

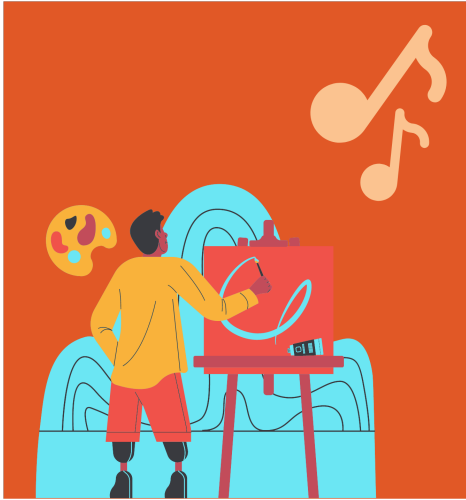


Islands Trust

# GABRIOLA VISIONING 2050



MARCH 2024




## WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE ONLINE SURVEY

The **Gabriola Visioning 2050** is an opportunity for island residents to discuss and define community vision and values. The online survey was an opportunity for Gabriola residents to tell Islands Trust elected Trustees what is special about this place, and how you envision the future of this community.

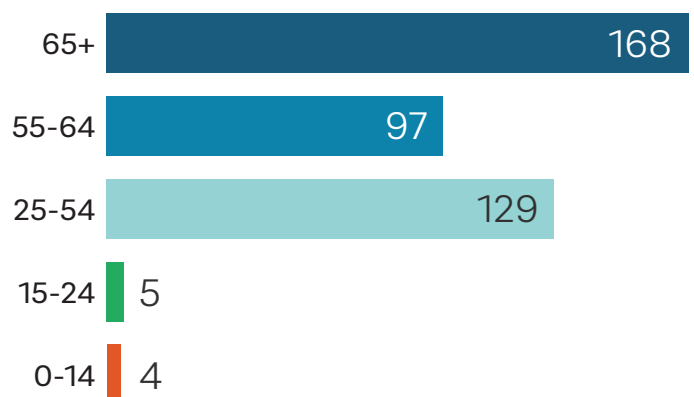
**363**  
full time residents

**88%**  
owners

**11%**  
renters

 have school age children or grandchildren  
**60**

most are aged 65 and over:



## What do you value about Gabriola Island?

Survey respondents were asked what they value about Gabriola Island. The following key themes were consistently highlighted, demonstrating the community's strong connection to nature, emphasis on fostering a closely-knit and peaceful environment.

**nature** rural  
access environment beauty island  
peaceful/peace trails quiet  
**community**

## What needs to change?

Survey respondents identified a number of areas that they believe need changing. Housing affordability and availability, infrastructure and amenities featured prominently, environmental protection and sustainability emerged as key priorities, and community engagement and representation were identified as crucial. Islands Trust governance structures, along with concerns about effective population management and growth were noted as key themes, as well as the importance of robust infrastructure and emergency preparedness, and improvement of public services. The preservation of cultural identity, accessibility, and effective wildlife and animal control were also highlighted by respondents.

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*...nature comes first.  
We are a part of it, not  
above it, so we need to  
make all our land-use  
decisions based on this.*



## How do you describe your hopes and dreams for Gabriola Island in 2050?

Survey respondents were asked what their hopes and dreams for the Gabriola Island of the future are. The following key themes were mentioned consistently, highlighting the values of the community.

natural  
peaceful environment rural  
community  
affordable green  
sustainable  
preserved/protection inclusive

## What do you like about the Vision Statement in Gabriola's current Official Community Plan (OCP) vision?

The many respondents identified aspects of Gabriola's current OCP vision statement that they like, including: its hopeful tone, the emphasis on nature, appreciation for the rural character of the island, the focus on harmony between the community and the environment, and the acknowledgement of the need for action and measurable outcomes to support the vision.

Some suggested improvements that respondents identified included: addressing affordable housing; celebrating Gabriola's cultural heritage; promoting sustainable and equitable service provision; fostering a sense of community and neighbourly care; enhancing accessibility across the island; promoting the arts and cultural diversity; collaborating with government agencies, residents and Indigenous communities; and working towards a sustainable and thriving Gabriola through collective action.

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*Make it possible for affordable housing to be built on property where resources are available and won't be compromised by the development.*

## What are you doing, or would you like to do, to support these hopes and dreams?

Realizing the hopes and dreams of Gabriola residents will require community support in a number of ways. Here are some of the things community members are doing, or are aspiring to do:

- Being an active member of the community by volunteering
- Supporting environmental stewardship by supporting local farmers
- Advocating for solutions and supporting housing societies
- Supporting local businesses, farmers and organizations
- Engaging in political decision-making processes
- Sharing cultural and artistic engagement with others
- Educating others about local issues and initiatives
- Practicing self-sufficiency
- Building community resilience
- Fostering a sense of belonging and support among residents
- Building relationships with Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Helping with invasive species removal

## We asked, "How do you think the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee (LTC)\* can help?"

Survey respondents identified a number of ways the Gabriola Local Trust Committee can support some of the key values emerging from the survey results. Values and identified actions are as follows:

### Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability:

- Prioritize environmental conservation, including protecting forests, green spaces, and shoreline habitats
- Preserve the unique character of the island, including its rural landscape, dark sky status, and small-scale agriculture
- Support and encourage sustainable development practices, including rainwater collection
- Prioritize wildfire resilience and emergency planning to protect residents and natural areas from potential threats
- Manage growth and development to balance the needs of the community with environmental preservation and resource sustainability

### Community Engagement and Inclusivity:

- Maintain transparency in decision-making processes and ensure accountability to community needs and concerns
- Embrace collaborative governance models to involve residents in decision-making and policy development

### Infrastructure Development and Accessibility:

- Lobby higher levels of government for funding, infrastructure improvements, and regulatory changes that benefit the community
- Advocate for local interests, including ferry service improvements, transportation infrastructure, public transportation and social services funding

### Indigenous Reconciliation:

Build closer relationship with Snuneymuxw First Nation

### Social Equity and Well-being:

- Focus on innovative housing options such as secondary suites and tiny homes to address affordability issues
- Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote affordable housing options for all income levels

### Collaboration and Collective Action:

Encourage open dialogue with the community, support local initiatives, and collaborate with other organizations to address shared goals

Thank you to everyone who engaged in the Gabriola Visioning 2050 survey. Survey results and feedback from groups and individuals to date will be used to inform the vision and goals for the OCP review. Further opportunities for engagement will be identified on the project website.

