

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust

Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Participating: Board Members - Rob Brockley, Rebecca Furnell, Jenni Gehlbach, Libby Gunn, Lars Hulstein, Pat Jacobsen, Nola Johnston, Sarah Kopjar, Anne Landry, Kerry Marcus, Barry Moerkerken, Frank Shoemaker, Hugh Skinner, Tom Wojcik. **GaLTT Members – 23. Non-Members – 1.** This constitutes a quorum.

1) Brockley called the meeting to order at 7p.m.

Welcome to GaLTT's AGM for 2021, the second time we've done this on Zoom. Hopefully next year it will be in person. Let's begin by reminding ourselves that we are meeting on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and that Indigenous peoples have had a physical and spiritual connection with this island and its surrounding waters since time immemorial.

We continue learning about the truth of our colonial history and our colonial ways of thinking, and the damage our thinking and actions have done, and continue to, on the lives of Indigenous peoples.

We know we must accept those truths and the legitimacy of Indigenous ways of knowing before GaLTT can hope to develop a truly respectful and fruitful relationship with our Snuneymuxw neighbours.

We can begin that work by acknowledging one important truth: the lands on which we live and on which we establish trails, and the lands we strive to protect for future generations, are not ours to own. We are stewards of these lands in the same way Indigenous peoples have been stewards of these lands for countless generations.

Before we begin the formal part of the AGM I'd like to pay tribute to the life of Jack Schick, a long-time resident of Mudge Island and the president of Mudge Island Land Trust Association.

- I recently received a note from his wife, Joanne, saying that Jack passed away in early January after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.
- Jack lived and breathed parks and natural spaces and formed MILTA with the one major goal of acquiring a small property overlooking Dodd Narrows as a community park.
- A few of us at GaLTT got to know Jack during the campaign to acquire the property.
- Jack's goal was achieved in 2016 with the support of Mudgekins, the RDN, local taxpayers, and advocacy and financial support from GaLTT.
- When they disbanded in 2019, MILTA kindly donated their remaining funds to GaLTT which we placed in our Land Acquisition Fund.
- The Mudge Island Community Park is a great legacy to Jack's tenacity and love of the natural world.

2) AGENDA: **MOTION: Proposed by Amanda Lewis, seconded by Kerry Marcus, to accept the Agenda as presented. CARRIED.**

3) MINUTES: **MOTION: Proposed by Jenny Gehlbach, seconded by Kerry Marcus, to accept the Minutes of the AGM 2020.**

Gehlbach explained there is one amendment needed. In the presentation about work in Elder Cedar it was recorded there was work done to control Eelgrass; that should be amended to control Canary Grass.

MOTION CARRIED as amended.

4) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Rob Brockley, Chair and President of GaLTT

New and revised policies

- Conflict of Interest
- Privacy
- Sponsorship
- Land Acquisition and Conservation Covenants
- Conservation Covenant Stewardship
- Land Stewardship

Committee Restructuring

- Shore access and ad hoc committee dissolved
- Accessibility committee restructured

Grants/Contracts

- RDN Community Grant (for Nature Stewards) — \$2K
- Gabriola Recreation Society Grant (for Trails) — \$1K
- BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund Grant (for Invasives) — \$3K
- Islands Trust Conservancy Contract (for Nature Stewards) — \$5K
- Islands Trust Conservancy Management Contract (for Trails and Invasives) — \$2.3K

Organizational Review Workshops

- Review mission/mandate
- Review core business activities
- Capacity issues & staffing considerations
- Discussions with other land trusts

Agreements with Contractors

- Ken Gurr (Nature Stewards coordination)
- Dunsmoor-Farley & Associates (organization review facilitation)

Advocacy

Local

- Saturnina Island
- Shoreline erosion at Pilot Bay
- Coats Marsh

Regional

- BC Parks funding
- Public recreational access to private lands
- Tree-cutting legislative authority

