

GABRIOLA SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

Chair: Kaamran Hafeez

Secretary: Ken Manninen

In Attendance at Rollo: Catherine Anderson, Susan Banjavich, Wanda Borley*, Waheeda Byron, Mark Degner, Vicki Dods, Jennifer Feenan, Noni Fidler, Marilyn Geater, Kaamran Hafeez*, Barbara Hague, Anne Havard, Molly Henney, Darla Jamieson, Pat Jordan, Kathleen Kane, Kim Kristiansen*, Annette Lorek, Judith Madsen, Ken Manninen*, Carol McClelland, Luanne McCollum, Cheryl McNeil*, Gary Mills, Jenny Newton, Morag Orr-Stevens, John Peirce*, Warren Smart, Lynn vanHerwaarden, Annette Warwick, Bob Weenk, Maureen Worthing, Judith Yendole.

* Directors in attendance = six (6)

Voting members in attendance = twenty-seven (27)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Kaamran Hafeez (President) called the meeting to order at 10:07 on Sunday, March 24th.
2. **CONFIRMATION OF PROPER NOTICE OF MEETING AND PRESENCE OF QUORUM:** As required by GSCA bylaws, notices of the AGM were sent to members in good standing by email on February 25th, March 10th and a reminder was sent March 25th. A quorum is defined by bylaws as a majority of directors and at least 10 voting members. This was achieved with the attendance of six directors and 27 members

3. **ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER: *Motion*** (Bob Weenk / Gary Mills) That the rules of order for this meeting are Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition (2020). *carried*
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA: *Motion*** (John Peirce/ Kim Kristiansen) That the agenda as stated in the Notice of Meeting is approved. *carried*
5. **APPROVAL OF THE 2023 AGM MINUTES: *Motion*** (Barb Hague / Waheeda Byron) That the 2023 AGM minutes as posted to the website be adopted. *carried*
6. **CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**
Treasurer Wanda Borley presented the Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2023. Bob Weenk thanked Wanda for providing the numbers for the previous five fiscal years for comparison purposes. ***Motion*** (Wanda Borley / Jennifer Feenan) That the 2021/22 financial report be adopted as presented. *carried*

NOTE: *The report is appended to these minutes.*

7. **REPORT OF DIRECTORS:** Kaamran Hafeez presented the report of directors. Comment arising from report of directors: (a) that Nester's also be acknowledged for donating coffee, tea and condiments; (b) a question was asked about the consideration of a second building on the Rollo site to which Kaamran explained that it was only in the concept discussion stage and that details would be brought to GSCA members before any decision is made. ***Motion*** (Pat Jordan / Catherine Anderson) That the 2023/24 directors' report be accepted into the record. *carried*

NOTE: *The report is appended to these minutes.*

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: *Motion* (Cheryl McNeil / Bob Weenk) That Richard Strachan (incumbent), John Peirce (appointed), Marilyn Geater (new), Barbara Hague (new), Annette Lorek (new) and Jenny Newton (new) be elected as directors for a two year term. *carried*

9. NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Resolution - Name change of Rollo Seniors Centre - Ken proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the term *Seniors* is understood by most members of the public to mean those 65 years and older;
AND WHEREAS, the GSCA definition of seniors is 50 years and older;
AND WHEREAS, the GSCA welcomes adults of any age to attend Rollo;
AND WHEREAS, the GSCA membership has been declining and it is desirable for potential new members to not dismiss attending Rollo Seniors Centre because they perceive it not to be for those under 65;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the name of the Rollo Seniors Centre be changed to Rollo Centre. *carried* (29 in favour; 4 opposed)

Comments from members: The purpose of the resolution would be clearer as part of an overall strategy to increase membership. There are other ways of increasing membership that could be considered. When the original Rollo Seniors Centre signage was erected, there was adamant support for maintaining the name of the building as Rollo Seniors Centre. Ken advised that changing the name of the building would not be an issue with BC Societies or Canada Revenue Agency as the legal name of the association (Gabriola Senior Citizens Association) is the legal name under which we are registered. Changing the name also does not affect the GSCA bylaws or purposes. Ken advised there was no covenant on the property nor was he able to find in archives any restrictions for use of the property by the donator of the property other than for the use of the GSCA.

