



The Islander

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**Published by the
Gambier Island
Community
Association**

GICA President's Report 2019

The Gambier Island Community Association (GICA) has expanded its role in our community by acquiring Charitable Status from the CRA in October of 2019. This means GICA is now allowed to raise money for projects and issue tax deductible receipts for donations over \$20.

In order to attain Charitable Status, we had to amend the purposes in our constitution which now states that GICA's purpose is:

- 1) To provide public amenities to the community of Gambier Island and the general public by establishing, restoring and maintaining public infrastructure.*
- 2) To promote health and safety by providing public services and products such as fire fighting services and equipment, garbage,*

waste and recycling programs, septic cleaning services, chimney and fireplace inspection, medical equipment, safety and emergency courses and other safety initiatives programs for the residents of Gambier Island.

GICA has been an important thread to the Gambier Island heritage for over 75 continuous years showing leadership and representing the needs and wishes of this community and now with your help and ideas we can do more.

In 2019 we had a record of 127 families joining GICA! We rely on the yearly \$25. family memberships to cover our basic operating costs so please make

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GICA President's Report 2019

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sure you have your family membership for 2020 (see page 16). Of course if you wish to make a further donation over \$20 you will now receive a tax-deductible receipt. Each year our volunteers organize the annual children's fishing Derby, chimney cleaning, Christmas party, July first celebrations, maintain phone and email directory, newsletters, and the annual cleanup.

Other activities have included:

- 1) GICA applied for Grants in Aid from the SCRD and were pleased to be awarded \$2100 for various "community initiatives" which included some safety initiatives as well as signage.
- 2) We have ensured with the help of Kevin Grodesky and Bob Ostiguy that the defibrillator is maintained and the epipen (located at the hall emergency shed) is current.
- 3) We attempted to hold another CPR course but have had to delay it until 2020 due to logistical reasons. Stay tuned for a new innovative program.
- 4) We sponsored a very successful Children's Fishing Derby organized by Eliza Killam and Gery Wentworth.
- 5) Our annual Chimney Cleaning event managed by Brian Thorpe saw many Chimneys inspected and cleaned.
- 6) The July 1 celebration is a family event GICA sponsors and we thank Kate Stamford for her efforts in coordinating. We must remind residents that no alcohol is served and because it is a family event please make everyone feel safe and act accordingly.

- 7) GICA maintains the Gambier Island Community Directory with the help of Sharnie and Bill Johnson and we owe them a debt of gratitude for ensuring the email communication for the various Gambier organizations runs smoothly.
- 8) We are applying for grants for FireSmart wildfire prevention.
- 9) We organized the Clean up Day at New Brighton to help SCRD staff and once again our volunteers were exceptional. We asked for bigger bins and everything was full.
- 10) GICA has taken over the licencing of the Fire Equipment trailers at the request of GFEG.
- 11) The Beautify Gambier project by giving away 1200 daffodil bulbs for planting was a success with all bulbs planted and waiting to show us their blooms this spring!

One of the most time-consuming projects this past year was dealing with MoTI (BC Ministry of Transport) to legalize the names of several Gambier Island roads. Their records used outdated mapping from the early 1900's and necessitated us going through a legal process of petitioning the residents to get MOTI to conform to the names currently in use by SCRD and homeowners. I am pleased to say it is now in the hands of the bureaucrats who promise a resolution.

Other ongoing projects that we will investigate include placing a roof over the New Brighton mailboxes, erecting directional signage (designed by Norbert) at the three docks and continued discussions with SCRD and other island representatives over issues that affect us.

The GICA executive needs new volunteers to serve and bring their enthusiasm to help improve life on Gambier. Please email Danny (dwtryon@gmail.com) to be part of this leadership team.

Parking Areas



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.

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!

GFEG Report 2020

The GFEG (“Gambier Fire Equipment Group”) Volunteers want to thank the people of SW Peninsula Community for the generous financial support we have received from you over the years, as well as your expressions of gratitude for the time and effort we have offered freely in our goal to help limit the spread of fires on Gambier.

