



**2013 Annual General Meeting**

**17 September 2013 | 7 pm | Surf Lodge, Berry Point Road, Gabriola Island BC**

**Present:**

**GAC Board of Directors:**

Kathy Ramsey, President  
Jim Wilson-Storey, Vice-President  
Moira Nichol, Treasurer  
Karen Aaker, Director

Carol Martin, Director  
Robyn McMahan, Director  
Jeff Molloy, Director  
David Vincent, Director

**GAC Staff:**

Michelle Benjamin, Associate Director

**GAC Members:**

1. Adrian Palmer
2. Alice Rich
3. Allana Dawson Thorne
4. Antoinette Herivel
5. Arlene MacLowick
6. Brooke Leifso [non-member]
7. Cheryl Reed
8. Chris Jans [non-member]
9. Dar Mace
10. Dinah D
11. Dirk Huysman
12. Elias Wakan
13. Gera Benoit
14. Gerry Stefanson
15. Gwen Smeets
16. Gwen Spinks
17. Heather Cameron
18. Helen DeFosset
19. Huguette Grenier-Dore
20. Jackson Ramsey [non-member]
21. Jacqui Braid
22. James Emler
23. Janice Power
24. Jenn Feenan
25. Joyce Babula
26. Karen Curry
27. Kate Wood
28. Katherine O'Sullivan [non-member]
29. Kathryn Molloy
30. Kathy McIntyre
31. Kayte Summers
32. Laurence Blanchard
33. Leigh Cornett
34. Lesley Commasar
35. Lesley Harris
36. Lindsay Godfrey
37. Lisa Rey
38. Liz Steele
39. Louis Ramsey [non-member]
40. Lucy Ramsey [non-member]
41. Lynn Stefanson
42. Maggie Mooney
43. Manfred Templemayr
44. Marg Sutton
45. Mary Ann Richards
46. Maureen Karagianis
47. Naomi Beth Wakan
48. Pam Templemayr
49. Patricia Huntsman [non-member]
50. Randi Lynch
51. Rohana Laing
52. Sally Robinson
53. Sheila Haniszewska
54. Sheila Norgate
55. Star Bredt
56. Susan Brooks
57. Suzanne Whittingham
58. Tawny MacLachlan Capon
59. Tina Jones
60. Tina Lynch
61. Tobi Elliott
62. Tony Grove
63. Trevor Gear
64. Zulis Yalte

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kathy Ramsey welcomed all members and guests, and introduced special guests:

Patricia Huntsman, Cultural Planning Consultant  
Brooke Leifso, Artist in Residence  
Sheila Haniszewska, Save Our SHores  
Lisa Rey, Chamber of Commerce  
Previous Board Member and Staff in attendance  
Current Staff and Contractors

Kathy thanked many who contributed to GAC's efforts over the past year, including Nina Turczyn (Designer), David Vincent (website coordinator), Joan Harrison (Bookkeeper), Kate Wood (event coordinator), Jim Wilson-Storey (GTF Director), Karen Aaker (Studio Tour Director), Michelle Benjamin (Tour Manager), Rachel Davies (Haven ED), Kayte Summers (Art Therapy participant), Liz McKnight (Art Therapy participant), Jaki Deer (Art Therapy participant).

## **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Tawny MacLachlan-Capon asked to add an item to New Business.

**Dirk Huysman moved that the amended Agenda be approved.**

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting**

**Maggie Mooney moved that the Minutes of the 2012 Agenda be approved. All in favour. Passed.**

## **4. President's Annual Report**

Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> Gabriola Arts Council Annual General Meeting!

The first news I want to share with you is something that, to me, is real, tangible proof that the slow, steady, thoughtful work of past and present boards are bearing fruit.

When GAC first started, then Festival Gabriola, an overwhelming percentage of the membership came from those who participated in the annual Studio Tour. Membership hovered around 50 to 70 members for many, many years. Solid, dependable and fairly predicible numbers with a shared, albeit narrow, focus. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that but with so many islanders involved in the arts there were so many more mountains to climb.

"How do we move from a single-event organization into one that sees, hears and represents all of the arts spectrum of this beautiful island?" was a challenge that so many past board members (and I know you're out there!) struggled to answer. To those of you who put so much effort into expanding the role of GAC, I am so pleased to tell you that today our membership has hit an all-time high of nearly 300 (plus about 100 who normally renew but just haven't got around to it just yet!). And there are fresh, solid plans in place to bring even more voices to the table!

And now the core programming of GAC has expanded to include the beloved Studio Tour, The Gabriola Theatre Festival, The Isle of the Arts Festival and the Kitty J Heller Healing Arts Program with new initiatives in the works.

The year began as Isle of the Arts Festival program coordinator Kate Wood, building on the work of her predecessor Renata Gregory, gave islanders a smorgasboard of opportunities for islanders to participate in art activities. To the casual observer, the IOAF might appear as an event that folks get to take art classes for cheap but, and this goes back to what I was talking about earlier about steady, thoughtful planning, there was much more than meets the eye with this Festival. And a good example of how GAC develops programming that adheres to and encompasses many of its goals, values and objectives. It might not have

been obvious to all but there were four, very deliberate streams to this year's festival; youth, emerging artists, professional development and community engagement.

