

Unpublished submission - *Gabriola* SOUNDER, February 16, 2001: Gabriolans and the treaty talks

Dear Editor

In public discussions on the Treaty Negotiations, both at meetings and in the press, I am perturbed by the tendency of some contributors to repeatedly use the phrase “we on Gabriola” when they, not being a publically-elected official of any kind, are expressing their own personal views. Many of the views so expressed I wholeheartedly disagree with, which is fine, but a few I find downright offensive, ignorant, and rude, which is not.

Speaking as just one Gabriolan among many, I am glad that the unfinished business of land claims is finally being settled. The Snunéymux^w, at the meetings I have attended and in private discussions, have shown only courtesy and respect for all people living here, no matter what their views. I can see the return of the Snunéymux^w to their traditional homeland as being a culturally-enriching experience for everyone here, and I, speaking personally of course, very much welcome it, and look forward to it.

Sincerely
