



Love Local Words from YOU!

Marketing & Promo Giveaway

For this giveaway, we asked you to submit who you believed deserves to win & why. Check out all the amazing responses below:

Somerset Farm

“Locally raised meat, poultry, BC inspected Beef. No antibiotics or growth hormones. Community involvement and support of many organizations. Have had a large impact on Island youth through years of commitment with 4-H groups. Fostering interest in agriculture including business, leadership, public speaking skills.”

Gabriola Disposal

“Very efficient and does a great job!”

Colleen’s Home Fashion & Shoes

“They always have friendly staff, are eager to help, and bring in fun, new things for kids and community members. They also have helped support some community members in need throughout the years.”

On Our Farms

“Her products have given me total bliss during very stressful times. Her muscle oil helped me during Covid and I'm super grateful.”

“In a time of commercial health products, Sandra goes above and beyond to bring homegrown and naturally foraged products to the marketplace.”

Violet Moon Digital Marketing

“Violet Moon Marketing is so committed to getting her clients’ voices and messages ‘right’ in the context of making sure the message and work have value for Gabriola residents. It is a true two-for-one service and so appreciated!”

Gabriola Island Golf Course

“Within a few days of moving here, I was told about Kenny's cooking. It's nice to be able to treat ourselves to some good Thai cuisine. Last weekend while walking the dogs, I bumped into the

neighbour who reminded me that Saturday was Thai day at the golf course. We went to bed dreaming of Thai on Friday night and when I got to the golf course, I saw a steady stream of people leaving with their takeaway packages. It was fantastic! The wait staff at the golf course gave me a warm welcome to the island, the food was delicious, and we are looking forward to having more."

Rombough's Auto Detailing

"I recently decided to have my car detailed for the first time and was so incredibly happy with the results! For a very reasonable price, my car looks like a brand new vehicle again! I had no idea that it could look this nice again...from a dog-friendly Rav 4 that hauls all sorts of cargo that pristine was nothing short of amazing. Chris is such a great guy to deal with and has such an eye for detail. I can't thank him enough!"

Make Cheese with Paula

"Paula's cheese-making classes are fun, informative, and delicious! A talented and knowledgeable woman. I'd love to see her win!"

"Paula knows cheese. Her classes are informative, fun, and tasty. Not one to miss!! A shout-out from Mom....."

"Paula loves cheese and perhaps, loves sharing her extensive knowledge about all things cheese with others. Her classes are informative, fun and delicious! She's one woman making a big difference in the lives of those who have an interest in where their food comes from and how it's made."

"Love the classes. The variety and the knowledge. We enjoyed the Gabbie Cider Pairings class. So good."

"Excellent class learning to make our own cheese AND a delicious lunch using some of our cheeses. I loved it!"

"First off, Paula has a fantastic product. Her classes teach you how to make fabulous cheese, but it is the classes themselves that are so much fun. She provides a fun, informative, vibrant class wherever she does her class, but my favourite is always at her house. I have done 3 of Paula's cheese-making classes and they have been a blast each time with the added bonus of making my own cheese. Go, Paula."

"Anyone who hasn't tried one of Paula's classes or demos has no idea what they are missing. She's great at explaining the science and art, yet keeps it simple. I had NO IDEA I could really make my own cheese at first and have now become a huge fan! She actually cares about all of her students, she takes care of them and coaches them, and she offers hard-to-find supplies right here on Gabe. Paula is absolutely in the right place with her business. She also does an

excellent job of making sure she talks up Gabriola to all of her students, anywhere she teaches! More people really need to know about her!”

Panacea Herbs

“Products that really work.”

“Thoughtful, effective, beautiful crafted organic skin products are all made out of locally harvested, wildcrafted and hand-picked herbs and botanical products. The process is gentle and the results are amazing subtle fragrances that are balm to the soul and medicine for the skin. I love every part of this business, the management, the knowledge and the respectful manner that nature provides and is taken care of.”

“Beautifully crafted products made with wisdom and locally sourced service, great social media presence that could make a difference for this company if they had more support to be more visible online.”

“Beautifying botanicals and fresh products from a wise herbal harvester; Margo ethically sources, grows or wild crafts most of the herbs for her products and keeps her clients radiant and always coming back for more magical concoctions!”

“Incredible and well-researched product line, amazing Gabriola entrepreneur, woman-owned and operated, locally sourced ingredients, an easy-to-use website, above and beyond customer.”

Pier Gallery Artists Collective

“Artists represent themselves and each other and showcase their work in a seaside setting. Wide range of media and prices. Feels good to be there. A beautiful greeting for folks arriving by sea, and more than worth the short drive from north to south end of Gabriola.”

“The Collective work so well together on the business side of art. They have worked to create a beautiful space to share the work of Gabriolan artists. It is such a pleasure working with them and I look forward to watching their continuing impressive growth and success.”

Free Spirit Gallery Studio and Shop

“During one of the darkest, most challenging times on Gabriola Island, this little magical gallery opened its doors offering a reprieve from our gloomy daily life. With an amazing knack for curating and a gift with people both artisans and local shoppers alike, gallery owner Catherine Hallam brings brightness and joy to the community while supporting local artists to make a living. Gabriola is “the isle of the arts” after all and this is exactly the kind of business we need right now. Also, she’s about to offer classes! How amazing is that?!”

