



Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

*Dedicated to Protecting
Victoria's Heritage Landscape*

Presidents Annual Report for YEAR 2014

Presented at the Annual General Meeting, May 26, 2015

There were a few advances made this year that are worth noting:

1. There was a final agreement signed for the HAT/GOMPS co-covenant on the Elrod property in Metchosin. Our share of costs was \$5000.00, well spent.
2. We paid \$5000.00 to the Municipality of Oak Bay towards an interpretive display regarding the Garry Oak Meadow components of Uplands Park. This sign was an initiative of a group of people known as the "Friends Of Uplands Park".
3. The status of the Nursery itself has seen little change in 2014, but many acorns were collected and about 4365 of them, from 24 sources, were planted in Styrofoam blocks. There are also about 600 seedlings planted previously and they should be potted this fall and transferred to the nursery.
4. Our communication techniques were upgraded and modernized by Vice President Michael Croteau. These efforts made an impact on incoming messages received. See separate report.
5. An Urban Forestry Conference was attended by Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Michael Meagher. GOMPS was thus able to present our message at a table display and talk to delegates. Total cost for this participation was \$638.25
6. Advice was given to two separate property owners in Oak Bay, one repeat in Langford, and one in Saanich.
7. GOMPS business cards were printed by Michael Croteau and we also agreed on new email addresses. We are not yet finished with implementing these, nor with some draft policies.
8. Regretfully, a letter of resignation was received from Moralea Milne to avoid possible conflict of interest as well as being in much demand for her time.
9. Correspondence details are available in the GOMPS Board Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2015.

As President, this will be my final GOMPS Annual Report to the membership. As a results oriented person, it has been a challenge to "hang in" with so many frustrations encountered in what should have been a more straight forward process in establishing the Garry Oak Nursery sub-agreement. Perhaps, considering some other on-going developments and constructions in the Victoria area, it might have been expected.

Presidents Annual Report for YEAR 2014

Continued

I have overstayed my Presidential term of office as mandated by our constitution, but not for lack of trying to find a replacement. I even made a tongue-in cheek job advertisement for a GOMPS President in 2008 --- no bids, so perhaps the pay rate is too low? We will, however, fill the vacancy tonight. Otherwise, a carefully planned amalgamation or dissolution should be implemented.

Finally, I would like to outline, for the benefit of any new volunteers that may be joining us, where GOMPS has been and where I hope it will go. Always keep in mind that we are an organization “Dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry Oak stands and their natural habitats”, with more specific purposes further defined.

1. GOMPS began as an informal group of people concerned about the survival of the Garry Oaks and their associated species, in an aggressively developing Greater Victoria Region. It registered as a formal Organization under the B.C. Societies Act in 1992 and as a Charitable Society under the Federal Charitable Societies Act.
2. GOMPS concentrated on opposition to destructive development, whether on individual properties or entire subdivisions. Tools used included ongoing education and awareness publications, appearances at Council meetings, and direct consultation with developers, builders and land owners.
3. The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) came from a well-funded Federal initiative of coordinating research and documentation of ecosystems at risk. The objective was to document and evaluate ecosystems, produce recovery strategies and publications, with a sound scientific basis at all times. The participation of a Garry Oak team was approved at a GOMPS seminar in 1999. They later formed, and registered a GOERT Society in 2007. The distinction between the Team per se and the Team Society caused some confusion with the public. In recognition of these facts, GOMPS concentrated on the part of the ecosystem that is most in the eyes, hearts and minds of the general public; the “flagship” species of the ecosystem, the Garry Oak trees themselves and their associated habitat. The flowering plant species were obvious and persuasive examples of the beauty and biodiversity that could be lost.
4. In general, this took GOMPS back to its roots. However, GOMPS had always been advised by the general public to preserve and perpetuate the magnificent oaks. Early in our history, some Garry Oak seedlings were grown, distributed and planted, but with poor survival. It was recognized that the oak trees were still being removed/lost faster than they were being replaced. To underline this, GOMPS undertook an inventory of the oaks, lot by lot, throughout the core Municipalities. Further, Municipalities were encouraged to keep standard and comparable records of the oak trees that fall or are removed, and of the trees that are planted --- with only mixed results in the Municipalities. Maps of the GOMPS inventory were supplied to the Municipalities, but likely some are lost by now. Typically little, if any, funds are allotted by Municipalities to maintain the trees that are planted, a necessity for the first few years. Hence survival is poor, except where individuals volunteered to look after them.

