



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT



SAVARY ISLAND COMMUNITY PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES
IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT • AUGUST 2024



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1. Introduction

The qathet Regional District (qRD) has initiated a process to review and update the Savary Island Official Community Plan (OCP). The current OCP was created in 2006. The Savary Island Official Community Plan (OCP) Review and Update (Community Plan) will build on previous plans, reports and studies and include a comprehensive community engagement process. The Community Plan is a long-term plan for how Savary Island will evolve over the next 25 years. The Community Plan will be developed by working with the community to address the issues, identify and celebrate the opportunities, while maintaining Savary Island's unique community character.

The Savary Island Community Plan project was launched by the qRD in August, 2024 by hosting two in person engagement opportunities. The purpose of the first in person visit by the qRD staff and project team was for Savary Island property owners to have the opportunity to learn about the project, to meet the project team and to provide initial insights into challenges, opportunities, and whether the existing vision and goals in the Savary Island OCP continue to be relevant for Savary Island.

This document provides an overview of the outcomes for the in-person engagement activities, which included two events:

- 1) Open House at Pascale's Hacienda on August 26th; and
- 2) Pop-up Table at the Farmer's Market on August 27th.

2. Open House

August 26, 2024

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Pascale's Hacienda

Team Members

qathet Regional District:	
Laura Roddan	Manager of Planning Services
Cherise Roberts	Planner
Jason Lennox	Area A Director
Community Plan Consulting Team, Bluerock Planning:	
Kelly Learned	Planning/Engagement
Kacia Tolmsa	Planning/Engagement
Savary Island Groundwater Assessment Consulting Team:	
Sylvia Barroso	Senior Hydrogeologist, GW Solutions



About the Open House

The open house was the first engagement opportunity to introduce the community to the Savary Island Community Plan update project. It was a drop in event where participants could attend anytime between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. The entry station provided a sign in and background information table where attendees could learn about the Community Plan update. Next, attendees were asked a series of questions (outlined below) related to the existing Savary Island Community Plan through a combination of a Savary Island map, open-ended questions, the use of Feedback Frames (an anonymous voting tool), and an opportunity to engage on the groundwater assessment project. Please note, the groundwater assessment project will be done with separate reporting from the Community Plan project. Project team consultants, qRD staff members and representatives were there to meet attendees, introduce themselves and engage in conversation about the community, the Island and the Community Plan update.

Open House Outcomes

A. Who attended?

It is estimated that up to 50 people attended. Not everyone chose to sign in, however, the information below captures the majority of those that attended.

- Live full time on Savary Island = 10
- Live elsewhere = 21
 - Coquitlam (3)
 - Vancouver (3)
 - Surrey
 - Whistler
 - Ladysmith
 - Powell River
 - Kamloops
 - Metchosisin



B. Savary Map – favourite places on Savary

One of the engagement activities was a large, interactive map. Participants were asked to place a red dot on their favourite places on Savary Island (see image right).

- I really like my property, nice and quiet.
- Least populated
- Beach fires and oyster bakes
- Smart responsible residents, kind neighbours, less government processes
- Wide open beaches, no one there!!
- QRD involvement in preserving and maintaining the mid-Island mermaid trail to beach and anchorage at “hole”/”hide”
- Meadow and meadow beach, open and calm landscape, wildflowers
- Sensitive ecosystems from MacLean Road to the west boat ramp
- Sunset trail from Meadow Beach to Indian Point.
- Quiet enjoyment of beach, forest, intertidal, no cars, few boats



C. Open Ended Questions

Participants were asked to use sticky notes to share what they value about Savary now, what their hopes and dreams are for Savary and what challenges will impact Savary from now to 2050. Below is a summary of comments. Numbers in brackets mean more than one person agreed or had the same comment.

a. What's Most Valued about Savary Island today...



