



GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

President's Report 2021

Public knowledge and appreciation of urban forests and Garry oak ecosystems in the Greater Victoria region is on a gentle rise since 2020. This stems in part from residents connecting with natural areas and parks during COVID 19 protection measures, and from growing interest in participation with local environmental advocacy and restoration organizations. Garry oaks are gaining recognition for their contributions to biodiversity as much as their capacity to deliver public health benefits to city dwellers.

GOMPS volunteer efforts have been crucial in caring for existing seedlings and in improving quality of trees that we provide by donation to municipalities and individuals. Trials are ongoing at the nursery, for example, in pursuit of higher-quality root systems, and to refine methods to reduce volunteer labour in weeding and repotting seedlings.

In November of 2021, I accepted nomination as President of the GOMPS Board. Michael Croteau's leadership as a volunteer providing countless ours expanding the reach of the organization across Greater Victoria is remarkable. His guidance through my transition into the role was greatly appreciated, and he continues to support GOMPS by providing intake support on all inbound emails.

The 2021 GOMPS AGM held an activity for members and the Board to imagine what priorities should be established for GOMPS over the next five years. Themes were provided to AGM attendees to add their ideas under, including organization succession, sustaining and expanding partnerships, nursery operations, outreach, volunteers, and sustaining/growing funding. These suggestions initiated a strategic planning process which will continue at the 2022 AGM.

Our sustained efforts would not be possible without the vital inputs of volunteers, the generous donations from partners and residents, and from your commitment to renewing your membership to GOMPS. We look forward to 2022 at the nursery and in expanding appreciation for Garry oaks across the region. On behalf of the GOMPS Board, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of this important work.

Ryan Senechal

President – Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society