



# Gabriola

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## RECREATION SOCIETY

### **GABRIOLA RECREATION SOCIETY**

Annual Report for 2017 - Prepared by Virginia Ebbels, GRS Co-ordinator

Submitted to Hannah King, R.D.N. Superintendent of Recreation Services – February 15, 2018

#### **Administration**

- We renewed the lease with SD68 for our office space at Gabriola Elementary School. The new lease is in effect from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.
- We did the final signing on the renewal of our recreation services agreement with the RDN in November, 2017. It goes from January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020.
- Our website re-design contract was awarded to a small, local business in April, 2017. The new website was launched September 1. It is more user and mobile friendly than our previous site, and has several features that reduce administrative time required for program registrations and payments.
- Key members of the GRS Board resigned at the AGM in April including the president, treasurer, and personnel committee chair. Remaining board members stepped into these positions. We had no assigned treasurer. Our bookkeeper provided reports to monthly meetings and attended when she was able. The Board reviewed financials at each meeting, providing feedback and questions for staff to report on at the following meeting.
- The GRS programmer, on behalf of GRS, joined a multi-agency community based group – the Health and Wellness Collaborative. The group aims to better the health and wellbeing of the community; improve communication between organizations; avoid duplication of services; and encourage inter-agency collaborations. GRS assisted in presenting a large scale community meeting in November, focussed on identifying and addressing the determinants of and barriers to healthy living on Gabriola.

#### **Programs**

- GRS received \$4500 in funding from the RDN, through a grant originating with Island Health. Programs were required to address specific modifiable risk factors to healthy living. In the short time (6 months) given to utilize the grant, GRS successfully implemented several new programs: start-up for a kids track and field group; sports sampler/gym program for adults with developmental disabilities; beginner tennis clinics for kids and adults with teaching pros from Nanaimo; and Yoga for Recovery. The adult learn to swim program only had 2 registrants, so was cancelled after the first lesson.
- After a banner year for kids' summer programs in 2016, 2017 had some downturns. There were various successes – Dance camp; Sports for Shorts; Young chefs; Art Camp. However, long standing programs - Soccer camp - and others such as Ocean Camp and Yoga Camp that have done well in the past, did not get the anticipated high attendance. Mixed weather affected participation in some outdoor based programs. There were also more kids' activities offered by other local organizations than in the past.

- Though adult fitness classes have had varied levels of attendance in previous years, they were very successful in 2017. Also, our evening drop-in programs in the school gym saw a marked increase in numbers from September – December, 2017. Overall, all our adult drop-in programs maintained high attendance throughout the Fall, especially volleyball.
- For the first time, GRS organized and hosted a new event for Mental Health Week in May, 2017. It was a day of free yoga classes, with the instructor and style of yoga changing hourly. 42 people and 6 yoga instructors participated; all agreeing it was an excellent event.
- The programs stated above, including those funded by Island Health, contributed to GRS well exceeding the 2017 performance goals for attendance and number of programs successfully undertaken.

### **Staff**

- We received a Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire 1 summer student program leader for 15 weeks. Due to our RDN funding, GRS is considered a municipal agency. Our CSJ subsidy is the same as that of the RDN – half of the minimum hourly wage, or \$5.43/hour in 2017. For the first time, GRS hired a Co-op student from the Recreation, Tourism and Leisure Studies program at VIU. She turned out to be an excellent hire.
- GRS employed casual high school student helpers on an as needed basis.
- Our summer student participated in summer job training workshops held by the RDN in Parksville. She also developed and hosted a junior summer student/student volunteer orientation and training workshop for our high school helpers.

### **Budget Differences** (2017 budget vs. actuals for 2017)

Significant differences between the 2017 budget submitted in September 2016, and the actual budget as of December 31, 2017.

- Launched our new website, including ongoing expenses for site maintenance – \$3923 expense not budgeted for in 2016
- Increase in advertising expenses due to moving from 2 to 3 program brochures/year.
- Supported the launch of Run, Jump, Throw – a new track and field oriented program for elementary aged students – with the purchase of equipment,.
- Additional equipment purchase not planned in 2016 - \$2000 of portable flooring
- \$4500 grant through RDN/IH came late in 2016. Funding was unknown in Sept. 2016.

### **Grants-in-Aid**

- A total of \$4571 was awarded in grants-in-aid. The following organizations received grants between \$200 - \$1000: Gabriola Co-operative Preschool; Hope Centre; Gabriola Tennis Club; Scouts Canada – 1<sup>st</sup> Gabriola Group; Gabriola Golf and Country Club.

### **Parks Services**

- Organized a meeting at the GRS office about Huxley Park; with GRS and RDN staff, and representatives from the current main user groups – tennis, pickleball, ball hockey. The purpose was to review any issues/concerns with the re-development of Huxley park.
- Administered custodial services at Rollo McClay Community Park.