

## **THE GELLATLY BAY TRAILS AND PARKS SOCIETY.**

**Our Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society (GBTAPS) originated in 1984 when a public spirited member of the Westbank Neighbourhood Association, George Smith, became concerned that little was being done to preserve the recreational areas, and protect the environment along the shores of Okanagan Lake.**

**To push public officials for the necessary changes, however, he realized that a group with a larger public profile than the Westbank Neighbourhood Association would need to get involved.**

**At a subsequent meeting with David Knowles, the then President of the Westbank Rotary Club, Smith proposed that the Westbank Rotary take the leadership role in the project. A committee was struck and the resultant proposal was endorsed.**

**To 'win over' the Central Okanagan Regional District (C.O.R.D.) which owned the various properties involved, Rotary hired Bob Wannop, a Kelowna civil engineer who produced a 'Master Plan' for the project-- which Rotary took to C.O.R.D.**

**On March 20<sup>th</sup> 1985 the Regional District approved Rotary's 'Master Plan'.**

**To encourage support, input and assistance in the endeavour, a not-for-profit, volunteer 'society' was formed, made up of representatives of interested community groups: Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Seniors, Neighbourhood Associations and Church groups.**

**A competition to name a proposed park produced : "Gellatly Bay Aquatic Park" which both memorialized one of Westbank's pioneer families, and formed, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1986, the name of the "Gellatly Bay Aquatic Park Society".**

**During the next ten years, the Society's focus was on implementing the promised 'Master Plan' which included among many endeavours:**

- Rotary Trails Park;**
- Rotary Beach;**
- Gellatly Bay Waterfront Walkway;**
- Marina Park;**
- Construction of the boat launch adjacent to the Westbank Yatch Club and a protective breakwater between the club and the lake.**
- Refurbishing/improving the old CNR wharf.**

**The succesful completion of all phases of the Master Plan was made possible by the complete cooperation and assistance of C.O.R.D. and Provincial and Federal**

**Representatives; financial support from Rotary; provincial and federal Government grants; private corporations and citizens.**

**By 1997, much of the construction of the waterfront park had been completed and the Society's focus moved to constructing walking and hiking trails.**

**Appropriately, on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2001, the Society was officially renamed "The Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society" (GBTAPS).**

**The Society's work continues. Working in close cooperation with the Regional District, the City of West Kelowna and local Rotary Clubs, GBTAPS has guided the:**

- Completion of the first Powers Creek trail and stairways connecting Glen Canyon Regional Park to the lower end of Powers Creek;**
- Construction of the trail connecting lower Glen Canyon to mid Glen Canyon Park.**
- Construction of the bridge across Powers Creek enabling access to the trail from the lower end of Brown Road;**
- Completion of sections of Trail 2000 , planned to run from the Bennett bridge in Kelowna to Peachland;**
- Construction of the Cindy Road trail, connecting Westbank and Gellatly Bay;**
- Championed, together with the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club and C.O.R.D, the development of Goats' Peak Regional Park.**

**"A picture is worth a thousand words"; we encourage you to visit the website 'Photo Gallery' to better understand the scope of the work that has gone into completing the original 'Master Plan', and subsequent trail blazing.**