



Islands Trust

## **New Approach as Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Continues with Provincial RAR Implementation**

On July 7, 2011 the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) passed five resolutions regarding the Provincial requirement to implement the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR). Given the unprecedented interest shown at last month's attempted Public Hearings and the related correspondence around Bylaw No. 449, the LTC wants to ensure that the community is fully aware and engaged in the development of a development permit area bylaw to implement RAR. The LTC believes that the community needs to be involved to a greater degree and that feedback and education are key components. There was a great deal of input received leading up to the Public Hearings and as a result the LTC has directed staff to improve communication with the community through a variety of methods such as meeting with specific community organizations.

The LTC directed staff to proceed no further with Bylaw No. 449 – Lakes, Streams, Wetlands and Riparian Areas. What this means is that the focus for staff will no longer be on that bylaw, but on a community consultation and communication process to improve understanding of the Provincial RAR and to find a community supported means to implement it. The LTC also directed staff look at ways to address concerns about the lack of detailed stream mapping. Because this will take time and may have to be done in phases, staff was directed to consult with the Ministry of Environment to seek their support for a possible incremental approach to implementing RAR on Salt Spring Island. With regards to the mapping, staff will identify options and costs associated with additional stream mapping for the Island.

Over the next number of months staff will be working with the community and various organizations to improve understanding of the Riparian Areas Regulation, to understand community concerns, and to gain input into the development of a bylaw. Staff will provide progress updates at the LTC meetings. Residents are encouraged to continue to contact staff as this communication and engagement process unfolds. Following this consultative process, staff will bring back a report and recommendations on RAR implementation for the consideration of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. This report will include options and recommendations for stream mapping and options and recommendations for implementing the Riparian Areas Regulation.

Please continue to look at the website <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/edparpl2010.cfm> as staff will continue to update this site with information regarding communication and opportunities to be involved.