Presidents Annual Report for YEAR 2014

Continued

5. To help cope with this problem of tree recruitment, GOMPS took on the objective of producing a significant number of large, survivable oaks, grown from local genetic stock, utilizing volunteer labor to keep costs as low as possible so that individual landowners could also afford to buy and plant them on their own property. Each land owner would get a set of instructions for planting and longer term care, with follow-up by GOMPS and Municipalities. Negotiations for the use of the Nursery property went slowly between GOMPS and the City of Victoria, the holder of the primary license from the CRD, with the objective of GOMPS obtaining a sub-license from Victoria. Perhaps, with the record of other current local projects, this should have been expected. We also lost much of the first acorn planting that we did finally get to do, through insufficient oversight on our part when a frost occurred.
6. For the future, GOMPS should:
 - Complete the nursery project to keep the population viable and increase and restore its range. Again, follow-up care and monitoring is essential.
 - Continue with preservation and restoration of the ecosystem during development and population growth, and/or limit human population growth, in the near future, to the carrying capacity of our land. Another global problem!
 - Continue education efforts and particularly encourage the public to convince all layers of Government to increase the re-establishment of trees for their various proven benefits and especially emphasize the urgent need to absorb and sequester carbon from the atmosphere now. With climate change and its increased fires and insect damage, etc., our Canadian forests are sometimes producing more carbon than they are sequestering, as published by Dr. Werner Kurz of the Pacific Forestry Centre. Thus GOMPS can take part in a local effort to help alleviate the world's worst problem --- climate change combined with human population growth beyond this earth's carrying capacity. This latter part is shown in the steady reduction of most of our resources, even those that should be renewable.

My thanks, once more, to the GOMPS Directors who all contribute so much to this effort, and a big hearty welcome to any new volunteers who join us tonight.

Harold J. Gibbard
President

Technology and GOMPS

An update presented to the members present on the improvements to our web site and related technologies.

As technology advances around us, the means by which we communicate seems to change even faster.

A few years ago GOMPS entered the digital age with a simple web site that was heavy on text and very static. We later added to that an email account for web use that is based on Gmail from Google. It allowed our Directors to maintain a level of privacy but still be on the net.

Over the past 2 years, with help from Fred and Louise Beinhauer, our web site has evolved to be much more interactive and informative. Although not yet finished it's common for us to see peaks as high as 100 visits per day to a page.

Our presence on Twitter began less than one year ago but it's potential was immediately visible. The simple act of Tweeting our AGM announcement to our 70+ followers meant we reached more than 2500 users. In years past we would rely on email or a solely on volunteers hand delivering printed posters.

One positive result of that has been that our membership now has many tools available to them to make following GOMPS easier. So easy in fact that we had to create a new policy, in line with Federal Government Guidelines, to ensure our Members privacy. Our new Membership Form reflects these changes by providing options for Members to select how involved our communications with them will be. We have also changed the form to show the previously unused category of Youth/Student – the future of GOMPS.

Another new realm we have entered is the online world of photos with Instagram. GOMPS has taken an unusual approach in that our Instagram account is being billed as a collaborative/sharing one. We have invited members to submit photos to us and we will re-post them on our account with credit.

So, the elephant in the room is Facebook. GOMPS does not have a Facebook account and there is some hesitation to create one as there are privacy considerations to factor in. In the years to come we will venture deeper into Social Media but until then, Facebook is worlds away.

Michael Croteau
2014 Vice President

The New GOMPS Website



garryoak.info

Twitter and GOMPS



The New Membership Form

A screenshot of the 'Membership & Donation Form'. The form includes fields for Name, Address, Phone, Email, and a section for 'Membership Type' with checkboxes for 'Youth/Student' and 'Youth/Student'. There are also checkboxes for 'I am a member' and 'I am a donor'. Red circles highlight the 'Youth/Student' checkbox and the 'I am a member' checkbox.

GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 186,518	\$ 189,829
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	<u>(7,720)</u>	<u>(3,311)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 178,798</u>	<u>\$ 186,518</u>

The 2014 Treasurer's Report as presented by Mike Meagher, Acting Treasurer
Page 1

GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY
(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current		
Bank	\$ 5,063	\$ 3,733
Guaranteed investment certificates	173,317	182,768
Accounts receivable	168	17
Prepaid expenses	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 178,798</u>	<u>\$ 186,518</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 178,798</u>	<u>186,518</u>

Approved by the Directors

The 2014 Treasurer's Report as presented by Mike Meagher, Acting Treasurer
Page 2

GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenue		
Interest	\$ 1,571	\$ 2,266
Donations	315	420
Unreceipted donations	<u>185</u>	<u>15</u>
	<u>2,071</u>	<u>2,701</u>
Expenses		
Annual general meeting	176	34
Annual report filing fee	-	25
Bank charges and interest	45	-
Community activity	685	-
Donations	5,000	3,020
Dues	250	250
Insurance	1,150	2,023
Nursery	1,943	554
Office and sundry	132	106
Professional fees	<u>410</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>9,791</u>	<u>6,012</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	<u>\$ (7,720)</u>	<u>\$ (3,311)</u>

The 2014 Treasurer's Report as presented by Mike Meagher, Acting Treasurer
Page 3