

## ANSWERS TO SUSTAINABILITY GABRIOLA QUESTIONS

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FOOD SECURITY

*Q.1 It is well understood that localizing agriculture plays a pivotal role across the whole spectrum of sustainability issues. Given that we all eat for a living, what is your position on the priority of food and agriculture issues over the next few years?*

**RDN Candidate Eric Moeller:** Government must, and has recently taken a few steps to support local farming and agriculture. It has a long way to go. Personally, I live on ALR land. In 2003, I applied to the RDN for 'Development Farm' status. I had already spent over \$22,000 taking this property from neglect; to having plans, drawing, details, and effort. All was turned down because the farm plan was not already making money, even though the RDN bylaws encourage 'development farming'. I gave up but did plant lots of fruit trees. Today there might be a

different RDN attitude. I certainly encourage it. Unfortunately economics plays a part in success of agriculture activity. It is expensive to obtain land, and equipment, and cost to operate it. I already own the land and offered it for free gardening two years ago. The volunteer gardeners made a huge mess and left it. Areas like the 'Commons' and other available lands might be better used and supported for agriculture. Someone needs to manage, support, and oversee agriculture activities to ensure success.

It is timely this question is asked about agricultural land and food security. The story above is related to the RDN and as a candidate for the RDN; I will raise this issue again.

**RDN Candidate Howard Houle:** Only 10% of the fossil fuels used in the world's food system goes into production. The other 90% goes into packaging, transporting and marketing. I support local and regional initiatives aimed at food security, preservation of agricultural land, and buying locally produced food. Since the establishment of a regional Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) in 2008 food security has been playing a larger role on the regional agenda.

**RDN Candidate Jordy Alexander:** Food security is a major concern as we move forward, so is fresh water. We need to support local farming and agriculture, making it easier (clearing up red tape) and also provide more incentives for small local farms.

**IT Candidate Gisele Rudischer:** I agree we all recognize the role local food production and consumption plays in reducing our carbon footprint and retaining arable land for agriculture.

**IT Candidate Maggie Mooney:** I believe increasing local food production and local food consumption is a key priority, both in the short and the long term. There are a range of strategies that are required, some already being carried out by community members and organizations such as Gabriolans for Local Food Choice, The Commons, The Farmers Market and others that require joint efforts between community members and elected officials.

**IT Candidate Sheila Malcolmson:** I first want to **eliminate** any remaining zoning barriers to agriculture (keeping in mind the industrial chicken barn controversy on Clarendon Road two terms ago), and want to specifically **allow** horticulture in Institutional and Community Park zones (all other zones allow horticulture or agriculture already. It would still be up to the RDN to decide whether it would actually allow agricultural uses in each community park). These are changes that could happen fast, so I'd want to do them early in the term. The OCP could also further **advocate** that provincial regulations not inhibit local food security (this has been done at the Trust Council level, especially around meat slaughter regulations, but isn't yet enshrined in the OCP or Islands Trust Policy Statement, and it should be). I wanted to get a **Farm Plan** done for Gabriola last term; it would help support community efforts to build agricultural infrastructure, but in other communities has been a long, expensive and process-intensive exercise. I'd want to be sure community members knew it would be time-intensive, before taking time away from actual growing.... I'd want advice from farmers before taking this on as the first priority. I initiated an **Agriculture Advisory Committee** to help the LTC make agriculture-related decisions. (Islanders can see the ad and terms of reference here, under "latest news", and it will soon be in the newspapers too: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gb/default.cfm> )

*Q. 2 Land inventories have been implemented elsewhere by local governments in an effort to identify plots of land that could be used for community agriculture – would you support carrying one out for Gabriola?*

**RDN Candidate Howard Houle:** It's rare in the RDN to allow agriculture on all residential lots but under the Islands Trust agriculture is allowed in almost all zones on Gabriola. It's important to retain those Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) policies, as well as those aimed at preservation of agricultural land. In addition, if

there is community support for it then community park land could be assessed for suitability for community garden use.

**RDN Candidate Jordy Alexander:** Community Gardens using public and private lands could be a viable option for our future. Like all issues a good understanding and management plan would need to be dealt with first, so as not to allow certain people to take over or worse yet is abuse the land offered for this purpose.

