



KEEP
MALTBY
LAKE
WILD!

Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society

E. maltbylakefriends@gmail.com E. keepmaltbylakewild@gmail.com
W. <http://maltbylake.com> FB. www.facebook.com/keepmaltbylakewild

On October 17th, 2014 Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society (a non-aligned group of volunteers) posed a question via e-mail to all candidates running in the upcoming municipal election. Please see below for a copy of the question and responses received.

The Question

In its 2007 Rural Local Area Plan, Saanich recognized the merit of establishing a natural park at Maltby Lake, and noted that acquisition of all or part of the land is dependent upon a source of funding, a willing seller, and the cost of the property. Covenants negotiated with the owners would provide protection for the significant environmental features.

Please outline the plan of action you would take to ensure a natural park legacy at Maltby Lake is realized and comment on your vision and practical approach to developing a balanced relationship between people and nature in Saanich.

Maltby Lake has been described as possibly the only relatively intact freshwater riparian zone in Saanich. It is a wilderness of natural processes, a rare blend of inter-connected eco-systems where at-risk plant and animal species rest undisturbed. As humanity makes more demands on our natural areas, Friends of the Maltby Lake Watershed Society hope our elected representatives will ensure that rare wild areas of land and water, such as Maltby Lake, are protected to maintain nature's life-supporting systems and diversity of eco-systems, to ensure human health and prosperity, and to secure a legacy of resilient, wild nature for future generations.

Thank you for taking time to respond to our question; please send your response to this email address (maltbylakefriends@gmail.com). Friends of the Maltby Lake Watershed Society is a non-aligned group of volunteers committed to the preservation of the lake and surrounding riparian zone. We will pose this question as appropriate at All-Candidates Meetings in Saanich, and responses received by e-mail prior to October 21st will be distributed our mailing list.

Thank you for caring about Saanich and running for public office.

Jenn POTTER on behalf of
Friends of the Maltby Lake Watershed Society

Responses from All-Candidates

Listed in alphabetic order by the candidate's surname.

Brice, Susan

I apologize for missing your deadline but would not want that interpreted as a lack of interest in Maltby Lake. On the contrary I totally support the objective as expressed in the Rural Local Area Plan. I have been holding off in replying because I wanted to make a concrete suggestion as to how the land acquisition can be accomplished. It still comes down to timing and funding and I can assure you I have a record of acquiring special lands to preserve in perpetuity and Maltby Lake is such a natural area.

I chair the CRD Parks Committee and I have been a part of wonderful acquisitions in our Region. As well I have been the Saanich Liaison to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary for the past five years and I am reminded every time I go onto the land what an amazing asset it is to the health and well being for us all. I am grateful that those who came before us took the bold step to protect the lake and surrounding lands.

Derman, Vic

Over the last several months, I have worked with Carmel and Woody to find a solution as to how we can preserve the tremendous natural assets that Maltby Lake and its surroundings provide. I have met with Saanich Staff on several occasions and have also had discussions with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) and its president Brionny Penn. Unfortunately, the question of joint ownership for the properties around the lake continues to be a significant obstacle to finding a solution. Family members have an application for subdivision into Saanich and could bring different applications in the future. For this reason, Saanich simply can't get involved in a position of joint ownership with family members. Joint ownership also appears to be a problem for TLC. Brionny did tell me that TLC had a proposal to put forward but, properly, she could not provide me with any details. If the question of joint ownership can be sorted out, I will most certainly attempt to get Saanich involved in protecting the area. It is truly a gem. I don't, however, know of anything additional that I can do from a position in government at this point.

Please let me know if there is anything else I might do to assist with this desirable goal.

Gerard, Paul

Maltby Lake is a little known jewel in the Tod Creek Watershed, and is a spring fed source of freshwater.

Without elaborating, I am in favour of helping in any way I can to preserve our wetlands and watersheds.

Haynes, Fred

Plan of Action: Proposed by Fred Haynes, Candidate for Saanich Council and CRD

Background:

Maltby Lake has been described as possibly the only relatively intact freshwater riparian zone in Saanich. It is a wilderness of natural processes, a rare blend of inter-connected eco-systems where at-risk plant and animal species rest undisturbed. As humanity makes more demands on our natural areas, Friends of the Maltby Lake Watershed Society hope our elected representatives will ensure that rare wild areas of land and water, such as Maltby Lake, are protected to maintain nature's life-supporting systems and diversity of eco-systems, to ensure human health and prosperity, and to secure a legacy of resilient, wild nature for future generations.

