

The Galiano Club - 2020 Annual Report

96th Anniversary



Chocolate Lily in the Community Forest

The Galiano Club - 1924 to 2020

Introduction

This Annual Report covers 2020 and some of the activities of 2021. The Annual General Meeting was postponed from its ordinary time in May, 2020 to the late fall of 2020 due to the global pandemic – Covid19.

The Galiano Club was incorporated as a non-profit society on December 5th, 1924 to:

- a) encourage social, recreational and educational activity in Galiano
- b) foster agricultural interests in Galiano
- c) form a public library
- d) build a public Hall which shall be used for the above three purposes

Since the founding of the Club, the objects have been amended to include holding and administering in trust for the community, the Bluffs and Mt. Galiano. Both properties are zoned “nature protection”. Also added was the ownership and administration of the Heritage (Community) Forest lands, zoned “heritage forest”, in accordance with covenants on that land. In total, the Club is responsible for 830 acres of land on Galiano Island comprising 5.78% of the island’s land mass.

The Galiano Club Constitution - Last updated at the 2017 Annual General Meeting

1. This Club shall be called THE GALIANO CLUB
2. The purpose of the Society on Galiano Island shall be:
 - (a) to encourage social, recreational and educational activity.
 - (b) to maintain a public hall which may be available for use by any person or persons who wish to use it in accordance with the above purposes.
 - (c) to hold and administer lands as described in the Bluffs Park and the Mount Galiano Trust Agreements, as directed therein.
 - (d) to hold and administer Heritage Forest Lands (zone FH) in accordance with heritage forest covenants on such lands.
 - (e) to promote agricultural interests on Galiano Island including gardening, farming, other food related initiatives and production of agricultural products.

Fostering agriculture, an object when the Society was established, was added back in the objects in 2011. The Galiano Club Community Food Program, which focuses on a range of food and agricultural initiatives, is now the largest program of the Galiano Club (staffing and funding). The Program has grown from two part-time contractors to four part time employees and from a couple of initiatives to the multi-faceted range of activities provided today.

Governance

The Galiano Club is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors (up to 11) half of whom are elected at each Annual General Meeting. The Board meets monthly to oversee Club operations. This is a “working” Board as opposed to a “governance” Board.

Board of Directors – 2020/2021

Sonia Baker
Dorothy Beauchamp—Secretary
Marianne Bos
Diana Burgoyne—Vice President
Jack Garton
Judy Hayes—President
Sylvia Jenkin
Robert Matson
Judy Parrack
Allison Whitlock
Carol Wilson—Treasurer

Allan Forget resigned as a Director part way through 2020.

The Galiano Community Hall—Alison Cowell, Judy Hayes

Hall Usage – The Community Food Program was virtually the only user since the pandemic began, except for a Kebe and Fast sale in July. In addition to weekly kitchens to make frozen meals and soups, the Food Program also initially used the Hall for a staging area for delivery of grocery hampers to seniors, those in isolation and regular users of the Food Bank. Once the Food Bank began weekly openings in May, staging was limited to the ongoing deliveries of frozen meals to seniors.

Maintaining the Hall – By comparison to 2020, the Hall was booked 378 times in 2019. Even in a non-pandemic year, rentals from the Hall only cover a portion (depending on the annual maintenance needs) of the cost of maintaining the Hall, the cost of insurance coverage for the Hall and our Galiano Club properties. The shortfall is covered through fundraising and donations.

Most of our big fundraising initiatives which help maintain the Hall (Blackberry Festival, Christmas Market, plays and the Pantomime) had to be cancelled in 2020. However, this resulted in some innovations. The Galiano Players put on a socially distanced play on a private property and a group of volunteers made chocolates for Christmas, Valentine’s Day and for Easter.

We are particularly grateful to the Victoria Foundation and the United Way of Greater Victoria which included funding to cover fixed Hall costs in their emergency grants.



Capital Upgrades – The concrete wheelchair ramp was completed in 2020, funded by the Rick Hansen Foundation. This grant also included additional accessibility upgrades such as bathroom grab bars and signage. The concrete ramp with metal railings will prove much more durable in our temperate rainforest climate.



New Wheelchair Ramp

New Pot Rack



The final items from the previous Capital Regional District grant were completed, which included a kitchen pot rack, installation of two additional double paned windows (office and freezer room) and removal of a danger tree. The original intention was to purchase additional solar panels, but approval was given to prioritize the removal of a large multi-towered cedar tree beside the shed, which proved to be timely as the core was rotten.



An additional Capital Regional District Grant completed the window upgrade with the replacement of the large stage window with a double paned version and the installation of a heat pump. All of the windows are now double paned and with the addition of the heat pump, energy efficiency has been significantly increased.

A donation from the Galiano Fund allowed for revamping the Hall chairs with wooden backing, thicker foam and new upholstery. When we can return to events, the added comfort afforded by this upgrade will no doubt be appreciated by all Hall users. While the pandemic created many difficulties, it simplified the process of upgrading the chairs—at no other time could the Hall have been without chairs for two weeks.

