

The Islander

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Berry**

GICA President's Report 2016

The Gambier Island Community Association has been an important thread to the Gambier Island heritage for over 72 continuous years showing leadership and representing the needs and wishes of this community. And the tradition continued this year.

We do rely on the yearly \$25. family memberships to cover our basic operating costs so please make sure you have yours. You will need to soon renew for 2017 by going to our website, <http://www.gambierisland.org/GICA.htm> and use PayPal.

Each year our volunteers organize the annual children's fishing Derby, septic cleaning, chimney cleaning, Christmas party, Canada Day celebrations, phone and email directory maintenance, the annual cleanup, newsletters and more.

At each event individuals from our executive and others from the community give of their time and talents to make them the success that they are and we thank them.

The goals and purpose of our revised constitution directs how we function as an association. They are:

- 1) To promote and facilitate communication between Gambier Island residents.
- 2) To provide assistance for services and projects that enhance the lives of Gambier Island residents.
- 3) To enhance Gambier Island living by promoting and supporting social events and activities.
- 4) To foster communication between government agencies and the residents and organizations of Gambier Island.

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GICA President's Report 2016

GICA decided that one of the greatest threats to our life on Gambier is that of fire. So we have thrown our support behind the Fire Equipment group and donated \$5000 to kick start the high volume water pump needed to access hard to get to areas on Gambier. This year we were successful in lobbying the SCRD for an additional \$2000 Community Grant-in-Aid to go towards this project. We are asking the provincial government for another \$20,000 towards this initiative and have submitted an application for a grant which we hope will be successful. We saw the devastation of the fires this summer in BC and we do not want that to happen on Gambier.

We were successful in receiving a funding grant of \$1600 from the SCRD for sign initiatives on Gambier.

GICA has undertaken to create a distinctive "Welcome to Gambier Island" sign and we are in discussions with the Ministry of Highways to have road names identified in key areas.

The Parks and Trails subcommittee has brought forward an active dialogue on the trail subject and now we have participation of the local SCRD government to ensure that the wishes of all people are respected and heard while at the same time serving the needs of local community as well as the general public.

Gambier Island is changing again with many new faces and we need new energy to keep our community vital. So please get involved, become a member of GICA, join a committee, and give us your input so that we build the community we want.

President Gambier Island Community Association

Danny Tryon

Parking Areas



We have designated FOUR areas of parking for various purposes and duration:

In the Lower Parking area:

- 1) **On the mailbox side, the first five spots closest to the mailbox have been designated "accessible."** These are for people with disability or mobility issues.
- 2) **The rest of the parking on that mailbox side (North) is for very short-term parking—please don't stay in these spots for longer than 2 nights.**
- 3) **Across the road, (the south side) is the medium-term parking—two weeks or less.** Again, it would be great to see the very short spaces closest to the dock saved for motorcycles and golf carts.

New Upper Parking area:

- 4) **Longer term parking –from 2 weeks to 3 months**

We have been asked by members of the community to remind people to avoid parking on the docks and ramps unless you are disabled and to use common sense not to park a large truck or vehicle in a small spot that might impede traffic or cause other safety issues.

Parking is always at a premium over the winter, with rainy days and icy roads, so your cooperation will be much appreciated by your neighbours.

Thanks, in advance, for following the guidelines—and have a great year!

Gambier Island Road Signs

Where am I Going? Dulcie, Grove, Austin, Shawanabe, Arthur and Andy's Bay Road

Can you imagine calling someone for help in an emergency and not knowing how to describe where you are other than to say make a turn at the junction of the fallen tree next to the house that is painted green... If you have not heard of the names in the title of this article you are not alone, yet we all live and travel on these roads in the SW Peninsula of Gambier Island.

GICA with the assistance of the Ministry of Transport has undertaken to identify five major intersections that will enable first responders and residents and visitors to our island to find their way.

We have identified five vital junctions to start:

- The junction in front of the store;
Cardiac Hill junction; Grove Road Intersection; Dulcie Road intersection; Mountain Road intersection

The Ministry of Highways is cooperating with us because of the safety issue and will pay for the signs, metal poles and installation.

GICA with the assistance of the Ministry of Transport has undertaken to identify five major intersections that will enable first responders and residents and visitors to our island to find their way.

However, if we desire a more artsy design for the names then we would be responsible for that. We are inviting anyone that has a concept for lettering designs etc. to contact dwtryon@gmail.com, otherwise we will use the more traditional signage offered to us at no cost. The Ministry had been reluctant to get involved with us initially because of past vandalism but we have convinced them that the island population is now much more responsible and they realize the safety and liability issue.



