

Island Lust and the Islands Trust

Bet that title got your attention.

Well, we want your attention, at least for a couple of topics on our work program. Those topics are two targeted reviews; one of our land use bylaws regarding accommodation and the other a review of density treatments in our Official Community Plan, with particular focus on our Community Amenity Density Reserve or “Density Bank”.

We are doing a targeted review because while a full review is warranted - the last full review of the OCP was completed in 2001 and the Bylaws in 2002 - we’ve elected to keep the task manageable, focus on issues that have appeared before us in the past 1 and 1/2 years, and hope to deliver an outcome within our term of office.

We’ll be embarking on a “public consultation”, which simply means we want to hear from you. We will attempt to make it as easy as possible by utilizing multiple tools, including a very brief survey (email, web or Canada Post response), information package mail-outs and a special afternoon meeting on Saturday August 17th, starting at noon. We hope to get off-island property owners and those who work during the week to also attend. We’ll kick off at noon and will provide lunch and beverages.

We want this to be a comfortable drop-in session that is not disruptive to a person’s day, and one that might coincide with a trip to the store or to recycling. We really want your opinion, and we will be there along with our island planner to answer questions and provide information if required.

Some of the topics we’ll want your opinion on would be the possibility of allowing secondary suites or legalizing short term vacation rentals. Or to gauge community support for increasing lot densities to support affordable housing or more cost-effective senior’s housing. More information will be forthcoming soon.

In other news, if you haven’t heard, Saturna has the honour of yet another Community Stewardship award recipient – none other than Richard Blagborne for the FABulous work done on our iconic Fog Alarm Building. Well-done Richard!

Your trustees attended another Trust Council session on Mayne Island in mid-June, where we learned about the Community Carbon Marketplace, where the Trust can buy “local” Cowichan Valley carbon credits to offset the carbon generated by the Islands Trust operations (rather than the large scale, somewhat distant and somewhat questionable Pacific Carbon Trust).

We also had a presentation from Kinder Morgan, providing background details on tanker routes, volumes, handling, spill response and other related matters. Trustees voted on a motion to write Port Metro Vancouver opposing Fraser Surrey docks coal export project, and as I write, our Islands Trust Chair is in Norway meeting with their Coastal

Administration and witnessing an oil spill prevention and response exercise, though on Port Metro Vancouver's tab, not the Trusts.

Have a great summer and we hope to see you on August 17th! Oh, as for island lust, well, its either love or lust or both, but its strong and at least for us, directed at that jewel in the Pacific we call Saturna.