The grant funds that support these upgrades not only ensure the Hall is maintained as a valued community resource, but these funds also provide employment. Where possible, the Galiano Club uses local trades people for capital upgrades.

Below are outlined the major capital investments made to this valuable community resource since 2006.

| Year | Project |
|------|---|
| 2020 | <p>The Rick Hansen Foundation funded the installation of a concrete wheelchair ramp as well as additional aids such bathroom grab bars and signage. The final items from the previous Capital Regional District grant were completed, which included a kitchen pot rack, installation of two additional double paned windows and removal of a danger tree. An additional Capital Regional District Grant completed the window upgrade with the replacement of the large stage window and the installation of a heat pump. A donation from the Galiano Fund allowed for revamping the Hall chairs with wooden backing, thicker foam and new upholstery.</p> |
| 2019 | <p>The Capital Regional District supported a major capital investment in the Hall. The large commercial freezer was replaced and a second smaller commercial freezer was added, to better accommodate frozen meals and soups for the Food Program. The commercial sanitizer in the kitchen was replaced and a commercial refrigerator replaced the former refrigerator, which was moved to the new Audio Visual room (formerly the Bar Room). Both the pantry and the AV room were reconfigured to accommodate additional storage. Pantry storage eliminated the storage bins which created tripping hazards in the kitchen and eliminated the need for lifting heavy bins. New double paned windows were added to the main hall and the Green Room, an upgrade which was immediately appreciated by the vendors at the Christmas Market in 2019. A new floor was installed in the Playgroup space (flooring donated by a parent) and the wood blanket was renewed on the playground. And a foundation assessment was completed on the Hall, which will position the Club well if funding becomes available to replace the log posts with a foundation. A new projector and speakers were added to support events and workshops. New Horizons for Seniors funding allowed the installation of a laundry in the green room. The laundry means that volunteers no longer have to carry laundry home after events. As part of the reconfiguration to accommodate the laundry, the bathroom on the stage was upgraded, including the addition of hot water. In addition, storage cabinets were added to the stage area to accommodate less frequently used items and store equipment library items.</p> |
| 2018 | <p>The Hall floors were replaced for the second time in the history of the Hall as a result of grants from Heritage BC and Canada 150. An Auris loop was installed at the same time to support those with hearing loss to better enjoy concerts and other events. Thanks to a grant from the Capital</p> |

| | |
|------|--|
| | Regional District, the electrical system was brought up to code and rationalized, a propane on-demand hot water heater was installed and lighting was upgraded to LED throughout the hall. Ping pong players and volunteers working in the kitchen particularly appreciated the lighting upgrade. Those putting on large events no longer ran out of hot water. And the Board was relieved to have the electrical up to code. In addition, storage space for the Galiano Players backdrops was created under the hall. |
| 2017 | Thanks to the Capital Regional District a new second gas stove was installed. |
| 2016 | The Green Room was painted and updated and the kitchen was painted . The Concert Society donated funds for new panic hardware to be installed on the front door. |
| 2015 | The propane system was upgraded, eliminating the need to transport 100 lb. canisters. |
| 2014 | The 6 burner gas/propane stove was installed through funding from the Capital Regional District. |
| 2013 | The fire exit stairs were replaced through the Capital Regional District and a donation. The Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Services Program installed 2 generators and the Hall became an alternate reception centre. The Hall underwent both interior (main hall) and exterior painting . |
| 2012 | This was a big year for upgrades to the Hall as a performance space. A grand piano was privately donated and the Concert Society raised money for its transportation to Galiano. New theatre lights were obtained from the University of Lethbridge. Galiano Club revenues and donations funded the installation of black stage legs and the blackout blinds . |
| 2011 | The front steps were replaced. With the addition of a large commercial freezer funded by New Horizons for Seniors, the Food Program was able to store soups and meals for sale. Funds from AgriSpirit Farm Credit Canada and a donation allowed the installation of a new lighting panel for the stage and the purchase of music stands . |
| 2010 | The Hall roof was replaced through a combination of a grant from the Capital Regional District, an individual donation and a fundraising “shingle” campaign. The outdoor playground was also installed. |
| | The outdoor playground was installed. |
| 2006 | A commercial kitchen , funded by the Vancouver Foundation, the Victoria Foundation and Tides Canada allowed for the establishment of the Food Program in 2008. |

Partnerships in the Hall

- ✦ **Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Services Program** - The Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Program keeps two generators at the Community Hall to be used to run the Hall in the event of a disaster or prolonged power outages.
- ✦ **Galiano Island Recycling Resources** – GIRR provided the funding for a Bike Fix It Station located at the Hall. It gets a lot of use.
- ✦ **The Concert Society** – In a non-pandemic year, the Concert Society holds its concerts in the Hall. We look forward to a time when we can again enjoy these high level performances.
- ✦ **Capital Regional District** - The CRD helped fund the Electric Car Charging - EV Station - at the Hall.

