

**Next Meeting –
November 26th, 2018,
7:00 pm, Lion’s Hall
Topic: Exploring Health on SSI
Come lend your voice to this lively conversation!**

Are We Doing Enough to Sustain Salt Spring’s Econo-Logical Heritage?

MicroEconomic Working Group
Salt Spring Community Alliance October 22, 2018 Report
One year strong!

First Nations Acknowledgement: Maggie

We begin with a reminder to honour the Coast Salish Nations who were here first and never ceded their traditional land.



Figure 1. Coast Salish Territory; Map Credit: Daniel Brendle-Moczuk, UVic Libraries, with advice from lessLIE, ©Legacy Art Galleries, 2014

Welcome: Samantha

1. Thank you. At this, our first post election meeting, thank you and congratulations to all candidates, supporters, and voters for their engagement in the community.
2. Who is here for the first time? *Seven newcomers introduced themselves.*
3. What is the Alliance?

A community organization that meets on the 4th Monday of every month.
Non-partisan, grassroots, non-advocating, non-endorsing.
Offering a safe and respectful forum for community conversation.
Gathers and reviews information, challenges ideas from all perspectives.
Offers all new reasonable viewpoints to the community.

Any member of the Salt Spring community is welcome to attend meetings, join a working group, engage with our Facebook page and/or sign on to our mailing list (sscommunityalliance.org). Working groups research issues, collaborate with other groups, seek diverse perspectives, present at meetings, share information and suggest options and solutions in published articles and discussions. Publications identify the contributors and reflect the passions and compromises of those who join the group.

**The Alliance's objective is to encourage community discussion
about how to make SS even better.**

4. Tonight's presentation: MicroEconomics. Expect to be entertained and engaged.
 5. Focus: encouraging visions of how to approach the future as a community.
 6. A singing visionary: Valdy needs no introduction!
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MicroEconomics

SKIT *The Ol' Saltspring Divide: A conversation South End Sally (played by Maggie) North End Nadia (played by Samantha)*

Messages:

1. Strong ties between the physical environment & economic activity have produced a uniquely creative and diverse culture on SSI.
2. On SSI, socio-economic regimes are tied to physical landform.



Maggie/MicroEconomics Working Group

(For additional information about this presentation, see the article at the end of meeting notes)

Focus of the Working Group: To explore and support the unique culture on SSI that attracts retirees and visitors. The main economic engines driving Salt Spring's economy and culture include the artists, craftspeople, farmers, musicians, writers, dancers, yoga teachers and others who offer alternative housing and hospitality. Collectively, they embody Salt Spring's unique culture.

