

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GABRIOLA OCP

A year and a half ago the Local Trust Committee supported the initiation of a Gabriola Community Sustainability Plan (CSP), one of the trustees identifying the tremendous input the development of a CSP would have for Gabriola's Official Community Plan. In response to that initiative some volunteers interested in these topics have worked to facilitate useful connections between individuals and groups in the community and to hold open a space for exploration and dialogue. Sustainable Gabriola is the network of individuals and groups.

What is sustainability? What kind of community do we want to live in? How can we protect the ecological systems on Gabriola? What does well-being mean to Gabriolans? Should the purpose of our economic system be to provide more luxuries or to ensure we have enough to eat, have shelter and time to celebrate life? How are our actions connected to the broader world? As part of the Sustainable Gabriola process these are all questions that have been posed to Gabriolans over the last year and a half. We believe these are vital questions for the Local Trust Committee as it reviews the Official Community Plan.

On **May 9th, 2009**, 30 people attended the inaugural Gabriola Sustainability meeting at the Haven, in an open style session with participants self-selecting topics for discussion. The group began the process of defining sustainability from a Gabriola perspective and topic discussions were recorded for a range of themes.

The next steps included building on the initial discussions and finding people interested in taking a lead on topics plus the development of principles and vision based on the May 9th session. On **October 24th, 2009** about 70 people attended the second Sustainable Gabriola meeting and identified goals, actions and indicators for the various topic areas and commented on the principles and vision. Actions based on those conversations were started, together with the development of a community sustainability plan.

On **April 24th, 2010** the third public meeting was held, approximately 100 community members commented on the goals and actions derived from previous public input as well as participating in a myriad of other activities.

A **Community Sustainability Plan** was created from those discussions (see attached). The topics in the plan include:

Agricultural Land and Food Security	Learning
Community Well-being and Resiliency	Waste Management
Ecosystems and Natural Areas	Climate change & air quality
Energy	Housing
Transportation	Water
Economics	Soul

Community organizations, individuals and government bodies all have a role in responding to the actions identified in the Plan. The following recommendations for the OCP are derived from

the Community Sustainability Plan and reflect the specific role of Islands Trust given their mandate to:

“Preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally”

Specific Recommendations

Agricultural Land and Food Security:

- Introduce an advocacy statement into OCP regarding labeling of GMO and Non-GMO seeds and foods.
- Introduce an advocacy statement regarding banning the cosmetic use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides in any area that has potential to contaminate neighboring properties thru groundwater, surface, or airborne drift.

Community Well-being:

- Incorporate the Well-being Survey results into the existing planning mechanism of the LTC.

Eco-systems and Natural Areas:

- Amend the OCP to include ecosystem and landform mapping of properties brought forward for subdivision.
- Support the development of plans to reduce the presence of invasive non-native plants and animals.

Energy:

- Introduce policies and advocacy statements in the OCP that will encourage individuals and organizations to reduce energy consumption, use energy more efficiently, and start bringing alternative energy sources on stream.

Economic:

- Incorporate into the OCP the intention to create a sustainable economic plan for Gabriola that reflects the strategies identified in the economic component of the Community Sustainability Plan.

Transportation

- Include cycle route outlined in “Shared Roadways – Gabriola Cycle Route Plan” in OCP.
- Include phantom bus route in OCP developed through public consultation.
- Implement vehicle speeds that support concept of shared roadway and the use of electric vehicles.
- Increase ability to walk between commercial buildings in Village core through reduced vehicle speed, footpaths between all commercial buildings in village core, and redesign to focus on increased pedestrian and cycle use.

Climate Change

- LTC partner with organizations and individuals on Gabriola involved in Climate Change actions to facilitate a public process to identify strategies and targets for GHG emissions applicable to Gabriola Island.

Housing

- Ensure implementation of the ecological footprint (criteria including water, sewage, transportation and building) for Accessory Dwelling Units.
- Implement the ecological footprint criteria for Island Trust decisions involving land use (include water, sewage, transportation, building, allotment gardens, eco-system and landform mapping).
- Support the establishment of an affordable housing authority.

General Recommendations:

- LTC engage in regular dialogues/forums with community members engaged in actions aimed at achieving those sustainability objectives stated by the Islands Trust.
- LTC members or Islands Trust staff participates in relevant implementation meetings for those areas in which Islands Trust can play a role (as noted in the plan) in order to achieve goals consistent with stated purpose of Islands Trust.
- The Local Trust Committee adopts the Sustainable Gabriola principles and values for inclusion (in part or in whole) in the OCP.