Gambier Island needs to continue to retain the quiet charm of past days but also embrace the reality of a modern day needs and expectations.

**NOTHING TO STEAL
BUT THIS SIGN.**

**PLEASE DON'T
STEAL THE SIGN.**



Sign posted in Stanley Park by the VPD

2016 Island Clean Up



Once again we had a very successful clean up day on Gambier Island in the New Brighton area. GICA organized the logistics of getting volunteers and helping the SCRCD staff. As in previous years the residents stepped up to work in shifts throughout the day to help.

Appreciation is extended to the following: Danny Tryon, Andrew Cleminson, Jan Kuyper, Don Fladager, Paco (Patrick Cauley), Wayne Berg, Jamie McJannet, Norbert Jakubke, Jim Fulton, Rick Forbes, Kevin Johnson, Jim Kirkham, Colin Bates, Boris Gorgitza, Peter Howard-Jones, Ron Dies, Brock Rowland, Frank Rogers, Barry Robinson, Kate Stamford, Martin Hendricks and Bunker Killam. Eman Gorgitza helped residents who did not have transportation.

We work closely with the SCRCD staff to accommodate the types of materials that can be taken away. Environmental concerns have limited the types of materials collected but please let us know what things you believe need to be included.



Gambier Island Conservancy Report 2016

Camp Suzuki: The Conservancy significantly expanded its involvement in Camp Suzuki at Camp Fircom this past summer. In August 2015, we were invited to participate in the last day of the first Camp Suzuki. This gave us an opportunity to introduce the young adult participants to the Conservancy and suggest some volunteer projects that might be of interest to them. There were some follow-up inquiries after the camp, but none materialized into volunteer work for the Conservancy.

This year, the Conservancy was invited to participate in the planning of an expanded Camp Suzuki, consisting of a young adult camp and youth camp. Boris Gorgitza, the Conservancy's treasurer and one of its two trail coordinators, participated in a Camp Suzuki planning meeting held in Horseshoe Bay on 11 June. This resulted in the Conservancy committing to involvement in the programs at each of the two camps.

On Monday, 8 August, Boris and Peter Scholefield were transported to the adult camp on a 6 pm water taxi from Horseshoe Bay accompanied by Squamish Nation Chiefs Ian Campbell and Bill Williams. The chiefs were part of a Squamish Nation contingent going to the camp to conduct a First Nations day on Tuesday. For this occasion, they towed a war canoe behind the water taxi. After supper, Boris and Peter talked to the adult campers about the Conservancy and some possible volunteer opportunities. Following the presentations, the group was taken on short hike from the camp up to the junction of the trail leading to the Halkett Bay Marine Park and Mt Artaban. They carried up supplies and together installed a trail sign post at the junction. An 8-inch



diameter Sonotube was installed into a 2.5 foot hole along with a 6 ft length of 4x4 treated wood post. The post was secured inside the Sonotube by pouring in a liquid expanding foam mixture designed for this purpose. About two weeks later, existing signs were mounted onto the post.

On Thursday morning, 18 August, Boris and Peter returned to the camp and joined about 50 youth for breakfast. After breakfast, a group of about 20 campers was led on a hike on the trail from the camp to the Halkett Bay Marine Park. En route, the campers were entertained with some frisbee golf. Boris and Peter wrote conservation questions on the back of about 20 paper dinner

plates. At various intervals along the whole route, they stopped to nail a plate to a tree and campers tried to hit the plate with a frisbee. The camper that first hit the plate got to remove it and read the question on the back for others to try to answer. The campers also nailed aluminum white-coded trail markers into trees along the route. Upon reaching the destination at the Halkett Viewing Bluffs, the group photo above was taken overlooking Halkett Bay. Boris and Peter found this a worthwhile experience in educating campers about the Conservancy, Gambier Island and its environment. Hopefully, some of the participants will volunteer to work on the trail network.

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Trails: Very little trail maintenance was done in the past year, but some posts and temporary signs were installed on the trail from the SW peninsula up to Gambier Lake. Some progress was made on planning to purchase, using grant funding, supplies to install more permanent signage on the trails to Gambier Lake.

