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# The Garry Oak Leaflet



GARRY OAK MEADOW  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

WINTER 2025



*Photo by Ryan Senechal.*

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## WHO WE ARE

The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) formed in 1992 because local citizens were concerned that Garry oak woodlands and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of expanding human habitation in the Capital Regional

District. Our society is dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) stands and their associated ecosystems.

We are a grassroots group helping to make a difference! We are 100% volunteer run. **Will you join us?**

## VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help us engage in educational activities, to work with all levels of government through letter writing and attendance at council meetings and public hearings to raise awareness on the importance of Garry oaks and their ecosystems, and to work in GOMPS Garry oak nursery.

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## MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS E-TRANSFER

**NEW! We now accept e-transfer!** We are nearing development of an online form to accept memberships and donations through credit cards, as well. Stay tuned!

Memberships are on a 12-month renewal. Please mail your form with a cheque to our mailing address OR by email and e-transfer to: **finance@garryoak.info**.

Our **new mailing address**: PO Box 30044 RPO  
Reynolds, Victoria, BC V8X 5E1

Your support means the world to us. ❤️

[Printable Membership Form](#)



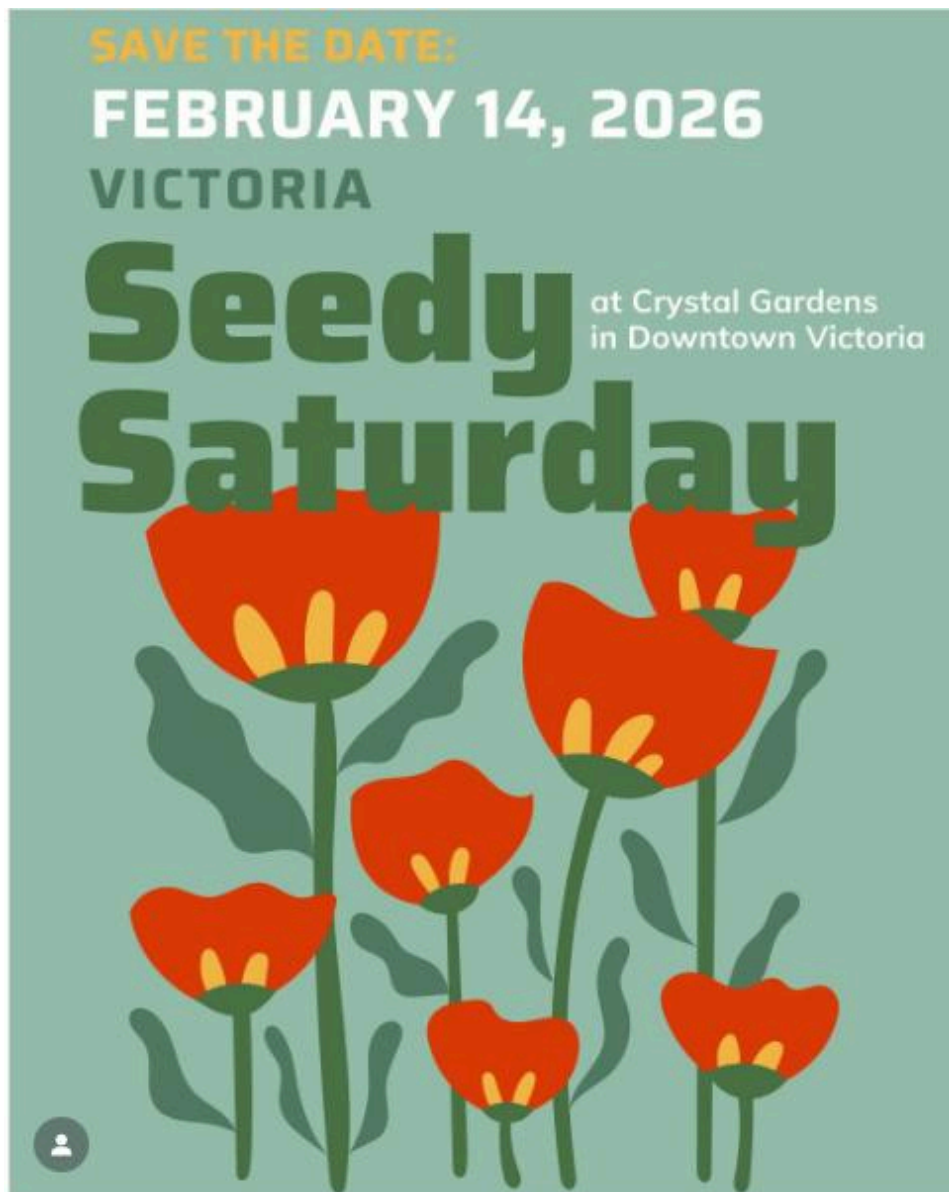
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## DONATIONS

Donate to GOMPS effortlessly through Canada Helps and support our mission to protect Garry oaks and their ecosystems. We are a registered society in BC with a charitable status recognized by CRA (141110908 RR0001). By donating through Canada Helps, you will receive a charitable tax receipt. Thank you!



