

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 13 2024 Meeting



GaLTT Activities Since Last POSAC Meeting:

February 18th. Drumbeg Provincial Park. Invasives Species (Scotch Broom) removal. 20 Volunteers (30 volunteer hours).



March 2nd. GaLTT Guided Winter Walk Series. Sighting two pairs of threatened [marbled murrelets](#) off Orlebar point was a highlight of our guided bird walk, led by local ornithologist Vicky Scott and assisted by nature lover Libby Gunn. These small seabirds nest in old growth forest and it is exciting to know they are frequenting our shores!

Vicky offered opportunities for our 20 (mostly novice) birders to observe both woodland species and waterfowl and shared birdwatching tips. We were inspired to learn about projects utilizing citizen science data on local birds. Your contributions through apps like [iNaturalist](#), [Merlin](#), and [eBird](#) are valuable to conservation initiatives!



March 3rd. S'ul-hween X'pey Nature Reserve. Invasives Species (Scotch Broom) removal. 4 Volunteers (6 volunteer hours). Invasives control in S'ul-hween X'pey Nature Reserve is part of GaLTT's contract with the Islands Trust Conservancy. Our official report recorded 2,112 small broom plants pulled!

March 10th and *24th* GaLTT Trails Work Parties – Paisley Place Community Park – Construction of a new trail to replace the existing trails that are on Gabriola Housing Society lands. 20 volunteers (30 volunteer hours).



Prior to commencing trail construction, 8 volunteers on the Native Plant Recovery Team harvested sword ferns, salal, red and evergreen huckleberries, and Oregon grape (among others) from the route of the new trail being constructed on the Paisley Place Community Park panhandle. We brought these rescues to our free Native Plant Depot at the Commons where locals are rehoming them to enhance native habitat on their properties!



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

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 13 2024 Meeting



March 10th GaLTT Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Awards. Seventy-seven people attended our 20th AGM at the Golf Course. We began with a presentation by gulf island ecologist, Chris Drake, on Small Scale Ecosystem Restoration, which was followed with our President's Report, Treasurer's Report, election of the Board of Directors, and Volunteer Awards.



At our AGM, we recognized Anne Landry and Frank Shoemaker for their extraordinary services with honorary life-time membership status.



Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do as an organization, putting in amazing amounts of work to support our activities and initiatives.

This year's awards celebrated: Don Machell (Trails Committee); Glenys Stuart (Invasive Species Committee); Carol McDougall (Community Engagement Committee); Suzanne Christopher (Community Engagement AND Invasive Species).

March 17th and April 2nd and 14th. Garry Oak Loop – Garland / Lois Lane Area. Invasive Species (Daphne) Laurel removal.. (36 volunteers - 54 volunteer hours).



April 6th. GaLTT Guided Winter Walk Series. Spring Beach – Robinson Woods. GaLTT is unique among land trusts with our dual mandate to conserve and connect - on April 6th's guided walk, participants were able to see this in action! Anne Landry, GaLTT's former conservation committee chair and Claudia Brann, an Islands View neighbourhood resident, treated us to a look at the Robinson wood covenant, along with 3 trail licenses, and Claudia's beach.

We pondered all that a fallen Douglas fir had witnessed through its long lifetime, observed how invasive removal on the covenanted lands allows so many more native species to thrive, considered the impact of the freighter anchorages on the sea floor (and on human and other animal residents) and sampled big leaf maple flowers (pictured!). As one walker said, "I was left with so much food for thought."



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

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 13 2024 Meeting



April 7th. GaLTT Trails Work Party – Cox Community Park. 8 sections of boardwalk were installed on muddy sections of the Mallet Creek and Burnside connector trails. 13 volunteers (26 volunteer hours).



Special thanks to RDN Parks staff and 6 GaLTT volunteers who transported the materials in ahead of time

April 21st. Drumbeg Provincial Park Accessibility Work Party - With the assistance of a BC Parks Enhancement Funding (PEF) grant, GaLTT volunteers installed additional carpath material from the parking lot to the picnic tables to assist people with mobility issues. 8 volunteers (12 volunteer hours).

This project is Phase 1 of planned accessibility improvement projects at Drumbeg Provincial Park, subject to BC Parks grant funding.