We were fortunate last year that no fires were reported, likely due to the weather. So far this year, we have been fortunate to have had similar conditions but are aware that the forest can dry up quickly. We should continue to remain aware and vigilant of the possibility of the danger of dry conditions returning.

You may have noticed a number of water tanks lying on the side of roads recently. GFEG initiated the purchase of 17 water tanks as a proactive fire protection effort by encouraging residents to join in acquiring tanks for their properties.

GFEG itself purchased two of these tanks to be placed on properties in Gambier Harbour and Austin Trails, because of concerns that these areas have a lack of accessible water sources should a fire occur. These tanks are now in place and will enable nearby residents to respond to a fire more quickly, giving time for additional helpers to find water elsewhere -- and thus assist in attacking the fire.



We applaud the foresight of many of these property owners in preparing for “the worst scenario” should a fire in their area become a reality and endanger their homes and lives.

As the current Coordinator of GFEG, I am very pleased with the direction that our Group is currently taking in our community and very much want to thank our neighbours and friends for their support.

GFEG volunteer members are also excited to announce that with the support of GICA (who have deemed GFEG an important and critical service to the community), a Charitable Tax Receipt can now be issued for all Donations in excess of \$20 -- which permits additional purchases and help in the maintenance of fire-fighting equipment (see photo on page five) presently situated in the our three S.W. communities.

Should you want to receive a charitable tax receipt for your Donation to GFEG, your payment must be made out to GICA and directed specifically to GFEG.

As in past years, we will again be offering this Summer our demonstrations and practice sessions in several locations in the southwest peninsula.

A schedule of these demonstrations will be posted as soon as possible on the new GFEG Facebook Group page and also on the Gambier Islander Facebook Group – as well as the Gambier Island website itself.

The new GFEG Facebook Group page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2353927251572443>

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or the pale green one. With a wind,
they flare and falter, wobble and toss;
but if it's still they steer between
the kite sticks of the Southern Cross,

receding, dwindling, solemnly
and steadily forsaking us,
or, in the downdraft from a peak,
suddenly turning dangerous.

Last night another big one fell.
It splattered like an egg of fire
against the cliff behind the house.
The flame ran down. We saw the pair

of owls who nest there flying up
and up, their whirling black-and-
white
stained bright pink underneath, until
they shrieked up out of sight.

The ancient owls' nest must have
burned.
Hastily, all alone,
a glistening armadillo left the scene,
rose-flecked, head down, tail down,

and then a baby rabbit jumped out,
short-eared, to our surprise.
So soft!—a handful of intangible ash
with fixed, ignited eyes.

*Too pretty, dreamlike mimicry!
O falling fire and piercing cry
and panic, and a weak mailed fist
clenched ignorant against the sky!*

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In closing, GFEG wants to welcome our two new Volunteers: Mike Stamford and Don Fladager, whose help is greatly appreciated. We also want to encourage more people to volunteer, including those many young adults who now make Gambier their home.

Finally, as the Coordinator of GFEG I also want to thank on behalf of our Group and our Community, both Colin and Shirley Bates for their continual helpful volunteer service to GFEG over the past many years. They have recently retired from volunteering after many years of unselfish support and their involvement will be very much missed by all of us.

Bob Ostiguy,
GFEG Coordinator
bostiguy@telus.net
604-916-0531

The Armadillo

By Elizabeth Bishop

This is the time of year
when almost every night
the frail, illegal fire balloons appear.
Climbing the mountain height,

rising toward a saint
still honored in these parts,
the paper chambers flush and fill
with light
that comes and goes, like hearts.