President's Report – Judy Hayes

2020 was the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Galiano Club and it will certainly be a year to be remembered. The impact of the pandemic on the Galiano Club was significant. Hall rental is the only source of revenue other than grants and donations. Not only did rentals end in March, but all the fundraising events held by the Club also were no longer possible.

Fortunately, the Food Program was in the third year of a United Way grant which covered some of the staff costs. Additionally, the Galiano Club received support from the Victoria Foundation (Rapid Relief Fund and Community Recovery) and the United Way of Greater Victoria (Local Love in a Global Crisis). These two organisations also jointly provided funding through Emergency Community Support funding.

As a result, Food Program staff remained working throughout 2020. The community benefited enormously as a result of their dedication and flexibility. By the third week in March, they had adapted services and were delivering grocery hampers to seniors, those in isolation and regular users of the Food Bank. The Better at Home coordinator has told us this was the first response on the Southern Gulf Islands. The Food Bank was also reopened just before the first pandemic lockdown. Most programs continued, some with major adaptations. Frozen soup and meal production actually increased by 14% to 737 frozen soups and 3113 frozen meals in 2020. The Galiano Club also received, in addition to private donations to support food security, donations from Food Banks Canada, Food Banks BC, Mayne Island Food Bank, Mustard Seed and the Capital Regional District.

The vulnerability of food security on an island dependent on ferry service and with 85% of food coming from off island was underscored. Staff began some new initiatives with the hours available due to cancelled events, including a weekly Food Bank, working with local food producers and distributors and working with some inter-island groups such as the Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Initiative. We hope to continue with most of these initiatives even when events can again be held.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the incredible community support that the Galiano Club continues to receive. Volunteers were as adaptable as our staff and were immediately available to staff the Food Bank and make the meal deliveries. In order to protect senior volunteers at high risk of Covid 19, younger volunteers worked weekly to produce the frozen meals and soups. Other volunteers sold the meals from a tent and still others were available for the socially distanced lunches from September through November. Volunteers helped make and sell chocolates and worked on the School Garden. And the Parks and Forest Committee had volunteers patrolling and cutting broom. Volunteers adapted to new Covid protocols and continued to be involved with all of the programs which the Galiano Club runs.

Donations, especially donations to the Food Program initiatives, were at an all time high in 2020. And in spite of the challenges many businesses were facing, we continued to receive amazing support from the local tradespersons, farmers, suppliers and fishers.

This pandemic year, while challenging, also illustrated this community's strengths. Galiano residents care about their neighbours and act to support them with both labour and resources. Without this community support, the Galiano Club would not be able to provide the range of programs currently available and certainly would not have been able to manage through this difficult year. Thank you!

Administration

- ✦ **Policies and Governance** – The Board continues to spend time developing or updating policies on a range of administrative areas including Hall rentals, human resources , contracting, volunteer agreements and risk assessments. In addition, at the 2019 Annual General Meeting we were able to diversify the Board by electing some younger individuals with passion for the Food Program and the Parks/Forest.
- ✦ **Constitution and By-Laws** – The update to the Constitution and By-Laws being presented at this Annual General meeting will amend the major rewrite approved at the 2017 Annual General Meeting to comply with the new Societies Act proclaimed in November, 2016.
- ✦ **Strategic Planning** – The Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Planning session in the spring of 2019 to review the Club’s operations and to develop plans for each major activity area. The Community Food Program completed a Strategic Plan in 2018.
- ✦ **Membership** – There were 413 Galiano Club members in 2020—an all time record.
- ✦ **Honorary Life Members** – Currently the Galiano Club has two Life Members, Don Anderson and Margaret Howell who have been recognised for their tremendous contributions to the Galiano Club. Past life members dating back to the 1930’s can be found at <https://galianoclub.org/about/board-of-directors/> .

Activities of the Society

This past year was primarily focused on supporting the community through the Food Program and keeping the lands accessible as Galiano navigated its way through the global pandemic.

Community Events

There were no community events after March, 2020. The pandemic guidelines prohibited gatherings of more than ten (and at times not even ten). The Hall was assessed to be safe for up to 32 people (including volunteers) for part of 2020. It became apparent that it was not safe to have the general public congregating in the Hall. The Board is hoping that this will change by the Fall of 2021 or Winter of 2022.

The Galiano Club Parks and Community Forest – Allison Whitlock

Committee members

Board of Directors: Diana Burgoyne, Allison Whitlock, Robert Matson, Marianne Bos
Community Members: Cate Sandilands and Deidre Jewell.

Management Plans

The 2020 AGM was held quite late in the year because of Covid. Thanks to the hard work of many community members and our membership, both The Bluffs and the Community Forest Management Plans were ratified. In 2021, the Parks Committee is currently putting together a plan to have the Mt. Galiano Management Plan reviewed by Keith Erickson and members of the Parks Committee. Please stay tuned for events arranged to provide opportunities for community consultation and engagement.