Environment

- Ecosystems and off grid living
- Off grid life
- Beaches, trees, meadows
- Protected land, more than 400 acres
- Natural beauty and ecosystems, wildlife
- Trails, Water surrounding Savary, Peace, Community (x1)



Transportation

- Trails



Infrastructure

- Limited services, self reliance
- Community off-grid



Planning and Development

- I enjoy that the people have to make it work in the absence of gov't. But that is hard. So some rules and guidelines will help.
- My own rules
- No rules, access, leave it the same
- No rules
- No rules, leave us alone! (x2)
- Independence
- The OCP is not official, it is not for the community and it is not a plan. Go away and leave us alone.



Community

- Some people (x3)
- Calm environment, free of cars or the need for cars
- No crime, no homeless issues
- Quietness, off season less busy for the 36 weeks of year
- Peace and quiet
- I value the quiet
- I also value the ability to go to a place that is completely different from my city life
- I value the ability to gather with family and friends
- Purchase the Hacienda! Why? We want it!

b. If you imagine life on Savary 25 years from now (2050), what do you hope to see and experience?



Environment

- High degree of tree cover
- More awareness of conservation and environment
- More protected land



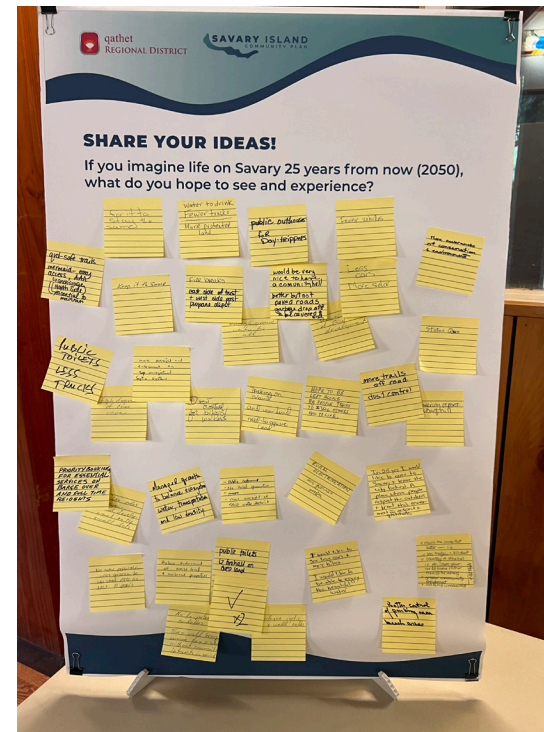
Transportation

- Less cars
- Fewer trucks
- Less trucks
- Fewer vehicles
- I would like to see less cars and more bikes
- Better but not paved roads
- qRD – safe trails
- More trails off road
- Better control of parking near beach areas
- Courtesy re vehicles, i.e., please leave your car at home rather than at the wharf
- Parking on island and in Lund, need to acquire land
- Dust control for bikers and walkers
- Dust control



Infrastructure

- More solar
- Public outhouses for day-trippers
- Public toilets
- Public toilets on the qRD firehall land (plus two check mark)
- Public restrooms
- No to public toilets, they will bring more day visitors without community interests in mind
- Garbage drop off to be covered money wise
- Enough ground water for all
- Water to drink
- Fire breaks, east side of trust and west side past the propane depot
- More oversight and enforcement on unregistered septic systems
- Enforce septic and well rules
- Bylaw enforcement of noise level and nuisance properties
- No diesel generators
- Rural electrification, less gasoline and propane
- More oversight of SSID water district
- Engineering report on Wharf hill
- Mermaid, improving easy access for all, the anchorage on the north side is essential to maintain





Planning and Development

- Managed growth to balance ecosystem, water, transportation and low density
- Slower pace of development
- No more population, not grow to the same rate as the last ten years
- Sensible rules to govern and develop, on the small lots
- Would be very nice to have a community hall
- Keep it the same
- For it to stay the same
- Status Quo
- Hope to be left alone by people trying to tell others how to live
- Much the same but better, i.e., less traffic = less dust



Community

- Priority booking for essential services on barge over and full time residents
- Greater community engagement
- Culture and community, caring and respectful
- I would like to be able to enjoy the beautiful water
- In 25 years I would like to come to Savary and leave the city behind. A place where people respect the outdoors and treat this environment with respect and gratitude.

c. What challenges might impact what you hope to see for Savary Island in 25 years?