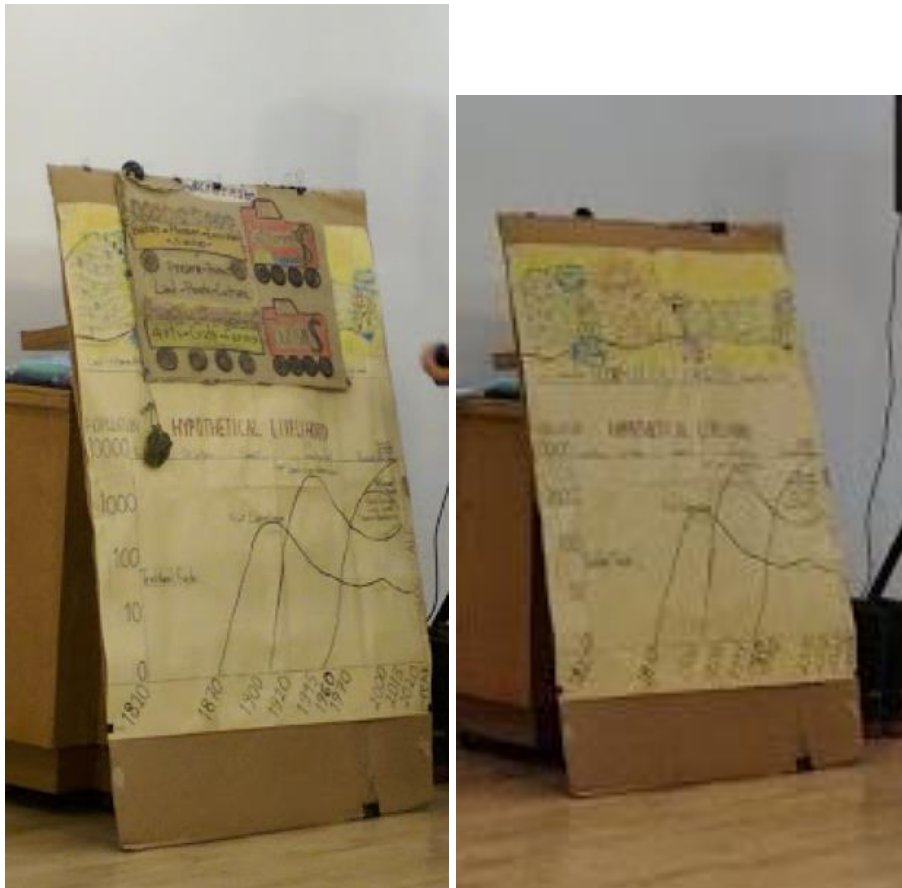
The Econo-Logical Perspective of the Working Group: It views human economies (or ecologies) as a subset of the natural ecosystem (rather than humans as co-opters of nature). It considers eco-sustainability to be more important than the technological capacity to replace the natural with built systems. It emphasizes that landform affects human activity and human activity affects landform.

For additional details, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_economics_and_https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_Economics_\(journal\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_economics_and_https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_Economics_(journal)).

SSI's Econo-logical Landscape: Burgoyne to Fulford, Vesuvius/Booth Canal to Ganges; Trincolmali to Southey Bay to Walker's Hook to St. Mary Lake - it is all a blend of homes and businesses nestled among still-prominent landscape features.

Large poster (bottom right photo) shows change in livelihoods on SSI over the last 100 years. Most recent changes include the following:

- 1) An increased interest in organic farming and the arrival of new and innovative businesses - some supported by the Saturday and Tuesday markets.
- 2) A sharp rise in cost of land and, in turn, the displacement of low- and middle-income earners along with the potential diminishment of the cultural diversity that attracts tourists and retirees to SSI.



Working Group Ideas: From an econo-logical perspective, what can realistically be achieved on SSI in the foreseeable future? (For the full text of Working Group Notes, see the Appendix.)

- **Anne Parkinson/Environment:** *Limitations* include individualism, lack of community consultation and lack of incentives and subsidies. It also includes the lack of political will to see land as having internal community value rather than as a commodity (outside forces driving land and rental prices) and a lack of understanding of the connection between ecology and

biodiversity. *Imagining a future* includes:

- re-establishing biodiversity by reestablishing natural systems,
- adopting laws that lead to increased local food production,
- taxing all water uses,
- continuing to encourage rainwater collection and water conservation,
- building low impact affordable housing (clustered, shared, & eco-villages that recycle grey water & use solar energy),
- preparing for extreme weather,
- preserving and protecting econo-logical culture of humans and the ecology/ecosystems of other organisms, and
- promoting the SSI community with less focus on visitors.

- **Rhonan Heitzmann/Affordable Housing:** We can begin with our Official Community Plan:
A.4.4.3 To recognize the strength and exceptional value of the community's diverse human population - a population characterized by people of many ages and backgrounds who, through choice or circumstance, have a rich variety of lifestyles and livelihoods. To recognize the very real, if intangible, loss that is felt in the community when this diversity is diminished by external pressures and changes.

A.4.4.4 To preserve and protect human diversity in our community by ensuring that the island's people are accommodated by a broad spectrum of appropriate and accessible housing and facilities, transportation choices, service opportunities and choices of livelihood, with a local focus to minimize transportation needs.