The Garden Bed

“I love their organic eggs and seasonal vegetables and chickens!”

The Medicine Garden

“The best! So knowledgeable about her craft, and hers are the only skincare products I use on a daily basis!”

“Francis makes THE BEST self-care products. Her headache blend essential oil and Qi gel keep me functioning even when I have to do a workday with a migraine. Francis is super professional, knowledgeable and has even delivered to my door when I was desperate!”

Slow Rise

“Paul has THE BEST everything, but mostly the best olive/rosemary and focaccia!!!!”

Close to the Sun Productions

“Jules has done many projects that have benefitted the community, always with excellent attention to detail, quality, and workmanship. World-class media right here on Gabriola.”

Ground Up Café and Catering

“Delicious locally sourced food at a fair price point. I love that I can trust them with my dietary restrictions.”

“These guys work so hard to bring locally sourced meals to our community. As a farmer, I really appreciate that they buy my produce to go into their meals. They also advertise where all their food comes from which helps my small business too.”

“These four peeps really deserve a big promo push as they are about to launch into their brand new business(which we need here badly), Ground Up Cafe!”

“Amazing food! They support local farmers. And are always willing to accommodate my family’s food allergy needs. Great bunch of folks! ❤️”

“Ground Up saves the day! These guys pop up all over the place when we need them most. Markets, events, weekends when you don't want to cook, and more! The Ground Up team is a hardworking crew dedicated to delicious things. I think their food tastes so good because you can tell they enjoy making it happen! It's so exciting that they will soon have a permanent place to serve their incredible meals. I hope this marketing package will be a great boost for them as they take on 2022!”

“Ground Up Cafe goes above and beyond to source local food for their cafe and catering, contributing to a local economy, and to the island's food security. The food they craft is wholesome and delicious, hitting the spot every time!”

The Medicine Garden

“Gabriola would not be the same without our makers. Francis is one of the most hardworking artisans and a very knowledgeable herbalist! She supports local with donations, collaborates with other businesses, is present as a local vendor wherever possible, takes her business off-island to wider markets and represents Gabriola proudly! AND her Medicine Garden products are consistently amazing!!”

“This business is really eager to help people herbally with great suggestions for natural health. I have gone to Francis on many occasions for free advice regarding my health and she has offered many different options to treat conditions. Plus her products are amazing.”

“Francis' herbal knowledge becomes clear in her products. Many items in her carefully crafted self-care line are used so often, I always keep them in my cabinet.”

Watercliff Permaculture Farm

“Watercliff Farm produces incredible fruits and veggies. Their dedication to growing the best quality food while appreciating and caring for their relationship with the land is inspiring. And... best berry baskets! Hmmm if they win this marketing package they might have to plant more berry bushes to keep up with demand!”

“Lisa and Pollen have a passion for growing great food! I’ve had the pleasure of subscribing to their CSA box for several years now. Our whole family looks forward to box day! 😊”

“Pollen and Lisa are the most generous, giving souls. When running the farm-to-table event they always are so generous with their produce and time. They are a wealth of food-growing knowledge in our community and freely share this knowledge. They work so so hard, and deserve all good things to come their way.”

“Incredibly hard-working, feeding the community through their farmstand, CSA boxes and the farmers market. An integral part of the community!”

“Lisa and Pollen have built an absolutely amazing market/CSA farm/garden using principles and methods that support the environment and produce beautiful food. They are so good to work with as a commercial business as well - supplying beautiful food for our foodservice business.”

Treeswift Gardens

“Lynn works around the clock to make sure that locals can enjoy their outside spaces to the max! She is so knowledgeable about growing food, pruning trees, making wise landscaping choices and more. We are so lucky to have her expertise on Gabriola!”

“Lynn is very knowledgeable and great to work with. She goes the extra mile to see your project flourish.”

“Lynn has been growing and gardening for many years, her knowledge is outstanding! Her personable nature and attention to detail will have you coming back year after year!”

“Lynn is so hardworking and knowledgeable about farming, orchards and gardening, and is so quick to connect with anyone in the community looking for help with all their pruning and gardening needs. Not afraid to climb tall trees and such an asset to the island! I know she is looking to grow her business and reach a wider audience, and this would mean so much to her!”

“Lynn works so hard making people's gardens productive and beautiful while also providing a much-needed link between local fruit trees/producers and local customers.”

Robert's Place

“Incredibly strong community focus, generous and great food. Will miss him and think we should recognize him in some way.”

Gulf Island Seaplanes

“They offer excellent customer service, provide quick service to the mainland and offer a unique experience for tourists arriving on our island. Their dedication to customers through weather and during Covid shows the grit and commitment it takes to run a small business on Gabriola.”

Fianna Wilderness School

“I can't think of anything more important for the future of our communities and planet than the work Stephanie is doing with kids. She is an absolute gift and deserves any support we can give her to continue and expand and appreciate the good work she does.”

