

GABRIOLA RECREATION SOCIETY

2024 PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT – by Kyle Clifford

2024 was my sixth year, I think, as President, and I think that is more than long enough, so I encourage someone else to step up and take a turn as chairperson. More on that later in the AGM agenda.

I thought I would begin my report this year recognizing the tremendous group of Board members we have and generally how well everyone works together to achieve the objectives of the GRS. Starting with the longest serving Board member I recognize Derek Kilborn for his ongoing efforts and his intention to remain on the Board. The newest Board members who just started attending meetings this year, Heather McColloch, Will Sprogis and Mike Taylor, thanks for your willingness to pitch in and help us moving forward. I'd like to recognize Anthony Vonesh who has served on the Board for a few years and most recently as our Treasurer. Anthony has decided not to continue on this year as a Board member and I have thanked him for his service and especially for reviewing our accounts and setting up a GIS to take advantage of the increased interest on the funds held for future purposes. Andrea McLuckie has been a Board member for a couple of years and has added a unique perspective from both the youth and recreation participants perspective. Thanks for you for your input and continued participation Andrea. Lesley Hazeldine has held down the key position on the Board as Board Secretary, and Secretary Treasurer in recent years. Thankyou Lesley for keeping us on track with your accurate minutes. And lastly, I would like to recognize the steady wise commentary and suggestions that Kevan Heughan has provided for a good many years. Thanks for your valuable input Kevan. I would be remiss in not mentioning Vanessa Craig our RDN Director and currently Chairman of that Board. It is always helpful when Vanessa is able to attend our meetings and help steer us in the right direction.

The past year 2024, has been a year of success in many areas, the details of which are laid out in Erin's 2024 Annual Report for the GRS Board. I won't repeat all of the items covered in the report however I do want to mention a couple of important things that will have a positive impact as we move forward into the

current year 2025. First, and most obvious is the near completion of the Gabriola Recreation and Parks Master Plan. This document is expected to become our guide for the next ten to twenty years and hopefully the basis upon which we will see significant new recreation infrastructure finally come to fruition on the island. It would be a shame if the efforts we have put into the plan and the community input and support it has garnered does not result in some new and expanded recreational opportunities for all.

The second thing that happened in 2024 that I wanted to make special note of was the excellent networking that was undertaken by our staff, Jenny and Erin. By establishing closer connections with the RDN and other recreation staff in the Nanaimo Region I expect that they will experience many positive benefits going forward. I expect that there are many applicable takeaways that they can pick up to be used here on Gabriola. Jenny and Erin ensure that Gabriola punches above its weight when it comes to the provision of recreation services to the Community. Thankyou to both of them and congratulations on a successful past year. Anything we as a Board can do to make their work run more smoothly and efficiently helps them to provide great service to our Gabriola Community. They are an exceptional team and we are here to lend our help.

Kyle Clifford