

***Greater Geary Association  
2008-2009 Annual Report***

May 25, 2009

# **1. 2008-2009 Provisional Board of Directors and Committees**

Chair: Trevor Hanson  
Vice Chair: Tanya Rocca  
Secretary/Treasurer: Leola Langille

Directors:  
Wallace Carr  
Hollie Hanlon  
Julia Howe  
Lisa Howe  
Bonnie Lively  
Mark Noel  
Mark Schriver  
Dave Smith

Committee Chairs:  
Geary Gym Committee: Trevor Hanson  
Fields, Rinks and Recreation: Hollie Hanlon  
Health Committee: Theresa Bartlett-Chase  
Transportation Committee: Trevor Hanson

## **2. Chair's Report – Trevor Hanson**

What a difference a year can make! From initial discussions back in late 2007, to official incorporation in May 2008, and our official launch in September 2008, the Greater Geary Association (GGA) is a testament to the community spirit in the four communities of the Greater Geary Area. The GGA now has approximately 50 members, 4 corporate members and many advisors and partners. The Board of Directors for 2008-2009 consisted of representatives from the major organizations in the communities, local businesses, churches, and concerned citizens.

The Board of Directors met on average once per month at the Geary Lions Centre. The meetings provided opportunities to discuss how to move forward on the issues identified by citizens in the forums, as well as to become briefed on what each organization was doing.

### **Accomplishments 2008-2009**

The purpose of the GGA has always been to be a non-partisan forum for community issues and to speak in support of citizens on matters of local, provincial and federal jurisdiction. I believe we had a very successful first year - the highlights of 2008-2009 include:

#### ***Community building and engagement***

- Hosted two community forums at the Geary Elementary Community School (40 & 80 attendees)
- Met with the Geary Lions Club to talk about the GGA and community recreation
- Worked with the Geary Elementary Community School to conduct a student recreation survey and a Parenting Toolkit survey
- Worked with students from UNB Civil Engineering to develop a Recreation Needs Assessment, which was released in January 2009
- Worked with two groups from UNB Civil Engineering to develop a conceptual design for a new school gymnasium and for wheelchair accessibility
- Met with Roberta Ackakiryan to discuss her role as community school liaison
- Started a Health Committee (chaired by Theresa Bartlett-Chase) to explore the public health needs in our communities
- Joined the Medical Relief Committee (Julia Howe)
- Hosted a representative from the Eastern Communities Youth Association from Canso, NS to learn about the experiences of their recreation program
- Laid the groundwork for the Greater Geary Recreation Council, including receiving \$5000 from the RCMP Foundation towards the Waterville Ballfield (Hollie Hanlon)
- Developed a Post-Secondary Education Committee to be chaired by Shauna Foote

#### ***Speaking in support of citizens with public officials***

- Met with Hon. Kelly Lamrock, Minister of Education to speak in support of the Geary Elementary Community School (GECS) gym project
- Met with MP Keith Ashfield's office (Kevin Price) to highlight the issues identified by citizens at the community forums
- Met with MLA Jody Carr to highlight the issues identified by citizens at the community forums

- Met with officials from the NBDOT to discuss transportation issues in Greater Geary – a report was prepared and sent to the officials and will be released publicly
- Met with Peter Kavanaugh (LSD Administrator) and MLA Jody Carr to learn more about how Local Service Districts work
- Met with John Flynn of Enterprise Central NB and representatives from ACOA and Department of Post-Secondary Education and Labour to discuss economic development in Greater Geary

### ***Advocacy***

- Prepared submissions to two government public consultations: Select Committee on Taxation and Finn Commission on the Future of Local Governance
- Sent citizen petitions from the official launch meeting to several provincial government ministers, including the Premier – who then arranged for meetings on our behalf
- Organized a letter writing campaign to the District Education Council and Minister Lamrock. Approximately 70 individual letters were sent to both
- Made two presentations to the School District 17 Education Council on the need for wheelchair accessibility and a new gym for the GECS
- Started a Facebook campaign for a new gym – there are now over 150 members
- Sent numerous email correspondence to public officials speaking in support of community issues

### ***Communications***

- Developed a website and online community bulletin board
- Developed a Facebook website and community bulletin board
- Participated in a CBC Information Morning interview with Terry Seguin
- Participated in interviews with Gillian Christie from the Oromocto Post
- Prepared several press releases

### ***Acknowledgements***

I want to thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their support in getting the GGA up and going in our community over the past year. It is often said “If you want something done, ask a busy person” and the Directors and Chairs are certainly busy people, whether it is volunteering, work, family or often all three! I am grateful for their guidance and for the work they have undertaken in their roles as Directors. They are some of the hardest working people in our communities and it has been an honour to have worked with them.