Ravenskill Cidery

“I think Ravenskill has done a great job of expanding their offerings and product line and making for a friendly and fun experience. I think they would benefit from more marketing! I'm always sad to see not many people enjoying their patio and I think additional local marketing investment would help (their SM person is doing a great job with presumably limited resources/time!)”

Nature Spirit Earth Market

“Everyone who works here is so kind and helpful. I love shopping at NSEM and I wish more people knew about the amazing zero-waste shopping opportunities here!”

Relove Local

“Relove Local is an inspiring example of an alternative to the mainstream, unsustainable textile industry and take-make-waste economy. They invest in local apprentices to revive the skill of repair and upcycling, hire and source locally, and take responsibility for our community's waste!”

GIRO

“Yarrow and Sara have done an incredible job elevating the thrifting experience at GIRO. Making second-hand shopping equal to if not MORE fun and accessible than new shops will be essential in normalizing a circular economy!”

Soul Farm Sanctuary

“Soul Farm Sanctuary and the wonderful human who runs it, Thirza Voysey, are truly incredible and doing so much for individuals and in turn, the community. The horse therapy session I had was something so special and transformative. Something you can't explain, but only truly understand by experiencing it. I would recommend everyone go at least once, but I guarantee you'll want to come back for more. Thirza does so much for the community through her work and has SO much fire to create even more. When we get behind people like this they continue to offer up so much abundance to everyone else. After the last 2-years we've had, I'd say just about everyone needs a little extra healing and support.”

The Happy Hippie Soap Company

“Excellent products for personal use and gifts. Fun names with an island/hippie theme.”

Sound, Belonging & Wholeness

“Leah and Lynette are so dedicated to building an accessible and inclusive healing community around sound and meditation. They are thoughtful, generous, creative, and kind in their approach and this prize could help them expand their good work in the world!”

Gertie Community Bus

“Gertie works hard to keep publically run transit on the road....the Pandemic has been ages and they need drivers and a publicity campaign to bring them into 2022 as strong as they were in 2019! I could see the advertising and marketing going a long way to get them back on top.”

Community Prize Basket

For a chance to win, we asked you to share your favourite 'love local' experience, why you love Gabriola and our community, or make a suggestion of how to share love locally between neighbours, businesses and our community. Here is what you wrote:

“I traded a Gabian jar of homemade pickles for a ride home when I forgot my car keys.”

“Our son Lucas played his first jam session at the **Surf Pub!**”

“When we bought our lot in 2017, our realtor (now beloved friend) **Dar Mace** gifted us with a bottle of champagne and a machete to cut through the Scotch Broom. Since then, she has offered us many a hot bath while we camp on our place waiting to build.”

“When we first moved here, without us knowing what was going on (a gift from family), **Deep Roots Farm** delivered the most amazing produce! We couldn't believe it. It was such a pleasure to meet **Jenn and Will**, such a fantastic service and a beautiful way to be welcomed to the island.”

“**Ravenskill** is such a cool business for our island. Whenever we visit the cidery, the staff are incredible, and it's like a vacation walking through the orchard.”

“**On Our Farms!** Sandra has been an inspiration for me; her products are amazing and she brings an incredible energy to our island.”

“**GIFT** was a savior for our family during the pandemic. GIFT goes above and beyond to help our community.”

“Thanks, **GALTT** and any and all locals contributing to trail maintenance. Always amazed how quickly trails are cleared after the weather takes out some branches or trees. We also love the Native Plant Depot and have used a few of the plants on our property - thanks! ALSO, the Winter Walkabouts are such a great back-pocket activity and good inspiration to try a new route, THANKS!

“Shout out to **RELOVE LOCAL!** This initiative is so cool. Every time there's a new update on how waste is being repurposed or recycled it grabs my interest.”

“Love the recycled pot holders and bowl covers that we bought from the Xmas market store (**Nova Handmade Pop Up Shop**) in the village. Beautifully made with repurchased material!

“Our neighbours pick up our new dog every day while my husband and I are at work in town all week. It is a great relief for us that our new Mexican street dog doesn't have to be lonesome all day. I feel so grateful to have them as our neighbours!”

“There are so many moments and important people to give a shout out to, but working with **Thirza at Soul Farm** really helped me heal through a very difficult health journey last year. Not only did she provide an incredible service and magical healing experience through working with her horses, but she also became a very close and amazing friend. I am very grateful to live where I live and be part of such an incredible community.”

“Imagine having locally grown carrots in February! **Heart and Soil Farm** has just gone above and beyond any set limit by offering the community their fresh carrots this week. YUM!”

“**Raven Feed** is my 'go-to' place for our cat food needs! Max says, "MEOW! I like the locally available food and treats from Raven!" Well, he would say that (if he could speak human), because it means 'staff' spend less time away from him getting essential supplies!”

“I love the selection at **Island Home and Garden!** I'm rarely surprised when what I want isn't there!”

“I love how I can find what I need at **Colleen's**...even if I do not know I need it! Everyone is always so gracious and helpful! Bravo!”