Environment

- Too much pressure on the ecosystem
- Slope stability, erosion, need plantings to reduce erosion, other than broom
- Julian beach road to boat ramp have sensitive ecosystems on crown land, including blue listed ecosystems. People are camping, should make it a qRD reserve.
- Need long term funding for Broom removal
- More money is needed to protect land at the Springs.
- Educating visitors and new residents on the special environment concerns



Transportation

- Vancouver Blvd, stumps growing over with salal, narrow in these areas and people hit them with their cars. Need improved road maintenance
- Alternative transport
- Issues related to traffic and parking near wharf
- Love of cars
- Better road maintenance
- Money for roads
- Double wide way better gov't dock improvement farther out. Quit dredging it's eating out 1st and 2nd points



Infrastructure

- Water systems should be expanded to the whole island
- We need four things: Roads, sewer (septic), water, garbage collection. No more rules!
- Garbage collection allotment - paying for garbage services but also have to pay at the garbage in Lund
- Wonder where tax payer money goes -e.g., Garbage in Lund, why do we pay for the garbage over there?
- Lack of services - garbage collection, recycling, road maintenance, parking areas with minimal impact on residents



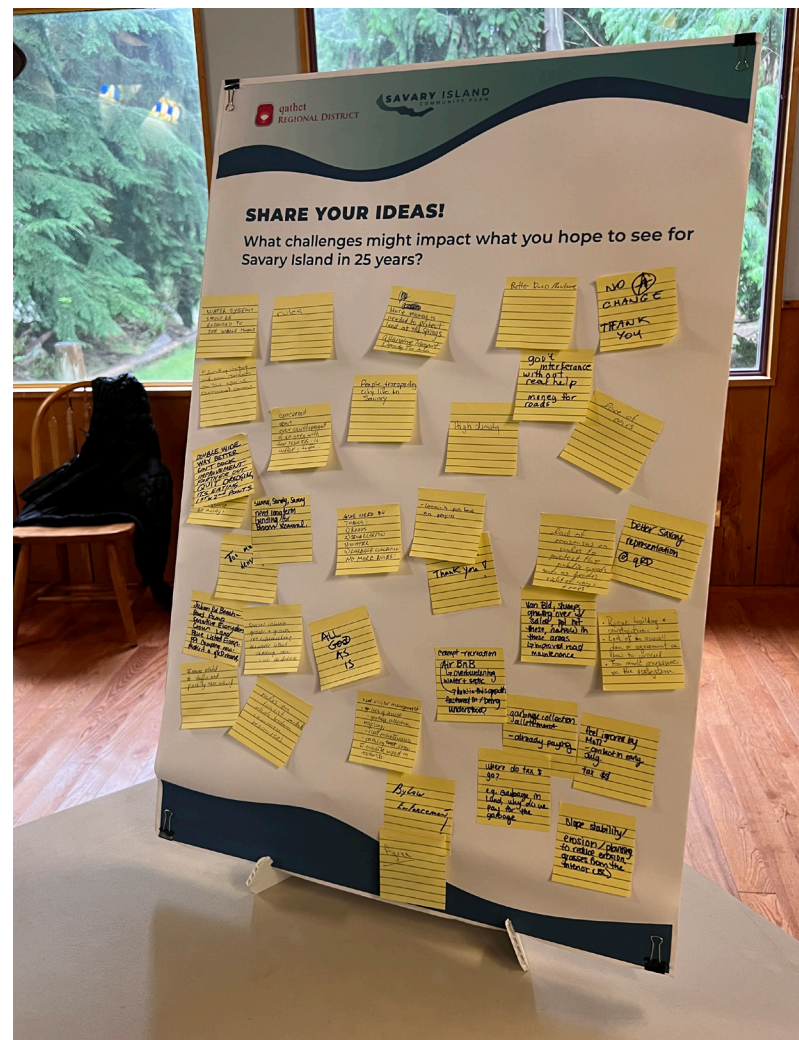
Planning and Development

- Rogue building construction
- Lack of an overall plan or agreement on how to proceed
- Feel ignored by MoTI after multiple attempts to contact
- Air BnB overwhelming water and septic tanks – exempt because their recreation. Wonder how this growth is being understood/factored in?
- Rules on tourist rentals which burden common resources
- Visitor management
- Bylaw enforcement (plus one Agree!)
- Better Savary representation at qRD
- Gov't interference without real help.
- Too much density.
- High density
- Concerned about overdevelopment of an area with few resources, i.e., water; traffic. People transporting city life to Savary
- Would like to see the end of regional district influence and interference. Go away!
- Density too high
- Rules



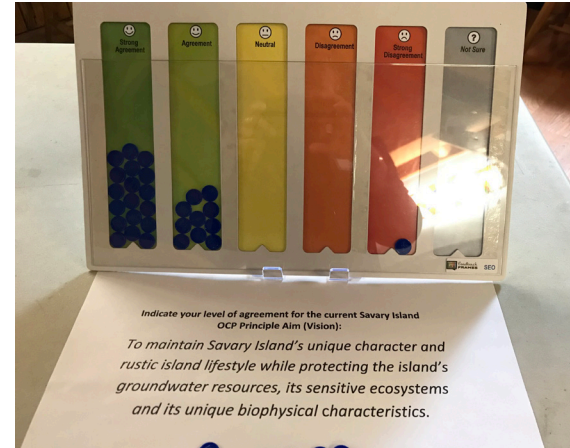
Community

- Lack of consensus on values to protect the public goods such as beaches, right of ways, trees
- Special interest groups and groups not representative of the whole island. Challenge now is in influence.
- All good as is.
- No change! Thank you!
- No change, thank you
- Community push back on progress



D. Feedback Frames – Existing Savary OCP Vision and Goals