Liaise with Government Agencies

Regional District of Nanaimo

- Funding for GaLTT in RDN 2022/23 budget
- Trail work and signage
- Invasive species removal and restoration work
- POSAC

BC Parks

- Partnership agreement
- Accessibility improvements at Gabriola Sands PP
- Invasives and restoration work

Islands Trust Conservancy

- Partnership agreement
- S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve management contract
- Covenant monitoring

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

- Permits for infrastructure on undeveloped ROWs

Liaise with Land Trust Alliance of BC and other land trusts

- Review of Standards and Practices best practices tool
- Participation in webinars
- Joint review of IT draft Policy Statement

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Anne Landry, Chair

A busy year with conservation playing a larger role in GaLTT's activities as is seen through various committee reports.

Conservation Strategy

- To support putting more emphasis on conservation, a Conservation Strategy was approved by the Board in June

Conservation Mission:

- To take a leadership role in a collaborative effort to:
Conserve, protect and restore the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem on Gabriola;
Inspire, educate and engage Gabriolans in personal action to conserve, protect, and restore natural habitats;
Encourage and facilitate responsible public access to protected areas; and
Carry out these actions, recognizing people as part of the environment.

Acquisitions

- GaLTT worked with BC Marine Parks Forever Society & BC Parks Foundation to advocate for the purchase of Saturnina Island for conservation.
- Saturnina was purchased by BC Parks Foundation with funds provided by the Wilson 5 Foundation and is now under 99-year lease to the Islands Trust Conservancy
- Will be managed as a nature reserve with Management Plan initiated in 2022. GaLTT Assisted with invasives removal in May and has agreed to assist with future stewardship.

Covenants

- Currently there are 8 covenants in Gabriola Trust Area
- Five properties were considered for potential conservation covenant and we are actively working with one landholder on a covenant.
- With land prices so high, a voluntary conservation covenant is a viable way to pursue land conservation; please contact us if you'd like more information info@galtt.ca

Conservation Planning

- Conducted a digital survey in the spring to assess Gabriolans' current knowledge of GaLTT's conservation work. 324 responses.
- Best known for trail work (97%) and trail maps (85%); also known for community events and walks (70%). Invasives is the best known of our conservation work (88%); land acquisition, covenants, advocacy and Nature Stewards are <60%
- Will conduct survey again in future to see if these numbers change.
- Major revisions to conservation policy put us in-line with new national land trust standards and provide us with more useful conservation assessment tools.

S'ul-hween X'pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve

- Continues as one of Gabriola's gems, protecting land and providing a lovely place to walk
- GaLTT actively participated in the Management Plan review in 2021 – future management will be similar
- After efforts removing invasive Tansy and Scotch broom, GaLTT, with Trees4Tomorrow, planted 40 Douglas-fir seedlings in a meadow as a restoration pilot project
- A beautiful new entrance sign was designed by Snuneymuxw artist Eliot White-Hill and will be installed soon.

Liaise with other organizations and agencies

- Trees4Tomorrow seedlings at S'ul-hween X'pey. Promoted Trees4Tomorrow tree-planting program – Simone Levesque planted 1,000 trees last spring
- Provided a list of major Conservation Threats/Priorities for the Gabriola Housing Working Group (who facilitated community engagement on behalf of the Gabriola Housing Advisory Planning Commission)
- Took part in a video produced as part of the Gabriola Health Care Foundation Health Report that included a section on the importance of a healthy environment for community health and wellbeing.
- Continued to work with the Gabriola Museum on ways to help ensure the protection of the McRae covenant including a public talk and interpretive signage.

Ahead in 2022

- Working with other committees on an education/engagement program to increase Gabriolans' knowledge of conservation issues, encourage personal action and increase protected land on Gabriola
- Work to complete new covenant
- Form stronger relationships with other regional conservation organizations

NATURE STEWARDS – Ken Gurr, Chair

The very heart of stewardship: cultural and social lasting values of respect and gratitude.

