

Board of Directors Highlights



Q1 Board Meeting Report – June 2026

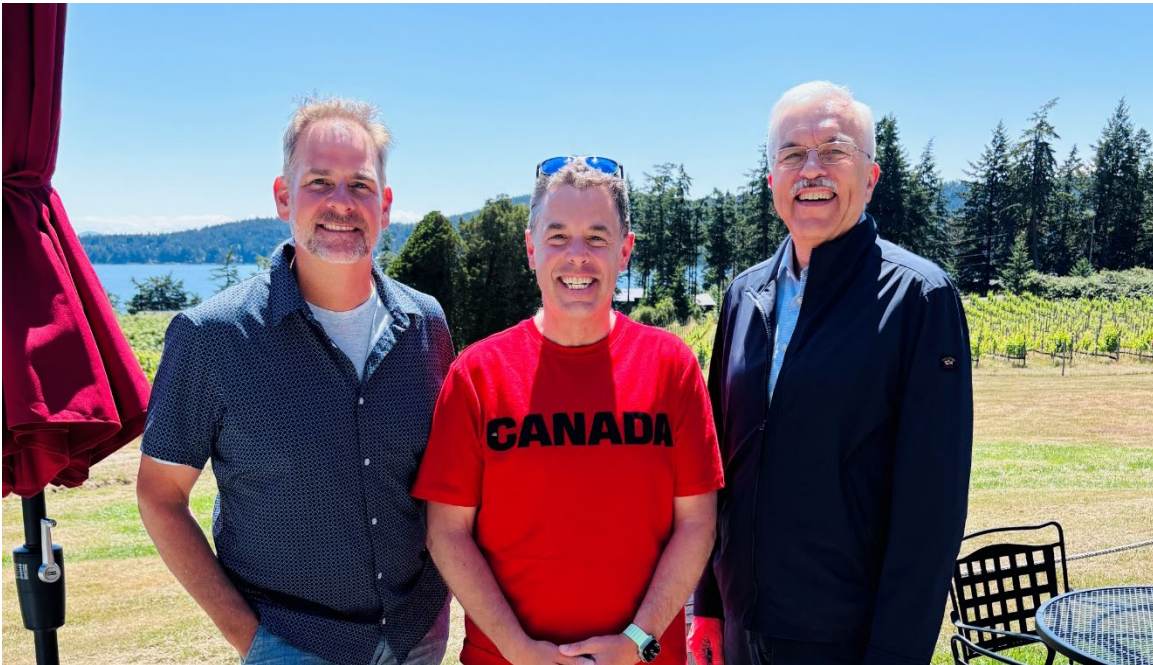
GVHA Board Highlights provides a brief summary of items from each quarterly Board meeting. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items.

Message from the Chair – Mark Mawhinney

There's an old mariner's saying that, *"Fair winds are earned by a good crew."* As we begin a new chapter for GVHA this sentiment is fitting.

Tomorrow we mark the transition from our interim CEO, Don Krusel, to our new CEO, Jeremy Dunn. Since stepping into the role at the end of last December, Don has provided the steady leadership, sound judgement and calm presence that helped guide GVHA through an important period of transition. Speaking personally I have appreciated Don's counsel, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the organization. He will be welcomed back to our board of directors as Jeremy steps in as our CEO. Jeremy joins GVHA at an exciting time in our evolution. I'm looking forward to working with him as we continue to build on the strong foundation that has been laid, and continuing advancing our mission on behalf of all our member agencies.

With this I'm pleased to share this board update.



From left to right: Incoming CEO Jeremy Dunn, Board Chair Mark Mawhinney, Interim CEO Don Krusel

Introduction to CEO

The Board is excited to welcome Jeremy Dunn as the organization's new CEO, effective July 7. Jeremy brings more than two decades of experience in port operations, commercial development, major infrastructure, and waterfront asset management — most recently as Vice President, Operations with the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) where he orchestrated rapid commercial growth for Ontario waterfront communities. To introduce Jeremy, we will schedule meetings with all Member Agencies in the coming months.

Infrastructure Upgrades

The 2026–27 Capital Budget totals \$10.6 million, making it the largest capital investment in GVHA's history and representing an increase of \$3.8 million over last year's expenditures. Key projects include bollard upgrades, pier repairs, completion of the breasting dolphin at the Breakwater District, upgrades to the Hyack Terminal dock, and the construction of a new Causeway Marina building.

Photos (left to right): the new Causeway Marina building, a corner fender on Pier A, and one of seven new or proposed bollards.



Cruise Update

The cruise season began on April 10. It is shaping up to be a record-breaking season, with 335 scheduled cruise ship calls and an estimated one million passenger visits, representing a 2% increase over 2025. We see a trend toward shorter port calls, driven in part by regulations related to whale protection and in part by cruise lines reducing speeds to help offset rising fuel costs. The team has been analyzing the relationship between time spent at berth and passenger disembarkation rates. GVHA's new Director, Cruise & Port Development Carmen Ortega is leading the development of a cruise strategy focused on encouraging longer stays, increasing homeporting opportunities, and expanding the range of services available to visiting vessels. During May, GVHA hosted events at the terminal to welcome six cruise ships making their inaugural calls into Victoria, including Virgin's Brilliant Lady and MSC Poesia.

