

Health Services Committee (HSC)

Vicky Scott, Chair

Dave Innell

Nancy Hetherington Peirce

Lynne Young

Mandate

Within the broader context of primary health care, assist the Board in identifying unmet needs of the community and in developing strategies to address them by:

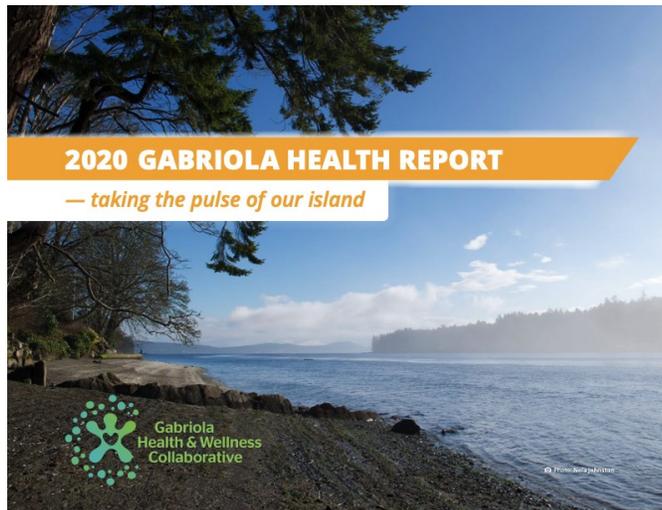
- Participating in community meetings and events where community health needs are being discussed.
- Promoting an understanding of the social determinants of health and engaging with the community, governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Collaborating with local physicians and community partners in health services planning and development.
- Making recommendations to the Board regarding disbursement of funds from the Kitty Heller Fund. (The fund was established in 2012 with a bequest from the estate of Kitty Heller to provide support for health programs)

Activities 2019-2020

- Grant to the Gabriola Arts Council (GAC): In January 2019, the Committee considered an application from GAC for a fourth annual grant for their 2019/2020 Healing Power of Art Program, and recommended that the Board support the application. The Board agreed to a \$5,000 donation from the Kitty Heller Fund.
- Grant to support the Mamahood Project: In November 2019 funding up to \$5,000 was approved by the GHCF to support the Mamahood Project provide community-based counselling and group support for parents of young children to enhance their general mental health, their sense of connectedness to each other, their peers, their children and the community.
- **Health Promotion Events sponsored by GHCF:** On October 23, 2019 the GHCF hosted a public talk titled “*Scam Prevention – Don’t Get Taken*”, featuring speakers from the Gabriola RCMP, Credit Union and Computer Technology covering topics such as scams via telephone, home repair scams, computer and banking. Plans for additional events in 2020 were postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- In September, 2019 the GHCF approved support for the *2020 Gabriola Health Report* project with \$5000 from the Kitty Heller fund. The goal of the Report is to provide easily understood indicators to increase community awareness of the health status Gabriolans, health care gaps, and efforts that are underway to make improvements. The report provides a reliable

source of data to advance future health service planning and support funding applications. The HSC supported this project over its development, including providing data on urgent care provided at the GCHC and a recommendation for an additional \$2000 to support dissemination.

- <https://www.ghcs.ca/2020-Gabriola-Health-Report.pdf>



The Health Services Committee

also has representation on the The Gabriola Health & Wellness Collaborative (GHWC) and HUB Group

- The **GHWC**, established in 2016 brings organizations, groups, and interested individuals together for action on issues that affect the health and wellness of the Gabriola community.
- The focus is on complex issues that often require larger connected groups to make a difference.
- A “Hub Group” consisting of representatives from approximately 20 member-organizations meet monthly to coordinate the activities of the GHWC.

Mission

- “To create opportunities among the GHWC members for mutual support, shared advocacy and improved use of funding resource to improve health outcomes for all Gabriolans.”

The Gabriola Health & Wellness Collaborative Activities for this year include:

- An application to the Michael Smith Health Research Foundation for a grant to study the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on Gabriola Island as an isolated community ferry-dependent community. The application was unsuccessful but work on support for Gabriolans during the pandemic continued through a subcommittee of the GHWC *Gabriola Covid Response Emergency Operations Committee* to ensure an effective, systemic response through all phases of the Covid-19 disease progression. Despite not receiving funding, the research project went ahead under the auspices of the Collaborative (Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley) and Sustainable Gabriola (Fay Weller). The report is expected to be released this fall.