There has been not been enough planning to allow for smaller, secondary dwellings that will remain relatively affordable to working class families and creative, artists, artisans and farmers. Needed is a shift from arbitrary number of units to considering what kind of dwellings are needed to support Islanders and protect the environment. As it stands now, there is equal weight given to a 10,000 sq. ft vacation home and a 600 sq. ft cottage, i.e. because both have a kitchen, both are considered a dwelling. But, large homes are unaffordable to many and have a bigger eco-footprint than tiny homes. Solutions to housing shortages and to securing a strong econo-logical future on SSI are the same, as follows:

- 1) allow (promote) small homes and year-round occupancy (rather than allowing seasonal vacation rentals);
- 2) develop cluster housing;
- 3) create eco-village zones; and
- 4) grant permits for rental suites and cottages that can provide proof-of-water supply plus a small eco-footprint (such as rain water harvest, grey water recycling, and composting toilets.)

- **Linda Adams/Governance:** Given that Islanders have chosen to keep separate the governing bodies responsible for land use (Island Trust), and service provision (CRD agencies), the Governance Working Group believes the following:
 - 1) Better integration among agencies could improve service provision on SSI; and,
 - 2) Increased communication and collaboration between service agencies and the Trust on topics related to zoning, bylaws, policies, and guidelines could better reflect the

vision that is elaborated in SSI's Official Community Plan (OCP) - i.e. that SSI should remain an authentic resident-centred community in a beautiful environment that welcomes visitors who are attracted to these qualities.

- Looking to the future, the Governance Working Group recommends co-location of the offices of the agencies that supply services on Salt Spring Island (e.g. Islands Trust, CRD, fire district, water districts). A co-agency building could feature local materials, artwork that reflects SSI culture, and include a large meeting room where government agencies hold regular meetings to communicate with each other and with the public to achieve seamless and widely acceptable service to islanders.
- **Sandra Ungerson/Infrastructure:** Water is among a number of factors that must be considered to develop new housing (including water sources and wastewater treatment/disposal). Exploration of options that integrate environmental and economic concerns can be undertaken by community leaders, including the creation of a community “water resources center” that provides public education on sustainable water management including drinking water capacity and nutrient removal from waste water. Sechelt, as an example, has embraced a new tanking innovation that both improves and protects the environment (<http://www.sechelt.ca/Live/Water-Sewer-Drainage/Water-Resource-Centre>).
- **Ruth Waldick/Health:** The interdependence between a healthy mind and body and living in harmony with the natural environment is widely recognized across the Southern Gulf Islands. In particular, a healthy community that is strongly linked to nature creates social and environmental conditions that positively impact the well being of its citizens (through better food security, social safety networks, and job security, for example). On SSI, the local economy has evolved from and been supported by local ecology, not just as a source of food and green space, but also as a source of inspiration for arts, physical activity, music, and social interaction. SSI is already home to the ‘Natural Approach’ in treating disease. To move forward, we need mechanisms that protect the health of all members of our community by ensuring support for artists and the arts, a reasonable income level, housing, and job stability. Co-treatment of physical and mental wellbeing integrates medically-based support and exposure to the harmony of a natural environment.

DYAD *Embracing our Diversity* **Prompt** Personal Profile 1-2-3:

- 1)What is your livelihood?
- 2)Relationship with land?
- 3) Cultural niche?

Closing

Maggie: Over very large spatio-temporal scales, climate on earth is affected by planetary position and changing solar output. But, on the very short human time scale, climate is affected by our fast-paced recycling of fossil carbon back to the atmosphere. It behooves us, therefore, to become a community founded on the idea of common good (rather than the idea of division). By that I mean that we must collectively commit to making decisions to slow climate change or build affordable housing that is based on understanding our limitations (in governance & natural resources as a start) and that embrace, celebrate our diversity.

ALLIANCE GUIDELINES

- We are here to think + talk about the future of Salt Spring Island.
- We will offer our own best thinking, which may or may not agree with someone else's, but the agreement or disagreement does not need to be the focus.
- We will listen + speak with respect + courtesy to everyone.
- No one speaks twice until everyone who wants to, speaks once.
- We will each have one minute to share our thoughts, and will respect the limits set by the Facilitator.
- This gives everyone the same chance to be heard.



