

SUSTAINABLE GABRIOLA

NOTES OF MARCH 22, 2026 MEETING



Present: Bob M (facilitator), Susan S, Janice C, Betty K, Greg B, Bob A, John P, Nancy HP (notes), Tom C, Charlotte C, Dyan DF.

1. Bob McK as facilitator welcomed everyone and did introductions. Greg provided the Reconciliation Moment (see Appendix A). The agenda was approved by general agreement.
2. Islands Trust items – Bob A
 - a. on March 23: LTC Special Meeting for a presentation and discussion of the “Islands Trust Freshwater Footprint – Methodology Development and Gabriola Case Study” report: islandstrust.bc.ca/document/freshwater-footprint-gabriola-case-study-update/
FAQ: islandstrust.bc.ca/document/faq-freshwater-footprint-project-gabriola-island-pilot/
 - b. IT staff recently reported to the Council that the progress of updating the Trust Policy Statement is delayed and the final approvals will not be completed before the October 2026 Trustees elections.
3. Gabriola Matters – Susan reported that a small group of people is developing a new initiative on the island to focus on discerning important community issues and encouraging community discussions about them.
Tagline: “*What is Important and Who Decides?*” The small group currently consists of Susan S, Greg B and Annie O. One focus will likely be the October 2026 election for trustees & regional director. Future issues could include: environmental, transportation, etc. They will add a Gabriola Matters page to the SustainableGabriola.ca
4. Events – Various people mentioned the following events:
 - a. Friday March 27 – RDN & Climate 12 are sponsoring a Well-water Management presentation, 3:30-5:30pm at the Community Hall. Also the launch of Climate-12 publication *Household Water on Gabriola Island: an Information Guide for Homeowners and Residents*.
 - b. Sunday April 12 – AGM of the Transportation Society; 1pm at the Rollo Centre.
 - c. Sunday April 26 – Fix-It-Fair, 1 – 3 pm at the Agi Hall.
 - d. Sunday May 17 – Well-measuring workshop (time and place TBA) from Blue Heron Learning Society.
5. Climate Crisis – Thank-you to Deb Ferens for preparing information that Bob A read to the group. (Photos of the hand-written information are attached to these notes.)
6. Report from rep to the Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society – John: Some things are happening, but all details are confidential.

7. BC Local Elections in October 2026 – Various people mentioned information; elections are held every four years. General discussion ensued regarding the Gabriola elections.
- a. Meeting agreed to have “Gabriola Elections” as a standing monthly agenda item until October.
 - b. Relevant details and dates (from Greg, sent afterward):

Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections, including accepting candidate nominations, voting, counting, and reporting results. Gabriolans will be will voting for:

 - 1 director from Gabriola for the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo
 - 2 trustees from Gabriola for the Islands Trust Council
 - 9 trustees (district-wide) for the Board of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District

Jul-31 — deadline to apply to register an elector organization
 Aug-18 — Deadline for voter registration with Elections BC. (After this, voters can still register with their local government)
 Sep-01 — Nomination period begins
 Sep-11 — Close of nominations
 Sep-19 — Campaign period begins
 Oct-17 — General Voting Day (advance voting days will be available)
8. Next meeting: Sunday April 26, 3-4:30pm Commons farmhouse
 Facilitator: Fay W Notes: Steve E Reconciliation Moment: Janice C

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Appendix A

This is Dyan DF’s statement, from the 27 June 2021 Sustainable Gabriola meeting notes, that kicked off our monthly Reconciliation Moment practice.

1. Land Acknowledgements – how to make land acknowledgements more than rote performances – Dyan DF

We come to this space we call Canada with a sense of entitlement reinforced by western religion and technological supremacy. This is strengthened by systems (legal and economic) which favour capital and business interests and that underpinned the necessity of ‘stealing’ land from Indigenous peoples.

The use of land acknowledgements is not even across Gabriola organizations, for example GES does not currently have one but is working on one.

People agreed that land acknowledgements had to come from the heart, but that can be challenging when you understand the issue intellectually as opposed to being able to absorb the impacts of past actions on the present day lives of Indigenous peoples. The repetitive nature of repeating specific land acknowledgements rather than being understood as a rote exercise could also be thought of as an anthem

– repetition ingrains the message and can act as a learning tool. It could be thought of as a mantra or an affirmation.

A land acknowledgement is a step in affirming a ‘truth’ which is necessary before we can begin the process of reconciliation. Part of that truth is that we have witnessed and participated in cultural genocide. With that comes a strong feeling of guilt. We are left to reflect on how we redress these wrongs. Guilt is experienced differently depending on the roles we have played over the years. For instance, as a teacher being ashamed for what one has taught in the past and recognizing that we each have a duty to learn and know.

There is a recognition of the deep connection of Indigenous people between land and culture. Understanding that relationship would be important to beginning the process of reconciliation. As well we can consider learning some aspects of the language as a signal of respect. Terms like *Huy-ch q’u seeum* (thank you very much) and *Uy’skweyal* (good day) can be used to demonstrate both interest and respect for culture (pronunciations can be found at: <http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/hulqumimum-resourses/hulquminum-greetings/>).

Actions:

- Build a land acknowledgement into each meeting by having whoever is chair prepare a statement that expresses their commitment and understanding. Dyan is facilitating the next meeting so she will try to craft something that expresses her understanding.
- Several resources were also recommended: Suzanna Moodie’s book *Roughing it in the Bush* – as an early Canadian settler—and Leanne Simpson’s book *Noopiming: The Cure for White Ladies* for an Indigenous perspective. Also, Bob Joseph’s *21 Things You May Not Know about the Indian Act*. And for a satirical examination see Baroness von Sketch https://youtu.be/LQyFfC7_U-E

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