Once up against the sky it's hard
to tell them from the stars—
planets, that is—the tinted ones:
Venus going down, or Mars,



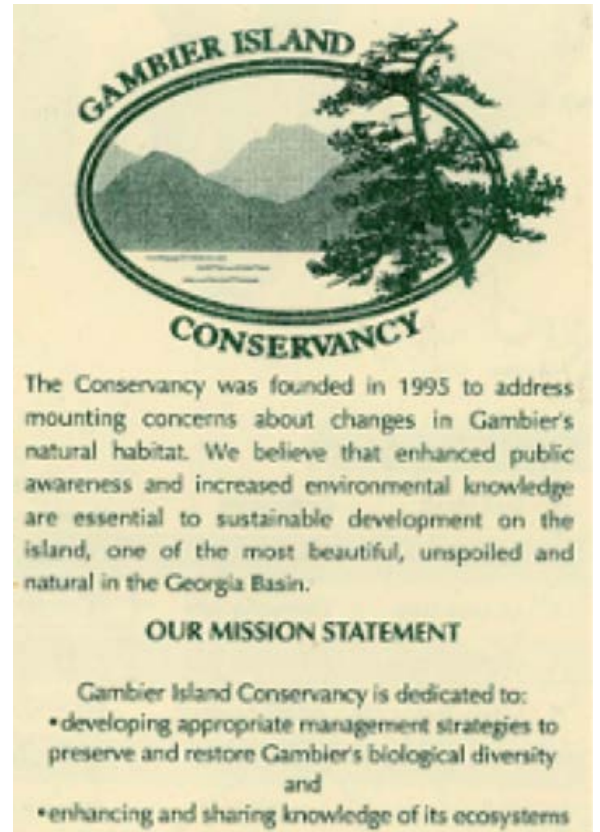
Gambier Island Conservancy's 25th Year Anniversary

In recognition of this milestone, here is an excerpt from the Conservancy's original trail brochure:

This brochure with its map of the island's trail network served as a useful guide for nearly 20 years for those wanting to explore the natural attributes of Gambier's crown land. Wolf Wiedemann was instrumental in founding the Conservancy and was the driving force in establishing and obtaining maintenance funding for the island's trail network and producing the trail brochure. Wolf's signature was on the 30 August 1995 Society bylaws document as treasurer, a position he held until his death in 2011. His wife, Maria Van Dyk, signed the document as co-president and remained a stalwart director on the Conservancy executive until she retired in 2013. Kathy McTaggart's signature is also on the founding document as a director and several years ago she rejoined the executive to assume management of the Conservancy's website until she retired in 2019. Another founding director was Dr. Lois Kennedy, who led an ambitious streamkeeper's program which documented the watersheds of the major creeks on Gambier island. She also documented environmentally sensitive areas on the island and played a role in the establishment of the first two Islands Trust Conservancy nature reserves at Brigade Bay in 2005. Lois died in 2010 and left a \$100,000 bequest to the Islands Trust Conservancy to be used for the purchase, enhancement or maintenance of public trust lands, including parks and nature reserves on Gambier Island.

In addition to the trail brochure, other major accomplishments of the Conservancy included fundraising over \$47,000 towards the establishment of the Mt Ataban Nature Reserve which occurred in 2009 and, in 2013/14 mounting a successful campaign against the BC government's plan to arrange for the logging of two more woodlots on the island. In 2012, the Conservancy expanded its conservation interest to the surrounding waters by becoming a coalition partner with the Future of Howe Sound Society promoting a renewable, sustainable Howe Sound marine environment. Over the past three years, the Conservancy has actively participated in the Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project which resulted in eelgrass restoration projects in four bays along the coastline of the island. Since 2015, it has also conducted four tree planting restoration work parties on the two nature reserves at Brigade Bay. Finally, in 2019, an updated trail map was made available digitally with much of this living map being based on data from the Conservancy's GPS receiver.

There are currently 94 members of the Conservancy, many of whom joined as lifetime members in the early years. Going forward, the Conservancy plans to focus on protecting more of the island's crown land and engaging an expanding membership in conservation activities such as its new adopt-a-trail program.



Members of the Armitage-Atchison/Montgomery clan show us what trails are for.



2019 Phil Richardson Citizen of the Year

Bob Ostiguy

Bob has been very generous donating his time over the years to leading the Gambier Fire Equipment Group. He is supported by a great group of volunteers, but as Bob points out many from the group are getting older and need some young people to do the heavy lifting!

