

Cob Wall Project



and provide a surface reflecting back the heat of the sun.

So... a wall. And in such a position! -

visible from the entrance into the parking lot, that all would see it.

So ... a "donors' wall (with plaques thanking those who have given both money and time to help grow the Commons).

The two leaders of the project were Pollen Heath and Lisa Butler. Pollen and Lisa were both the designers and animators of the workshop. They were able, with their commitment and wonderful energy to attract a large number of people of all ages to come for a series of weekends to squish a mix of clay, sand, water and straw between their bare toes.

The project began with a need to protect a fig tree from the cool wind

And Pollen and Lisa took it from there.

There are many many photos of the wall out there.

(People are even noting that tourists to Gabriola are now posing for photos in front of it!)

Cob Wallers



Many feet make for light work



Now What?



Mud Packer



Look Ma!



Dancing feet



The Fig starts it off

SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM

The Fall Fair!

By all accounts this just keeps getting bigger and better. This year, when we learned that there would be no “Gabriola Day” in August, it was decided to combine the Agricultural Fall Fair with some of the features of Islander Day (including the Lions’ Pancake Breakfast and a “green” version of the parade.)

Planning for next year has already begun, with a two-day event shaping up: September 12 and 13: Breakfast, parade and dance on Saturday; Fall Fair on Sunday! Stay tuned . . . or, better still, join us in the planning! (Contact Veronica at 247-8208 to get involved. We always need more volunteers).

Note: It’s gratifying to see how this event weaves the Commons together with a growing number of community groups: Over the past two years, a joint Agricultural Association/Commons /PHC Team (including Fashion Show magician Darlene Yuile) brought the Gabriola Fall Fair back to life in its new location on the Gabriola Commons.

This year we were joined in the planning by Jacqui Braid (of Islander Day fame), Joyce Babula (Community Hall) and Dona Bradley (community nutritionist and food activist). More people are joining us to plan next year’s Fair, including Kim Nightingale, launching a



“grow it and bake it” contest (with recipes), reviving a very popular event from the original Fall Fairs.

Upcoming event:
October 18 - Photo Day at the Commons

Come celebrate FALL through your art-

istry and photos of the flora and fauna at THE COMMONS. Orientation at 1:00pm. Refreshments at 4:00pm. Contact: Maureen 247-0087

Notice: This is the first of four Photo Days, celebrating the seasons on the Commons and helping the Base-line Report Team form an accurate record of the Gabriola Commons for the Covenant which will be placed on it.

Farm Management

The United Nations named 2008 the "**Year of the Potato**" and the Gabriola Commons followed suit, with a potato co-op in Commons South and a planting of heritage potatoes (19 varieties from Lillooet) in the Experimental Garden. Different techniques were used in both locations (with very different soils and micro-climates and varying results).

The **Blueberry Project** (just south of the apple orchard) is progressing well: with major ground clearing and preparation, greatly aided by Mike Phillip's volunteer days on his tractor/backhoe and a great crew of chain-sawyers, branch loppers, stump pullers and rock pickers!

The next stage: fencing over the first two weekends of October! Many hands will make this light work

Everyone is welcome!

Tentative date for planting of 120 plants - October 25.

Blueberry Workbees:

- **October 4** and **11** Fencing
(Many different tasks)
- **October 25** Planting

Everybody is welcome. Come for an hour or a day ... but come!!

For info: phone Judith (9948)

Allotments: The success of the Community Garden Plots and Dragon Garden has convinced everyone that the Community Garden model should be expanded on the Commons. It was announced that registration would begin at the Fall Fair for the 400 sq. ft. plots to be developed in Commons South and 30 prospective plotters responded for the 32 plots! Work will begin soon on an irrigation system and compost bins.