(2) addition of cistern - John Peirce explained the board was considering the addition of a cistern to the water supply for Rollo. This was being considered as a contingency in the event of a well failure to facilitate continued operation of Rollo. This consideration was elevated due to the request by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, who certifies Rollo's kitchen, to develop a response plan to address loss of the water supply. John explained this system would also reduce strain on the well due to short term surges in

water usage when large groups attend Rollo. The estimated cost of the initiative is \$10,000.

(3) roof replacement - Kim Kristiansen reported the estimated life expectancy of the Rollo roof is two to three years. The board received estimates for roof rejuvenation from two contractors (Stevo's Roofing and Pacific Sierra Roofing) and since the estimate from Stevo's roofing was lower and he is a Gabriola company, further discussions about roof replacement were with Stevo's Roofing. The estimate for restoration of the current roofing system was \$18,000, while the estimate for a hybrid torch-on/metal roof was \$25,000. The estimate for a complete metal roof upgrade was \$34,000 and this was favoured by the board. The board was considering what grant support may be available for this project.

Comments from members: That a metal roof would not only be more fire resistant and durable but that it could be used in future to collect rain water for use in a grey water system for Rollo. A suggestion was made that a community fund raising effort could raise funds to support roof replacement, especially in light of the fact that as a registered charity, GSCA could issue tax receipts for any donations over \$30. A comment was also made that the current roof had lasted over 20 years so perhaps the issue of greater durability of the a metal roof was less of a consideration.

(4) Grounds contract (snow & lawn) - Ken reported a contract was being considered with Phoenix Landscaping for snow removal and for lawn maintenance for the Rollo site. The board once was considered a 'working board' meaning much of the maintenance of the building and grounds were carried out by directors. In light of the increasing difficulty recruiting directors, the board now contracts most maintenance work out to remove expectations that board members carry out tasks they don't particularly enjoy doing at home. By contracting both snow and lawn maintenance by the same company, it is hoped there will be a greater commitment from the contractor to be available when needed.

(5) membership fee change considerations - Kaamran addressed the concept presented in the discussion paper sent as an attachment to the announcement of the AGM. Essentially, the model presented proposed that the annual GSCA membership fee of \$20 be removed and replaced with a increase from \$2 to \$3 of the activity charged per visit to members. Ongoing renter group participants would be encouraged to join GSCA. The intent of these changes is to increase membership. Increased membership is beneficial as it provides a larger pool of people who qualify to serve on the board and it may provide greater incentive to funders to award grants.

Comments from members: There was a general feeling that keeping the annual membership fee was preferred as it signified a commitment to GSCA and it would simplify tracking of memberships and member standing. Comments were made that fees were low and had not been increased in some time. It was pointed out that though the bylaws allowed the board to decide about fee increases, a board policy required any fee changes to be by special resolution presented at a meeting of members.

NOTE: The discussion paper is appended to the minutes.

(6) Challenges recruiting directors - Ken addressed the growing difficulty finding members willing to serve as directors and acknowledged this was an issue for most volunteer organizations. It was pointed out that having a board was a requirement under the BC Societies Act and that GSCA bylaws required 6 to 10 directors on the board. This number were needed to administer the GSCA and operate Rollo without unreasonable expectations of time of any one director. A survey of GSCA members two years ago revealed various reasons for not volunteering as director including having already served on the board, health issues, absence from Gabriola for extended periods of time, other volunteer commitments and lack of interest. Members were asked to give serious consideration to serving a two year term or to encourage others to do so. Advantages serving as a director include gaining a better appreciation for GSCA issues, ensuring all activity group interests are served, hearing differing opinions, meeting new people, learning new skills and influencing the focus of GSCA.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION: No points for discussion were raised.

11. GROUP REPORTS: It was decided at the 2022 AGM that reports from activity groups would no longer be read at the AGM but would be appended to the meeting minutes. This was adopted in the interest of time.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Kaamran Hafeez adjourned the meeting at 11:57.

SEE ATTACHMENTS BELOW.....

