



# Gwaii Trust Society

## Travel Assistance Grant Gives Financial Bump To Local Athlete

By Joey Rudichuk

**I**n September, Masset's own Regina Williams travelled down to sunny Victoria with winning on her mind (and with a little help from the Gwaii Trust Travel Assistance Grant).

The 55+ BC Games is an annual event held over five days with sports ranging from slo-pitch and pickleball to archery and tennis. Held in a different community each year and supported by hundreds of volunteers, it offers the opportunity to celebrate sport and active living with other participants from across the province.

This was Regina's first time participating in the games. "I qualified to play the previous year, which was cancelled due to Covid. The atmosphere at the games in Victoria was fantastic and so well organized," she explained.

While she competed in tennis at the games, it wasn't always her primary sport. Through correspondence she shared more about her background and experience. "The first racket sport I played was squash when I moved to Haida Gwaii in 1999. Following the closure of the Masset Rec Centre in 2008, I started playing tennis and tried to play 2-3 times a week.



Third Place in ladies singles



Second place mixed doubles with partner Garry Otto

"Growing up, I watched as much Wimbledon as possible and at that time imagined myself in the shoes of the ball kids watching live! The reality of playing is so much better years later!

"Playing singles was the big challenge for me; I enjoy playing both singles and doubles, but mostly play doubles. I was within reach of second place [in singles] which I didn't expect and so thrilled to come away with the bronze. It was truly great to play with ladies from all over BC in the same age category.

"My mixed doubles partner [Garry Otto of Masset] and I played in a barn burner final, 2 hours of roller coaster who will win! It all came down to 1 point, and we came away with the silver! What a great final match.

"The trip was a great experience, and I'm proud to say that I received a silver medal in mixed doubles tennis and a bronze in singles tennis. The atmosphere was fantastic, and I look forward to competing next year when the games are held at Abbotsford."

Way to go, Regina. Congratulations on your win, and best of luck next year!

# Want to learn more about the Travel Assistance Grant?

## How much is available?

Up to \$250 is available per return trip for the Individual Travel Assistance Grant.

## What can it be used for?

This grant helps residents of Haida Gwaii travel off-island to participate in educational, cultural, arts, sports and seniors' events. This grant can also help with travel costs to bring expertise on-island for educational, arts, cultural, sports, seniors and special needs purposes.

## Can i apply as a group?

Yes! The Group Travel Assistance Grant helps teams and other groups travel off-island to participate in educational, cultural, arts, sports and seniors' events. It can also be used to help fund on-island travel for school groups.

## What's the deadline to apply?

Applications are accepted throughout the year, and must be received at least seven days before travel.

## How often can I apply?

Adults can apply for up to two trips a year, and there is no limit for youth (ages 2-18).

## Where can I get more information?

visit [gwaiitrust.com/grants](http://gwaiitrust.com/grants) or reach our to grant coordinator Pam Hill.  
[pam.hill@gwaiitrust.com](mailto:pam.hill@gwaiitrust.com) / 250 559 8104



## The Community and Holiday Events grant deadline for 2022 is December 1st at 4pm

Since 2009 Gwaii Trust has budgeted over \$1 million for this grant to support a bundle of great community projects and events like Loggers Sports Days, Skidegate Days, holiday dinners and hampers, Port Bucks, the Sandspit Winter Lights Festival, and so much more (check out our annual report for a full list each year).

Haida Gwaii has such an abundance of spirit, thank you to all of the communities and volunteers who make these special events happen.

## Upcoming Deadlines

### Travel, Education, and Staycation

For details visit [gwaiitrust.com/grants](http://gwaiitrust.com/grants)

### Covid-19 Response

Apply throughout the year until December 1 at 4pm

## Holiday Office Hours

Our office will be closing for winter holidays at noon on Friday, December 16th, and reopening Tuesday, January 3rd.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

**gwaiitrust.com**  
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