

Notes of Sustainable Gabriola meeting

October 29th, 2023

Present: Dyan, Suzi, Sally B, John B, Joan, Gina, Greg, Katharine, Deb F, Tom, Charlotte, Gerry, Deborah Blake, Susan S, Steve

Mainroad leaf blower

Susan wrote to Mainroad about the use of leaf blowers. Asked if they have a plan to replace gas with electric. Operations manager for Central Island replied that they are gradually replacing gas tools with battery. Steve offered to work with Susan in follow-up actions.

Deb's world view

Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Avaaz has partnered with some of the best international lawyers to file a powerful submission on climate change with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It explains how climate anxiety is violating children's rights, and how Indigenous communities must be front and centre in the biggest environmental challenge of our time.

West Coast Environmental Law plans to take on fossil fuel companies for their role in climate change

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/sue-big-oil-campaign-lawsuit-dossil-fuel-companies-1.6489799>

Environmental advocates are calling on British Columbians and local governments to back a plan to take oil companies to court for their role in climate change.

West Coast Environmental Law launched a campaign called "Sue Big Oil" on Wednesday, asking people to sign a declaration encouraging municipalities to offer up \$1 per resident to go toward a class action lawsuit against fossil fuel companies. SIGN THE DECLARATION <https://suebigoil.ca/>

The Rights of Nature: A Legal Revolution That Could Save the World by David R. Boyd

<https://www.amazon.ca/Rights-Nature-Legal-Revolution-Could/dp/1770412395>

A growing body of law around the world supports the idea that humans are not the only species with rights; and if nature has rights, then humans have responsibilities.

The window is closing': Cop28 must deliver change of course on climate

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/02/window-closing-cop28-change-course-climate-dubai>

UN COP 28 taking place Nov 30 to Dec 12, 2023 in Dubai, hosted by United Arab Emirates – a leading oil and gas producer and presiding over the summit – Sultan Al Jaber, chief executive of the country's national oil company. This year will mark a significant milestone: the first assessment since 2015 of how countries are faring against the emissions-cutting commitments they made at Paris, a process known as the "global stocktake".

Scientists urge WHO to declare health emergency for planet

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/world/329120/scientists-urge-who-to-declare-health-emergency>

The report published by more than 200 health journals urged the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare the climate and nature crisis a singular crisis to be tackled together to avoid catastrophe.

The team of authors outlined the dire impacts linked to rising temperatures, extreme weather events and the loss of wildlife.

The world's health-related environmental challenges are now severe, the group wrote, from the spread of infectious diseases, to the rise of waterborne infections, to the health impacts of air pollution. Changes in land use, for instance, have forced "tens of thousands of species into closer contact," increasing the exchange of pathogens and fuelling the emergence of new diseases.

"The climate crisis and loss of biodiversity both damage human health, and they are interlinked," said lead author Kamran Abbasi, editor in chief of the British Medical Journal, in a statement.

Deb will send me blurbs. Avaaz is filing a big court case. June IT quarterly meeting a delegation on sue big oil is looking for \$1/resident to help support court challenge. David Boyd "Rights of Nature" COP 28 Nov. 30 to Dec 12 in Dubai first global stock take following Paris 2015 agreement.

Greg asked: Should SG get involved with "Sue Big Oil" through IT. Steve will work with Greg on that.

Opioid Response

Dyan reported that there was another opioid death on Gabriola (on the Commons in a tent). That's now 10 for the year. The GHW Collaborative is convening a task-force work group to map out what our response needs to look like. First meeting November 6th.

Cliff Cardinal

Greg: Cliff Cardinal is a cultural provocateur from Toronto. He has a one-man play (*As You Like It*) that is mostly a land acknowledgement. It's in the library. Greg suggests collecting some change every time we do a land acknowledgement and donate it to the SFN. \$66 was collected and it will go into a special account at Island Futures.

Climate 12 action

We are in the action teams phase of the project. Teams include, water, transportation, economic change arts and culture, food production, biodiversity, buildings and energy, health and wellness, indigenous lens. Joan: Water team is planning to produce a manual on water issues for Gabriolans. Susan: economic change is focussed on measuring (e.g., happiness index). Working on a buy-local eat-seasonal campaign. Betty is setting up mentorships in the community on growing and sharing food. Steve; The transportation team is working on the ferry-village trail, hitch-hiking stops, and neighbourhood shared rides. We will be meeting with GALTT to discuss the classification of certain off-road trails as connecting routes and might be looking for funding to upgrade those.

Anyone is welcome to join one of the teams.

Regenerate Cascadia

Joan: Joe Brewer is on tour and his presentation on Gabriola was on October 25th. It was based on the idea of regenerating our watersheds. In Colombia he has created a design school for regenerating the Earth. Children are invited to meetings so that they can hear what is going on and so that the adults have them in mind when making decisions.

Navcan

John asked about any progress on the letter written to Navcan. Perhaps Bob can give us an update.

Gabriola Talks

Deferred to the next meeting.

Landwaste

Gerry is interested in natural waste, re-building habitat and reducing wildfire risk. Carol the fire-smart coordinator is frustrated because they want to do a waste burn but need permission. GALT wants us to join them in a biochar project. Susan spoke about Bowen's (failed) efforts to have composting on island. Sally spoke about conflicts between brush as habitat and as a fire risk.

Website

Greg reports that the SG website active page is now Climate 12 action, and there is a link in the main menu. Greg is going to make a Facebook page for Sustainable Gabriola.

Next meeting: November 26 (Nancy/Fay)