[Donate](#)



### **Seedy Saturday Victoria.**

**Save the Date: February 14, 2026, at Crystal Gardens, Downtown Victoria.**

Mark your calendars: Victoria's favourite seedy celebration is back for another year at Crystal Gardens!

Join GOMPS on Saturday, February 14, 2026 to meet other folks and community organizations passionate about plants, stock up on locally grown seeds (including GOMPS Garry oak trees) and check out educational talks.

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## **ADVOCACY**

### **Letter of Advocacy**

The proposed development at 2830–2850 Lansdowne Road, in its current form with

six (6) buildings, exceeds the site's ecological capacity. As designed, it places significant pressure on surrounding Garry oak and associated ecosystems, and may compromise the long-term health of Oak Bay's native urban forest.

GOMPS. "Letter to Oak Bay Municipality Council," Agenda Item #7.3, Uplands Siting and Design (ADP00192) 2830-2850 Lansdowne Road, Nov 24, 2024.

## PAST EVENTS



*Photo by Ryan Senechal. GOMPS AGM Presentation, Nov 9, 2025.*

### Annual General Meeting

GOMPS Annual General Meeting for 2024 was held on November 9, 2025. Presentations included reports from the President, Treasurer, and Nursery Volunteer Coordinator, as well as an update on Nursery operations by Board member Jacklyn

Jolicouer.

We welcomed a new board member, Patricia Dijak, replacing former board member Carol Milo, who will continue volunteering at the nursery. Thank you both!

### **2025 Board of Directors**

Ryan Senechal, President  
Susan Grant, Vice-President  
Judith Carder, Secretary  
Judy Spearing, Treasurer  
Carollyne Yardley  
Jacklyn Jolicouer  
Patricia Dijak

### **AGM Presentation Slides**

- Ryan Senechal, Remote Sensing: Garry Oak Species Detection, GOMPS AGM.
- Jacklyn Jolicoeur. Nursery and Planted Garry Oak Monitoring Activity Report for AGM, Nov 2025.-



*Photo by Ryan Senechal. GOERT Gathering. Nov 1, 2025.*

### **2025 Garry Oak Ecosystems Gathering hosting by Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT)**

On November 1st, GOMPS Board members Ryan Senechal, Carollyne Yardley and Jacklyn Jolicoeur participated in the 2025 Garry Oak Ecosystems Gathering at the University of Victoria, hosted by GOERT.

GOMPS provided one of the informational displays available to visitors keen to learn more about the natural environment at our doorstep and the various organizations working to protect and support ecosystem health, especially with so many current threats. Three Garry oak seedlings grown at the nursery were collected for planting.

The keynote address was made by Elder SELILIYE Belinda Claxton and Dr. Nancy Turner. With many thanks to the organizers, presenters, and participants. GOMPS looks forward to next year.



*Photo by Jacklyn Jolicoeur. GOMPS Board member Carollyne Yardley (left) with Saanich Councillor, Nathalie Chambers at the GOMPS informational display.*

## PROJECTS



*Ryan Senechal with Kate and Jason, students in UBC's MGEM Program, at the UBC urban forest research hub. Nov 6, 2025.*

## Remote Sensing: Garry Oak Species Detection Project Update

The project has entered the analysis stage starting with Terra Remote Sensing's initial data cleaning, pre-classification tree height at minimum 2 m height, and an urban forest canopy analysis incorporating all species.