GABRIOLA SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Income and Expenditures
For the Year Ended 1-Mar to 31-Dec, 2023

(with comparative figures for the same period 2022)

(unaudited)

		2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
	Income		
	Activity Income	5,454.85	3,900.50
	Memberships	595.00	650.00
	Rentals	17,611.75	14,516.50
	Donations	1,248.42	942.58
	Grants	500.00	
	Interest & Other	1.86	71.79
	Total Income	25,411.88	20,081.37
	Expenditures		
	Office & Administration	2,616.51	1,882.50
	Charitable Contributions	50.00	
	Contract Services	2,961.50	3,071.88
	Property Insurance	3,238.50	3,537.00
	Furniture & Equipment	659.68	2,532.97
	Maintenance, Repairs & Supplies	3,407.94	2,249.51
	Utilities	3,025.51	2,289.74
	Total Expenditures	15,959.64	15,563.60
	Net Income over Expenditures	9,452.24	4,517.77

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended – 1-Mar to 31-Dec, 2023

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Association follows accounting principles generally accepted in Canada in the preparation of its financial statements. The significant accounting policies used are:

⇒ **Revenue recognition:** Membership dues are payable on a calendar year. In 2023, GSCA changed its fiscal year end to December 31st to coincide with the membership year. For the most part, totals in this report are for a partial year – 1-March to 31-December.

Contributed services: due to the difficulty of determining fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Included in the Association's Cash and Cash Equivalents are:

⇒ A non-interest bearing chequing account	\$28,409.68
⇒ A high interest savings account	219.98
⇒ Donations in kind	725.15
⇒ Coastal Community Credit Union Equity Shares	<u>5.00</u>
	<u>\$29,359.81</u>

3. Investments

The \$20,000 investment in a Community Cashable Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) represents part of the GSCA contingency fund. The GIC bears interest at 2.250% per year and matures annually on 21-February-2024. Rolled over for another year.

4. Fixed Assets

The original land, building and equipment were donated to the GSCA by the Rollo family. Additions and improvements since then have been capitalized and then written off in the year of acquisition. The addition of a Floor Burnisher (polisher) at a cost of \$1800.96 has slightly increased the value of Fixed Assets.

5. Activities

Currently, there are nine groups using the Rollo. During 2023 the Activity Group attendance was approximately 3138. Income generated from the various activities totalled \$5,484.85 from 1-Mar to 31-Dec with a grand total of 6,490.85 for the full year.

6. Capital Expenditures

During the 2023 fiscal year the GSCA made no capital expenditures.

7. Property Insurance

While the entire account was paid in full in July, for the purposes reporting the financials, the expense has been amortized over the insurance year (14-Jul-2023 to 13-Jul-2024). Total insurance payable for the 2023-24 insurance year is \$4,962.00.

8. Donations – Note- the following totals are for the entire year.

During 2023 GSCA received donations totalling \$2,157.38. This includes receipted donations from various donors, non-receipted donations (amounts less than \$30), receipted donations in-kind totalling \$325.15, non-receipted donations in kind totalling \$173.71. GSCA is also registered with CanadaHelps, an organization that connects donors and charities. Costs for this service are deducted from the donation CanadaHelps receives on GSCA's behalf and a cheque for the balance is sent to GSCA. This past year, GSCA received a total of \$200.00 in donations through CanadaHelps at a cost of \$8.00 for a net receipt of \$192.00.

9. Membership

2024 – 109 (to date)
2023 – 140
2022 – 135

2021 – 119
2020 – 168
2019 – 196

GABRIOLA SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION						
Five-Year Financial Comparison						
Years Ended - 1-March to 28-February						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Income						
Activity Income	8,132.00	11,391.40	1,375.45	1,912.30	4,906.50	6,554.65
Membership Dues	3,510.00	5,208.00	1,705.00	2,610.00	2,690.00	2,515.00
Rentals	18,200.75	19,720.89	8,663.44	11,589.00	20,924.25	24,259.50
Donations				358.80	1,851.54	1,529.22
Grants			2,100.00			500.00
Interest				7.69	99.51	2.05
Total Income	29,842.75	36,320.29	13,843.89	16,477.79	30,471.80	35,360.42
Expenses						
Administration	1,433.62	2,389.29	772.95	1,901.88	2,799.33	3,164.68
Charitable Contributions					50.00	250.00
Contract Services				2,661.27	3,619.65	3,309.00
Insurance - Property				2,898.00	3,537.00	4,065.50
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment				411.02	2,668.84	659.68
Maintenance, Repairs & Supplies	13,551.09	15,937.94	4,976.61	6,350.12	2,855.62	4,515.85
Utilities	4,069.33	2,708.22	2,538.44	1,435.66	2,718.93	3,587.65
Total Expenses	19,054.04	21,035.45	8,288.00	15,657.95	18,249.37	19,552.36
Net Profit/Loss	10,788.71	15,284.84	5,555.89	819.84	12,222.43	15,808.06
NOTE: Even though the GSCA fiscal year-end is now December 31st, the figures for 2023 include January and February, 2024 for comparison purposes.						

