GICA President's Report 2017

The Gambier Island Community Association has been an important thread to the Gambier Island heritage for over 74 continuous years showing leadership and representing the needs and wishes of this community. We do rely on the yearly $25 family memberships to cover our basic operating costs so please make sure you have yours.

Each year our volunteers organize the annual children’s fishing Derby, septic cleaning, chimney cleaning, Christmas party, July 1st celebrations, maintain the phone and email directory, newsletters, and the annual cleanup and you will read about some of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

Our Executive this year consists of:
President Danny Tyron,
VP Emily Pickett,
Treasurer: Kathy McTaggart and Directors Kevin Johnson,
Gery Wentworth, Joyce Clegg, Brian Thorpe.

Gambier Island is still changing and we have seen new families giving us much needed 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. There is always room for new people and ideas on the GICA executive.
The Gambier Island Community Association is proud to announce the completion of the "Welcome to Gambier Island" sign at the foot of the New Brighton wharf on the bluff.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work by Gord Steele and Kevin for installing this sign and transporting the materials.

We also thank the SCRD Community Grants-in aid program who awarded us $1600 towards this project. Norbert Jakubke, a local designer and resident in West Bay, designed the sign and Gregg Smith, a friend of Danny’s, built and painted it.

We acknowledge the spirit of cooperation with the Squamish Nation to include the words of the Squamish Nation “Ha7lh n skwalwn kwis tl’iknumut itti St’ápás” as a welcome.

The Gambier Island Community Association is also pleased to see the erection of a few road signs on the SW peninsula by the Ministry of Highways and Transportation and Infrastructure. This has come as a result of much discussion and persistence as we became aware of major safety issues where our residents did not know the names of roads to direct emergency response personnel.

So far, the only intersections signed are: Andy’s Bay Road, New Brighton Road, West Bay Road, and Austin Road. We will also try to get funding from SCRD for further directional signage that could direct visitors to the Lake Trails, Gambier Harbour, West Bay, etc. We would like more intersections to be added this year as we gage the community response to these installations. Colin Midgley of MOTI is acknowledged for his support.
We have designated FOUR areas of parking for various purposes and duration:

**In the Lower Parking area:**

1) **On the mail box 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!
2017 Island Clean Up

Once again on Aug. 26, 2017 we had a great group of volunteers help make the day go smoothly.

We would like to thank: Danny Tryon, Boris Gorgitza, Richard Potter, Andrew Potter, Norbert Jakubke, Kevin Johnson, Ron Dies, Peter Howard-Jones, Barry Robinson, Rick Forbes, Bruce Anthony, Natasha Tousaw, Bunker Killam, Wayne Berg, Andy Cleminson and Paco (Patrick Cauley.)

Although Dan Crosby is no longer involved, the crew from Mercury allowed thing to work smoothly for their first year. There was a minor glitch with the bin placement in the lower parking area but it was managed. Many people were asking for an electronics recycling and we will bring that up with the SCRD people for another year....

Thanks for everyone’s help in organizing their trash and patience at the bins.
2017 AGM:

• It was held on 13 June at the Gleneagles Community Centre and featured two guest speakers.

  Stephen Foster from the David Suzuki Foundation gave an update on the proposal for a Feasibility Study for a National Park on Gambier Island. He said that he was pleased with the response from those who attended public meetings in West Vancouver and at New Brighton on Gambier Island.

  A letter of support was sent by our MP to the federal minister of the Environment and Climate Change. The minister’s response in September basically stated that a feasibility study is not a priority in the Howe Sound region at this time, as the federal government is awaiting the results of Pathway to Canada Target 1 recommendations that should be available in March 2018. The Squamish Nation seems interested in a feasibility study and the critical support of the provincial government is now being sought. Unfortunately, Stephen suffered a serious stroke in mid October and we don’t know how this will affect progress on the initiative.

• Birgitta Von Krosigk briefed us on the initiative for a Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation. The Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society is now Incorporated under the BC Societies Act and they have a website at: https://www.howesoundbri.org/. The AGM adopted a resolution to send letters of support for both of these initiatives which was done in August. There was discussion but no final decision at the AGM about transitioning to the new Societies Act and adopting a new constitution and bylaws.

• A Task Group comprised of Peter Snell and Ruth Simons was established to look into what the Conservancy might suggest be done with the bequest of former director Lois Kennedy’ to the Islands Trust Fund. Lois died on 3 April 2010. The $100,000 bequest (now approximately $116,800) is to be used for the purchase, enhancement or maintenance of public trust lands, including parks and nature reserves on Gambier Island.

