

GRS Presidents Report 2019

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As I write this report, it is a much different environment than when we started 2019. I will not dwell on the actions and response to the current pandemic but will focus on our achievements and my involvement with the GRS over the past year.

I first want to thank and commend Virginia Ebbels for all her hard work in running the programs and activities of the GRS principally as a one person business. This involves all aspects of a business, from financial management, administration, human resources, contract management, marketing, budget control and supervision to name a few of the areas she is ultimately responsible for. She has done this for many years with very little recognition and I want to clearly state my appreciation for her work. I also wish to recognize the efforts of the summer staff and the multitude of program delivery people who bring the GRS programs to life. My sense is that the delivery of recreation programs is much richer because of the efforts of these people, some of whom are or have been members of our board.

I'd like to thank two members of our board who have stepped down during the past year, Jenny Ivany and Nancy Boyes. They have both been strong members of the board. Nancy was probably the best minute taker I have ever had the pleasure to work with. The rest of the Board have provided a balance of input, many great ideas and helped steer the GRS in its operations as well as assisted with financial aspects of the organization.

One of the accomplishments that I was personally involved with was the completion of the Program Coordinator position description and finally a formal performance evaluation for Virginia. Work had been done on this by previous Boards and by our current VP Paul Metcalfe and I thank Paul for his work on this.

The GRS is in a strong financial position and has had a small surplus at the end of each of the past two years thanks to Virginia and the Board. We were able to secure an additional \$8,000 from the RDN going forward to fund a Summer Program Coordinator at a good wage. This has enabled us to recruit strong candidates for our summer position.

The business of the GRS includes recruitment of summer staff to provide quality summer programs and I have taken an active role in that process along with our Program Coordinator, Virginia.

I would like to single out one of our Board members, Derek Kilbourn for his efforts with a variety of GRS actions including financial processes, program planning, reports to POSAC and at times minute taking when required.

I believe we are well resourced with manpower and finances to meet the current challenges and ensure the GRS provides needed services to Gabriola residents.