“**Bernadette at Nesters** is such a shining light. She always remembers my kids and checks in them every time she sees them. She's also very helpful in finding things we need.”

“**Tasha and JJ of the Gabriola Fitness Centre** gave everything and more to keep the gym running/ classes continuing and the community strong during all the ups and downs of the pandemic.”

“Huge shout out to **Stuart Davidson** “the glass guy” for making time before Christmas to install the double pane windows into my tiny house. We were literally freezing our butts off with no proper heating and a single-pane window! Stu made time even just before the holidays started to make Christmas a little warmer for my little family. ❤️”

“Shout out to the **staff at Nesters** for hanging in there during the past two and a half years... Making sure the people of Gabriola have access to all the necessities of life...”

“Shout out to my neighbor, **John Cross**, who selflessly helped push a car out of the ditch in front of my house in the pouring rain, help move items from my old place to my new home, and for just being an all-round great neighbor.”

“Shout out to the new **Gabriola Cannabis** store for supplying pain relief to the ones I love.”

“I love the **Surf Lodge** for giving me a job to help support my family. The staff and owners at the surf are so great to work with and I absolutely love the job which lets me interact with my community and stay safe through the pandemic! Shout out to the Surf Lodge!”

“I love the whole community for supporting me and my business last year during a super difficult move. So many long-time residents purchased gifts from **OMD** and helped me move after 11 years. My heart rests here on Gabriola for over 2 decades!”

“Shout out to **Arbutus Home Building Centre** for always walking me through small projects and having everything I need when I come into the store!”

“**Arbutus Home Building Centre** has a fantastic team always willing to help keep supplies available for our business!”

“I love the **PHC**, volunteers, and community support that have continued to make hot, healthy, and creative lunches for the GES school children through these trying times.”

“While today is a rather sad day to reflect on -- being the 2nd anniversary of my husband's sudden passing -- I am so thankful for the community of dedicated firefighters and first responders who comprise the **Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department**. While we all wish -- no more so than myself -- that the outcome that night was different, I am very thankful that the men and women who responded to the call were so respectful, professional and kind. There is a lot of responsibility placed on these individuals to keep current, keep active and keep committed in order to serve. We are so fortunate as a community to have them.”

“I appreciate **Nature Spirit Earth Market**; they are always willing to order in something special or talk about a product with you.”

“**Colleen's** because they have such a range of goods and are so helpful and friendly.”

“I LOVE **COLLEEN'S**! I recently bought a fairly expensive pair of shoes at Colleen's. I didn't wear them until I was going to be traveling to Ontario. When I did wear them on my trip, I felt a little flaw in the construction of the left shoe. When I returned to Gabriola, I brought them into the store to show the flaw. The lady took one look and promptly went to the back and replaced my shoes with a brand new pair. No questions asked. I did not have a receipt, a box, or any proof of purchase. She did not ask for my name, signature, or anything. She just replaced my shoes. There is nowhere else that can you get that kind of service but LOCAL! Thank you, Colleen's. You have my shoe business for always. :)”

“I love being able to call ahead to **Woodfire Pizza** while waiting for the ferry in Nanaimo then pick up a fresh hot delicious pizza, have a quick chat with their friendly and helpful front-house staff, and go to a park/beach for a picnic. Every time I have a chance to go to Gabriola, I'll always visit either Woodfire Pizza or **Madrone's** for coffee (depending on the time of day :)). Looking forward to another visit soon!”

“Several years ago, **Gabriola Agricultural CO-OP, PHC** and **BCAFM** (B.C. Association of Farmers Markets) collaborated on the introduction of the **Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon program**. This program is structured to build a healthier relationship and empower low-income seniors, vulnerable individuals, families and children. The first year placed just shy of \$10,000 worth of coupons into their pockets to be spent on locally produced food at the Farmers market. Flowing by design into amplifying and supporting our local food production. The satisfying moment for me on redeeming the coupons for one of our farmers was the statement "Oh good now I can pay my bill at Arbutus" IMHO I cannot imagine a better example of building the circular economy.”

“**Devlin Semmler** is the most knowledgeable, patient, and kind contractor/carpenter on the island. He runs the worksites for **Blackfish Homes** here on Gabriola and was in charge of our renovation at 2345 South Road. Devlin has very high standards but also knows how to save money for his clients. He is smart and really listens. There's no better than Devlin.”

“**Evan** runs **EMC Electric** with his journeyman, **Josh**, and they are not only amazing at electric work but very good people who take the time to understand and help. Evan is such a good dude, we are very happy with our new home electrical system.”

“**David and Dawn Adair at Blackfish Homes** are very skilled at both new construction and renovation. Our complete tenon project has been a massive undertaking, but David has been very responsive and extremely knowledgeable during the whole process. Highly recommend Blackfish Homes if you want the best quality.”

“**Dan Backe at GIFT** is one of the best dudes on the planet. He constantly goes above and beyond to help his community and connect local businesses to clients. Great job Dan!”

“I love the way everyone supports one another on this island. You just have to post on our community bulletin board if you need help and several people step up. It's so comforting to know that there are still so many caring people in the world and a lot of them live here on Gabriola.”

