

## Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee October 16 2023 Meeting



### GaLTT Activities Since Last POSAC Meeting:

*May 18<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Drumbeg Provincial Park. 12 volunteers (18 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from Peterson and Dorby roadsides.

*May 21<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Joyce Lockwood Regional Park / Kensington Lands. 7 volunteers (10.5 volunteer hours) Trail trimming on the full length of the cliff trail from Whalebone to the waterfall **and** a side path up to the Pequod trail.



*May 25<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Drumbeg Provincial Park. 14 volunteers (22.25 volunteer hours) focused on removing Scotch Broom from the park.

*May 28<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Petroglyph Way. 9 volunteers (12.5 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the roadside.

*May 30<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Native Plants Depot – (Located at the Gabriola Commons). Mosaic Forest Management donated hundreds of Western red cedar and Douglas fir seedlings to GaLTT and Gabriola Elementary School. The school students helped to pot the plants. The plants were made available free to any interested residents.



*June 1st.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Coast Road. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the roadside.

*June 3rd.* GaLTT Annual End-to-End Walk - 75 participants walked from Silva Bay to the Skol. This annual event is used to promote GaLTT's long established goal to have a recognized and dedicated trail from one end of the island to the other.



*June 4th.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Keith Road ROW boardwalk installation. 19 volunteers (28 volunteer hours).

*June 8th.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Village Area and Ferry Hill. 13 volunteers (20 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the roadside.

*June 10th.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Rollo McClay Community Park. 7 volunteers (11 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the park.

*June 15th.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Honeysuckle. 9 volunteers (9 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the roadside and in the adjacent MOTI Barrett Quarry lands.

*June 18th.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Petroglyph Trail. 6 volunteers (9 volunteer hours). Trail trimming on the full length of the cliff trail from Whalebone to the waterfall and a side path up to the Pequod trail

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*June 24th.* GaLTT Pollinator Workshop @ the Gabriola Commons – Pollinator expert, Erin Udal, lead a workshop where participants learned how to identify native bees and other pollinators of Gabriola Island.



This workshop helped participants to understand the needs and conditions of our wild pollinators so that we may protect and enhance habitat on Gabriola Island together.

Some of the tips Erin shared for land stewardship included keeping areas of our land undisturbed (no tilling or mulching) since mining bees make holes in hard packed bare land soil for egg laying.

Others nest in holes in fallen trees.

Native plants such as snowberry, gumweed and pearly everlasting have long bloom times and are valuable food sources for pollinators.

*June 25th.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Paisley Place. 9 volunteers (13.5 volunteer hours) removed Scotch Broom from the roadside.

*July 9th.* GaLTT Restoration Work Party – Queequeg Community Park. 5 volunteers (10 volunteer hours) Following significant daphne removal at this site in 2021, GaLTT volunteers planted native shrubs provided by the RDN. Work is continuing on restoration work by pulling small invasives to allow the native species to thrive.

*June 30th.* **GaLTT Scotch Broom Removal Summary** – This year, GaLTT's 11 broom work parties, generated 236 volunteer hours. The independent Band of Broom Brothers, who met on Thursdays for 8 weeks, worked another 83 hours and we know that many individuals, all over Gabriola have been working on their broom patches.



*July 13<sup>th</sup>.* “Stroll ‘N Sip” Walk. Ravenskill Cidery. These hour-long, leisurely walks begin at 4pm on Thursdays at various locations and finish with the opportunity for a cool drink at one of Gabriola’s establishments. There were 34 participants in this first “Stroll ‘N Sip” Walk.

*July 16th.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Evans Road ROW and Merlin Trails. 5 volunteers (7.5 volunteer hours) Trail trimming.

*July 20th.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Tait – Elgie Trail. 4 volunteers (6 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*July 23rd.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Elder Cedar Nature Reserve. 3 volunteers (4.75 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*July 27<sup>th</sup>.* “Stroll ‘N Sip” Walk. Woodfire Restaurant. These hour-long, leisurely walks begin at 4pm on Thursdays at various locations and finish with the opportunity for a cool drink at one of Gabriola’s establishments.