Integrated Planning

The Integrated Planning project is well underway. Mark Crisp, GVHA's VP, Infrastructure & Resiliency, is now project manager and working directly with the Worley team. The Board participated in an engagement session with Worley in mid-June. Consultation with stakeholders, First Nations partners, and community members is ongoing under the oversight of Amber Hanson, VP External Relations. We invite you to complete the survey [Harbour Voices: Shape the Future of Greater Victoria Harbour Survey](#) and encourage you to share the link as you deem appropriate. The final options report will be presented to the Board in Q3.

Staffing and Recruitment Updates

GVHA is recruiting for a **VP, Finance and Administration**. All open positions are listed on our [website](#).
GVHA welcomed Carmen Ortega as **Director, Cruise & Port Development** on April 7.
Lucy Hart (Controller) was appointed **Acting Director Finance** on June 16.
George Milne (Marinas Manager) was appointed **Acting Director, Operations** on June 26.
GVHA said farewell to Judith Ethier (CAO) and Lori Ann Smith (Director, Finance) on June 26.
GVHA will welcome Lincoln Heaney as **Manager, First Nations Partnerships** on July 13.

Committee Report Highlights

Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) Gail Stephens, Chair

The Committee received a presentation from KPMG outlining the audit plan, with fieldwork conducted during the first week of June. The audit results will be presented to Members at the GVHA Annual General Meeting in September. The Committee also received its annual insurance update from Aon, which highlighted approximately \$60,000 in premium savings this year. In the coming months, the Committee will review GVHA's cybersecurity insurance coverage to ensure it remains aligned with the organization's evolving risk profile.

First Nations Economic Development Committee (FNED) Susan Brice, Chair

FNED reviewed the First Nations Revenue Contribution Fund where 1% of GVHA's revenue is allocated to Songhees Nation and xwsepsəm Nation. Changes to the program were approved that will allow for the annual board-approved budget to be distributed equally between Songhees Nation and xwsepsəm Nation. The funds will be used to support Nation-determined priorities and initiatives, and the committee will receive an annual update on spending. Previously, funds were allocated quarterly by submission of applications.

Human Resources & Governance Committee (HRGC) Mark Collins, Chair

With a view toward maintaining stability and consistency during a time of transition for the GVHA, the HRGC reviewed the Board Officer succession plan and recommended to the Board that the terms of the Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair be extended by one year. The committee reviewed changes to the compensation policy and constitution which will come forward to the Members for approval at the AGM in September.

The next Board meeting will be held September 15, 2026

Infrastructure Planning & Development Committee (IPAD) Geoff Dickson, Chair

In addition to the infrastructure projects and Integrated Planning update noted above, IPAD received report from staff that an Owners Engineer will be hired to support the delivery of capital projects at Ogden Point this year. The committee also approved the Integrated Planning budget for the current fiscal year.

Sustainability Committee (SC) Barb Desjardins, Chair

SC received an update on work done under the new [Sustainability Plan](#) that was approved last quarter. The annual Green Marine certification for 2025 is complete. GVHA increased its score for two indicators, Aquatic Ecosystems and Underwater Noise, compared to the verification from two years ago. The full results are on our [website](#). The committee discussed future plans for the Healthy Harbour Fund and proposed uses for the funds which are budgeted to be \$34k. The goal of the fund is to move forward initiatives and projects that contribute to a healthy harbour.

Recent Events

- April 28 – First Market on the Pier at the terminal.
- May 15-16: PODIUM choir performances on the Lower Causeway.
- May 21-24: Swiftsure Yacht Race in Lower Causeway Marina.
- May 26: Royal Korean Navy band concert on Ship Point.
- May 31: World Ocean Day at Fisherman's Wharf.
- June 4-7: Africa Fest at Ship Point.
- June 15-17: Race to Alaska in Lower Causeway marina
- June 19-21: Dragon Boat Festival at Ship Point.
- June 22: Beach clean-up at Holland Point with terminal partners and Virgin crew.
- June 24-28: Ska Fest at Ship Point
- July 1: Canada Day Market at Ship Point
- July 3-5: I-Land Fest at Ship Point

Upcoming Events

- July 11-12: Festival Mexicano at Ship Point.
- July 18: Crab Fest at Ship Point.
- July 18: Red Bull log rolling event in Inner Harbour.
- July 25: Annex Fitness Ride the Harbour on Ship Point.
- August 8: David Foster & Friends 40th Anniversary Concert in the Inner Harbour.
- August 16: Soul of Vietnam on Ship Point.
- September 4-6: Classic Boat Festival at the Lower Causeway and Ship Point marinas.