

Ferries need feedback loop

BC Ferries has launched a new engagement process for coastal communities to provide feedback. Large systems like BC Ferries need to have feedback from the people who depend on their system. Especially when there are few people at the top of the company who don’t actually have to use the system themselves for day-to-day life.

Editorial

It’s entirely too easy to look at the system through the romantic tourism lens - and forget the people for whom the ferry is just another way to get to work, school, and medical appointments. The new engagement tool has too much potential for glossing over what people want to communicate with BC Ferries. People need to be able to express their thoughts on ferry service in person with people in BC Ferries who can actuate change. As uncomfortable as it can be to have those discussions in a public forum, those need to happen. Not just in surveys, online thought-bubbles, or at an Open House with sticky Post-It Notes. We need actual meetings, with actual members of the public able to have the floor. We have seen great work done by BC Ferries over the decades because staff was able to hear from those living the experience of their decision making. That needs to be in place going forward.

Letters to the Editor

Oh, the games we play
Our Federal Election was always a 2-horse race. We were either betting for or against Secretariat. Just another day at the racetrack.
We live our lives as if everything is a game filled with winners and losers. Fans hoot and holler and wave their banners for whichever team they believe can eliminate the others. Our games are always filled with high emotion.
Meanwhile, we claim we stand for a basket of human rights that includes unity, diversity and justice. Yet, our political system feels more divisive than co-operative.
Party politics does not serve us well. We need to shift to Proportional Representation or something better, so more voices are heard.
Climate Change won’t care which banner you are waving when your house burns down, gets flooded out or blows away in a hurricane. We are all on Team Canada. Earth changes may force us to work together. Why wait for that to happen?
~ Jan Moore

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.

Post-Election analysis

Amid rising U.S. tariffs and Donald Trump’s mounting threats to Canadian sovereignty, the 45th federal election on April 28, 2025 unfolded against an unprecedented geopolitical backdrop, one that significantly reshaped the political landscape in Nanaimo–Ladysmith. In a surprising turn, the riding flipped to the Conservative Party of Canada, while the Liberal Party surged unexpectedly to secure a strong second-place finish. If there was one predictable and consistent factor in the riding of Nanaimo-Ladysmith during this election, it was the fragmentation of the progressive vote, a concern echoed by thousands of residents throughout the campaign. Although the division on the left among the New Democrats, Greens, and Liberals has arithmetically paved the way for Conservative candidate Tamara Kronis’s victory, a fuller understanding of the 2025 federal election outcome requires looking beyond vote-splitting. One key insight lies in the slight increase in voter turnout, up slightly (+2%) compared to previous federal elections. The boost appeared to benefit both the Conservative and Liberal campaigns, reinforcing the increasingly binary nature of the race between the two parties that came to define the 2025 federal contest in Nanaimo–Ladysmith. However, the results also point to a significant swing toward the Conservative Party, partly attributable to a 4.61% drop-in support for the People’s Party of Canada and a sharp collapse in the NDP vote. In Nanaimo-Ladysmith, the NDP’s decline reflected a broader trend across Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and Canada. A loss that has ultimately benefitted both the Conservatives and Liberals. While some NDP supporters appear to have temporarily lent their votes to the Liberal Party, the party may see some of that support return as the NDP searches for a new leader to replace Jagmeet Singh. Still, the noticeable shift of labour voters to the Conservatives signals a deeper challenge for the NDP, which appears to have lost traction with key segments of the working class, particularly in natural resource industries. Post-election data also suggests that a notable portion of progressive voters may have chosen to stay home, potentially discouraged by a fractured landscape on the left. A sense that their vote might carry little weight amid the split between the NDP, Greens, and Liberals may have contributed to lower engagement. The unexpected result of the Liberal candidate Michelle Corfield, who finished in second place with 20.7% of the vote, marked a significant breakthrough for the candidate who surpassed the previous Liberal benchmark set by Tim Tessier in the 2015 federal election. This outcome also casts a spotlight on the performance of Paul Manly, a well-known politician, city councillor and former Member of Parliament (2019 to 2021). Despite early efforts to rally strategic voters, citing internal polling that placed him in second position and data from Vote Smart Nanaimo, Manly finished fourth, losing 7.56% of the Green Party’s vote share and falling behind NDP candidate Lisa Marie Barron. His argument to work across the aisle failed to resonate with voters, who instead aligned their support along the binary national trend. Riding the wave of a broader national trend and benefiting from the progressive vote split, Conservative candidate Tamara Kronis secured victory in Nanaimo–Ladysmith, just four years after narrowly losing the 2021 race by 1,199 votes. Her win serves as a reminder that Vancouver Island, including this riding, has a longstanding history of conservative support. The Conservative Party of Canada and its predecessors have consistently garnered over 20% of the local vote, with previous victories by the Canadian Alliance in 2000 and the Reform Party in both 1997 and 1993. Electoral history underscores that Nanaimo–Ladysmith is a highly competitive riding, where shifts between Conservative and NDP support shape the political landscape. As parliament is set to be recalled this month, with a Speech from the Throne to be delivered by King Charles on May 27, the newly elected Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Ladysmith, Tamara Kronis, faces the critical task of building trust within the community. While the First-Past-the-Post system delivers a clear winner, the numbers tell a broader story: 48,064 voters, representing 64.83% of the electorate, did not support her campaign. Strong representation is not easy task; it requires balancing party priorities and often voting along party lines, while also genuinely listening to and addressing the diverse concerns of all constituents, two duties that will inevitably come into conflict considering the context. Whether this call is heeded remains to be seen. Canadians, including residents of Nanaimo-Ladysmith, have sent a clear message: they want unity and expect collaboration among all political parties in the face of unprecedented external threats from the United States. Time will tell, but one thing is certain, every elected official in on notice. Voters will have little patience for partisan posturing.

