

## **GABC 2015 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT - YEAR IN REVIEW BULLETS**

### **JANUARY**

- Two board members stepped down to run in and many core supporters participated in 2014 municipal election. Energy depleted and dispirited by loss of councilors Bouman and Johnson. Rowe slate won with a promise to “negotiate” size of the George. They did not keep this promise.
- Developed information articles and example submissions to support OCP public engagement process.
- Prepped for Official Community Plan update public hearing.

### **FEBRUARY**

- OCP public hearing CALL TO ACTION and public information and engagement events.

### **MARCH**

- OCP HEARING – 300 people. Excellent turn out. Great submissions – on the record.
- Marina “sale”. Fuerniss made a deal with Art McGinnis, to close in May.
- Supported citizens filing, tracking and responding to various complaints re: ToG influence/corruption.
- Developed explanatory articles for the public to understand outcome of OCP review process. A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIEW: How the OCP was changed to allow for the George project.

### **APRIL**

- Worked with local journalists and writers on GABC News stories about Gibsons issues and issues in Howe Sound. (WFLNG, Burnco Gambier logging, proposed parks)
- Explored ever increasing issues around George project. (Rowe-Fuerniss conflict of interest, illegal municipal processes, environmental contamination etc.)

### **MAY**

- Hosted My Sea To Sky – Eoin Finn presentation re: WFLNG
- George first reading – changes to design, aquifer studies “negotiate”- conditions
- Celebration of Winegarden Park!
- GWDA info signs and booth
- OIPC complaint. Brad forgot to file complaint to OIPC in late 2015. Filed 3 weeks too late.
- Website News
  - GEORGE REARS ITS UGLY HEAD
  - PROPERTY OWNER TO TAKE TOWN OF GIBSONS TO COURT OVER MARINA
  - FORMER GIBSONS FIREFIGHTER WARNS ABOUT LNG TANKERS IN HOWE SOUND
  - "GEORGE" THREATENS GIBSONS AQUIFER

### **JUNE**

- OIPC rejected late FOI adequacy of search complaint. Brad appealed, denied, refiled FOIs to Town.
- George second reading with conditions.
- Supporting GWDA
  - info boards and office at Gibsons Quay set up all summer on the weekends
  - meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> week – green leaflet fundraising etc.
- Judith and Suz took a Crowdfunding course – came back and shared what we learned with GABC/GWDA/FoH
- Website News
  - SUNSHINE COAST SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY RECEIVES PRAISE

### **JULY**

- Tried to start a Crowdfunding campaign but not enough capacity. George exhausting our resources.
- ToG fast-tracked third reading of George at the last minute in the summer time.

### **AUGUST**

- LEGAL – worked through August re: Rowe conflict of interest. Much interest among supporters to take this on. Conferring with FoH and lawyers, providing evidence from FOI records.

- Supported citizens with complaints to Ombudsmen re: George and OCP processes.
- GWDA – green leaflet, mailers, newspaper ads.
- Organized and hosted Starlight Theatre – Beachcombers!!
- Response to Gibsons and District Chamber of Commerce and explanatory article to list/website.

### **SEPTEMBER**

- GABC/GWDA petition – delegation to council
- George public hearing scheduled
- Legal letter to Rowe
- Punk the George
- Support for GWDA with website – paypal, newspaper ads, leaflet
- Public engagement, “How To” Participate in the George Public Hearing
- Website News
  - COMMUNITY COULD LOSE BIG IF COUNCIL APPROVES GIVEAWAYS
  - GIBSONS COUNCIL IGNORES TAXPAYER’S CONCERNS RE: HOTEL/CONDO/MARINA PLAN

### **OCTOBER**

- George hearing, bylaws passed.
- Exploring possibilities for judicial review with Friends of the Harbour.
- GWDA office support
- Marina FOI
- Environmental issues re Hyak Marine becoming serious. Research, research, research.
  - TOWN OF GIBSONS IGNORES REQUEST RE: CONTAMINATED SITE

### **NOVEMBER**

- Prepping materials for legal review – to build a case for judicial review.
- Parks acquisition FUND – Judith – Friends of Gospel Rock Society collaboration, letters to minister Fassbender.
- FOIs/Complaints – OIPC process
- Website News
  - TOWN OF GIBSONS TO EMPTY PARKS ACQUISITION FUND
  - TOWN OF GIBSONS LOST \$200,000 OVER FAILED ARBITRATION

### **DECEMBER**

- FOI review- stories – articles
- Friends of the Harbour
- Hyak Marine environmental issues
- Website
  - ACCESSING INFORMATION AT THE TOWN OF GIBSONS

### **Armours Beach UPDATE**

GLCA/GABC started off at Wynken Blynken Nod and moved to Armours Beach Clubhouse in 2009. We have advocated to save this building since then, alongside Heritage Hill Residents Association. As a member of a Gibsons Yacht Club Committee, John Roper worked on the revite project for the clubhouse for 2 years. GYC passed a motion to commit \$50,000 to the Town for improvements and John personally offered to commit to a lease of sailing dinghy rack space for \$2,000. The concept was modelled after Jericho Sailing Centre, a very successful community facility on English Bay in Vancouver, where both Graham Walker and John were former members. Matt Evans did an artist’s concept which envisaged a covered deck over the boat storage racks which could later be enclosed to form a club house for use by various water oriented groups. The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives were also consulted and expressed interest in a memorial wall for mariners lost or buried at seas, as well as marking the site of the first Town Hall. The Town previously indicated they did not have any funds to proceed. Now the Town has found a large sum of money in the Parks Fund to commit to the Gibsons Public Market business enterprise and the Town is currently calling tenders to demolish the structure at Armours Beach.

### **Moving into 2016...**

- Website and mailing list

- a. Need Paypal button on website for donations
  - b. Working on e-Newsletter – Need to get more professional on this. Need more capacity!
  - c. Possibility for a Members Directory? Would be great but need more capacity.
  - d. News articles with Margot Grant and others are going well. GABC's role is shifting from writing everything to researching and supporting others to write more news. Opinions columns would be great on the website but we don't have capacity to do all this. Would be better for someone else to run with the news piece independently, with our support.
- We have been members of the Gibsons Chamber of Commerce since 2012. Do we want to be members anymore? Discontinuing GDCC membership and would be interested in similar services from GABC for our TMI Publications, as previously mentioned.
  - Gibsons Public Market started off as excellent project with full GABC support, now it looks dodgy. What to do?
  - Armours Beach project, heritage hill folks and others watching, will participate and keep us posted.
  - Crunching the numbers on the George issue is a critical looming task. How do we protect ourselves and other taxpayers against financial risks: escalating marina costs and massive property tax hikes that will result from the George giveaways?
  - Ongoing FOI/OPIC processes. Exhausting but necessary.
  - Ongoing support of GWDA/FoH efforts through communications, research, analysis, fundraising.