



Gambier Island Local Trustee Newsletter July 2012 – Issue 2

Town Hall Meeting Saturday July 7th

With SCRD-West Howe Sound Area F Director Lee Turnbull and
Island Trustees Jan Hagedorn and Kate-Louise Stamford.

10:00-11:30am at **Keats Camp** (Chart Room) on Keats Island

1:30-3:00pm at **Gambier Island Community Ctr.** on Gambier Island

Plan to join your elected officials in this informal setting to discuss SCRD taxation and other island/regional matters that may be of interest to you.

Associated Islands Land Use Bylaw

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee will notify residents and property owners of upcoming Associated Islands Land Use Bylaw project meetings, consultation sessions and public hearings by mail. Please ensure your mailing address is up to date with the BC Assessment Authority as we use their most recent mailing list for all notifications. <http://www.bcassessment.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

The Islands Trust also offers subscriber services to anyone who has a valid e-mail address and who wishes to receive e-mail updates and receive news articles as they are posted to the website. To sign up for the subscription service so you don't miss out on important notices or updates please visit our website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/subscribe/default.cfm>

2011 Census – Where Have All the People Gone?

The results from the 2011 census are slowly trickling out and I thought it would be interesting to look into where the Gambier Island Trust Area is according to Statistics Canada.

The local trust area has approximately 275 permanent residents down about ten percent from the last census in 2006. Given that, there are still over 1000 private homes across the thirty-two islands that represent the Gambier Local Trust.

There are several possible reasons for this downturn; lack of local employment opportunities, an aging population with access concerns, and the general impact of a shaky US economy. It could simply be part of a natural cycle that seems to occur. For instance, Gambier Island has always wavered between 100 – 130 full-time residents over the past century despite sometimes higher levels of access and service provision. These challenges are also not specific to the Islands Trust area as small communities throughout BC have experienced population down turns.

In contrast, Lasqueti, which is similarly (if not more) isolated, experienced a 15% increase over the same census period and is expecting a population boom this year of a dozen babies!

The Gambier Island Local Trust Area is certainly unique; over 32 islands spread over the largest area in the Trust. The extremely rugged terrain (i.e. Anvil Island) additionally isolates communities even on the larger islands. The Gambier Local Trust Area also has the lowest percentage of permanent residents in the whole Islands Trust with only 15% actually residing in the area. This poses interesting challenges for land planning as often seasonal residents and full-time residents have opposite visions for their communities. So how is planning prioritized; for the majority of seasonal residents, or the small, but important, group of full-time people?

Interesting questions and no easy answers; that is what these statistics demonstrate. Staff at the Islands Trust will continue to analyse the census data as it is published to help support better land planning for our islands.



*Demonstration of an electric car at Trust Council on North Pender.
Could this be an idea for a jitney service for our island communities?*

Highlights from the Trust Council Meeting on North Pender June 12-14th.

Here are a few highlights from the last Trust Council meeting. There was a lot of work done over the three days but much of it does not translate into point form (i.e. Integrated Watershed and Shoreline Mapping Project). The full agenda package of all the Council meetings is available on line at the Islands Trust website.

Highlights:

1. Presentation about the history of the treaty process in BC and working with aboriginal peoples by Robert Joseph.
2. Delegation from the Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee regarding intensified shellfish farming in the Denman Island Area.
3. Joint session with members of the San Juan Islands Council regarding affordable housing options, marine oil spill preparedness and tsunami debris cleanup.
4. Motion passed by trust council to oppose in principle oil pipeline projects that lead to the expansion of tanker and barge traffic along the BC coastline. The decision also gave specific permission for the Executive Committee to represent the Islands Trust during the Kinder Morgan public engagement process as well as for the Chair (Sheila Malcolmson) to speak to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project Joint Review Panel regarding the Islands Trust Council's past shipping safety advocacy actions and outcomes.
5. Motion passed to engage the Minister of Natural Resources to support the phasing out of crude oil export from Canada's West Coast by tanker and barge as part of a national energy strategy.
6. Motion passed that the Islands Trust Council write to the Minister responsible for the Coast Guard requesting reinstatement of services provided by Vancouver and Comox Coast Guard Radio and the Kitsilano Search and Rescue stations in Vancouver.

Islands Trust Stewardship Awards

Congratulations to Stuart Watson who has been awarded an Islands Trust Stewardship Award for his community service especially in his efforts to bring fire protection across Gambier and Keats.

There are many individuals and groups that deserve recognition around the local trust area and this year was especially difficult as the Trust Council Programs Committee looked at 19 worthy nominations from islands across the Salish Sea and Howe Sound.

Stuart has been a driving force in island fire protection for over 25 years. Not only has Stuart worked resolutely to maintain this program across the south west peninsula, but he has expanded this vital service to other communities around Gambier Island as well as Keats. This is a huge challenge given that many communities do not have full time residents and are boat access only.

Stuart Watson was also a driving force in another "trans-island" initiative recently in the Langdale Access Working Group which successfully lobbied BC Ferries and the Sunshine Coast Regional District for continued access of private vessels to the Stormaway dock.

We can also thank Stuart for the increased communication across Gambier as he developed and continues to maintain the community email list. Now he has taken on the local phone directory as well. It is for Stuart's attention to detail and willingness to take on various thankless tasks (organizing the septic tank maintenance) that makes him such a good candidate for a Stewardship Award this year.

Here are the other winners:

- Margot Venton, North Pender Island, for working to protect the Southern Resident Killer Whale
- Anne Macey, Salt Spring Island, for supporting agriculture and food security
- Gabriola Island Health Care Foundation, Society and Auxiliary for building the Gabriola Island Urgent Care Medical Clinic
- Hornby Quilters Group for 36 years of fundraising
- Saturna Ecological Education Centre for building an Ecological School
- Dr. Donald Marshall, Bowen Island, for initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Peter Karsten, Denman Island, for conservation programs and projects

Notes from Transit and Ports Manager: Cal Bowles- Sunshine Coast Regional District

A new ramp was installed at Vaucroft on Thormanby's early spring of 2012. The new section of the Gambier Harbour float is under construction and is slated for installation later this summer. Discussions for options re dinghy storage at Gambier Harbour floats are being discussed with the PWAC group.

A replacement float at West Bay has been budgeted for and a request for price should be out late this summer 2012. Anti-Skid Control repairs were completed on Keats Ramp this spring. Please feel free to call me to discuss these or any other dock related issues.

Trustee Stamford will be sitting on the Public Wharves Advisory Committee this term. The next meeting is in September.

REMINDER

**Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Business Meeting Thursday
July 5th at the Gambier Island Community Centre 10:30 am.
Everyone welcome.**

Contact your Local Trust Committee:



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