

**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

SUBJECT SSI Historical Society Funding Request

ISSUE SUMMARY

To consider an ongoing funding request from the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Historical Society.

BACKGROUND

The SSI Historical Society (the Society) submitted a written request (Appendix A) and attended the SSI Local Community Commission (LCC) meeting on November 14, 2024, as a delegation.

The Society were formed in 1982 by a dedicated group of residents with a goal to reflect and show the varied history and development of SSI. The SSI archives were established in 1989 and are maintained by volunteers who operate and manage the collection of historical documents. The Society currently is registered under the BC Society Act and operates out of the SSI Public Library where both the collection is stored, and offices are located for items to be catalogued and stored.

The Society relies on grants, donations and memberships to support their work. Without a stable funding source, the Society is requesting the CRD provide annual funding to support rent, insurance and room rentals to ensure the Society can continue their work in a sustainable way.

The CRD provides an annual contribution to the SSI Library to provide public library services for the SSI Electoral Area. This funding is restricted to a Libraries Act society contribution and cannot be used to support the Historical Societies request. Should the CRD wish to allocate annual funding to support this request, a new service would need to be established, or an existing service would need to be amended requiring Electoral Area Director consent.

The Society is expected to pay annual rent of \$5,284 in 2025 with a 2.5% increase in 2026 totalling \$5,416. This funding is used to support library services. The library has indicated that if the annual contribution provided by the CRD to support library services was increased in the amount of the societies rent they would not need to charge the society rent.

The LCC 2025 budgets have already been approved and would require a financial plan amendment to increase library funding for 2025. The LCC could approve a Grant in Aid (GIA) in 2025 to support the societies funding request.

The Society received a GIA in 2022 for \$5,000. GIAs are one-time grants to fund special projects and activities, awarded to community non-profit organizations who deliver projects benefiting electoral areas. GIAs are intended for special one-time projects, not ongoing operational funding, although applications for recurring projects can be made. GIA funding can be used for multiple years but requires a decision each year to allocate new funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission requests that staff

- 1) Direct requests for funding to support the Historical Society in 2025 to apply for the next Grant in Aid intake.
- 2) Increase the 2026 Salt Spring Island Library contribution by \$5,416 above the approved increase amount.

Alternative 2

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission requests that the report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

\$68,986 has been budgeted for GIA contributions in 2025.

The Society has requested:

Annual Rent	\$5,000
Insurance	\$1,500
Room Rentals	\$500
TOTAL	\$7,000

CONCLUSION

The Society has submitted a written request and presented to the LCC in person requesting \$7,000 of annual funding to support rent, insurance and room rentals. Funding for the Historical Society could be allocated through a GIA. Allocating annual funding would require the creation of a new service or amending an existing service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission requests that staff

- 1) Direct requests for funding to support the Historical Society in 2025 to apply for the next Grant in Aid intake.
- 2) Increase the 2026 Salt Spring Island Library contribution by \$5,416 above the approved increase amount.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration
Concurrence	Stephen Henderson, BSc, MBA, Senior Manager of Real Estate, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area and Saltspring Island Local Community Commission

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A – Salt Spring Island Historical Society Letter – Dated October 29, 2024.