A Natural Park Legacy at Maltby Lake:

Given the 2007 recognition by Saanich of the merit of establishing Maltby Lake as a natural park, and dependent that there is a willing seller and that the cost of the property is known (I understand it is some \$1,000,00), then the funding source is the primary hurdle to overcome. To help resolve this, I believe the efforts and resources of Saanich deserve to be applied to assist FOML in raising the funds for purchase. If elected as a Councilor, and with FOML input and approval, I would present a motion to Council that Saanich staff set up a multi-stakeholder resourcing committee to help the FOML identify and secure external and internal funding sources. While internal funding resources are presumably limited in the Saanich budget, this could include a review of options for possible grants and loans to assist acquisition of the park. These internal financial resources would help leverage external funding sources. In the immediate term, Saanich could assist FOML explore options on the use of the 5-year interest free loans that Saanich makes available to community groups. I understand up to \$230,000 has been available for Soccer Clubs, while the PLDCA received \$85,000 to renovate the community hall. The loans were conditional on repayment plans but they would allow FOML five years of fundraising to achieve this. The Saanich Legacy Foundation, the Victoria Foundation could also be approached for assistance.

Vision and practical approach to developing a relationship between people and nature in Saanich.

Saanich has inherited a rich legacy of parks and natural areas that add greatly to its citizen's quality of life. Our green spaces host a wide biodiversity including numbers of endangered species. The interface between humanity and this diverse eco-system needs to be nestled in a relationship of caring and protection that preserves this legacy for future generations. Practically, Saanich needs a long-sighted decision making process is in place that ensures the political and financial support required to protect and nurture these special green spaces is in place. The tools of public education and public engagement are to be harnessed to continue building long-term relationships between people and nature that are based on harmony with all living things. To help support this, educators and the volunteer work of the many "Friends of" needs to be assisted and recognized. The leadership of these groups can be utilized used as a springboard in helping to grow a nurturing relationship between nature and the people of Saanich.

Henderson, Marsha

At this point I don't possess full knowledge of the details of the process required to pursue, to ensure that a natural park legacy at Maltby Lake is realized. If elected, I commit to learning the details of the process, sharing with you what I'm able to share, and, as much as possible, keeping you included in the process.

My vision for Maltby Lake is as the place local school children will visit at least three times. Once in elementary school, once in middle school and once in high school. I see an educational program built on an age-appropriate foundation, teaching the whole lesson each time but at different levels of understanding. It's possible that such a program might be developed in a co-operative effort with Saanich's Environmental Education Officer, and as a liaison with teachers.

I would like to see children specifically encouraged to ask their parents/grandparents/ significant others if they know what a real lake is...and how important it is. I'd like to see the children sharing the answer they've learned, and specifically encouraging their parents/grandparents/ significant others to check out a website with information about Maltby Lake, and in some way (I'm not sure how) to be able to gain credits for each person who's learned more about Maltby due to that child's influence. Then on that child's next visit to the lake, some kind of symbol of how many total credits were accomplished by the children (together) could encourage them of the importance of their knowledge being shared. In order to 'sell' such a program, an annual 'Maltby Day' might be a way to spend a Pro-D day for teachers. Again, involving Saanich's Environmental Education Officer and the Saanich school system. I think in big pictures.

Clean water sustains healthy life for our planet. Maltby Lake is what a real lake looks like. It can only work together with its wetlands, to receive water, to filter it and to store it. It's critical to keep Maltby safe because we don't have many real lakes anymore. Its ecosystems work together in harmony, a lesson for us of the value of natural community.

This of course, is my vision. It might not be yours, and I believe you'd perhaps know better than I what might work. If a program approved by yourselves wouldn't be possible to accomplish through an educational partnership with Saanich, I'd encourage and be personally prepared to be involved in developing an alternate plan.