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - I would like to acknowledge the following people who supported the smoother operation of Rollo and/or helped to move forward certain significant initiatives
 - Darla Jamieson, a Palette People member, provided considerable effort for the design, execution and reporting of the GSCA strategic planning meeting that took place on October 16th. She has been working with the Board to take the ideas discussed at the October meeting and incorporate them into more comprehensive decision making guidelines for use by current and future boards. Darla's skills and expertise have been invaluable. Darla also continues to coordinate with activity groups the scheduling of creative displays that adorn the Rollo walls and that we all admire and appreciate. Thanks Darla for all your efforts this year.
 - Judy Yendole, a Spinners and Weavers member, was an active participant in this year's nominations committee along with directors Cheryl MacNeil and Ken Manninen. Judy brought her strong communication skills to the table, contributing to the design of member calls for nominations and encouraging members to consider stepping forward as directors. Her efforts have resulted in four new directors this year. Well done, Judy.
 - Thank you to Waheeda Byron, Judith Madsen and Barbara Hague, members of the Palette People, for maintaining the coffee and tea supplies and laundering the kitchen linens. This was previously a Board responsibility that they have willingly taken on for the benefit of all Rollo member groups.
 - The Board wishes to acknowledge the donation by Steve Ricard of gravel to fill potholes in the Rollo driveway.
 - We were the beneficiaries this year of a \$500 grant from the Gabriola Auxiliary to cover the cost of HEPA filters for our two air purifiers and supplies for our Automated External Defibrillator. Thanks to director Cheryl McNeil for her efforts in securing the grant.
 - Our treasurer, Wanda Borley took over administration of the GSCA website this year, in addition to her many other duties and has done a wonderful job updating and streamlining it. Anyone visiting the website is sure to appreciate the refreshed look. Great work, Wanda.
 - Kim Kristiansen and Ken Manninen will be stepping away from the Board this year. I would like to recognize Kim for his efforts in keeping the Rollo Centre in great working condition as the Board Maintenance Coordinator. I also want to acknowledge Ken's efforts as secretary, drafting board agendas and keeping records of board and member meetings. As communications coordinator, Ken has also been the force behind the rollo.communications G-mails that show up in your inboxes from time to time.
- AED REVIEW - paramedic Jenn Knight provided an automated electronic defibrillator use session to 15 Rollo members so they would be more comfortable deploying our Rollo AED in an emergency and maybe save a life.
- FLOORING UPGRADE IN HAGAN'S HANGOUT - the floor of the locker area, named Hagan's Hangout in honour of deceased member Ralph Hagan, was patched and painted in July to address deterioration.
- OCTOBER STRATEGIC MEETING - 25 members and users of Rollo, representing all activity groups and ongoing renters, participated in a planning session in October. The objective of the planning session was to identify challenges and opportunities for Rollo and discuss criteria to help in making more informed decisions. Output from

