

Predator proponents have ‘lost their minds’, by Kevin Tribe, March 12, 2010.

Dear Editor

In response to the persons attending the Official Community Plan workshop who suggested “re-establish wolves and cougars on the island”—I assume they want to cull the deer population. Have these people totally lost their minds? I agree we are a rural community and I appreciate the intent of the Islands Trust to help keep it that way, but we need wolves and cougars on Gabriola like we need increased ferry fares to “cull” the commuter population to reduce density. What a half-baked idea!

Yes, I believe there are too many deer on Gabriola. So quit feeding them. Maybe then they’ll stay out of my yard and stop devouring the organic square-foot gardens I plant to feed my family and the beautiful plants I plant to try to keep my little bit of paradise looking good for my family and friends to enjoy.

How about open season for hunters with no tag limits? Encourage consumption of these delicious little beasts! But bring wolves and cougars back to Gabriola so they can feed on sheep, goats, dogs, children, deer, etc.? Get real!

Wolves won’t work but ferries will, *Flying Shingle*, April 19, 2010, p.8

Dear Editor

While the proposal to “bring back the wolves” is amusing, and as Kevin Tribe suggests (April 12) half-baked, it is interesting to contemplate what the effect might be. There used to be wolves on the Gulf Islands, but judging by what happens on remote islands on the central BC coast, the wolf and deer populations did not exist in static equilibrium. What seems to happen is that the wolf pack stays on a selected island until it has consumed all the deer on that island. The pack then moves on to another island, leaving the old one bereft for several years of both wolves and deer. It was probably only thus that Garry oaks and many kinds of lilies that suffer so much from deer overgrazing could thrive. It would also have led to plenty of food being available for those deer who pioneered the re-population, a refreshing change from starvation, which is the current method of limiting deer population. One of the consequences of re-introducing wolves might therefore be a periodic closing of the school when it’s our turn to be host to the wolves and the number of children on the island plummets. While on the topic of human population however, Kevin does throw in his opinion that raising ferry prices to curb population is equally half baked. I’m not sure why he thinks that. Anyone who imagines that the island’s ecology can remain unaffected by an ever-increasing human population is the one who needs to get real. By all means be in favour of cheap ferry fares, but don’t imagine that’s helping preserve and protect.