

Active Pass Festival

In a nutshell, the Active Pass Festival was a whole community undertaking and when it was just being conceived, the need to have community organizations embrace it was identified. At the very beginning the Festival had the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, the Galiano Conservancy Association, the Mayne Island Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council as the key partners for its organization. As the planning progressed the Mayne Island Little Theatre, the Mayne Island Library Society, the Mayne Island Quilters Guild, the Mayne Island Music Society and the Mayne Island Agricultural Society all came on board. Local businesses stepped up with sponsorships. With respect to initiatives The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, the Islands Trust Fund (a land trust), the Galiano Conservancy Association, the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission, the Pender Island Field Naturalists and the Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society all attended to promote and highlight the initiatives they were undertaking to conserve the values of this region. On a provincial scale, the BC Field Ornithologists and BC Nature supported the planning and provided guest experts for some of our excursions. On the national scale we had Bird Studies Canada and the Important Bird Area program representatives as part of the Organizing Committee for the festival.

Using the attendance numbers as an indicator we had between 300 to 400 people who attended at least one activity or event. The feedback we received from participants suggested that we succeeded in raising awareness of visitors and island residents of the unique place in which we live, the diverse history of our place and the rich abundance of wildlife and natural features that surround us.

An unintended achievement is that the festival within the community elevated the general mood of its citizens and visitors. The diversity and number of events happening throughout the island and the focal point of Festival Central with its large high peaked event tents touched everyone who attended. The sense of pride in this natural place and the community in which we live was increased as a result of the festival.

We balanced our books (no debt) which ensures that the 2016 Festival on Galiano Island has a sound financial footing from which to work.