

## Activity Reports for 2021 AGM

### **Chess** (member group)

The Rollo's Chess Club has been inactive for the past year, however most chess club regulars have been satisfying their taste for chess online. We look forward to resuming chess at the Rollo at a yet to be determined future date.

Submitted by Kaamran Hafeez

### **Contract Bridge** (member group)

Due to COVID, the Thursday afternoon weekly Contract Bridge group stopped meeting at the Rollo Centre after the middle of March 2020. A few months later we started meeting on BBO, an online bridge site. Although the number of participants is fewer than at our face-to-face gatherings, that continues to the present day. It is far from ideal, but every small connection that can be maintained is a positive thing. I know we all look forward to resuming in-person card sessions as soon as it is safe to do so.

Submitted by Vanda Blok

### **Cribbage** (member group)

No report submitted.

### **Discussion Group** (member group)

The Discussion Group has been inactive since the last AGM. The passing of long-time founding member Ted Wilson is deeply mourned by the group.

Submitted by Lynette Jackson

### **Duplicate Bridge** (member group)

Duplicate bridge stopped meeting at Rollo in March of 2020 when COVID restrictions were started.

Submitted by Vanda Blok

### **Gabriola Players** (on-going renter group)

Like many arts organizations, 2020 was a challenging year for Gabriola Players. The global pandemic was declared in the middle of our 2020 One Act Play Festival and we decided, to ensure the safety of our audience as well as the cast and crew, to cancel the last two performances. Over the spring and early summer our Board explored ways that we could bring entertainment to our locked down community in a safe way. We started by putting videos of past productions up on our web site and created a YouTube channel. We also decided to try Zoom based live performances. Broadcast rights for commercial scripts are prohibitively expensive, but luckily two of our members wrote short plays on a pandemic theme. We broadcast these over Zoom in early September and over 100 people signed up to watch the show. Based on the success of this show,

we decided to do a Christmas themed show in December, again using Zoom and featuring plays by local playwrights and also featuring local musicians. We had even more people watch this show. We are now planning to present our One Act Play Festival virtually in the spring.

While it has been a difficult year, we are proud to have been able to continue to bring live theatre to Gabriolans in a virtual way and we look forward to getting back to in person performances when conditions make this possible.

Submitted by Dave Innell

**Garden Club** (on-gong renter group)

Covid restrictions forced cancellation of our April and May 2020 meetings. But not the Open Gardens already scheduled for the summer.

By creating one way routes, encouraging social distancing and mask use and keeping in mind these open gardens were “look but don’t touch” events, the Open Gardens tours were a big success. On the last Sunday of May through August, three gardens were open for a few hours for Garden Club members to visit. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely, with more than ninety Garden Club members visiting each garden in a four hour period, and fitting in at least one garden centre for a tour and shop too!

Once September arrived, and it was clear we would not be meeting in person for some time to come, a newsletter to members has gone out to members once a month on our usual meeting date.

The newsletter follows our established meeting format in written form and contains links to helpful articles and videos as well as the photos entered for the monthly raffle draw. Three winners are randomly picked and they visit the raffle organizer’s house to select their prize from a basket of options set out. January of 2021 the Garden Club started collecting memberships again and decided to extend the Open Garden season from April to August so members could tour and view spring bulbs in members’ gardens.

Garden Club membership remains strong though we are not yet back to the 165 members we had prior to Covid lockdowns.

Submitted by Noni Fidler

**Gather ’n Stitch** (member group)

The restrictions around social gatherings and COVID-19 meant meant that early last spring regular indoor meetings were soon put on hold or became uncertain. Although we did meet several times indoors last spring with social distancing and masks on we soon moved to outdoor gatherings in the better weather. Weekly emails were sent out to tell us where to meet and when and we had some lovely gatherings in backyards around the island until the cooler weather set in and lockdowns went into effect. Since

last summer email has been our only method of gathering as we keep up to date with lockdown restrictions and hope for in person gatherings to start again soon.

Submitted by Noni Fidler

**Mah Jong** (member group)

Due to the pandemic restrictions, the Mahjong group did not meet from March 2020 onwards.

Submitted by Kathi Chorneyko

**Palette People** (member group)

The Gabriola Palette People have had little chance to meet at the GSCA due to COVID 19. During the windows that were available to us we hosted one of our two annual workshops in early spring while still maintaining the required social distance. In June we held a meeting outside on the grounds. We did not host our annual Summer Show although three of our members used the building for the Thanksgiving Studio Tour using acceptable health protocols.

Our AGM was held in October via Zoom and again using the Rollo facilities for those unable to connect virtually. New members were elected to the Palette People executive at this time.

We continue to work with the Photography Club, the Spinners and Weavers, and the Quilters to schedule times for work to be displayed on the Rollo walls although this has been discontinued until the facility reopens.

Like many groups on Gabriola our membership has lost many good friends who have left for a variety of reasons but we have also added new members to our ranks and maintain a steady membership population of between 30-40 members.

Our membership hangs their work in various locations throughout the year and continues to be committed to providing a safe and caring opportunity for visual artists, of all abilities, to practise their craft. We want to thank the GSCA board for their support and their vision of providing a facility in which this can occur. The quality of art that we produce is a testament to the success of this goal.