***We respectfully acknowledge that the lands we steward are part of the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.***



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*July 29<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>.* GVFD and GaLTT joint plant waste debris and invasives drop-off event at the MOTI property adjacent to the south fire hall.

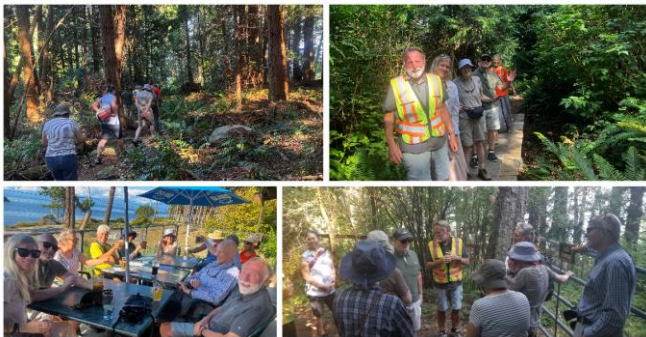
*July 30<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Evans Road ROW and Merlin Trails. 6 volunteers (9 volunteer hours) Trail trimming.

*August 3<sup>rd</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Descanso Valley Road. 4 volunteers (6 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*August 6<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Dorby Road. 5 volunteers (6.5 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*August 9<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT iNaturalist Instruction In-service – Gabriola Arts & Heritage Centre. Participants learned how to use iNaturalist and got help with uploading photos.

*August 10<sup>th</sup>.* “Stroll ‘N Sip” Walk. Surf Pub. These hour-long, leisurely walks begin at 4pm on Thursdays at various locations and finish with the opportunity for a cool drink at one of Gabriola’s establishments. There were 12 participants.



*August 13<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – 707 Park. ROW and Merlin Trails. 10 volunteers (15 volunteer hours) Trail trimming the path between posts 59 and 67.

*August 14<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT met with RDN staff at Descanso Bay Regional Park to discuss potential options for accessibility mobility improvements at the park.

*August 17<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – Fleet Street. 6 volunteers (9 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*August 20<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Invasives Work Party – North Degnen Road. 6 volunteers (10.5 volunteer hours) removed Tansy Ragwort.

*August 24<sup>th</sup>.* “Stroll ‘N Sip” Walk. Ravenskill Cidery. These hour-long, leisurely walks begin at 4pm on Thursdays at various locations and finish with the opportunity for a cool drink at one of Gabriola’s establishments.



*August 27<sup>th</sup>.* GaLTT Trails Work Party – Mallet Creek boardwalk installation as part of the new Burnside Drive – Cox Community Park connector trail. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours).



*September 8<sup>th</sup>.* Owl Nest Boxes on Link Island. In donating the island to the Islands Trust Conservancy, the Swift family’s vision for the Link Island Nature Reserve was to be a site for climate-change research

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and a refuge for threatened species vulnerable to human disturbance, including the western screech owl, barn swallow, and great blue heron.

Earlier this month, GaLTT and other partners, visited Link Island to support the installation of Western Screech-Owl nest boxes. This site visit was organized by the Species at Risk Program Coordinator from the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) and included biologists and representatives from the ITC, Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).



GaLTT joined others in installing 8 nest boxes with Ren, the owl biologist, and removed the occasional invasive plant, like tansy ragwort and English holly.

*September 13<sup>th</sup>*. GaLTT Restoration Party – Drumbeq Provincial Park. A work party prepared for this fall's seeding and planting in the meadow restoration area. Firstly, the work party removed small broom plants that were popping up in some of the sites. 17 volunteers (26.5 volunteer hours).

*September 17<sup>th</sup>*. GaLTT Volunteer Appreciation Event – Queequeg Regional Park.



*September 20<sup>th</sup>*. GaLTT Restoration Party – Drumbeq Provincial Park. A work party prepared for repeat-seeding with native species. GaLTT's future planting of native annuals, perennials, and grasses will include yarrow donated by NALT and raised from seed by the Invasive Species Committee. 11 volunteers (14 volunteer hours).