Future of Howe Sound: The Conservancy is one of the coalition partners with the Future of Howe Sound Society promoting a renewable, sustainable Howe Sound. In this capacity, the Conservancy attended, as an observer, two meetings of the Howe Sound Community Forum, one at Camp Fircom on 29 April and most recently on 14 October at the Gleneagles Golf Clubhouse. The Forum is comprised of elected officials from all of the communities that have jurisdiction over the land areas adjacent to Howe Sound. The April meeting was hosted by the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee and the October meeting by West Vancouver.

At the October meeting, there was a group presentation led by Ruth Simons, Conservancy member and executive director of the Future of Howe Sound Society, proposing a Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It was well received by the Forum members. There was also a report on the Sunshine Coast Fixed Link Feasibility Study and an announcement on plans to conduct public open houses this fall. None of the three possible route options being studied will touch Gambier Island. Stephen Foster from the David Suzuki Foundation informed the group about a proposal to approach Parks Canada about the possibility of them conducting a feasibility study on developing a national park on Gambier Island. Stephen has participated in discussions with the United Church of



Peter Scholefield and Doug Hopwood at the Long Bay Wetland Nature Reserve

Canada about the involvement of Camp Fircom in a national park.

Nature Reserves: On 28 May, Peter Scholefield accompanied Islands Trust Fund consultant forester, Doug Hopwood and Peter Klassen from the Brigade Bay subdivision on the annual monitoring of the three Islands Trust Fund nature reserves. A good number, but not all, of the young trees that had been encircled with protective screening last year had survived the very dry conditions of the previous summer. Another nature boundary sign was installed at the border between the Long Bay Wetland Nature Reserve and the Sea Ranch.

Administrative Activities: During the past year, directors have held several teleconference

call meetings with the main topic being planning for the installation of trail signage and markings on the island's trail network. At the AGM on 29 June at the Gleneagles Community Centre, the same executive was elected for 2016/17 and subsequently appointed as follows: Peter Scholefield, President; Boris Gorgitza, Treasurer; Kathy McTaggart, Peter Snell and Tim Turner as directors-at-large. Membership in the Conservancy supports its mission to preserve and restore Gambier's biological diversity and enhancing and sharing knowledge of its ecosystems. Membership also supports ongoing trail development and maintenance.

Peter Scholefield



2016: A year of transformation for our community centre.

Every year, we look back at all that was accomplished at the community centre and feel proud of having hosted events that bring us together, successful fundraisers to keep the centre doors opened, and completed upkeep of the building and grounds. In 2016 we did all a that, and more.

Let's begin with where all fun starts: the kitchen. Our totally renovated kitchen is slightly larger than the old one with a smarter layout to accommodate our talented island cooks. We also now have a refurbished commercial-grade cooler purchased with the help of the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Big thanks to Richard Potter, Morgan Campbell and Kathy McTaggart for leading this effort and to all the volunteers who pitched in.

With the help of SCRD, Morgan and Kathy stretched the renovation activity to the Anavets Room—the space now has water and a sink. Our new playground is commercial grade and it was also completed with significant help from the SCRD and many volunteers coordinated by Barb Miklashek.

Even with the rain, we had a good turnout for the Fall

clean-up and completed most of the task on our list. Subsequently, Richard and Louise Potter tackled the “deep clean” of the main storage space—a big job.

The 2016 community events also raised the bar. We had a great Spring Dance and “Salute to Summer” concert, Remembrance Day gathering and Chocolate Wine Pairing event.

After more than 20 year of organizing our Annual Summer Fair (our main fundraiser), Richard and Louise are wrapping up with their most successful fundraiser ever! Thanks to all of you whom have donated items for the auction, and to those who participated with online and live bids. We plan

on keeping the tradition going... Let us know if you want to help out.

Our annual membership drive began December 1st. Please take the time to renew or join—fees and donations help keep the doors open for our community events.

The Gambier Community Centre Society is governed by an elected board of volunteers. After more than 25 years of officially service our community through the Board of Directors and teaming up with Louise, his wife, to organize events and complete huge projects at the Centre, Richard Potter is stepping down. He will be missed, but we look forward to seeing him and Louise on the dance floor!

Nancy Grenier



2016 South West Gambier Island Fire Equipment Group Update



The South West Gambier Equipment Group consists of homeowners who want to protect the wonderful beauty and lifestyle we all share on this forested and enchanted island that is Gambier.

Because we are isolated from the mainland we do not have direct access to catastrophic emergency support such as fire halls, police and ambulances. As a result, GFEG was formed over 20 years ago and through the support of a few concerned homeowners, raised awareness and funds in order to provide the South West community with the means to intervene and counteract threats caused by fire.