Article submitted to the *Driftwood* and Exchange
Are We Doing Enough to Sustain Salt Spring's Econo-Logical Heritage?
by Maggie Squires

You are wondering what '*Econo-Logical*' is all about, right? When we combine '*economy*' - how we make our living - with '*ecology*,' - how we partner with nature rather than co-opting it for our personal gain - we have become '*ecological*.'

On Salt Spring, we find ample evidence of *ecological* interaction with our environment. We can also find instances here when it is simply not working. At the Community Alliance meeting on October 22, the Micro-economics group explored the *ecological* balance on Salt Spring.

The exploration began with some fun and laughter. The evening got an enthusiastic kick-off with Valdy who tuned us 'in' with his Islander ballad and followed with Shilo's 537-653 song. (Thanks, Valdy!) A skit - a conversation between North End Nadia (at a 537#) and South End Sally (at a 653#)- unfolded next and suggested that Salt Spring's Old Divide may have more to do with different rock types under our feet (sedimentary in the north and mostly igneous in the south) than with any real differences in socio-economic status on opposing sides of the Divide. The skit concluded with some gumboot dancing, and Lions Hall resounded as participants jumped up to join in. The take-home message is twofold:

- 1) On SSI, our socio-economic backdrop is tied to physical landform; and,
- 2) Strong interaction between the environment and humans has nurtured a uniquely diverse and creative local culture.

We then looked back at change in SSI livelihoods over the last 100 years. Beginning with the harvest of traditional foods, settlers' arrival brought export of old growth logs and lumber and then export of lamb, wool, butter and eggs from farming on cleared areas. Soon, though, farms were subdivided and towns sprang up. Electricity, ferries, and hippies arrived, and, in the 1970s, the Trust was established. Most recently, the cost of land has risen sharply and, in turn, some low and middle-income earners have been displaced (a process referred to in academic studies as '*gentrification*,' too often leading to cultural depletion). At the same time, new and innovative small businesses have sprouted, supported by the Market, community farmland, and flexible home-based business bylaws.

For the past year, the Alliance's Micro-economic group has explored the culture that attracts retirees and visitors- the economic engines driving Salt Spring's economy. Artists, craftspeople, farmers, musicians, writers, dancers, yoga teachers and those who offer alternative housing and hospitality- collectively embody Salt Spring's unique culture.

Over the past year, the Micro-economics group has explored topics with potential to impact this culture: the provincial review of Agricultural Land Reserve rules, the challenge of housing farm workers, the purpose of economic development commissions, and the support of home business and alternate housing/hospitality that are entrenched in our Official Community Plan.

Recently, the Micro-economic group contributed the following questions for candidates for CRD and Islands Trustee positions:

- How might you respond to gentrification's potential to diminish our island's socio-economic diversity?
- Does your vision of SS include a live aboard community?

- What steps might you take to protect the unique and diverse culture on SS?
- What should our local economic development commission be doing, given that its original purpose was to create an inter-agency working group to facilitate development of local economic activities?
- Do you have interest in identifying alternatives to complaint-driven enforcement of bylaws?

Throughout this exploration, the question was asked repeatedly: *Are we doing enough to preserve and protect Salt Springs' unique econological heritage?* After almost ten years here, I've bemoaned the change in culture at the wharf and swimming pool, as I did the vanishing of the Alaska highway community when paving trucks obliterated the twists and turns of the original gravel road between northern BC and YT.

Given the very short time scale of human-driven change on earth, including the fast-paced recycling of fossil carbon back to the atmosphere and resulting climate change, it seems vital that community decisions be based on the idea of common good (rather than on division), and that we find a way to speak from many perspectives with one voice. By that I mean two things:

- 1) Involvement of Salt Springers in making community decisions that will chart our future, for example slowing climate change, building affordable housing where water is available, and creating eco-land trusts for low and middle income earners; and,
- 2) Investigation that leads to decision-making that is informed by both understanding our limitations and embracing/celebrating our socio-economic diversity.