The Bluffs

During the year we have finished installing signage including the lovely wooden directional signs created by Avi Bryant. The trails continue to be monitored by the Committee and other interested community members; and any fallen trees have been cleared either by our committee members or volunteer, Taylor Crandall. Galiano Excavating graded the road to the Bluffs lookout.

Mt. Galiano

New signage was also installed on Mt. Galiano. Our new volunteer Deborah Roy has been invaluable as she walks the trails often and has alerted us to several downed trees that have been removed by either Allan Forget or community member Pat Van Holderbeke. A bike rack was recently installed at the trail head for those riding their bikes.

Community Forest

Despite Covid the Parks Committee and Keith Erickson were able to hold several physically distanced community tours of the Forest for the purpose of community engagement for the Management Plan. A bike rack was installed in the parking area near the trail head. Broom cutting was done, but no official events were held to cut broom due to Covid. The Wildfire loop trail was cut back by committee members in order to provide clear passage for fire trucks in the event of another forest fire. The culvert at the top of the Wildfire loop needs to be replaced and Galiano Excavating will be completing this work soon.

Trees4Tomorrow; through the Hornby Island Conservancy and Hornby Island Trustee, Grant Scott, provided 4,000 Douglas fir trees. Tree planters from Hornby planted the seedlings with

consultation from Keith Erickson in the forest. The funding for planting the trees came from the CRD. We would like to thank Dave Howe for the funding and for his on-going support of the Gailano Club.



Trees for Tomorrow

Physical distancing signs for Covid were placed by Diana Burgoyne at all the main trail entrances for all three forested lands. Covid has meant that the Parks Committee has not been able to create many opportunities to invite community members to volunteer for broom cutting or burning. We are hoping to have more chances to bring community members out to help with cutting back broom and repairing trails. Thank you to all of our volunteers and Guardians of the Forest for either taking the initiative to cut back fallen trees and bushes or alerting us that they are there.

The Galiano Club manages three forested properties (830 acres or approximately 336 hectares) - the Bluffs, Mt Galiano and the Community Forest. Title to both the Bluffs and the Mt Galiano lands came to the Club as a result of a community purchase/donation; title to the Community Forest was given as part of a property subdivision arrangement. The Club's Board of Directors created a Parks/Forest Committee in 2017 to deal with the maintenance of these lands more directly.

Galiano Players - Sonia Baker

The Galiano Players Presented Plays in the Garden - "Doctor Sleep" by Nicholas Richards and "I Remember When" by Dawn Cairns. Randy Bishop generously donated the outdoor venue at Bell House. Lorelei Keys and Keith Jenken donated their musical talents for the event. As it was a pandemic year and COVID protocols had to be strictly followed, we were fortunate to have Janelle Cooper donate her time to ensure we had a Covid free event. Thank you Janelle! Of course, we were chomping at the bit to put on more plays and the incredibly successful pantomime but COVID stopped us in our tracks. We are looking forward to the time when we can take to the stage again.



The Galiano Club Community Food Program Report - Looking Back at 2020

Alison Colwell – Executive Director and Food Program Manager

Our Vision is:

“The Galiano Community Food Program envisages Galiano Island as a thriving, livable, food-secure community. It is a place where every resident is included, welcome and empowered to build a deeper connection with their food system. In so doing, the Program improves Galiano’s ecological sustainability and community resilience in the face of climate change and uncertainty. The program seeks to set an example that reaches beyond our local community and spreads across the country.”

2020 was a challenging year for the Food Program (just like it was for almost everyone else.) When the pandemic started the Food Program was forced to shutter many of its popular programs.



Alison Colwell

Almost overnight we closed down the Soup and Bread lunches (that financially go a long way to supporting the Program) but the demand for frozen meals stayed high. We lost every one of our big community potlucks, we lost appreciation dinners, and birthday cakes, and donuts at Games Nights. We lost weekly school lunches, workshops, family Games Nights and cooking at the school.

And we also expanded during the pandemic. Some of our programs increased and we even began a number of new programs to support the community through the pandemic. These were the Food Bank (in partnership with the St Margaret's of Scotland Anglican Church), instituting a weekly delivery hamper service for those isolating or in quarantine, increased frozen meals kitchens (which meant juggling Covid restrictions and volunteer ages so that we could keep cooking every week) plus support for food producers, and other increased agricultural supports.

And still throughout all the changes and stress, volunteers kept coming and kept cooking and working and we kept everything going. 2020 deepened my appreciation of this community in a big way.



Music at Soup and Bread before the Pandemic

Soup and Bread - We cancelled the first Soup in March of 2020 – it was one of the very first island events to be cancelled. But very quickly we had to figure out how to continue. We resumed cooking on an almost weekly basis because demand for our soups and frozen meals continued.

In 2020, only 14 soup and meal lunches were open to the public. But we held 42 kitchens. That is 12 more than the year before. In those 14 open lunches we served 1040 people lunch. (That's a quarter of the people who sat down with us the year before.) But we made more than 3,100 meals. That is 400 more meals than we made in 2019. In the face of all the

restrictions, and the difficulties in cooking with masks on, and very limited volunteers in the kitchen, we still increased what we are doing.

