

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANSITION SOOKE: 2009 – 2022

Compiled by Michael (Moki) Tacon and presented online at the 2021 AGM held on March 19, 2022

Seeds sown - Mid October, 2009 - John Boquist and Margaret Critchlow attend Victoria Transition Town's introduction to Transition Town at the Victoria Public Library.

June 14, 2010 - Moki joins initiating committee and attends meeting with John, Margaret & Andrew.

June 16, 2010 - Screening of "In Transition" at Awareness Video Night* in Sooke. Approximately 50 people attended including 3 reps from TT Victoria and John Horgan MLA. Margaret facilitates the post-film discussion.

* Thus began a long time arrangement to support Awareness Video Night movies c/o Jo Phillips who has been offering this service for almost 30 years!

June 23, 2010 - T'Sou-ke Nation Solar Tour and a Transition Town Sooke meeting of 40 people in the Band Council Hall with Linda Bristol T'Sou-ke Elder.

December 8, 2010 - Transition Sooke was granted official status by the Transition UK HQ. A non-profit society bank account was opened at Coast Capital in Sooke.

February 6, 2011 - Moki holds a day-long workshop "Awakening the Dream/Changing the Dream" created by the Pachamama Alliance sponsored by the Well Foundation (Victoria) and Transition Sooke at Sooke Harbour House.

August 18, 2011 - We became incorporated as a not-for-profit society Sooke Transition Town Society known currently as Transition Sooke.

October 9, 2011 - Sooke Slow Food Cycle celebrating peddle power, sustainability, and the joys of localization. Many thanks to Sooke Harbour House for the support and use of their facilities.

November 4, 2011 - TS organized a "green focused" forum for 2 candidates for mayor in the coming election.

September 23, 2012 - Sooke Slow Food Cycle/Collective Transition Sustainability Expo and Marketplace event at the Edward Milne Community

School (EMCS) with about 400 people in attendance. This wide-ranging gathering was put together by Sooke Region Food CHI, Transition Sooke, The JDF Cycling Coalition, Slow Food Vancouver Island.

November 24, 2012 - Economic Forum on the Local Economy held at Sooke Harbour House with some local business leaders attending.

April 13, 2013 - Sooke members standing against the proliferation of GMO's in our food systems outside the Prestige Hotel during a CRD meeting when this issue was being considered.

April 25, 2013 - Open Space gathering at (what was then) the Reading Room Cafe in the evening.

August, 2013 - TS members visit Transition Saltspring during its Eco-Living and Home Tour.

October 16, 2013 - Principles and Political Action Meeting (TS event)

April 5, 2014 - Sooke Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala: Transition Sooke was nominated in the not-for-profit category. Some evidence that we are earning some recognition of our work in Sooke.

August 3, 2014 - "Celebrate Transition" Potluck picnic at InishOge Farm

Fall, 2014 - Public Forum "The Enbridge Decision and Our Response" held at St. Rose of Lima Church. 75 people attended. The session was organized by Terry Dance-Bennink with help from Kai Nagata (Dogwood), and David Anderson (federal Environment Minister-retired).

October 18, 2014 - Transition Sooke "Open Space" facilitated by Christiana and Tony St.Pierre at Sooke Harbour House

July 22, 2015 - Woodshed Presentation with Parvez Kumar was held at the Rosa de Lima Church.

August 9, 2015 - Re-Skilling Share Fair and Community Potluck Picnic at Inishoge Farm offering 12 or so skill-building activities. 60/70 people attended.

September, 8, 2015 - Federal Candidates Debate [that we organized?]

January 13, 2016 - Awareness Film Night and Transition Sooke co-sponsored showing the Avi Lewis film "This Changes Everything". 140 people attended and participated in the sharing of responses and conclusions.

July 22, 2016 - The Practical Utopian with Guy Dauncey at Sooke Harbour House

August 27, 2016 – Re-skilling Fair and Repair Cafe

October 14, 2016 - Ecohome Tour #1

January 11, 2017 - An Evening with Andrew Nikiforuk

May 8, 2017 - Starhawk shares her wisdom and experiences to a standup Crowd - a very special evening!

September 5, 2018 - Transition Sooke (TS) Open House inviting local people to join us on the Transition journey

October 3, 2018 - Transition Sooke Mayoral Forum.

October 6, 2018 -Sooke Eco-home Tour #2

January 27, 2019 - TS Book Club offers space and support for reading and discussing books about climate change at our new Sooke Library.

