



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | 21 February 2017, 7 PM | GAHC

AGENDA

Call to Order
Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks
Confirmation of Notice of the AGM & Establishment of Quorum
Approval of the Agenda
Approval of Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Executive Director's Report
Election of Directors
New Business
Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Members in Attendance

Tawny Capon	Marg Sutton
Charlie Cheffins	Joanie Wright
Margy Gilmour	Carol Weaver
Catherine Hallam	Gary Holdgrafer
Mary Holdgrafer	Carolyn Bell
Tina Jones	Jane Ferland
Jen Reed-Lewis	Alois Verlinden
Barbara Russell	Kayte Summers
Antoinette Herivel	Xanon Jensen
Richard Strachan	Michelle Benjamin
Karen Cain	
Maggie Mooney	

Regret: Robyn McMahon

1. Call to Order

Charlie called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Confirmation of Notice of the AGM & Establishment of Quorum

Charlie confirmed that appropriate and required announcements about the date, time and location of this Annual General Meeting were shared with members via our newsletter, website, social media, and in a print advertisement in *The Sounder*.

Charlie confirmed that, according to our bylaws, we require 3 members present at an Annual General meeting to establish quorum, and that we have quorum at this meeting.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Charlie introduced all Directors and Staff.

4. Approval of the Agenda

I approve the agenda for the GAC Annual General Meeting.

Moved by **ALOIS VERLINDEN**, seconded by **MAGGIE MOONEY**. Passed.

5. Approval of Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

I approve the minutes of the 2015 AGM with no amendments or corrections.

Moved by **TAWNY CAPON**, seconded by **MARG SUTTON**.

6. President's Report

Our last AGM was held at the end of October 2015. We have changed our fiscal year to better line up with our event schedule, hence the 16-month gap. Much has changed since then. I was elected as a director, then with the departure of Jim last April I became the interim/temporary President. If you look around you might also notice a few changes to the interior of our club house.

Taking over this building from the Women's Institute might look on the face of it to be the deal of the century. However it is nearly 90 years old, and the structure is showing its age. Fortunately our hard working, crack grantwriting ED Michelle found a solution — she scored the grant of the century to fix it up, and to add some much needed storage space. She has also negotiated the donation of a log structure from the ISBA. We have been able to hire 3 skilled tradesmen who under the supervision of Guy Mireau are transforming and updating the property - all without dipping into our own limited funds.

So with renovations to Arts Centre well underway it is time to think about renovations to our governance structure and our strategic plan - I not sure you can really renovate either but I like the repetition. Either way the important tasks for the Board you elect tonight are to create a strategic plan to take us through the next five years and to bring our bylaws and policies up to date. You all here tonight, as engaged members of GAC will be part of that process.

7. Treasurer's Report

Gary Holdgrafer made the following motion:

Resolved that the Treasurer's report, including the Review Engagement Report for fiscal 2015-16 as prepared by K.D. Beausoleil and Company, be accepted and filed.

Seconded by **Alois Verlinden**. Passed.

Gary Holdgrafer made the following motion:

Resolved that K.D. Beausoleil and Company, Chartered Accountant, be appointed to conduct a review engagement for the Gabriola Arts Council for the fiscal year ending 31 October 2017, and that the Board of Directors be authorized to determine the remuneration for these services.

Seconded by **Carol Weaver**. Passed.

In Robyn's absence, Charlie reported on the budget as follows:

Outside of the JCP projects, there are no extraordinary changes, increases or decreases in the projected budget for this fiscal year. Our total revenue budget is projected at \$412,000. \$151,000 of that is JCP, and the balance—\$260,626—is almost exactly the same as the non-JCP revenues for last year. All ongoing events and programs are budgeted at the same level as last year. Because of the way the JCP affects salaries and other operating costs, and the JCP anniversary project in particular influences the event budgets, it's been a somewhat complicated year to project accurately. Our overall goal is to come in at the end of the fiscal year with all projects and programs completed on budget or better, and to be working with a less complicated budget for 2017-18.

The budget for the fiscal year, which has been approved by the board, projects a \$975 surplus.

8. Executive Director's Report

Staff

We had a staff explosion this year!

Alina Cerminara was promoted to Events Manager in the Fall as she took on supervisory responsibilities with the JCP. She has been skilfully managing our major events—the Tour, Isle of the Arts Festival, Theatre Festival, January gala—while also applying her superpowers to a number of special events for our 20th anniversary and Canada Day. She is working to develop a new music festival for Labour Day weekend.

We hired **Moe Hill** in the Spring as Administrative Assistant. Moe has relieved some of Joan's workload, and has made a valuable contribution to financial management.

We signed a new contract with designer **Tim Gambrill** in the Fall, and are looking forward to another year of his professionally and beautifully designed marketing materials.

Joan Harrison is our financial administrator and bookkeeper, and in the midst of a significantly increased workload with the JCP, continues to calmly and efficiently keep our money in order.