“Local businesses support sports for kids and youth as well as adults. I've been lucky enough to coach kids in soccer and softball and see them grow up. I sometimes work for those same businesses and they sometimes play with me in the adult leagues. Local business, local talent, local legacy.”

“I heard an urgent knock on my door one morning by my beautiful neighbour, **Lisa (Millard)**. She couldn't reach me by phone and was alarmed on the blustery winter day because she heard a loud crash; she feared I might have fallen from a ladder... (which I had done a few weeks before, but she hadn't known about that). I assured her I was ok and she relaxed. It turned out to be a shelf and contents crashing at the back of my shed. Wow, to have such alertness and care from your neighbour. I feel held in Love in this community and so grateful. Thanks for the opportunity to share this story ”

“From the best sausage rolls to yummy coffee, plus a whole lot of meat, **Tom the Butcher** has it all. It's always a great place to shop.”

“**Robert** makes going to see music so much fun. His dancing and his laugh are truly a part of Gabriola.”

“Thanks, **Robert's Place**, for the Suzy burger and all the good times!”

“**Arbutus Home Building Centre** is an asset to the island. They're helpful, and it's great to have a hardware store here.”

“**Sangsara Julia Autumn Brown** and her spouse, **Jerrod Lloyd Genette**, stand out to me as two consistently giving, kind and helpful individuals in our community. They individually and together respond to so many people's needs with assistance requests on FB for help lifting something, moving, or assisting to find a specific object. Jerrod has come to my aid multiple times when I have a glitch with something or need a hand, especially after I had a fall. Julia has spontaneously messaged me with suggestions of where I could find something I sought. Julia selflessly has announced her drive to collect warm items and footwear for those in need here and in Nanaimo. They go above and beyond, and if they are not available, they go out of their way to find someone who can. They give love every single day and ramp up the beauty of this community!”

“**Dan Backe of GIFT** is the best. Goes out of the way to deliver quality products with a smile.”

“Thanks to **the local library**! I love having the seed library and displays with amazing book suggestions. Thank you!”

“One of the top reasons I enjoy living on Gabriola is the wonderful amount of beautiful producers that provide to this community. There was a time when the only socialization or smiles I would get was when I went to hit the shops. I enjoy getting my bread and candles and healthy things at **Nature Spirit**, my sausage rolls from **Island Meat & Deli**, delicious finds at **Village Liquor**, always a fun adventure out to the **Boulton's farm**, and I can't wait for my CSA box from **Watercliff Farms**. Everything from **Robert's** cakes to **Nesters'** lovely staff and the well-stocked library just makes this a wonderful place to live with the perks of a bigger place and the small-town charm. I have always loved shopping local, and Gabriola makes that an amazing place to do so!”

“**Gabriola Disposal** is very helpful. I had an old building that had to be disposed of and **Nelson** did an amazing job and charged me very fair.”

“**Panacea Herbs** products are amazing.”

“**Gabriola Disposal** goes out of their way to help clean up things.”

“I LOVE **GIRO**! I love the dedication of our community to reduce, reuse, recycle and especially LOVE the staff and volunteers that make it so easy to shop.”

“Shout out to our local farms for providing Gabriola with beautiful food!”

“**Robert** of **Robert’s Place** does so much to help out folks going through tough times. He donated a huge pot of soup every week for the food bank and always donated gift certificates to fundraisers for our amazing charities! Thanks, Robert.”

“**Colleen** is always so friendly and caring when you go into her lovely store... even thanking you so kindly for sanitizing! My son was out with all of our family during Christmas break, and his 3-year-old daughter had cold toes so he popped into Colleen's to warm up before continuing on. She GAVE him a warm cozy pair of inserts for her boots to warm her up and keep. Such thoughtful generosity. Thanks from my toasty toed little granddaughter!”

“**Nature Spirit Earth Market** is hands-down the most lovely shopping experience on Gabriola! Knowledgeable, helpful, capable and interested! I feel heard and included in the “family”. Special orders, no problem! Supplement information and details, no problem! Support local farmers, absolutely! All-round most excellent place! Much love ❤️”

“I love having a kind and caring butcher nearby... I love that I can get quality protein nearby and feed us with healthy local food year round!”

“**Surf Lodge** on Christmas Eve helped me and my wife have a nice lunch out for our wedding anniversary.”

“**Zoe Lamb** at the **Vijnana Yoga Centre** is an amazing yoga teacher. She is very skilled, committed, kind, and knowledgeable. Going to yoga classes with her is a lovely, rejuvenating and relaxing experience for the body and the mind.”

“**Local Lamb Farm** is so awesome!!!! **Three Gates Farm** ordered and paid online, and they delivered when they said they would be friendly and prompt.” e2

“**Gabriola Towing** for "rescuing" us off the ferry when our truck broke down on the ferry.”

“**Bob (Dunn by Design)** mended our gate for us at no charge when the wind blew it open and wrecked the hinges, as he knew my hubby, recovering from knee surgery, couldn't do it and that is was beyond my capability. It was not an easy job.”

