



Georgia Strait Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Representing this Region

In the 27 years since a group of concerned, dedicated and passionate individuals formed the “Save Georgia Strait Alliance”, the organization and the regional environmental movement are stronger than ever than ever. However, just as in 1990 when this organization was getting started, there continues to be a need for a voice to represent the waters and the communities of this region—and our effectiveness at being that voice is because of you.

In this last year, our strength in collaborating with communities and organizations to create long-term change has grown, and our investments in people and tools has meant that you have had the opportunity to be part of that change, both online and in your community.

We are the only organization with the exclusive mission to promote the sustainability of the entire Georgia Strait region. Our leadership in areas such as spill response and orca protection has meant that your voice is being heard—in Victoria and Ottawa. Your voice is contributing to the protection of our coastal waters.

In these pages, you’ll read about the success we’ve had in putting forward solutions to the threats to this region: from derelict vessels to stopping diluted bitumen transport through the Salish Sea

to building new frameworks to use in the planning of our waterfronts.

We’ve also celebrated all that we love about our inland sea and shared this with communities at events including Water’s Edge Day and the Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films. The commitment to protect our waters only comes when we first understand how important the ocean is to our everyday lives.

Please take a moment to read all of the highlights achieved last year—and know that it is only made possible due to your ongoing support and dedication to protect this beautiful region.

Warmly,



Christianne Wilhelmson
Executive Director



Our Team 2016-2017

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Marine spill training hosted by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. Photo: Michelle Young

CLEAN MARINE BC

Into its second decade, Georgia Strait Alliance’s **Clean Marine BC** program encourages environmental best practices at marinas, yacht clubs, boatyards and harbour authorities, with the objective of reducing the impacts of recreational boating on marine life and our coastal waters.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Increased** the number of boating facilities participating in the **Clean Marine BC** program to 47. There are 23 facilities certified and another 24 working towards Clean Marine BC certification.
 - » **Certified** Saltspring Island Sailing Club and Royal Victoria Yacht Club’s Cadboro Bay marina for environmental best practices.
 - » **Enrolled** four new boating facilities (two marinas, a boatyard, and a fuel dock).
- **Facilitated** two marine spill response training sessions—one in Vancouver Harbour, hosted by False Creek Harbour Authority, and the other in Victoria Harbour, hosted by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. These sessions included a theoretical classroom component as well as a dockside mock spill response activity. Participants represented 18 marinas from around the Strait of Georgia.
- **Advocated** for the federal government to develop a comprehensive and timely approach to abandoned and derelict vessels.
 - » **Saw** the abandoned and decaying Viki Lyne II removed from the Ladysmith Harbour after years of advocacy.
 - » **Welcomed** the Abandoned Boat Program, part of the federal Oceans Protection Plan, which includes funds for assessment and removal of derelict vessels.

- **Instructed** a course on Environmental Stewardship for Boatyards for the Marine Service Manager program, which is part of the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA). This program was brought to BC for the first time by Quadrant Marine Institute.
- **Continued** our membership in the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET), a working group of the Pacific States - British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. POSPET members certify marinas and harbour authorities for environmental best practices, and collaborate on the prevention of chronic spills from recreational boating.
- **Led** a Speaker Series on green boating tips at the Vancouver International Boat Show.

Saltspring Island Sailing Club was the first boating facility in the Southern Gulf Islands to become certified in our Clean Marine BC program



Eric van Soeren of Saltspring Island Sailing Club. Photo: Michelle Young



Over 1,700 British Columbians came out to the federal government’s panel meetings. Photo: Dogwood Initiative

TANKERS & SPILLS

We continued to work to protect coastal communities and marine life in the Strait of Georgia from the **impacts of fossil fuel shipping and the associated risk of oil spills**. Through continued advocacy and strategic partnerships, Georgia Strait Alliance made significant inroads at all levels of government.

However, there were some significant set-backs, as both the federal and provincial governments approved the **Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project**. These approvals came despite the fact that the flawed review process of the National Energy Board wasn’t redone, and the five provincial conditions weren’t proven to be met. But that won’t stop the fight to permanently halt Kinder Morgan. Georgia Strait Alliance continues to work to defend our coast with gusto, as avenues are still available to shut the project down.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Mobilized** public participation for the Ministerial Panel process that sought input on the Kinder Morgan project. In meetings, 91 percent of participants spoke in opposition of the project, and 218 of the 250 online comments submitted to the provincial government came from supporters of Georgia Strait Alliance.
- **Presented** to the Ministerial Panel on Kinder Morgan, with a focus on the National Energy Board’s failure to apply the Species at Risk Act despite the project’s negative impacts on endangered southern resident killer whales.
- **United** 40 local government leaders at the Union of BC Municipalities convention to speak out on Kinder Morgan, with messages of concern that were widely shared on social media. Georgia Strait Alliance also helped to unite nine mayors, and the chief of the Tsartlip First Nation, to hold a news conference to call on the Prime Minister to reject Kinder Morgan.

