

Building Committee

Marc Herrmann, Chair

GH Building Committee

The health care providers

All medical services and treatment of patients is provided by the various health care providers, each of whom lease space within the health centre and employ their own health care professionals, staff and administration.

- **Gabriola Medical Clinic**

- Doctors Thorne, Cusack, and Nurse Practitioner Lewis who lease space in the Health Centre and, along with visiting locums, residents, students, etc. operate their busy family practice as well as treating patients requiring emergency care in the UTF.
- The doctors work in close collaboration with various health care professionals from Island Health, all of whom treat patients within the Health Centre. This provides an excellent level of interdisciplinary team-based care for patients.

- **Life Labs** – Provides medical laboratory services.

- **Gabriola Dental** - Operate a state of the art dental and oral hygiene clinic.

- **Claire MacDonald, RMT** - Provides massage therapy services.

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The health care providers (continued)

- **The Island Health Authority**

- Island Health leases space in the Health Centre, including a portion of the UTF as well as the Telehealth, Nurses and Mental Health Rooms.
- The Home Care nurses treat many of their patients in the UTF.
- A psychiatrist sees patients on visits to the Health Centre or via Telehealth services available in the Clinic.
- A mental health and addictions nurse sees many patients in the Health Centre
- A social worker and mental health clinician helps guide patients through the many support services available to residents.

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Facility Management, Operations and Maintenance

- Funding to cover operating costs of the health centre is derived primarily through the tenant's lease payments with the exception of a small amount of donations. There is currently no ongoing Government or Health Authority funding other than lease payments for the space actually used by Island Health personnel in the delivery of the health services they provide.
- Additional revenue generated by Island Health's leasing of 2/3 of the UTF as well as the nurse's room, Telehealth and mental health rooms has provided GHCF with additional revenue to contract a significant portion of maintenance work, placing less reliance on volunteers.
- A generous bequest from the estate of former Gabriola artist Mary Gay Brooks, large donation from the Gray family and other substantial donations from supporting Gabriolans continue to build GHCF's Health Centre fund for the purpose of replacing or upgrading all building components including mechanical equipment, computer systems, medical equipment, etc. as they reach the end of their useful lifespans. This significant fund will ensure we have the funds available to ensure the health centre is maintained and upgraded in the years ahead.

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Facility Management, Operations and Maintenance (contd.)

2024 has been a busy year for the Facilities Management Committee (the “FMC”) for Operational & Maintenance (O&M) requirements and capital projects.

Key O&M activities for 2024:

- Significant change and upgrade of our 24-hour security system including addition of a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system for 24 hour surveillance and security monitoring (not publicly distributed).
- Additional behaviour signage on both levels to ensure individuals entering the facilities are aware that aggressive, rude or abuse behaviour is not tolerated.
- Added corridor privacy screens.
- Streamlined electronic O&M scheduling system for input from our service providers to ensure consistency.

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Facility Management, Operations and Maintenance (contd.)

Capital Projects

Over the past 18 months there has been a concentrated effort to look at options regarding the Gabriola Community Healthcare Centre's (the "GCHC") potable water supply and additional storage.

Given the global focus on climate change and the impact we are all experiencing well in advance of expert's predictions, GHCF felt it is paramount to look at options to ensure sufficient potable water is available at the GCHC.

GHCF has been successful to address this important issue as follows:

- Through a 3rd party consultant and their respective design, GHCF obtained Island Health approval for using harvested rainwater to be used as potable water throughout GCHC.
- Design of additional cistern storage of harvested rainwater totalling 7,500 imperial gallons, effectively doubling the current potable water storage capacity.
- At the time of this writing, we are in the latter stage obtaining our building permit from RDN in order to commence construction with this project. It is anticipated that construction will start mid-February 2025 and will take approximately 3-4 months.

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Looking to the future

- It has become clear that GCHC is close to its designed capacity, especially the Clinic.
- With today's physicians, nurse practitioner, residents & medical students along with community in-home health nurses, the mental health nurse and other clinicians, GCHC is fully utilized and the need to expand is inevitable.
- Also, Gabriola's aging and growing population will invariably result in the need for expanded facilities.
- The process of determining our future health care requirements, the question of who will provide and fund these health services and how the necessary facilities will be financed requires considerable time, effort and community involvement. These discussions have started but will certainly require more thought and community engagement to make this a reality.