Today, because of their foresight, the South West area of Gambier has access to three fire equipment trailers that carry draft and fire pumps along with tools useful in extinguishing and or limiting the threat of fire to our beloved community. In addition to these trailers which are strategically located within the three main communities of the South West peninsula, a large fire pump and equipment such as a power generator, lights and accessories to the afore mentioned are kept and stored at the Community Centre to protect the building and to serve as a storage facility not only for fire fighting purposes but also for first aid needs.

This year GFEG volunteers have chosen to focus on improving our abilities to deal with fires for those areas where water sources are scarce or limited.

With the help of donations from members of our community, GFEG has purchased a new high pressure pump (Wajax) that will provide water from the ocean at a distance of up to a mile away. This will directly benefit the 1/3rd of our S.W. Gambier Community who reside above an elevation greater than 50 meters, because of the real possibility that they are likely to run out of water should a fire occur. (The Smedley fire of a few years ago required over 10,000 gallons of water to put it out). Until now, most of the 120 dwellings we are concerned about are beyond the reach of our ability to supply them with enough local water to deal with a serious fire.

Of course, this new equipment also benefits the other 2/3rds of our 320 or so dwellings situated below elevations of 50 meter since sources of available water are often limited (especially during summer months). The pump itself weighs more than 200 pounds, thus to ease and facilitate maneuverability in and out of a trailer to a water source, we had a cart custom built to facilitate deployment.

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This new pump will act as a secondary line of defense which (providing there are enough volunteers to operate it) will ensure that we can access ocean water and supply the smaller Davey fire pumps via a newly acquired 500 gallon portable pond at a site of a fire.

What remains to be done is the purchase of 60 rolls of high pressure fire hose and a new trailer which would not only house this equipment but also permit us to reach the nearest dock to set up this secondary line of defense.



Although we are currently exploring getting a grant from the Lottery Corporation your help is needed financially to help us acquire this necessary equipment and volunteers are also needed for training in using this new and powerful pump.

We encourage all islanders to consider our appeal. Those of us actively involved in GFEG are committed to helping our neighbours should a call be made for us to bring equipment and to help, but we remind everyone that we are not firefighters and we are not always on site to help. It behooves everyone to familiarize themselves with the equipment and to be aware that should a fire occur, it is up to them to organize and co-ordinate their neighbours to fight the threat.

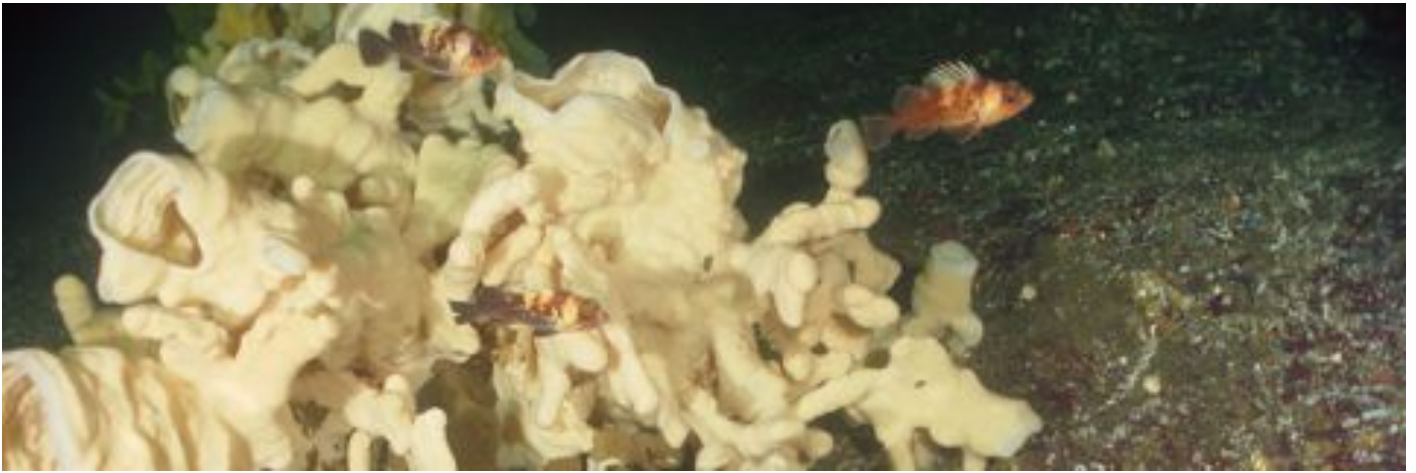
Lastly, a word regarding the issue of the Provincial Fire Ban issued every summer. Some of our neighbours over the summer, have taken upon themselves to ignore the fire ban and have chosen to take it upon themselves to do outside burns while the ban was still in effect, reasoning that the conditions were acceptable to do so. This behavior puts all of us at risk!