The success of the GGA is due in no small part to the collective efforts of the Board, its committees and the members and interested citizens. In addition to the advisory role of the Board, there is substantial behind-the-scenes work that keeps the organization running. There are two people who have done substantial behind-the-scenes work for the GGA I would like to recognize:

- Leola Langille, who as Secretary/Treasurer has been instrumental in keeping the GGA organized and running smoothly, and always has such great ideas for moving the communities forward;
- Hollie Hanlon, who as Recreation Committee Chair, took the initiative to work with the RCMP to prepare the application for funding from the RCMP Foundation for the Waterville Ballfield which was the catalyst for launching the Greater Geary Recreation Council – of which she has taken on the responsibility of Chair.

There are three people who are retiring from the Board in 2009-2010

- Tanya Rocca, our Vice Chair, and Lisa Howe, Director, had originally agreed to be provisional directors for the first year to help get the group on its feet. Their insight and support over the past year has been really appreciated.
- Mark Schriver, Director, had originally agreed to be a provisional director for the first few months until the group got up and going. Many thanks for doing this.

The Greater Geary Association also would like to thank the many individuals and organizations for their help this past year. Among them are:

- Geary Lions Club – for letting the GGA use the facility on a regular basis for its meetings
- Geary Elementary Community School, staff and volunteers– for letting the GGA use the facility for its public meetings, and for distributing surveys and correspondence
- Members of the PSSC and Home and School Association for their support of the GGA
- UNB Civil Engineering Technical Communication students: for the Recreation Needs Assessment
- UNB Civil Engineering Project Management Class students: for the Gym design and consultations
- UNB Civil Engineering Project Management Class students: for the school wheelchair accessibility assessment
- Gillian Christie, Reporter, Oromocto Post – for the continuing press coverage
- Joe Howe – for representing the Geary ATV Club
- The individuals taking responsibility for the Greater Geary Recreation Council and summer softball program
- MLA Jody Carr – for his support of this organization and its goals, timely response to correspondence, and being a liaison to the public service

We have been successful at getting many community issues on the public agenda, including the Geary Gym project and a Recreation Council, and have engaged numerous public officials including our Premier, Education Minister, MLA, MP and the civil service on issues facing our area. We still have many challenges, including growing and sustaining the recreation council in the long term, understanding how our local government system works and how it can work for us, addressing the many transportation and health needs, and of course, getting our provincial government and District Education Council to follow through on the commitment for a school gym. We will continue our efforts through 2009-2010 to help see concrete action on these items.

Thank you very much to all of our members, corporate members, Directors, committee chairs, advisors and volunteers who have been so very supportive over this past year.

Sincerely,



Trevor R. Hanson, P.Eng  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Greater Geary Association

### **3. Overview of correspondence**

A binder of official GGA correspondence (letters, emails and reports) is available to interested members. Photocopies of the correspondence can be made for a member at their request and expense.

Published reports:

*Towards a Greater Geary – April 2008*

*Greater Geary Recreation Needs Assessment – January 2009*

Completed reports to be released:

*Greater Geary Transportation Concerns*

*Proposal for a new gym for Geary Elementary Community School*

### **4. Committee reports**

Gym committee report: Oral report by Trevor Hanson

Recreation committee report: Oral report by Hollie Hanlon

Health committee report: Oral report by Theresa Bartlett-Chase

Transportation committee report: Oral report by Trevor Hanson

## 5. Treasurer's Report

**Greater Geary Association Inc.**  
**Profit & Loss**  
May 26, 2008 through May 25, 2009

	<u>May 26, '08 - May 25, 09</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Donations	19.65
Grants	5,000.00
<b>Membership Dues</b>	
Corporate membership	120.00
Membership Dues - Other	<u>220.00</u>
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	340.00
Reimbursed Expenses	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	5,389.65
<b>Expense</b>	
Float	10.00
Post Office Box	46.33
<b>Recreation Council</b>	
Ballfield	4,572.50
Recreation Council - Other	<u>427.50</u>
<b>Total Recreation Council</b>	5,000.00
service charge	49.86
Start up Costs	50.00
<b>Supplies</b>	
Printing Costs	<u>103.44</u>
<b>Total Supplies</b>	103.44
<b>Website</b>	<u>186.15</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>5,445.78</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-56.13</u></u>

Note: \$5000 grant is from RCMP Foundation for use in Ballfield reconstruction only - \$4572.50 represents allocation to Ballfield project that has yet to be used by the Rec Council