  The existing slate of directors was elected to continue for 2017/18: Boris Gorgitza, Kathy McTaggart, Peter Scholefield, Peter Snell, Mike Stamford and Tim Turner.

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. In February, we purchased a Garmin GPS unit and used it at the end of the month to record way points on the trail from Camp Artaban to Brigade Bay and to Lost Lake. Ian Roxburgh from the Sea Ranch has provided us with GPS readings for the trail up to and beyond Lost Lake to Gambier Creek just east of Gambier Lake.

Continued on next page...
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. I attended, as an observer, two meetings of the Howe Sound Community Forum this year, one at Lions Bay on 5 May 2017 and the other at YMCA Camp Elphinstone on 13 October.

  The Forum is comprised of elected officials from all of the communities that have jurisdiction over the land areas adjacent to Howe Sound. At both meetings, there were presentations on a proposal to have Howe Sound designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Region with a project video featured at Camp Elphinstone (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNttAOPWRHA).

  At the October meeting, our Trustee, Kate-Louise Stamford, announced the formation of an Ocean Watch Task Force – Howe Sound. She is co-chairing this group of local government representatives, staff and NGO representatives to develop appropriate policy actions arising from the recommendations in the Ocean Watch – Howe Sound edition published by the Coastal Ocean Research Institute.

• On 3 October, I was at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale to meet with representatives from eleven conservation organizations from around Howe Sound. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative and to share thoughts on the future of conservation work in Howe Sound.

Nature Reserves:

• As they did in 2015, the Islands Trust Fund made funds available for restoration work on their nature reserves on Gambier Island. On 25 February, I organized a work party to plant trees in the Long Bay Wetland and Brigade Bay Bluffs Nature Reserves. Islands Trust Fund consultant forester, Doug Hopwood led the work party which included myself and 7 other volunteers. Two of the volunteers were participants in the 2016 Camp Suzuki adult camp.

Gambier Island OCP Review:

The Conservancy is well represented with three of the five members on the Advisory Planning Commission (APC). The APC is to provide advice to the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee with regard to its review and update of the Gambier Island Official Community Plan (OCP). Conservancy members, Ruth Simons, Boris Gorgitza and myself participated in two meetings that were held earlier this year at the community centre in New Brighton. At these two meetings, we addressed the referral to the APC to review Economic Development and Livability Policies in the current OCP and suggest questions for further public consultation. The next meeting of the APC is planned for 18 December.

Gambier Island OCP Conservation Mapping:

On 1 May, I participated in Regional Conservation Plan Workshop for the Islands Trust Fund which was held in Nanaimo. It was there that I learned about the Gambier Island OCP Conservation Mapping project. The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) and the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) partnered in October 2016 to develop ecological mapping for possible use by the LTC in its Official Community Plan (OCP) review. The mapping identifies priority conservation areas and priority watersheds. A first draft of the mapping has been made available. With feedback, the mapping will be refined and the CDFCP will work with the Gambier Island Planner to provide options for integration into the Gambier Island OCP.

Peter Scholefield, President
14 December 2017

A Year of Focus On Community Engagement for Gambier Community Centre Society

Building on the opportunity created by renovations to the Gambier Community Centre’s facilities in 2016, the Society placed its emphasis this year on broadening community use and involvement.

Because the centre is used for diverse events by islanders and visitors, a primary focus has been to ensure that the centre is maintained. This has involved continuous upgrades and management of the facility’s water system. Cleaning and timely event preparation have also been priorities.

Keynote events such as the Spring Dance, Remembrance Day luncheon, and Annual Summer fair drew excellent crowds. The centre was also used to host an International Women’s Day observance, yoga sessions, a second hand sale, and pickle ball.

Thanks to Judy Weiser for submitting the panoramic photographs of pies and people (above).

Thanks to Deborah Porter for submitting the photos of the new hat requirement to attend GCCS events (below).

Continued on page 7...
Encouraging membership has been a top priority. Annual memberships support the maintenance of the facility. As the centre continues to develop, the society sees a need to keep residents and visitors informed about the benefits the centre provides.

A notable addition to the centre is its grand piano, a donation from Katie Watson.

The society’s Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 10:30 am. Please be sure you are present if you wish to be included in the director slate for the coming year. New nominees are always welcome!

Submitted by Lionel Hughes
Photos from Deborah Porter
The Islander

Spirit of the ANAVets

Spirit of Anavets may not be known to many of you. We grew out of Anavets, which used to run the very fun Pub Nights for several years down in the Anavets lounge at the community centre. The difficulty in finding volunteers to open up the bar, purchase and haul the wine boxes, bottles and cans from the mainland, cook up the food, serve all evening long, then close up...became a logistical nightmare. Many of us were burned out. But it was fun, and brought many of us together during those long Saturday nights in the winter and late spring. Summer evening barbecues on the patio were the norm and greatly enjoyed.