Please respect the directives from the Fire Prevention authorities and consider that individual decisions to ignore the Fire Ban puts all of us at risk. Those who choose to ignore the Provincial directives may be reported and fines could be levied.

We wish to maintain our wonderful forested environment and remind everyone that we must all do our part to protect it.

Note: We at GFEG are available at any time to demonstrate the functioning of equipment housed in the equipment trailers at any time and are more than willing to come over to your property to familiarize you and anyone interested in how to operate it.

Thank you,
Bob Ostiguy on behalf of all of us at GFEG



Future of Howe Sound 2016 Update

Word is getting around about the Howe Sound UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization) Biosphere Region Initiative. A core team is currently exploring this campaign as a means to achieve the objectives of a comprehensive plan for the region.

The Future of Howe Sound Society has not been alone over the years in calling on the Provincial government to lead a comprehensive land and marine use plan for Howe Sound. While the government continues to say no, many parts of a sustainable model for the Howe Sound region is moving forward. When we add up all the actions, we realize the Howe Sound Region is in line with the intentions of a UNESCO Biosphere Region. The three essential principles being:

1. Core protected areas – The Howe Sound watershed contains over eighteen parks and wilderness protected areas. Adding to the marine protection is the recent expansion of the Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park, fishing restrictions to protect the Glass Sponge reefs and Squamish Nation's commitment to planning for Howe Sound focusing on the

marine component.

2. Sustainable development – Tourism and recreation development continues to increase. The addition of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail and new adventure tour operators helps to connect people to their environment, a key goal of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere framework. Education and research through the many ongoing activities such as youth camps, the Vancouver Aquarium's Howe Sound research group, the Squamish River Watershed Society and many more, provide essential learning opportunities. A significant industry around Howe Sound, Forestry's sustainable practices would receive international attention with the UNESCO designation. Major projects would receive increased scrutiny for how they fit the definition of "sustainable" development.

3. Logistical support – The Howe Sound Community Forum brings elected representatives from communities around Howe Sound and First Nations together. Twice a year they meet around a common set of Principles for Cooperation. More roundtables events have been convened over the past three years, including a recent socio-economic Forum. The Howe Sound Coastal Ocean Health

report and Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Assessment will be published soon. This data adds to the knowledge important for planning. The objectives of a Biosphere Region under the UNESCO framework, is to provide an ongoing structure for collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders. It builds capacity for supporting current and new initiatives that promote sustainable development in balance with our natural environment.

Some say why bother going through with the lengthy nomination process to become recognized as by UNESCO when it does not have any legal "teeth? This goal cannot be achieved by a small group alone. This has to be a co-creation with First Nations and endorsement is needed from our local, regional, provincial or federal government. We believe the effort is worth it as the intentions of a UNESCO Biosphere Region set a higher bar to ensure the recovery of Howe Sound is sustained for future generations. For more information subscribe to www.futureofhowesound.org.

-Ruth Simons

Image of the glass sponge reef taken from Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's webpage
<http://cpawsbc.org/campaigns/glass-sponge-reefs>

Dear Gambier Island friends and neighbours,

As the SCRD director for Area F West Howe Sound, it continues to be my pleasure to serve the residents of Gambier Island. As a part of my duties, on Friday November 11, I had the honour of being invited to your island's Remembrance Day Ceremony. What a wonderful opportunity to see so many neighbours and friends join together for what became a great gathering of people recognizing our veterans. I was so impressed with the numbers of attendees and very honoured to be asked to join you. Thank you.

As you know, there was a community consultation regarding Community Trail development. A survey was taken and the results presented to the

community this past July. The results show that 59% of Island residents are in support of further trail development, however, as one would expect, some concerns were raised, such as privacy and tranquility, water quality, fire hazards, trail maintenance, and a lack of toilet facilities were of concern. The SCRD will prepare a terms of reference and establish a volunteer community task force to assist in the development of a trails network plan for the South West Peninsula of the Island. I look forward to these next steps in the process of further trail development.