**RDN Candidate Eric Moeller:** There are likely opportunities for plots of land on Gabriola that could be used for agriculture. My own land is one of them. I am hoping the new 'Agriculture Advisory Committee' gains insight on land areas and how these lands might be used. Economics, liability, and who does the work are issues needing focus.

**IT Candidate Maggie Mooney:** If elected I would support land use by-laws that would allow young farmers increased access to agricultural land – potential opportunities include co-operative ownership of land, creation of a land inventory in partnership with local community organizations and continued support for by-laws that encourage backyard farm animals (chickens, goats, etc).

**IT Candidate Sheila Malcolmson:** All of Gabriola's ALR land is zoned Agriculture (except the Commons) and vice-versa. We could definitely do a land survey to identify more growing areas, as we know there's lots of good farmland outside the ALR. But we can't compel landowners to grow; governments that own land are able to open it up for community growing, but LTCs aren't allowed to own land. My instinct is to first support an **inventory of RDN community parks** for grow-ability. I think another study should focus on a **baseline of how much food islanders are growing now**, so we can measure our progress toward greater food security over time.  
<http://sheila-malcolmson.ca/on-the-issues/index.html#six> (click on food security for more details)

**IT Candidate Gisele Rudischer:** Food security is an important priority and I would support the creation of an agricultural plan that identifies land suitable for both private and community agriculture. During phase one of the OCP I submitted a recommendation to the LTC that they consider allowing community gardens on some public parks with the cooperation of the RDN.

## **COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND WELL-BEING**

*Q. 3 A recent well-being survey was carried out on Gabriola, measuring our wealth in terms of well-being rather than monetary trade. Have you any thoughts about how the results could be used by the organization you are running for?*

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** I have not read the results of the well-being study, but would be interested in doing so. My understanding of this issue is that we are not just talking about physical health but the overall picture of a person's wellness. The well being of a community and its citizens is vital to its existence. This does not always mean creating the services locally, but sometimes helping a person access the services required and in some cases those services might not be on our island. We also need to be careful as to not confuse entitlement with actual needs. A happy, healthy community is one that will come together, support their own and have a bright future. Once I have read the study I would be happy to act and help in any way the RDN can.

**RDN Eric Moeller:** Well being ties into feeling secure. That also means sustainability of food supply, water, air quality, and supporting each other. In my opinion, Gabriola is a much different and better place to live today than 15 - 20 years ago. Residents are more respectful of the opinions of others. I mentioned at the candidates meeting,

the Weld wood issue of many years ago. The community was divided, threats were made, and people lived in fear of what they said and who they associated with. This island was a horrible place to live with politics dominating common sense and respect. Today residents have the ability to hear someone else and debate issues with respect. At the candidate meeting on November 7, 2011, comments made in a positive way about a candidate that dropped out of the election was missed because he would have added to the evening by having a different view on bridges and other issues. To me, Gabriola is today a community with a high degree of well being, when the guy who likes to talk about bridges is missed at a candidate meeting .... Not because you agree or not with him, but that he would 'add' to the personality of the evening. Society world wide would benefit from that ability to respect, debate, and make informed decisions having regard for community resiliency and well being.

**RDN Howard Houle:** I have read the survey and the submissions made to the Islands Trust for changes to the OCP. I'm not clear on how the results of the well-being survey could be used by the RDN but I am willing to explore the opportunities.

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** Islands Trust decision-making focuses on community well-being already (e.g. Commons & Clinic rezoning decisions), and money-making isn't a principal driver. But this isn't explicit in the OCP (instead it says rezoning applications must describe environmental impacts, and water & septic plans, and leaves other possible thresholds undefined). Community well-being measures could be included in that list, so developers are more clear on what they'll be expected to prove and provide to support their development proposals, before rezoning applications go to the public for comment.

**IT Gisele Rudischer:** Much of the information from the Wellness Survey confirms the appropriateness of many policies already in the OCP, such as protection of the natural environment and community health, i.e. Social Goal Number 1 "To preserve the rural character and atmosphere of the Gabriola Planning Area and ensure that the community remains a viable and healthful place in which to live, providing for a variety of lifestyles in harmony with the natural environment". I would refer to the well-being survey as I would any survey or information when making decisions that relate to the subject matter of the survey.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** I love the approach of measuring our wealth in terms of the well-being of citizens and our ecological systems rather than GDP.

