



Galiano Community Greenhouse Project January to March, 2009

I. Background

The Galiano Community Food Program (a program of the Galiano Club) received funding from Vancity in late 2009 to construct a Community Greenhouse to support the community gardens on the island.

As we stated in our grant application, Galiano has a vibrant Community Food Program (established in March, 2008) that includes canning, preserving, smoking, foraging, community kitchens, a garlic co-op and community gardens. The Food Program was begun with the idea of increasing our sustainability as an island community and bringing segments of the island closer together. The greenhouse project will further our quest for self-sufficiency and sustainability by allowing us to start plants indoors and to grow some more vulnerable plants year round. Many on Galiano do not have suitable land for growing or space for a greenhouse. The community gardens have provided people space to grow and learn.

II. Proposed Location

In looking for a good public space, the Community School/Activity Centre was mentioned consistently as the recommended spot to locate a greenhouse. There were a number of reasons cited:

- the central location and proximity to the school garden
- the potential for sun and year round growing
- the potential for the school children to be involved in greenhouse growing

III. Resources

In the past few weeks we have received confirmation of funding for 2 full-time Youth Eco Interns for approximately 9 months. We have gone through a hiring process and have 2 individuals who will begin work mid-January. The interns will be working on the greenhouse project and coordinating the community gardens. They will be closely supervised by the Food Program Coordinators and a designated representative of the Food Program Steering Committee

IV. Next Steps

The steps include:

- a) Holding initial conversations with Galiano Community School Principal, the Chair of the Galiano Activity Centre and the School Trustee – completed late November, 2009 by Jane Wolverton
- b) Meeting with S.D. 64 School Board to discuss proposal– tentatively set for January 13th, 2010, to be presented by Janice Oakley and Jane Wolverton
- c) Determining the location of the greenhouse – to be completed by the Interns and Food Program Coordinator by January 31st, 2010 in conjunction with school district staff (if accepted by the School Board)
- d) Researching types of greenhouse kits available with an emphasis on solar power for any electrical needs, Plexiglas for any glass and water collection for water needs – to be completed and order made by the Interns by February 15th, 2010
- e) Recruiting a volunteer crew for erecting the greenhouse – to be completed by the Interns and Food Program Coordinator by February 28th, 2010
- f) Preparing site and construction of greenhouse – to be completed by March 31st, 2010
- g) Developing guidelines for use, maintenance, security and creating a "management" committee – to be completed by March 31st, 2010
- h) Holding an "open house" for the school children and teachers – by March 31st, 2010
- i) Holding an "open house" to introduce the Community Greenhouse to the Community Garden participants – by April 10th, 2010

V. Questions to Consider

- a) If the School Board approves the location, do the teachers envisage the students being involved in the greenhouse – e.g. including using a portion of the greenhouse for starting plants for the school garden, starting plants for plant sales, growing winter crops for cooking at the school?
- b) Are there workshops that the teachers might want to see developed for the students?
- c) Would any of the older students be interested in documenting the process of developing the community greenhouse or be involved in developing the guidelines?
- d) In the guidelines to be developed, consideration needs to be given to hours of access, maintenance, security and supervision.