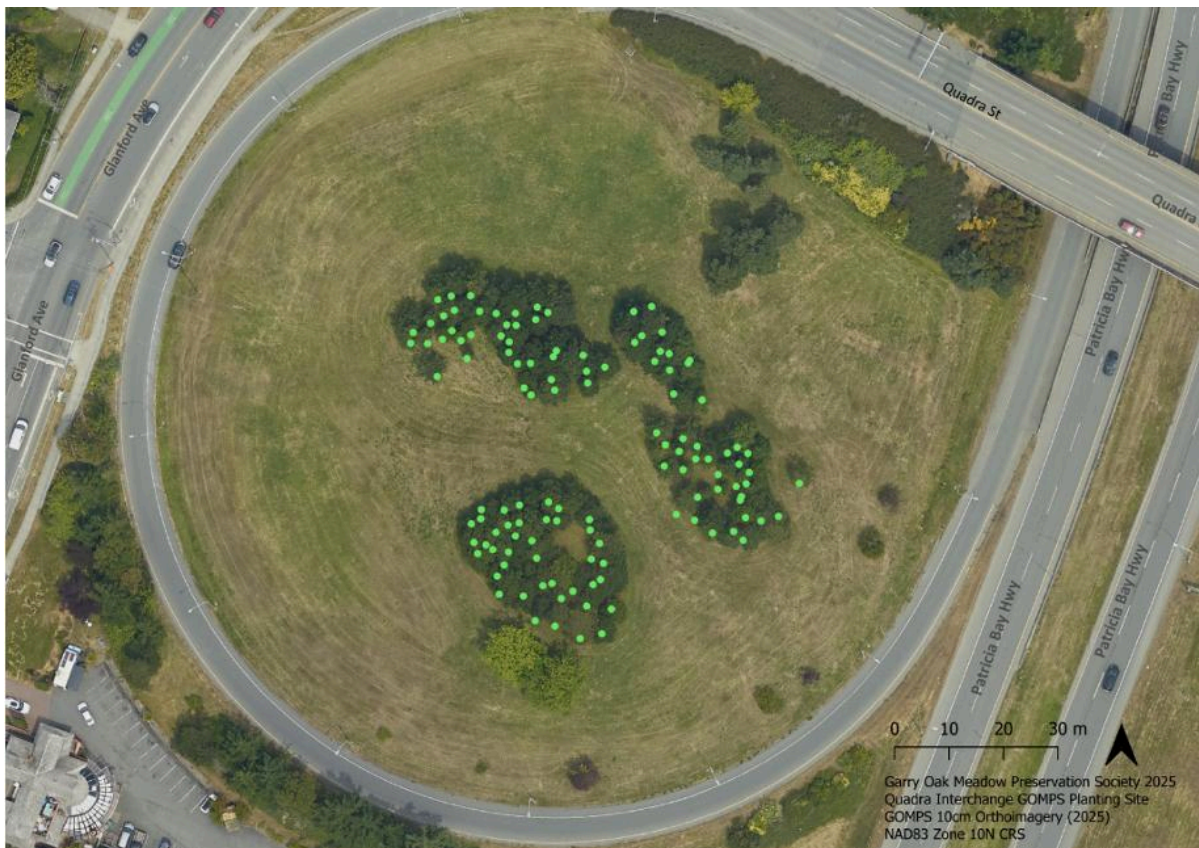
## Project Origins

Garry Oak species classification within urban forest canopy analysis: a collaboration between GOMPS, UBC's Master of Geomatics For Environmental Management (MGEM), and Terra Remote Sensing.

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society has set out to develop a new approach to urban forest monitoring using remote sensing technologies. The Greater Victoria Area is situated in some of the highest remaining concentrations of Garry oak trees and Garry oak and their associated ecosystems, and the critically endangered Garry oak ecosystem is facing intensifying land use development pressure. Measuring change in historic Garry oak ecosystem presence and the sharp decline of its extent over time was captured in Historical Garry oak ecosystems of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, from pre-European contact to the present (Ted Lea, 2006), but at a very large scale that presents challenges to interpret and apply at the local scale to understand Garry oak ecosystem health and extent.

[Read More](#)

[Watch video of flight day](#)



*Image features the location of Garry oak trees originally planted in 1994 and recently remeasured after 30 years of growth.*

## **The Quadra Overpass Garry Oak Planting: 30 Year Remeasurement** **By Jacklyn Jolicoeur and Ryan Senechal**

### **The Commonwealth Games Legacy Garry Oaks**

This was a legacy Garry oak tree planting project to commemorate the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Two members of GOMPS - Jean-Anne Whitman, landscape architect and Willie MacGillivray, together with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, the Provincial Capital Commission, Forestry Canada and a group of community volunteers, participated in this project.

### **Planting Technique and Seedling Source**

All of the planting techniques were arrived at through consultation with representatives of GOMPS, Forestry Canada and a project manager, Ms. Carol Jones, Professional Agrologist and Nursery operator in North Saanich at the time. The intent was to use “the planting project to assess the growth and health of Garry oak seedlings and to evaluate the use of seedling protection tubes.” The site preparation included stripping, burying, and tilling the sod, blanketing the site with landscape cloth, and then covering it with bark mulch to keep weeds back. As such, the site approximates a near-natural, non-irrigated habitat.

