through these organizations, volunteers provide a wide range of services and supports in the community. Many of the groups also seek to influence the decisions of various levels of government. As governments downsize departments and narrow their strategic focus, what role do voluntary community organizations play in maintaining healthy, sustainable communities and how do these organizations contribute to the way our local community is governed? Dr. Magnusson is a founding member of the University of Victoria interdisciplinary Master of Arts program: Cultural, Social and Political Thought. He received his doctorate from Oxford for a thesis entitled, "Participation and Democratic Theory: The Role of Neighbourhood Government".

He has written extensively on the theory of local government, the nature of social movements, and the forms of political space. His most recent book is *A Political Space: Reading the Global through Clayoquot Sound*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003; edited with Karena Shaw of UVic's School of Environmental Studies.

## TRAIL UPDATES



*Organized by Randy Young the Galtt volunteers have continued to improve and upgrade trails throughout the fall and winter. Work parties are held every second Sunday afternoon throughout the year. If you wish to join in contact Randy at ([ranyoung@shaw.ca](mailto:ranyoung@shaw.ca)). For those of you who walk in the Elder Cedar Nature Reserve you will have discovered the recent work done to allow easier access to the very wet areas just off the Windecker end of the reserve. ( SEE PHOTOS)*

*The Tin Can Alley trail into the 707 acre park has been tidied up and is ready for a sign installation offering a clear indication of entrance into the park.*

*Gabriola Lands and Trails would like to acknowledge the work done this spring by the RDN on the beach accesses, notably at Twin Beaches and on South Road.*



## Annual General Meeting

The Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust annual General Meeting was held March 29, 2011.

The evening started with an introduction to the guest speaker, Dr. Warren Magnusson, by Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley. Dr. Magnusson is a professor in the Political Science department at the University of Victoria. Dr. Magnusson offered a multi-faceted view of local governments and the importance of the role of volunteer and not-for-profit organizations in contributing to the governance of our local community. Questions were taken from the floor as representatives of many of Gabriola's not-for-profit organizations took advantage of learning from Dr. Magnusson's perspectives on this topic.

The guest speaker was followed by the business portion of the meeting with John Pierce providing the Treasurer's report and Tom Cameron updating the membership on the status on several of the Galtt initiatives. He acknowledged the need for Galtt to stay more connected to its membership and recognized that the work secretary, Jenni Gehlbach is doing on updating our website as a step in the right direction. Thanks were directed to Harvey Graham who has been instrumental in keeping our website running.

Traditionally the Galtt board members put together a free door prize which this year was won by Phyllis Farfard.

Galtt extends its thanks to many of the other Gabriola not-for-profit organizations who attended our eighth Annual General Meeting. Some of these include the Gabriola Commons, the Gabriola Museum, PHC, the Healthcare Foundation, Sustainable Gabriola, and Friends of the Library.

## GaLTT enters new phase by holding conservation covenants and trail licenses

by John Peirce

GaLTT enters new phase by holding conservation covenants and trail licenses

GaLTT is pleased to make more opportunities available to the landowners on Gabriola for helping to preserve open space and for building linked trail systems on Gabriola.

### COVENANTS

GaLTT is about to sign its first conservation covenant as a co-covenant-holder under the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP). For more background on conservation covenants and the NAPTEP program, please see the see the article by Steve Struthers on Conservation Covenants and GaLTT on page 3 of the Summer 2010 GaLTT newsletter ([http://galtt.ca/newsletters/nl9/newsletter\\_9.htm](http://galtt.ca/newsletters/nl9/newsletter_9.htm)).

On March 16 at the northern office of the Islands Trust, Karl Bachmann and Marianne Koenig will sign the second NAPTEP covenant implemented on Gabriola. This covenant will protect the ecological value of their property near South and Wharf Roads, preserving it in perpetuity in its natural state. It will also provide the owners with some tax benefits. GaLTT will become co-covenant-holder with the Islands Trust Fund.

