

South Pender Island Local Trust Committee

Best wishes to South Pender for a fruitful and peaceful 2010. Our report this month will touch on three issues ranging from the micro (potholes) to the macro (global warming).

Gowlland Point Road Potholes

If you live beyond the firehall on Gowlland Point Road and risk life and limb and suspension every time you pass over an ever-deepening pothole, help is on the way eventually. Mainroad Contracting, the company responsible for our road maintenance, has said that repairing Gowlland Point Road will be the number one priority on the Penders and will take place once the wet season is well gone (i.e., next summer). Mainroad plans to patch the potholes and then chipseal (using a primarily tar and gravel mixture) the entire road surface to prevent sub-base failures. Of course, the budget that will enable this to occur is subject to Ministry of Transportation approval. If you want to express concerns about any road maintenance issues, please contact David or Wendy or email David Turenne, Mainroad's road and bridge manager, at davet@mainroad.ca, or Ministry of Transportation Area Manager Larry Griffith at Larry.Griffith@gov.bc.ca

Ecosystem Mapping

Thanks to Kate Emmings for her excellent presentation November 26 on sensitive ecosystem mapping for South Pender Island. Comments or questions about the maps can be directed to Kate at kemmings@islandstrust.bc.ca, or contact one of your trustees. The purpose of the maps is to inform land use planning and park planning processes by documenting intact natural ecosystems of different types (e.g., wetlands, mature forest, herbaceous ecosystems) vital for the conservation of biodiversity and for beneficial natural processes such as the water cycle.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Provincial legislation requires Local Trust Committees to amend Official Community Plans by May 2009 for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by local communities. The South Pender LTC has asked the Advisory Planning Commission (Jane Perch, Bruce McConchie, Buffy Paterson, Paul Petrie and Richard Rue) to review and, where practical, add to a list of possible OCP amendments prepared by Islands Trust staff. On Saturday February 6, we will hold a community information meeting to describe the range of possible changes and to obtain advice from our constituents on what type of action at the local level makes sense. The elephant in the room is likely to be actions required to make the most significant difference, namely those at the provincial and national level. In addition to amending our OCP, we may need to advocate for effective steps outside of our political jurisdiction, and would welcome advice from our constituents on how to do so most effectively.

Dates to Note:

January 11: Islands Trust planner Andrea Pickard at Islands Trust office at Driftwood Centre, 11 am to 1 pm and also available earlier or later by appointment

Advance Notice

February 6: Greenhouse Gas Community Information Meeting 1PM South Pender Firehall

February 23: South Pender LTC meeting, Firehall Community Room, 10 am

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