

July 18, 2011

Submission from Jeremy Baker, Gabriola Island

In a recent edition of the Island Tides newspaper, a comment was made by Gabriola Trustee Malcomson, regarding a recent meeting on Saltspring Island, to the effect that, unidentified persons were not feeling safe! No further explanations were forthcoming.

A week later, at the next meeting on Saltspring Island, Chaired by Gabriola Trustee Malcomson, four RCMP officers were found to be present, apparently invited by the Islands Trust. The Mounties would not divulge who asked them to show up and the event was reported on, in a weekly local radio show.

In the radio interview with some Saltspring islanders, who had attended the Islands Trust meeting, comments were made to the effect that the RCMP officers actually bothered some of the attending Island residents, suggesting that they move outside. The comments by the RCMP officers were considered to be offensive to the spirit of democracy by the Saltspring islanders.

No one has admitted that they had requested the RCMP sent a contingent to the meeting because some persons felt unsafe.

Does this represent the future of public meetings held by the Islands Trust?

You can listen to the whole radio interview on: [ISLANDTAGTEAM.com](http://ISLANDTAGTEAM.com) (TAG stands for Transparency and Accountability in Governance).

Regards,

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Gabriola Island