

Gabriola Community Bus Foundation Annual General Meeting – Directors Report

June 30, 2025 | 1:00pm | Gabriola old Fire Hall

The GCBF current board members are:

- Steven Earle (Chair)
- Darla Jamieson (Treasurer)
- Helen Cook (Secretary)
- Erin Udal
- Roger Bouchard
- Pat Lapcevic
- Susan Yates (ex-officio)

Over the past year the GCBF Directors have been busy with ongoing operational matters and with new initiatives so that we can continue to improve GERTIE service for Gabriolans.

The Age-friendly Consultation

This was a 2024 project focused on how the GERTIE bus can contribute to making Gabriola a friendlier place for people that are getting older. It will be continuing in 2025/26.

Findings:

- Barriers to use are:
 - Limited schedule
 - Complicated routes
 - Mobility challenges
- Suggestions:
 - Event-related services
 - Shopping Runs
 - Clearer Schedules
 - Bus Buddies
- Social benefits identified:
 - Community building
 - Driver-passenger connections.

Ongoing matters

Includes:

- keeping our finances in order,

- making decisions about bus maintenance,
- deciding on schedules and routes and making changes where necessary,
- creating and printing the riders guide, and
- monitoring ridership.

New Initiatives

Includes:

- managing the electric bus-purchase process,
- working on strategies for increasing ridership at both ends of the Gabriola age range,
- applying for other grants to enhance our service,
- organizing fund-raising projects, and
- working with MOTT to create 3 new bus pullouts.

Ridership

In September 2023 we scaled back service to ensure a balanced budget and so that we can continue providing reliable service, in spite of having ongoing mechanical issues. A grant in 2024 enabled us to run Monday and Friday mid-day service for the summer.

We maintained our usual 4 to 6 riders per service hour for most of the year but dropped slightly below that in November and December.

RIDERSHIP MONTHLY COMPARISON CHART - Stacked Years

As at: May 13, 2025

