

Qualicum Nature Preservation Society

Survey Response: Anne Skipsey

1. What is your long-term vision for Qualicum Beach? (100 words max)

In 2050 in Qualicum Beach I find a thriving, attractive, safe and diverse community. The community has retained and significantly enhanced its “village” character in its pedestrian-centric uptown. The town is buzzing with people in cafes and unique shops supplying everything the community needs. Markets are selling fresh produce from nearby farms. Community members gather in inviting public spaces. There is a wide range of housing options and accommodation for tourists. I’m impressed by a healthy urban forest, which supports activity and an abundance of wildlife. Clean drinking water flows from the tap and all amenities are accessible to everyone.

2. How will you preserve & enhance existing greenspaces and sensitive ecosystems, as well as expand them around the Town core? (100 words max)

The best path forward is through the implementation of a Tree & Vegetation Management Plan and Bylaw. This will give the Town a framework for action to maintain healthy and resilient landscapes in a changing climate. We should value our natural infrastructure assets. Our natural assets, including forests, provide ecosystem services, like managing rainwater. This would give us the same functionality as engineered infrastructure, without the cost. As part of the next OCP review process, we need to review our sustainability plan and our land use designations with a goal of expanding our greenspaces and giving them clear protected status.

3. Which member of the current Council do you believe you will get along with the best, and why? (50 words max)

Like my Mom, no favourites!

4. Why is nature important to you? (100 words max)

Qualicum Beach is a microcosm of the natural world. We share one of the most spectacular and bio-diverse areas in the country. We are dependent on nature for regulation of our climate, for the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. Nature enhances our physical and emotional well-being. It energizes and inspires us! It is the underpinning of our culture and our economy. We need to be constant stewards of this inheritance that gives us jobs, joy and hope for future generations.

5. What is your favorite natural feature in Qualicum Beach, and why? (50 words max)

My favourite natural feature is Qualicum’s beach. It’s a safe and fun place for people of all ages. It’s where memories are made of family picnics and learning to swim. Nature is in abundance, ever changing with the seasons. Breathtaking sunsets are unchanged by time.

6. Will you ensure the pending Tree & Vegetation Bylaw is enacted within your first 90 days? (yes/no)

I will work to advance the Tree & Vegetation Bylaw and ensure public consultation on this important initiative.

7. Will you ensure a council’s Code of Conduct (with financial penalties) is enacted within your first 90 days (yes/no)

I support a code of conduct.

8. Have you accepted any donations from anyone with an active development application with the Town of Qualicum Beach? (yes/no)

No.

9. What is your average donation amount? (25 words max)

Average donation amount is \$37 from 134 people.

10. Do you support residential developments in the Estate Residential properties? (yes/no)

No, this is contrary to the OCP.

11. Instead of the original resort plan at Pheasant Glen, do you support sprawling hundreds of full-time residential homes on the Beach Creek watershed? (yes/no)

No, this is contrary to the OCP.

12. Do you support the current construction activities in the Laburnum wetland that Mayor Wiese called "business as usual"? (yes/no)

No.

13. Do you support the ongoing bike trail deforestation activities that resulted in the 2020 Federal Compliance Order against the Town of Qualicum Beach and Mayor Wiese? (yes/no)

No. I do support trails and my vision for this bike trail was based on the bike trail through the trees along Ring Road, without the amount of deforestation that took place in this location.

14. Do you consider Bylaw 800--the Official Community Plan--a policy document or general guideline? (2 words max)

Policy document.

15. Do you agree with the OCP that we should prohibit urban sprawl into our rural lands and instead utilize densification to meet our housing needs? (yes/no)

Yes. This is the vision and goal of our Official Community Plan.