

Program Formats

Much of your time at the 2023 Forum will be spent in-session:

Keynotes

Expert-led presentations with facilitated discussion on key issues, needs, directions and opportunities related to the socio-economic well-being of the islands and the coast.

Showcase

Opportunities to learn about programs, services, success stories that benefit the rural islands and coastal communities.

Interactive Panel

Moderated discussions featuring panelists with particular knowledge of and/or expertise related to a timely topic or theme.

Action Lab

Working sessions on interactive panel topics, with participants able to propose recommendations for transformative action on Day 3.

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The Essentials

Registration & Check-in Tuesday, April 25

8:30 AM
- 12:30 PM

Forum Registration

All Forum registrants, including guests, facilitators, moderators, speakers, and sponsors, are invited to register at **Satir West**.

Check-in to Accommodations

Whether you are staying at The Haven or elsewhere on Gabriola Island, **please check-in by 11:00 am** to leave time for lunch at The Haven dining room and the 1:00pm program start.

If needed, The Haven can store your belongings securely until the end of the day's program.

On-Island Transfers

Shuttle Service

A dedicated shuttle will be available to take guests between the Haven and the following locations:

- Ferry Terminal - APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIME **3 mins**
- Decanso Bay Regional Park Campground - **2 mins**
- Surf Lodge - **5 mins**
- Pages Inn, Silva Bay - **15 mins**
- Pages Resort, Marina & Campground - **17 mins**

The daily schedule of shuttle availability and pick-up/drop-off times will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Lodge.

Evening Entertainment

Sarah Osborne

Day 1 Tuesday, April 25 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Phoenix Auditorium

Based on Gabriola Island, singer-songwriter Sarah Osborne believes art is a powerful tool for encouraging people to make positive personal changes—for our ecosystem and each other, for generations to come.

Fall in Love Dance Band

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Phoenix Auditorium

The newly-formed Fall in Love Dance Band features experienced local musicians who played their first gig at the most recent Gabriola Fall Fair. They promise ska and surf classics to get you moving!

Meals & Refreshments

Coffee/Tea

Available every day During program hours
Lodge - Dining Self-Service area

Breakfast

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26 7:00 am - 9:00 am

Day 3 Thursday, April 27 7:00 am - 9:30 am
Lodge - Dining Room

Lunch

Day 1 Tuesday, April 25 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
Lodge - Dining Room

Dinner

Day 1 Tuesday, April 25 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Lodge - Dining Room

Social Gatherings

Meet & Greet: Rural Islands Economic Partnership Board

Day 2 Wednesday, April 25 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Lodge - Dining Room

After Hours Social Lounges

Day 1 Tuesday, April 25 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
The Lodge - Sun Room, Gomori Room

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
The Lodge - Dining Room

Forum Info Hub

Have Questions? Need Assistance?

Visit us every day During program hours - Satir West

Day 1 Tuesday, April 25th

- 1:00 PM Welcome**
Mitch Miyagawa MASTER OF CEREMONY
Dave Bodaly INDIGENOUS BLESSING
Francine Carlin, Graham Bradley OPENING REMARKS
- 1:20 PM Opening Session**
Bringing the Rural Islands Values Framework to Life Through Doughnut Economics
Kim Smythe LIAISON STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS
Lewis Muirhead, Rose Mosse, Myriam Verzat FACILITATORS
- 3:45 PM Keynote Panel**
Housing Lessons Learned From a Rural Islands Perspective
Laura Patrick, Islands Trust MODERATOR
Nancy Hetherington Peirce, Gabriola Housing Society
Simon Palmer, Denman Housing Association
Justine Starke, SGI-CRD
Dion Whyte, New Commons Development
- 4:45 PM Showcases - Afternoon & Evening**
Island Coastal Economic Trust: Case Study Highlights
Brodie Guy, ICET
Circular Economy Success Stories
Michelle Kresnyak, C2C
- 5:45 PM**
Bringing High-Speed Internet to the Islands
Dave Leitch, Strathcona Regional District
Scott Simpson, City West Communications
Social Enterprise Considerations
Kristi Fairholm Mader, Thrive Impact Fund

Day 2 Wednesday, April 26th

- 9:00 AM Keynote Panel**
Economic Solutions For Mitigating & Adapting To Climate Change
Julie Sperber, VIEA MODERATOR
David Adams, Thrive Bowen
Michelle Bonner, Vancity
Ann Eriksson, Author
Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
Fay Weller, Island Futures
Bryan Young, Transition Salt Spring
- 10:30 AM Keynote Panel**
Working with Indigenous Businesses Through the Lens of Reconciliation
Michelle Laviolette, Vancity MODERATOR
Alison Evans, Gulf Island SeaPlanes
Adam Lewis, Artist Entrepreneur
Ivy Peers, Umista Cultural Centre
Chris Tait, Klahoose Wilderness Resort
- Showcases**
Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation
Bridget Horel, Cheryl McLay, Government of BC
- 11:45 AM**

Showcases cont'd

- 12:00 PM**
Blue Economy – Sea Harvesting The Sustainable Way
Ed Andrusiak, SGI-Community Resource Centre
Mark Smith, Pacific Seaweed Association
- 12:15 PM**
Islands Food Resilience – Grow Local!
Marc Doll, Food Forward Farm
Robin Jenkinson, SSI Grow Local
Nick Jones, SSI Grow Local
Polly Orr, SSI Grow Local
- 1:30 PM Interactive Panels**
Future of Island Business: Trends, Needs, & Opportunities
Sherese Johnson, RIEP Rising Tide Business Services
MODERATOR
Graham Bradley, Gabriola Chamber
Jolynn Green, Community Futures Central Island
Vaune Kolber, Bowen Island CED Committee
Scott Simpson, City West Communications
Thandi Williams, Pender Chamber
- Rural Island Arts: Fostering Cultural & Economic Vitality
Myriam Verzat MODERATOR
Carol Fergusson, Gabriola Arts Council
Lisa Fleming, Ptarmigan Arts
Jami Scheffer, The Hearth—Arts On Bowen
Emma Walter, Hornby Arts Council
Yael Wand, Salt Spring Arts Council
- The Path Towards Regenerative Tourism
Calum Matthews, 4VI MODERATOR
Jason Griffin, Tour Salt Spring
Jody Lorenz, Bowen Island Tourism
Jamie Sterling, Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership
Chris Tait, Klahoose Wilderness Resort

3:00 PM Action Labs

- Shared Services: Building Local Economic Capacity
Sherese Johnson, Rising Tide Business Services
- Travel As A Force for Good
Calum Matthews, 4VI
- Rural Housing Policy – Now!
Laura Patrick, Islands Trust
- Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Practices
David Adams, Thrive Bowen
Fay Weller, Island Futures
- Circular Economy 'How To's
Michelle Kresnyak, C2C

Day 3 Thursday, April 27th

- 8:00 AM Action Labs - Resolutions**
- 9:45 AM Keynote: BC Ferries Accountability**
BC Ferries Commissioner Eva Hage
Mitch Miyagawa MODERATOR
- 10:40 AM Action Lab Reflections**
Recap & Resolutions
- 11:15 AM Closing**