I understand there is already work underway to develop a policy framework based on those alternative indicators of community well-being. I would support further work in this area to determine the usefulness in applying this to the Official Community Plan process as the results are based on a cross-section of Gabriolans and reflect values held across the spectrum. For example being connected to nature and preservation of our natural environment was what Gabriolans identified as a priority for Gabriolans, as was the community spirit on Gabriola. These priorities should be reflected in our policies. One of the main changes (next to ferries) that Gabriolans identified was real change in "lack of openness to ideas and disrespectful public dialogue." Facilitating respectful dialogue is one of my key skills and obviously a priority on Gabriola.

## ***EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS***

*Q. 4 How would you encourage neighbourhoods to create local emergency preparedness plans?*

**RDN Howard Houle:** Being prepared for an emergency is particularly important for island communities. Gabriola Emergency Social Services (GESS) is part of the ESS provincial program which provides short-term assistance to

those forced to leave their homes because of fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. GESS has neighbourhood emergency preparedness kits, instructions for preparing "Grab + Go Kits" and more. They have been successful when it comes to reaching out to the community and as a Regional Director I would do whatever I could to support their work.

**RDN Eric Moeller:** The Emergency Social Services program on Gabriola needs support for its activities. ESS needs financial and storage of equipment needs.

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** Many communities have already engaged in emergency preparedness and GESS is an important role in this. We as communities should know our neighbours this will help for accountability in an emergency, being prepared and having a plan is the key to any emergency. I would encourage GESS and our local Fire Dept. to hold workshops and help continue to guide us on the importance of preparedness.

## **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS**

*Q. 5 What efforts would you make (have you made) to create an economy that supports protection of the environment and reduction in GHG emissions?*

**RDN Eric Moeller:** The question is broad based. For example installing heat pumps support environment protection while providing economics and jobs. So does compost garbage collection. These examples meet the trust's mandate for enviro-economics activities and jobs. However, these types of activities are not generally Gabriola home based operations. In contrast, Gabriola has many home based office and proprietorship types of jobs to support our local economy. Those along with construction work, pension income, people commuting to Nanaimo, social services sector (health and education), tourism, retail businesses, arts and crafts, and farming. The RDN has far more enviro-economics jobs and activities than Gabriola. A recent GHG Emission Gabriola 2008 Report, on greenhouse gas emission reflects cars, trucks, ferry, float plane, boats, and trucks originating off-island, combined show the transportation sector is responsible for 62% of GHG emissions on Gabriola Island. The estimated total for the island is about 15,000 tonnes per year. Since the report, electricity use has likely increased as a result of installing many heat pumps on the island due to government incentives. Heat pumps replaced propane and heating oil emissions. New cars emit far less pollutants than old ones. Plug in electric cars in future may reduce pollutants but will be offset by needing even more electricity. Reducing GHG and protecting the environment is a challenging and on going activity. Demographics in future will also impact emissions. Government estimates suggest that Canada and the USA will have 1 in every 4 people over the age of 65 by 2020. Elderly generally drive less; need more assistance, medical needs, and stay home more. Gabriola already has a higher than average age population. In future it is possible that more jobs on Gabriola could come about in the medical field, home assistance needs, and home support, including providing food.

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** The RDN has many ways to encourage and lobby for environmental concerns. We have seen some with our curb side recycling, solid waste management, composting, cistern and other rebate programs. The Building code is also changing again to enforce more build green ideas and our net zero energuide goal of 2020. With my company I encourage all new home owners to have rain water harvesting, cisterns, higher r-values, low flow plumbing fixtures, energy efficient appliances and fixtures, heat pumps, metal roofs and to buy smart well made products not disposable products, if you can't afford the quality one now when will you be able to afford to replace the cheap disposable one.

**RDN Howard Houle:** I strongly support the Islands Trust mandate and preserving the rural character of Gabriola. It's important to focus developing a local economy that doesn't compromise our fragile ecosystems. Our commitment to environmental responsibility means that as infilling takes place what's important is to attract self sufficient residents including business men and women who share the same green values and rural community values. Maintaining an eco-friendly community, where growth matches what the environment can sustain means

we must all aim to reduce energy consumption, conserve water, minimize waste, reduce impacts on the environment and prevent contamination of air, soil, and ground and surface waters.

