

Gabriola Island likes to call itself “Isle of the Arts”.

It says so on the Chamber of Commerce website:

<http://www.gabriolaisland.org/#visiting-gabriola>

I think this short-changes the many “-ologists” who live here. What about the biologists, geologists, hydrologists, paleontologists, anthropologists, zoologists, pedologists (soil scientists to you), ornithologists... and on and on.

Not that I want Gabriola to be known as “The Isle of the Arts and Sciences”. That is a bit pretentious. But, since many of the “-ologists” are retired, why not the term used for science way back in the 18th-century before it was taken over by industry and it was mainly an amateur endeavor; “Natural Philosophy”.

Gabriola, “The Isle of the Arts and Natural Philosophy”.

I see in a map from the 1960s, Gabriola had the moniker “Gabriola—Queen of the Islands”. Guess that’s not sufficiently gender neutral for the 21st century. Sounds like the name of a ferry too.