

Questions from the press and Answers - 1

1. Why are you running for the position?

I ran for RDN in the past. I also ran for Islands Trust in the past. Local politics, and well being of Gabriola Island is a long time passion of mine. Issues at the time of running for the RDN in past were big garbage collection, and saving it from the RDN dispensing with big garbage collection day. (It went by the wayside even though I had negotiated with the RDN Engineering staff a longer time frame to retain the benefit. (Did not get elected, big garbage day went by the wayside).

Today issues may involve transportation (bus), noise (gun club), Provincial legislation possibly addressing groundwater, and demographics of the island and general population. Other issues that may involve the RDN, are the Fire hall, and maybe some RDN participation in land use matters. (Agriculture)

2. Are there particular issues you think need to be dealt with?

Likely the gun club noise problem. Time will tell if negotiations between parties resolve the concern, or the RDN will have to deal with noise control bylaws if necessary. I have experience with the oil and gas industry in Alberta where noise from production facilities, drilling of wells, and compressor stations, were and are ongoing problems.

I believe the groundwater issues and pumping (bulk water removal) will be an on-going concern. I am waiting on the province to eventually issue its policy on groundwater use and resources. The RDN has also been studying drinking water and watershed protection areas in the RDN for some time. This includes Gabriola Island. The RDN also has an agricultural area plan in mind. These topics are available for viewing on the RDN website. I believe my background in environmental science, engineering, and that I live on agricultural zoned lands reflects me being a good candidate to represent islanders on the RDN.

3. Past history on committees on the island giving you experience in island issues?

As mentioned, I have run for Islands Trust and RDN in past. Participation in elections and campaigning gains insight on local and regional politics. I am on the Gabriola Ferry Advisory Committee for the past 6 years. The ferry is extremely important to islanders. Cost and scheduling affects all of us. We were able to address and work out with BC Ferries, the current ferry schedule that many people seem to like to this day. In future demographics are going to be an increasing issue affecting all services, costs, and expectations of all residents in the province and this island. Ask anyone who knows me and they will quickly tell you about my interest in everything and possible ways to resolve problems. My background also includes conflict/dispute resolution processes to help fix problems.

4. Anything else you'd like to add.

I have been around Gabriola for some 20 years, a landowner for 15, and permanent resident for over 10 years. There have been many changes in public perception, issues, and people coming to the island. Examples are the Weldwood issue of about 15 years ago that divided the community and was an ugly process that many remember to this day. Conversely the recent meetings about ferries and the fire hall debate left me feeling good about the people of Gabriola and the respect for each other that has evolved over time. People seem to understand not everyone has the same position or opinion on issues, but are willing to let the other person express their personal view without condemning them. I think Gabriola residents have come a long way over the years in respect, protection of the island, and allowing wonderful business development. The Village area will likely be further developed over time. Long term planning and discussion is already underway for the future.

I am hoping Gabriola residents will vote for me as their RDN representative. I look forward to continuing to serve the community. I am also a Marriage Commissioner for the past 6 years. In this work, you get to meet a lot of local people, and off-islanders who choose to be married here. Weddings are fun and everyone is happy. This island has come a long way in promoting business like weddings that bring a lot of money to Gabriola and hires many people because of services and facilities.

Gabriola is our home, and thought need to be continually directed at how to sustain the island, employment, and protection. I think the elected representative of the Islands Trust and RDN in the past term have served the community well. They have done a good job. I intend to work well and co-operatively with the new trustees and RDN staff to continue giving Gabriola good government of our island.