

## Local Eco-systems and Climate Change

Raw ideas from 7 table discussions September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Changing Ecosystems

Adapting

- Helping trees move north
- Need more parks/nature reserves
- Happy to see mitigation/changes ... it's part of nature
- Leave the trees alone
- More conservation of private land
- Limit the number of newcomers [and how they interact with the environment]
- 
- $\text{Impact} = \text{Population} \times \text{Affluence} \times \text{Technology}$

### (?) Agriculture & ecosystem impact

Tension between local food and ecosystem impact

- Spread out the impact — neighbourhood food production
- Garden Bank — Matches people with land with people who want to grow
- Neighbourhood composting for local soil

Take pressure off terrestrial by using ocean food, using FN traditional techniques

Food plant library, e.g. loan a tomato plant for a season ... or a pot of good soil, + seeds

Year-round food sustainability — e.g. a community greenhouse on the Commons

### Trees #1

Adapting

- Ecosystem inhabitants curate their land, in response to local conditions
- Encourage people to use non-native plants that are not invasive but are adapted to CC
- Encourage people to develop interactions with/for the care of trees. Educate them about how to interpret the changing landscape
- Encourage use of mushrooms to convert woody waste into food and useful dirt.

Reducing

- Decommission roads, encourage use of non-combustion modes of transport
- Fewer and narrower roads for less impact on trees
- Enc. use of forest food plants to sequester carbon and reduce reliance on distant food sources.
- Encourage plants that have beneficial (symbiotic) relationships with local trees
- E.g. eat more stinging nettle and huckleberry

### (?) Rewilding

Adapting

- Whole island water retention [water collection]
- 707 inventory mapping by experts (VIU)
- Elsewhere, offer people-oriented areas to protect

Reducing

- Beaver whisperer
- Beaver restoring year

- (g)roundwater systems — contact Bill McCallum
- Examples: Burnaby River Lake & Cowichan River

## Insects

### Adapting

- Education on local native plants, plant native species that benefit native insects
- Don't use insecticides
- GALLT brings in "plant of the year" in bulk
- Controlled, prescribed burns to reduce non-native seeds
- Biochar to put carbon and other nutrients back into soil
- Make rock/brush piles for insects, amphibians, reptiles [habitat]
- Stop roto-tilling
- Stop cleaning gardens in fall, to encourage overwintering insects

### Reducing

- Look for alternatives to oil/gas products, cement [and publicize them]
- [general advice]
  - Think!
  - Shop at GIRO
  - Buy local fresh fruit/veg
  - Live simply, make do with less ... think about our consumptive values
  - Eat less meat

## (?) Trees #2

### Adapting

- List of trees/plant re Richard Hebda
- Forest gardening — maintaining understory, overstory
  - Protect plants vulnerable to deer, etc., until they are big enough
  - Dogwood, evergreen huckleberry, ocean spray, speria, deciduous trees & shrubs
- How to disseminate information widely on the island
- Lobby for infrastructure, i.e. buried hydro lines [to minimize tree impact]
- Planting more trees suitable to a changing climate
- Suggested for later sessions:
  - ~~Talking to~~ *In Search of the Mother Tree* (Simone Simard?)

### Reducing

- Information re healthy forests sequestering carbon (per factsheet)
- More pollen (& allergies) because of stressed trees

## Flora & fauna

### Adapting

- What is a native species? Adapting? Mitigation? Prevention?
- Regulations to reduce tree cutting
- Covenants important [and encouraged] through taxes and social sanctions
- What is native species of fauna
  - Venison feast & turkey roast
- Issues around people feeding wildlife

### Reducing

- General

- Minimize burning fossil fuels