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November 17, 2011

Dear Sir or Madame:

Re: Gabriola Island Watercourse Assessment

The Islands Trust has contracted with Madrone Environmental Services Ltd to undertake an assessment of watercourses in several watersheds on Gabriola Island. The assessment is intended to determine if these watercourses are subject to the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation as potentially providing fish habitat, or connecting to fish habitat, and to accurately map those that are subject to the Regulation. This is a first step in achieving compliance with the Regulation. How the provincial requirement to adhere to the Regulation will be implemented has not yet been determined by the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee and will be a matter of community discussion following completion of the assessment and mapping phase.

In some areas the watercourses cross public land, and in other areas the watercourses flow across private lots. If you are receiving this letter, Madrone Environmental Services Ltd may need to access your property to assess and potentially map watercourses. Madrone's field crew may be walking near or over a portion of your property, taking pictures and measurements with a GPS unit inside the confines of the watercourse. The field crew will not cause any disturbance to the property and will not enter the property of any persons who indicate at any time they do not wish to have the contractor on their property. However, this will not in any way relieve the landowner of any obligations under the Riparian Areas Regulation or any regulations adopted by the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee in order to comply with the Riparian Areas Regulation.

The field crew will be on Gabriola Island for 3-4 days during the week of November 21, 2011. If you would **not** like the field crew to access your property, please contact Planner Chloe Fox at 250-247-2203 or at cfox@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Riparian areas provide important fish habitat and play an essential role in ensuring healthy fish populations. For more information on riparian areas and the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation, please see the enclosed hand-out.

Kind regards,

Chloe Fox
Island Planner