

# GABRIOLA RECREATION SOCIETY

## 2021 PRESIDENTS REPORT – by Kyle Clifford

The year 2020 has been unique and challenging for us all collectively. As President of the GRS, I have tried to help maintain some semblance of normalcy while that has really not been attainable. Knowing that all of humanity has been faced with the same menace has, for the most part, given us all a common point of reference. People generally “get it” and so understand and sometimes grudgingly accept the limitations we have had in providing a range of recreation opportunities for the community.

In January 2020, we successfully concluded negotiations with the RDN for a three-year period running through the end of December 2023. This Agreement sets out the conditions for the provision of recreation and parks management services for Gabriola residents and provides a secure funding and payment schedule upon which to carry out those services. It clearly identifies the responsibilities of both parties and will enable the GRS to move forward with plans for the future.

As President and a member of the GRS Human Resources sub-committee I have been directly involved with staffing at the GRS including seasonal and permanent staff. After having completed the review of the staff position description and responsibilities a first-time performance review was undertaken. It is hoped and expected that it will become a regular component of the employment cycle.

A preliminary assessment of previously completed Gabriola recreation and parks planning documents was undertaken. It is hoped that this will carry over in 2021 to undertake a recreation needs assessment for future facility development.

It was suggested that the GRS purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Gabriola Elementary School. This was done and presented to the school in 2020 with little recognition or acknowledgment due to the pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Virginia for carrying on with the task of developing and facilitating recreational programs during a public health crisis. She managed to come up with programs that provided some relief to those in the community who chose to participate and navigated through the various pandemic parameters provided by the BC Provincial Health Office. I know it was a scary time for her and at some personal risk she carried on under trying conditions.

The GRS Board has provided solid advice and support this past year and I thank them all for their personal commitment to the organization.