Last February, a SCRD community staff report, presented the current states of a number of advisory committees that collaborate with the Board of Directors and

staff on many topics of community interest. After due consideration, the Public Wharves Advisory Committee, along with many others, will be concluded by the end of 2016. To replace the wharves committee, a new committee will be formed, and will be known as the Ports Monitoring Committee with a new terms of reference. A call for volunteers will begin in early 2017 and I look forward to working with our newly appointed POMO Committee.

Of special note I am happy to say that regarding the maintenance of the SCRD docks and floats, that the capital works plan for 2017 includes the replacement of the Gambier Harbour float. Details as to the length of the project and when it will commence will be coming soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with each and every one of you, how much I appreciate this opportunity to work so closely with all of the Gambier Island residents. It is a pleasure to attend the meetings and celebrations where my wife Mary and I are made to feel so welcome. As we approach this holiday season, we wish you very happy holidays, and a safe and successful 2017.

-Ian Winn



Photo by Judy Weiser

GICA Fishing Derby 2016



The Gambier Island Fishing Derby was once again a fantastic event. Over 70 fishing rods were handed out to the many children at the multi-generational family event. The catch and release fishing was prepared by Eliza Killam and the BBQ hotdog lunch was prepared by Gery Wentworth and her crew. To conclude the event, prizes were provided to all children. This event is annually supported by G.I.C.A; whom we greatly appreciate!

See you next year!



Squamish Nation Council presents gift to Gambier Community during thier visit on March 31st 2016. Council Member Dennis Joseph explained the Mask: "It is a symbol of an Eagle to commemorate the historical first meeting of the Islands Trust and the Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council."



MASK
 donated to the
 Gambier Island Community Centre
 by the
 Squamish Nation Council
 during their visit and luncheon
 March 31, 2016

Just like smoking in restaurants,
seatbelt-less cars, and killing whales:
Gambierites starting to re-think
"Finders Keepers" attitude toward
Squamish Artifacts and below is how
to give them back (anonymously if
preferred!)

By Judy Weiser



A few months ago the cemetery where my grandmother was buried in Houston, Texas, suddenly became heavily eroded due to flooded riverbanks collapsing during heavy rains. Luckily, her grave was OK, but other coffins closer to the riverside washed away, many breaking apart as they flowed downstream.

After the flood subsided, people in its path found many interesting items half-buried in the mud (wedding rings, small framed photos, war medals, necklaces, and other special things that had been buried with the deceased supposedly forever), which now suddenly were in the hands of total strangers, who had no concept that these things actually still *belonged* to someone — and instead in many cases kept these things for their own use or took them to pawn shops to exchange for cash.

I mention this above, because in many ways there has long been a similar innocent history of "finders keepers" right here on our own Gambier Island — where the first few generations of early Island settlers often encountered things on the beach, in the forest, or even in the dirt dug up during house foundation excavations, things like stone tools, jewelry, arrowheads, and other

artifacts originally belonging many centuries ago to Aboriginal people who lived here in the several *thousand* years before non-Native people ever arrived. (The letter from the Museum of Anthropology shown in Bill Errico's Book *Miramar* dated the stone beads I was asked to bring to them, see photo above, as being from at least 3,000 years ago!)

In those days, everybody just kept what they found; no-one thought much back then about any deeper historical significance to these thing — or that they did actually still have owners: the descendants of those ancestors who previously used them or wore them (just like the families of those buried in like my grandmother in that now-washed-away graveyard).

Most of these things were kept as "curios" — displayed on bookshelves or wrapped up on a closet shelf (or treated less respectfully such as one man's dumping of a large collection of old stone beads into a bucket for his child to play with). The usual attitude was of "finders keepers" — these belonged to the people who had found them.

But... times have changed, and "finders keepers" just doesn't fit well any more now that there is better

cultural understanding about the lives of those who lived here before us settlers arrived — as well as our community's greatly-improved relationships with the descendants of those original people, the members of the Skwxwu7mesh (Squamish) Nation, on whose traditional territory Gambier Island is located.

I wonder what it feels like to walk into someone's home on our Island and see one of your ancestral family's possessions decorating a shelf there along with old teacups and seashells and other "trinkets"... I know I would for sure be upset if I found my grandmother's jewelry or other personal items in such a display in a stranger's home...

Last March, a historical "first meeting" took place on Gambier between the Chiefs and Council of the Squamish Nation and the Islands Trust. During informal chatting between them and Islanders afterwards, the question arose about whether anyone on Gambier had ever found any old Aboriginal artifacts. Several people said it was well known that many Islanders had such collections and some of these were quite large.