Artists and artisans are an important part of the island's economic engine and GAC is committed to growing this sector through better exposure of their work, their craft and their process to both island and visiting cultural consumers. By giving island residents of all abilities an opportunity to explore a variety of artistic mediums at little or no cost, the committee is convinced that those artists-instructors will see a spike in community interest in their future endeavours. Post-festival evaluations have shown this to be a demonstrable fact. The Festival committee firmly believes that even just a little knowledge about the artistic process goes a long way to ensure that future concerts, workshops, art shows and studio tours have enthusiastic, knowledgeable supporters. The more educated the audience, the greater the potential for artists and artisans to succeed economically.

The Festival also worked with both the Elementary School and the Gathering Place. In fact, every single age group in the Elementary School participated in the Isle of the Arts. Erin Mancor, under Kate Wood's direction, created a whole week's worth of programming that hired local artists to teach at the school. And I was so jealous of the courses Gennie Cooper organized, under the IOAF banner, at the Gathering Place, where GAC hired instructors to lead classes in tie-dye, rubber and leather jewelry making, pottery, and mosaic work plus Sheila Norgate shared her "I Never Met a Blank Canvas I Didn't Like" talk with the teens. Indeed, even these programs were given serious thought and deliberation as all of them used materials and techniques that these teens could easily obtain and, potentially, turn up at the Farmer's Market with their own table of handmade creations for sale. And, on the other end of the spectrum, Canada Council's Melinda Mollineau's talk, Let's Get Digital with Bryan McCrae and other classes were squarely aimed at giving working artists opportunities to get some valuable advice and feedback for building their practice (and for free!).

These types of initiatives work to ensure Gabriola will remain the Isle of the Arts long into the future. And while GAC hired close to 30 artists for the last festival, almost 500 Gabriolans came away from the experience with a new respect and admiration for the artists they call neighbours. And hey, it sure was fun to learn how to silk screen!

These same core principles and objectives are discussed whenever a project comes to the GAC board table. Each initiative is asked a myriad of questions based on the broader vision of GAC. "Will this put money in the pocket of Gabriola artists?" "will this enhance the reputation of Gabriola artists?" "will this advance arts and culture on Gabriola?" "how can we leverage this opportunity to get the biggest benefit to the largest group of people."

Ever wonder why the Theatre Festival is held in the parking lot at the Village? Why is Lochinvar the location for Street Art? If you ask the types of questions I just mentioned, you'll see that even the placement of the Festival tent comes about because the board is answering these very questions.

And speaking of the Gabriola Theatre Festival, was that fun or what? Jim Wilson-Storey and his team pulled off a fantastic event! Over 2000 tickets sold, three-days (and nights) of free entertainment from the open stage, Street Art *and* Street Fair. Oh, and an truly innovative, eclectic line-up of theatre. I know there are many of you who are worried as he is stepping down from his role as "Mister In Charge of Everything and Then Some." this year – who could possibly do what he does? I am here to reassure you that the board (and Jim) are committed to see the standards (and they're high!) that Jim established for GTF will be standard operating procedure for next year's team. And, luckily, Jim is a bit of a policy wonk, so there actual is a standard operating procedure already written down and in place to follow! It is with great pleasure and pride that I present a small token of this community's appreciation for Jim's years of hard work on behalf of the arts and culture of Gabriola! A huge standing ovation to Jim!!!

In the vein of Theatre, I would very much like to move on to another project under GAC's banner. Working with community partners is something GAC firmly believes in and one partner we've worked with

extensively is The Haven, another Gabriola non-profit organization. Early this year GAC participated in and sponsored the Haven's initiative to bring the world-famous Tedx talks to Gabriola. This was definitely a heady experience and a truly wonderful event. We also partner with the Haven for the Artist in Residence program. This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Haven and so, in tribute, the focus for this year's residency is emerging artists 30 and younger. Well, this year's successful residency candidate is here! I would like everyone to welcome Brooke Leifso.

Brooke has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama from the University of Alberta, and is a founder of the MIndhive Collective. She is an emerging experiential workshop facilitator, who has worked in consensus decision-making workshops, theatre of the oppressed sessions, conflict resolution and devised theatre workshops. She also identifies as an activist with values in anti-oppression and a woman with mild cerebral palsy. Leifso says: 'This Artist in Residence at The Haven enables me to commit time to personal and artistic growth. I am excited to work with The Haven, and see it as the opportune place to grow my artistic process. I'm hoping it will allow me the space to hone my skills, and sharpen my knowledge.'

The artists were chosen by a selection panel consisting of writer Anne Fleming, poet Jeremy Loveday, hip hop artist MC Colin McCue and textile artist and Haven faculty member Mary Holdgrafer.

There are many exciting ways you can interact with Brooke's residency [Kathy reviewed the Artist-in-Residence program of events].