- this meeting is currently being used by the board to formalize criteria to help in assessing initiatives.
- HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT - a small number of homeless Gabriolans were discovered sheltering in the Rollo basement in January. It appears they may have been there for a couple of weeks before being discovered. They had heaters, kettles and lighting plugged in and had been smoking and using sterno open flames. Their belongings were removed and locks were placed on two access doors. Rollo is involved in discussions of concerned neighbours about homeless people, led by the Commons.
 - EXPLORATION DISCUSSIONS WITH PHC ABOUT A NEW BUILDING - the concept of a second structure on the GSCA site was raised at the October strategic meeting. There was general support to look into this. An MOU between the GSCA and PHC has been developed to explore the concept further.
 - SEPTIC PUMPING AND INSPECTION - The Rollo septic tank was pumped and inspected due to seepage. The cause was flushing inappropriate materials down the toilets. Only toilet paper should be added to the toilets. All other products should be put in the garbage. No concerns about the septic tank condition were identified.
 - ROLLO ROLE AS A COOLING OR WARMING CENTRE - In the event of a declared emergency affecting Gabriola, under agreement with the RDN, Rollo would be turned over to Emergency Social Services for use as a reception centre. Rollo is not a designated warming or cooling centre in the event of extreme weather without a declared emergency. Discussions have and will continue about Rollo's possible involvement but nothing has been agreed to.
 - SUSO MOVE TO FRIDAYS - An agreement was reached between the Palette People and Parkinson's Support Group to accommodate PHC's Stepping Up Stepping Out program for seniors, to move from Saturdays to Fridays. Palette People agreed to move from Friday mornings in the large room to all day in the small room and all day Tuesdays in the large room and Parkinson's Support Group agreed to move their program one hour later on Friday afternoons. The SUSO program uses the large room Friday until 2:30. This change was effective March 1st and seems to be working well for all parties.
 - LIGHTING UPGRADES - A condition of Palette People moving into the small room on Fridays was that the Board would upgrade lighting. At the same time, Palette People asked that the lighting in the large room be enhanced to support improved viewing of creative displays on the walls and better lighting for activity group work. Judith Madsen of the Palette People worked with director Kim Kristiansen to make this happen in January.

Candidates for Director

Marilyn Geater (new candidate)

Marilyn is interested in joining the GSCA board to keep the Rollo viable for seniors. Marilyn has worked as a bookkeeper and secretary. She has experience as a coordinator and in management as well as in writing grants. She has helped with the Gabriola Clinic Foundations Mother's Day Tea and is a member of Gabriola Quilters and the Spinners and Weavers. Marilyn has served on the boards of the Gabriola Auxiliary, Enchanted Child Care Centre and the Pacific Child Care Society.

Barbara Hague (new candidate)

Barbara has lived on Gabriola since 2007 after retiring from a school administrative position with the Delta School Board. She worked on the GaLLT board for two years managing their market

table at the Farmer's market and taking part in trail work parties. She has been an active member of the Gabriola Palette People since 2015 and has been involved with their executive since 2017. Barbara also coordinates other island artists in providing the Medical Clinic with a rotation of local art to enhance the space for staff and patients. Over the years she has learned to value the resource that the Rollo Centre provides for its user groups and would like to take part in supporting its ongoing existence.

Annette Lorek (new candidate)

I've lived on beautiful Gabriola for almost 15 years now. Before that, I was an academic librarian at Capilano College/University for 18 years, and before that worked for corporations and government bodies in information management capacities. At the same time, I also had a freelance indexing business, and taught book and document indexing to technical writers through the Simon Fraser Writing and Publishing Program. I have enjoyed using the Rollo Centre since I moved here, mostly as a one-time member of the Photography Club and now as part of Gabriola Mini Makers, as well as attending many events such as plays, craft fairs, art classes, first aid courses, exercise classes, etc. I am a member of Cats Alive Gabriola and help them with occasional publicity and fundraising.

Jenny Newton (new candidate)

Jenny is interested in joining the GSCA board to help keep it vibrant as she has benefited from Rollo, as has Gabriola. She has a Ph.D. in comparative education and has worked as an academic journal editor, organizer, administrator and fundraiser for research programs and courses. She has worked as a translator (Spanish-English) and a stage manager for community theatre. She has served on numerous boards off Gabriola and most recently with People for a Healthy Community and Gabriola Players. She has volunteered with PHC, GaLTT, Gabriola Players, Gabriola Arts Council, Gabriola Singers, Gabriola Chamber Ensemble, Welcome Wagon and currently helps with Starfish-Nicaragua. She is currently a member of the GSCA and the Gabriola Players.

John Peirce (appointed in November 2023)

Born in Boston, Mass. Served in US Navy as a nuclear engineer on submarines. Ph.D. in Oceanography. Moved to Halifax in 1976 as Assistant Professor in Geology Dept. of Dalhousie University. He and Nancy moved to Calgary in 1978 (worked as a geophysicist) and retired to Gabriola in 2009. Established Namaste Farm. Past President of GaLTT, 10 years on Board of Gabriola Chamber of Commerce. Past President American Friends of Canadian Conservation. Currently an active member of Sustainable Gabriola and represents that organization on the Board of the Gabriola Land Stewards Society. Facilitator for the Parkinson's Disease Support Group, which is one of the activities that is based in the Rollo Centre.

