



Gibsons goes to market

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The Gibsons Public Market Team enthusiastically announced today that they have successfully raised \$275,000 in donations for the purchase of the old Yacht Club property – the home for the new Gibsons Public Market. This money will be donated to the Town of Gibsons and be used by the Town to finance their part ownership in the property. Donations ranged from \$25,000 to \$50 from over 185 individuals, families and businesses from Langdale, Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Sechelt through to Pender Harbor. “This level of community commitment to the creation of a Public Market in Gibsons is spectacular”, said Wayne Rowe, Gibsons Mayor. “When we started this fund raising program in mid-September I was unsure we would be able to reach the \$250,000 target we gave the proponents but this level of support clearly demonstrates the strong demand for such a community space in Gibsons. We look forward to working with the other proponents and the non-profit society, which will be running the Market, to getting the building ready for initial occupancy in early 2014 and then moving towards the fully renovated space in late 2015.”

Donations came through many sources and from people from across the income spectrum. In some cases families in a particular area got together and with donations between \$50 and \$250 were able to place a total donation of \$5000. “The level of enthusiasm we have seen for the Market over these last few months has been astounding”, said Gerry Zipursky one of the other Market proponents. “Not only did we get support from long established Sunshine Coast families but also from many new comers who are wanting to see positive change in the Gibsons Landing area. This level of support has been a great boost to those of us who have been promoting the Market concept and we are looking forward to the next stage in early 2014 when we will repair the present building and hold some community and Market related activities in the existing space.”

It is anticipated the repaired building will open its doors in March/April 2014 and will then be available for functions, meetings and some market related activities. During 2014 the team will finalize the design and engineering drawings for a complete renovation of the space which is anticipated to be a full 3 story building with over 12,000 ft² of usable space. The year of 2014 will also be a time for further fund raising to cover the costs for the renovation through accessing government, corporate and foundation grants as well as local fund raising functions.

“This must be a first.” said Brian Smith, Executive Director of Community Futures, one of the other Market proponents. “Rarely, if ever, have we seen such a diverse set of partners bringing donations, equity and debt together to allow the community to truly own this project. We are very excited about this investment as it is totally in line with our mandate, and the level of donations clearly shows us that the community definitely wants a public market. We are very proud to be a part of this team and have found the last year of activities around the Market to be very rewarding. I also want to applaud the Town of Gibsons, Sunshine Coast Credit Union and Community Foundation, each of whom have demonstrated strong leadership in this community and have been very supportive of the Market initiative.”

Zipursky also mentioned that the Gibsons Public Market Team extends a warm welcome to folks on the sunshine coast who are interested in joining one of the volunteer committees for the market which will be established during the next phase. Included in wide range of committees will be marketing; fund raising; marine education centre; construction/building committee; Food Security; Communications; etc.

There will be further information on the Market activities and plans in the coming weeks. Meanwhile the Team wishes to thank everyone for their support over these last few months through providing their time, expertise and generous donations. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Gerry Zipursky at gzipursky@gmail.com or Nick Sonntag at nicholas.sonntag@gmail.com Nick Sonntag President of the newly formed Gibsons Public Market Society “encouraged readers to check out the Market Website as well as Facebook updates. In the next couple weeks the website will acknowledge the many donors who have contributed to this amazing community fuelled enterprise.”