So, Spirit of Anavets came together to continue to fulfill the objectives of Anavets, which was to raise funds for bursaries for island post secondary students, for book certificates for island students, and provide the Remembrance Day Ceremony each year, followed by a social gathering in the lounge, including a complimentary lunch.

As our source of funds, for the past several years, Anavets has managed the food tent at the Gambier Island Annual Fair. This year was especially memorable as we had the wonderful assistance of Sylvia Pungunstzky-Wegner, gourmet chef, who ensured our menu was chock a block full of tasty enticing morsels. Remember the early morning quiches, which were so good we will serve all day next year; remember the portabello mushroom burgers bursting with flavour; and were you lucky enough to have grabbed a slice of the most delicious pizza many of us have ever tasted!!! Of course we served the mainstays of hamburgers, turkey dogs, salad, and corn on the cob. We did very well on our sales this past year. And next year promises to be even better. It is amazing what wonderful creative ideas our newcomers to Gambier have brought to us in so many ways. We are so lucky and encourage anyone to jump on board and give us a hand.

We also had some fun during a Tie Dying Afternoon on the Labour Day weekend. Deborah Porter enticed the young and the old to create a masterpiece of design and colour bringing back the memories many of us have of the 60s and 70s with our tie-dye t-shirts. The colours were as eclectic as the designs, each one unique in its zaniness. Spirit of Anavets sold hamburgers and turkey dogs that day.

Remembrance Day fell on a Saturday this year that brought many islanders to celebrate this solemn day together in fellowship. We welcomed a special group of cadets with their chaperones from Sunshine Coast, who embellished our trooping of the colours, and added a special feeling to the atmosphere as they stood at attention with their flags aloft. Ted Myers led the ceremony, which included the citing of "In Flanders Fields" by Deborah Porter in English, and in French by Nancy Grenier. Wreaths were placed on the cenotaph by Ian Winn from SCRD, accompanied by Isla Stamford, and by Dr. Bill Errico, accompanied by his daughter, Naomi Errico. About 60 people convened in the Anavets room to enjoy a lunch of sandwiches and sweets with a no host bar.

Continued page 9
We thoroughly enjoyed the participation by the following representatives from the Navy and Air force in Gibsons and Sechelt area:
Jon Glencross, Navy League, Gibsons; Sgt. Ryan Scott; Cpl. Andre Montez; LAC Adam Kusnir; and Mrs. Scott.

Book Certificates for $25 each were given to Sylvia Wilson, Isla Stamford, Heath Armitage, Evelyn Armitage, Riker Atchison, Jack Atchison, and Seanty Mahoney.

And lastly, we were thrilled to gift 3 bursaries of $250 each to Emanuel Gorgitza, who completed a course at the Electrical Industry Training Institute; Kathryn Mernett, U of Victoria, and Sally Newton-Mason, UBC, both in third year.

The Anavets Room is now operated by the Gambier Community Centre Society and Spirit of Anavets. We would like to encourage anyone who would like to rent the Anavets Room on the lower floor of the centre. Through funding provided by both organizations, and thanks to Barney Taylor, Morgan Campbell, Bill Baines and Barbara Miklashek, the room has been freshly painted, has running water with sink, a cooler for refreshments, a bar and lots of space for setting up tables and chairs for meals, a games night, dance, or an outdoor summer barbecue. There would be a nominal rental fee for use of the room. Contact anyone on the Community Centre Society Board for details. -Sharon Moxon
It was with great pleasure that the Gambier Island Community Association presented to Stuart Watson on behalf of the citizens of Gambier Island two awards in recognition of his incredible dedication to Gambier Island over the years.

The Phil Richardson Citizen of the Year 2017 was presented to Stuart followed by an award making Stuart an Honorary Citizen of Gambier Island.

As most of you know Stuart and his wife Katie have moved from Gambier Island to Vancouver Island in Nanaimo.

Stuart was instrumental in developing the Fire Equipment Group that enables us to have some fire protection. He maintained the phone list and email contact lists for GICA. He served on many committees to improve our community and around Gambier Harbour. We miss his organizational talents and wish him well in his new home.
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 Memory

David Burton
New Brighton

William Errico, Sr.
New Brighton

Marion Higgins
New Brighton

Ann Rasmussen
Gambier Harbour

Brigid Smedley
New Brighton

Geoffrey Smedley
New Brighton

Ken Swenerton
West Bay
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#

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