
Membership of the Gabriola Health Care Society

When I first heard a few years ago now that I had become a member of the GHCS, my instant reaction was to object. This objection had nothing to do with my support or otherwise of the society or its goals. It was for me a matter of general principle that if you allow that a person can be declared a member of a society, without that person having expressed any interest in being a member, or even being aware that he or she has been made a member, then you render meaningless the number of people a society or organization claims to represent.

For the record, on expressing this objection to the GHCS, I received the following response:

“Thanks for your email. At your request you are hereby removed from membership of the Gabriola Health Care Society. Please be aware that we do not have a list of members. The phrasing relating to our membership was based on the Community Hall—which all residents of Gabriola also are members of. We wanted to make sure that it was understood that all Gabriolans and visitors will be treated at the clinic and by island physicians and we wanted to make sure that the society was totally inclusive. Therefore please be aware that you will have access to the interim clinic and its associated Emergency Treatment Room with or without Official Membership.” Lawrence Spero, April 16, 2007.

Society Act [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 433

Register of members

70 (1) A society must keep a register of its members.