“I am shouting out to all the people who have been going to work in our community and risking catching Covid. The **staff** of **Nesters**, the **Co-op**, the **library**, all the **restaurants**, the **health professionals** especially everyone at our clinic, the **school workers and volunteers**, the **ferry personnel**, the **Gertie drivers**, etc. I am so grateful to them for keeping us alive, healthy, connected, fed, and entertained with books of course. This community is full of amazing people, with determination, courage, and big hearts.”

"We have been loved by our neighbours during Covid. **The Giffins, the Clancys, and Mary Robinson** and **Robbie Huston** all have done grocery shopping for us so that we didn't have to risk being inside a crowded store. This was very much appreciated as we are both vulnerable. It's lovely to live in the community."

"**Heart and Soil Farm** is one of my favourite places to buy fresh, local, organic produce. It is always delicious. The farmers work so hard to bring us the best and are always experimenting with different veggies. Last year we had fresh ginger! And they are always so friendly and welcoming when I see them at the farmer's market. They deserve to be acknowledged by our community for starting up a business that we really need and doing it so well."

"**Kitt Stringer** for his persistent attention to keeping our community informed regarding various hazards while a member of our **Fire Department**."

"I have been ordering salumi from **Aerie Farm** through the **Agi Coop**. Every week there is the sweetest handwritten note! It is charming and personal at a time when we need connection."

"**Nesters'** bakery: The very kind gentleman takes the time to bring out the bread and comes right out and puts it right into your hands!"

"**Ground Up Cafe** is amazing, both for their food and their friendliness. I can't wait for their next pop-up!"

"**Twin Cedars Vet** is invaluable. Our cats are healthy and happy and in good hands."

"I really appreciate having dental care on Island. My teeth are clean and I'm happy! Thanks, **Gabriola Dental!**"

"**Sean Chimuk** is the guy to go to for firewood! We're warm, happy and have barely had to lift the ax this year."

"**Mark**, from **Mark's Mechanical**, helped us out in a big way after the freezing weather. Pipes? Fixed! Pump? Replaced!"

"**Bernadette** at **Nesters** is the best. She is friendly and funny and always has a smile."

"My neighbour, **Deb**, is really kind. She always says hi, and at Christmas time, she gave my family cookies!"

"**PHC** provides hot lunches for the school. They're really yummy!"

"**Gabriola Elementary School**, or GES as you might know it, is great. The teachers are amazing!"

"I really like the **library** and the **librarians**; they're so nice."

"**Ace Hardware**, great selection of products, good prices, friendly staff."

"**Wheel Barrel Nursery**: friendly staff, amazing plants, good prices."

"**Coastal Community Insurance**: knowledgeable staff, friendly a good place to get all you insurance needs."

"**Coastal Community Credit Union**: good place to bank, amazing staff."

"**Colleen's**: always welcoming, great products, great prices, a good place to shop."

"I love volunteering (and buying!) at the **Gabe Shop**! Not only do I get to see people donating goods to help in the community, but I also get to experience the fun-loving expertise of the manager, **Tammy Hennigar** as she helps people give to the community in so many ways!"

"**Heart and Soil** has been my go-to organic vegetable stand of choice for the last few years. They offer beautiful produce from February to October with a functional online system of payment or pair! They are a very hard-working young family working seven days a week and unfailingly gracious in their dealings with their customers. I love them!"

"The leadership of community organizations fuels this island with inspiration and connection."

"Fresh veggies from local farmers are a precious resource we have on Gabriola."

"Overall, I think **Nesters** does a good job of providing a varied selection of food and other needs."

"I find **Lottie** very helpful at **IHAG**."

"I love **Robert's** liver and onions."

"During the pandemic, my husband and I celebrated our wedding anniversary out on the temporary patio set up by **Woodfire**. It was a really enjoyable, low-key, and delicious meal in a nice setting."

"Huge shout out to the folks at **Ground Up** for making amazing food and supporting our farmers!"

“The **Gabriola Library** is one of my favourite places. I love the atmosphere and the staff is always friendly and helpful. I understand that our library has the highest use per capita of any in the system. We should be very proud of that too.”

“I LOVE the **Twin Cedars Veterinary** team. We are so lucky to have a local vet right here. They make me feel like they truly care about my dog, they take time to help me understand any issues and options for treatments, the staff are so kind in person and on the phone, and the services are very fairly priced. Thank you Twin Cedars team!”

“Just last week my husband John had to go and have blood tests. We left home and 18minutes later we were back. All done. Now, where in the world does that happen? Here on Gabriola because the fabulous Life Labs comes over to us here on the island. They have their lab set up downstairs from the amazing **Gabriola Medical Clinic**. We are all very lucky to have this incredible service here on the island.”

