



Georgia Strait Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT

www.GeorgiaStrait.org

2016



What a difference a year makes

As April 2015 began, it saw us with our heads down, digging into the detailed and difficult work that would become our submission to National Energy Board’s review of Kinder Morgan’s proposed pipeline and tanker project. The review process was flawed and questionable, yet having your voice—the local voice—heard by the regulator, as it contemplated its recommendations on a project that could so negatively impact our region, was crucial.

At the same time, we found ourselves working at the local level with our green boating initiatives. We were partnering with businesses around the region to improve the health of our waters through practical solutions for boaters and marinas that protect marine life—and we’ve seen the impact of this work grow. There was a 31 per cent increase in the number of Clean Marine BC-certified facilities this past year alone.

We were also focused on our ongoing efforts to build a new way to plan and manage our waterfronts, developing a collaborative model with local expertise that we hope to bring to other communities in the region in the years to come.



We are proud to be your voice in protecting these waters that we call home



The work of Georgia Strait Alliance has always been focused on the local story and uniting community in efforts to protect our waters, but in the past we also spent a great deal of time ensuring your voices were heard by Ottawa and by those decision makers with the ability to impact our region. However, this important role was muted by the previous government, which deemed our work—and your voice—to not be in the national interest, and the doors to collaboration were closed, and locked.

Those doors reopened in the fall of 2015, and we are now re-learning how to engage with a government that can play an integral role in ensuring our waters and communities are healthy and prosperous—and we are wholeheartedly taking advantage of this new landscape.

Of course, the possibilities that come with a newly open government do not mean that we can sit back; we must continue to work hard to ensure your interests are heard. Decades of experience has taught us that vigilance and ongoing pressure are key to closing the gap between Ottawa and the West Coast.

Be assured that we’re committed to this effort in the months to come.

In addition to the changes in Ottawa, this past year has also been filled with hope because of all the success we’ve achieved,

thanks to your ongoing and committed support. In these pages, you’ll read about our great strides forward in understanding and being able to measure the health of Vancouver’s waterfront, leading to an improved interface between land and sea; about our initiatives like the Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films that are engaging new stewards to protect the Strait; and about the important research and resources we’ve created to show the risk and impacts of an oil spill in the Salish Sea, and which are helping to improve spill response legislation in BC.

We have an incredible team at Georgia Strait Alliance, and have significant accomplishments under our belts this year. Please enjoy reading everything that was made possible because of your investment in Georgia Strait Alliance.

We are proud to be your voice in protecting these waters that we call home. And we’re delighted that you have helped make our work so successful and meaningful.

Thank you!
Christianne Wilhelmson

photo: Michelle Gaudry

Our Team 2015-2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected September 2015

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Ginnie Mathers, Vancouver (until September 2015)
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Susan Miller, Victoria (until February 2016)
Melinda Skeels*, Vancouver
Kate Storey, Vancouver

** term in office runs through Fall 2016*

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STAFF March 2015 - March 2016

Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director
Cathy Booler, Administrative Director
Michelle Young, Financial Coordinator / Clean Marine BC Program Coordinator
Rebecca Adams, Graphics and Web Development
Cheryl Onciul, Development Manager: Grants & Major Gifts
Alexandra Woodsworth, Energy Campaigner
Michelle Gaudry, Waterfront Initiative Lead (until July 2015)
Dan Straker, Waterfront Initiative Lead (as of October 2015)
Anita Noon, Member Services (as of October 2015)

CONTRACTORS

Karen Gordon, Research and writing
Allison Murray, Communications
Ted Leather, Webmaster / Technical Support
Laurie MacBride & Alan Wilson, Publications
Pat Nordin, Office cleaning services





Certification of West Vancouver Yacht Club. Photo: Gary Wildman

CLEAN MARINE BC

During this year, the Clean Marine certification program celebrated its 20th year in Canada. At the National Clean Marine Conference in Ontario, we presented the BC regional award to the False Creek Harbour Authority in recognition of this facility being the first—and the only—one in the province to achieve a 5-anchor rating; the highest possible in the [Clean Marine BC program](#).

Across the province, the program continues to expand, with a growing number of facilities achieving certification and entering to enroll in the eco-certification process. The program encourages environmental best practices at marinas, yacht clubs, boatyards and harbour authorities in order to lessen the impact of recreational boating on marine life.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Earned** the President’s Award from the Environmental Managers Association of BC for our program’s role in safeguarding the marine environment and cruising waters. This is a prestigious award that recognizes superior environmental stewardship by an individual or organization in the community.
- **Expanded** the number of [Clean Marine BC-certified members](#) by 50 per cent. Currently, there are 42 marinas, yacht clubs, wharves and boatyards that are certified and/or enrolled in the program.
- **Certified** five new facilities: Cedar Grove Marina, Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina, Quayside Marina, Vancouver Marina, and the West Vancouver Yacht Club’s Fisherman’s Cove. This brings the total to 21, which is 31 per cent more than last fiscal year.
- **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 has a mandate to certify environmentally sound marinas and clean harbour authorities, and to collaborate on industry best practices and small fuel spill prevention.
- **Advocated** for a solution to abandoned and derelict vessels that threaten our coast, and we’ve seen progress! All levels of government across the party lines are working towards a comprehensive plan to deal with abandoned vessels, and Georgia Strait Alliance will continue to ensure that happens.



photo: Cheryl Onciul

We spoke out for action at Ladysmith’s ‘Concern for Our Harbour Rally’ and helped to ensure the removal of the derelict vessel Viki Lyne II



photo: Michael Whyte, flickr

WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

In 2015, the Waterfront Initiative continued to build the groundwork necessary to advance the facilitation of cross-sector collaboration, targeted research, and integrated planning in order to protect and improve the Vancouver waterfront.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Increased** the Waterfront Network by 20 per cent year-over-year to more than 200 individuals from 60+ organizations. There has also been growth in the network in previously under-represented sectors from local government and academia, which means we are strengthening the diversity of voices and unlocking new ideas and resources to affect change.
- **Hosted** three stakeholder forums that brought together representatives from varying levels of government (including First Nations), the industrial and commercial sectors, as well as environmental groups and civil society. Areas discussed include identifying the issues facing the waterfront, how the work of partner organizations would continue, and what indicators are most meaningful to measure the health of the waterfront from social, economic, and environmental perspectives.
- **Published** the [‘Comprehensive Assessment of Data Reflecting Vancouver’s Waterfront’ report](#), which outlines quantifiable markers that express the overall health of Vancouver’s waterfront in relationship to transportation, access to nature, living and working on the waterfront,

and the diversity and abundance of ecosystems. These areas and the tools to measure them were identified in consultation with stakeholders and through careful reviews of relevant management plans. This information will be used to create a ‘State of the Waterfront’ report in early 2017, which will become a crucial resource to guide planning and decision making in the future.

- **Celebrated** our third annual [Water’s Edge Day](#), which had a 30 per cent increase in attendance. In partnership with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, more than 1200 people gathered at the shoreline for fun, free, family-friendly activities, including First Nations canoe tours, kayaking, harbour tours, bird walks, children’s activities and art workshops.



More than 1200 people gathered at the shoreline for Water’s Edge Day to celebrate Vancouver’s waterfront

with information on their candidates' views on key coastal issues. Thirty-five federal candidates responded to our survey, 12 of whom were elected.

- **Testified** to the National Energy Board. In Georgia Strait Alliance's role as an official intervenor, we submitted a [final written argument](#) and gave [oral testimony](#) directly to panel members. Our case demonstrated the lack of preparedness for additional oil spill risks that are associated with Kinder Morgan's pipeline expansion project, and showed that the project carries unjustifiable impacts on the endangered southern resident killer whale population.
- **Demonstrated** the risk of a spill to communities along the Georgia Strait by publishing research reports showing the impact of an oil spill on BC coastal communities ([Oil Spills in your Backyard](#)), and on oil spill response policy ([A Voice for Coastal Communities in Marine Oil Spill Preparedness](#)); and by organizing a workshop, led by world-renowned oil spill expert Dr. Riki Ott, on the public health impacts associated with oil spills and response gaps in the wake of the Marathassa spill in English Bay.



photo:
Teddy Courtaux



photo: Cheryl Onciul

OCEAN LITERACY

An important part of what we do is outreach that engages and connects our messages with communities around the region. Our impact and our ability to discuss key issues of concern broadens as we leverage platforms that range from digital to news media to in-person speaking opportunities, and we are proud to be bringing new stewards who want to protect the Strait into our initiatives.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Partnered** with the [Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films](#) to bring hundreds of film and ocean lovers together to celebrate our oceans and to reflect on the global issues that our waters currently face.
- **Presented** at events throughout the region, including the [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) in Vancouver and to Vancouver high school students in their law class.
- **Co-hosted** an evening with the SeaDoc Society's Dr. Joe Gaydos, who spoke about his new book: *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific*.
- **Led** shoreline clean ups in Nanaimo at Swy-A-Lana Lagoon, and in Richmond at Iona Park in partnership with RBC employees.



photo: Mark Malleson, Center for Whale Research

SPECIES PROTECTION

Our initiatives at gaining protection for the most vulnerable species are woven throughout many of our programs.

We focus our efforts on ensuring the devastating impacts of pollution, such as oil spills of all sizes, are mitigated and that increasing threats from catastrophic spills are avoided.

This past year, we also continued to deepen our partnerships by working with scientists and communities to better understand the growing pollution risks to orcas and other species at risk, and to identify concrete solutions to contaminants that threaten the environment of marine mammals.

In addition, we continued to raise concerns about the region's growing shipping traffic that is pushing at risk species to the brink of extinction, particularly the endangered southern resident orca whose population currently totals 84. Unfortunately, there continues to be no effective leadership plan from the government that would balance economic interests with the health of local ocean residents, which means we'll continue to engage and advocate for action plans that will make a difference to at-risk species.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE:

- **Participated** in the preliminary environmental review process on the proposed expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project, with a particular focus on raising issues of concern about the project's impacts on southern resident orcas.
- **Celebrated** four southern resident baby orcas and a rise in the number of this population to 84.
- **Collaborated** with the Vancouver Aquarium's [Ocean Pollution Research Program](#) to co-host a cross-section of scientists, academics, non-profits and managers to identify solutions to ocean contaminants that impact our at-risk marine mammals.
- **Re-engaged** with our partners on efforts to have the [National Marine Conservation Area](#) in the Southern Strait of Georgia formally created.

