

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

If elected, I will enhance support for the arts by continuing financial support for the Arts Council. I will continue to support the work of the Economic Development Commission and encourage the Commission and the Arts Council to work together in creating and implementing an economic development plan for the island.

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

I will subscribe Salt Spring to the CRD Arts Development Service.

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

Increasing the supply of affordable, secure (year-round) rental and market housing is a priority for me. I will lobby the new Local Trust Committee to legalize existing suites and cottages immediately and to legalize new suites and cottages that can prove adequate water supply. I will also lobby the Trust to put housing agreements in place to ensure that these suites and cottages remain affordable. I will encourage the business community to make a significant ongoing contribution to affordable housing.

The current annual household contribution to the CRD Regional Housing Fund is only \$5.08. That's less than .60 cents a month! I will increase significantly the household contribution to this fund while reducing taxes in another area. I will support other local initiatives to create affordable housing. I will support the work of the new SSI Housing Council.

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

My platform includes strengthening and diversifying the local economy. I believe that the potential for growth in the arts sector on Salt Spring and therefore this sector's potential contribution to local economic development is enormous.

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

I can increase tourism by supporting the organizations and initiatives that attract tourists and promote tourism. I think that working to make the island attractive to a broader range of tourists - cyclists, people who come here for educational/learning opportunities, in the arts, in wilderness skills, in the healing arts, and so on - focusing on attracting tourists from neighbouring communities in Canada and the U.S., and developing and promoting programs, packages and special events throughout the year - not just during summer months - will increase tourism and increase the flow of tourist dollars throughout the year.

My platform includes securing funding for a Fulford to Vesuvius bike path. By making cycling safer here, we can encourage cycle tourism. I will work with local business and the Local Trust Committee on a plan to beautify Ganges and work with the province and the Local Trust Committee around a plan to re-route traffic around downtown Ganges and turn part of the downtown into a car-free, commons. I think that these changes will make the island more attractive to visitors and locals alike.

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

I will lobby B.C. Ferries to introduce incentives for people traveling with 2 or more adults in their vehicles. A passengers only ferry or even a small flotilla of boats owned or leased on behalf of the arts community would make it more affordable for people to visit here while also reducing and traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

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

I strongly support this move and would ask the Local Trust Council to join me in making a formal request to B.C. Ferries to include Salt Spring arts, crafts and other locally made products in ferry and ferry terminal gift shops.

Leslie Wallace