However, without the public Soup and Bread lunches we only raised \$16,000 towards the costs of the program, which is just over half of what we made the year before. It is the Soup lunches that help us pay for the meals program, and that was never more obvious than in the last year. The Soup and Bread Program would not be possible without the support of all the dedicated volunteers that come week after week to cook and clean. In 2020, over 275 volunteer shifts were worked comprising 1,100 hours (or a value of \$22,000 if we were paying our volunteers!)

Galiano Food Bank - In late 2019, the Galiano Food Bank closed when two parishioners of St. Margaret's of Scotland Anglican Church retired after 20 years. In February 2020, the Galiano Club Food Program began a partnership with the church to reopen the Food Bank. The church provides the venue and the Galiano Club provides staff and volunteers. Since this partnership began, the Food Bank has moved from opening twice a month for eight months to weekly openings year round.

We also have added fresh produce, meat, dairy and bread to the options available, have joined Food Banks BC, have made connections for additional supplies with Connections for additional supplies have been made with Mustard Seed, a non-profit food recovery program in Victoria, and with local businesses and farmers. Also added have been cleaning supplies and toiletries. Demand for Food Bank services has increased substantially.



Early Days Stocking up for the Food Bank

A new commercial refrigerator and commercial freezer have been added allowing for safe storage over longer periods and thereby increasing efficiency. Some of the new Food Program initiatives:

- Discussion is underway for collaboration with the Mayne Island Food Bank for additional food recovery initiatives.
- Connections have been made with local businesses, fishermen and farmers, resulting in donations of, for example, bread and salmon.
- A pantry cupboard with tinned and dried food has been established at Page Drive, the local seniors' residence, to support those seniors unwilling or unable to use the Food Bank. A pantry cupboard with snacks and lunch options has been established at the local elementary school for teachers to distribute. The cupboards are replenished in each location as needed.
- Food hampers delivered to seniors who cannot pay the modest cost (\$5 per meal) are funded through the Food Bank.

Not only does Galiano have a high proportion of seniors among permanent residents, nearly 20% of residents are low income. The 350% increase in Food Bank use over the last year indicates that food security is a significant vulnerability. We anticipate that Food Bank use will stay at this high level for the foreseeable future as many of the jobs available on the island are in the service industry and at the low end of the wage scale.

Community Games Nights - All Games Nights were cancelled – but we look forward to gathering together over pizza and donuts in the future!

Cooking at the Community School - All in-school cooking programs were cancelled in 2020.

Community Potlucks - Unfortunately, all three of our Community Potlucks were cancelled this year. There was no Nettlefest Potluck, Community Picnic, or Solstice Dinner. We were able to hold the Nettlefest foraging walk with social distancing, but that was the only event that went ahead.



**Pre-Covid in the Hall
Kitchen**

Emma Davis – Food Program Coordinator



Emma Davis

Workshops - In September we cancelled the *Feed the People* wild game-butchering workshop due to Covid.

In October, Galiano's own Josh Blumenthal taught 14 residents the basics of butchering, including how to break down a side of meat into primal cuts, what each cut can be used for, and some specific cuts and preparations for each. We set up a cell phone camera to run a live feed to the projector so that there was a projection of Josh's workspace on the screen onstage, in order to maintain social distancing.

This worked really well and would be worth considering for future workshops even if social distancing was not required. It is easy to set up. Participants were encouraged to bring their own coats, aprons, masks, knives, and coolers to minimize shared tools. We kept all the windows open, which made things a bit cold but it was manageable.

Participants said:

"I feel much more confident to be able to buy a larger cut of meat and break it down into usable cuts."

"This event increased my confidence with butchering. The more people we have in the community with these skills, the greater our self sufficiency as a small island!"

"Helped me entertain the possibility of buying whole/half animals directly from producers."

Stock Up Market in October - This was the 7th Annual Stock Up bulk food market, offering locally grown keeper veggies and meat and encouraging people to buy in bulk to store for the

winter. This year we moved the market outside to address public health concerns. This worked well because it did not rain. We were able to fit the vendors in, and probably could have squeezed in one or two more, though we were trying to ensure lots of space for physical distancing. Despite the change in format, there were lots of people in attendance and at least one vendor sold out of their offerings. Two vendors cancelled at the last minute due to injury and other demands on their time.

Gleaning - We consulted with Galiano Island Health Clinic make sure they endorsed us proceeding and they encouraged us to go ahead. Of all our programs, Gleaning was the least impacted by Covid, and almost no modification was required, except for smaller groups, which limited our capacity to pick as much food, and a need for more equipment so as to minimise sharing. We also were not able to distribute the produce to the Health Clinic, the School, or the Hall. That said, this program stood out as a success during the pandemic, when opportunities to socialise and connect were limited.

“This year it felt special to be able to chat with people outside my small bubble.” - participant.

We still had a decent number of picks and harvested quite a lot of fruit. Most people were comfortable with the protocols we put in place. With support from Galiano’s Parks and Recreation Commission, 63 volunteers (24 fewer than the previous year), who gathered for 22 picking sessions (down 9 from 2019) at 15 (no change) sites, picking just over 2988 lbs. of a variety of types of produce (4329 in 2018). Produce was shared between the pickers, landowners, and also distributed to community members in need via volunteers.

Garlic Co-op – The group was happy to be able to continue with our activities with minor adjustments since so much else had to be cancelled. I worked with the members and the Clinic to establish safety protocol.

At first, we limited the group size to six but then in October we moved it to eight, which meant a few extra work parties to get it all done. We did lose one member because of concerns about contagion. The harvest was great - the garlic was very large and mostly mould free. In 2020, 14 (up 5 from 2019) members shared 1090 bulbs, of which we saved 250 for seed.



Covid Impact Surveys - In May, The Galiano Club Community Food Program, in partnership with the Galiano Farmers' Institute, surveyed the island's farmers, restaurants and grocery stores to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on our community's food systems. What we learned: Covid-19 is further taxing Galiano's already vulnerable food security. Farmers' top concerns were market volatility and global recession, interrupted access to goods/services, and personal/staff health and safety. Their most significant concerns regarding interruptions to goods or services are limited ability to access services and supplies due to the limited transportation options and a desire to stay close to home; and seed shortages and increased costs of feed (especially hay) and seed. The number of ferry sailings had been reduced, which increased travel time, the capacity was reduced on the remaining sailings, and routes were cancelled, including to Salt Spring which has the closest large-animal vet and abattoir.

Galiano farmers were optimistic about recovery and saw opportunities presented by the pandemic situation, especially bolstered interest in local food. They planned increases to their production to meet an expected increase in local food needs.

At the time of the survey, restaurants and grocery stores reported that the pandemic was having a significant impact on their businesses. Four restaurants and one grocer had to close completely for at least a period of time. One restaurant was able to transition to take-away. Two grocers reduced their hours. Two seasonal retailers faced delays for their seasonal opening. Retailers reported the following main impacts to their operations:

- Lost revenue/reduced consumer spending
- Reduced cash flow
- Inability to conduct business as usual
- Increased expenses
- Challenges with staffing (primarily for grocery stores)
- Changes in consumer habits
- Challenges getting supplies

The restaurants and, to a somewhat lesser extent, the grocery stores, expressed interest in sourcing more locally grown products and interested in making an effort to do so.

Kris Krug – Food Program Coordinator

Kris took over as School Food Program Coordinator in September of 2020 from Trisha Sharpe.



Food Program at the School

We used the quiet time at the School to make a number of infrastructure improvements in the School Garden. We installed three new raised beds, six new trellises' were built and installed, and the gate springs and hardware upgraded (to help keep the garden gates closed and keep deer out of the garden.)

School Volunteer Program - We instituted a weekly volunteer program and have recruited six volunteers. COVID has put a damper on our meet-ups but more work will be done as restrictions lift.

Guest Speaker Program - During the pandemic, Kris organised monthly ZOOM speaker program connecting students in the classroom to gardening and green-thumbed heros and mentors from around the world. Growers included:

- Ruganzu Bruno, EcoArt Uganda,
- Ron Finley, Gangsta Gardener, USA,
- Sarah Binks, Hives for Humanity, Canada,
- Desiree Kane, First Foods, Miwok;
- Linda Gilkeson, Garden Mentor, Canada.

Collaboration with School Gardens.ca and Robin Jenkinson – Kris is working on establishing relationships with other School Gardens in the district via direct collaboration with Robin.

Looking forward in 2021



School Garden Bount

Nature's Path Grant - We applied for and were awarded a School Garden Grant from Nature's Path. And thanks to the support of this amazing community, we also received a matching \$5,000.00 donation from the Galiano Fund for the School Garden. Plus, we received another \$1,000.00 from School Gardens Canada

Gifted and Special Needs Mentorship - We have begun doing one on one mentoring with students who need special attention and who benefit from time outside the classroom.

Barry New – Food Program Coordinator



The Community Greenhouse: The Greenhouse Growing Group grows vegetables, herbs and flowers together in the Greenhouse located behind the Galiano Library. Anyone is welcome to join. The charge is only \$20.00 for the year. This includes participants who only wish to use the

Greenhouse for starting seedlings and grow them on until the time to plant out. The fee includes all soil amendments, seeds, pots, and tools, but people are still encouraged to bring their own.

All participants can share produce grown in the Greenhouse and from selected beds outdoors. We are saving seeds each year for the main vegetables: Tomatoes, Peas, Beans. Other seeds are from donations, annual seed swap and using the Seed Library of Galiano (SLOG). Our group met informally once a week throughout the spring and summer. By the summer, we have a watering schedule so we make regular (weekly) turns by the participants to keep the plants well watered. It is a teaching and learning environment and we have some resources and good links to help further the skills of participants.