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But they also said they doubted whether any of these people would ever be willing to give back what they had found — especially if they were worried they might get into trouble for having kept these things...

Some said they figured that maybe some of these people thought they should return things they had found, because it no longer felt right to keep them — but they had no idea about how to go about doing that...

The Council Members (one of whom was my "Squamish brother" Dennis Joseph) responded that they definitely understood that the finders had kept these items "in innocent ignorance" (and, in fact, stressed their appreciation for finders having taken the time to keep and take care of these things for all these years).

More importantly, they stated in public that they had no desire to upset anyone with their request to be allowed to "repatriate" what rightfully belonged to their ancestors — but simply wanted to have them back, so that they could be treated with more culturally-proper care or (if ceremonially appropriate) be respectfully re-buried. They just want their families' things back...

After that meeting, several Islanders have now begun to return

things (by giving them over directly into the care of my brother Dennis) — or for those worried about being identified, though me, since I offered to be the on-island "go-between" for those who wanted to return things, but don't want anyone to know who they are.

One person has already returned to the Squamish Nation ALL of his sizable collection of artifacts he had collected for many years. Two more people are currently in active discussion with me about doing the same.

My promise (and yes I'm willing to put this into writing) is: *If you want to return "found" artifacts to the Squamish Nation — but you don't want anyone to ever know who they came from — just contact me and I will be your "delivery person" -- **and I will never ever tell anyone who you are!***

Our home in West Bay now serves as the artifacts' "safe house", where you can bring your found objects and leave them with me (or I can drive to your home to pick them up, if you prefer) — and I will take them to the Council members' office, as soon as possible.

You can choose to stay anonymous if you prefer — or, if you *do* want to meet them to return these yourself in person — I will be happy to arrange for you to meet them (in my home or yours) or drive

you to their office at the Squamish Nation Band Office, if you prefer to receive a bit more public acknowledgement for your gift of returned items.

It is 100% your choice as to when, where, and how your items are returned — my part is simply to help make this happen. I give my word here that whatever you tell me (including your name) will stay unshared with anyone, unless you want to have your identity revealed.

Lastly, should you not want to return "your" artifacts, but would be willing to let me at least come photograph them so that the Squamish Nation's Cultural/Historical Committee could at least see what these look like (for historical documenting, studying, and dating) — and at least add these photos to their historical collection at their cultural museum — they would be happy to have those photo-substitutes in the meantime!

SO: If you have artifacts that you want to return, contact me (Judy Weiser) and I'll help you in the role of "go-between" to make this happen (and on your terms)!

Phone or text me at: **604-202-3431** — or email me at: **jweiser@telus.net**

Or, contact xwechtaal Dennis Joseph Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council at:

dennis_joseph@squamish.net

Reward offered for return of the Heron Trail Sign

The Gambier Island Community Association (GICA) is saddened that a beautiful handcrafted work of art has been taken from the entrance to a public trail near the halfway point between New Brighton and West Bay. The Heron Trail Sign was donated by local artist Morgan Campbell and crafted in his studio on Gambier Island. The sign, made of three 30 cm by 30 cm (12 x 12 inch) ceramic tiles, shows a heron in a moonlit marsh and delighted visitors and residents of our community. Great places in the world are often remembered because of their works of art and we are now deprived of one such creation!

It appears the sign was cut from the posts the evening of Sunday August 28.

There will be more street signs, name signs as well as more public amenities established on Gambier as we develop as a community. There is no place for vandalism or theft of any kind on our island.

GICA and an anonymous donor are offering a \$400 reward for information leading to the successful return of the missing "Heron Trail" sign. Such information can be passed on to Danny Tryon at dwtryon@gmail.com. If you have other information about the theft of the Heron Trail Sign, contact RCMP at [604-885-2266](tel:604-885-2266).





Congratulations to our hard working 2016 Citizen of the Year, Barb Miklashek, appropriately dressed in work clothes and boots. GICA president Danny Tryon is displaying the Phil Richardson Memorial Plaque for Citizens of the Year and also wearing standard Gambier attire, especially the socks.

2016 New Citizens of the Year!



We welcome with love our baby girl

January 30 2016
7 lbs 13 oz

Haley,
Steve
& Heath

Evelyn Tina Armitage

Vanwert "Riker" Ward Atchison



Born February 18, 2016
8lb - 10 oz

Spirit of the ANAVets

The major activities of Spirit of Anavets this year have been focused around fundraising towards our major goals which are to provide small bursaries for island young people who are pursuing post secondary education, book certificates for island children, donations to veteran organizations, and small projects to benefit our island life.

