

Questions from the press and Answers - 2

1. Question: Private or Public? Do you believe that land left in private hands will remain preserved or is it better to be attained for public control?

Land like the 2800 acre Weldwood property reverted back to the government after the community rejected Weldwood development plans. In another case, taxpayers decided to buy the Descanso Bay parkland, and raise taxes to do it. Gabriola made a wise decision to buy that property, or developers likely would have. Density transfers have also result public lands. Future 'special opportunity land' purchase opportunity, has to be decided by the taxpayer to buy it or not.

2. Question: Huxley Park: Huxley Park recently came under the ownership/control of the Regional District of Nanaimo. The consultation for a Huxley Park Management Plan will likely be part of the next term - given the opportunity to work on improving Huxley Park, how do you foresee that happening?

Huxley Park falls under the RDN Parks and Recreation. I would be pleased to discuss Management Plans for the Park. The Huxley Park Association and Sports Association have received grant money from the RDN in past to support park use activities. The RDN representative would need to continue to lobby for RDN financial support for Huxley Park, along with other groups on the island, that also need RDN financial support for their activities.

3. Question: Bus transit system: Do you believe the time has come for Gabriola to have a public transit system? Whether it is a bus, taxi saver program or.....?

The RDN website contains a comprehensive Transit Feasibility Study for Gabriola. **THIS IS A MUST READ for all Gabriola residents.** Final decisions by the RDN have not been made. If the RDN Board is supportive of the transit options provided in the report, it would be useful to undertake a public consultation process to gather resident feedback on the plan's service options and cost to taxpayers. People need to decide to fund transit.