

An election built on fear

Fear is going to win this election.

At this point, we're all very aware, this is an election of fear.

Every single party is running on a campaign of being the party to stop the other party from doing something.

Check out the ads. Check out the messages.

Check out the ways the public are asking for their friends and family to vote for their party.

Fear of change. Fear of status quo.

Fear of vote-splitting.

Fear of the unknown. Fear of 'that other party' taking Canada down whatever road the party believes is dark, twisted, and evil.

If it's not fear being used, it's outright mockery of the other parties.

Messages of hope, or being the agents for positive change, or making life better for Canadians, are getting lost in the noise of fear, hate, and ridicule. We'd like to think, as Canadians, and in particular as Gabriolans, that we're different than our neighbours to the south.

This election is proving, we're not so different after all.

Editorial

Coordination problem

Some elections are over before they even begin. In Battle River—Crowfoot, Damien Kurek, with almost 80% of the vote, is a slam dunk to be sent back for another term. He could run his campaign from Jamaica and still win handily.

On the other hand, in a riding like Nanaimo—Ladysmith, here's how it was projected (as of April 15): CPC 30%, GPC 27%, LPC, 23%, NDP 18%, PPC 2%. It's a perfect storm for vote-splitting.

Let's assume the 32% of PPC and CPC supporters would rather have a Conservative MP and that the 68% of Green, Liberal, and NDP supporters would rather not.

It's clearly a progressive riding. Manly represented it for the Greens until 2021, then Barron — the current incumbent, who's polling fourth — won it for the NDP.

68% of voters there would rather not have a Conservative MP, but that's what they'll end up with unless they can solve their coordination problem.

Please note, none of these wonderful candidates are at fault. It's the system that's broken. A ranked ballot system could resolve the coordination problem, fairly delivering an outcome that would most closely approximate what the people there would choose.

Unfortunately, we don't have that. This backwards electoral system incentivizes a two-party system. Any votes for third- or fourth-party candidates are wasted, leading to worse results for those voters.

Unless the progressive parties there can coordinate their voters on a single candidate, they could find themselves sending a Conservative to Ottawa in spite of themselves.

Coordinating on any progressive candidate (even randomly) would deliver a "better" outcome (more closely representing the will of that riding's voters) than splitting the vote would.

In case the parties involved don't sort it out, voters could use smartvoting.ca to vote strategically and try to resolve that coordination problem themselves.

Column
Aaron Holmes



Letters to the Editor

To the leadership of CCCU:

Repeating a failing strategy over and over again with the same result is defined as folly. Once again, a proposal comes out of the blue, although not unexpectedly, and with a similar patronizing attitude on the order of "the membership is not financially informed enough to know why we need to do this". This neglects that many members could be astute investors, or have run their own companies, or managed millions of dollars in assets in their own careers. So I once again plead with the powers that be, the Board, the CFO, the CEO, to publish and distribute to the membership an in-depth financial analysis of where we are, why that limits our future, how the merger would improve things, what opportunities and risks attendant on this merger, our own due diligence assessment of the other party to the same detail as the report on our credit union, any political implications vis a vis board members and governance, and where each director stands on this. Due diligence should be required when deciding on the fate of life savings, but it is hard to do due diligence when the only information consists of well massaged public relations releases, the current one of which doesn't even mention the number of members of CCCU, which prevents any proportional analysis. By comparison, fund managers manage to present their rationales for every major transaction.

I suspect that the failure of the last merger attempt may have included push-back to this "we know better and you don't have to know at all" attitude. If detailed and credible information is not forthcoming, then I will be voting No on principle alone, and shortly thereafter removing my funds from CCCU and depositing them elsewhere. I have already gone through this unprofessional treatment by a leadership group in the sale of MD Management to the Bank of Nova Scotia years ago with no warning, consultation with or justification (or benefit) to the unit holders, and am fully prepared to vote with my assets again.

~ Laurence Lee, Gabriola

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY - *The Gabriola Sounder* welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be signed and a phone number included so the writer's identity can be verified. *The Sounder* reserves the right to edit letters for legal considerations, taste, and brevity. Please try to keep your letters under 300 words to ensure your 'Letter to the Editor' appears as close to its original form as possible. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send us comments. Keep your input coming.

SMILES & SNARLS

SMILE - to Maddie and Matt at the Surf for taking me into the clinic when I had a big gash on my forehead., and to Dr. Thorne for patching me up.

~ Lucy

SMILE - a huge smile to the Gabriola Firefighters Fundraising Group for their signpost fundraiser; a truly wonderful action of care for community. Thank you.

~ Penelope

TO SUBMIT A SMILE OR SNARL: Call 250-247-9337 or email derek@soundernews.com

Submissions subject to editing.