Snuneymuxw “We are the land”.

IUCN COP 15 Biodiversity Summit Next Month. The goal is $\geq 30\%$ conserved or protected by 2030.

On Gabriola . . .

- 12% is protected in parks, ecological reserves, etc.
- 67% of the island is privately owned.

Keeping the “wild” in nature is in our hands as landholders.

Nature Stewards was launched in 2021

- Guidance and Outreach Team, planning and training
- Set up program web page and systems
- Launch public awareness – Sounder insert, brochure, etc.

Community Outreach starts:

“Connecting for conserving” is the only true way to enduring positive change.

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE – Libby Gunn (2021 Chair, retiring) Alison Thomas (incoming chair 2022)

Why Invasives?

- Introduced (but not all introduced species are invasive)
- Spread quickly, monopolize light, nutrients, water, and space
- No natural pathogens and predators
- Threaten natural ecosystem functions, species biodiversity, and can be a risk to food security, human health and economic development.

You CAN make a difference!

- Help water plants or manage the Native Plant Depot
- Help start a seed collector group
- Do data entry or mapping
- Organize events
- Write Sounder articles
- Make a donation
- Help develop strategies for prevention
- Research best practices....

We are not just about pulling out plants!

Prevent • Remove • Restore • Research

Take a leadership role in a collaborative effort to:

- preserve native ecosystems on Gabriola Island
- eradicate, limit, or prevent the establishment of invasive species with methods that have the least detrimental impact to other organisms;
- undertake restoration.

Volunteer work parties: 627 vol hours in 2020, 784 vol hours in 2021. 784 hours x \$20/hr = \$15,680

Focus on infestations of limited extent

- Likely to stop wide-spread infestation
- Potential for a high success rate and cost efficient

Two drop-off/pick-up opportunities last year

Earth Day pick-up: big pick-ups at Twin Beaches, Drumbeg, Queequeg, and Robinson Woods.

40 households. Daphne, broom, holly and other species. 14 volunteers, 9 vehicle teams.

Restoration took place in Queequeg Park, Drumbeg Provincial Park

- \$3000 Park Enhancement Fund grant this year: seeding planting, limbing; education – signs; monitoring and evaluation – mapping camas

Native Plant Depot – Salvage and Share

Research

- Daphne and broom plots: 350 daphne plants, 7 removal methods. (Modified extraction and clip, Full extraction, Treated plants (3 types), Regular cut, Cut and tarp)

Collaborated with: Gabriola Fire Dept, BC Parks, RDN, Coastal Invasive Species Committee, Commons, Gabriola Gardening Club and Denman Conservancy Association.

Communication with the general public in the form of posters, social media posts and signage.

Upcoming Presentations and Workshops

1. Erica McClaren, BC Parks Ecologist, Conservation in BC Parks, Zoom, Monday March 14, 7 pm
2. Lou & Libby, workshop for residents: removing broom, daphne, ivy and holly, 2+ hours, Saturday April 9
3. Chris Drake, in-person workshop, Saturday April 23 (to coincide with Apr 22 Earth Day)
4. Coastal Invasive Species Committee – Tentative: Heidi Grant, hands-on presentation, last week in April

TRAIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – Barry Moerkerken, Chair

Split Rail Fencing, two installed:

One at DeCourcy Water Access #2. One at Blue Heron Community Park. More to follow in 2022.

Boardwalks:

GaLTT received a grant from the Islands Trust Conservancy to build and install boardwalks in S'ul-hween X'Pey (Elder Cedar) Nature Reserve.

Two boardwalks totaling 8 metres were completed and an existing boardwalk was raised due to high water levels in the creek in the winter.

GaLTT also received a grant from the Gabriola Recreation Society to help complete the boardwalk on the Peterson-McDonald connector trail.

This grant went towards the installation of 27 metres of boardwalk, completing several years of work begun in 2017, to build a year-round trail. The total length of elevated boardwalk installed is approximately 170 metres.