I'll wind up with my ideas about how this might be accomplished:

- 1) Set Up a Governance Structure to Encourage Integration and Cooperation: Regular meetings between elected officials and decision-makers to move important projects forward (an *Inter-Agency Working Group*) should be held as soon as possible, and a *Local Community Commission* (with authority to make change) should be established, as recommended by the Alliance's Governance Working Group assessment of governance options (sscommunityalliance.org.)
 - 2) Engage the Community in Important Decisions: Regular issue-based surveys and community conversations should be offered to give vital information both to the public and to elected officials.
 - 3) Get the Community and Elected Officials Together to Move Important Projects Forward: As an example, the recent amalgamation of housing groups should host a conference, to which elected officials commit to attend, to look beyond housing projects to the creation of land trusts that would make rural and farmland acreage affordable in perpetuity to low and middle income earners.
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Appendix: Full Text of Working Group Notes

1. Environment Working Group Full Notes

Our Group had a sunny couple of hours at Cafe Talia discussing this topic, very thought provoking. Here is the distillation:

1. There is a strong link between Environment-Economy-Culture ECE. (1 min)

When environment is ignored, history has shown that modern European civilizations eventually extinct all living things and themselves resulting in [desertification](#).

[Cultural values](#) can either put humans at risk of environmental degradation or create an idyllic environment. Values today? The accumulation of wealth at the expense of the environment is the single most harmful value and is fuelled by a capitalist economy (eg. Naomi Klein 'This Changes Everything'); whereas an approach where the environment is considered vital for the whole, not an extraction process for the wealth of a few, has been shown to promote long term sustainability of both humans and the environment. The values of these societies more spiritual, are taught from birth, and there are consequences towards those disregarding the values (eg. Inuit societies, Bhutan via the film [Happiness](#)). (*note from Susan Hannon – this is not fully referenced)

2. Given the parameters linking ECE, how to imagine the ideal future of SSI (3 min)

We live here now so we get to decide. 7 generations forward, 7 back

EWG envisions that future citizens will be able to live:

- in a **low carbon life** (its coming – TSS)
- in a **natural environment** (our senses – new and old residents)
- with **sustainable economic growth** (low impact)
- in cooperation within all cultures and countries to form an **ecological civilization**.

Point to table with posters and killer whales and briefly discuss. (Transition Networks 11 Human Activities to redesign into an ecological civilization: Food, Water, Building/Housing, Energy, Transport, Economy, Waste, Health, Clothing/Stuff, Arts/Culture, Education)

3. Restraints/Constraints (2 min):

- *Individualism (opposite from community)
- *Relevant government at all levels – community consultation, transparency and accountability, responsible use of \$\$, incentives and subsidies
- *Keeping land a community value not a commodity (outside forces driving land and rental prices)
- *Lack of understanding of ecology and biodiversity. Disconnected.

We want to be a carbon sink, with rich soil, self-sustaining culture that is anti-fragile, preparing for the future environment.

Pride in our community, in our world, that we did not miss the chance to do our best. To not look back with regrets. That the history books future generations will be reading paint us a strong, ethical in the face of crisis.

All activities honour Biodiversity. Put environment first. Return to a better balance – Re-Wilding e.g. restore streams and salmon runs. Plan for future environmental changes.

Food: by-laws support local production, ag lands are used to capacity, put SSFirst, supporting community efforts to date and grow them (The Root).

Water: Reconsider our uses of water. Consider why we use drinking water for all purposes. Tax all water use including aquifers. Encourage catchment for non-potable uses. Encourage conservation.

Building/Housing: low-impact alternative models (eg. clusters, co-ops, shared housing, eco-villages) including grey water, solar, affordable.

Culture: Honouring plants and animals that we live with, preparing for increasing extreme weather. Strong community structure, youth/elder culture, happiness not based on stuff, the mindset to work together on community projects with music, art.

Economics: relevant government, ethical corporate, local e-currency, more co-ops, no (or a max %) absent owners (live here and participate!).