Richard Strachan (renewing director)

Born in Sri Lanka 1940 to British parents. School in India and UK, then university at McGill & UBC. Worked in Africa, England & Malaysia before returning to Vancouver in 1982. Owned various businesses, ending up in software sales and support. Bought our house on Gabriola in 1995 and retired here about 2010. Traveled extensively with Wendy, my wife of over 60 years. Volunteered on the Boards of several non-profits. Seeking second two-year term as Director.

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP OF GSCA

March 5, 2024

The Problem

GSCA (Gabriola Senior Centre Association) membership has declined in recent years - from 196 in 2019 to 140 in 2023. This has a negative effect on operations:

- Fewer members to recruit from for Board and other volunteer positions
- Reduced support for grant applications
- Reduced donor base

Source of existing members

Nearly all existing members join from activity groups who enjoy a \$3 discount per session by paying \$20 per year for membership

Opportunity for recruiting new members

“Long term renters” who run programs at Rollo and whose members typically visit the Rollo Centre multiple times every year but are not currently members of GSCA:

- People for a Healthy Community
- Gabriola Players
- Gabriola Garden Club

Proposal

1. Make membership free and cancel the current \$20 per year membership fee
2. Increase the current activity fee from \$2 per session to \$3 per session
3. Encourage regular users of Rollo (say 3 or more visits per year?) to become members of GSCA at no cost

Financial Effect

Based on 2023 data, we can expect revenue to decline by \$2,550 for lost membership fees, but increase of \$3,246 in activity fees. A net gain of about \$696 per year

Effect on Membership

- We can expect minimal loss of membership from activity groups, since membership will still provide a \$2 discount per session from the existing non-member activity fee (\$5 per session)
- We can expect some recruitment of new members from the “long term renter” groups.

Note: Our By-Laws provide for membership fees to be set by the Board of Directors and our policy requires that this be sanctioned by a special resolution passed with seventy-five(75%) majority at a general meeting of members.

If there is general support for this proposal at the AGM, a motion will be tabled for a vote.

Activity Group Reports

Rollo Chess Club

The Rollo's Chess Club is meeting at the Rollo each Wednesday night from 7-9pm. We have 8 regular members with occasional drop-ins padding out the numbers. Tea and cookies are served and are paid for by donations from the regular attendees.

Submitted by Kaamran Hafeez
Rollo Chess Club leader

Contract Bridge

During 2023 we were able to achieve a fairly steady attendance level. One of our targets was to attract new players which we have successfully done. We continue to look for additional members and have found that the best method has been word of mouth referral. The main message we're trying to promote is that Contract Bridge on Thursday is a good opportunity for beginners to come out and learn the game. We support a relaxed approach encouraging discussion to improve player knowledge and skills. We're hoping that as that message gets out to the wider community it will encourage others to join us.

Submitted by Warren Smart

Duplicate Bridge

We re-started face to face games at Rollo 18 months ago. Just as with the contract bridge, participation is down from pre-Covid days. Promisingly, both groups do have new members. We are looking at offering bridge lessons some time this year, but nothing has been decided about this yet.

Due to lower participation, and the requirement for better financial record keeping we have given up our ACBL sanction.

Submitted by Vanda Blok

Gabriola Garden Club

The Garden Club continued with in person meetings in 2023. By the fall of 2023, our membership was 209 members. Current membership is 147.

The January to April and September to December in person meetings all featured a guest speaker on a variety of topics ranging from wild gathering for

Christmas decorations, compost building, fruit tree pruning, as well as encouraging planting native cultivars to attract and feed pollinators. In the week following these meetings, a magazine style newsletter is emailed to members with the highlights of the meeting and a photo and description of the plant of the month. A good number of our members do not choose to drive to meetings in the winter months.

On the last Sunday of May through July, some of our members opened their gardens so fellow gardeners could tour them and see how they coped with their unique gardening challenges. On the last Sunday of August we instead had a Garden Party with musicians, games, a raffle and finger food. It proved to be a very successful event and we are now planning for this year's party.

