

President's report

Jeff Malmgren

President's report

GHCF Moves Ahead

- Since even before its inception in 2006 the Gabriola Health Care Foundation has been an unrivaled example of the power of community, one that is held up across the province as a perfect example of community health.
- The Gabriola Medical Clinic is a cornerstone of this success. We are so incredibly fortunate to have the staff and leadership there, whose commitment to our community shows in everything they do.
- The community built the centre and along with it our Foundation. So many people continue to give in so many ways – with time and with continued generosity.
- The challenges we and all communities, particularly rural and remote communities, face around meeting health and wellbeing needs are significant but we are well positioned to meet them head on, just as the community and its Foundation have done repeatedly in the past.
- 2025 will be a year of change for our Foundation and our community. We're excited as we move into the new year to share with you an emerging vision that will see us drive toward healthy, thriving community.

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GHCF Moves Ahead

Highlights of 2024

- Development of a new draft Strategic Plan.
- Partnered to support an approval for the Gabriola Primary Care Network.
- Supported the Gabriola Health and Wellbeing Collaborative to secure funding and to contract a Community Wellbeing Coordinator.
- Continued efforts to support the Clinic to ensure there are adequate providers – doctors and nurse practitioners – to meet the community needs now and, in the future.
- With the generous support of the Gabriola Lions Club, began the renovation of the Health Centre's water system, a move to a rainwater collection system that is sustainable in multiple ways.
- A complete refresh of the GHCF website to be launched in early 2025.

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GHCF Moves Ahead - Challenges in 2024 and beyond

- The safety of our tenants came into sharp focus this year with a series of incidences at Lifelabs. This behaviour within our facility and frankly within our community is very disappointing. While we have taken direct operational steps to address and mitigate these issues, as a community we simply have to do better.
- We are incredibly fortunate to have benefited from excellent financial management coupled with a generous community since GHCF's inception. While these are still in place our costs have risen exponentially over the last few years, leading to continually revision of budgets and future forecasts.
- As a foundation we have relied almost entirely on the work of volunteers, who take on roles that are most often undertaken by contractors or paid staff in other like organizations. The quality of this work cannot be questioned, as exemplified by the state of our finances and our facility. But this is becoming an ever less sustainable model that we will need to address in the near future
- Today, in addition to the four physicians, a nurse practitioner, a community health nurse and both a mental health nurse and clinician currently practicing at the clinic, we also have a number of medical specialists who visit the clinic on a regular basis and provide a range of valuable services to patients. The required sharing of space is reaching a reasonable limit.
- With Gabriola's aging and growing population, the need for increased team-based care and related health services will inevitably result in the need for expanded facilities. The existing health centre is fully utilized.

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New Strategic Plan for 2024

- In November of last year, the board struck a committee to begin the process of developing a new strategic plan. The committee, supported extremely effectively by **Audra Davies**, undertook a deep dive into the Foundation, its history and its operations and developed a draft which shifts, broadens and refocuses the Foundation's Mission and sets out a strategic path that will drive this renewed vision over the next five years.
- With the full support of the board, we are moving forward with an engagement process that will ensure that everyone in our community – our foundation members, our partner organizations and the community as a whole – will have an opportunity to understand and have input into this emerging vision. At the end of the day, this Foundation is built and owned by the community; to be successful its vision must be equally so.
- The Engagement process will launch in January and be undertaken over the next six months. There will be ample opportunity to understand, discuss and provide comment. A link to the full draft of the Strategic Plan will be posted on the GHCF web site or emailed to the members prior to the close of the AGM.

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Draft Strategic Plan 2024 – Highlights

Vision & Purpose

- Vision: A healthy thriving community.
- Purpose: Take leadership to understand and improve the health & wellbeing of the entire community.

Mission

- Driving change that results in an effective, resilient community-held, integrated system for the health and wellbeing of the entire community.
- We achieve this by:
 - Knowing and acting on community health needs.
 - Convening and collaborating with partners.
 - Ensuring access to primary and urgent care.
 - Advocating for community health needs.
 - Striving for organizational excellence.

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Draft Strategic Plan 2024 – Key tenets

- A systematic approach that considers the full spectrum of health and wellbeing (upstream impacts/consideration of the social determinants of health.
- A purposeful and conscious move to collective responsibility for the health and wellbeing of our community that we all must take.
- An understanding of the importance of our individual responsibility to understand and address our own health and wellbeing and the need to support agency that will drive this.
- An understanding that the greatest threat to our health and wellbeing stems from the significant and ongoing impact of climate change and willing to take a direct role in addressing this on our island.
- An understanding of the critical role that our relationship with the First Nations peoples, the Snuneymuxw and others, will play as we address the challenges we face now and in the future.

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Gabriola Primary Care Network

- Primary Care Networks are an initiative of the Ministry of Health which bring additional connected Primary Care resources to participating communities.
- Gabriola, led by its Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice Chapter, has undertaken the development of a PCN Service Plan for submission.
- A PCN Steering Committee made up of the Gabriola physician members as well as community organizations including the GHCF has been successful in developing and submitting a proposal for approval.
- This submission was approved in October and provides for additional primary care providers and other supported services coming to Gabriola.
- More information on these resources and when they will come to Gabriola will come in the near future from the PCN Steering Committee.
- The GHCF is excited to support this PCN and is working with all partners to ensure that the new resources are well sited and supported.

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Tremendous Thanks

This year marks the end of term of two of our Directors, **Diane Cornish** and **Lu Lazzarotto**. Their work for the Foundation has been invaluable, both will be sorely missed.

- Lu's work leading the Communication Committee and the Recruitment and Retention Committee brought both to a new level of activity and success, laying a tremendous foundation for the future.
- Diane has been a cornerstone asset for our Foundation. Her leadership on the Governance and Board Development Committees has been excellent; the calm, thoughtful and articulate counsel she brings to our board table is irreplaceable.