He is the go-to person when an emergency arises and always finds a way to help. He has consulted with fire protection start up groups on other parts of the island.

Every year demonstrations of how to use the equipment are organized by Bob and his team. Fund raising to buy new equipment is never ending. He has been known to enjoy a glass of fine Scotch to meditate on these issues while perfecting his guitar playing.

The people of Gambier Island say thank you for the great service you do for our community!



New Year's Day polar bear swim in West Bay



Photos by Bob Ostiguy

Gambier Island Conservancy Winter 2020 Update

Trails and Trail Map: Following our Conservancy AGM on 19 June, director, Tim Turner, and I ventured out on 8 July to get some more GPS data on our trail network. Tim picked me up our dock adjacent the public dock at Camp Fircom and we motored up the coast to the community dock at Douglas Bay. En route, I was able to take a photo (right top) of the Ramillies Channel Marine Recreation Site which is part of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail. (<https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/70-howesound/2376-sea-to-sky-marine-trail>). We spent the day locating and taking GPS readings on trails connecting to the Douglas Bay subdivision. This included the trail connecting the subdivision to the trail that runs alongside Gambier Creek all the way from Gambier Lake to the public beach campsite in Douglas Bay (photo right middle). While on this trail, Tim showed me the remaining drill core racks (photo below) from previous copper ore exploration work in the early 1970s. He also took me to one of his favourite places on the island which he calls the “Jewel Pool “ on Gambier Creek (photo right bottom).



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In the afternoon, we located and improved the flagging on a section of trail that connects the Gambier Creek trail to the old corduroy road trail that runs between Douglas Bay and Lost Lake. This will allow hikers to enjoy the hike to and from Lost Lake (photo above) without trespassing on the recently designated cultural lease lands of the Squamish Nation. These features, along with the trails that we hiked on that day, are now shown on our updated Gambier Island trail map. (Please see Maps and Trails info on the website <http://www.gambierc.ca>)

Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery

Project: The Seachange Marine Conservation Society continued its eelgrass restoration work around Gambier Island last summer. In early August, they revisited sites to check on where eelgrass transplants were placed in 2018 at Cotton Bay, Long Bay near the Sea Ranch, Halkett Bay and at Brigade Bay. They were particularly pleased with the eelgrass transplants in Cotton Bay, so decided to fill in some of the gaps. On 28 August, a group of volunteers gathered at Tunstall Bay on Bowen Island to prepare over 2200 eelgrass shoots for transplanting. The dive team transplanted half of the shoots at Tunstall Bay and the other half at Cotton Bay on Gambier Island.

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 regard, I attended, as an observer, the 25 October meeting of the Howe Sound Community Forum. It was hosted by the District of Squamish and took place at the Cheakamus Centre. I was interested to learn of the progress on the preparation of a Marine Reference Guide (<https://>

online map containing hundreds of data layers that visualize and describe Howe Sound/Atl'ka7tsem's aquatic ecology, biophysical environment, administrative boundaries, and human uses and values.

A copy of the application document to have Howe Sound designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Region was on view for participants at the forum. On 2 December, project Lead, Ruth Simons, and Working Group member, Joyce Williams, traveled to Ottawa to deliver the 200-plus page application package to the offices of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Canadian experts appointed by CCUNESCO will review the document between January and April 2020 and provide the Canadian Commission with a recommendation as to whether or not the application dossier is ready to be sent to the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris for review.

On 6 December, the Conservancy hosted a meeting of the Howe Sound Conservation Network at New Brighton. This was an opportunity for conservation-related organizations in Howe Sound to share experiences and describe projects that they were involved in. Included were updates on the Marine Reference Guide, the Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project and the Howe Sound Biosphere Initiative (<https://www.howesoundbri.org/>). We learned that an update to the "OCEANWATCH Howe Sound Edition" will be published in 2020. We also learned that the latest version of the Howe Sound Islands and Coastal Range Feasibility Report, prepared by the David Suzuki Foundation, had been submitted for comment to the Squamish Nation earlier in the year. The authors are awaiting a response from the Squamish Nation before releasing the report to the public.

