

Background

There were a number of indications that led up to the realization that something needed to be done:

- doctors require government funded Medical On-Call Availability Program (MOCAP) to stay on Gabriola and provide on-call service
- MOCAP only available if Emergency Treatment Room (“ETR”) available
- clot buster drugs only available if ETR available
- the overnight ferry call-out emergency service was cancelled
- a man with a heart condition nearly died while being transported in a small boat one stormy night
- local doctors (MacPherson and Hoffman, both no longer here) crying out for an urgent care room
- many emergency responses relied upon the ambulance which, when in transit to Nanaimo, along with the doctor, meant no one available for any other calls
- rapid increase in resident population, ageing population and increase in tourists meant increased emergencies
- Nanaimo Regional General Hospital ER completely swamped, often released patients late in the night with no way for them to get back to Gabriola

Time Line

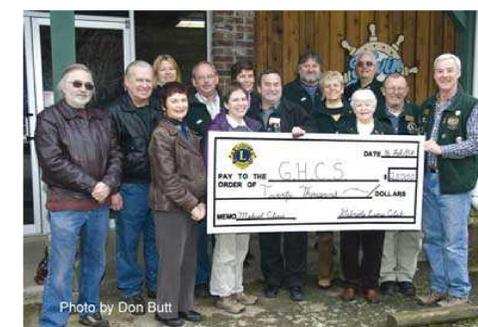
November 2006	GHCS formed. “ <i>Enhancing Primary Health Care on the Island of Gabriola</i> ” document provides the road-map for the development and maintenance of a fully equipped health care facility which will enable integrated primary health care services to be delivered to the people of Gabriola, in particular emergency medical response.
January 2007	First Town Hall Meeting.
March 2007	Allison Cutler, Executive Director, Medicine/Family Practice, Chronic Disease Management, Primary Health Care, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), sends letter of support to GHCS for establishment of ETR.
April 2007	GHCS begins work on Emergency Treatment Room (ETR) community clinic.
July 2007	Interim ETR community clinic opens at Twin Beaches. Dr. Francois Bosman joins Dr. Hoffman and they start full time on-call emergency response for Gabriola. Gabriola Health Care Foundation registered as a Charity.
February 2008	MOCAP funding meeting with George Abbott, Minister of Health, includes commitment for a FPs4BC allocation with on-call responsibilities for Gabriola.
April 2008	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health (MOH), Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), Drs. Bosman, Harding, Hoffmann, and Mackenzie, and the Gabriola Health Care Society signed.
June 2008	Community Workshop – over 80 Gabriola residents participate in identifying primary health care priorities for Gabriola.
July 2008	Gabriola Doctors awarded funding under the BC Medical On Call Availability Program (MOCAP). Report based on June community meeting entitled “ <i>Results of Public Engagement Primary Health Care on Gabriola Island, Framework for Action</i> ” released.
September 2008	Doctor Appreciation Dinner
November 2008	Dr. Tracey Thorne visits Gabriola and agrees to commence practice here in July 2009. Kay Holt, Advanced Practice Nurse, joins the ETR Community Clinic. Two Gabriola doctors join VIHA Integrated Health Network – Chronic Care management patients have access to mental health services, dietician.
December 2008	Architectural design work begins on permanent clinic.
March 2009	Architectural Design work completed – Margot Kemble Architrave.
May 2009	Community Open House



Town Hall Meeting



Fund raising begins



Lions support



Construction crew



Community workshop