

2022 GIRR AGM CHAIR REPORT

2021 seemed to be a year of hurry up and wait! We started some big ideas and projects, not all of which came to realization in the same year. If there is one thing Covid – 19 has attempted to teach us, it is patience!

At the beginning of the year the board passed a motion to apply for the Covid Resilience Infrastructure Grant. We had hired Keith Erickson at the end of 2020 to fundraise for us to attain the funds to build our new addition at the depot which had been identified as a prioritized need in 2020. We also passed a motion to start the process of obtaining a Line of Credit from our bank and a motion to apply for the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) Loan and added a new donations line to our Membership Form called Building Fund. All with a view to fund building our addition. We had word fairly quickly that we did indeed obtain the CEBA loan. This loan allows us to have ready cash to start the building. It also has the advantage of loaning us \$60,000.00 but, if we pay it back before the stated deadline the Feds reimburse \$20,000.00. By Spring our Resiliency Grant application moved to another level of approval asking for added information. This got us all excited!! It took us until mid summer to hear the very good news that we indeed did get the Resiliency Grant for \$385,000.00!! A huge shout out to Keith for all the amazing work he did to obtain this grant for us. And a huge thank you to Community members who donated their time to get some of our grant asks met. Again, Galiano have proven their commitment to GIRR! We were still working on a Line of Credit from Vancity. It took two Treasurers and over 9 months to obtain the line of credit. Amazing that the Federal Government was faster than our bank in approving money.

In 2021 our Board passed or updated 4 Policies. A Harrassment Policy protecting our staff and volunteers from any type of harrassment from co-workers, board members or GIRR users was passed. We updated our Personnel Policy to increase our staff safety equipment allowance and to make it biennial. This will allow staff to purchase better quality gear that will last longer to reduce waste. The Board also passed a policy banning all solciting, petitioning or advertising on GIRR property without board permission and we updated our Conflict of Interest Policy.

Our manager, Ken Stauffer, gave his notice early spring 2021. the Board set up a hiring committee to create and distribute job postings and interview candidates. By the end of the process we interviewed two very good candidates. We said goodbye to Ken as our manager, thanking him and wishing him well as we welcomed Renee MacDonald. This transition went pretty smoothly with Ken stay on for a two week transition period and Renee being a smart cookie! Ken had stabilized the admin and HR of GIRR putting in place management processes and procedures. GIRR was looking now for Renee to continue with these while being creative in expanding our Recycling horizons and programs. We have not been disappointed!

For Earth Day, Laurene organized a project with the school to make flags with the kids with a nature and reuse, reduce, recycle theme. Linde donated time sewing the pieces of cloth into flags. Flags can be seen flying on the site.

At our 2021 AGM in June we sadly said goodbye to Paula Uyeneka who had been our Treasurer for a few years and welcomed 3 new board members, Elizabeth Latta, Aslan MacKay and Donna Usher. Aslan MacKay became our new treasurer.

Our Board started discussions, initiated by Amos, to find a way to support the Penelekut Tribe through their healing process. In July our Board decided to donate \$50.00 each to the Penelekut Tribe for a total of \$500.00. We recommend that other Boards look into ways to connect and support Pennelakut in the name of Truth and Reconciliation. The discovery of unmarked childrens' graves on the Kuper Residential School site (and elsewhere) is a very grim reminder to settlers of the devastation of the Canada Indian Act policies and an opening of very deep wounds for Residential survivors and their families. Our Board started to organize a new project to raise funds for healing. This initiative was not realized until January 2022 but all of the pre work was done in 2021. Thanks to Donna and Laurene.

The Board and GIRR Manager started talking about re-opening the Redirectory with Covid protocols in place. A committee was struck to support our new Manager and in July we held our Open House to welcome back the Community. Galiano missed their Redirectory store. It is a meeting place as well as a wonderful asset to the community diverting and redistributing so much of our personal belongings and treasures.

The Board held our annual membership drive on the GIRR site. This face to face membership drive had been cancelled in 2020. We held a different version in 2021 than our traditional drive because of Covid but we all agreed that the line ups due to the Covid protocols put us at a great advantage for fundraising. Thanks Galiano for supporting GIRR.

Renee reached the end of her 3 month probationary period and a review was done. Renee has done a fantastic job and a motion was passed to offer a permanent position. The Board is excited to work with Renee and support her new initiatives and programs.

As most here know I am stepping down as Board Chair. I will continue sitting on the Board for the duration of my term. I want to thank the board for their support and continued trust in me over the past 8 years. It has been an honour to serve GIRR and I truly believe that GIRR is in a strong place with a fantastic Board, Manager and staff dedicated to GIRR and the Community of Galiano.