+Energy, Transport, Health, Education, Clothing/Stuff, Waste

Affordable Housing Working Group Full Notes

Our Official Community Plan, on the topic of community diversity and housing, says over-arching goals include:

A.4.4.3 To recognize the strength and exceptional value of the community's diverse human population - a population characterized by people of many ages and backgrounds who, through choice or circumstance, have a rich variety of lifestyles and livelihoods. To recognize the very real, if intangible, loss that is felt in the community when this diversity is diminished by external pressures and changes.

A.4.4.4 To preserve and protect human diversity in our community by ensuring that the island's people are accommodated by a broad spectrum of appropriate and accessible housing and facilities, transportation choices, service opportunities and choices of livelihood, with a local focus to minimize transportation needs.

Future changes to our land use (e.g. zoning) regulations are intended to help achieve these goals. There is work to be done to adapt to changing times, so that we can continue to achieve these clearly laid out goals.

Thirty-five years ago, when I was about 10 years old, I would sell used toys and games at the Saturday market, which was a gravel parking lot, along side a friend who sold his home made root beer....it was an open market for locals mainly. Farmers, and artists and craft people began to have success selling

their creations and the market grew rapidly to what it is today. This is one aspect of our island that attracts tourists, and people from all over to come and make SSI home. There has been a lot of growth and development over the last 35 years, many things have changed, and still change is rapid. Now the island is a destination for people retiring from across Canada and the US, and people emigrating from the Lower Mainland. The influx of people is putting pressure on the housing market where the supply has been limited to protect the environment by limiting the number of potential dwellings. But the housing shortage is one factor causing increase over time in house prices so that only quite wealthy people can afford to buy and build on the limited number large lots. There has been not been enough planning to allow for smaller, secondary dwellings that will remain relatively affordable to working class families and creative, artists, artisans and farmers. To shift this situation, there is a need to change our thinking from arbitrary numbers of units to what kind of dwellings are needed to support Islanders and what **impact new homes may have on the environment** and the community. As it is now, there is equal weight given to a 10,000 sq. ft vacation home and a 600 sq. ft cottage, i.e. because both have a kitchen, both are considered a dwelling. But large homes have a bigger eco-footprint than tiny homes. People are worried about water consumption, but I would argue that year-round residents living in small buildings are much more conservative and careful with a limited water supply than tourists and vacationers who come in the summer when the ecology is most fragile and water is most limiting. I believe that solutions to both housing shortages and securing a future for our island's unique culture and community are to allow smaller homes to be occupied year round, to develop cluster housing, create eco- village zones, and grant permission to rent suites and cottages that provide proof of water supply and small eco-footprint (such as rain water harvest, grey water recycling, and composting toilets). Here is a link for reference to a 2003 Islands Trust report that outlines many planning solutions directly related to the econo-logical issue that all of could be adopted locally:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/223639/Options%20for%20Affordable%20Housing%20New%20Solutions%20to%20the%20Housing%20Crisis.pdf>

Governance Working Group Full Notes

(Note: this is from Linda Adams only – for logistical reasons, the GWG did not review these comments in advance)

- The GWG's recent report focused on improvements to local governance that would reflect the 'non-incorporated' state of the island, respecting the recent referendum results.
 - One of the main themes of the recommendations was to respect that, under our current system, those who make decisions about land use are different from those who make decisions about the provision of local services. While in municipalities, land use decisions are often made with a view to increasing the tax base, this is not currently a consideration in our land use decisions.
 - Because the 'de-coupling' of these decisions seems to be important to our community, the GWG focused on governance improvements that retained this separation.
- While respecting the importance of this separation, the GWG tried to identify potential governance improvements that would avoid siloed decision-making in other areas. Therefore, one of the main recommendations in its recent report was improved integration between those agencies that provide local government services to Salt Spring Island.
- As an example, the GWG has recommended that these agencies establish an Inter-Agency Working Group to support regular communication and collaboration with each other and

provide an opportunity for the public to witness and provide input into that communication and collaboration.

- An example of better communication and collaboration would be for decisions to be more reflective of the community objectives and goals that are expressed in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan. This is the only high-level document that has been developed through extensive community discussion and thought about the nature of our community and its future.
- An example was provided about an economic issue - in this case, tourism.