“One of my favourite love local experiences and what continues to amaze me is how boat people look after each other, particularly liveaboards in Silva Bay and Degnan Bay. In the heavy snow and rain over Christmas, I was frantic to get out to my boat on a mooring because it was taking on water, but I didn't have access to a motorized dinghy, and it was too stormy to row. I called and messaged a couple of people, and reassuring news from **Tad Roberts** who said my boat was ok, his offer to run around and check everything the next morning, assuaged my fears. Before work the next day, another boat owner, **Ali Siegel** scooted out with her son and bailed it out. And not to be forgotten, how **Simon Stiles** and many others worked through the night in the big storm on Christmas Eve 2018 to keep many boats off the rocks, saving at least 3. Things like this remind me that we really do have each other's backs in times of trouble, regardless of whether we know the person or not. The best thing about living in a small community is that we can rely on each other when systems go down or the weather gets us... and that no one has to go it alone. Thank you for the opportunity to share!”

“Shout out to our local restaurants who continue to serve us with a smile during these unwavering times! You rock!”

“Shoutout to everyone working and volunteering at **GIRO!!!** Thank you for always being so kind and welcoming while graciously sorting our recyclables.”

“Thank you to all the **local farmers, makers**, the **Agi Co-Op**, and **Dan from GIFT** who enhance local food security and make it easy and enjoyable to purchase local products via the online and in-person markets. Thank you :)”

“Shoutout to all the **local frontline essential workers!** These are integral roles in the community and many of you do it with an incredible attitude, ensuring that we can still access resources,

goods, and services on-island without the barriers of having to travel off-island. Thank you, local frontline essential workers!”

“**Nesters Market** donated all the food except turkeys for the Spirit Feast meals. It was very generous of them!”

“**Frank Shoemaker** is a major helper on the island. He has served on many boards and shared his professional expertise with many organizations. I served with him on the **Gabriola Arts Council** board where he always did more than was expected with little fanfare. His commitment seems to be an excellent citizen. He does what is right because it is the right thing to do.”

“I love the idea of a monthly gift basket full of local goodies, where each month a different local business can showcase their wares! I think it would be super great to see the diverse talent on the island as well as help locals advertise! Win-win! :)”

“My husband and I were away for the holidays and had a friend come stay in our home. While we were gone, there was a power outage, and our friend couldn't figure out how to turn on the generator. I reached out through the Gabriola community page, and someone came by within the hour and figured it out. When I offered to pay they just said “Merry Christmas”! Super grateful for this strong resilient community who is willing to help one another at any moment's notice!”

“When I first moved here we had some major moving hiccups where the seller of our house was unable to move out due to the Abbotsford flooding. Luckily, we were able to stay in some BnBs while we waited it out, and I got food from the **Woodfire Restaurant** almost every night as we didn't have a kitchen in our BnB. The delicious food kept me going through the stress and made things go from stressful to totally manageable!”

“**Tom at Island Meat and Deli** works tirelessly to supply the island with excellent meat and cheeses. He is knowledgeable, helpful and friendly. We rely on his advice and instructions.”

“Recently while descending North Road towards the ferry, an SUV slowed to ask if I was walking to catch the Quinsam. Upon my affirmative reply, they offered a ride, but I still had time before departure so I declined. However, as I passed Taylor Bay Road, I saw the vehicles were already nearly finished loading... the ferry was working a few minutes early this day. Rushing down as quickly as I could, loaded up with bags and easel box as I was, I feared the ferry would leave. I made it though and upon boarding, I overheard a worker mention over their walkie me having boarded. The crew then immediately put the ramp up to prepare to leave. I believe the driver of the SUV had informed them I was coming down, and rather than leaving ahead of schedule, they waited a couple of minutes for me. It is this attitude of every person here having a value that makes me so glad to be a part of the Gabriola community.”

“On a hot day in summer, I picked up a package from the post office only to discover it was bulkier than expected. Struggling with it back down North Road, I had several people pull over to offer a lift. At that time I was a new face on the island, and this made me feel so welcome and accepted here. Such lift offers would not have been made where I had moved from.”

“I was participating in a lantern-making workshop led by **Erin Mancor**, but my design wound up being a little ambitious. Rather than scoot me out, Erin remained beyond the workshop timeframe and helped me finish the lantern so I could take it home completed. I greatly appreciated her patience and assistance as it was my first foray into workshops on the island.”

“While going through the checkout at **Nesters** shortly after moving here, the cashier surprised me with a lollipop. I had been unfamiliar with the store, and the gesture brought a smile to my face and put me at ease.”

“**Surf Lodge** for staying open through the pandemic, feeding and lodging locals and visitors for 363 days a year, and the wonderful staff for ensuring a safe and beautiful place to continue to go to enjoy all the Surf Lodge has to offer.”

“**Michele FireRiverHeart** showed up at our front door shortly after we moved into our home 7 1/2 years ago. She introduced herself and said she had been the gardener for the previous owners. She offered her help. We soon decided we needed her expertise. We have worked together ever since. She has been willing to learn new skills to accommodate our ideas. Over the years her business has grown. She now employs a sizeable crew. The quality of her service has not faltered. We are grateful for her help and her expertise. We think she is great!”