**PHC** (on-going renter group)

It goes without saying that 2020 was a rollercoaster ride! When the Stepping Up Stepping Out Program, the monthly Seniors Lunch and the New Age of Aging educational series all stopped due to the pandemic, we had to decide how to transition to continue to meet the needs of seniors in the community.

Looking back:

In late 2019/early 2020, seniors' programs were running with strong participation numbers: a highlight was the Senior's Appreciation dinner in November - a collaboration

between PHC, Robert Sutzman of Robert's Place, and the students of Gabriola Elementary School. This was followed by the Seniors' annual Christmas lunch with over 50 people in attendance. There were 22 people registered for the New Age of Aging presentation on Substance Use Guidelines on Feb 21st , and the SUSO program was averaging 20 participants on Mondays, and 15 people on Saturdays. Program participation numbers were beginning to dwindle by early March as the word of the pandemic began circulating, and the hammer hit on March 16th, when all programs were shut down under the direction of the Health Authority.

Recognizing that we were likely to be in it for the long haul, we began transitioning our services to an outreach model that has included:

- Weekly & monthly lunch deliveries to over 60 seniors in the community (since April 2020)
- Weekly activities with each lunch delivery - quizzes, arts & craft activities, puzzles, etc.
- Phone outreach for seniors wanting regular check-ins & phone chats.
- Creation of a Newsletter to keep people connected - "The SUSO Sun"
- In the Summer of 2020, we held five outdoor social gatherings at different locations, providing a wonderful opportunity for small numbers of seniors to meet again after a pent-up winter, a chance to meet in-person, socialize & enjoy a pie and ice cream picnic
- A technology outreach project started in Sept of 2020, called the Senior ZOOMers, to connect seniors in the Day Program via a weekly ZOOM get-together
- The monthly New Age of Aging series restarted in February of 2021, using ZOOM

Fall 2020 and Re-start of the Day Program:

- A reopening plan was submitted to Island Health in September 2020, and the program re-started at the Rollo Centre on Oct 3rd, offering 15 program days through Oct/Nov

- The program looked quite different: a maximum of 8 participants per day, the same 8 people and staff on each day, one person sitting at each table, in addition to all the required masking and sanitation protocols

- While it seemed a short interlude, this opportunity for the seniors to socialize and reconnect was incredibly important, as we headed into the long pandemic winter.

PHC will continue to flex and adapt to the changing health directives, but staff, volunteers and seniors are all looking forward to the day when the programs can re-start in person at the Rollo Centre. The seniors are always asking, “When can we meet again at the Rollo Centre?” We all hope - SOON!

Submitted by Suzette Delmage, Seniors Program Coordinator. People for a Healthy Community

### **Photography**

"This year has indeed been a strange one for all of us around the world and, of course, the Gabriola Photography Club has unfortunately not been able to use any of the facilities of the Rollo Centre for the entire year due to the Covid restrictions. We live in hope that 2021 will eventually be better and that perhaps we can start meeting there again in the fall - we hope! In the meantime, we have continued to keep the Club going with Zoom meetings twice a month at our regularly scheduled time and have been able to bring in a number of speakers from around the world to talk to us through that technology. Unfortunately, some Club members do not feel comfortable using Zoom so they have not been participating much this year but, on the other hand, we have picked up some new members and we hope that 2021 will see a good attendance when we are able to start back at the Rollo. We continue to curate the exhibition space downstairs at the Medical Centre on Church Street and have had Club-wide and solo exhibitions there and at the Professional Centre on North Road."

Submitted by Diane Green

### **Quilting** (member group)

1. The year of 2020 started with our regular quilting sessions, meeting on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month and with Members mostly working on their own projects. Plans were made for a guest teacher to come in April to conduct a workshop on “free motion quilting”. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled when the Rollo Centre had to shut down due to Covid-19.

2. In May, plans were initiated, by emails, to make a “group quilt for a special person”. Several members made, at home, quilt blocks for a large quilt and contributed them.

The finished quilt was presented to Dr. Bosman as a retirement gift on June 2nd at the Clinic

3. July 29th to Sept. 6th—Our turn to exhibit our quilts at the Rollo for our annual SHOW and SALE. While the hanging SHOW received many compliments, the Sale, planned for the Labour Day weekend, had to be cancelled.

4. September to October—The Rollo had opened for a few weeks for small groups. Several members met in the AM and enjoyed “social distancing”

5. November-- December 23rd. A knowledgeable technical member asked the group to send her pictures and a write-up about all the projects and activities that had been done at home. She put a terrific “Christmas Virtual Show and Tell” together which was emailed to all members on Dec.23rd. She then initiated “Virtual Sew-in meetings which are now held on our regular meeting dates in 2021.

6. Plans for 2021—Annual Show and Sale—The four groups which exhibit at the Rollo have not yet met to schedule the hanging dates for 2021. The quilters SALE is in conjunction with the Cultivate Festival on July 3rd and 4th, so our Show should be around those dates, hopefully.

7. June 15th to Aug. 6th—Two FIBRE ARTISTS, Sue Vohanka and Morag Orr Stevens, will be presenting a Joint Show, titled “MIND TRAVELLING” at the Gabriola Professional Centre, during the above dates.

Submitted by Pat Jordan

**Spinners & Weavers** (member group)

No report submitted.