

## **Operations Manager Annual Report for 2021 – Presented at 2022 AGM**

During 2021 the community was partially in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while still being affected by its undulating forces. GIRR was beginning to return to a somewhat regular flow of materials coming in and through the depot. It was an interesting time to take on the role of Operations Manager with things being in a state of flux both in the volume of materials and how we were able to receive them. 'Normal' in 2021 required constant flexibility and readiness to alter course based on BC Health Authority directives and the weather, which was extreme and varied.

Despite all this, our dedicated team at GIRR was able to safely receive, process and remove over 77.69 Metric Tonnes (MT) of materials for recycling in 2021. The majority of the materials were Packaging and Printed Paper, or 'PPP'. (As described, this includes food and product packaging, i.e., plastic containers, soft and flexible plastics, polystyrene, tin cans, jar glass, cardboard, along with mixed paper.)

Directly impacted by pandemic measures, in 2020 our PPP collections were down considerably in volume from the previous year. In 2021 we regained some of that loss, increasing by 31% percent from 2020 volumes, and yet still 26% below 2019 figures.

For the handling of 69.96 MT of PPP materials in 2021, we were paid \$16,642.90 by Recycle BC. On behalf of Recycle BC, GFL Environmental paid us \$21,010.50 for trucking costs involved with transporting these materials to Victoria.

Combined, the grand total we were paid for PPP related costs is \$37,653.40. Given that this figure is insufficient to operate our facility, the CRD continues to supplement our costs with an operating grant. In 2021 the amount of this grant was \$101,294.20. This is what enables us to pay our staff, maintain our equipment, and keep things running smoothly here at GIRR. We are very grateful for the CRD's ongoing commitment to GIRR and the service we provide to the community.

Beyond the PPP tonnage, we handled 6.8 MT of electronics and small appliances for recycling in 2021.

Through the electronics recycling program 'EOLE', GIRR was paid \$1,349.82 by Encorp Pacific (Canada); small appliances 'CESA' brought in \$2,586.18 from Product Care. Of the total amount of \$3,936 we were paid for these two programs, \$446.25 was paid in freight fees to remove the materials off Galiano, leaving a balance income of \$3,489.75.

Another large part of our recycling system here is made up of refundables – these are the beverage cans, bottles, tetra packs and cartons that are part of BC's deposit system and are brought in by our community members making a notable contribution to our income in the amount of \$37,979.90 in 2021. The refundables are collected from our depot by the Bottle Depot in Victoria, and they in turn make payment to us directly related to the number of units we bring in.

Of course, there are still other small programs we run. When taking labour costs into consideration, the income from these don't amount to much, but they are indeed important services to offer to the community.

In 2021 we received and arranged transport of:

8 tubs of paint tins and 1 tub of aerosols, for which we were paid \$339.41 by Product Care.

.52 MT of light bulbs which equates to: 1844' of linear tubes, 45 HID and other lamps, and 3648 units of CFL and bulbs, for which we were paid \$254.33 by Product Care.

.32 MT of batteries for which we are not paid, nor incur any expenses for transporting.

We also removed a backlog of miscellaneous materials for recycling that had accumulated on the property over time, including:

.52 MT of broken ceramics, costing us \$30 in fees plus transport costs.

1 M<sup>3</sup> of orphaned propane canisters.

In addition to all the above-named programs, we have the community sweetheart, the ReDirectory: GIRR's repurposing store. After a long closure beginning at the onset of the pandemic in the spring of 2020, the ReDirectory re-opened its doors in July 2021. GIRR is grateful to have received a \$12,000 Grant in Aid from the CRD that assisted us with the re-opening costs of the ReDirectory. It also helped to address the impact of the loss of memberships and donations that were down considerably during the first year of the pandemic.

Since re-opening, the ReDirectory continues to be an integral cog in the wheel of keeping items from being prematurely directed to the landfill and out of our recycling system before their due time. This small store, that is funded by our community members by way of material donations and the cash donations that come in exchange for them, plays an important role in our local circular economy. We thank all those who contribute to its ongoing success.

GIRR also feels extremely fortunate to have been awarded \$383,352 through the 'Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Covid 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream', funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia. This allows us to move forward with plans to expand and improve upon our recycling collection facilities. With construction not yet underway and an ever-fluctuating market for building materials, we continue to fundraise for this highly anticipated building project and are grateful for the contributions of time, funds and services from the community that have helped get us this far.

In 2021, we made efforts to further our engagement with the community by means of regular posts to our social media pages. We can be found on Facebook: *GIRR – Galiano Island Recycling Resources*, Instagram: *galianorecycles* and *galianoredirectory*, and of course our website [www.galianorecycles.ca](http://www.galianorecycles.ca) for updates to services and other GIRR news.

We also continue to meet with the Southern Gulf Island Recycling Coalition and Coast Waste Management Association's Island, Remote & Rural Communities groups to share information and better educate ourselves on best ways to serve our community in all matters related to recycling.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff, volunteers, community & the board for all the support I received in my first year with GIRR and for the ongoing support of GIRR itself. Safety measures in response to the pandemic have often resulted in changing protocols and reduced numbers of people

at the sorting stations, leading to longer wait times. We know this has been challenging, and we thank you for your patience throughout – it has been noticed and appreciated! Going forward, I'm excited to work even more closely with community members and volunteers as we learn to be together again on the other side of these pandemic times.

Many things have changed over the course of the last couple of years, but what remains is that it is only with the generous support of our membership and community that we are able to continue offering the variety of services we do. Indeed, this is also what fuels us as we prepare to add new services to our catalog. Stay tuned to learn of what lays ahead in 2022 and beyond. We look forward to working with you!