Around the Island

Weekly joke: How does pollen stay in touch?

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The Nanaimo-Ladysmith All-Candidates Meeting is on Wednesday, April 23 at the Coast Bastion in Nanaimo. As that's too late to get in the paper ahead of Election Day, the Sounder will be sending coverage straight to the Sounder web site, as well as sending out an Election Brief to those who subscribe to the Digital Briefs. Sign up by sending an email to derek@soundernews.com with the subject line 'subscribe'.

...

Mainroad crews will be clearing brush in ditches, having started this past Saturday. Work will continue until May 3. 7am to 7pm. Drivers should expect a slow-moving vehicle in the area as crews perform work.

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The Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) FireSmart team, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, will be hosting a landscape debris drop off event this weekend near the South fire hall. Details in the Sounder Events Calendar.

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Did You Know? There's a microscope station for the public to use at the Gabriola Library. Everything you need is there, prepared slides to look at or prepare your own. Come and zoom in on the invisible world around you.

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Joke Answer: Through bee-mail!

ORGANICS, GARBAGE, AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

RECYCLING & ORGANICS:
Fri. Apr. 25/Fri. May 9

GARBAGE & ORGANICS:
Fri. May 2/Fri. May 16

GABRIOLA WALKING GROUP

Wednesday walks begin promptly at 10:00am.

Dogs on leash please.

April 23: Park Christ Church Gabriola. Walk Nelder's Pond and Beyond Trails.

April 30: Park Coats Drive @ Hess. Walk 707 Park Trails.

May 7: Park Crestwood. Walk Village Area Trails.

Gabriola-Nanaimo Ferry Schedule
IN EFFECT APRIL 1, 2025

FERRY TRAVELLERS SHOULD BE AT THE TERMINAL **10 MIN** PRIOR TO SAILING TO ENSURE THEY ARE ABLE TO BOARD THEIR INTENDED SAILING.

LEAVE GABRIOLA	LEAVE NANAIMO
• 5:15 AM <i>MON-FRI ONLY</i>	5:45 AM <i>MON-FRI ONLY</i>
• 6:20 AM	
• 7:05 AM <i>MON-FRI ONLY</i>	• 6:55 AM <i>EXCEPT SUNDAYS</i>
• 7:35 AM <i>EXCEPT SUNDAYS</i>	7:35 AM <i>EXCEPT SUNDAYS</i>
8:10 AM	• 8:10 AM
• 8:45 AM	• 8:45 AM
9:20 AM	• 9:20 AM
• 9:55 AM	9:55 AM
10:35 AM	• 10:35 AM <i>EXCEPT WED (DG)</i>
• 11:15 AM	11:15 AM
11:50 AM	• 11:50 AM
• 1:10 PM	1:10 PM
1:45 PM	• 1:45 PM
• 2:20 PM	2:20 PM
2:55 PM	• 2:55 PM
• 3:30 PM	3:30 PM
4:05 PM	• 4:05 PM
• 4:40 PM	4:40 PM
5:15 PM	• 5:20 PM
• 5:55 PM <i>EXCEPT WED (DG)</i>	6:30 PM
7:05 PM	• 7:40 PM
• 8:15 PM	9:25 PM
• 9:55 PM	• 10:30 PM <i>EXCEPT WED</i>
• 11:00 PM <i>EXCEPT WED</i>	• 11:30 PM

SAILINGS WITH • ARE THE GABRIOLA-BASED SHIP
DC: THESE SAILINGS ARE REPLACED BY DANGEROUS CARGO SAILINGS.
NO OTHER PASSENGERS OR VEHICLES ARE PERMITTED

SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK THE GABRIOLA FERRY CAM

THE FERRY WEBCAM HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS OF "THE LUNCH BUNCH", A SMALL GROUP OF RETIRED LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO MEET FOR LUNCH ONCE A MONTH, AND WANTED TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO GABRIOLA AND THE COMMUNITY.

GABRIOLA SOUNDER MEDIA INC. OPERATES WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL AND UNCEDED TERRITORY OF THE SNUNEYMUXW FIRST NATION

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PUBLISHER
SARAH HOLMES
SARAH@SOUNDERNEWS.COM

EDITOR
DEREK KILBOURN
DEREK@SOUNDERNEWS.COM

Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 9:00 to 4:00
Fridays: 9:00 to Noon.
After-hours by appointment

Office Address: Madrona Marketplace East
Unit 1, 510 North Road, Gabriola, BC.

Mailing Address: PO Box 62, Gabriola, BC. V0R-1X0

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PH: 250-247-9337 WWW.SOUNDERNEWS.COM

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