

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 15 2023 Meeting



GaLTT Activities Since Last POSAC Meeting:

February 5th. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Gabriola Sands Provincial Park. 11 volunteers (16.25 volunteer hours) pulled small daphne seedlings on the Taylor Bay side of the park.

February 14th. False Narrows shoreline guided walk. 35 participants. Thank you to Nick Doe, Jenni Gehlbach, and Vicky Scott for volunteering their time and sharing their knowledge.

February 19th. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Drumbeg Provincial Park. A very productive afternoon: 26 participants (44.75 volunteer hours) removed a large quantity of medium-small broom from the camas meadow area.



February 26th. GaLTT Trails Work Party – S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve boardwalk construction. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours). Frames were created for boardwalks. This infrastructure makes enjoying trails easier and helps reduce our footprint (literally!) in this sensitive area.

March 2nd. Gabriola Garden Club presentation. The Chair of the GaLTT Invasives Committee (Alison Thomas) presented information on the support that GaLTT can offer with invasives species identification and management. She also mentioned the Native Plant Depot as a resource and the Nature Stewards initiative.

March 4th. 707 Community Park guided walk. 20 participants looped through “Stump Farm”, now part of Coats Marsh Regional Park. Stump Farm has a colourful history going back to Gabriola’s “hippie” days and is currently home to a unique feature in Gabriola’s parks - a bat box. The group stopped to admire Coats Marsh, noted for its waterfowl, before returning to the Fisher Rd trail entrance.

March 4th. GaLTT Annual General Meeting. 39 members attended the AGM.

Outgoing President Rob Brockley gave an overview of GaLTT’s work in 2022

Recommendations to update the Constitution and Bylaws to better reflect GaLTT’s mission and work were adopted.

Long-time Communications Committee co-chair and Secretary Jenni Gehlbach was recognized for her years of service

Libby Gunn and Alison Thomas presented on the Drumbeg Provincial Park Scotch Broom invasives removal project and restoration plots.

There was recognition of some of GaLTT’s most dedicated volunteers, including Rose Alderson! We enjoyed pizza and social connection!

The new GaLTT Board is: Hugh Skinner (President), Rob Brockley (Past President), Frank Shoemaker (Treasurer), Sarah Kopjar (Secretary), Rebecca Furnell, Nola Johnston, Anne Landry, Barry Moerkerken, Brad Nixon, Alison Thomas, Tom Wojcik.

March 5th. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Clamshell - South Road connector trail. 14 volunteers (20.23 volunteer hours) cut daphne in an area of the trail where chocolate lilies grow.

March 11th. Gabriola Arts Council Triumph event. Celebrating GaLTT and Gabriola Lions COVID period activities and how these organizations supported the mental and physical health of the Gabriola community. A full Gabriola Island Community Hall was entertained by Snake Island Railroad.

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March 12th. GaLTT Trails Work Party – S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve boardwalk installation. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours).



March 19th. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Garland – Lois Lane connector trail. 6 volunteers (10.5 volunteer hours) carried on cutting daphne along this loop of the trail license, following up on the two work-parties we held there last year.

March 26th. GaLTT Trails Work Party – Keith Road ROW boardwalk frames construction. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours).

April 2nd. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Robinson Woods Conservation Covenant. 16 volunteers (24 volunteer hours). The Work Party concentrated on removing very large ivy from trees.



April 16th. GaLTT Invasives Work Party – South Road Beach Access near El Verano. 9 volunteers (13.5 volunteer hours).

An Invasives work-party continued removing daphne from either side of the South Road trail where GaLTT first worked in mid-January. In the sections that we have cleared it is encouraging to see native shrubs such as snowberry, wild rose and June plum now leafing out alongside the Oregon grape in this small patch of woodland.



April 21st. Earth Day. GaLTT booth at The Commons.

April 22nd. GaLTT 1st Nature Stewards program “Tour de Terre” on Earth Day. Estimated 80 attendees. Among other wonderful celebratory events, it was a chance for islanders to see and learn more about how to care for the land with nature, wildlife and our island’s sensitive biodiversity, top-of-mind. Seven landholders opened their properties to the public for the tour with several hosts having over 80 visitors during the three hours.