GABRIOLA VOTES

Lauren Touchant
Professor of Political Studies
Vancouver Island University

Around the Island

Weekly joke: What’s a pollen’s favourite movie?

Cut Broom in Bloom! There are many kinds of invasive plants on Gabriola. GaLTT has a great list of them on the GaLTT.ca web site. But right now, it’s certainly a great time to start tackling scotch broom in yellow bloom. Take out all that pollen-allergy-induced unhappiness on whatever Broom can be found.

Please slow down in the Huxley Park playground zone. The posted speed limit in school zones is 30 km/h and it is applicable on school days between 8am and 5pm. But, the posted speed limit in playground zones is 30 km/h from dawn to dusk, every day of the year, not just on school days. The sun is getting up earlier, and going to bed later, which means the Huxley Park users are as well. Please slow down for all ages of islanders who are in the Huxley area.

The heat is on. Incredible weather this past weekend - feels like beach weather is just around the corner. May Long Weekend approaches. Prepare for springtime ferry travel accordingly.

Joke Answer: Petal Attraction.

ORGANICS, GARBAGE, AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

RECYCLING & ORGANICS: Fri. May 9/Mon. May 26
GARBAGE & ORGANICS: Fri. May 16/Mon. June 2

GABRIOLA WALKING GROUP

Wednesday walks begin promptly at 10:00am. Dogs on leash please.

May 7: Park Crestwood. Walk Village Area Trails.
May 14: Park Captain Ahabs Terrace. Walk Area trails.
May 21: Off Island Walk. 9:20 a.m. Ferry. Walk Buttertubs Marsh return.

Made possible by: Covering Canada: Election 2025 Funding

SMILES & SNARLS

SMILE - We are so grateful to the Sounder for their ongoing support to the Gabriola Museum now and in years past. Thank you Sounder! ~ The Gabriola Historical and Museum Society
SMILE - Another huge thank you goes out to Gary Symons and all the musicians who performed at last Thursday’s Museum Music Night at the Surf Open Mic. What an incredible night! Everyone was up and dancing right to the end. Gratitude for the monies donated by the generous fans in support of the museum’s programs and McRae Land Fund. We are so looking forward to the next MMN! ~ The Gabriola Historical and Museum Society
SMILE - to Hel and James for hosting the All women’s powertool workshop... a great experience. ~ Sharon

TO SUBMIT A SMILE OR SNARL:

Email derek@soundernews.com or call 250-247-9337. Submissions subject to editing.

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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 MON-FRI ONLY	5:45 AM MON-FRI ONLY
• 6:20 AM	
• 7:05 AM MON-FRI ONLY	• 6:55 AM EXCEPT SUNDAYS
• 7:35 AM EXCEPT SUNDAYS	7:35 AM EXCEPT SUNDAYS
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 EXCEPT WED (DG)
• 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 EXCEPT WED (DG)	6:30 PM
• 7:05 PM	7:40 PM
• 8:15 PM	• 9:25 PM
• 9:55 PM	• 10:30 PM EXCEPT WED
• 11:00 PM EXCEPT WED	• 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



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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.