



## Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute

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June 18, 2019

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
Board of Trustees  
105 Lower Ganges Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
V8K 2T1

Attention Board of Trustees

Please find attached correspondence dated January 12, 2012 and February 22, 2012

The Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute asks that you review this correspondence. We feel it is timely as you have new directors who will be planning the future use of the old firehall as you move forward with your long range plans.

The need for a year round market is even more desirable now then it was seven years ago. This would be of benefit to the community as a whole. It would provide a focal point for residents and tourists during the shoulder and off season which means that revenue producing activities are extended. The demand for buying local and the need to decrease our carbon imprint is increasing with public awareness.

We ask that you reconsider the original proposal allowing for current updates.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Marshall".

Bruce Marshall  
President

cc : Locals Trust Committee

January 12, 2012

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
Board of Trustees  
c/o Ganges Fire Hall  
105 Lower Ganges Road,  
Salt Spring Island, B. C.  
V8K 2G1

*Dear Michael Schubart, Chairperson.*

**Re: Proposal for Future Disposition and Use of the Old Ganges Fire Hall**

As the Fire Trustees move forward with their proposal to establish the new Salt Spring Island Fire Hall on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the Farmers' Institute is requesting that your board consider transferring the Old Fire Hall and property in Ganges to the Farmers' Institute as a benefit to the agricultural community for the loss of yet another piece of agricultural land on this island.

As outlined in our letter of May 17th, 2011, the Farmers' Institute is an agricultural based organization, committed to represent and protect the interests of agriculture on this island. The Institute has a one hundred and sixteen year tradition of building island community infrastructure: Mahon Hall, Central Hall, Rainbow Road Fair Grounds and the first public school buildings are the result of some of our collective efforts. Over the years these facilities have been used for all manner of community events by a broad spectrum of island organizations and clubs. Over the years, we have rejected offers to purchase our small waterfront lot at the end of Rainbow Road, thereby preserving the visual corridor to Ganges Harbour. The Institute also hosts annually, with the much appreciated assistance of more than five hundred island volunteers, the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair, a seminal community event which has been formally recognized as one of the best agricultural fairs and exhibitions in the Province of British Columbia.

Recently, the Institute was approached by the Islands Trust to accept the role of providing 'due diligence' in negotiating the transfer of a corporate gift of sixty acres of agricultural land to the community of Salt Spring Island. A difficult and arduous role which the Institute is fulfilling and which will see the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society own a very valuable piece of farm land in the Fulford Valley 'to be held in agricultural use in perpetuity'.

The Farmers' Institute would propose the use of the Old Fire Hall and property as a venue to establish a permanent farmers' market in the heart of Ganges. Our vision is in the style of Granville Island Market (Vancouver), Bytown (Ottawa) or Pike Street Market (Seattle). With the input and assistance of the community at large, we are confident that this project would be well planned and receive the support of islanders. It would also provide a great opportunity for this community to voice their ideas and engage their commitment in a much needed rejuvenation of a central portion of the Ganges downtown core.

Should the Agricultural Land Commission endorse your proposal and approve the 'non-farm use' of the ALR site you have selected, the Farmers' Institute would be pleased to meet with you and discuss our goal to take over the Old Fire Hall and work together to provide the agricultural community with fair compensation for loss of agricultural land.

Sincerely,

Rick Vipond  
President

cc. Agricultural Land Commission, attention: R. Cheetham

cc: Trustees of the Islands Trust



**105 Lower Ganges Rd  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
V8K 2T1**

**Emergency: 911  
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Web: [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)**

February 22, 2012

Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute  
PO Box 661  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
V8K 2W3

Re. proposal for future use of the Old Fire Hall

Dear Rick Vipond, President

Thank you for your letter of January 22, and your proposal for the Old Fire Hall. It was read and discussed at our last trustees' meeting on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will give due consideration to your proposal. We are still in the early stages of trying to secure a site for a new Fire Hall, and until we are further along in that process, we suggest that discussion of the disposal or repurposing of the Old Fire Hall is premature. However, we believe that the fate of the Old Fire Hall is of great interest and importance to the whole Island community and deserves to have broad community discussion. We look forward to you participating in that discussion.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schubart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Schubart, Chair

Cc ALC, attn R. Cheetham  
Islands Trust, SSI