April 21st. GaLTT Nature Stewards Program – 2nd Annual Tour-de-Terre. 7 properties were available for visiting. Over 50 participants visited the properties as well as learning more about land stewardship and gardening with nature and biodiversity in mind.



May 1st. Drumbeg Provincial Park. Invasives Species (Scotch Broom) removal. 12 Volunteers (18 volunteer hours).



GaLTT Fallen Tree Removals from Trails:

- 3 trees cleared in Cox Park
- 3 trees cleared on the Withey Rd trail

GaLTT Trails Trimming:

- 707 Park, SP 76-82

Save Honeysuckle Woods Petition:

Over the past six months, the "Save Honeysuckle Woods" petition has been quietly circulating in the Gabriola community. **More than 1,100 signatures** have been collected -- a strong statement that local residents NEVER want the "Barrett Quarry" (aka Honeysuckle Woods) lands used for gravel extraction or storage. The purpose of the petition is to convince the Ministry of Transportation (MoTI) Minister and staff to relinquish control of the 40-acre, forested property and to initiate serious discussions to potentially transfer the land to the community for use as public parkland and a small, natural burial site.

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

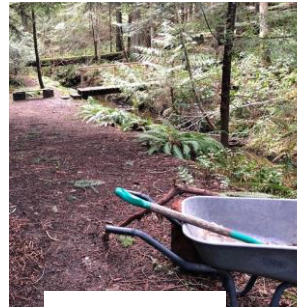
Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 13 2024 Meeting



The petitions will be formally presented at the BC Legislature in mid-May by our local MLA, Doug Routley. GaLTT and Gabriola Memorial Society (GIMS) representatives plan to attend that legislative session and hope to subsequently meet with MoTI Minister, Rob Fleming.

Petitions are still available for signing until early May at Ground Up Cafe, Pages Marina, Nature Spirit Earth Market, and North Road Sports. Anyone who has a petition (filled or partially filled with signatures) should email savehoneysucklewoods@gmail.com to arrange for pickup.

Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) Stewardship Seed Funding program.



BEFORE



AFTER

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 in May 2024.

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

Construction of additional boardwalks in Robinson Woods.

GaLTT Winter Guided Walks Series. A series of walks are being planned for the winter.

June 8, 10 am 'Map Reading 101'

(or, how not to get lost in the 707)

- **Leader:** Hugh Skinner, GaLTT president, cyclist and hiker

Planning underway of GaLTT 20th Anniversary events: to be scheduled for July 2024.



GaLTT Nature Stewards Program:

105 Nature Stewards participants confirmed in the program with pledges covering over 203 acres.

GaLTT Nature Stewards Watershed Community Outreach Project:

Over the past 3 months, 84 “Goodhue & You” factsheets were distributed to homes within the **Goodhue Creek Watershed** area (roughly, Wildwood, Dogwood, Berg and North and South Road (village area) neighbourhoods). We also **rehabilitated riparian habitat** with native transplants, scions of willow and currant, logs and other woody material - all vital ingredients of a healthy watershed!. This program is funded through the RDN

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

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

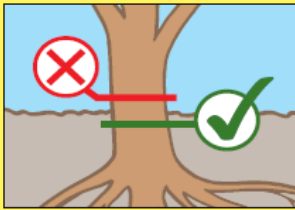
Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee May 13 2024 Meeting



Help stop the spread of this invasive plant!

CUT BROOM IN BLOOM



Control this invasive in your neighbourhood by cutting **slightly below ground level** while it is blooming.

Join a workparty!

Wednesdays 7-8:30

- May 1 Drumbeg Provincial Park
- May 8 South fire hall
- May 15 Drumbeg Provincial Park (hotdogs at 6:00 for a 6:30 start with the Lions)
- May 22 Petroglyph Trail (park at Christ Church Gabriola)
- June 5 Petroglyph Way
- June 12 North Fire Hall

Sundays 1:30 to 3

- May 12 Drumbeg Provincial Park
- May 26 Stalker Road
- June 9 Honeysuckle Meadow (end of Wild Cherry)
- June 23 Paisley Place

**Questions?
or need loppers?**
Email invasives@galitt.ca