The Executive would like to thank the GSCA Board for keeping the building so clean and warm and the parking lot so easy to navigate at night with the building and yard lights. We would also like to thank you for removing surplus furniture from the foyer. We station a volunteer in the foyer to make sure each attendee gets a door prize ticket for the plant of the month, keep a count of attendees and direct traffic: since we use both rooms and direct people through the small room to pick up their name tags, peruse the book/plant sale table and check out the library cart then into the back hall to check out the raffle items on display and buy a ticket before entering the large room to find a seat.

Respectfully submitted, Noni Fidler,
Treasurer and Membership Coordinator for GGC.

Gabriola Mini Makers

The Gabriola Mini Makers, a group of four core members, meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays in the small room of the Rollo Centre at 1pm. We create small installations, usually on a scale of 1:12, and the Gabriola Library has given us space to exhibit them. Our last project was an author's room and currently we are all working on different miniature shops. We teach each other various skills and would welcome others interested in crafting on a tiny scale.

submitted by Annette Lorek

Palette People

The Gabriola Palette People would like to preface their report (once again) by first giving our thanks, and acknowledging our appreciation of, the board of the **Gabriola Senior Citizens Association** and the work they do to keep the Rollo centre functioning.

We continue to meet on Tuesdays and Fridays to paint and are maintaining membership with regular ads in the Sounder. Our new sandwich board has also been instrumental in attracting interested members. During this past year we are happy to report that our membership has remained consistently between 30-35 people, with several new members joining us recently.

With prompting from **'People for a Healthy Community' (PHC)**, we are now using the small room to paint on Fridays, allowing PHC to host their 'Stepping up, Stepping Out' senior's luncheons in the large room.

We once again hosted a successful **'Summer Show'**, which took place as usual in mid-July, as well as our fun **"Bizarre Bazaar"** at Christmas time.

Thanks to **Judith Madsen** for organizing several workshops, and planning and coordinating the 'Fire Hall Exhibition' consisting of a collaborative painting of one of the fire trucks.

Thanks, also, to **Cora Klardie** who continues to keep the walls of the gallery at the Port Theatre graced with our art, giving us a presence on 'the big Island'.

We also showed our art on the walls of the Medical Clinic and Chiropractor's office.

The Palette People continue to initiate and coordinate with other user groups to keep the walls of the Rollo decorated, making it a welcoming and interesting space in which seniors can meet.

As a group we frequently acknowledge how fortunate we are to have this space in which to share, practice and discuss our craft.

Submitted by Anne Havard and Barb Hague
Palette People co-chairs

People for a Health Community (PHC)

The 2023 Calendar Year has marked a few changes in PHC's programming, these have been based on staffing changes and community needs. Over the next few months we're planning on reviving a couple of programs based on these needs. Our seniors programs are well attended and enjoyed by all.

SUSO (Stepping Up Stepping Out Adult Day Program) (Monday and Friday)

Our Adult Day Program (SUSO) continues to attract a healthy flow of seniors, goals of our day program focus on health promotion and offer our seniors person-centered programming that include social engagement, physical activity and community connection. Our recent move to Fridays, for example, will allow our seniors to now attend the wonderful community events that often take place on Saturdays. We are grateful for those who helped us make this move successful. Our attendance on Mondays is at capacity at 24 and we are seeing in the month of March an increase of interest in our Friday time slot, and brought in 3 more folks since the change. Current attendance on Fridays is now 18.

The SUSO program continues to provide an important option for older adults and caregivers in the community, providing positive health outcomes and the opportunity for increased independence for our most vulnerable.

Seniors Monthly Lunch (4th Thursday of every month)

Over the past year we have had a steady attendance of seniors to our monthly lunch. We had our annual September BBQ with the Lunch Bunch making delicious burgers. Our monthly lunch has had steady attendance of 30 seniors on average, this is a wonderful event that many of our seniors look forward to every month.

New Age of Aging (2nd Friday of the month)

The New Age of Aging has been on hold, as we were unsure of our move to Friday's, we plan to re-establish this program over the next few months and have something like it rolled out in the fall.

One new PHC program is in the works, planned for June through the rental of the small room space on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. The community has indicated a need for a group meeting designed for those folks with hearing loss. This will be led by seniors in the community

and facilitated by a member of our seniors program team.