Luisa Handford was our hardworking summer student this year, and was particularly helpful with the Theatre Festival.

We've been able to hire five people on a short-term basis through the Job Creation Partnership program. It's been great to have **Derek Mourau**, **Tim Van Wieren**, **Geordie MacGregor**, and project supervisor **Guy Mireau** doing fine work on this building project. **Lisa Rey** has been working closely with Alina on our anniversary year events.

Membership

We currently have **630 members**. That's getting closer to our membership goal of 20% of the population in our 20th anniversary year. We've almost tripled our membership in five years—in January 2012, we had 242 members.

Programs and Events

Gabriola Theatre Festival—Professional, entertaining shows with sold-out houses, a lively outdoor stage, busy street market, and general happy vibe and engaged audiences. This festival gets better and better thanks to Alina's vision and management, an enormous volunteer effort, financial contributions from government and other sources, and the support and enthusiasm of the community. **Thanks to Barb Russell, Lead Director for Theatre, for her work on the artistic committee, and her long years of service as front-of-house manager.**

Studio Tour—Twenty years strong in 2016, including 60-plus studios, 87 artists (including 14 artists new to the Tour), the most extensive marketing campaign ever, an expanded brochure. **Thanks to Margy Gilmour, Lead Director for Visual Arts, for guiding the Tour through occasionally complicated waters, and being a sounding board for important decisions.**

Isle of the Arts Festival—Gabriola LOVES this Festival! In 2016, we had numerous sold-out workshops, partnerships with other arts and community organizations, and ten days of creative collaborations. The professional development day for artists was well attended, as was the Artist Appreciation Dinner where Gail Lund was presented with the esteemed ARTY Award. **Thank you, Mary Holdgrafer, for enthusiastically reviewing hundreds of workshop submissions, and supporting the professional development day panel.**

Canada Day Festival and Night Market—We had a blast. We'll be back again this year.

The Healing Power of Art—This innovative program provides support and learning opportunities to community members. The Cancer Support program was transformed into **Common Ground: An Arts-Based Support Group for Those Living with a Life-Challenging**

Illness. The response from returning and new participants was positive. **Intentional Aging: Exploring the Path from Senior to Elder** was offered for the third successful session. We offer these valuable programs at no charge to participants. **Gratitude to Mary Holdgrafer, Lead Director for this program, for wisdom and support.**

Youth Engagement project—a bi-weekly drop-in was launched but attendance was limited. We shifted the focus to workshops at the Isle of the Arts Festival this Spring while we continue to look for ways to connect local youth with creative projects. **Thank you to Tina Jones, Lead Director for Youth, for holding the vision for this program.**

Artist in Residence program, an exciting partnership with The Haven, welcomed the energetic and engaging musical theatre performer Justin Kautz in 2016. We're preparing to welcome the 2017 AiR Talia Peckell who will be working with community members at the Isle of the Arts Festival. **Gratitude to Rachel at The Haven for taking the lead on this program, to the jury who reviewed detailed applications, and to Mary Holdgrafer, Lead Director for AiR.**

Fundraising

Fundraising for our building project has been a significant preoccupation over the past 24 months, and we've been successful at procuring numerous grants from a variety of public/government sources, and every bit of that money is being well-spent. I'm looking forward to turning my attention in new directions now that the end of the building project is in site. Individual donors, a monthly donor campaign, and other sustaining fundraising initiatives are on my task list, along with ongoing funding for our key events and programs.

One World: The Atlas Affair was our second annual fundraising gala in January 2016, and was a success thanks to the contributions of talented and generous artists and committed volunteers. We're still cleaning up from this year's **Tempest in a Teacup**, and will be reviewing the format and mandate of this annual event as part of overall planning.

Thank you to the many members who regularly make contributions to our operating funds. I also want to acknowledge our funders and donors, including the **BC Arts Council**; the **Province of British Columbia** through the **Gaming Fund**, the **Ministry of Culture**, and the **Ministry of Social and Economic Development**; the **Department of Canadian Heritage** and **Western Economic Development**; **Mid-Island Co-op**; **Hamber Foundation**; the **RDN**; **BC Ferries**; the **Gabriola Health Care Foundation**; and the **Gabriola Auxiliary for Island Health Care**.

Outreach, Partnerships, and Professional Development

GAC organized a series of professional development opportunities for community members in 2016, including:

- Board Development with Alison Brewin (February)
- the New Society's Act with Martha Rans (June)
- Copyright for Artists with Martha Rans (June)
- Social Media and Marketing with Rebecca Coleman (partnership with Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce)

GAC is a member of the Gabriola Health & Wellness Collaborative, a group that provides networking and information-sharing opportunities for organizations on the island working in some capacity to provide health and wellbeing services and programs. **Mary Holdgrafer is the GAC board representative on this committee.**

We also partnered with numerous community partners this past year, and have many collaborative projects in the works for the year ahead including with **Lulu Performing Arts, the**

Gabriola Library, the Museum, the Community Hall, Poetry Gabriola, the Chamber of Commerce, the Haven, GaLTT—I hope I haven't missed any.

