

# **Fulford & Ganges Design Charrette**

May 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> at the Farmers Institute

The future of Ganges and Fulford villages is the theme for Salt Spring Island's first design 'charrette', an intensive workshop that will occur at the Farmers Institute from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. The charrette will bring together three teams of design professionals, including a core group of local architects, designers, planners, builders, and artists, and a support group of specialists and knowledgeable residents. Their design challenge will be to enhance and illustrate the current plans and policies for the villages, especially the draft visions and recommendations recently completed by Focus Groups working on the Official Community Plan and by stakeholders engaged in the recently launched Ganges Harbour Management Plan.

The teams will include many local architects and designers who are generously volunteering their time, along with several outside designers and university students from the UBC architecture and planning schools. The teams will be asked whether the latest ideas can be improved? How can we best manage the transition over the next 30 years? Are there alternative, creative design approaches that might enhance the villages as places to live, work and visit, and as service centres for the island as a whole? What might the villages look like in the long term, and how might they function?

Sebastian Moffatt, one of the volunteers who is helping to organise the event, says that "A charrette can be a great way to develop a lot of new ideas quickly, because everyone is concentrated on the task and interacting the whole time, free from all the usual interruptions. It is impossible to predict what kinds of design solutions might emerge, but at the very least we are going to see some interesting images of how the villages might evolve."

The charrette is being supported by the Islands Trust CRD, the Salt Spring Harbour Authority, the Real Estate Foundation and local donors. The charrette results will be showcased on a web site prepared by I-SEA (Institute for Sustainability, Education and Action), a local not-for-profit organisation that is coordinating the charrette. Results may also be presented in the local media and in a comprehensive final publication.

An opportunity exists for island residents to interact with the design teams at the end of the second day, Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4 to 6 pm, when the teams are looking for feedback on their preliminary ideas and also for additional design suggestions. Public is welcome to come and join one of the teams for these two hours. On Friday evening, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the charrette will conclude with a public presentation at the Farmer's Institute by all teams commencing at 7pm, followed by comments from a distinguished panel, and then a mixer with the teams to discuss their ideas and drawings. Everyone is welcome.