



Gabriola Island Recycling Organization

RETHINK REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

GABRIOLA ISLAND RECYCLING ORGANIZATION (GIRO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019 PRESENTED AT THE 2020 AGM

PURPOSES OF GIRO

- Operate a recycling depot
- Encourage environmentally-responsible consumer practices
- Promote co-operation to improve the island environment
- Promote wise use of the earth's resources

(Summarized from the GIRO Constitution)

GIRO BOARD

As of the 2019 AGM, the Board of Directors consisted of: Barry Loescher, David Swanson, Nicholas Read, Red St. Pierre and Howard Houle. In July of that year Red St. Pierre resigned followed closely by his brother, Nicholas Read. In Aug. the Board appointed Phil Claxton and in early 2020 Suzanne (Suz) Campbell as Directors until the next AGM. Phil has decided not to continue and we thank him for his contributions.

The current Board consists of:

Barry Loescher, President
David Swanson, Secretary Treasurer
Howard Houle Director at large
Suzanne Campbell (interim appointment)

Barry, David and Howard have agreed to continue and retain their current roles

The Board nominates Fay Weller and Suzanne Campbell to 3 yr terms
Members have nominated Janice Ursaliak to a 3 yr term

GOVERNANCE:

All required Provincial and Federal Filings were completed on time. All required Provincial Taxes were paid. All Employment Insurance premiums, WCB Premiums, CPP and Health Insurance premiums are up to date.



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FACILITY UPGRADES

During 2019 the following depot improvements were made:

1. 57 solar panels were installed on the south facing roof of GIRO. The energy we generate reduces our energy use by more than half on an annual basis. Thank you to Phil Claxton for a generous rate on the installation and for stickhandling through the idiosyncrasies of BC Hydro regulation.
2. The plastic panels on the receiving area roof were replaced with steel significantly increasing the roof longevity,
3. The GIRO website was completely redone and has received substantial positive feedback

EDUCATION

The GIRO manager, Michelle MacEwen continued to run regular school-based activities at Gabriola Elementary School that are educating kids about rethinking, reducing, and recycling. Details are appended to this report.

APPRECIATION

GIRO would not be what it is today were it not for the work and dedication of staff and volunteers, as well as the support of the community at large. Based on the comments from the public and from recycling industry sources, GIRO is recognized as one of the best recycling centres of its scale in the province.

We as a Board say: THANK YOU to our community and to the many people who regularly help us work to achieve our vision of a better way to live.

GIRO Board of Directors, Oct. 2020



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AGM General Managers Education Report 2019-2020

I continued my work at the Gabriola Elementary School primarily working with the grade seven class and their teacher Luke Laurie. To encourage a reduction in Recyclables and Garbage, students conducted a waste audit. Garbage and Recycling was held back for a week, emptied onto tarps and students (wearing gloves) sorted and separated materials into various categories (mixed paper, office paper, plastics-rigid, stretchy and composite plastic). The data was recorded and the results highlighted that 95% of the classroom garbage was made up of plastic wrappers from store bought snack bars (granola bars etc.) 100% of the plastics in the recycling were from single use plastics (yoghurts, fruit sauce cups). A waste free lunch would eliminate a high percentage of the materials found in the garbage and the recycling. Students then focused on sharing waste free lunch ideas, including simple recipes for muffins, cookies, home made yoghurt and apple sauce. Regular monitoring and sharing ideas throughout the school year kept the momentum going to bring tasty snacks and lunches, made from scratch and package free.

In December we focused on the principles of gratitude and addressing what community vulnerability looks like on Gabriola. Meeting with program facilitators Kenda Chang-Swanson and Brenda Fowler at People for a Healthy Community (PHC), they identified that there are currently 120 vulnerable people on Gabriola, 15 of those living without permanent shelter and access to drinking water or heating. Many of the vulnerable families on Gabriola may only have enough income to afford their rent, but not enough to pay their grocery bills or clothing. To acknowledge and offer support, grade seven students, myself and chef Will Willgress spent a day at the Commons Kitchen making over 800 cookies which went into care packages/hampers at PHC the week before Christmas. These hampers also included gift certificates from GIRO for \$50.00 per family. This initiative has since created an ongoing collaboration with PHC where they identify specific needs for community members (household items, clothing, blankets etc.) and the GIRO team collect items to meet those needs and deliver them to PHC.

In the spring we carried out another Green Dragons Den. Students working in pairs had to come up with a green business idea where at no stage of manufacture, production or disposal could they be contributing to the landfill. Their idea had to use a material that is already in the recycling chain. Their product needed to fill a niche in the community.

As a class we discussed the following:

What is sustainability and how can it be applied to a business?

Can you make a profit and still be sustainable or continue to grow economically?

Students had six weeks to put together their business plan, make a prototype and work on their presentations. Five Gabriola Business owners (Michael Brown from Village Liquor Store, Tom Hann from Island Meat and Deli, Amanda Pearson from Wishbone, Chris Hills from Nature Spirit Earth and Graham Bradley from Good Earth) agreed to be our panel of judges with retired CBC executive Chris Straw as our MC. We invited parents and community members to attend the presentation evening at the school library where the qualifying seven groups of students presented. To be a judge on the panel each business owner agreed to take a



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couple of minutes to share with the audience how they started their business and what they would pledge to do to reduce their carbon footprint. The students, though nervous about presenting, jumped right in and I believe had a lot of fun as well. Their ideas showed innovation, creativity and sustainability. This is the fifth year that I have facilitated this project and every year it has proven to produce strong learning outcomes and levels of engagement among students, highlighting their enthusiasm to support environmentally sustainable solutions in their community.

Michelle MacEwen

General Manager

GIRO