

## QBRA 2019 AGM - ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



No Planet "B"

# 2019 Report

### QBRA AGM

October 26, 2019  
2pm – 4pm  
East Hall  
QB Civic Centre

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## The Climate is Changing, why aren't we?

The Qualicum Beach Residents' Association (QBRA) recognizes the importance of the environment and sustainability in maintaining our high quality of life here in Qualicum Beach. These are just a few highlights of what is happening in this area.

In April 2019, a world-class symposium "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate" was held in Parksville. There were staff and elected officials in attendance from all over Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland (attendees were: 40% stewardship sector; 35% local government; 10% consultants and 15% other). Maybe next year (in Comox) we can get someone from the Town to attend?

The QBRA has been a participant in the Adaptation Changemakers project and the preparation of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Town of Qualicum Beach. This project, being led by ICLEI Canada, involves eight communities from across Canada. The purpose of the Plan is: "to incorporate and mainstream adaptation actions into Town operations and to reduce the risks climate change poses to a community's physical, economic, social, and ecological systems." There is a role for citizens and organizations,

like the QBRA, to play in the implementation of the Action Plan. The Plan is expected to be presented to QB Town Council later this year.

Recently, Communities Protecting Our Coast (CPOC) hosted a screening of "Beyond Climate" (BC) at Knox United Church. The event was well attended (over 200 people) - the only elected officials I saw in attendance were two members of Parksville City Council. A panel, moderated by author Guy Dauncey, gave ideas about what other communities are doing to lobby local governments and bring climate action to the forefront.

The removal and clear cutting of healthy trees on both public and private land continues to be a concern for many citizens. The QBRA plans to work with citizens to ensure a Tree and Vegetation Management Plan and Bylaw remains a Council priority.

The youth of Qualicum led climate walks around town on two "Fridays for Future" (September 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>) as part of the global climate strikes inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. Pretty sure there will be more so watch the QBRA's Facebook page for information (often last minute!).