

## **SUBMISSION TO THE OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2009 OCP IDEAS FORUM**

### **ABBEYFIELD HOUSE OF BOWEN ISLAND SOCIETY**

#### **20 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE:**

- The 400 islanders now aged 65 or older will be 85 or older.
- A third of all islanders will be 65 years old or older.
- They will be vibrant, participating, learning, contributing, socially and economically integrated members of the community of their choice.
- They will look back with wonder and regret to a time, twenty years before, when it was assumed they'd have to abandon their community in search of suitable housing and support.
- Village density zoning has made it easy for them to downsize to a low maintenance apartment or townhouse close to amenities.
- Their island government has made it easier for them to get around, incorporating accessibility into planning for public buildings and spaces and encouraging accessibility in private developments.
- The island's elderly have lots of help with getting older better: the 41 residents of Abbeyfield House and adjoining Bowen Court are now a large enough group to justify regular visits by care professionals bringing an extensive range of services to the island. For the past eighteen years the staff of Abbeyfield House have been there for its 22 residents and other elderly visiting for meals or staying over for a few days while their care-givers at home take a break.

**NEEDS:**

- Connection to central sewage treatment for Bowen Court, and connections to sewage treatment and water for Abbeyfield.

**AMBITIONS:**

- The completion of a 22-unit supportive living house with built-in expansion potential for increased care provision and twelve additional units.

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