The outside raised beds had strawberries, pole beans, carrots, sweet peas, broccoli, squash, lettuce, eggplant, broad beans, zucchinis and cucumbers and other companion plants. There are also "Seniors' Beds" specially adapted for easy maintenance (no bending!). In the Greenhouse we usually grow Tomatoes, Peppers, Basil and more. The Greenhouse space is fully stocked with seed-trays, numerous pots, beanpoles, soil amendments and more.

In recent years, I have built and restored three new large, raised beds for artichokes and asparagus, which are doing well and annuals. During 2020 we had donations of manure and hay bales to improve the beds. We add compost from the South Hall Compost Bins and collect maple leaves from the School Grounds every autumn.

We are fortunate to have tremendous staff in Alison Colwell, Emma Davis, Barry New and Kris Krug who go above and beyond in their service to the Galiano Club and the Galiano community. The Manager and Coordinators, along with all of the volunteers, make the Food Program the vibrant program that it is.

Thank you so much!

Community Support

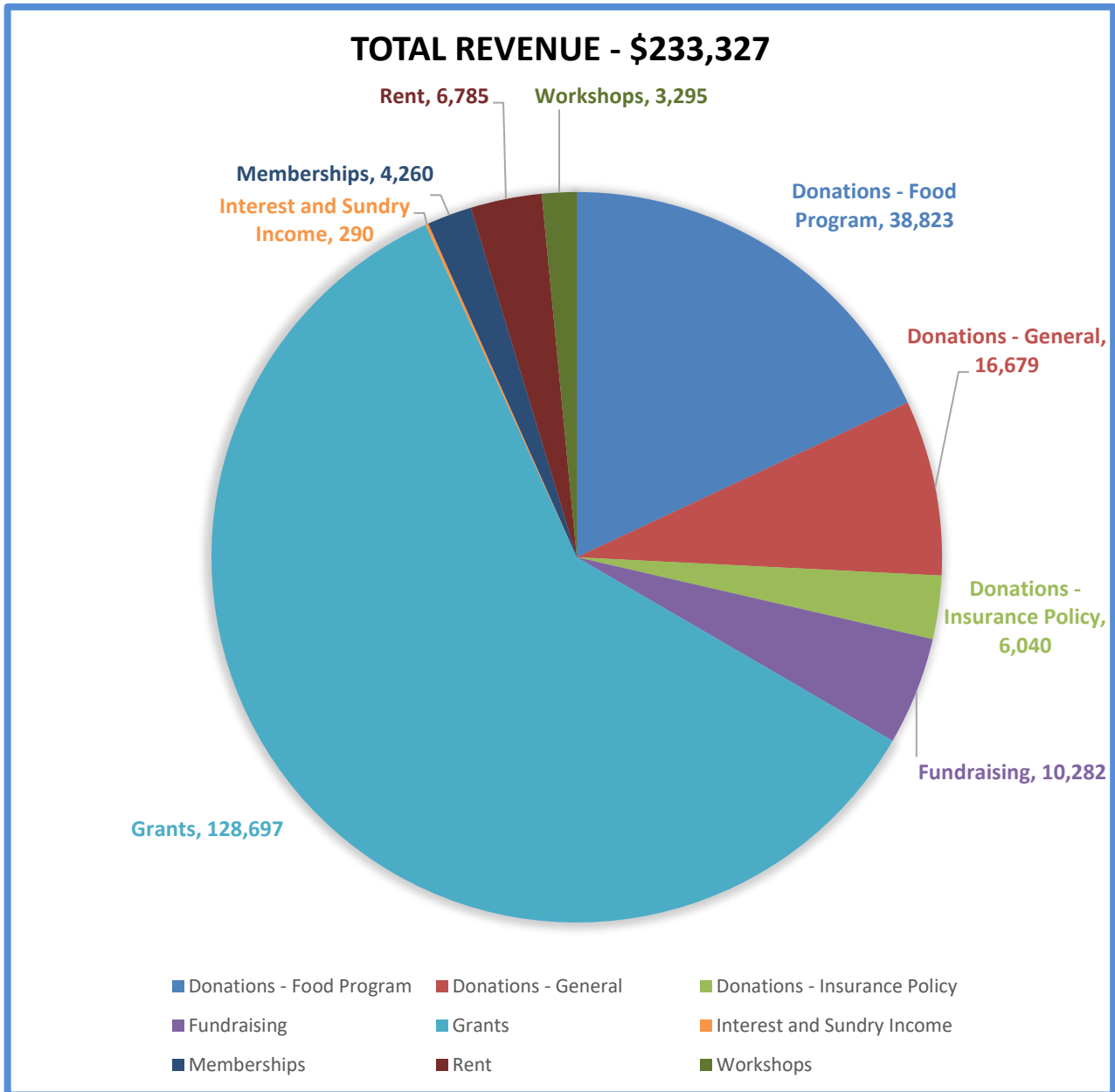
We want to acknowledge the generosity of the residents of Galiano, their friends and visitors, in making donations which support all the work of the Galiano Club. Every donation has made a difference. We thank the many people who made a donation in conjunction with their membership; those who made in-kind donations of produce, labour and services or goods and materials and those who contributed to particular projects throughout the year.