“I wrote **Sarah Chiasson** last summer quite last minute seeing if she could create a flower arrangement for my grandmother's funeral. She created the most beautiful, special arrangements and made it work for me to be able to pick them up quickly. So appreciated! ❤️”

“I'm loving the new art gallery/studio **Free Spirit**. You can feel **Catherine's** careful and thoughtful creative curation and is a special space to explore the artists of the island. Thanks, Catherine for creating such a special space to showcase Gabriola artists. ❤️”

“I love **Last Cove's** candles and have bought them for several friends as gifts. Once the candle is done, they're left with a beautiful ceramic cup and the scents are heavenly. ❤️”

“I love seeing Gabriolans leaving a beach, park, trail, etc with garbage they've passed along the way!! It is imperative we pack out what we may pack in!!”

“There are many dedicated volunteers on the island. Without them, we would not be able to accomplish many of the extraordinary things that happen here. So to all the volunteers, I want to say thank you.”

“Delighted to see so many volunteers taking care of the island. They are very kind to do so.”

“Waiting for turkeys on road to decide which way to move.”

“During our recent heavy snowfall, my husband and I went to **Robert's** for supper. We walked; it was bitter cold. Robert took our order but came back right away with a glass of hot water so I could warm my hands. I never asked for it nor mentioned my icy hands. The gesture doesn't seem like much, but it was huge to me. Robert's is always our go-to, but he went above the generally great service we're used to”.

“I love **Colleen's**! If I can't find it anywhere else I can likely find it there, like Swedish Butter Knives and darning needles. If they don't have it they will get it for you like smaller rice cookers. They surprise you like when you need pool shoes in January and they have them in several colours for your extra-wide tootsies. Gifts, supplies, necessities, they have them all and amazingly friendly and welcoming staff to help you find them. They really do go above and beyond for each customer.”

“While shopping for our new home, we came over to Gabriola a handful of times and kept remarking "we gotta see if **Woodfire** is going to be open". Sadly, it never worked with our viewing times. Once settled in our new home, our very first island takeaway was the Wildwood pizza and the Crab Cakes appetizer; a beautiful first meal. The young lady behind the counter was lovely, giving me tips on mobile phones on the island and places to visit. (We laughed that her cell phone worked on some rooms of her house, but not all of them). It's nice to make those connections and I know that we will dine there (or take-away) often!”

“I just moved to Gabriola from the lower mainland and started following the Gabriola Island's Instagram account so that I could show people all the stunning photos of where I was going to be calling home. While looking at the site, I found **Sandra from On Our Farms** and knew that I would want to be getting some of her products soon after moving, especially the sore muscles oil. We chatted online a bunch, and she personally delivered my order and made me feel very welcome to the island - and her products are amazing! Looking forward to trying more of her products.”

“Thank you to the staff at the **Gabriola Medical Clinic** as well as staff of all medical services on Gabriola for keeping our island safe and happy this last tough time. It is a loooong road and they have all really put themselves on the line to make our island safe. Quadruple ups for them.”

“Shout out to **Trevor Gear**. He has kept **Gertie** up and running in the pandemic, and this has not been easy. Between government rules and regulations and the wishes of the board, Trevor works hard to make Gertie a success. Most folks don't know that there is one human making Gertie go. It has not been easy in a pandemic.”

“Shout out to the **Gabriola Arts Council (GAC)** for working with what they have and what minimal resources they scour to present art to the community. This is not easy and everything runs on grants, and grants are not guaranteed... so it is worth a big shout out to the GAC! (Special ups to Carol Fergusson for keeping it rolling)”

“Big shout out to **Woodfire** for their pizzas and takeout meals during the pandemic. Especially in the first year when they worked really hard to reframe their business to work WITH a pandemic. Rather than pare everything down and provide the least possible, they have given the most possible. Big ups to **Chris and Sharon and the staff** who are all lovely.”

“**Robert at Robert’s Place**: I like to eat at Robert’s Place because his staff are so welcoming, respectful and willing to share a fun story or two. I live alone so their friendly atmosphere means a lot as well as their compassion ongoing since my spouse died. To top it off, Robert, knowing I have food sensitivities is so willing to make adjustments and substitutions to a meal so I can enjoy eating there. No extra charges, and lots of friendly smiles to enjoy. Thanks, Robert and team - you make my heart happy.”

“I want to do a shout-out to **Stephen Earle**. He contributed to many local social development programs. He should get a volunteer of the world award so he is my first thought for a person super deserving of this shout-out! From **Gertie** to **The FAC** to **Sustainable Gabriola** to many other things he does that I have no idea about!”

“A big thank you to the generous individual who left a big donation at **Woodfire** and asked that they offer meals to families in need. Thank you to Woodfire for accommodating this too and the friend who reached out to us. Our family received a meal after hospital admission and were so grateful.”

“Shout out to the Gabriola community who constantly supports families going through hard times. Our family recently was split up due to an illness and our Gabriola community started a GoFundMe to reunite us in Vancouver while we went through what was the hardest time in our lives as parents. Without needing to ask, we had funds deposited, meals made, childcare sorted out, and living messages sent our way to make everything easier. Thank you, Gabriola!”

“**On Our Farms** products are SO special. **Sandra** puts so much care and love into what she does and it shows. Personal faves are the frankincense toner spray and vanilla patchouli candle 🧡”



**GABRIOLA
ISLAND
CHAMBER**