

South Pender Local Trust Committee

As I write this, Trustees across the Trust area are reading and digesting a large package of materials provided in advance of the Trust Council meeting on Hornby Island from March 23-25. The focus of the March meeting is always the budget for the upcoming year (the fiscal year runs April – March) and this meeting is no exception. I'm sure that there will be lots of discussion and members of Trust Council will have to make some difficult decisions. We will provide a report of our decisions in next month's Pender Post.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The South Pender Local Trust Committee has focused on completing the requirements for provincial government Bill 27 which requires all local governments to amend their Official Community Plans by the end of May to include targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The community meeting in early February, as well as communications from members of the community both before and after that meeting, provided good ideas about how South Pender can incorporate sustainability into our community plans.

The Local Trust Committee also referred the matter to our Advisory Planning Commission; they met twice, both before and after the community meeting, and developed a series of recommendations for the LTC to consider when drafting amendments to the Official Community Plan. The APC recommended that, to fulfill the requirements of Bill 27, the OCP be amended to make general statements of intent and to set a target as demanded by the legislation, but that specific land use changes be done at the time of an OCP review. The APC cautioned that making changes to one section of the OCP can impact other sections and that the best approach to good planning is to incorporate changes that will have the effect of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or will conserve lands that may serve to capture and store carbon when we do a complete review and rewrite of the OCP and LUB.

The LTC adopted the approach suggested by the APC and directed the planner, Robert Kojima, to make the changes to the language of the OCP. The amendments were given First Reading and the Public Hearing on proposed Bylaw #105 will be at the April meeting. The proposed bylaw, and the recommendations of the APC, are all available on the Trust website, South Pender Island. Please contact one of your Trustees if you have particular comments or concerns about the proposed changes. Many thanks to the APC - Bruce McConchie, Buffy Paterson, Jane Perch, Paul Petrie, and Richard Rue - who gave their time and energy to this work.

National Park Zoning

We have also been working to amend our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaws to update our zoning for the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve lands. While some of the lands are already zoned for park, since they were previously provincial parks, other lands are still zoned for their uses prior to becoming part of the national park. Our planner, Andrea Pickard, has completed the work to zone both the water and the land portions of the park to a new "National Park" (NP) designation. While the local government has no authority over federal lands, we have included sections that request on-going consultation between the local community and the Park and provide indication to the Park of our expectations regarding use of the park lands. The National Park Zoning Amendments (Bylaws #102 and #104) have also been given first reading and the Public Hearing will be scheduled on April 13. Copies of both bylaws are

available on the Trust website. Please contact one of your Trustees if you have comments, particularly if you are unable to attend the April meeting.

Official Community Plan Update

As indicated in our report last month, we are optimistic that we will be starting work on our OCP update in the 2010-2011 year. We have a good start on identifying areas to make change because of the work of the APC on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, but we will be asking members of the community to consider where we might update our plan to reflect the island's needs over the next ten years.

Wendy Scholefield 629-3681 wscholefield@islandstrust.bc.ca
David Greer 629-8390 dgreer@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dates to Note:

April 13: South Pender LTC meeting, South Pender Firehall Community Room, 10 am