Administrative activities: Conservancy directors convened teleconference calls on 29 August, 16 October and 13 November. At the 13 November meeting, we discussed and approved the two updated management plans for the Brigade Bay Bluffs and Long Bay Wetlands Nature Reserves. We agreed that they were very well done and that they will serve as a valuable guide for our conservation efforts on the island. We are currently reviewing the management plan for the Mount Artaban Nature Reserve.

On 29 November, we sent a letter to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard supporting a proposed expansion of the Rockfish Conservation Area near Pam Rocks to include the Brigade Bay Reef.

Plans for 2020:

On 4 March, I have been invited to join a teleconference call with BC Parks to discuss improvements to the Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park.

On 7 March, we will be conducting our 4th restoration work party to plant trees in the Brigade Bay Bluffs and Long Bay Wetlands Nature Reserves. .

We plan another director's teleconference call in March which will include discussions on the management plan for the Mount Artaban Nature Reserve, recruiting volunteer trail monitors, further improvements to the trail map and restructuring and updating the Conservancy website.

On 24 April, I plan to attend a meeting of the Howe Sound Community Forum to be held at the Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre in Whistler.

April/May – annual monitoring visit to the three nature reserves in the vicinity of Brigade Bay.

June - annual general meeting of the Gambier Island Conservancy.

July/August – we plan to organize at least one group hike on the trail network of Gambier Island.

Peter Scholefield, President

Eelgrass supports a diversity of marine organisms to form an important ecosystem that is currently at risk on the BC South Coast. We all like to look at whales but it these non-glamorous species that form the foundation of marine environments. This is a link to the South Coast Conservation Program if you would like more information: <http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/eelgrass>
-Ed.



GAMBIER COMMUNITY CENTRE SOCIETY

Submitted by Ted Myers

For many this will probably be the most memorable year of our lives because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, many of us are lucky to be enjoying the largest Island in Howe Sound and supporting, with pride, the community owned and operated Community Centre.

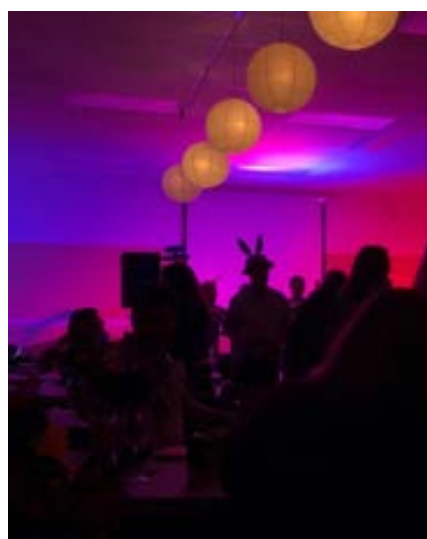
2019 was a year of great activity and excitement as the Centre celebrated its 25th Anniversary! and hosted the 40th annual community fair. We started 2020 with great expectations and bountiful plans for activities and events. While the grounds of the centre have never looked so lush and spectacular, the Pandemic has put many of those plans on hold. For many of the volunteers, this has been a time to re-group and catch up on other projects.

The Community Centre Society Board is grateful that many have been able to come to their homes on the island to find refuge and health. We look forward to the future when the Centre can serve as the vital community hub that it has since it was established. The Centre enthusiastically

welcomed Wayne Berg, Leanne Bruce, Sarah Hanna, and Norbert Jakubke who joined existing members of the Board including Nancy Ashton, Barbara Miklashek, Ted Myers and Deborah Porter. The Board acknowledges contributions of Morgan Allward and Kathy LaLonde who left the Board. More can be read about Board activities in the Annual Report <http://gambierisland.org/Documents/2019%20GCCS%20AGM%20FINAL.pdf>.

2019 Memories!

A steady flow of events were held in 2019, bringing together all ages of community members and visitors. The April 20th Spring Dance party with Bobby Bruce was a smashing start to the year.