February 19, 2019 - Climate Science Denial and Game Changers For Survival - An Evening with Dr. Peter Carter and Elizabeth Woodward at EMCS. Another one of our offerings from TS Speaker Series 2019

March 23, 2019 - Electric Vehicle Extravaganza at EMCS

June 4, 2019 - The End of Ice with author Dahr Jamail. A disturbing contribution about climate change held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

June 22, 2019 - TS held a "Town Hall" to explore our ideas for what a Green New Deal would look like for Canada. 70 people attended and 13 areas were identified for ongoing study.

September 15, 2019 - "Speed-dating all candidates forum" for DOS election.

September 21, 2019 - Meet with David Merner (Green Party candidate) at Harbourside Cohousing Common House (now 2022 - David lives at Harbourside)

September 29, 2019 - Community Action Workshop: Climate Emergency: What can we do? Following up from our June 22 event.

Also Orange Shirt Day: A ceremony to promote awareness of the continuing impact of residential schools at noon at Sooke Town Centre kiosk. First Nation spiritual leader Shirley Alphonse offered some blessings.

October 11, 2019 - Federal All-Candidates Meeting (via non-confrontational Debate) sponsored by the Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative and the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce held at EMCS.

October 16, 2019 - Crafts Materials Swap

November 2, 2019 - Rainwater Harvesting and Management Workshop presented by Ken Nentwig with good response and lots of interest held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

November 6, 2019 - Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative, a TS working group, was designated to present support and acknowledgement for Sooke to be declared a Compassionate City as a Charter member of Compassion International. A plaque was unveiled at the town centre kiosk.

November 19, 2019 - Climate Angst/Youth Outreach program over 4 sessions based on the book "Active Hope" presented by Moki.

Covid-19 arrived in early March, 2020

June 8, 2020 - Sooke Wave Orca Event protest near EMCS *+* Double Edged Sword!

List of activities that became a large part of our activities beside the major events:

Transition Cafe evenings on a regular basis usually with invited guests;

Groups formed to monitor what is going on at the District of Sooke;

Awareness Film Night operated by Jo Phillips at the Edward Milne Community School theatre for almost 30 years;

Seedy Saturdays operated by the Sooke Food CHI in the spring allowed TS to promote our organization and our work by having a table and displays;

Zero Waste Sooke involved in all aspects of dealing with sustainability and Waste management. Control and management of Pesticides was one of the areas featured in their mandate. Currently its activities have been curtailed by Covid-19.

Wild Wise Sooke was initially a working group attached to TS. Recently a new society took over to serve the West Shore for wildlife management purposes. Sam Webb has done a good job and we are pleased with their success.

Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative consists of a group of religious/spiritual people concerned about the need for dealing with poverty and addictions in Sooke and Region. They became involved in supporting the search for a shelter in Sooke. They also worked hard to establish Sooke as a Compassionate City by the International Charter for Compassion organization. A plaque was installed at the kiosk in the centre of downtown Sooke.

Speakers Series functioned well in bringing some outstanding people and their voices to Sooke.

TS Book Club operates with support from the staff at Sooke Library

Backyards Gardens project - Action on the Climate Emergency
Stephen Hindrichs spearheaded this project to encourage people to grow food in their backyards. 30 families participated and there were 6 organizations who supported the project: Sooke Regional Food CHI; Sooke Garden Club; Transition Sooke; Rotary Club; Food Eco District (FED); Sooke Soil and Landscape. Sadly the project was shelved until Covid-19 comes to no longer pose a threat.

Sooke Region Lifelong Learning group became a truly communal educational resource for the many remarkable people involved - many of whom came from TS.

The District of Sooke Climate Action Committee operated in 2020 and 2021 is slated to shut down in June, 2022. Several of us participated - many stories to be told.

COVID-19 Lands in Sooke - 2020, 2021, and 2022

The effects of the pandemic really disrupted our lives dramatically. However, we made great strides in several aspects of our operations. We maintained a high level of engagement with Mayor Tait and Council and the staff. We worked directly with Council, staff and DOS committees. We covered themes and issues such as dealing with Sooke's growth in the context of a climate emergency.

We are making great progress in reorganizing how our society operates to enable our board and members to: make decisions; develop a financial

procedure policy; review our bylaws; develop a protocol for speaking on behalf of the Sooke Transition Town Society.

*Compiled by Moki from the records of the history of
Transition Sooke March 7, 2022*