

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA – notes of JANUARY 26, 2025 meeting

Present: Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley (facilitator), Kes Arends, Deborah Blake, Deb Ferens, Greg Blee, Bob Andrew, Betty Kehler, Charlotte Cameron, Tom Cameron, Steve Earle, Lynn Creasey, Suzi, Liz, John Peirce, Nancy Hetherington Peirce (notes).

1. Dyan welcomed everyone and people introduced themselves. Kes provided the Reconciliation Moment, speaking on this Robbie Burns day about the evictions of the Highland Scots during the Highland Clearances (mid-18th to mid-19th centuries). Meeting agreed on the agenda.
2. Dyan reported that Tobi Elliott, a Gabriola Trustee, asked that she mention the Islands Trust Housing Needs Survey 2025 that is open now
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HousingSurvey2025>
3. Application to Nanaimo to rezone the large property beside Harmac to Industrial – Bob explained that currently Nanaimo staff are reviewing the application. Nanaimo does not send a “referral” (a request for comments) to the Islands Trust, but Gabriola and Mudge residents can individually send letters to the City of Nanaimo re this application. Bob’s Letter to the Editor of the Sounder will likely be published on January 29th and has further information.
4. Update on Gabriola Health & Wellbeing Collaborative – Kes (SG rep on Collaborative) that the January meeting is on January 31, so there are no Collaborative updates to mention.
5. Poison Drug Action Table (G. Health & Wellbeing Collaborative) – Dyan reported that this initiative of the Collaborative has been in place for several months, and consists of some Collaborative members and some health care professionals. Their goal is to create a “compassionate community”. One action happening soon will be a community engagement project to tell stories on families impacted by addiction.
6. Extreme Weather Action Table (G. Health & Wellbeing Collaborative) – Dyan reported that this initiative of the Collaborative has been in place for several months, and consists of some Collaborative members and other volunteers from the community. Plans are now in place for both cooling and warming daytime centres, using the Fellowship Church. On-island criteria will be used to decide when to open (temperature, weather, power outage, etc.), and is being co-ordinated by Penny Scott, the newly-contracted Community Wellbeing Coordinator who works with the Collaborative.
 - a. **ACTION: Dyan** will ask Penny to post on the Collaborative and Sustainable Gabriola websites the criteria for opening the centre
7. Global Climate News – See Deb F’s report at the end of these notes. The meeting expressed their appreciation to Deb for her consistently high-quality and helpful monthly reports.
8. Climate Expressions event on January 25, 2025 – Steve reported that several people presented their stories, poetry, etc, at this free event at the library yesterday.
9. Update on GILSS (G. Land Stewards Society) - John (Sustainable Gabriola rep on GILSS Board) reported that GILSS continues to search for appropriate properties to acquire that would fit with their three-part focus: farming and/or affordable housing and/or small business.
10. Food security on Gabriola – Betty reported that she and others are starting discussions on how to encourage local people to grow some of their own food this year. Various suggestion were offered by the group.
11. Next meeting – Sunday February 23, 2025, 3 to 4:30pm. Facilitator: Deb; Notes: Steve

Jan 26, 2025

Global Climate News [From Wildfires to Heavy Metal Playlist](#)

1. Los Angeles Fires

- Insurance Premiums Spike as Natural Disasters Strike. What Homeowners Can Do.
- Hurricanes, floods and wildfires are wreaking havoc, and property owners are paying the price.
- Private firefighters are helping out in LA wildfires. It raises ethical questions.

<https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en-ca/knowledge/publications/fa0b3cbd/the-role-of-insurance-in-a-changing-climate-what-next>

<https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/homeowners-insurance/natural-disaster-costs/>

<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/18/nx-s1-5265301/california-wildfires-private-firefighters>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/insurance-rates-2025-spike-climate-canada-1.7430472>

Insurance Companies and Climate Change:

It turns out that Insurance Companies think deeply about climate change. As a regulatory priority, it is well known that the insurance sector is very well positioned and highly incentivized in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation for two reasons.

1. The associated risk affects both the assets and liabilities of the insurance balance sheet
2. Insurers have decades of expertise in extreme risk pooling, which is critical in relation to the management and mitigation of the catastrophic effects that arise as a result of climate change

Military

Just like global insurance companies, the professional military everywhere have grasped the impact of global warming, as it will impact the food supply causing suffering, poverty across the world especially in the tropics and sub-tropics, it will generate huge numbers of refugees, of “failed states”, and of wars between countries that must share river systems. So state military planning includes planning for climate change disasters.

2. Backtracking

So if insurance companies and the military, two of the stuffiest and most entrenched global corporate dominant society entities recognize the climate crisis why is there so much recent **backtracking** on climate?

- Four of Canada's biggest banks leave Mark Carney-led climate initiative
- The world has ground to make up at climate summit in Dubai after a year of ‘backsliding’
- What Trump’s exit from the climate deal really means

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/30/world/cop28-climate-backsliding/index.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/net-zero-corporate-climate-targets-1.7338799>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/canada-banks-leave-net-zero-banking-alliance-1.7435273>

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/20/trumps-exit-climate-deal-means-00199406>

3. How is this related to President Trump’s musing about Greenland and Canada?

- Staking a claim in Canada’s North. Reframing public perception on Arctic sovereignty and international law.
- An ice-free Arctic means more private vessels and cruise ships, more fishing, more resource extraction, mining, bioprospecting.

- The environmental changes occurring in the north have transformed the narrative of the Arctic and its place on the geopolitical stage.

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/society-societe/stories-histoires/story-histoire-eng.aspx?story_id=216

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/canadian-yearbook-of-international-law-annuaire-canadien-de-droit-international/article/arctic-governance-in-the-face-of-climate-change-a-case-for-inclusive-regionalism/12C215CABAAC9E83B80E2D297D13FA14>

4. Doomsday Clock 2025

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/timeline/>

- On Tues, January 28th, the *Bulletin* of Atomic Scientists will reveal the 2025 Doomsday Clock time in Washington, DC.

-The Bulletin considers multiple global threats in the Clock setting, including the proliferation of nuclear weapons, disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, the Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Hamas war, Israel-Hezbollah conflict, bio-threats and the continued climate crisis.

Doomsday Clock Trivia

- The Clock's original setting in 1947 was 7 minutes to midnight
- 2023 the Clock was reset at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest to midnight the Clock has been in its nearly 80 years of existence. Remained at 90 seconds in 2024.
- the clock was furthest from midnight in 1991, with the end of the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the first treaty to provide for deep cuts to the two countries' strategic nuclear weapons arsenals, prompting the *Bulletin* to set the clock hand to 17 minutes to midnight.
- there is a [turn back the clock exhibit](https://thebulletin.org/virtual-tour/), originally on display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, and is now available for visitors worldwide to explore online.<https://thebulletin.org/virtual-tour/>
- Probably the most important note. Did you know that there is a DOOMSDAY CLOCK PLAYLIST? Ranging from Pink Floyd "Two Suns in the Sunset" (1983) to "Wasteland Baby" by Hozier (2019)

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