

Gary Richardson

Subject: FW: task force report

From: Steele Greenhouse Components [steele@axionet.com]

Sent: April 9, 2012 10:47 AM

To: Rich Tamboline

Cc: Shanti McDougall; Bill Maund; Lois Yip; Glenda Johnson; Barry Wilks; Deb Foote; Geoff Siverns; David Maude; Brian Crumblehulme; Jeanine Dodds

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Dear Trustees et al,

This is my task force report.

To begin, I agree completely with our Chair's comment, "Mayne Island's small population with easy access to a larger market makes for a difficult environment in which to operate a retail business".

Our mandate was clear enough ".....to provide overall strategic advice to the Local Trust Committee on the need, requirements and preferred locations of commercial activity on Mayne Island"

We lost population in the past five years.

The requirements are clear - we need more people, more jobs and more money in the community.

What "easy access to a larger market" means is that we are well positioned to do business with over 2 million people - obviously we must look outside the retail trade.

So, currently, what are the major exports?

Recycled materials, trash and (cover your ears gentle readers) poo. Most trucks leave empty, many of them re-fridgerated.

Obviously there is opportunity in adding value to re-cycled materials and in processing human-waste on Island (though it may be a regulatory improbability); and, of course, utilizing the empty trucks would help a start-up and strengthen an existing enterprise.

The economic history of the Island is awesome, some notables include: a cannery; a brick-maker and a hot house trade that exported (in today's dollars) millions in tomatoes. Those who came before us managed viable businesses without good phone service or high-speed internet - or the ease of access to larger markets that we now enjoy.

It would be easy to start a list of businesses that have potential however that is like starting a sentence with "Do you know what you should do?" Nobody wants to hear it. I make two exceptions because they have the potential to stimulate much more activity.

A batch plant for concrete (using local aggregate) could make the price more competitive and that could unleash some pent-up demand.

Agricultural enterprises has expanded noticeably in the past 10 years - a cold storage facility for local producers would take things to another level and add to our own food security.

We have everything we need to succeed.

Thank you for reading my report,

Brian Steele,
Task Force Member