

experience and volunteer time to the organizations that keep the community functioning. Of course there can be perceptions that older folks are holding on to power and control and that younger folks are losing touch with community values. But good communication can overcome these.

Younger people are crucial for meeting the needs of retirees. But older people can play important roles in helping to address the challenges faced by young people, such as the housing crisis being experienced by too many in the work force and the difficulties in obtaining financing for home purchases, small business start-ups, etc. This is already happening quietly in many small ways. But what more could be done if retirees' resources (time, expertise, assets) are more fully engaged?

There is naturally a lot of chatter about us being a summer visiting destination. At its best, this can lead to explorations of how tourism can be shaped to support rather than erode what we all value about the community. I believe we should also give attention to how we can be a successful NORC—one that works well for all generations.

I am grateful to my late friend and mentor, Dr Gerald Hodge, for introducing the concept of Hornby Island being a NORC.

Hornby Island Trustees Report

One of the biggest developments on Hornby is the proposed "re-development" of the Thatch Pub, Restaurant and Cottages. We heard four main concerns from the community: water, sewerage, the number and location of the strata units and the fact that it sits on a First Nations midden and burial ground.

The property is zoned, under our Official Community Plan and bylaws, as commercial and allows for the pub, restaurant and up to 15 townhouse units. The owner and developer have provided us with reports indicating that there is enough water and that the planned septic system can handle the sewage. These have been provided by accredited professionals.

The midden and burial ground is another matter. Every time we drive onto the ferry or park to enter the pub and restaurant we are crossing sacred ground. We now know that human skulls and remains were dug up in the mid-70s. This is obviously very concerning. The proponent has hired a professional archaeologist who has referred the development plans to the provincial archaeological branch and to the Nanwakolas tribal group that handles referrals for the K'òmoks First Nation. This is all good and is what a developer is supposed to do.

Our concerns were: Is the Arch Branch aware that this is a midden and burial ground? Have the K'òmoks Nation been provided with the information and been legally "consulted" so they can make an informed decision and provide their concerns on how excavations could or should happen?

We as a society say we respect First Nations and want "Reconciliation" with them and will respect the conditions laid out in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

Most people on Hornby want to see the pub and restaurant remain and realize those old buildings need to be rebuilt and further recognize that for their economic viability there needs to be some townhouse units. But we also need to respect the rights of our First Nations neighbours who still hold rights and title to this island. To live up to these fine principles, we need to ensure whatever is done down at the Thatch respects those First Nations people.

Grant Scott and Alex Allen

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Islands Trust is hosting a FREE Climate Action Speaker Series: Rainwater Harvesting [held September 29] and this month:

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation

Tuesday, October 27: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Register: <https://bit.ly/2Z7Ggiw>

Presenters: Ruth Waldick, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Specialist, Ecological Research Network and Tine Rossing, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Specialist, Ecolibrio Consulting.

Ecosystem-based adaptation is gaining traction internationally as a way to use nature-based approaches, which enhance human and ecosystem climate change resilience. This webinar will provide community members, engaged in climate action work, with valuable information about practical approaches that can be applied in our communities.

You are all are welcome to attend these FREE webinars. You can register at the Islands Trust Website (<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-education-program/>).•

I can't wait for all of this to pass,
so I can return to
"social distancing"
on my own terms.