The Centre hosted “Gambier

Spa Days” every 5 weeks throughout the summer and fall which added to the attractiveness in sandals and to the health of aging and hard-working “Island Feet.” “Summer at the Centre” kicked off on May 18 with the Bookstore Opening featuring Community Centre swag, ice cream and other goodies. The Rocket Fuel Café has provided an opportunity for Islanders to meet weekly during the summer. The creativity of youth was celebrated in late June at “Art on the Lawn” – Acrylic Paint Pour Classes. As in other years Barbara Crompton led Summer Yoga in July and August. The Summer Fair (August 3), included a pie auction and draw for a Kona Splice bike, and a Stihl Kombi System.

On September 1, the Community Centre hosted the “Salute to the end of Summer” with music provided by Vinyl. Activities continued throughout the autumn with an October Yoga retreat hosted by Kate Potter, who also led Fall and Winter Yoga classes.



To prepare for winter festivities a Yuletide Gifts & Baking Craft Fair was held in November, as well as a Christmas Potluck in December cohosted by GICA and the Centre.



Islanders rented the Centre for additional community events including a Circle Dance Retreat, the Gambier Grown Cannabis Cup and the first ever participation in the annual Sunshine Coast Art Crawl with local artists and musicians.

2020

Events for 2020 started in February with the magnificent Fiesta Italiana, as close to an authentic Italian family gathering as our little island could create. A 4-course meal with wine was created by Chef Norberto and Ilona and was followed by a dance to the live music of "Moonglow Duo.

The spring dance had to be cancelled, however Bobby Bruce carried on with a virtual dance which many were able to enjoy through the modern media

<https://www.facebook.com/NearlyNeil/videos/254093599082648/>



The Gym at the Community Centre has remained open and available to members, with limited numbers permitted at any one time and strict cleaning instructions. A limited number of people will be able to participate in Yoga with Barbara Crompton in July and August.

Ideas for events for the remainder of the year are plentiful but on hold at the moment. Most likely Rocket Fuel Café will emerge along with the bookstore opening. **KEEP TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS SHOULD RESTRICTIONS PERMIT THE GATHERING OF GREATER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE.**

Preserving and Maintaining the Building.

One of the most vital activities of the board is to ensure that the buildings and grounds remains in good shape.

During the two Clean-up days, one in the Fall and one this spring, we had excellent attendance and support. It's amazing what community volunteers are able to accomplish at the end of an axe, or with a rake, pruners or a shovel. Yes, at this event there is a lot of scrubbing, dusting, cleaning the eaves,



and window washing that takes place as well. These events are a good opportunity to meet and get to know fellow islanders better. If you weren't able to attend the last two there are always future ones to keep an eye out for. When volunteers are not available we may need to engage more skilled craftsmen and women.

Some of the more prominent work undertaken included the tiling of the backsplash in the kitchen, completion of work on the front porch, installation of new heaters in the lounge, removal of dangerous trees on the property, installation of a barn door between the kitchen and lounge, and the addition of a blackboard over the serving portal in the main hall. The Centre purchased fans for the gym, and updated the ANAVETS room with new heaters, ventilation and dehumidifier. An ice cream display freezer was purchased for the bookstore. We have been grateful to be able to introduce Wifi to the Centre through the generous contribution from the Cromptons and the Forbes. We see possibilities through the internet to expand participation in the centre and its service role and to introduce new programs.

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If you have taken the opportunity to visit one of the outhouses at the centre you will notice that hand sanitizers have been installed. In the absence of soap there is nothing like a bit of alcohol to keep the community healthy!

The maintenance of the water system to ensure potable water is no small task. This year it involved regular back flushing as well as fixing a cracked connector, replacement of UV light as well as a container for the filter, replacement of pump (under warranty), purchase of minimum of 2-year supply of activated alumina and citric acid.



There are plans to rejuvenate the lounge and replace the stoves in the kitchen. The Board is grateful to the SCRD for a \$4,000 grant to assist in funding new stoves. It is envisaged that these projects will assist in ensuring that the Centre will be a place of shelter and support in the event of a disaster or extensive emergency on the island.