Feedback Frames are a tool used in engagement for people to provide their rating of an idea. This is done without seeing what others have rated or voted so there is no group influence. After the event, the feedback frames were uncovered and the votes/ratings were documented by total number and percentage of total votes. The blue highlighted cells show what the majority of votes were for each question. For the open house engagement, participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the current Savary Island Official Community Plan's vision and goals to provide the project team with an understanding of whether or not the Community Plan vision and goals continue to be relevant.



There was strong support overall for the existing vision (96% strongly agreed or agreed) and the goals as shown in the table below. Most goals had very strong support, with over 58% strongly supporting five of the seven goals. Goals 5 and 6 received slightly less support, which isn't surprising as they address regulation and community services, which are known divisive issues in the community. Goal 5, pertaining to balancing land use regulations had the largest diversity of opinion with 66% strongly agreeing or agreeing, 17% neutral and 13% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Goal 6 responses were similar with 67% agreeing or strongly agreeing, 20% neutral, and 13% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Vision (V), Goal (G)	SA	A	N	D	SD	U	Total
(V) To maintain Savary Island's unique character and rustic island lifestyles while protecting the island's groundwater resources, its sensitive ecosystems and its unique biophysical characteristics.	18 62%	10 34%	0 0%	0 0%	1 3%	0 0%	29 100%
1. (G) To protect natural areas and the Island's ecological integrity.	18 67%	7 26%	1 4%	0 0%	1 4%	0 0%	27 100%
2. (G) To limit commercial development to small-scale, non-polluting endeavours, compatible with the Island's rural character and natural environment.	19 58%	10 30%	2 6%	0 0%	1 3%	1 3%	33 100%
3. (G) To encourage lot consideration in order to reduce the total number of small lots on the Island.	20 63%	5 16%	6 19%	0 0%	1 3%	0 0%	32 100%
4. (G) To safeguard the Island's groundwater supply.	20 69%	5 17%	2 7%	0 0%	2 7%	0 0%	29 100%
5. (G) To strive for a balance between land use regulations and the desire of local residents for a rural island lifestyle.	10 33%	10 33%	5 17%	3 10%	1 3%	1 3%	30 100%
6. (G) To provide a level of community services at a scale appropriate for a rustic rural island community.	12 40%	8 27%	6 20%	1 3%	3 10%	0 0%	30 100%
7. (G) To provide for a level of residential development which maintains the Island's rural character and is mindful of the Island's carrying capacity.	18 58%	9 29%	0 0%	1 3%	3 10%	0 0%	31 100%