It gives us great pride to be able to support again both Sally Newton Mason at UBC and Kathryn Mernett at U of Vic who are continuing their studies in their second year. We are also giving a bursary to Emanuel Gorgitza who is furthering his education at Vancouver Community College. We wish them the best of luck in their endeavours.

Another project is hosting the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Gambier Harbour Anavets Park, where we take a moment to remember and honour the fallen and injured during the past several wars in our memory. We are led in prayer by Reverend Brian Thorpe, our very own padre on Gambier Island.

Afterwards Spirit of Anavets hosts a luncheon in the Anavets room at the community centre. All are welcome to attend. At this luncheon we hand out book certificates to the young children of Gambier Island, to encourage the life-long love of reading. Nothing like a brand new book to increase the excitement around reading.

This past summer Spirit of Anavets placed a beautiful picnic table on the grounds at the community centre, for public enjoyment. This table is in honour of Phil Richardson, one of the members involved in the reinstatement of the Charter of Anavets, and a great friend of Anavets over the years. A plaque has been placed on the table in memory of Phil. We hope Gambierites and friends will enjoy the table, which has been placed close to the new playground.

A project which Spirit of Anavets would like to encourage the use of is the Memorial Wall at the Anavets Park. The fence was funded by SCRD for this purpose, but the idea needs to be communicated to explain the use of the wall.



We encourage you to commemorate or honour a loved one by placing a plaque up to 8"x8" on the fence.

The Anavets room will be redecorated this year, and along with the addition of a beautiful stainless steel sink, it will be available for rent. It could be used for special occasion activities by the community centre. It is time to get that room back in to use again. There will be a concerted effort to rehang the pictures of individuals involved in the great wars, along with their names. That is where we need help to identify the individuals in the pictures. Please call Barney if you could help with identification of pictures, which you have seen on the wall for the past several years.

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Spirit of Anavets, in an effort to be of further assistance to the community of Gambier Island, would like to know if there is an individual who is in need of a special piece of equipment to assist them in their activities of daily living, and which may be beyond their financial reach. We could help!

Our fundraising events support all these efforts. This past year we provided the food at the fair, as well as at the Bobby Bruce Concert. We do enjoy these events, and hope that you are also enjoying our menus in this regard. We can always use volunteers for these fundraising events and thank all those who came out and helped in so many ways this summer.

Spirit of Anavets is managed by a small group of dedicated individuals, who would welcome anyone's interest, input, and desire to join this group, made up of myself, Sharon Moxon, Barney Taylor, Shirley Bates, Lynn Bell, and our wonderful food guru, Deborah Porter Taylor.

Please come and join us.

Sharon Moxon



**Remembrance
Day
November
11th 2016
at the
ANAVETS
Park.**

Photo by Bob Ostiguy



In Memory

*Maisie Johnson
Gambier Harbour*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TO GAMBIER ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IS \$25.00
NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY: POSTAL CODE:
PHONE NUMBER:
EMAIL:
PLEASE INCLUDE MY NAME AND ADDRESS IN GAMBIER PHONE DIRECTORY:

SEND TO:

**GAMBIER ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
#201 721 ANDY'S BAY ROAD
GAMBIER ISLAND, BC
V0N 1V0**

IN CASE OF GAMBIER EMERGENCY (MEDICAL, FIRE, POLICE)

CALL 911 and give the relevant information from below:

Our street address is:

The closest dock (public or other) is:

(If needed), full-time neighbours you can contact are:

phone#

phone#

Can they provide transportation for paramedics, etc? Is there a second phone in the house I'm phoning from? If so, that phone number is:

A resident at our address is a senior or mobility-challenged.

There is a child or children at our address.

Residents at our address have these known medical conditions or allergies, take these medications, and/or are allergic to these drugs:

Our family doctor is:

phone#

A family contact is:

phone#

GPS location (choose one)

**Our home's GPS coordinates are Long. Lat. .
or**

Closest known GPS coordinates are Long. Lat. .

House access (choose one):

**Our home is inland and accessible by road and driveway.
or**

**Our home is inland and accessible by road and trail (footpath).
or**

**Our home is on the waterfront and most easily accessible by road and driveway.
or**

**Our home is on the waterfront and most easily accessible by road and trail (footpath).
or**

**Our home is on the waterfront and most easily accessible from the beach or private dock.
(Add details if necessary about tide, etc.)**

Presented by the West Howe Sound Safety Support Group