I've studied the Rural Area Plan with regard to a conservation covenant, and recognize that all parties who own Maltby would need to be willing to enter into this agreement. I would support a property tax exemption or discount for the property, subject to a conservation covenant, if that would help in obtaining that agreement.

The Rural Area Plan contains policy for how to develop a balanced relationship between people and nature in Saanich. I'd like to see it followed, updated and refined where necessary in order to be of greatest benefit.

Newby, Shawn

"As a Saanich Councillor, I will work closely with the Friends of Maltby Lake to ensure the preservation of such a beautiful and pristine environment."

Plant, Colin

Thank you for reaching out and asking for my opinion regarding the Maltby Lake watershed. I applaud the "Friends" for working to protect this important part of our region for all future generations to benefit from. Indeed, if Saanich were to simply adhere to the Rural Saanich Local Area Plan (especially the policies in Section 8) there is no way it should be allowed to be developed.

As you might be able to surmise from my previous sentences, I am 100% behind the idea of saving this pristine property and watershed. My campaign slogan is "Let's make Saanich the greatest and greenest place to live in Canada." There is not going to be another Maltby Lake and we cannot allow the fiscal challenges of The Land Conservancy to ruin this regional jewel and important biosystem.

I want and need to learn more about this issue and would welcome the opportunity to talk about it. I am attending the event on Tuesday at Lana Popham's Constituency Office to learn more and lend my voice to the efforts to protect the property. (If a phone call could be arranged this weekend, I'd be very receptive.)

As to how it could be done. Here are a few ideas I would be willing to pursue with Saanich Council, and staff:

- Saanich purchases the land in question
- Negotiates an option of first-refusal and in the interim leases the property
- CRD to purchase and turn into protected parkland

Your question regarding finding a balance between nature and people in Saanich is an excellent one and I believe it is perhaps the most pressing issue for our municipality, province and country. We cannot simply put people ahead of nature without recognizing the consequences. I pledge to always look at issues with a sensitivity towards protecting and respecting our environment and make every decision through a sustainability lens.

I could go on at great length about the need to find balance between nature and residents' needs because it is something I am passionate about. The desire to find this balance that will benefit future generations of Saanich residents has fuelled my desire to run for Saanich Council.

I appreciate the opportunity to dialogue with you and thank you again for your efforts on behalf of Saanich residents.

Sanders, Vicki

When I first visited Maltby Lake I found it was like stepping back in time. I don't recall ever visiting a lake and accompanying forest that is virtually untouched. Maltby Lake has not only a significant natural environment but also the heritage environment is priceless.

My reply will be brief as this is not a simple issue.. I would not call my comments a plan of action but rather what could be considered. The Rural Local Area Plan does acknowledge it's importance to Saanich. However it also recognizes that acquisition of all or part of the land is dependent upon a source of funding, a willing seller, and the cost of the property. As far as a plan of action, I can comment that following my first visit to the property I followed up with Saanich staff to discuss the options. I will continue those conversations as well as with the owners to determine how a plan can come to fruition considering the multiple owners and parcel layout. Once parcels are determined, covenants can be negotiated with the owners that would provide protection for the significant environmental features. I understand a good deal of conversation has taken place with other potential environmental partners. That dialogue can continue and expand.

I would like to consider investigating the potential of achieving heritage designation for the hunting cottage. Perhaps it could be considered a National Heritage site. Those conversations would be part of my plan of action.

I believe a healthy community is one that is rich with a natural environment. I am proud of Saanich's trails, parks and natural areas that are accessible to all Saanich residents. A practical approach to developing a balanced relationship between people and nature in Saanich would be to continue the community trail networks that bring people into nature in their day to day life. Recently I was in New York city and was amazed that throughout the city were small pocket parks. These are places for people to gather, sit on a bench and to experience nature. The concept of all neighborhoods in Saanich having a "green space" would enhance people's relationship with nature. A practical approach would also involve the growing of vegetables and planting fruit trees on properties both residential and commercial.

Shebib, David

Nature and mankind is one. A symbiotic relationship . I am for sensible use of all the land . Not just one spot on the floor. I think in order to do that here we have to make friends and amends with the native people . Anything other then that is just more denial .Come meet me here 5090 west saanich road and get introduced to our garden party .