Legend: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree, U = Unsure
Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

a. Goals missing

Participants were asked to indicate if there were goals missing that the team should consider for the Community Plan update. Some comments indicated a missing goal that could be addressed by the existing goals, other comments are out of scope of a Community Plan project, while other comments are more for a policy level than a higher vision and goal statement – all are outlined below.

Addressed in existing goals (sentence underneath shows which existing goal addresses the comment)

- Appropriate services for a rural community
 - To provide for a level of community services at a scale appropriate for a rustic rural island community.
- Clean water
 - To safeguard the Island's groundwater supply.
- Land protection
 - To protect natural areas and the Island's ecological integrity.

Policy Ideas – for consideration later in the project

- How to develop/enhance culture and community
- Community to acquire lands as ecological reserves to reduce pressure on common resources (plus one “good idea”)
- Fire protection
- More protection of tree cover as an aide to control temperatures with coming climate change

- Reduce tree cutting
- Limit the size of house/cottage on a lot
- Respect and consult with local Indigenous (First Nation) groups
- More involvement from the local first Nation in the OCP (plus one check mark)
- Rural electrification
- Engineering report on key emergency road areas

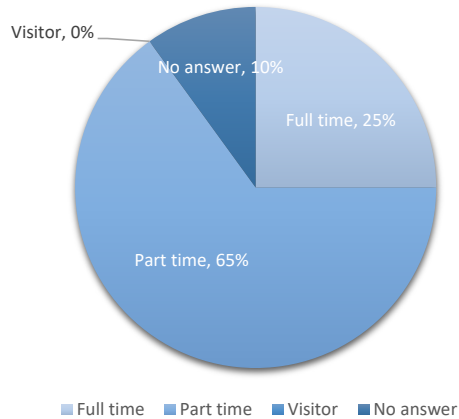
For Testing/Discussion

- The goals listed are very hard to rate as there needs to be considered context and some group unlike items.
 - *The project team has noted more clarity may be needed on what the purpose of vision and goals are in the context of a Community Plan document.*
- Managing visitors and services for visitors (washrooms)
 - *The project team has noted that tourism or visitors is not mentioned in the Vision or any of the Goals and suggest this may need further discussion with the community.*