The Centre currently provides a place for the storage of some fire equipment in the

shed built by the Gambier Fire Equipment Group (GFEG), and emergency health and first aid supplies. The field is designated as a helicopter landing zone for medical emergencies. There continues to be a need for other upgrades such as an emergency generator.

Your membership and donations, and participation in activities and events of the centre are most important to our ability to maintain the building and initiate fresh and exciting events. Membership in the Centre covers the calendar year and provides benefits in the use and rental of the facilities.

You can purchase your membership through the secure website: <http://www.gambierisland.org/Centre.htm>

As the centre is a registered charity, you will receive a tax receipt for all donations of \$20 and over.

Thanks for being a vital part of Gambier Island's Community Centre.



SHARING THE FOREST

By Alice Arnold and Neil Paterson

We are writing to you today because there has been a great deal of talk and concern about the wolves here on Gambier Island and we would like to voice our opinion on the matter.

As most of you know we keep 5 of the 7 horses here on the south west peninsula and as far as we know this is the only livestock other than poultry. Naturally, we were concerned about the presence of wolves.

We do not profess to be experts on the subject but we have done a lot of homework to understand the nature of wolves and what kind of threat they may pose. It is our opinion based on this research, and confirmed by the conservation office, that the wolves are not a threat to our horses or to us humans. This is because wolves are timid by nature and wary of humans and larger livestock. With the abundance of deer, wolves will not risk unnecessary injury from horses or humans. An injured wolf in the wild will likely die because it cannot feed itself. However, we do keep a close eye on our dog at all times.

It should be noted that there has only been 2 wolf related human fatalities recorded in the past 100 years.

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Our own experiences based on a number of encounters with the wolves have been without incident and confirms their timidity. During an encounter it is not uncommon for one wolf to watch you while the others flee. This wolf will soon follow the others and the behaviour should not be viewed as threatening.

Wolves are very intelligent and social animals deserving of our respect. It is worth mentioning that a pack is a family group and should the group become fractured by the loss of an Alpha or any other member of the family hierarchy then the remaining juvenile members will not learn to hunt and thus be ill-equipped to survive. This would likely lead to greater dependence on opportunities presented by human habitation. If we as people have learned anything then we should know not to meddle with nature and cause any more irreparable damage. The only real threat that we face is from ourselves and our ignorance.

An incident last November serves to reinforce how our own actions can cause our own problems. It is no coincidence that the night that three hunters trespassing on our property, apparently lost, carrying the dismembered carcass of a deer was also the same night that the wolf pack was heard and seen for the first time in our area. Their visitations have become more frequent ever since. We are also aware of deer parts being left lying about in the Gambier Harbour area about this same time and, without surprise to us, reports of wolf sightings also increased. A wolf's extraordinary sense of smell allows them to track a scent from a distance of up to 2.5 kilometres. When hunters eviscerate their kills they have

been known to leave the entrails behind which attracts predators. Feeding wildlife is illegal, not to mention a bad practice for those of us that live here.

Every species in an ecosystem has its place and purpose. As the most evolved species here we need to understand how to fit in and coexist with our surroundings. It is interesting to note that after 50 years of persecution and near extinction in the U.S., Canadian wolves have been imported to repopulate in an effort to save their failing ecosystems. In several States wolves are now protected by law.

We are quite comfortable living here on Gambier and sharing the island with all manner of wildlife. Those of us that have gardens and compost must realize that we attract the deer and other animals and in turn their natural predators. This is all part of living on Gambier Island. Perhaps this reality of life on Gambier is not for everyone.

The wolves have been here for a long time and it is likely that their range encompasses the entire island. It is a well known fact that for many years one small pack existed on the east side of the island. Now it is likely there is more than one. Wolves have an innate ability to control their reproduction based upon the availability of food. We know there is a large population of deer on the island and it is not surprising that the wolves have come to the south west peninsula. The wolves are simply following the deer to where the human influence has drawn them.

