

## SSAC QUESTIONNAIRE from KEN LEE

I have always stood solidly for the Arts as a private citizen and particularly as an Educator. The belief that the meat and potatoes of education are the 4 R's, Readin, Ritin, Rithmetic and Revenge is still endemic in political and education circles. This belief goes hand in glove with the belief that the Arts (Art, Music, Drama and Dance) are "frills" whose funding can be cut when budgets are trimmed. I always fought this convenient myth when speaking up for a curriculum that brought along the Arts, right hemisphere (analogic) as well as the left hemisphere (digital). One of my Canada wide keynotes was "Right Brain kids in Left Brain Classrooms" which described my own frustrating experiences in school. When I spoke about it with Peter Gzowski the CBC, the phone lines lit up and I started to receive coloured envelopes with my address in felt pen from all across the country saying "You just explained my life and my guilt feelings at not being able to do well in school!"

My first wife, who died of Huntington's Disease, was a graduate of Ontario College of Art and painted with A.Y. Jackson when he came to paint in Wawa where I was teaching. She had a profound influence on my view of the importance of the Arts.

During my career as a High School Principal, I always directed the school musicals – usually Broadway or Gilbert and Sullivan and recently acted the part of Cole Porter here in "Cole and Linda". On arriving on Salt Spring I joined Tuned Air, and later became President of Salt Spring Singers and managed their shift from the Anglican Church to ArtSpring for their performances.

If elected as CRD Director, I would take this golden opportunity to enhance support for the arts, and press relentlessly for Federal, Provincial and Regional funding. The CRD Arts Development Service would certainly be an excellent place to begin.

I would work closely with the Trust and the private sector here to expedite any initiatives toward Affordable Housing which is an absolute necessity on the Island. As vice-president of the Brinkworthy Park Committee I worked hard to push through the recent initiative to rezone for bare land strata approval so that any of the 138 homeowners there can buy their lots and prevent the constant danger of having the whole estate "flipped" and this great affordable housing resource lost to the Island.

I believe that the CRD leadership could do much more than it has to enhance the efforts already being made by the Chamber of Commerce to increase tourism and boost us as one of Canada's most desirable tourist destinations.

There is no question that we have to place ourselves firmly on the BC Ferries radar. I have learned that they actually will respond to unfavourable media coverage as happened with the Fulford Tea Party which I led. It is disappointing that they fail to appreciate logic and common sense, but that seems to be the way they work. The first inputs re Gift Stores and even a live display, or presentation as we did explaining the Geology of Active Pass one summer, might work.

Finally I feel very strongly that all public buildings on Salt Spring, particularly the new Library should include permanent art works from the community to the value of 1% of the cost of the building and donated by the architect