

*A proposed food charter for Gabriola has been drafted by members of the Gabriolans for Local Food Choices committee, a committee struck earlier this year by the Gabriola Agricultural Association.*

*Committee member, Jocelyne Boulanger said the group is seeking feedback to the draft charter and is hoping to receive significant public response at its e-mail address, [localfoodgabe@gmail.com](mailto:localfoodgabe@gmail.com).*

## **Gabriola Food Charter**

Wholesome food needs to be a basic human right. To help ensure that it remains available to people here, Gabriolans have prepared this Charter of principles as a guide for us as consumers, for those who produce our food or help to bring it to our tables and for those with authority to make regulations that affect our food.

### **Principles**

#### 1. Environment/Ecology

- We will act to protect, maintain and nourish the integrity of Gabriola's natural environment. We support responsible growing practices that protect the earth, water and air.
- We believe in fostering local, safe and nutritionally superior food systems to reduce negative impacts on our environment, decrease consumption of fossil fuels and lessen packaging waste.

#### 2. Education

- We understand the importance of educating ourselves and our children about the food we eat. We promote learning about nutrition, growing practices, preparation, storage, seed saving, industry additives, genetic engineering, and the use of local wild foods.

#### 3. Access

- We envision using and preserving the resources in our community: the land, the sea around us, our fresh water, and distribution systems to ensure that Gabriolans have access to safe, locally produced, affordable, fresh and nutritious food.

#### 4. Celebration/Culture

- We value the importance of food and celebration in our island culture, and the integral role that it plays.

- We recognize that food brings people together in celebration of community, reflecting our traditional right to share food prepared in our kitchens and using food grown in our own gardens.