

Galiano Health Care Society
Annual General Meeting
April 26, 2014
MANAGERS REPORT

When I sat down to write the Manager's report for the AGM this year, I really wanted to talk to you, the membership of the society, about the quality of health care we have come to enjoy and expect on Galiano Island, and that we also have the privilege and responsibility to safeguard and protect if we wish to continue to maintain it. With the end of the Canada Health Accord this March, and the pressures on all levels of government to allocate funds to rising health care demands and costs, things could look very different for health care in the near future. The accord provided provinces with 10 years of relatively stable funding, set common health care goals nationally on health, home care, prescription drug costs and wait times for surgeries. There is now some concern that those of us who do not enjoy an urban or populated location, will face more fragmented services, and that a system based more on one's ability to pay is on the horizon. Health services in the future could be tied to population and tax base, or to economic growth. The future of this wider view of health care situated in the Canadian context that we also belong to, is at present uncertain.

All the more reason to support the health care system we have on Galiano. We have built a very substantial and comprehensive health care system on Galiano, working on what residents have asked for in terms of health care services. The health care society has taken on the task of ensuring that we keep what we have, and respond to emerging needs by trying to get what we don't yet have. I see my job as making sure that staff, professionals, the board and the building are all supported as we healthily work towards this common goal, of health care excellence for the Galiano community. I have worked for the society for 11 years now, and I have seen firsthand the success of a community based health centre that can respond to direct community needs, and to the commitment to this health care delivery by the board of directors and the societies volunteers, whether they be board members or members serving on committees and in fundraisers, drivers, volunteers in seniors programs, palliative care volunteers, loan equipment volunteers, or those who pull weeds in our little garden patches. We are completely and utterly a community supporting our health and those of our neighbors by our generosity both financial and of the heart. We all deserve thanks and should give thanks for each other's hard work.

We have 24/7 ambulance coverage; your health care society fundraises to provide travel subsidies to off island attendants so that this can continue. We have an on-call system of first call nurses besides our physician; your health care society works to ensure that Island Health continues to fund these positions and indeed asks for even more professional coverage in the off hours. We have a great health care centre, that houses our professionals of physician and nurse practitioner, and those offering allied services, such as home care, physiotherapy, chiropractor, counseling services, and the Lab: your health care society fundraises exhaustively to ensure that the funds to maintain and manage such a great health facility are in place each year, because we are 100% community supported for this aspect of providing health care on Galiano. We have listened to the communities need for community and social

services that have no other community society to champion: your health care society has received grants from the United Way and the Gal Parks and Rec Commission to set in motion some very innovative seniors programming, the Aging in Place project, and Nancy will be here later to tell you a bit more about the success of that venture and future directions.

I would like to thank the staff that work at the centre, Alex and Nicole at the front end, Lori, Brian and Maureen taking care of our chompers, Jenn, Kristina and Ayla keeping the place healthy and clean, Nancy stirring up the senior set, and Jo, Erin, Colette, Diana and Kathy, who fix our various boo-boo's without much complaint. It is indeed a team, and a very energetic and wonderful one at that, that keeps the centre ticking along approaching excellence, and I say approaching to not be accused of conceit.

I look forward to working with the new board members, and say a fond farewell to those getting parole, and to remind them that no one is actually off the fundraising committee, just ask Sylvie , her term ended 2 years ago and she still does 2 to 3 events a year for the Society, how I love an overachiever.