Water conservation is a primary concern and trends in increasing population and climate change means that demands and pressures will increase. The RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program is aimed at protecting the Region's water resources and I would like to see the pilot Rainwater Harvesting Incentive Program expanded as well as other incentive programs for water conservation. The building inspection function is the responsibility of Regional districts. The Regional District of Nanaimo promotes green buildings practices through its Green Buildings Action Plan, and is working with other levels of government to reduce some of the main sources of GHG emissions.

**IT Gisele Rudischer:** I don't believe it's within the powers of the LTC to create an economy. All we can do is to create the opportunity for economic growth. In the past, I've supported home business opportunities by relaxing the home occupation sections of the OCP twice. Home businesses are regulated so as not to be a burden on the environment. When people work in their homes they are not commuting to work and GHG emissions are reduced. In the future I would be guided by the climate change provisions in the OCP when making land-use decisions.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** I agree wholeheartedly that a holistic rather than a competing values approach is essential to creating true sustainability.

The preserve and protect mandate of the trust cannot be upheld without recognizing the inseparable interconnectedness between the environmental, social and economic impacts - there are no externalities. The directive policy -- *5.7.2 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address economic opportunities that are compatible with conservation of resources and protection of community character*-- seems to recognize that interconnection. Trustees are required to ensure that environmental and social impacts be considered when making decisions about economic opportunities.

As a trustee, I would like to look for ways that we can change our economic structure to reflect our community values, aspirations and vision. Explore possibilities such as community funds, currencies, micro-credit, cooperatives and social enterprise. And look for opportunities to use tax/fee shifting to address the issue of externalities.

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** I don't totally agree with the premise of the question, since the Islands Trust is meant to protect ecology and community, and economy is part of community.... That said, I don't support commercial developments that harm the environment and disturb neighbourhoods. I've been able to say yes to all but two commercial developments as trustee, all ones in keeping with island character and settlement patterns, and said no to two which were outside the three main commercial areas (they would have increased car travel, and neighbours were opposed).

Our decision this term to encourage affordable housing rezonings within a walkable distance from the Village, and all the climate change advocacy policies we adopted, both further encouraged clustering of development and reduced reliance on cars. We adopted a new OCP policy to amend commercial parking regulations to encourage public transit, smaller vehicles, non-polluting vehicles, and permeable parking surfaces. The Village Planning workshop we just hosted was a good start to identifying new needs and approaches, and I've recommended that this area be a LTC OCP priority this coming term.

In the future, I want to do what the LTC can to **remove barriers to local food production**, which keeps money in the community and reduces GHG emissions. I want to encourage more residences above stores in the **Village**, to have more customers nearby and to have them able to shop on foot. Although I'm required to remain open-minded on all decisions, I'd rather see **future development clustered near the Village**, versus adding to sprawl.

The LTC has already adopted a policy that new proposed developments should prove energy efficiency and mitigate climate change impacts.

I recognize that the LTC cannot create economy; islanders do, and have. Few of our **commercial buildings** existed before the Islands Trust was created; many more have been added since 1974, and they've grown within the Trust zoning framework. Overall, the most important thing is to protect Gabriola's environment and unique character, to attract visitors, businesses and new residents who truly treasure this special place.

More here (click on commercial activities, and on climate change): <http://sheila-malcolmson.ca/on-the-issues/index.html#six>

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

*Q. 6 Many communities have started using waste to produce energy and other useable end products – how would you see Islands Trust (or RDN) supporting such initiatives.*

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** The RDN is already working on this idea through its Landfill Gas Management Plan and in 2002 received a \$500k grant from the Green Municipal Investment Fund to expand the collection system. They currently power the Landfill mechanical shop and hundreds of homes from gases harvested/energy created by the methane gas. With the green bin program they have also diverted 70% of the waste to the landfill. These programs are good and will continue to be expanded on, consumer awareness and education will also help

**RDN Howard Houle:** The RDN's Green Bin Program is a success. By 2012, it's projected the RDN will reduce its per capita disposal to 350 kg and achieve a 70 per cent landfill diversion rate, one of the lowest disposal rates and highest diversion rates of any region in Canada. The long term plan is aimed at using waste to produce energy and other useable end products and the RDN has begun a program to fuel their vehicles with methane produced by the landfill.