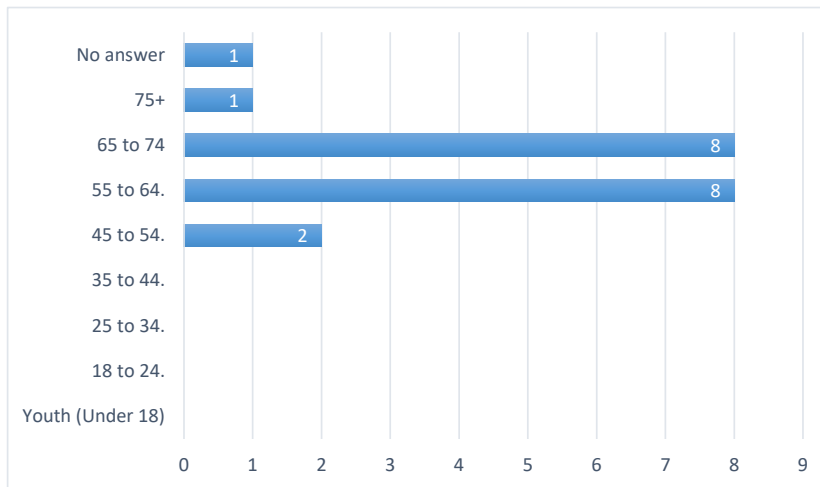
E. Exit Survey Demographics

Participants were asked to complete an exit survey so the project team could understand who is engaging, and how the engagement activities were perceived by those in attendance. Not all attendees completed an exit survey.

Residential Status on Savary Island:

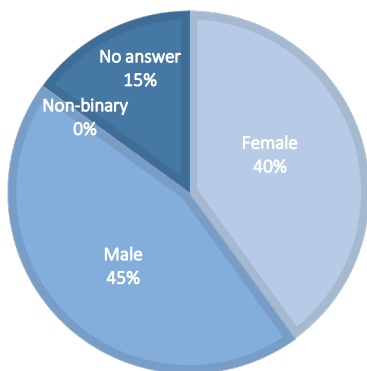


Age Category



Gender

Female Male Non-binary No answer



LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



20

Completed surveys

Today's engagement was...

- 5** Great!
- 13** Good
- 0** Needs improvement
- 3** No Answer

Comments:

- More of this engagement is needed
- Recognize commercial enterprises in place already like Savary Island Fair Trade – 4 years now!
- Will some information about Savary be presented before more feedback?
- Very helpful for looking at key issues that affect the island.
- Surprised there was no public presentation
- Very difficult to use blue chips in most goals because they can be interpreted in many different ways – lack of context. Some would be hard not to agree with!
- Looking forward to the additional consultation. Many different interest groups on Savary, some with competing interests.
- Thank you
- You missed an Indigenous component. All these middens – what to do? Why call it Indian Point in 2024????
- Very engaging!
- It was great to see an interest in our water on Savary. Also, we need public washrooms on Savary!! Thanks.
- A great start
- Can't wait to have a chance for engagement

3. Farmer's Market

August 27

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Team Members:

qathet Regional District:	
Cherise Roberts	Planner
Community Plan Consulting Team, Bluerock Planning:	
Kelly Learned	Planning/Engagement
Kacia Tolmsa	Planning/Engagement
Savary Island Groundwater Assessment Consulting Team:	
Sylvia Barroso	Senior Hydrogeologist, GW Solutions

About the Farmer's Market Event

The market on Savary Island was the second opportunity to introduce the Savary Island Community Plan update project.

The main focus of the market event was to let the community know the project has been initiated. The project team and qRD staff set up a table at the market to offer the community an opportunity to learn about the project, meet the project team and have a quick touchpoint to provide some insights related to the Community Plan as well as the Savary Island Groundwater Assessment project.

Participants were asked about where they reside, what their hopes and dreams are for Savary Island, and to share their favourite spots and why. Again, not everyone who visited the Community Plan table signed in, however it is estimated that team members spoke with at least 30 individuals.



Farmer's Market Outcomes

A. Where do you live? (feedback frame)

- Savary Island = 5
- Other = 11

If you do not live on Savary, where do you live full time?

- Aldergrove (x2)
- Victoria
- Vancouver (x4)
- Mission
- Chilliwack
- Port Townsend WA
- North Vancouver



B. What are your hopes and dreams for Savary Island?



Environment

- Conserve / remediate sand dunes / cliffs (x6)



Transportation

- Policy to reduce number of cars (x10)
- Bike trails (x9)
- Dual dwarf dock: landings for commercial and residential



Infrastructure

- Water protection (x6)
- More rainwater catchment – funding provision of rainbarrels at cost (x3)
- No garbage burning on island (x2)
- Basic postal service to Savary (x2)
- Services for day trippers – Washrooms!