We are truly grateful for the use of the space at the Rollo, many a delicious meal comes out of the kitchen weekly for our SUSO seniors. Food and fellowship go hand in hand.

Gabriola Players

The spring of 2023 saw our production of Two Across, a full length play about crosswords, trains and relationships for four well attended shows at Rollo. In June we had our One Act Play festival featuring two plays by Gabriola playwrights Dave Innell and Anne M Holmes as well as Honour Among Thieves by Canadian playwright, Elliot Hayes. This year's festival was done in memory of Lawrence Spero. In September we organized a directing workshop and also supported a playwriting group. Also in September we started rehearsals for our fall production. This year, rather than a pantomime we did a comedy by Norm Foster, Half Way There at the Gabriola Theatre Centre to four sold out shows. Also in November we started rehearsals to take Honour Among Thieves to a festival in Qualicum. We look forward to a continued association with The Rollo Seniors Centre.

Submitted by Dave Innell

Gabriola Quilters

The quilters would like to express their appreciation for the continued use of the Rollo Centre. The lighting, tables, outlets, wifi, and walls for displaying art, as well as kitchen access, all contribute to making our quilting days so enjoyable.

The quilters continued to meet on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 4:00. The group included 20 members in 2023. Our quilt display went up to decorate the Rollo Centre walls early in June and came down again mid July. A second display session occurred in September.

Several members participated in a challenge to create 12 by 12 canvases highlighting Home Sweet Home Gabriola. The resulting art work was displayed at the GAHC Fibre Art Show on May 6th and 7th as well as the yearly Quilters' Show and Sale, which took place at the Rollo Centre July 1st and 2nd. Bookmarks illustrating our work advertised the events.

A few members enjoyed painting and printing fabric a couple of times during the summer in a member's garden with treats on the patio.

The group talked about creating a group quilt including a focus fabric and curved piecing to be completed before the 2024 Show and Sale.

On August 15th, a few members travelled together to Parksville to view the 'Mosaic Show' highlighting works by Grant Leier, Christi York, and Kate Bridger.

Members celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas Pot Luck at a member's home, where we shared amazing food, laughter and a generous donation of fabrics from Kathleen M. and Sue V.

Submitted by Vicki Dods

Quilters' Group Activity Leader

Spinners and Weavers

2023 was a busy year for the Spinners & Weavers group, between dyeing, felting, spinning, paper making and finishing the Noh Coat, we also managed to put on a De-stash - Re-stash sale in August that went over very well. So well in fact we may repeat it next year and every 2nd year. As well our annual Christmas sale was very successful again, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our Noh Coat has been on display at the Port for the last 3 months, and we hope to display it in various locations throughout this year. For the year ahead we have another group project in the planning stages, to display in 2025.

Support Group for Parkinson's Disease (PD) and their CarePartners

The PD Support Group is an Activity Group of the Rollo Centre and meets on Friday afternoons from 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Arrive at 2:45 to help set up and get ready for the session. Our group is typically 8-12 on any given day, with almost as many care partners as those with PD. We operate with the support and resources of the Parkinson's Society of British Columbia.

Most sessions are for exercises (some seated, some standing, some aerobic, stretching, deep breathing) led by Nancy Boyse and designed for people with Parkinson's. All can be done seated if appropriate for you. On the fourth Friday of each month, we have a session of seated Tai Chi for beginners, led by David Gramit. We sometimes have a discussion period at the beginning of a session to discuss a topic of concern to participants or a presentation on a current topic. We also try to arrange occasional social gatherings so we can get to know each other better and provide support to one another.

Cost is \$2 per week per person for use of the Rollo Centre. Each participant and CarePartner is expected to join the Gabriola Senior Citizen's Association (\$20 per year) to qualify for this \$2 room charge rate. For the exercise sessions, those with PD contribute \$10 per participant for Nancy's leadership (no cost for CarePartners). There is no charge for David's leadership for Tai Chi, just the \$2 room charge.

For more information, please contact one of the activity leaders:
John Peirce (250-247-8632), (john.w.peirce@gmail.com), or
Maria Scarfone (250-247-8562) (f.scarfone@shaw.ca).

- END OF DOCUMENT -