

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

Position: As an active participant in Salt Spring Community Theatre, I am strongly committed to supporting a vibrant Salt Spring arts community. As an accountant I understand that arts and culture are an essential part of our island economy. My dream is to develop a Salt Spring School of Fine Arts, along the lines of the Banff Centre. This would employ artists, attract visitors and students to the island, and put Salt Spring on the international art tourism map. As a trustee, I will support efforts to make this happen.

We need to enhance promotion of existing programs and workshops. While the Trust has no jurisdiction over such matters, I am committed to working with the SSAC and the Chamber of Commerce in supporting those seeking funding from other levels of government.

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

Position: While the Trust has no jurisdiction over such matters, I am personally committed to working with our CRD representative, and supporting those seeking funding from all levels of government.

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

Position: The Trust can support affordable housing by changing zoning which would legalize suites and cottages. We can work towards higher density in Ganges. We can encourage clustered communities of mixed housing close to public transit. We can do this with limited, if any, impact on the natural environment.

I will support and encourage the work being done by Neddy Harris and others through the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society to develop projects with affordable housing.

Housing issues also mean jobs, so that people can have the income they need. The Trust can, through land use planning, encourage jobs in low environmental impact areas including the arts and tourism.

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

Position: I believe a Salt Spring School of Fine Arts would have a beneficial effect on our economic development. It would not only provide employment but attract students and tourists to the island. I support the SSAC in its efforts to support the arts and attract students and tourists to our island.

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

Position: The arts and our artists are key to attracting tourists to Salt Spring. We need enhanced marketing. I will work with the Chamber of Commerce, the CRD and the Provincial Government to raise our profile throughout the world.

I believe we can make Ganges an even more popular tourist destination than it is already. I support increased density in Ganges to create a vibrant 24/7 community. I will work to streamline the number of zones along the waterfront with the goal of reducing barriers to improvement.

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

Position: Your concerns are well founded. Unfortunately the Trust has no jurisdiction over BC Ferries. However as an individual and a community leader, I will join my voice of concern with others.

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

Position: As an individual and a community leader, I will fully support the SSAC.

Peter Grove