Planning and Development

- Controls on development/cabin-lot ratio/clear cutting (x9)
- Zoning and monitoring (x6)
- Tree regulations (x5)



Community

- Community hall for the Savary community to use (x1)

C. Map

My favourite place comments:

- Spirit trees (Duck Bay)
- The Zunga!
- Indian Point – amazing view up the Desolation Sound. Community of families dating back up to 6 generations.
- Love beaches: Indian Point (at the point!), Julian Beach/Meadows Beach, Warf Beach,
- Love – the church on Savary Island
- We love South Beach! The beautiful, expansive sand, warm water as the tide comes in and bird life/ocean creatures.
- We LOVE how natural and unregulated the atmosphere on Savary is. There seems to be a community of people maintaining this balance.
- Looking out for each other and nature – maintain this essence, trust that this won't change.



Transportation

- Please get the barge to use Indian point site 50% of the time so all the traffic doesn't go through the front. Barg site is a big problem allowing traffic.
- Need a boat ramp at Indian point!
- Stop so much car traffic in general but particularly at the dock. It is not safe with dogs and kids.
- Concerned that homeowners actually 'moved' road on northside (Savary Island Road) to build their cabins. How can this be permitted?
- Protect and maintain roads and safety
- If you create a bikeway corridor, please do not cut trees down
- Designate Savary Island Road as a bike corridor

- Less cars
- Pave from fire hall to boat ramp with dedicated bike land and speed bumps, paved roads.
- Do traffic counting in middle of summer or it's not accurate
- Speed limit is insane for such a small island.



Environment

- Concerned that the dune is falling in an accelerated fashion due to the orca lot – needs conservation and remediation (between Beacon Point and Sutherland Beach)



Planning and Development

- qRD needs bigger presence on island re: Education/awareness, ecologically sensitive areas, stewardship, more signage to explain ecological sensitivity, banks and erosion.
- qRD consider implementing education booth in Lund during tourist season to educate tourists on how to protect Savary i.e. bank erosion, pathways, wildlife, etc.
- qRD needs to be more active/present on Savary i.e. population on Savary in summer is greater than Texada
- Regulate tree cutting – 'no clearcutting'
- Why are large trees being cut along the roadway i.e. Cunningham?
- Limit size of cottages to reduce the tree cutting and effect on water table
- Consider siting permits.

Other comments:

- Make sure you have Savary representatives from all over the Island
- Make sure you come mid-summer to the Island
- Postal Service on Savary – shouldn't have to use water taxi to retrieve mail.
- Rename "Indian Point" to something more inclusive/reconciliation (x2)

4. Summary of Feedback from Open House and Farmer's Market

Themes from feedback that will need further discussion in next rounds of engagement

- We heard many folks want Savary to stay the same, little or no more development, conserve important ecological areas, value quiet lifestyle.
- No rules or regulation is needed
- Need ecological protection / conservation
- Need some level of regulation for building on the Island

In the next round of engagement, it will be important to clarify the planning structure for Savary Island, and to offer opportunities for the community to discuss the impacts of different perspectives and how that will influence the long-term future of the Island.

5. Next Steps

The qRD staff will issue a call for Advisory Committee applicants. The Advisory Committee will assist the project team in understanding various perspectives on the Island, help promote future public engagement opportunities and assist the project team by reviewing and providing feedback on information.

The next public engagement round will occur in October and November. October engagement will allow those unable to attend the August in-person engagement to provide feedback on the existing OCP Vision and Goals. The November engagement will provide a baseline of information (current situation on the Island) and test some initial ideas for the Community Plan.

Key Milestones

