



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

**MEMORANDUM NOTE DE SERVICE**

		Security Classification - Classification de sécurité	
To À	Island Trust - Gabriola	Our File - Notre référence	
		Your File - Votre référence	
From De	Corporal Markus MUNTENER Gabriola Island RCMP Detachment Commander	Date 2015-04-18	Diary Date - Date d'agenda

Subject  
Objet      **Re: Church to Spruce connector road**

To whom it may concern,

It has come to the attention of Gabriola Island RCMP of a pending application by Dr. Robert Rooks for a Church St. to Spruce Ave connector road. The RCMP does not usually wade into community development applications, especially if there is some community debate ongoing in that regard. That would in normal situations take away from the role of the police as an impartial and unbiased entity within the community.

This instance however is different as I believe there are considerable community safety benefits for this connector road, irrespective of any other community concerns that may exist.

The following points of note are outlined below:

1. There is a sizable population that lives on the North end of Gabriola, especially in the area north of Berry Point and Norwich Rd, commonly referred to as "Phase 4". This area also houses an active liquor establishment as well as a primarily Jewish youth camp. Police have attended calls for service in this Northern area ranging from break and enters, suicidal individuals, motor vehicle collisions and other more violent crimes.
2. Current road configuration allows for only one access point to any of these areas. This is via Berry Point rd. which is a coastal roadway, close to the "Salish Sea". This single entry way results in a significant vulnerability to the population in that area as numerous environmental/natural or other reasons could result in that roadway being closed. This is especially true since the road is in close proximity to the ocean and any possible tidal event.

3. The response time for Police to the Phase 4 area (measured at Spruce Ave & Hemlock Ave) would be cut in half by both distance and time utilizing a Church St & Spruce Ave connector road (instead of the Taylor Bay & Berry Point rd route).
4. A connector road would also allow any population living in that area to evacuate or travel to higher/safer ground while still maintaining a link to emergency services (of all types) and further food and shelter.

In regard to the points noted above and specifically on the issue of public safety the completion of a Church St to Spruce connector road is supported by the Gabriola Island RCMP.

Thank you



Cpl. Markus Muntener  
Detachment Commander  
Gabriola Island RCMP



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From / De <b>Corporal Markus MUNTENER Gabriola Island RCMP Detachment Commander</b>	Date <b>2016-05-09</b>	Diary Date - Date d'agenda	

Subject / Objet     **Re: Church to Spruce connector road**

To whom it may concern,

Further to the attached letter issued to the Island Trust on April 18, 2015, it is our understanding that the matter will now officially go before the Trust later in May, 2016.

The reality of the Island being on "High" alert for Fires at the beginning of May is a stark reminder of the dangers of a wild fire in a forest filled, windy, populated Island. The images from Fort McMurray highlight the level of threat that a wild fire can have.

It is clear that a connector road would serve to protect the North area of Gabriola Island currently serviced by only one road (Taylor Bay/Berry Point Rd.). A connector road would allow access by emergency services while giving residents an alternative exit point if needed.

The Gabriola Island RCMP continues to support the building of a Church St to Spruce connector road.

Thanks

Corporal Markus Muntener  
Detachment Commander  
Gabriola Island RCMP