

Larry Responses to Questions from the Salt Spring Arts Council

30 October 2011

LW: Please note that I am of the arts and for the arts on Salt Spring. Evidence?

I am a countertenor and bass with Back on the Rock and am a former chair of the BOTR board. I have previously been a member of Cantus and Viva Voce.

I currently hold a Salt Spring Singers Community Award for 2011-2012 to support my countertenor voice training.

I am a duty manager at ArtSpring.

I volunteer as a classical music radio show host on CFSI-FM, Salt Spring Island Radio.

I recently auditioned for a part in the Salt Spring Community Theatre's production of Daddy's Girl.

I have frequently attended openings at the Point Gallery.

My daughter Elizabeth - a pianist, flutist, dancer and singer/songwriter - was a member of the Gulf Islands School for the Performing Arts (GISPA) while attending GISS and now studies music at Queen's University.

Q 1. How would you enhance support for the arts? What more should be done to promote and sustain the arts?

LW: I would work with/support efforts of SSAC, Chamber of Commerce, independent galleries, the Tourist Accommodation Group, and Studio Tour to promote Salt Spring through the full range of media as an arts destination.

Q 2. What opportunities you see for SSAC to access other regional and provincial funding, in particular from the CRD?

LW: I would work with the CRD Director on this particular issue. I would also lend the Trust's support to SSAC efforts to get funding from other potential donors be they regional, provincial or private foundations.

Q 3. How will you address the need for affordable housing on SSI?

LW: I would continue the Trust's support for the Salt Spring Community Affordable Housing Strategy, particularly those action plans that identify support for affordable housing that can be implemented through policies and objectives already in the OCP and its recommended revisions to the Land Use Bylaw, starting with legalizing suites and conditions after broad community consultation.

Q 4. What role do you see that SSAC and the arts have in enhancing economic development on the island?

LW: I completely agree with the SSAC position that arts & culture make significant contributions to Salt Spring's economy and quality of life. As the arts flourish, so too will our local economy. For example, I think the Artists in the Community workshops & the way they're being used to promote creative holidays on Salt Spring is an excellent step in this direction. It also goes some ways towards meeting the goals of the first question.

Q 5. How will you address the need to increase tourism to SSI?

LW: One thing is to keep our island from becoming just like every other small community that's turned into a municipality. That is, by keeping growth carefully managed and within the bounds of the OCP. I am also championing the development of a year-round covered market in Ganges to help break our seasonal mentality and make tourism a year-round economic driver. This question is linked closely to your question about ferry fares, too.

Because I would have to focus on the Trust's land use planning roles as your trustee, I would also

a) encourage developers like those at Bullock Lake, for example, to build some kind of arts aspect into their land use proposal (affordable housing, arts learning center, etc.). Bullock Lake might be a fabulous place for an arts learning/living center;

b) support current efforts to create some kind of arts learning center on the island, including helping connect the proponents with possible supporters/developers and helping the proponents understand where zoning might allow such a center; and

c) support affordable housing opportunities, as they will provide more low-cost housing to artists. Some legalization of cottages might be an avenue for this. I say some, because I think legalizing cottages is more fraught with problems than legalizing suites. Cottages are separate buildings, which will result in more energy use than a connected suite. Cottages are more likely to create more ground disturbance: a new building site, probably a new septic system, maybe a new driveway, possible digging for new waterlines.

Q 6. What is your position regarding BC Ferries fares? How would you pursue the interest of SS islanders in having affordable travel?

LW: BC Ferry fares are too high. As a largely provincial matter, a change of government might help. As Trustee I would work with our Ferry Advisory Council and all the other islands in the Trust Area to present a united front to BC Ferries.

Q 7. How will you support SSAC's requests for inclusion of island arts in ferry gift shops and a meeting with ferry officials?

LW: I would add my voice as elected representative in support of these constructive SSAC requests.