**RDN Eric Moeller:** Waste Management already falls under jurisdiction of the RDN. It already uses landfill gases for energy production, and compost collection for fertilizers. The RDN has long term plans for waste management.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** I fully support and applaud the efforts by the current trustees in attempting to identify ways to support alternative energy sources for Gabriola when they created the Climate Change additions to the OCP. I would look to other islands and other small communities to determine ways in which the OCP could support increased opportunities to produce energy from waste. I would also support any initiative that would take waste and turn it into useable end products – I see this is an opportunity to increase local economic activity that, at the same time, is consistent with the preserve and protect mandate.

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** The LTC can **encourage and appropriately site renewable energy technologies through zoning**, and I recommended this as an OCP topic for next term. The 1990s OCP and Land Use Bylaw don't give such guidance, and there aren't a lot of good local government models yet. The LTC adopted a new OCP policy this term to encourage production of renewable energy for local consumption. Advocacy statements in the OCP already encouraged recycling solid wastes locally, and discouraged backyard burning, but a centralized energy project would probably need site-specific zoning, and require public input on neighbourhood impacts. Because it would be an eventual decision-maker, I don't think the LTC should be an advocate of a specific project. That would best be the RDN's role.

**IT Gisele Rudischer:** Gabriola is already involved in the regional initiative to produce energy from the compost collected throughout the region. The goal is fuel all the RDN vehicles from this source. If members in the

community want to produce energy from waste or other useable end products, I would support these efforts if they are environmentally acceptable and supported by the community.

The light industrial section of the current OCP adopted in 1997 while I was a trustee contains these objectives: “To encourage small scale, value-added industrial activities and to foster any light industry that would permit Gabriola to become more self-sufficient”. Of course this is followed by conditions under which such activities can occur.

## **LEARNING**

*Q. 7 Would you support a request to have GES become a community school?*

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** Gabriola’s 1997 OCP advocates for this already.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** There is an advocacy statement in the current OCP to this effect. I would pro-actively engage with the school board to determine feasibility for such a request.

We had indicated that this question was for the school trustees however both Sheila and Maggie provided responses.

## **TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS**

*Q. 8 A cycling plan has been developed consistent with the MOU between Ministry of Transport and Islands Trust to develop bike lanes – what have you done (would you do) to ensure that those bike lanes start being created.*

**RDN Eric Moeller:** I support bike paths as described and discussed at the candidates meeting. Just keep demanding and insisting paths being built.

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** Bike paths are a great way to make our roads safer and help encourage people to get out of their car, this helps in green house gases as well as overall health. I want to help clear up some of the red tape to allow community groups to become more engaged and encourage funding.

**IT Gisele Rudischer:** The biggest impediment to bike lanes being created is the cost. I would lobby the MOTI to commit to road improvements where cycling is dangerous as a first step towards improving bike travel. I would advocate for policies in the OCP that require bike lanes in new commercial developments and for the inclusion of bike lanes in any Village plan that is developed.

Since the Islands Trust does not have the taxing authority for transportation improvements we have no avenue for financing the development of bike lanes. It is my feeling as a Regional Director that in these tough times residents are not willing to pay more taxes even for good causes.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** I would pro-actively work with the Ministry of Transportation, the RDN, the transportation advisory committee currently being proposed by the LTC, and those local community members who created the cycle plan in order to implement the proposed cycle paths on Gabriola. I believe that alternative transportation such as cycle paths and public transportation are, together with local food production, the keys to reducing greenhouse gas emissions on Gabriola.

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** The LTC adopted a **community group's proposal for bike lanes** this term, to help implement the Islands Trust agreement with the Province from the 90s. The bike lane map and policies from the OCP are now registered for the Province to implement when it carries out new road construction and maintenance. A major caveat is that this is dependent on Provincial budgets; the Islands Trust isn't allowed to fund road improvements.

The LTC also established a **Transportation Advisory Commission** this term (we're now soliciting volunteers, for the new LTC to appoint in the new year). One of its jobs will be to advise the LTC on discussions with the Province to implement the bike lane proposal.

(See the ad and terms of reference here, under "latest news": <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gb/default.cfm> )

*Q. 9 Given the substantial efforts to date to get a bus on Gabriola what efforts have you made (would you make) to get the RDN to actually implement it?*

**RDN Jordy Alexander:** The numbers in the transit feasibility study (if B.C. transit and the R.D.N. are involved) say our taxes would go up \$12-\$15 per 100k. Most people I talk to say they would be for this. A public opinion poll to see if there is support would need to take place and then if there was a positive response would encourage and keep on pushing for public transit. This would also help on the Nanaimo side with having that transit system link better with ferry times. We again would be reducing our GHG's and helping our community. If a full bus system isn't supported there are other options.

