

Sustainable Gabriola

Notes of October 30th, 2022 meeting, Commons

Present: Fay Weller, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Deb Ferens, Suzi, Bob McKechnie, Tom Cameron, Charlotte Cameron, Steve Earle, Greg Blee, Joyce

Fay was the facilitator.

1. **Climate 12-12-12**

Forty-two people attended the Café on October 27th. The themes were: young farmers access to land, winter crops, adapting crops to changing climate, financial viability of farming, collaborations, access to local food, eating to reduce GHG, food self sufficiency. There was a strong sentiment around collaboration. About 24 attended the GERTIE farm tour to Watercliff and Cobnut farms and the Gabriola Nature Education Society (GNES). Pollen spoke about and demonstrated their shift towards perennial crops, the need for crop rotation, his no-till, low-till and full-till methods, issues around water and keeping the concept of sequestering carbon front of mind. Rob spoke about the number of calories that are needed to feed a person on Gabriola, and how we could do that here. He spoke of six high-caloric crops that could feed us: chestnuts, apples, hazelnuts, raspberries, red currants, and grapes, and how much land that would take. Karen showed us around the Gabriola Nature Education Society farm on John Switzer's land.

The 12-12-12 organizers are talking about creating a climate-change collaborative to implement some of the ideas that have been coming out of the 12-12-12 project. Deb: We should consider the transition town concept. Dyan: Sustainable Gabriola is the foundation for moving forward. We need a communication strategy. Suzi: We need to be letting prospective residents know that there is a strong self-sufficiency ethos on the island and the basics on how Gulf Islands are governed. Islands Trust office should have some information on how to live on a Gulf Island.

Future 12-12-12 topics: November is Energy, December is Waste, January is Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

2. **Climate Change Global**

Deb: COP27 at Sharm el-Sheik in Egypt starts next week. There are huge human rights abuses in Egypt. The government is controlling attendance by local groups. The UN has failed to ensure that independent groups can attend. We should be listening to what Indigenous people are saying at COP27. Human health is connected to climate change.

Action: Deb to prepare letter to the Prime Minister and Environment Minister and for others to use.

3. **Well-being collaborative**

Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative (GHWC) is a volunteer network with 52 members, the majority of which are organizations. The recent October 23rd Collaborative planning event was designed to get participant ideas around advancing capacity in three areas: Truth and Reconciliation, Climate Change, Emergency Planning. These topics were identified in a Community Health and Wellness survey which had 435 respondents and over

4,000 comments - <https://www.gabriolahealthmatters.ca/> . Sustainable Gabriola is taking leadership in addressing the climate crisis; Dyan wants the GHWC to consider ways to support Sustainable Gabriola's efforts. The Collaborative would focus on the negative health impacts of climate change. This will be discussed at the Collaborative's November 25th meeting.

4. **Electric Vehicles**

Steve summarized some of the data on EVs that are available from ICBC*. (For example, in 2021 the per cent of EVs (versus all private vehicles) in the following locations are: Campbell R – 0.67%, Courtney – 1.26%, Nanaimo – 1.26%, Duncan – 1.84%, Victoria – 2.28%, **Gabriola – 2.40%**, Vancouver 3.21%, and Salt Spring – 5.32%. From 2016 to 2021 the number of EVs on Gabriola increased as follows: 5, 8, 14, 28, 37, and 51. The average annual rate of growth over that period is 167%. If we can keep growing at that rate, we can get to 50% EVs on Gabriola by 2029.

*<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/icbc/viz/VehiclePopulationIntroPage/VehiclePopulationData>

5. **Electoral boundary change**

The meeting to comment on the proposed changes (which has Gabriola included with central Nanaimo) is in Nanaimo (Conference Centre) on Tuesday (November 1st). To comment on the proposed changes people can go to bcebc.ca

6. **Fire chief process petition**

There is a petition about opening the process for the renewal of the chief. The petition isn't sponsored by a person but by an anonymous group, and there seems to be no information about what is to happen with the petition.

7. **Ocean Bridge**

They contacted Sustainable Gabriola because the work with youth on the water and wanted to see what they could do on Gabriola. They came here and Lou took them to see how GALTT deals with invasives.

Notes by Steve

Next meeting is November 27 at 3 pm. John Peirce will facilitate. Nancy will take notes.