

Questions from the press and Answers - 3

Question 1: The Islands Trust has put forward a request the RDN partner in creating a Housing Partnership to enable affordable housing proposals on Gabriola - your thoughts on if the RDN should be partnering with the Trust to make this happen and how it might look?

The RDN is not in the building construction business , other than building permits and inspection. The RDN however, can hold and administer housing agreements, meaning conditions about a property for size, rental and details of a housing proposal. The Islands Trust administers zoning and planning on Gabriola.

Question 2: Other than the 'water action plan' Gabriola has enjoyed a fairly neutral increase in taxes over the last term. However, one might say that has meant little new income to be put towards improvements of RDN properties and responsibilities on Gabriola. Are there any programs or initiatives you would be in favour of increasing taxes to fund?

I want garbage containers, and collection in the parks during tourist season. Gabriola taxes in 2011 increased to \$901,201 from \$881,669 in 2010 . In 2012, Islands Trust will cost more. Solid waste collection may also cost more. There may be a need for baseline noise impact assessment of the island.

Question 3: A transit-oriented question. The Gabriola Emergency Wharf adjacent to the Ferry terminal is currently funded by Gabriola ratepayers to the tune of \$6,000. (for 2011) The funding bylaw for it is worded as, "for the purpose of establishing, constructing, operating and maintaining wharf facilities in the Service Area." Would you see a purpose/need for allowing vessels other than the BC Ambulance vessel to use the wharf? Be it for a passenger-only service to and from Nanaimo Harbour or short-term tie up for private vessels? The assumption is part of the wharf would stay designated, reserved and open at all times for BC Ambulance.

I do not see BC Ferries changing services any time soon, therefore I see no need for a separate passenger-only service using the Emergency Wharf. The recent Nanaimo ferry ramp accident was an emergency that was nicely handled by private boat operators temporarily using the Emergency Wharf as intended.