**RDN Howard Houle:** BC Transit and the Regional District of Nanaimo have completed a study on the feasibility of implementing bus service on Gabriola in 2008. That now backdated feasibility study did not explicitly gather any input on resident appetite to pay for transit through property taxes. Prior to transit service being implemented on Gabriola, widespread community support and willingness to be taxed must exist. Presumably an updated study and cost benefit analysis would need to be undertaken. Only then will RDN Board direct RDN Staff to work with BC Transit staff towards implementation against the requests for other service expansions within the RDN, and amend the RDN Transit Business Plan as required. In addition, BC Transit would have to rank the Gabriola transit expansion against other communities throughout BC.

**RDN Eric Moeller:** The RDN and BC Transit 'Gabriola Island Transit Feasibility study' was published November 30, 2010. It is a MUST READ for people living on this island. The report offers options for transit and provides recommendations. The report states 'While the resident transportation survey conducted by the Gabriola Public Transit Committee gathered a substantial amount of information, it does not explicitly gather any input on resident appetite to pay for transit through property taxes. If the RDN Board is supportive of the transit options provided in this report, it would be useful to undertake a public consultation process to gather resident feedback on the plan's service options and their appetite to enter into the transit funding function'. I support a referendum on transit, based on the report and the recommendations. It appears that Gabriola taxpayer share of the transit cost could be up to \$300,000.00 per year. Given that the combined property taxes collected from Gabriola is roughly \$1,000,000.00 per year, transit could add 30%. I believe that taxpayers need to have a say in the matter. On the upside, opportunity to provide transit options, and information to residents are generally venues leading up to referendum. Gabriola is currently deciding a new fire hall. That also will be decided by referendum.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** While this question was targeted to the RDN I believe that the Islands Trust can also play a role in supporting implementation of the bus and taxi-saver program recommended by community members and BC Transit. I would identify opportunities in which either staff or I would engage with RDN and BC Transit, together with interested community members, to encourage establishment of these two options that would reduce the increasing number of cars on the road.

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** The old OCP advocated that a public transit feasibility study be completed; since that's now been done, this term's new OCP encourages a limited mini-bus transit service, and advocates that when a public transit bus route is in place, it should be referred to when considering land use and planning decisions.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Q. 10 Community Plan for Climate Change –what would you do to include the community in developing a community plan for climate change?*

**IT Sheila Malcolmson:** My first priority is to change what we can within the LTC's sphere of authority, **using zoning tools to reduce GHG emissions**. The LTC already adopted a policy to revise development application checklists to include climate change and greenhouse gas emission reduction and adaptation criteria, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration impacts. The LTC adopted a policy (which is also one of my stated campaign priorities) this term to consider new development permit area guidelines that promote low impact land uses, alternative transportation, energy conservation, water conservation, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. There are lots of zoning regulation changes we can discuss with community members too. I want to get that work done using the best community knowledge we have, and I know there's lots of it here!

But my priority is to do that before working on a "Community Plan for Climate Change". I think we'd have more credibility moving beyond the LTC's areas of direct authority once we have exhausted the tools available to us. I would encourage and be enthusiastic about any parallel climate change planning work done in the community, where the LTC's work and the community work complement each other. That way we would be, as a community planning together for climate change, in several spheres.

**IT Gisele Rudischer:** I see the OCP Climate Change Adaptation policies as a good start on involving the community in a plan for climate change. There are many advocacy policies that are aimed at residents that should be widely publicized. I especially like the idea of a "carbon neutral calculator" that would allow residents to calculate their personal greenhouse gas emissions with a printout that compiles a list of personal actions that can be taken to reduce emissions, tailored to the individual conditions entered into the calculator.

I also think that the newly created Agricultural Advisory Committee is an opportunity for community involvement through information and recommendations on local food security, which would be part of any climate change plan.

**IT Maggie Mooney:** Climate change affects us all on local, national and international levels, and I share the view as responsible global citizens we need to be addressing this issue in almost every lifestyle and policy decision we make. I would support a similar process to that carried out on Salt Spring Island in which a community forum, in which a wealth of locally collected climate-change information would be used as the basis for a discussion of actions and targets. I would support a collaboration among various Gabriolan groups involved in climate change initiatives hosting the event.