We do not endorse the execution of the wolves based on an uninformed perceived

threat and, in fact, emphatically criticize this course of action. It is important however, for humans and wolves alike, that they do not become habituated or comfortable around people. To this end using items such as an air horn to let the wolves know they are not welcome and keeping dogs leashed and under control is what is recommended.

It is not our intention to tell people how to live their lives. It is our intention to allow the wild creatures to live their's.

There is no way to impart the wealth of information that is available on coexisting with wolves in an email and we encourage everyone to do their own homework and understand how lucky we all are to live as close to nature as we do. This is one of the reasons we moved here as I'm sure it is for some of you too.

We also would like to encourage everyone to look into the Pacific Wild campaign to save BC and Alberta wolves. Please sign the petition to end the wolf cull. The information provided on the website will explain the need for this much better than we can in this email. It is time to stop the persecution of this much maligned and misunderstood animal. It is our hope that through education we can do the same here on the island.

Thank you for your attention.



Spirit of the ANAVets

In 2014, the Gambier Island Anavets Chapter took a 5 year hiatus from the National command. It is now known as the “Spirit of Anavets“, and functions within the GCCS.

We have continued to carry out the main objectives, which are honouring our veterans and continuing to provide means of education to our island youth. These include the November 11th Remembrance Day Ceremony, followed by a luncheon for everyone who is able to join us.

Every year for the past five years we distributed book certificates to all resident children, and bursaries have been given to post-secondary students attending university or other training courses, until graduation. The Anavets Room in the community centre has undergone extensive repairs such as: removal of an inactive wood stove; creating drainage of the exterior wall (thanks to Mike Wyness), which eliminated the accumulation of mould producing moisture in the main and storage rooms; the addition of a wonderful and most appreciated sink and counter top (thanks to Morgan Campbell); a beverage cooler shared with community centre; complete painting of walls and ceilings (thanks to Shannon Kennedy); the addition of cool lights over the bar (thanks to Bill Baines), and the addition of new baseboards and a new flagpole (thanks to Yvon Gosselin). A picnic table was placed by the children’s playground (wood thanks to Nathan Atchison). The room is cozy, inviting and comfortable, and includes a patio and barbecue for al fresco dining. It can be used for small events,



The summer of 2020 will of course, be an anomaly, with fundraising efforts curtailed, with no annual fair or other events. However, the good news is, we do have enough funds to provide the book certificates and the traditional Remembrance Day Ceremony, which hopefully will take place under the guidelines from Public Health.

We look forward to continue being a vital part of the Gambier Island community in 2021.

With many thanks to those who have been a hard working part of Spirit of Anavets: Barney Taylor, Deborah Porter, Nancy Ashton, Eman Gorgitza, Brandon Wentworth, Emily Ashton and many, many others who have helped make the Remembrance Day Ceremony so special, who helped make our lunch service at the fair so successful. It takes a crowd to make wonderful things happen on Gambier Island, as we all pitch in together to support one another and the community.

Sharon Moxon

Barney Taylor





In Memory

Yvon Gosselin
Gambier Harbour

Jack Pomfret
West Bay

Marilyn Pomfret
West Bay

Membership for 2020 in the Gambier Island Community Association (GICA)

Membership is still held at a low \$25 for a yearly Family Membership (from Jan 1 -Dec 31)

Your 2020 membership is **now due** and can be paid in two ways.

- 1) The easiest is to go to our web site: <http://gambierisland.org/GICA.htm> and use Paypal which is safe and fast.
- 2) The other is to send a cheque payable to the Gambier Island Community Association (GICA) and mail it to:

Gambier Island Community Association
Suite 201, 721 Andy's Bay Road
Gambier Island, BC V0N 1V0

Because we are now a **registered Charity**, we will also issue receipts for any donations above \$20 (memberships are not considered donations).

We rely on these memberships to cover the cost of programs and projects needed on Gambier. Thanks for your help.

Danny Tryon
President, Gambier Island Community Association



Photo by Judy Weiser

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