I was involved in a variety of professional development and arts community events with off-island organizations:

May: ArtsBC Conference and AGM in Vancouver.

June: Vancouver Island Cultural Administrators Roundtable in Nanaimo

November: Executive Director Pro-D Day Conference in Vancouver

December: Raising Money for your Cultural Organization 3-Day Workshop at UVic

Looking ahead:

I'm really looking forward to:

- the completion of the building project. I want to acknowledge the extensive contribution that Charlie has made to this project. He stepped up full-time when we lost Jeff. His support and guidance has kept me sane in the midst of a truly overwhelming project.
- a new strategic plan that sets the long-term vision for the Arts Council, and that considers how we can continue to serve and support artists on Gabriola while providing innovative, interesting cultural programming for members and all Gabriolans.
- a new fund development strategy that will support the goals of the new strategic plan and ensure that long-term sustainability of the Arts Council.
- a year of working with community members and partners to celebrate GAC's 20th anniversary, including honouring the many people who have made significant contributions to the organization over the past 20 years. We have an exciting project underway with the Gabriola Museum that will see artists and the arts council as the featured exhibit this Spring and Summer, as well as a number of new events throughout the year.

Two themes are infusing are events and programming this year:

The first is community-driven art—or socially engaged art, activist art, etc.— art and creativity that contributes to a social movement, and to positive social change, to building a socially engaged community. This is the theme of the Isle of the Arts Festival this year, and is a sensibility that informs much of the artistic and other activity on the island.

The second is reconciliation, as in paying attention to the 94 Calls to Action developed through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I'm excited about collaborating with individuals and other community organizations to develop an understanding of the ideas and goals of the TRC, and to building new partnerships and open relationships with our Snuneymuxw neighbours.

Thanks to:

- Number one, the **community members who volunteer** at our events. Your participation is essential to making the Arts Council work.
- **GabEnergy** who worked with their partner Bullfrog Power to install an array of solar panels on the roof of this building. This has reduced our Hydro costs significantly and should mean that we actually get a rebate at the end of the year, after sending power back into the grid for 12 months.
- The **local businesses** who support our events through ads in our brochures and in-kind contributions.

- This **fantastic board** for encouragement and support, and for staying the course as we negotiated through a challenging year. I am looking forward to working with the new directors, and with the entire board to continue our work on board development, and the growth and sustainability of the Arts Council.
- As ever, this **incredible community of artists** who make this work exciting and fulfilling. I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to work on your behalf, and for the privilege of being in service to the arts and the artists on this island and in this community.

9. Election of Directors

Charlie acknowledged those who have served as Directors in the past year:

Julie Sperber, who made a significant contribution to the organization with her positive energy, good ideas, and commitment to non-profit organizations on Gabriola.

Jim Wilson-Storey, who served on the board of the Arts Council for almost 8 years, including 2 years as President. Jim made numerous contributions to the Arts Council, and I would like to specifically acknowledge two items in particular: first, his vision and determination as founding director of the Gabriola Theatre Festival, which will be in its 9th great year this summer. And second, in his role as President, Jim committed himself to ensuring GAC's financial sustainability, and our current stable position is a testament to his hard work and dedication.

Jeff Molloy, who served on the Board for 6 years, left us last August and is now a Director of the CAC — the Celestial Arts Council. I am sure he is stirring things up, up there. His vision, energy, and persistence will be missed. Many donations to our building fund have been made in his name and we will be recognizing Jeff when we complete the log building.

Charlie thanked **Mary Holdgrafer**, **Tina Jones**, and **Barb Russell**—directors who were not up for re-election because they are in the second year of their terms, and are continuing to serve. He also acknowledged that he is continuing in the second year of his term.

Mary Holdgrafer made the following motion:

I'd like to make a motion that the following slate be accepted as new Directors of the Gabriola Arts Council:

Continuing:

Margy Gilmour

New:

Jen Reed-Lewis
Catherine Hallam
Tawny Capon

Seconded by Karen Cain. Passed.

The new Directors of the Gabriola Arts Council are:

Tawny Capon
Charlie Cheffins
Margy Gilmour
Catherine Hallam
Mary Holdgrafer

Tina Jones
Robyn McMahon
Jen Reed-Lewis
Barbara Russell

10. New Business

No new business.

11. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Charlie thanked GAC's donors, funders and sponsors, acknowledging that their financial support ensures that our events and programs are possible.

Charlie thanked the hundreds of volunteers for their extraordinary contribution to GAC and to the community.

Charlie thanked all of our members for your ongoing support, especially those who were in attendance at the meeting to accomplish the important business of running the Arts Council.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn.