

Georgia Strait Alliance ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2010

www.GeorgiaStrait.org

20
years!

1990 - 2010



A Dahl porpoise surges on.

Photo: Laurie MacBride ©

Celebration and Persistence

If we had to choose a theme for 2010, it would be that of **celebration**. We're celebrating not only the 20th anniversary of Georgia Strait Alliance, but also some very fundamental wins in our sewage campaigns—wins that are great for the entire Strait and have been a long time coming. The Capital Regional District and the Province are ironing out the details of a plan for (*finally!*) treating Victoria's sewage and recovering useful resources from the "waste". On the mainland, Metro Vancouver is incorporating innovative resource recovery into its sewage plan (though as we write, we still don't know if they'll make the big commitment of upgrading their two primary plants by 2020).

GSA members should feel incredibly proud of these accomplishments. They were won because of our sustained effort—which was made possible by your sustained support.

Our success has required some key ingredients which clearly show how GSA works, not just on sewage, but on a whole range of issues affecting the Strait. These not-so-magic ingredients include education, advocacy, a strong basis in science, collaboration, a focus on solutions that can provide direct benefits to local communities, creative problem-solving and—most important of all—long-term **persistence**. →

Education

Advocacy

Solutions

EDUCATION

Sewage pollution has been a focus for GSA ever since our founding in 1990. As we watched Victoria dump its raw waste into our waters, we learned that Vancouver's primary treatment was also inadequate, as scientists discovered over 200 chemicals in the "treated" effluent. It was clear that no one in the region was doing enough to protect the Strait, and the impacts were starting to be seen all the way up the food chain.

GSA swung into action with an educational campaign based on science and solutions.

We gathered the available information, taking it to communities around the Strait and government officials at all levels. We hosted conferences bringing together scientists, agency staff, shellfish growers, fishermen and the public to share information and explore strategies for change. Beginning in the early 90s (and to this very day), we served on advisory committees at the regional and senior government levels, providing up-to-date information to policy-makers on the need for sensible sewage solutions and the options available.

ADVOCACY

From early on, advocacy has also been an essential part of our success, and for this, solid partnerships and legal tools have proved key. In 1993, frustrated at ongoing raw sewage overflows in Vancouver, GSA joined forces with Sierra Legal Defence Fund (now Ecojustice) to lay a private prosecution under the federal *Fisheries Act*, against the Greater Vancouver Regional District (now Metro Vancouver). Two years later we supported T. Buck Suzuki

Environmental Foundation in laying similar charges for pollution from the Annacis Island treatment plant. Meanwhile, GSA focused on producing "Report Cards": with Sierra Legal and several other groups, we rated sewage treatment across Canada, and with People for Puget Sound, coastal treatment plants on both sides of the BC/Washington border.

Although the Province took over the prosecution in both the 1993 and 1995 legal cases and eventually dropped the charges, sometimes losing the battle doesn't mean losing the war. By documenting the evidence and pursuing the cases through a multitude of court appearances, we garnered media attention and brought public pressure to bear on sewage pollution. Consequently, the GVRD had no choice but to speed up its timeline for change. It eliminated the worst of its raw sewage overflows and upgraded the Annacis plant to secondary treatment—well ahead of its original timeline.

The hope of a similar outcome led us to team up with Ecojustice and T. Buck Suzuki four years ago, to lay charges for pollution from the Lions Gate and Iona treatment plants. Again, government (this time federal) took over the prosecution then dropped the charges. Nonetheless, the public attention our case had drawn brought new pressure for change, and we remain hopeful that upgrades will be scheduled for no later than 2020.

SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS

GSA's approach to protecting the Strait is not just about stopping pollution: it's also about finding solutions that bring added benefits for people



Stanley Park Seawall © Al Harvey, www.slidefarm.com

and communities. As early as 1993, we were speaking out on the need to start seeing sewage as a resource rather than a problem—shifting the focus of the conversation from *why* treat, to *how* it can be done and *what opportunities* treatment can offer to communities. Through presentations, publications, a video production and face-to-face meetings, we introduced many local and regional officials to technologies they had never heard of, such as constructed wetlands and Solar Aquatics. We urged them to think beyond the big concrete approach to smaller, innovative systems that could fit easily into existing neighbourhoods, provide local employment, and enhance, rather than violate, nature.

By 2005, our discussion of sewage as a resource took on new urgency as calls for Victoria to treat its sewage became more intense. The potential benefits really came to life after a GSA volunteer traveled to Sweden in 2006



Protecting the Strait of Georgia, where 70% of British Columbians live, work and play.

and brought back a detailed report of how the Swedes were using sewage treatment to produce energy for heating and transportation. Over the next two years we took the concept of resource recovery to government officials at the local, regional and provincial levels, illustrating it with working examples from around the world.

Today—17 years after GSA first started talking about sewage as a resource—the City of Vancouver is using wastewater to produce energy for a False Creek neighbourhood, and our region's two largest regional districts are planning to make resource recovery part of their sewage management. Proof that persistence and commitment to an idea do indeed pay off!

CREATIVE WAYS FORWARD

During this long campaign, there were times when we wondered if we could succeed. In 2003, BC's Environment Minister approved a Liquid Waste

Management Plan allowing Victoria to keep dumping its raw sewage for at least the next 25 years. It looked like the end of the line: there was no appeal process, so what could we do?

Thinking there had to be some way to finally stop this growing source of pollution, we met with local environmentalists, labour unions and other concerned people, and from our discussions, two pivotal strategies emerged. First was the (in)famous Mr. Floatie, who brought much-needed humour to the public debate. GSA saw that the seven-foot mascot could make a huge impact by using humour to highlight the shame of a modern city dumping raw sewage. We worked to find ways to support and sustain this grassroots initiative, and as a result, Mr. Floatie started turning up at all kinds of events, keeping people laughing and becoming a media darling locally, nationally and even internationally. Meanwhile, we met with CRD and

provincial officials, who were now much more ready to hear what we had to say about solutions.

The second pivotal strategy was on the legal and scientific front. Working again with our partners, T. Buck Suzuki and Ecojustice, we uncovered documents revealing that in approving Victoria's sewage plan, the Minister had ignored federal laws, a ten year-old agreement with Washington, past directives to the CRD and overwhelming evidence on the harmful effects of dumping raw sewage into the ocean.

While GSA worked to get this information out to the public, Mr. Floatie attended provincial all-candidates meetings, asking each candidate how they would take action to bring sewage treatment to Victoria. When the election dust settled, five of the seven CRD ridings had been lost by the government, captured by opposition members who had publicly supported treatment.

Despite these significant developments, we still needed something to tip the balance. The answer came after we analyzed the CRD's data from several years of monitoring around its outfalls and compared this to BC's *Contaminated Sites Regulations*. We'd always had evidence that sewage discharges were harmful to the marine environment in general, but now we finally had the proof—ironically, from the CRD itself—that Victoria's sewage discharges were harming the area around the outfalls. The data showed higher levels of toxic chemicals than allowed under the provincial *Regulations*, so we made a formal request to the new Minister of Environment to declare the outfalls "contaminated sites".

The CRD's independent scientific and technical review committee reinforced our findings several months later, stating that relying on dilution was not a long-term answer to sewage disposal. The Province was forced to act: the Minister directed the CRD to provide a detailed plan for sewage treatment and to consider innovative technologies in developing the plan. That process is well underway now. →

PERSISTING FOR SUCCESS

Our Capital region will *finally* have sewage treatment, and resource recovery will be part of the system—this is worth celebrating. But in telling this story, you can see the challenge of writing an “annual report”: a one-year slice of time doesn’t give a realistic sense of the complex issues GSA tackles. Environmental problems persist over many years and it requires a long-term effort to address them.

To complicate matters further, environmental degradation in the marine world is mostly “out of sight”, and many people don’t fully understand how their own daily lives affect marine life or how deeply dependent human beings are on the health of our oceans, rivers, streams and estuaries. Even when the public is calling for change on an issue, it takes a long time for governments to make a 180-degree shift in their policies.

Adding to the challenge, GSA fills a unique niche within BC conservation groups: our work is focused on a highly populated region. The Strait of Georgia supports one of the richest, most abundant and diverse ecosystems anywhere on earth—but this complex web of plant and animal life is at risk because millions of humans share this home with them. That’s why GSA has always promoted practical solutions such as resource recovery from sewage, closed containment for salmon farms, and ToxicSmart household alternatives—ways to support healthy human communities as well as a healthy natural environment.

But above all, it’s the willingness to hang in for the long-term that has made the critical difference for GSA. Throughout our first 20 years, GSA’s members and supporters have shown, time and again, that they care deeply about this region and want to be part of a sustained effort to solve the

GSA STAFF

Christianne Wilhelmson—Managing Director
Ruby Berry—Program Coordinator
Cathy Booler—Administrative Director
Lisa Herman—Administrative Coordinator
Mike Richards—Operations Director / Program Coordinator
Michelle Young—Financial Coordinator /
Salmon Aquaculture Campaigner

GSA PROGRAMS ARE COORDINATED BY:

Ruby Berry—Salmon Aquaculture
Cathy Booler—Intertidal / Community Mapping
Mike Richards—Green Boating / Clean Marine BC
Christianne Wilhelmson—Clean Air & Water / Species at Risk

CONTRACTORS

Ted Leather—Webmaster, Technical Support
Laurie MacBride & Alan Wilson—Publications
Tracey Jastinder Mann—ToxicSmart Program Coordinator

environmental problems facing our communities. As GSA enters its third decade, in a time of immense global economic and environmental challenges, the need to sustain our collective effort has never been greater—because solutions require a long-term commitment. We thank and congratulate you on our successes so far, and look forward to our continued journey together.

GSA AT WORK—Some of Our Achievements in 2009

- **PARTNERED** with BC Marine Trades Association to launch the Clean Marine BC Eco-Rating Program and signed up five of BC’s largest marinas.
- **FORCED** Fisheries & Oceans Canada to order legal protection for the endangered orca’s habitat (the first such order under the Species at Risk Act).
- **WON RULING** that Fisheries & Oceans Canada had acted unlawfully in failing to identify critical habitat in the recovery strategy of the Nooksack Dace, resulting in the review of recovery strategies for other species at risk.
- **WON APPROVAL** by the Capital Regional District board of a long-awaited plan for sewage treatment, including the recovery of resources for energy.
- **WON SUPPORT** from Metro Vancouver’s Waste Management Committee for an updated sewage plan with resource recovery and an expedited schedule for upgrading primary treatment plants.
- **HELPED** local residents defeat rezoning bylaw that would have allowed for two massive net cage salmon farms in Sunderland Channel.
- **CAMPAIGNED** to close five net cage salmon farms in Wild Salmon Narrows (Okisollo Channel), to protect migrating Fraser River salmon from sea lice.
- **TOOK** the “Save Our Kids Salmon” to communities along the Fraser River, all the way to Quesnel, to publicize the need for closed containment for salmon farms.
- **HELPED** win a delay and review of Coast Guard’s plan to de-staff BC lighthouses.
- **PARTNERED** with Fraser Basin Council to train Punjabi and Mandarin-speaking volunteers to carry out a new program to engage immigrant communities in marine and watershed conservation efforts.
- **COMPLETED** nine intertidal quadrat studies on beaches in Victoria, Sooke, Sidney and Pender Island.
- **WORKED** with local residents trying to stop the dumping of an old navy ship to create an artificial reef off Gambier Island.
- **WELCOMED** two respected scientists as newest members of GSA’s Advisory Council.

Space limitations prevent us from listing the details for all our activities around the region in 2009. If you’d like more information, check out our website: www.GeorgiaStrait.org

Sustaining Success

by *Christianne Wilhelmson,*
Managing Director



“Sustainability” has become quite the buzz word of late. Most often, it’s used to mean that our economic success must not come at the cost of our social welfare or of nature. Simply put, it’s about all of us being here for the long term, in good health.

Sustainability is also a key goal for Georgia Strait Alliance: making sure we are stable and durable enough to be able to protect our part of the Salish Sea—the Strait of Georgia. GSA’s sustainability is based on two important measures of health: organizational and financial.

Organizational health is all about ensuring that the people who do the work get the support they need. That includes everything from the tools they require to do the job—from an office to work in, to a computer to work on—to making sure they take care of themselves. Passionate people have always

monthly donors we have, the better job we can do in carrying out GSA’s programs and campaigns. Monthly donations prove particularly important during those times of year when other donations slow to a trickle (such as after Christmas and during the summer holidays). They also carry added benefits for both the donor and GSA. Most people find that having a small amount deducted automatically each month from their credit card or chequing account is easier than remembering to make a lump sum donation each year. Monthly donations also save time and costs for GSA: we mail you one tax receipt at the end of each year, and instead of having to solicit annual renewals, we can focus on the work we want to be doing—protecting the Strait.

The other key pillar to building GSA’s strong financial health is our Endowment Fund, which we established late in 2009 thanks to the generous donation of Joan Milne Stewart (see more info at: www.georgiastrait.org/endowment). In the months and years to come, we will be working with our donors, supporters and advisors to build this Fund, because as it grows, it will provide a consistent source of funding to GSA—allowing us to focus much more of our attention on the work of protecting the Strait.

Sustainability requires creativity and determination. The Strait of Georgia needs GSA as its advocate, and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure our organization is here for the long term. We hope you’ll join in helping to meet our goal of sustainability by becoming a monthly donor if you are not already one, by encouraging your friends and colleagues to become financial supporters of GSA, or making a donation to our Endowment Fund. The challenges in protecting the Strait are many, but with the growing support of our donors and supporters, GSA can meet these challenges head on—strong, enduring and successful.



We give a voice to those which have none...

been at the heart of GSA, but passionate people can too often find that their lives are all about work. At GSA, we urge staff to take their full vacation time and to enjoy their weekends with friends and family, because we support Edward Abbey’s approach: “It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it.” A healthy organization is all about healthy and happy people, whether they are staff, board members or other volunteers.

Financial sustainability is also critical to GSA’s ability to protect the Strait. Each year, a part of our work plan must include finding the money we need to fund our programs for the next 12 months. Relying on this model of charitable fundraising—which means essentially starting over again every year—can leave us very vulnerable to economic ups-and-downs and changes in charitable giving trends. The latest example of such a threat is the provincial government’s sudden decision to change how it dispenses money to charities from gaming funds, resulting in some groups losing this vital funding while others find their funding for this year delayed by months. This sort of vulnerability is why we are so committed to building two very important pillars of our financial sustainability plan: monthly donors and our Endowment Fund.

Monthly donations provide GSA with a consistent source of funding year-round. When we know these funds will be available each month, we can plan more effectively; the more



...and to those most of us never see.

Copper rockfish (above) and plumed anemone © Terrance J. Fidler, www.robots4farms.com

YOU make it possible!

As an independent, charitable society, Georgia Strait Alliance depends on your support to continue working to protect and restore our coastal waters. 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 of \$100 or more in 2009. Our sincere apologies if there are any errors or omissions (please let us know).



SUSTAINERS (\$10,000 or more)

The Bullitt Foundation, Global Greengrants Fund, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, The David & Lucille Packard Foundation, Province of British Columbia, Sandler Foundation

GUARDIANS (\$5,000 – \$9,999)

BC Marine Trades Association, Fraser Basin Council, *SunCruiser*, Vancouver Foundation

PROTECTORS (\$2,500 – \$4,999)

Greater Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver), Human Resources & Skills Development Canada, Mayfair Experience Centre, Aveda Institute Victoria

NAVIGATORS (\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Anonymous (2), Ray & Joyce Berry, Breze Salon & Day Spa, Don Bulmer, Alexander A. Campbell, Krista DeGroot & Peter Jacques, Eco-Chic, Grow Creative, Salon Felice, Don & Fay Johnson, Dr. Walton Langford, Marlene & Alexander Mackenzie, Mel McDonald, Suzanne Siemens, Patricia & Steve Strand, Studio One Hair Design, Victoria Foundation

MARINERS (\$500 – \$999)

Access Intelligence, Peter & Patricia Ajello, Anonymous (2), Association Of Marina Industries, BC Coast Pilots Ltd., Joseph Connors, Murray Crowther, Marna Disbrow, Eileen & Theo Dombrowski, Feathercraft Products Ltd., Gordon Horner, Donald Hutchison, Marjorie Kamp, F. Matthew Kirchner & Lisa Osoba, Joan Merrifield & Cathy Welch, Anne Murray, Natracare, *Pacific Yachting*, John & Kim Rich, Leo Routledge, Salon J Hair Studios, Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre, Studio One, Terence Swean, Heidi Swierenga & Tom Baker, Tammy Hudgeon Glassworks, Alan & Linda Thomson, Jim Weber, Wiink 2 For Hair & Body, George & Monika Winn, Yellow Point Lodge

STEWARDS (\$100 – \$499)

20/20 Vision British Columbia, Jessica Alford, James Alton, Michael Alton, Michele Anderson, Anonymous (27), Saul Arbess, Dr. Bill Austin, Louise & Brian Avent, Jim & Trudy Beaton, Merv Belanko, Jackie Lynn Bell, Dr. Lorne Berman, Kathleen Bibbs, Diane Bisaro, Jane Blueschke, Blush Salon & Spa, Judy & William Bodaly, Paul Bogaert, Kenneth & Joan Bond, Cathy J. Boler, Linda & Peter Boler, Elisabeth Boshier, Dr. Peter Bowen-Roberts, Keith & Marjorie Bower, J. J. Burgerjon, Randy Burke, Sharon & Gary Bywater, Campbell River Fishing Guides Association, Campbell River, Courtenay & District Labour Council, Courtney Campbell, Marilyn Campbell, Capers Whole Foods Market, Douglas & Sheila Carrick, John & Sharon Cashore, Steve & Joan Cellik, Stephen Chessor, John Chislett, Joy Christian, Ellen M. Clancy, Leila Clogg, Conservancy Hornby Island, Anneliese Cooley, Deryck & Linda Cowling, Daniel & Susan Craig, Jo-Ann Crawshaw, June Crichton, Claude Cuff, Tara Cullis & Dr. David Suzuki, Dorothy Cutting, Betty Dahlin, Daniel F. Huber Corporation, Margaret Davidson, Lawrence & Deborah Daws,

Mark & Cathy deBruijn, Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Center Ltd., Thomas Degling, Anne-Marie Dekker-Duke, Alisa Denduyf, Denman Conservancy Association, Jeff DeVries & Marcy Prior, William & Gudrun Doherty, Charles & Gloria Dorworth, Trallee Dun, Jane Dyson, Michael Dyson, Lorne Ebell, Perry Edwards, Frank & Mary Elkins, Dr. Peter Elliott, Dr. Robert Elner, EM Salon & Spa, Kathleen Emerson, Brent England, Jake Etzkorn, Janet Fairbanks & Wayne Bradley, Pam Fairchild, Tracy Ferreira, Fisk Construction, Thora Fleming, Susan & Harold Fletcher, Joan Fowler, Helen Fraser, Louise Fraser, Dr. L. Neil Frazer, Rachael Freer, Brenda Gaertner, Carolyn & Charles Gahr, Gerry Gailey, Capt. Doug P. Gayton, Penny Gibbs & John Willett, Amanda & Barry Glickman, Dr. Elaine Golds & Bruce Brandhorst, Susan Gossman, Harvey Graham, Alison Graves, Great Pacific Mortgage and Investments Ltd., Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, Gulf Islands Cruising School Ltd., Sharon Haave, Mary Haig-Brown, Terence Hale, Mary Hampson, Matthew & Victoria Hanson, Rick & Heather Harbo, Harbour Authority Association of BC, Judith Harper, Eric

Members are GSA's lifeblood. Above, Lifetime Member Pat Nordin is thanked by Cathy Boler for her longtime service. Right, Christianne Wilhelmsen signs up new members at a public event.



Photos by Jennifer Sweeney and Alan Wilson.

Hartley, Johanna Havelaar, Sheila Hawkins & Keith Symon, Jennifer & Jon Healey, William Henwood, Mike Hoebel, Theresa Hood, Hornby Island Outdoor Sports, Hornby Island Residents & Ratepayers' Association, Barbara Hourston, Tammy Hudgeon & Ode Howard, K. Lisa Hudson, Donald & Joscelyn Hurst, Husky Group Of Companies, Lynn Husted, A. T. David Hutchings, Katherine Isaac-Smith, Terrance & Joan James, Joel & Dana Solomon Fund, Tides Canada Foundation, Frances M. Johnson, Julie Johnston & Dr. Peter Carter, Lawrence Jones, Dr. Peter Kearney, Rowan Keegan-Henry, Marilyn King, William Kinsey, Judith Kirchner, Alison Knowles, Angelika Koch, Rinette Lagace, Juliette Laing, Barbara Lambert, Shaena Lambert & Bob Penner, Tim Lander, Dr. Whitney Laughlin, LDE Telecommunications, Robin & Shirley LeBrasseur, Kim LeDuc, Kathy Lowe, Luna Aveda Concept Salon, Laurie MacBride & Alan Wilson, Sheila Macpherson, Kat MacVeagh, Arthur Mah, Sheila Malcolmson, Alexandra Mancini, Jim & Eva Manly, Heather Marshall, Ruth Masters, Rachel McMillen, Nancy Merrifield, Bob Brett & Jane Millen, Ruth Miller & Florence Best, Michael & Samantha Moore, Joanne & Richard Moe, Gerry Molnar, Elaine Moore & Mike Philcox, Faye Morgensen, Len Morrow, Norma Morton, Mothership Adventures, Pamela Munroe, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society, Nanoose Power Squadron, NDSS Students' Council, New Data Enterprises Ltd., New Society Publishers, Patricia Nordin, Jan O'Brien, Arne Olsen, Fritz Olson, Stefan J. Opetz, Pacific Edge Publishing Ltd., Pacifica Paddle Sports, Sheila Page, Barbara Parker, John Pass, Howard Pattinson, Jacquie Pearce, Kathleen M Pearson, Bob Peever, George Penfold & Marilyn Armstrong, Sherry Peterson, Philanthropy Preceptorship Fund, Celia Pidduck, David Pinel & Caroline Fisher, Susan Pond, James & Allison Prentice, Irene Quaale, Lester Quitzau & Mae Moore, Judy Racher & Harold Macy, Nina Raginsky, Gayle Ramsden, Dr. Hugh A. Rand, Margaret Ransford, Jan Redekop, Michael Richards & E.J. Hurst, Jillian & Robin Ridington, Robin Roots, Harley Rothstein & Eleanor Boyle, Anita Roy, Harriet Rueggeberg, Mary Russell, Peter Russell, Nicole Rycroft, James & Judith Saks, Paul Scanlon, Fred & Kathleen Schloessinger, Kathryn A. Schneider, Jean Seaton, Celeste Shannte, Linda Shattuck, Frank & June Shoemaker, Silva Bay Resort & Marina, Silva Bay Yacht Club, Peter Simmons, Ruth & Rob Simons, Olive J. Sims, Margaret Sizmann, James Skwarok, Patti Sloan, Donald Smardon, H. Leslie Smith, Robin Smith, Kathleen Sogge, Vivian Sorensen, Robert Southcott, Juleta Stevenson-Baker, Margaret Stronge, Supersweep Chimney Services, Hubertus Surm, Frank J. Tester, Abe & Bonnie Thiessen, Arnold Thomlinson, Gordon Thompson, Alan Thornett, Duncan Thrasher, Marti Tilley & Tony Merry, Iona To, Gary Tuyls, Carol & Bram van Reeuwijk, Vancity Centre, Vancouver Island South District CPSS, Christine & Farrell Vanderree, Marielou Verge, Peter & Joyce Vivian, Nicola Von Westarp, Dr. Rory Wallace, Charlie & Theresa Walters, Bob Weeden, West Marine - Nanaimo, Annabelle White, Scott White, Nancy Wigen, Anita & Peter Wilhelmson, Christianne Wilhelmson & John Webber, Annie & Gordon Wilkinson, Peter Williams, Rosemary Williams, E.P. (Ted) Wilson, Sandra Wood, Meredith & Ron Woodward, Liz Wouters, Shirley Wright, Keri Young, Michelle Young, Rob Zacharias & Lisa Lasagna

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Also available online at www.GeorgiaStrait.org

EDITORIAL & LAYOUT: Laurie MacBride and Alan Wilson

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VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CAUSE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2009 through April 2010

Brent England, *Victoria*—President
Matthew Kirchner, *Vancouver*—Vice-President
Margaret Ransford, *Victoria*—Secretary
Stan Boychuk, *Victoria*—Treasurer

Darren Blaney, *Campbell River**
Courtney Campbell, *Gabriola Island* (to June 2009)
Shaena Lambert, *Vancouver* *
Melinda Skeels, *Vancouver* (as of December 2009)
Suzanne Siemens, *Vancouver* *
Frank Tester, *Vancouver* *
** entering 2nd year of term in May (in office until spring 2011)*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

John Cashore, *Coquitlam*
Dr. Larry Dill, *Burnaby*
Dr. Robert Elnor, *Delta*
Chief Robert Joseph, *North Vancouver/Hopetown*
Dr. Donald McQueen, *Nanaimo*
Dr. Milton Wong, *Vancouver*

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF J. Alex Edwards, Yamina Holmberg, Joe Lee, Joan Frohn-Neilsen, Lisa van Reeuwijk, Elmo Richards, Edna Routledge, Marian Rowat

GIFTS IN HONOUR OF Juleta Stevenson-Baker, CO2ies, Erin, Jim & Emily, Friends & Family of Anonymous Donor, Angus Grant, John Dabrowski & Joan Hazard, Don Hurst, Don Johnson's birthday, Steve & Carole London, Maple Bay Marina, Joan Merrifield & Cathy Welch, John & Kim Rich, John Shawcross & Claire Grocott, Lindy & Al Shona, Betty Swift, Ted & Anne Swift

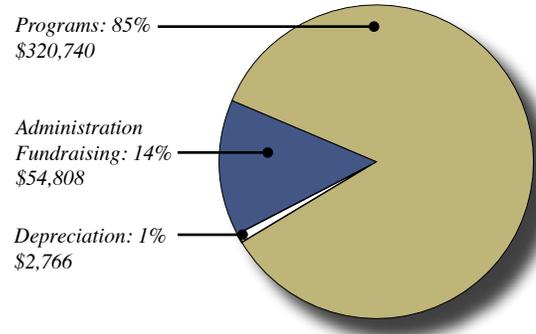
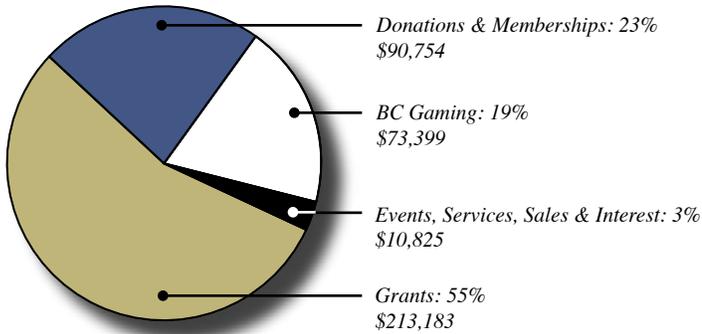
FRIENDS (up to \$99)

Space limitations prevent us from publishing the names of hundreds of additional caring individuals, organizations and businesses that contributed in 2009. Thank you for your commitment to protecting the Strait.

VOLUNTEERS *Our success also depends on volunteers, who provide invaluable help in the office, staffing displays at events, technical assistance, beach clean-ups, biological monitoring and many other important tasks throughout the year. Our volunteers are too numerous to list here, but we extend a hearty round of thanks and appreciation to all.*

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS we also note the passing of several other long-time GSA members and friends, including one of GSA's most steadfast volunteers. Our deepest condolences to the families and friends of Marvin Brown, Luther Chew, Jeff Hughes, Freya Milne and Joan vanderGoes.

2009 Financial Highlights



Revenues FY09: \$388,161

Expenses FY09: \$378,314

Financial Position as of December 31, 2009

Current Assets:	\$194,347 (includes \$53,071 in Working Capital Reserve/Sustainability Fund)
Long-term Investments (Endowment Fund)	\$ 25,586
Capital Assets (Equipment):	\$ 5,673
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities:	(\$ 18,373)
Deferred Contributions:	(\$ 94,766) (received in FY09 but committed to programs and operations in FY10)
Net Assets:	\$112,467

In-Kind Contributions: In addition to the revenue above, GSA received an estimated value of \$31,707 in donated goods, services and volunteer time in FY 2009.

The above report is a preliminary summary only and not intended to reflect the complete financial status of the Georgia Strait Alliance. The full financial statements will be presented at our annual general meeting on May 7, 2010. Members unable to attend who wish to receive the statements should contact our Nanaimo office at 250-753-3459.

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

- Aveda Institute Victoria
- BC Coast Pilots Ltd.
- Blush Salon & Spa
- Breze Salon & Day Spa
- Capers Whole Foods Market
- Daniel F. Huber Corporation
- Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Center Ltd.
- Eco-Chic
- EM Salon & Spa
- Feathercraft Products Ltd.
- Fisk Construction
- Great Pacific Mortgage and Investments Ltd.
- Grow Creative
- Gulf Islands Cruising School Ltd.
- Hornby Island Outdoor Sports
- Husky Group Of Companies
- Juliette's Hair Studio
- LDE Telecommunications
- Luna Aveda Concept Salon
- Mayfair Experience Centre
- Misty Isles Adventures
- Mothership Adventures
- Natracare
- New Society Publishers
- Pacific Edge Publishing Ltd.
- Pacific Yachting/ OP Publishing
- Pacifica Paddle Sports
- Salon Felice
- Salon J Hair Studios
- Silva Bay Resort & Marina
- Studio One
- Studio One Hair Design
- SunCruiser
- Supersweep Chimney Services
- Tammy Hudgeon Glassworks
- Vancity Centre
- West Marine - Nanaimo
- Wiink 2 For Hair & Body

OUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

- 20/20 Vision British Columbia
- Association Of Marina Industries
- Campbell River Fishing Guides Association
- Campbell River, Courtenay & District Labour Council
- Canadian Power & Sail Squadron, Vancouver Island South District
- Conservancy Hornby Island
- Denman Conservancy Association
- Harbour Authority Association of BC
- Hornby Island Residents & Ratepayers' Association
- Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society
- Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre
- Silva Bay Yacht Club