The Garry oak seedlings were “plugs” grown the year before (1993) by Rob Hagel of the Pacific Forestry Centre. On February 19, 1994, volunteers planted 211 seedlings by inserting them into holes dug through the mulch and cloth with a tablet of Bestgro™ fertilizer placed into the bottom of each hole. Approximately 80% of the seedlings were shielded with protective tubes.

[\*\*Read more\*\*](#)

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## **NURSERY NEWS**



*Photo by Jacklyn Jolicoeur. GOMPS Nursery: Garry oak seedlings ready for pickup. October 2025.*



*Photo by Ryan Senechal. Pick up by Saanich Municipality staff. October 2025.*

### **Air Prune Seedlings to Saanich, Victoria and Langford Municipalities. Distributed Fall 2025**

A total of 117 air prune pots were distributed to local governments—most grown from acorns in just two growing seasons or less! The best part? The recipients are well-prepared to provide the establishment care these seedlings need to reach their full potential.

Even more exciting, the City of Victoria's Supervisor of Horticulture and Manager of Parks visited our nursery to inspect the quality of our air-pruned stock. We're happy to share they were very pleased, expressed strong interest in our trees, and were eager to collaborate further—especially around tracking the location and establishment of GOMPS seedlings in the community.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts in pulling this order together, as well as for helping with the additional orders fulfilled from our nursery stock. It's a true team

accomplishment! It's also wonderful to see two big new gaps on the nursery fabric—making plenty of room for our 2025 acorns!



*Photo by Susan Grant. European Praying Mantis and Pacific Tree Frog. September 2025.*

Look what Susan Grant spotted one Sunday on the side of an air pot in our Garry Oak nursery!

A European Praying Mantis was getting altogether too cozy with a Pacific Tree Frog, who was frozen to the spot. Susan and Judy decided to gently collect the mantis and

arrange for it to have a new home at the Victoria Bug Zoo. As soon as the mantis was bagged, the frog made a giant leap to another pot—apparently very happy to avoid being on someone's lunch menu!

The Praying Mantis is now enjoying life as a permanent resident at the Victoria Bug Zoo, where they'll be given a name, fed regularly, and visited by curious guests.

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## **NEWS**

### **GOMPS joins NatureHood**

<https://www.gvnaturehood.com>

Jacklyn Jolicoeur attended the Victoria Naturehood Society meeting on November 25th, and presented GOMPS projects including the 30-year Quadra Interchange remeasurement and LiDAR initiative. GOMPS was warmly welcomed as essential partners in the collaborative effort to apply for UNESCO Urban Bioregion status for Greater Victoria.

### **CRD APPROVES NOMINATING GREATER VICTORIA FOR UNESCO BIOSPHERE DESIGNATION**

<https://cheknews.ca/crd-is-plans-to-nominate-greater-victoria-as-a-unesco-biosphere-region-1294683/>

This week, the Capital Regional District approved a staff recommendation to nominate Greater Victoria as a UNESCO-designated Biosphere region. Approved at Wednesday's CRD board meeting, it means the CRD Board has recommended the UNESCO designation nomination process for its strategic plan for 2027-2031.

### **CBC Radio: All Points West with Jason D'Souza - It's another big year for acorns. GOMPS President Ryan Senechal, Sept 23rd, 2025**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfvgvfAuWts>

### **Times Colonist. Donated acorns help society produce Garry oak crop.**

<https://www.timescolonist.com/life/donated-acorns-help-society-produce-garry-oak-crop-11390955>

### **Fall Bluebird sightings on Vancouver Island, Cowichan Bring Back The Bluebirds Project, Dec 4th, 2025.**

This fall has been full of glimpses of bright blue feathers. With sightings in Nanaimo, Duncan, the Malahat and most recently, Victoria, it is clear that some of our bluebirds have decided to spend a little more time exploring the Island. Hopefully

they spot some of the nest boxes we have both in Cowichan and Victoria and start to think about good places to come back to in the spring!

With help from keen birders/photographers in Victoria, we were able to see the coloured bands on the Victoria group. This allowed us to identify the trio of young birds as ones that hatched in Cowichan last summer. Many thanks to everyone that is keeping an eye out and sharing their findings!

Jacquie Taylor from Bring Back the Bluebirds said that were putting some nestboxes at Prospect Lake this year.