Putting a Covenant on the Gabriola Commons

- ❖ A covenant is a legal agreement that permanently protects specified natural and/or cultural features, areas or uses of the land in perpetuity.
- ❖ The legal agreement is between the landowner and a designated covenant holder.
- ❖ The covenant is registered against title to the property in the BC Land Title Office under Section 219 of the Land Title Act.
- ❖ The covenant remains in effect binding all future land-owners and covenant holders to the terms of the covenant.
- ❖ Carefully crafted covenants and trust agreements have the potential to ensure permanence, right stewardship and effective management and governance of the property.



There are diverse and compelling reasons to protect the Gabriola Commons for the benefit of present & future generations:

- because of the ecological qualities of land
- it is a natural gathering spot for community celebrations and occasions
- to maintain the traditional, rural agricultural landscape in the village centre
- to conserve the important natural, aesthetic, cultural, historical, and recreational values
- to renew the age old pathways through the Commons linking it to the surrounding village centre
- to establish a space for creative endeavours, community service, learning and sharing knowledge

The Gabriola Commons Covenant Team.....

.....is working to ensure that the property is protected in perpetuity for future generations using the most appropriate legal tools and resources available such as covenants and trusts.

.....is exploring the creation of a "Community Commons" Covenant – possibly the first in Canada.

.....is working with TLC (The Land Conservancy of Canada) to see the Land protected in the public interest for its agricultural, natural, educational, community, cultural, recreational and heritage values in perpetuity.

For more information please contact 250-247-8335

The Gabriola Commons Charter

1. The Gabriola Commons

The Gabriola Commons is a source of ecological and community well-being that exists in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of Gabriola Island.

As a source of well-being the Gabriola Commons contributes to our sense of community, of belonging, and of our bonds to one another. It is a magnet that draws the community in, and brings members of the community closer to each other. It is a space for human creativity and social justice, for art and learning, fairness and openness.

The Gabriola Commons demonstrates local community actions which enhance sustainability, preserve ecosystems and biodiversity, and contribute to the promotion of equity both on this island and in the larger world.

The land includes a number of significant natural gifts and community amenities in one contiguous property: rich wildlife habitats; a pond and wetland area; open vistas and meadows; cedar groves and forests; age-old pathways linking neighbourhoods; a rural agricultural heritage and landscape for farming and gardening; indoor and outdoor gathering places for community celebrations and events, for solitude and sanctuary, performance and festivity.

The property of the Gabriola Commons is a gift from an earlier generation which we in turn must pass on, undiminished and enriched, to those who follow us, as others will pass it on in perpetuity.

2. Guiding principles for the Gabriola Commons:



Social Sustainability: The Gabriola Commons sustains and nourishes the fabric of the community for generations yet to come.

Public Trust: The natural and community resources of the Gabriola Commons exist in perpetuity for the ongoing benefit of the people of Gabriola including generations yet to come, not favouring one generation over another.

Ecological Sustainability: The assets and the land of the Gabriola Commons are used only in ways that respect its ecology.

Governance: The Gabriola Commons' stewardship is democratic and equitable, and is held by the people of Gabriola Island.

Community Service: The Gabriola Commons is a community legacy, serving community needs.

(May 21, 2008)

COMMONS COORDINATING COUNCIL OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Foundation Treasurer will give a report next meeting

All teams could use more volunteers
real need for the Volunteer Team

Transfer from AGES to Foundation coming soon
a big celebration when this occurs

Sharing the Commons and the Infrastructure team might hold joint meetings to discuss guidelines for the projects

Send a thank you letter to the monthly donors
Foundation - write & Communications - send

Next meeting
Tuesday November 4th at the Commons

It is important that we pay attention to all of our members & acknowledge their contributions

Teams to send a members list to Communications
name, email, phone #, address

The Foundation will consolidate all of the lists

Farm Management

- allotments are a success, blueberries are ready to go after a lot of preparation work
- potato and squash projects were a success
- these were all very labour intensive

Communications requests that all teams send their info to lads@shaw.ca

- newspapers, web page, newsletter

The date of the Craft Fair has been set for December 6th

The Fall Fair was a success and the plans are already being talked about for next year's 2 day event