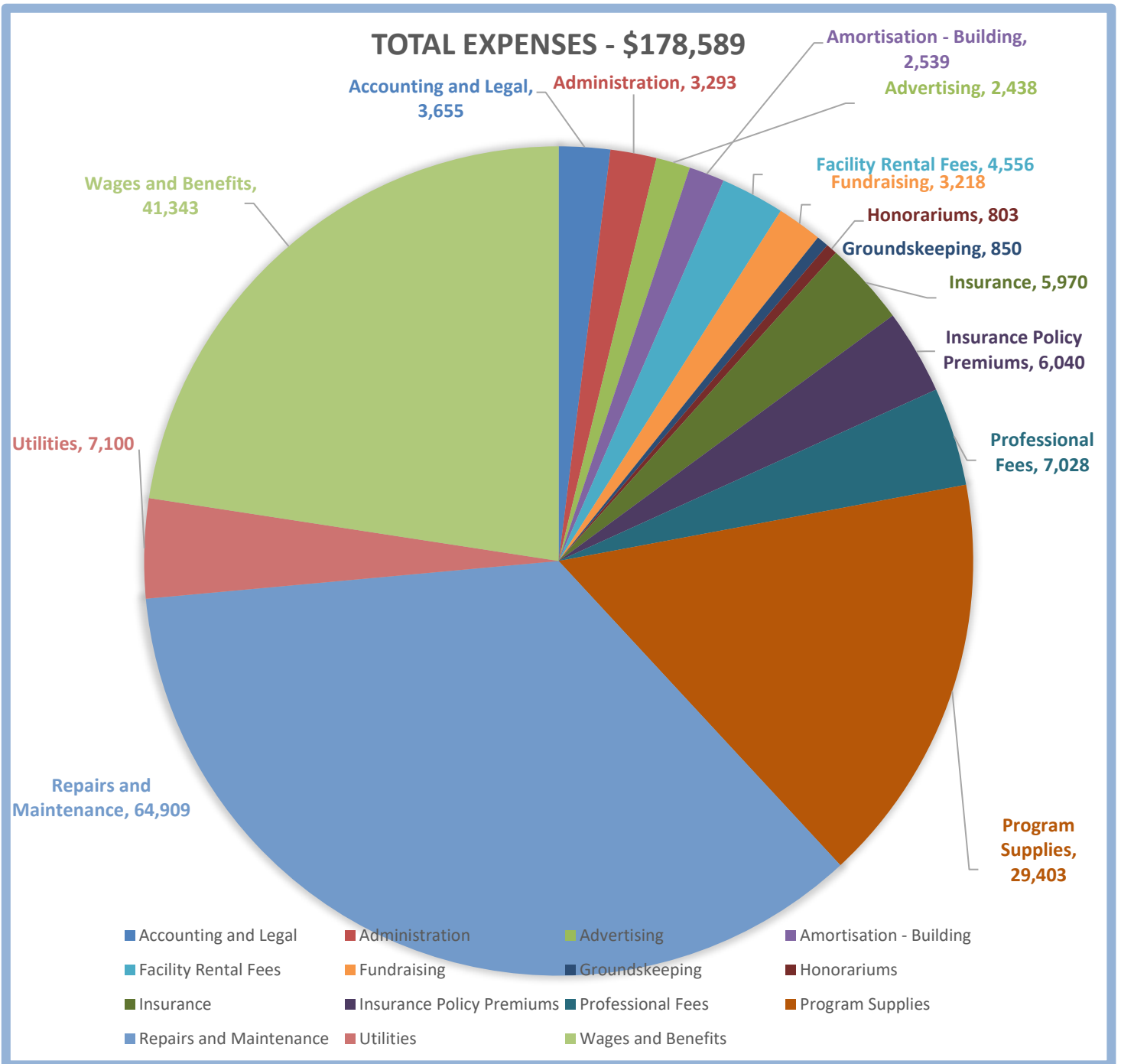
The Galiano Club also appreciates the strong support of the community through memberships in the Club with over 275 volunteers and 400 members. This support also includes our local trades and merchants who often donate their labour and/or give discounts on materials. Even in the year of the pandemic our volunteers were involved in every aspect of the Club's activities including cutting broom, cooking, minor renovations of the Hall, washing dishes, hauling garbage, baking, making signs, taking photos, picking berries, collecting water samples, clearing trails, hauling materials and other goods from off island, painting, delivering meals, gardening, producing and directing plays and events, doing recycling, giving advice and doing laundry. This steady support and encouragement helps the Board of Directors plan ongoing maintenance and upgrading projects for the Hall as well as the many activities in which the Club is involved.



Christmas Hamper Boxes

THE GALIANO CLUB FINANCIAL PICTURE - 2020





Thank you to our Sponsors, Supporters, Donors and Funders! We could not serve our community as effectively without you!



Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission



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Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm
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