During the development of our Official Community Plan(OCP), there was considerable discussion about tourism and its role in our community. Community members considered, but ultimately rejected, the ‘Whistler’ model. The Whistler OCP is very focused on the needs of visitors and it has many goals and policies related to improvements to the visitor experience.

Instead, Salt Spring Islanders concluded that Salt Spring Island was, and should remain, an authentic, resident-centred community in a beautiful natural environment, that would welcome visitors who were attracted by those qualities. The intent then, was to ensure that tourism was accommodated, but not to such a degree that it would destroy what islanders identified as Salt Spring’s essential qualities.

A number of our OCP objectives and policies reflect this view. The overall approach is expressed by this OCP goal:

A.4.4.1 To ensure that our community continues to function as an authentic, resident-centred community in the face of internal and external pressures to change and grow; to ensure that growth, including the growth of tourism, is managed in a way that does not displace or detract from our community's important function as a home for its residents.

There are OCP policies that express approaches to:

- the way we accommodate tourists (in small resorts and resident-operated B&Bs, rather than international mega resorts)
- industrial uses (that focus on local needs, rather than external ones)
- parking in Ganges Village (sized to supply local needs, rather than paving more of the village to serve seasonal tourist demand)
- large new destination resorts, large convention centres, water slides, theme parks, casinos, or mini golf courses (none of these are allowed in our land use regulations)
- STVRs (transient accommodation units in residential zones that are not run by residents as a home-based businesses) – they have never been allowed as they could displace residents and have impacts on residential neighbourhoods (enforcement effort has varied).
- Signage (large back-lit plastic signs are not allowed)
- Ganges Village (land use regulations support its development as a resident-centred, rather than a visitor-centred village. So, zoning regulations in Ganges encourage resident-focused shops and services like food stores, hardware stores, doctor’s offices, etc. Things like ‘post offices, banks and credit unions, liquor stores, and libraries’ are only permitted in villages, again to keep them convenient for residents and prevent them from being displaced by tourist-oriented facilities. This, for example, is why the library is in downtown Ganges, although there was pressure at one point to locate it outside the village.

There are many other policies, zoning regulations and design guidelines that all contribute to this overall approach to visitors.

However, decisions by other agencies may not consider these goals and policies, and this is where better communication and collaboration could help. For example, these goals and policies could ensure that various utilities and services could be 'right-sized' for resident needs, rather than supportive of on-going growth in tourism at the expense of residents' needs.

Regarding a future vision, the GWG also recommended the co-location of the offices of the various agencies that supply local government services on Salt Spring Island. Participants in the workshop were asked to envision such a building with all such agencies available in one place (e.g. Islands Trust, CRD, fire district, water districts). The building could feature local materials (including artwork) that reflected island culture. Here, all government agencies would have a better opportunity to communicate with each other and offer a more seamless service to islanders. There could be a common meeting room, where these agencies held all public meetings, making them more accessible for participation by community members.

Infrastructure Working Group Full Notes

When the environment is unhealthy, it is likely a people management problem. Climate change is a people problem – the earth holds us accountable for our bad decisions

<https://ag.purdue.edu/climate/indiana-impact/>

Housing has some great opportunities; the snag comes with infrastructure.

Centennial Park:

Budgets drive cookie cutter approaches

We struggle with the conflict between keeping the budget down while also trying to include unique 'Salt Spring' features. Unfortunately, the result is a plan that will result in a functional washroom building, but not a very interesting one. There may be a mural on the outside, but beyond that, it will be a pretty cookie-cutter kind of washroom.

It really is a challenge. We could have had a spectacular building for maybe \$200K more. But where

does the \$200 K come from? It's all tax dollars and we're damned if we pinch pennies and get a generic washroom building and damned if we go for the gusto

The larger long-term project does call for replacing many of the trees in the park, as they are sickly.

And, of course, they all were planted on fill in the 1960s or later, so they have limited 'heritage' value.