Another program under GAC's banner is the Kitty J Heller Healing Arts Program. This program and the licensed therapists associated with it have worked with several groups this year including the parents of the 35 yr old Cooperative Preschool here on the island where they explored issues affecting parents with small children including isolation, frustration, family of origin and how to plug into community support. They also worked with a group of islanders who are all living with a cancer diagnosis. The value of this program is something difficult to articulate but I can say one of the participants of the cancer group gave me one of the hardest, weepiest hugs I've had in many, many years. This is a program very dear to my heart and speaks volume to the care and commitment this organization has for the members of our community.

I would like to add that the work of this group and the work of the council as a whole was cited as a reason why the executives of the Kitty J Heller estate released another cheque to GAC this summer for \$20,000 in addition to their already generous bequest in the past.

Kitty J Heller, for those of you who might not know, was a frequent visitor to Gabriola who enjoyed the Studio Tour and the Theatre Festival and was intrigued by our desire to develop an art therapy program through the Arts Council. She was a former board member of the Vancouver Art Gallery, the National Gallery and the Jewish Holocaust Memorial Society in Vancouver. The board is committed to ensuring that the faith she placed in the Gabriola Arts Council is honoured and respected.

We are all eagerly anticipating the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Studio Tour and I would like to thank Karen Aaker and Michelle Benjamin for their efforts on this project! There has been very strong pre-tour interest and all indicators point to this year's tour as being a huge success!

Other items I want to touch on are HAVE YOU BOUGHT A RAFFLE TICKET YET?! A \$3,000 travel voucher is certainly something to make the imagination run wild! We have less than a month to sell the remainder so if anyone would like to help out, we sure could use a hand!

I would also like to acknowledge this year's recipient of the annual ARTY award ... Sheila Norgate, please take a bow! This award is given out each year at the Isle of the Arts Festival to the person who championed the arts and culture of our community over the past year! With a viral Tedx Talk under her belt, an amazing career as a mixed media artist, a published author with a new book just released and an edgy, provocative and hilarious performance artist, Sheila has certainly worked hard to ratchet up Gabriola's Isle of the Arts reputation! Congratulations Sheila – we love you!

Okay ... this is my last president's report. I don't know how to get through this next bit without extensive notes and by keeping it brief. I don't have to explain to any of you what the arts council means to me ... obviously I wouldn't have stuck it out so long

Seriously, the arts council is my other home, my classroom, my mentor and my support system. I am so proud of this organization and I am so grateful to the board members both past and present for all the great, frank, honest guidance, advice and opinions shared and discussed. I am also so very appreciative of the efforts of GAC staff both past and present – they have all done amazing work for little pay and for hours never billed. Their insights, support and willingness to tackle all just about anything under the sun is nothing short of remarkable. They are the biggest assets the arts council will ever have. And, let's just say it, Michelle Benjamin totally rocks – I love working with her! During my time as president, I have been so lucky in that those great people you all were responsible for electing have proven to be fair-minded, reasonable, interesting and respectful people who's only agenda has been to further the arts and culture of this beautiful place we all call home. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve my community – it has been my outmost privilege and pleasure.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Moira Nichol presented the Financial Statements for fiscal year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and the budget for fiscal year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

**Dirk Huysman moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Marg Sutton. Approved.**

#### **6. Strategic Plan Discussion**

Patricia Huntsman made a brief presentation and review of the Strategic Planning process. Kathy Ramsey discussed the plan in more detail, and encouraged all members to spend time reviewing the Strategic Plan document provided, in preparation for a work-plan meeting later this year.

#### **7. New Business**

##### **Terms of Office**

Tawny McLachlan Capon raised the issue of Directors serving multiple terms, and the difficulties that may arise from that.

#### **8. Election of Directors**

Kathy presented a slate for election:

Jim Wilson-Storey, President  
Kathy Ramsey, Past-President (a new non-elected, non-voting position)  
Karen Aaker, Vice-President  
Robyn McMahon, Treasurer  
Jenn Feenan, Secretary  
Leigh Cornett, Member at Large  
Tina Jones, Member at Large  
Jeff Molloy, Member at Large  
Moira Nichol, Member at Large  
David Vincent, Member at Large

**Dirk Huysman moved the acceptance of the slate for election. Seconded by Suzanne Whittingham. Approved.**

#### **9. Special Presentations**

Jim Wilson-Storey was given a special award to acknowledge his visionary work to create and develop the Gabriola Theatre Festival.

A special presentation was made to Carol Martin and Lesley Comassar to acknowledge their work on the Board in the past year.

A special presentation was made to Jim Wilson-Storey to acknowledge his new role as President and the very large shoes he will be filling.

A special presentation was made to Kathy Ramsey to acknowledge her retirement from the President position. A speech was made by Jeff Molloy, the new President's Legacy Fund was announced, messages to Kathy were read out loud, and Kathy McIntyre serenaded Kathy Ramsey. All members joined in.

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Dirk Huysman moved the adjournment of the 2013 AGM.**