

Mayne Island Recycling Society 2023 AGM, 8 June 2023

President's Report for 2022/23

Introduction

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Mayne Island Recycling Society. This year we are attempting something new, where we will be having an informal Volunteer Appreciation event immediately after the formal AGM. I hope as many as possible of you will be able to stay for this, and meet the Board, Volunteers and Staff.

This is my second AGM as President of the Society, and I am privileged to follow the lead of other Mayne Islanders in stewarding this important environmental organization. The Society was founded in 1985 by Ann Johnston, Ron Willick, and Ron Pither, so in a couple of years we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. This makes us one of the longest standing non-profit and registered charitable organizations on the island.

I am happy to report to you that the Society has had another very successful year. We have operated the Depot safely for another year, providing a recycling service to all Mayne Island residents and visitors which seems to be very well appreciated by the community. We are in a solid financial position. And importantly, in 2022/23 we have continued to make good progress in developing the organization in a number of ways which I will highlight later in this report.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the staff and Volunteers who make the Depot operate successfully throughout the year. And I would like to thank all the members of the Board who have continued to provide their wise guidance in a collegial and cooperative atmosphere. It really is a pleasure to work with such a great group. And we also thank our very supportive landlords Peter and Kristine Webber; without them we might have considerable challenges.

Organization Development

This year I have structured my report to highlight the areas where I believe your Society has made progress in the past year. Some of the topics may also be covered in reports by others, so please excuse any duplication:

Staff and Depot Operations

First and foremost for Depot Operations is Safety: for staff, volunteers and community members visiting the Depot. The Depot operated without any safety events, a result of a pro-active safety program.

Secondly is making the Depot a friendly and easy place for Mayne Islanders to visit. While we had challenges in some days in the busy summer period of 2022 with long car lineups on Campbell Bay Road, we have continued to work on solutions to this problem, and are optimistic that the situation in summer 2023 will be much improved. Thanks to the staff and volunteers, Depot Operations Chair Bill Warning and Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Kaiser (and any others I missed) for all their contributions to improving this situation. Remember to pre-sort before arriving at the Depot!

Thirdly we have been working on Staff development. Specifically Rick Anderson has been undergoing a training period for the past six months which will allow to cover any of Grant's duties as needed. Rick is also the key person for maintenance of all Depot equipment. Congratulations to Rick and Grant for their progress on this, which will provide Recycling with improved operational resilience.

Grant Buday's leadership continues to be critical for the Depot. He is the "face" of recycling on Mayne Island, and now his image as a Lord Kitchener look-alike has been captured in our search for additional Volunteers!

Board Development

At the 2022 AGM, we reported on some significant changes in the Board, with a number of very experienced and knowledgeable Board members retiring. We have now had a full year with the new Board, and I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of new and continuing Board members. Specifically:

- Mike Jones has brought many valuable perspectives to the key role of Treasurer, and in his role as Chair of the Finance and HR Committee of the Board. As examples, Mike has streamlined reporting, is improving our governance by implementing double approval procedures for expenditures, and is working with other Board members on developing a rolling multi-year Capital Program. Mike also successfully obtained a CRD grant for the Society to offset for one year the costs of our Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) program.
- Kathy Kaiser has taken over from Lynda Smyth as Volunteer Coordinator. Kathy has brought new ideas to recruitment and management of Volunteers, as well as her skillful artistic talents.
- Richard Jarco has taken on the role of Board Communications liaison, being the "gatekeeper" for our web site and social media presence, working with Communications Coordinator Elise Bouer. In this role Richard also oversees MayneLiner articles, and has used this platform to promote his interesting ideas on how to "Rethink" recycling.
- Sean Tucker has started a project to provide us with metrics on recycling through analysis of data we already have. His expertise in Health and Safety has been invaluable to the Depot Operations Committee, where he continues to advocate for a new(er) forklift. It was also largely through Sean's advocacy that the Board approved a new policy on Health Benefits for permanent staff, which came into effect in 2023.
- Bill Warning chairs the Depot Operations committee, which oversees Health and Safety, as well as working on facilities development at the Depot.

Continuing Board members also bring much needed expertise:

- Gary Caroline continues to offer us the benefit of his legal and organizational experience as a key member of the Finance and HR committee.
- Carol Ashwell as Secretary and Membership Coordinator provides essential support in these two areas. Her membership drive in 2022 blew past all budget expectations!
- Last but not least, Kim Harris provides us with much needed advice and support in every area of the Society's operation thanks to his many years of service and experience as President. He also continues to Chair the Southern Gulf Islands Recycling Coalition, an umbrella organization of the island Depots. The SGIRC will be visiting Mayne Island on June 21. Kim also successfully applied on our behalf for a CRD grant to offset the costs we incur in

accepting and recycling “non-program” plastics (think old plastic lawn chairs and beach balls...)

Beach Cleanup

The annual Beach Cleanup is a joint activity of MIRS and the Mayne Island Conservancy. In 2022, Vicki Turay who has coordinated this for many years passed this important role over to Lisa Siddons. Lisa has done a superb job on this, and has managed to persuade the CRD to increase funding for some of the costs MIRS incurs for this annual project. In addition she organized with Ocean Legacy in Richmond for a large portion of the material collected on Mayne Island beaches to be recycled. In previous years all this material ended up at the Hartland landfill.

Outlook for Recycling

I have highlighted some of the areas where your Society has developed during 2022/23. Recycling is a dynamic area in British Columbia, which has demonstrably the most advanced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program anywhere in North America. The Province has recently shared their vision of EPR development, which will provide new recycling opportunities and challenges for MIRS. Items that are expected to be included in future EPR programs include mattresses and EV batteries.

In 2022/23 like all organizations, the effect of inflationary pressures was felt by MIRS. Unfortunately, the COLA increase in our CRD grant (our largest income source) was far lower than the recent BC cost of living increase. We continue to advocate for CRD funding that reflects the real increases in operational costs. At this time we are fortunate that we have the financial resilience to manage this situation, but will continue to engage with the CRD (via SGIRC) on this issue. We did manage to offset some of the cost increases by increasing the amount we charge GFL for hauling paper and packaging to Victoria.

In 2023/24 some of the areas where we expect to be active include:

- Operational improvements to improve flow through the Depot and reduce wait time on Campbell Bay Road.
- Governance improvement through a Board sub-committee to review the Society's constitution and by-laws.
- Complying with recent BC Provincial regulations governing non-profit societies.
- Developing a new document management system.