We did amend the plan to preserve the one big tree near the centre of the park, though, as it is healthy and there's no good reason to remove it.

the arborist report I read said it is a healthy mature woodland. Generations of kids grow up playing on them. I found people are still furious about the one removed near the washrooms a couple of years ago.

Are the PARC discussions public or in camera? Is the contract for a building and where are the plans?

Is the contract for other "infrastructure" required to execute the whole plan?

An outsiders opinion: Younger trees are frying all over the island. Cutting the trees at the park is an incredibly bad idea on all levels.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/536195140049782/search/?query=mural%20on%20the%20outside>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/536195140049782/search/?query=arborist%20report>

The three principal authors were at the meeting. (Rob Pringle, John Davies and Myna Lee Johstone)

The idea when the park was built:

It is a Heritage site, all trees and the cenotaph within the park are protected heritage property and a Heritage Alteration Permit is required to make any changes to them. The original park trees were purposefully selected and planted in 1967 to honor SSI pioneer settlers, and the Royal Canadian Legion paid to have the cenotaph, originally erected in 1923, relocated to the park in time for the opening ceremonies

https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/salt-spring-island-ea-pdf/ssi-parc/centennial-park-masterplan-final-report-2017.pdf?sfvrsn=3b0601ca_2

Here is a PARC members opinion today:

We spoke about this at the last PARC meeting and staff think the washroom project can be done without removing any trees. The larger long-term project does call for replacing many of the trees in the park, as they are sickly. And, of course, they all were planted on fill in the 1960s or later, so they have limited 'heritage' value. We did amend the plan to preserve the one big tree near the centre of the park, though, as it is healthy and there's no good reason to remove it.

Our economy relies on?

People travel the world to see unique buildings, and we keep hearing about Tourism. Anyway, that's only one piece and it is the total destruction of trees, decreased lawn, leveled hillocks, gone gazebo, and loss of market frontage, continuity and access that's a crime in the making.

the old firehall property would make an excellent central community space for showing off our unique culture in all kinds of ways

Another perspective:

tired of witnessing the Saturday Market morning routine where families and individuals come prepared for the day only to find they did not get in after waiting an hour hoping for a space

The CRD perspective:

However, despite its fantastic location, famed events and a few well-loved features, the park is poorly designed for many of the activities that take place in it. It is inhospitable to year-round use, has perennial nuisance and safety issues, and lacks strong connections to the waterfront and the surrounding village. On days without planned events, this public space with so much potential is underutilized and largely unwelcoming.

Infrastructure a vision for the future::

Lets look at Sechelt

VEOLIA'S ORGANICA SYSTEM

“In a bed of 30 cm-thick clay pellets, different species of plants with highly developed root systems are set in metal compartments below the water level of the aeration tanks. The root system grows across this layer and feeds on the effluents requiring treatment.” The idea is to improve the natural phenomena used in water treatment through the interaction of living organisms that are able to digest a portion of the organic pollution. Bathed in the biological tanks, the plant roots will create an ideal environment for bacteria and other living organisms, such as protozoa, zooplanktons, worms and snails. “Organica FBR thus recreates a self-managing ecosystem of several hundred species — plants animals, bacteria and other organisms — able to capture their energy in the presence of air and sunlight, which maximizes the biological decomposition of contaminants.” *Source: www.veolia.com*

Neighbourhood benefits

A brownfield site that was a cause for complaint from residents whose homes surround the site on three sides, has been repurposed and improved by the addition of a wastewater treatment facility. “I’m 99% sure this is the first sewage treatment plant that has increased property values in the residential area around it,” Town says. “I commend the mayor and council for sticking to a vision that cost a few million more (than a conventional solution).

Greenhouses cover the sewage treatment process and creates a showpiece of ecologically sustainable waste management.

<https://www.organicawater.com/case-study/organica-case-study-sechelt-cs/>

<http://www.duaneburnett.com/7632/sewage-treatment-for-sechelt>

https://d3o1jlvchs7f6h.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Organica_Case_Study_Sechelt.pdf

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/technical-oversight-panel/november-23-2015/organica-solutions.pdf?sfvrsn=2>