THANK YOU! to the GRS for the three grants they have given us over the years. They have contributed greatly to the completion of this project.

On other trails:

- Replaced a plank bridge on the trail from Coast Rd. (between Fenwick & Withey Rds.) to the shoreline.
- Replaced decking on the boardwalks between Malaspina Drive and James Way
- Replaced boardwalk mesh at Joyce Lockwood CP

Resting benches:

5 resting benches were installed. One is on the McConvey trail in Cox Park and four benches are in the 707 Park. These benches were all built by volunteer Jamie Doig using wood donated by Tom and Charlotte Cameron.

Trail Licences:

Two trail licences were signed last year: one with the Gabriola Museum, the new owners of the McRae Covenant property, and the other with the adjacent property owner. These trail licences cover the popular trail from South Rd. beside the AGI Hall to Fell Rd.

And Trail Trimming:

Over 50 km of trails were trimmed by Don Machell, mostly done alone with occasional help of another person.

Our final work party of the year was our only call out to the full membership due to Covid restrictions over the past year. It was to reroute approximately 100m of the existing trail between the Medical Clinic and Lockinvar Lane. A trail licence was signed by the Medical Clinic within the past month.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE - Laurie Webster (2021 Chair, retiring)

- presented by - Sarah Kopjar (incoming Chair 2022)

The Accessibility Committee was recently restructured slightly and planning for new benches is now part of our role. We work with support from several other committees in particular the Trails committee that helps with implementation of our projects.

2021 saw a major accomplishment at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park on the Pilot Bay side.

- the parking lot was graded, trails were widened covered with landscape fabric and gravelled.
- the outhouse was repositioned and a larger concrete apron was poured.
- the picnic table has new seats and a top that extends further to allow wheelchair access.

All this was made possible with:

- \$4,500 from BC Parks
- \$1,767 from GaLTT donations
- 160 on-the-ground hours of work by GaLTT volunteers and the Gabriola Lions.

Prior to all the visible work there was an archaeological assessment conducted and many hours of planning and discussion by the committee. All the work that goes on behind the scenes of any project.

The Accessibility Committee's original, and quite ambitious, goal of creating wheelchair access to the beach on the Taylor Bay side still remains. There is no obvious achievable and affordable solution yet. Accessibility improvements come in many forms; a smoother trail surface, a less steep grade, a resting place. Barry talked about Jamie's bench contributions. There are also benches and picnic tables in other parts of the island, 35 locations in all. Some of these have been around for years but we have recently compiled a list that will be available on the GaLTT website.

New for GaLTT in 2021 was the installation of a commemorative bench Gabriola style. The first of more we hope. After a request by a Gabriola resident GaLTT undertook a pilot project. The bench was built by Dave Neads, using wood donated by Linda Harrison in memory of her husband Konrad Mauch and was installed in August on Sunrise Beach. It has a gorgeous view to the East past Breakwater and Saturnina Islands across to Vancouver and South toward Valdez Island. It is a fitting tribute to Master Mariner Captain James R. Ewart. Commemorative benches are paid for by a donor and maintained by GaLTT for at least 10 years. The Accessibility Committee welcomes suggestions big and small to improve the enjoyment of the trails and parks for all.

SHARE THE TRAILS COMMITTEE Kerry Marcus (Chair 2021, retiring), Tom Wojcik (incoming Chair 2022)

Research and Planning:

- Researched trail sharing issues and strategies in other jurisdictions
- Initiated discussions around trail user education and etiquette, user group rights of way, off-leash dogs

- Explored reinstating/updating dog clean up bag dispensers in key locations
- Participated In a preliminary regional wide trails Inventory initiative re trails usage.

