

Operations Manager Report for the year 2020

2020 was certainly a year in which we were confronted with many unforeseen and unexpected challenges. Amid a global pandemic, we at GIRR had to learn how to provide a safe space for our community and staff, while safely handling, processing and moving materials off Galiano. In collaboration with staff and the other Southern Gulf Islands depot managers, we managed to arrive at a comparable solution that continues to serve the needs of our community.

Overall, we were down around 20% in the materials we moved over the previous year. Though the cardboard held steady. Our blue box (PPP) program was down last year and came in at 69.875 tonnes which is down about 25% over the previous year. Our small appliances and electronic recycling were also down mildly over the previous year. Most of this can be attributed to less people being on island in general throughout the year and a fairly long pause in which people stopped spending money on things. Of course, that started to flip in the latter part of last year and into the winter and spring of this year.

With the new protocols came increased labour costs, even with the lower volumes. We had to add another day for processing the possibly contaminated materials with delays between handling. The part time staff was able to commit to the extended hours, and we have seen some improvements over the old ways of doing business at the depot. Some of these may even be here to stay moving forward.

The re-directory is another key component of our Depot that unfortunately has had a long absence. We were concerned with providing the essential service of recycling to our community and wasn't able to re-open the Redirectory safely in the previous year. That is all changing now. There are plans in place to have the Redirectory open in a few short weeks, and we are hopeful it will return stronger than ever. We rely solely on your generous monetary donations as well as items as the Redirectory is funded solely by you the members of the public and can only remain open with your generous support. Indeed the demand for this service has been steadily increasing over the last few weeks so I am confident that this will be a success story yet again!

I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts on GIRR's behalf. Last year especially. Putting themselves at potential risk while going above and beyond on a daily basis. They make recycling here a pleasant, informative, efficient experience for the community and staff alike.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Board and staff for their support over the last four years. While I have been working with GIRR since 2005, becoming the Operations Manager would have been even more challenging without their unwavering support. I would also like to thank the community for their generosity as well and I am confident that the new Operations Manager, Renee, will feel as supported and welcomed by you.

We have come along way in the ever-changing world of recycling here on Galiano. With new materials being introduced and new ways of recycling, reusing, and reducing the materials we already have, there will be new challenges ahead for our community and our little depot. We are already seeing an increase in the volume of recycling here at GIRR. The small dip in our volumes last year will be an anomaly as we move towards a more normal life once again. I'm sure this community will rise to the challenge as indeed this is a community of recycling superheroes!