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April 23rd. GaLTT Trails Work Party – 707 Community Park Jeanette Trail Accessibility Improvements. 7 participants (10.5 volunteer hours).

GaLTT placed 6 resting stumps along the first kilometre of the Jeanette Trail, from the yellow gate to the bench under the beautiful old maple tree. Trail users, with mobility challenges, can now enjoy a place to sit every 150 to 200 feet



April 26th. Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department / GaLTT Invasives Species Drop-off Event.

The GVFD secured a RDN Firesmart grant to cover the cost of a large (30 cubic yard) disposal bin for invasives and yard waste drop-off. Although the bin was booked for two days it was full by noon on the first day.

GaLTT Invasive Species volunteers and the GVFD duty officer assisted with loading and packing down large quantities of invasive broom, daphne, ivy, holly and Himalayan blackberry into the bin.



April 30th. GaLTT / Gabriola Lions Annual Broom Cut - Drumbeg Provincial Park.

An outstanding community turnout of 44 participants (66 volunteer hours). It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 Scotch Broom plants were terminated.



May 2nd. GaLTT presented to the RDN Regional Parks & Trails Select Committee a proposal for accessibility improvements at Descanso Bay Regional Park.

May 7th. McRae Covenant Meadows Work Party. The installation of 3 new signs and a commemorative bench in preparation for the Gabriola Museum McRae Land Bench Dedication event on May 20.

GaLTT Trails Trimming:

707 Community Park (SP 63 - 61).

Keith Rd. Connector trail.

Peterson to McDonald Connector trail.

Cresta Roca Connector trail.

Dragon's Lane Beach Access trail.

Coast Rd. Beach Access trail.

Stalker Rd. Beach Access trail.

Garland to Stokes(including Gary Oaks Loop) trail.
12 volunteer hours.

GaLTT Fallen Tree Removals from Trails:

707 CP on the 3 Gates trail.

Cliff Trail Joyce Lockwood CP.

Hyman Trail.

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GaLTT Nature Stewards Program:

78 Nature Stewards participants confirmed in the program with pledges covering over 142 acres.

RDN Watershed Grant – Nature Steward Program Coordinator and Professional Biologist (Aquaparian) continue preparing prescribed plans for creek rehabilitation and community outreach plans.

GaLTT / Gabriola Woodworkers Guild:

The Gabriola Woodworkers Guild has generously built and donated a bench to GaLTT. The Woodworkers Guild is currently working with GaLTT to find a suitable trail installation location.



GaLTT Website Activity – “Meet the Neighbours” Blog:

February 3rd. “Gabriola’s Brave Little Birds”. *Ki-deah! Ki-deah!* Blog offers local killdeer bird facts, images, and video from Gabriolan, Vicky Scott.

March 12th. “Bumble Bees”. Bumble bees are under serious threat, but there are things we can do to help them. Find suggestions and buzz-are facts in this 'Meet the Neighbours' article.

April 13th. “Why Earth Day Matters on Gabriola Island”. A partial excerpt from the blog written by Erin Udall.

As I reflect on my upbringing on Gabriola Island, I am struck by the profound impact it has had on my values and my deep-rooted care for the environment. Attending Gabriola Elementary School was a formative

experience that instilled in me the importance of community resiliency and taking responsibility for the things we care about, including our environment.

At Gabriola Elementary, the teachers and staff taught us the value of stewardship and the interconnectedness of our actions with the health of our surroundings. We learned about the delicate balance of ecosystems, the impact of pollution on our oceans, and the importance of conserving resources. I felt invested in.

Future GaLTT Activities and Events:

May 13. GaLTT / GISKA / RDN Giving Back Committee. Invasives Species removal and shore cleanup, Gabriola Sands Provincial Park.

June 3rd. GaLTT End-to-End Walk: (BC Trails Day).

GaLTT Work Parties: Every Sunday, alternating weekly between Trails and Invasives.

Agi Hall Saturday Market: GaLTT Information Table will commence May long weekend.