Find us on your digital channels!





As a grassroots organization, Georgia Strait Alliance relies on the engagement of members like you for its success

Photo: Hilary Mandel

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 2015/16 fiscal year. We apologize if there are any errors or omissions; please let us know if you find any.

SUSTAINERS (\$25,000 or more)

Estate of J. J. Burgerjon, Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch - Licensing and Grants Division, Global Greengrants Fund, New Venture Fund, Threshold Foundation, Vancouver Foundation.

GUARDIANS (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Anonymous (1), Boag Foundation, The Bullitt Foundation, Eden Conservation Trust, Government Of Canada, The Schad Foundation, Sitka Foundation, Vancouver Aquarium, Victoria Foundation.

RESTORERS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

The McLean Foundation, Microsoft, MEC, RBC, Renewal Partners, Schein Foundation, ScotiaMcLeod-Bulmer Investment Group, TELUS Corporation, Fei and Milton K. Wong Family Foundation.

NAVIGATORS (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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A manageable monthly gift adds up to huge support for Georgia Strait Alliance's programs



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Flotilla participants at Ladysmith's 'Concern for Our Harbour Rally'. Photo: Michelle Young



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Special thanks to those of you who gathered with us to celebrate Georgia Strait Alliance's 25th birthday

Guests at the birthday party hosted by Brenda Gaertner. Photo: Michelle Young





RBC volunteers do their part at the beach clean-up in Nanaimo. Photo: Cheryl Onciul

Lafazan, Luc Lafontaine, Juliette and Rick Laing, Niko Laing, Ryan Laing, Maeve Lalor, Cheri Lamb, Mary Ann Lammersen, Patricia McMahon and John Lancaster, Tim Lander, David Lane, Oliver Lane, Julia Langton, Marianne Larsen, Sandra Larson, Robert Zacharias and Lisa Lasagna, Elaine and Michael Laughlin, Whitney Laughlin, Jean Michel Lauzon, Ron Carter and Lara Lauzon, Charles Law, L.D.E. Telecommunications 4277678 Canada Inc., Judy Lea, Deborah Leach, Tim Leadam, Anna Leather, Lulu and John Leathley, Vanessa LeBourdais, Shirley LeBrasseur, Janice Leclerc, Jill Lee, Susan Leibik, Catherine Lewis,

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Lifetime GSA member Louis Vallee and Shelter Island Marina's Wendy Burnett at the Vancouver International Boat Show. Photo: Michelle Young

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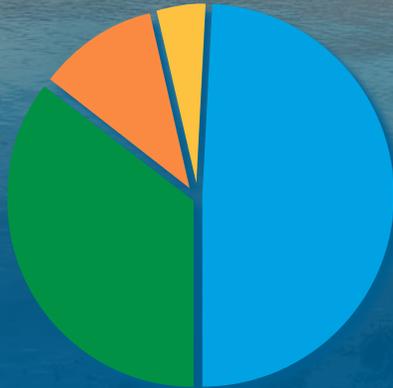
You make it all happen!

Participants at Water's Edge Day in October.
Photo: Deborah Jones



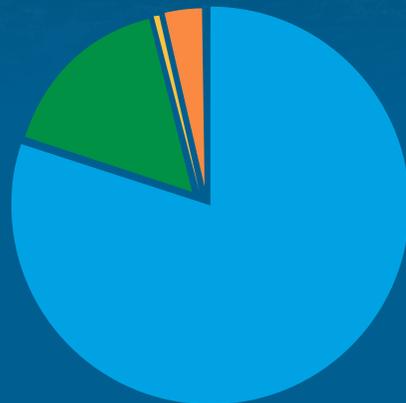
2016 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year ended March 31, 2016



Revenues: \$602,491

- **Grants 49.06%**
\$295,591
- **Donations & memberships 35.82%**
\$215,809
- **BC Gaming 10.71%**
\$64,546
- **Events, services, sales & interest 4.41%**
\$26,545



Expenses: \$582,074

- **Programs 80.27%**
\$467,256
- **Admin & fundraising 16.04%**
\$93,358
- **Amortization 3.40%**
\$19,763
- **Unrealized loss on endowment fund 0.29%**
\$1,697

Financial Position as of March 31, 2016

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Current Assets | \$910,140 |
| <i>(includes bequeathed land held for resale of \$552,350)</i> | |
| Long-term Investment | 67,010 |
| Capital Assets | 22,337 |
| Payables & Accruals | (337,182) |
| <i>(includes half of land held for resale due to another charity upon sale)</i> | |
| Deferred Contributions | (313,341) |

NET ASSETS **\$348,964**

In-Kind Contributions

In addition to the revenue above, GSA received an estimated value of **\$18,066 in donated goods and services** and **\$38,200 in volunteer time** during the year ended March 31, 2016 for a **total of \$56,266**.

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.