Off-road Vehicles

- Spring 2021 - Off road vehicles in the Federally held Snuneymux'w Lands were causing both concern and environmental impacts to trails where they are not permitted. It was not clear to all where ORVs can legitimately recreate and where they are prohibited.
- Worked with the contract land custodian on Gabriola and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) staff to create new signage was agreed to be the first step.
- Signs were designed and posted at several trail heads by GaLTT with funding by AANDC.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Lou Skinner (chair)

As the pandemic continued, the community engagement team focused on activities to encourage people to get outside for our mental and physical health.

- GaLTT's Great Winter Walkabout began November 2020 when tight restrictions first came down and continued to February 2021. Its theme of 'lesser-known trails' got many people into unfamiliar parts of the island and finding connections they hadn't known existed between neighbourhoods.
- With our lesser-known trails used up, and realizing that there was anxiety on the island about the loss of trees, we asked islanders to nominate their favourite trees.
- We built the next series of ten Winter Walkabout hikes around these trees as well as the Big Tree Registry that identifies some of the largest trees on the island. The self-guided walks will continue weekly to March 16, 2022
- Thanks to:
Mike, Christine, Petra and North Road Sports staff who have supported both Walkabouts and supplied some great prizes.
Ms. Holme's grade 6/7 students who painted our trail & tree marker rocks.
Leanne for editing + coordination.
Nola for graphic design.
Our committee members Paula, Leanne, Libby, Suzanne, Alison and Sally for writing info-sheets and marking trails.
And Paula Brent for Facebook promotion.

Guided Walks:

- End to End. In September over 100 people joined us for the End to End Walk from Silva Bay to the Surf, following a new route, sometimes along licensed trails.
- Soundwalks. Dinah D led us on two sound walks, encouraging us to experience the world with different senses.

Land-Based Learning:

- Developing a respectful relationship with the Snuneymuxw is a priority for GaLTT and we continued to learn Coast Salish teachings from elder Bill White through the Intergenerational Land Based Learning for Reconciliation project that is spearheaded by Simon Fraser University.
- We are planning to facilitate a workshop with master carver and knowledge keeper, Beau Wagner about indigenous teaching about the land. This fundraiser for the Healing Canoe project at the school will be on Tuesday, March 15.

Video:

- To celebrate the tenth anniversary of Gabriola's first trail licence we created a video explaining why people allow public access to trails on their property.
- Find the video on GaLTT's website under: Connections/Trails and Maps/Our Trail Work
Or search "Gabriola Land & Trails Trust" on YouTube.

Outreach:

- As always, our table at the Saturday market provided an opportunity to connect with islanders about trails and conservation.
- One of our biggest outreach activities of 2021 was providing volunteers at four Gabriola whole community vaccination clinics.
- GaLTT interacted with a number of organizations and programs.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - Jenni Gehlbach, Nola Johnston (co-chairs)

A busy year, with tasks old...

- Publishing maps, photos, and walk descriptions, in print and online
- Maintaining print and digital records, including revised policy documents.
- Communicating regularly with our members & volunteers by email.

...and new...

- Working on an overall communications strategy to coordinate and streamline communications from our busy committees
- Surveying Gabriolans to discover what they know about our conservation work.
- Designing a new Facebook page (thank you Paula Brent!) to better engage GaLTT's followers (now over 400!) and converting the old page to a "Gabriola Nature" discussion group.
- Moving to a new web platform and revising our site content so you can:
 - enjoy more photos & frequent blog posts
 - search pages & posts to find what you need
 - learn more about our conservation work and GaLTT's other activities
 - explore Gabriola's landscape (with new info on the foreshore)

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Frank Shoemaker (Treasurer and Chair)

Treasurer's Report for the year ended December 31st, 2021

Financial Statements for the 2021 year.

RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS

Receipts	Memberships and donations	35,971
	Special projects	14,833
	Map/market sales	4,434
	Call on Accessibility Fund	1,767
	Investment income	286
	TOTAL:	57,291
Disbursements	Trail maintenance	13,729
	Nature Stewards	9,021
	Operations	5,429
	Invasive species management	4,538
	Community engagement	3,763
	Planning workshops	3,150
	Liability insurance	1,654
	Communications	955
TOTAL:		42,239
Excess of receipts over disbursements from Operations		15,055

FUND BALANCES

FUNDS	BALANCE DEC 31, 2021	DONATIONS	CHANGES	BALANCE DEC 31, 2020
Land Acquisition Fund	58,570	19,067	25,000	14,503
Stewardship Fund	15,953			15,953
Accessibility Improvement Fund	4,733		(1,767)	6,500
Streamkeepers Fund	220	120		100
Operating Fund				
Opening Balance				79,224
Operating Result - 2021			15,055	
Transfer to Land Fund			(25,000)	
Closing Balance	69,279			
	148,755	19,187	13,288	116,280

FINANCIAL POSITION 2021

Credit Union accounts and term deposit	128,189
Receivables, prepaids and inventory	20,973
	149,162
Accounts Payable	407
TOTAL	148,755

2022 BUDGET FORECAST

	2022 Budget	2021 Actual
Receipts	62,215	57,291
Disbursements	61,180	42,239
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	1,035	15,055

2022 BUDGET BY ACTIVITY

Trail maintenance	16,000
Nature Stewards	10,000
Conservation	7,750
GaLTT operations (insurance, accounting, memberships)	6,500
Organizational review & plan	6,000
Community Engagement	5,550
Invasive species management	4,100
Benches	3,000
Communications	1,480
Share the Trails	800
TOTAL	61,180

MEMBERSHIP - Rebecca Furnell

305 memberships as of December 31, 2021 (approx. 450 people*)

- 6 honorary members
- 38 monthly donors (CAFT, Canada Helps, directly through CCCU)
- 52 @ 5-year single
- 82 @ 5-year family (~ 164*)
- 55 @ 1-year single
- 63 @ 1-year family (~ 126*)

NB. * Based on calculating two people for each Family membership. Note that individual member numbers are likely higher because monthly donors may include families as well.

Membership increased over December 2020 by 27%

A huge thanks to our MEMBERS and DONORS for your continued support. Your contributions are by far our main source of revenue most years, and allow us to do great things for conservation and for trails and park access in our community.

5) VOLUNTEER AWARDS:

The Trails Committee wishes to recognise:

- Jamie Doig
- Don Machell

The Community Engagement Committee wishes to recognise:

- Paula Gray

The Invasive Species committee wishes to give special thanks to the core Whalebone neighborhood gang.

- Steve Orsatti
- Alison Thomas
- Glenys Stuart
- Darci Swinton

You DO make a difference!

6) BOARD ELECTIONS:

Current Directors (continuing for 1 more year of 2-year term)

Rob Brockley
Rebecca Furnell
Jenni Gehlbach
Lars Hulstein
Nola Johnston
Sarah Kopjar
Hugh Skinner
Tom Wojcik

Director's Slate 2022 (standing for a new 2-year term)

Standing for re-election

Anne Landry
Barry Moerkerken
Frank Shoemaker

There were no nominations from the floor. All three candidates were re-elected by a Zoom poll.

7) WRAP-UP:

Rob Brockley thanked all the retiring Directors, Pat Jacobsen, Allan Posthuma, Libby Gunn and Kerry Marcus for their many contributions. Kerry Marcus was awarded a life-time membership for her role as one of the

founding members and first president of GaLTT then continuing for 16 years as a board member in a variety of positions. GaLTT would not exist if it were not for Kerry's vision and effort.

- 8) Door Prize:** a book called Luschiim's Plants won by Amanda Lewis.
- 9) Questions:** no questions regarding the AGM presentations. One question to Kerry Marcus about the impetus for starting GaLTT. A desire to preserve a beautiful property with a view and a heron rookery. 2% of Gabriola preserved as parks then, 12% now, more to come.
- 10) Meeting was adjourned by Brockley at 8:51p.m.**

Minutes recorded by Sarah Kopjar