### GaLTT Information Table at the Agi Saturday Market

The Agi Saturday market commenced and GaLTT was present throughout the market season from May 20 to October 7 with an information table. 64 volunteers (160 volunteer hours).



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## Camp Miriam Contribution to Conservation:

Every summer, Camp Miriam kids help GaLTT with conservation tasks like removing invasives.

This commitment is inspired by *tikkun olam* — Hebrew for "repairing the world" — and is demonstrated in the campers' efforts to make the world a better place while on Gabriola. Three groups of campers, ranging in age from 9 to 14, under GaLTT supervision, worked hard to remove invasive tansy ragwort and scotch broom this year.

## GaLTT Trails Trimming:

Tin Can Alley trail (707 panhandle).  
707 Park, SP 13-16-17-15.  
707 Park SP 3-4-6-7-8.  
Elder Cedar loop and north trail.  
Haven Woods, centre trail and north side loop.  
Haven Woods including connectors to King, Fin and Bruce Lynn.  
707 Park, SP 12-13-14-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-30-29-28-27-26-25 from Ricki.  
707 Park, SP 16-17-18-20-19-48-21-22-43-44.  
707 Park, SP 39-26. SP 51-48 (Trail to Nowhere).  
McConvey to James Connector.  
Robinson Woods (Thompson to Cooper also Islands View Access).  
Cresta Roca.  
Dragon's Lane beach access.  
Clarendon to Chichester Connector.  
Pequod to Wild Cherry connector  
Fawn and McCollum accesses to 707  
Tait to Elgie  
Elgie to SP 89  
Seymour to Lackehaven  
Garland to Stokes, including Gary Oaks Loop  
DeCourcy Beach accesses  
24 volunteers. 31 volunteer hours.

## GaLTT Fallen Tree Removals from Trails:

A large fallen branch cleared from the big Maple tree on the Jeanette trail in the 707 CP.

A large tree cleared from the Mallett Creek trail in Cox CP.

## GaLTT and Conservation Covenant Monitoring:

Conservation is a long-term commitment. When a landholder puts a conservation covenant on their property, it is in perpetuity, helping ensure an ecosystem stays in a natural state. As a land trust, GaLTT is co-covenant holder of three covenants and manages a fourth in the Gabriola Island Trust Area.

One of the responsibilities of a covenant holder is to make sure the intent of the covenant is upheld over time. At minimum, GaLTT volunteers monitor each covenant property annually, usually with conservation partners. This work typically occurs behind the scenes and is an important part of GaLTT's conservation work.

Two monitoring visits were conducted week of May 30 to June 6 - one at S'ul-hween X'pey Nature Reserve and the other at Link Island Nature Reserve. Access is restricted on Link Island and the entire 53-acres is protected in perpetuity due to the generosity of the Swift family, who donated Link Island [donated Link Island](#) to the Islands Trust Conservancy in 2022. GaLTT and the Nanaimo Area Land Trust ("NALT") are the co-covenant holders who are responsible for ensuring the ecological values of the island are protected.

## GaLTT Nature Stewards Program:

83 Nature Stewards participants confirmed in the program with pledges covering over 155 acres.

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

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## GaLTT / Gabriola Woodworkers Guild:

The Gabriola Woodworkers Guild has generously built and donated a bench to GaLTT. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (“MOTI”) has approved the installation at the Shaw Road undeveloped ROW public beach access.

Planning of GaLTT 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events: to be scheduled for 2024.



## Future GaLTT Activities and Events:

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

New GaLTT trails map. Currently under development and scheduled to be completed and available by spring 2024.

Completion of the Burnside Drive - Cox Park connector trail.

Construction of the Paisley Place Community Park trail to circumvent Gabriola Housing Society lands.

Construction of additional boardwalks on the MOTI Keith Road undeveloped ROW.

Construction of additional boardwalks in Robinson Woods.

Accessibility mobility improvements in Drumbeg Provincial Park between the parking area and the picnic tables, including the installation of cartpath material.

Winter 2023-2024 Walks. A series of walks are being planned for the winter.