As a co-covenant holder, GaLTT will share the responsibility of inspecting each covenanted property annually to make sure that no infractions have occurred. By being one of two co-covenant-holders, GaLTT will provide a local presence that can react quickly if some unauthorized activity is observed, and each covenant-holder provides backup for the other if one organization falters.

GaLTT has also agreed to become a co-covenant-holder on the Elder Cedar Nature Reserve on North Road. In this case the landowner is the Islands Trust Fund, and the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT) will be the

co-covenant-holder with us. As well, GaLTT has offered to the RDN to become a co-covenant-holder on the 707 Community Park. We have also had discussions with Gabriola Commons about being a co-covenant-holder on the Commons property.

### TRAIL LICENCES

GaLTT has arranged liability insurance coverage with its insurer for private trail licences (legal agreements allowing the public to use a specified trail across private land). This insurance removes the liability risk for landowners who are willing to offer the use of a trail to the public by using GaLTT as the holder of the trail licence. This allows us much more flexibility in achieving connectivity between different trail systems on the island. In the past only the RDN has been able to negotiate such trail licences.

Our preferred goal in securing private trail licences is to have them accessible to pedestrians and bicycles and horses, as well as to have them published on our annual trail map. However, if a particular landowner wishes to restrict use of the trail across their land or to ask us not to put it on a public map, we are certainly willing to discuss honouring such constraints.

Currently we have a number of situations where we would like to negotiate private trail licences. Once we put together the proper legal documentation we will open discussions with the relevant landowners.

If anyone reading this newsletter would like to explore the possibility of allowing a licenced trail across their land, including liability insurance coverage, or if they would like to discuss how a conservation covenant under the NAPTEP program might benefit them, please contact John Peirce ([john.w.peirce@gmail.com](mailto:john.w.peirce@gmail.com)) or by phone at 250-247-8632).



Drumbeg Park  
by Dennis  
Ducklow

### COMING EVENTS:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| May 15    | Island "Broom Bash"<br>/ Gary Oak<br>reforestation |
| June(TBA) | Controlling Tansy<br>Ragwort                       |
| July      |  |
| Fall      | Decimating Daphne<br>Laurel                        |

## GALTT TAKES ON 3 INVASIVE PLANTS: Tansy Ragwort, Daphne Laurel and Scotch Broom

Given that Gabriola has many sensitive ecosystems the board of the Gabriola Lands & Trails Trust has opted to focus on the removal of the three most common invasive plants found on the island; Scotch broom, Tansy Ragwort and Daphne laurel.

Although there are many other species considered invasive, some of which are sold at nurseries, these are the three most prevalent here on Gabriola.

Plants are considered invasive when they are not native to an area and they grow rapidly and spread quickly over taking indigenous species. Not only do they displace native plants but they can cause erosion as they alter water flow and they can also create fire hazards in the warmer weather. They may contain toxins that are hazardous to people and animals (livestock).

**Scotch Broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) is familiar to all islanders except perhaps some newcomers. It is a member of the Legume family and can grow to three meters in height crowding out all other vegetation. It loves newly disturbed areas and is almost impossible to control if allowed to mature. The bright yellow flowers become flat, dark colored seed pods in the summer. The seeds are said to survive in the soil for up to 80 years!

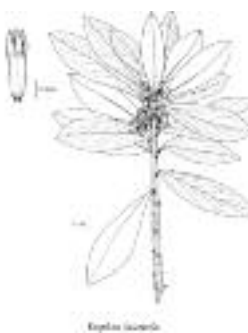
Watch for information as Galtt begins an island-wide initiative to eliminate this plant.

**Tansy Ragwort** (*Senecio jacobaea*) is that tall ragged yellow daisy-like flower that is seen in sunny open areas in mid-summer. It contains a toxic alkaloid which reacts with enzyme in livestock to create liver damage.

**Daphne Laurel** (*Daphne laureola*) this shrub with its attractive foliage, fragrant tubular yellow flowers, and beautiful berries is a toxic, invasive species,



*Tansy Ragwort.*



*Daphne Laurel.*

*Scotch Broom.*