- **Helped** to launch the Regional Community Advisory Council (RCAC) initiative for Burrard Inlet, which is a collaboration of seven local governments, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and Georgia Strait Alliance, the only non-government organization involved in the project. The initiative aims to provide communities with a much-needed seat at the table so local voices are involved, and spill planning and response is more accountable to communities.
- **Focused** on advocacy that has contributed to federal and provincial governments committing to making oil spill response plans publicly available, involving communities more meaningfully in oil spill planning, and increasing funding through the Oceans Protection Plan.
- **Published** a comprehensive review, *Oils Spills in Your Backyard: What BC’s Coastal Communities Need to Know*, about the consequences to wildlife, human health, the economy, and communities should a significant oil spill happen in our waters.



You will begin to see increased connections between our Tankers & Spills and Species Protection programs as these strive to achieve common goals



More than 1,300 Vancouverites attended our 3rd annual Water's Edge Day! Photo: Annie Walton-Teter

WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

Throughout the year, we focused our attention on continuing to build a strong network of waterfront stakeholders and on collecting and analyzing data to outline the health of Vancouver's waterfront. Ultimately, [this initiative](#) strives to integrate a busy port, with a green economy and a healthy ocean, by providing a shared framework where waterfront planning considers jobs, recreation, housing, transportation, economy, community and ecology.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Hosted** our fourth annual [Water's Edge Day](#) at Vanier Park in Kitsilano. The all-ages activity fun-day was a great way for 1,300 Vancouverites to connect with their shoreline. Participants enjoyed First Nations canoe tours, kayaking, electric boat harbour cruises, a pirate ship, touch tanks, arts and crafts, children's entertainment, and admission to the Vancouver Maritime Museum—all for free. Tours of Coast Guard vessels and naturalist tours offered participants, including 65 new immigrants to Canada, new opportunities to interact, learn and get out on the water.
- **Strengthened** and engaged the Waterfront Initiative Network, made of over 60 organizations and 200 stakeholders—including all local First Nations—to continue the process of using public participation and collaboration to advance urban sustainability, diversity and integration in the planning and management of Vancouver's shoreline.

- **Advanced** the State of the Waterfront report, which will provide a baseline for assessing the health of Vancouver's waterfront. The Waterfront Initiative Network determined and refined the indicators (the measurable data) that will be used to assess the current conditions of the shoreline surrounding Vancouver and assess improvements in the future.
- **Developed** strategic partnerships: became advisors to the Park Board's Marine Stewardship Engagement group, and participated in Tsleil-Waututh's Water Quality Objectives update roundtable, the 'Downtown Waterfront Working Group,' and CMHC's Granville Island 2040 project.



The Waterfront Initiative Network is made of over 60 organizations and 200 stakeholders



Photo: Marc Cappelletti

SPECIES PROTECTION

Gaining protection for at-risk species, particularly for the endangered southern resident killer whales that live in the Strait of Georgia, is growing in terms of our organizational priorities. The Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project currently has both provincial and federal approval. Yet the project carries with it all of the threats that our initiatives in the species protection program aim to mitigate: increased noise due to more fossil fuel vessels, increased pollutants and toxins in our waters, and a heightened risk for oil and fuel spills in our coastal waters.

Thanks to ongoing funding support, we hired a Species Protection Coordinator to lead our outreach work and partnership efforts. As this program strengthens, you will see increased connections between it and the Tankers & Spills program to achieve common goals such as stopping new fossil fuel projects and reducing the impacts of current shipping, because these have detrimental impacts on at-risk species, and could mean extinction for the remaining 77 orcas in our waters.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Advocated** for the protection of at-risk species, including the endangered southern resident killer whales at both provincial and federal levels.
- **Facilitated** almost 800 submissions to the federal government on the draft Action Plan for killer whales.
- **Co-developed** (with six other environmental organizations) a submission to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans calling for a separate and distinct Action Plan that specifically addresses the unique threats to southern resident killer whales rather than a single Action Plan for southern and northern residents.
- **Consulted** with local communities on the establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in the Southern Strait of Georgia, working closely with our coalition partners.

OCEAN LITERACY

Engaging new stewards who are keen to protect the Strait is an important part of the work done by Georgia Strait Alliance. Messages about marine coastal conservation are stronger when they are united, with the support of your voice. Together, we can effectively amplify these through digital channels, news media and speaking events to advocate for coastal conservation.



OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Curated** and hosted the eighth annual **Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films** to screen documentary films that focused on the ocean as a place for adventure, sport, responsible commerce and as the home to unique wilderness that merits respect and protection.
- **Led** a shoreline clean up with RBC's downtown branch in Nanaimo.
- **Presented** on the Waterfront Initiative and the drift card study, with partner Raincoast Conservation Foundation, at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.
- **Engaged** with several coastal communities to discuss key issues of concern, with face-to-face time for community members with our Executive Director.

Photo: Rebecca Adams



Donations from individuals were up 23% this year over last year—thank you for your generosity!

Photo: Rebecca Adams

Thank you for your support

As an independent and charitable society, Georgia Strait Alliance depends on your support to continue working to protect and restore our coastal waters, our marine life, and our coastal communities. Each year, funding for our programs comes from a variety of sources, including grants and donations. We are honoured to have your support. Thank you!

The list below includes grants, partnership contributions, donations and gifts in-kind during our 2016/17 fiscal year. We apologize if there are any errors or omissions; please let us know if you find any.

SUSTAINERS (\$25,000 or more)

Bullitt Foundation, Community Gaming Grants Branch - Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Global Greengrants Fund, Government of Canada, New Venture Fund, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Sitka Foundation, Threshold Foundation, Vancouver Foundation.

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Participants & volunteers enjoy Water's Edge Day. Photos: Annie Walton-Teter



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Events like Wine on the Waterfront bring supporters new and old together to share their love of the Strait. Photo: David Lane

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Supporters mingle in False Creek after learning about how their support of GSA is helping to create a vision for the future of Vancouver's shoreline. Photo: Ken Weiner

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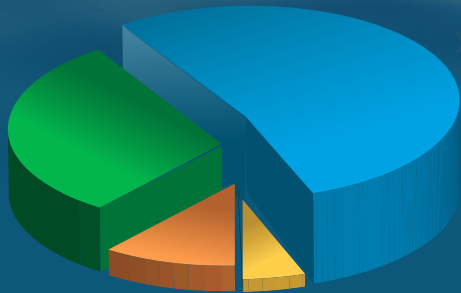
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For more information on the many ways you can give to Georgia Strait Alliance, please visit georgiastrait.org/donate, call us at 250-753-3459 or email donate@georgiastrait.org

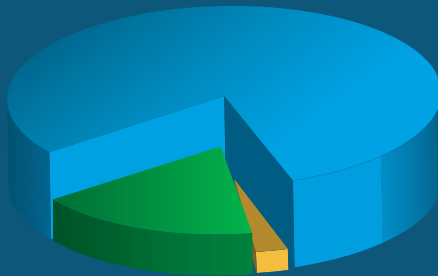
2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year ended March 31, 2017



Revenues: \$702,757

- **Grants 54.77%**
\$384,881
- **Donations 30.71%**
\$215,823
- **BC Gaming 9.96%**
\$70,000
- **Events, investment earnings & other 4.56%**
\$32,053



Expenses: \$665,181

- **Programs 80.17%**
\$ 533,275
- **Admin & fundraising 17.36%**
\$ 115,500
- **Amortization 2.47%**
\$ 16,406

Excess of revenue for the year before other item \$37,576
Write down of land held for resale (127,536)

Georgia Strait Alliance was bequeathed land in 2010 which was sold on August 25, 2017. This has resulted in a write down to fair market value in the amount of \$127,536 for the year ended March 31, 2017.

Excess of expenses for the year \$(89,960)

Financial Position as of March 31, 2017

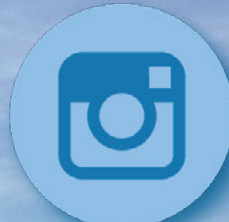
Current Assets	\$710,158
<i>(includes bequeathed land held for resale of \$299,570)</i>	
Long-term Investment	39,300
Capital Assets	24,466
Payables & Accruals	(192,957)
<i>(includes 50% of land held for resale due to another charity upon sale)</i>	
Deferred Contributions	(321,963)
NET ASSETS	\$259,004

In-Kind Contributions

In addition to the revenue above, GSA received an estimated value of **\$ 31,879 in donated goods and services** and **\$ 28,048 in volunteer time** during the year ended March 31, 2017 for a **total of \$ 59,927**.

The above report is a summary only and not intended to reflect the complete financial status of the Georgia Strait Alliance. Members who wish to receive the full financial statements should contact our Nanaimo office at 250-753-3459.

Find us on your digital channels!



www.GeorgiaStrait.org

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Cover photos: (front) Rachael Merrett, (back) Brenda Garner.