In case anyone is interested, they also have 2 ways of making donations: adopting a nest or a making general donation:

<https://cowichanbluebird.wordpress.com/adopt-a-nest/> or  
<https://cowichanbluebird.wordpress.com/support/>



*Photo by Daniel Donnecke. One of the Cowichan Bluebird wanderers in Victoria, BC, November 30, 2025.*

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## ARCHIVES

**Newsletter - The Leaflet**

GOMPS has rebranded the E-newsletter as the "The Garry Oak Leaflet" to honour the legacy of the print publication that circulated from 1994 to 2010. The printed leaflet is accessible in PDF format on our website. Each issue of GOMPS E-newsletters will now feature excerpts and links to the archive. The first printed newsletter was published September 1994, and the first use of name "The Leaflet" was the January 1996, Volume 3, Number 1 issue.

This month's archive article highlights:

Read here: **[The Garry Oak Leaflet, Official Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, Volume 5 No. 5. May 1998](#)**

- Identity crisis: Do we really know what we want to rehabilitate?
- Table 1 - Species Combination of Camas Meadows in the Victoria Area
- Table 2 - Remaining Species in Camas Meadows in the Victoria Area
- Helping the Land Heal: Ecological Restoration in British Columbia
- In a Nutshell: Notes from the President
- No PMHL fundings for South Winchelsea Island

View historical GOMPS newsletters online - **[Click here to display a list of them, The Leaflet, from 1994 - 2010, in PDF format.](#)**

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## **INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**

**We'd love to hear from all interested volunteers!**



*Photo by Jacklyn Jolicoeur, GOMPS Nursery work party, planting acorns.*

We host weekly Garry Oak Nursery work parties on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm to keep our oaks growing and healthy.

The Nursery work area is outdoors and structured so volunteers can safely join Board members on site. Learn more about [volunteering here!](#)

\*Please note there are certain areas within our premises where children may inadvertently put themselves at risk. Our activities may involve planting and transplanting seedlings. Considering the nature of the tools we use, our volunteer work requires care and attention to process. Training is provided.



*Photo by Judith Carder. Nursery with green seedlings.*

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The GOMPS Volunteer Garry Oak Nursery has been in operation since 2017 to meet the challenge of producing locally sourced Garry oaks. The Nursery project is run by a task force drawn from members of GOMPS and addresses the rapid loss of Greater Victoria, Southeastern Vancouver Island & Gulf Island's native flagship tree – the Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) – our province's only native oak.

Garry oak ecosystems are among the most endangered ecosystems in Canada with **only 3%** remaining in a natural state. In Canada, they are only found in British Columbia, on the southeastern tip of Vancouver Island, some of the Gulf Islands and a few spots on the mainland. We are looking for more volunteers to help at the nursery. Please connect with us and help grow the oaks!

### **Volunteering at the Garry Oak Nursery**

**What you can do at home**

**Help us collect acorns**

**Become a Member or Donate**

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Photo by Ryan Senechal. Camas meadow at Playfair Park, Saanich, BC.

## Garry Oak Tree and Garry Oak Ecosystem Facts

- The ɬəkwəŋən word for Garry oak ecosystem is Čəŋəłč or Kwetlal
- The SENĆOŦEN word for Garry oak is ČEN̓, IŁĆ and pronounced Chung-ae-th-ch
- The HUL'Q'UMI'NUM word is p'hwulhp
- Garry oak ecosystems were shaped by Indigenous agroecological management over thousands of years.
- This population of oaks connects ɬəkwəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ people with their lands, traditions, foods, medicines, cultural practices, and ancestors.
- Of the family Fagaceae, and the genus Quercus. *Quercus garryana*, was named by Botanist David Douglas in the early 1800's to honor his friend Nicholas Garry, an officer in the Hudson Bay Company.
- Garry oak ecosystems arrived after the glacial retreat approximately 10,000 years ago, and at least 1,645 organisms (plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.) have co-evolved with them.
- Garry oak ecosystems in Canada are some of the rarest, and the area they occupy is declining in large part due to development
- The largest urban oak in Victoria is on Falkland Rd. near Beach Dr. in Oak Bay

The GOMPS Volunteer Garry Oak Nursery is located on the traditional territory of the W̱ SÁNEĆ people encompassing the five local communities: BO,́KE,ĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEL (Malahat), W̱ JOŁELP (Tsartlip), W̱ ,SIKEM (Tseycum), and S,ȚAUTW̱ (Tsawout). We acknowledge and thank the W̱ SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, learn, work, and teach. Our advocacy efforts extend over the lə́kʷəŋən territory, known today as the Esquimalt (Kosapsom) and Songhees Nations. The W̱ SÁNEĆ and lə́kʷəŋən people have lived and worked on this land since time immemorial and whose historical relationship to the land and territories continues to this day.

Connect with us!



Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society | Saanich Peninsula | Victoria BC, BC V8P3T7 CA

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