

## GABRIOLA RECREATION SOCIETY

### 2023 PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT – by Kyle Clifford

2023 was my fifth year, I think, as President, and this year I thought I would begin my report where I usually finish, and that is recognizing our terrific staff, Erin and Jenny. They make the GRS run efficiently and provide great service to our Gabriola Community. They are a great team, and that teamwork extends to the Board which does a great job bringing the interests of the community to the table. Thank you all.

We have been fortunate in having access to excellent summer staff and year-round contractors who provide the direct delivery of programs to Gabriolans. It is through these instructors and leaders that we are able to provide the extensive range of opportunities that is key to our delivery system. That, and the extremely organized approach of our Program Coordinator, Jenny.

2023 was the year that we saw the Recreation and Parks Consulting Firm, CRC, kick off the planning process for our long awaited Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This planning process has impacted all of us and hopefully we will see our input and efforts come to life in the final plan expected in the near future. It is anticipated that this document will serve as a guide for the future development of both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities on Gabriola. Next year we will be a challenged to prioritize and seek out existing and new partnerships to find a way to bring these plans to fruition. It would be a great disappointment if the time effort and expense of the planning process did not result in some new infrastructure for our community.

The Gabriola Recreation Society has two foundational agreements which enable us to provide recreation services. Both of these have three-year terms and both expired this past year. The first is a Service Agreement with the RDN which lays out the responsibilities of both parties and provides core funding for the GRS. The second is a lease agreement or license to occupy with School district 68 for the space where we are holding our meeting today. Both renewals require meeting and exchange ideas on how we would move forward. For the most part we just tinkered with the two existing agreements which have served us well for the past

3 years. However, in both instances I believe we made some progress in enhancing our position.

2023 effectively brought an end to the usefulness of the GRS Portable located at Rollo Park. If all goes according to plan, the Portable has now been removed. We no longer have access to the space we once had at the portable for both storage and limited programming. Fortunately, through the assistance of the Principal, we have secured some storage space at the school. We still need to work on additional programming space to meet our requirements for both office and programming spaces.

In conclusion, 2023 was a good year for the GRS in terms of program participation, Grants-in-Aid and the GabRec Access program which is our way of financially assisting families in need. This was all possible due to the sound financial position of the GRS under the oversight of our Operations Coordinator Erin Mikulin. Our two new Board members from this past year, Anthony Vonesh and Andrea McLuckie, have both brought their enthusiasm and expertise to the team. I hope our 2024 Board of Directors continues to work cohesively to achieve our mutual goals.

Thank you all

Kyle Clifford