

Letter to Editor Driftwood newspaper Sept 24, 2006

Islands Trust Council takes leadership on Kyoto Protocol

On Friday, Sept 22, Salt Spring hosted the climate action tour talking about what we would like in the climate program that is being promised by the Conservative govt. The discussion was lively and there were many persons who talked about what they had observed about changing climate in this area. Participants gave many ideas about what they would like to see in a plan and you can read it soon on the Climate Action Network website www.climateaction.ca

Although the Conservatives are saying that Canada cannot meet the Kyoto targets (read the oil patch in Alberta has successfully lobbied them) the Islands Trust Council has taken the initiative and on Sept 15, passed a Trust Council Resolution on Kyoto. Bravo to George Ehring who championed this resolution through Council and Peter Lamb who is acutely aware of the impacts of climate change. Thanks to Trust Council which, passed the Resolution with a huge majority.

The Resolution has four parts and mandates Trust Council to ask the federal govt to renew its Kyoto commitments, to proceed with adaptive planning to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change, to expand public education for residents and visitors to reduce their Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and to include adaptive planning in the draft strategic plan to mitigate the potential impact of climate change.

The forecast for the upcoming winter is that once again, temperatures will be mild which will probably lead to drought conditions next summer, and more stress on our forests and other aspects of the natural environment...We now know that the climate changes that are taking place will be permanent. Temperatures are steadily rising, and polar ice caps are melting at unprecedented rates. The potential impacts for our islands are considerable.

The positive story is that while the federal govt in both Canada and the United States, two of the highest emitters of GHG in the world are dragging their feet, we have local govt agencies such as Islands Trust rising to the occasion and providing the leadership that is needed to inspire each of us to work with them in doing our part. **Indeed our very survival depends on each of us taking action.**

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