

Well, here we are again. It's amazing how quickly these Scribbler dates roll around! So, what have we been up to since last month? Trust Council on Lasqueti Island, the land of no car ferries and no BC Hydro, and my first limo ride! Yes, as we Trustees stepped onto the dock to the vehicles waiting to take us to their Community Hall one of those vehicles was a limousine! Several of us stuffed our gear in the trunk and bundled inside to an interior complete with soft leather seats, mood lighting and wine glasses in little alcoves (but no wine). It was clear this was a well-used limo that had seen better days, but still, hey, it's a limo on Lasqueti, which we all thought was pretty cool! So off we go up a hill much like Saturna's when leaving the ferry dock, and very quickly come to a halt. We learn that the motor is smoking and several of us had to get out and walk up the hill to lighten the load for our poor old limo – it was a fun way to begin our 3 days on Lasqueti.

With only 426 people, their community had a feel very similar to ours. One of the most memorable events was being entertained by the children's Marimba band. They played on a variety of very beautiful, Lasqueti made, wooden marimbas. We also had a presentation from the Lasqueti Forage Fish Team that has been monitoring their beaches for the presence of forage fish eggs. Forage fish, crucial to the health of the marine food chain, make up over 70% of the Chinook salmon's diet, who in turn are favoured by our resident Orcas, You can easily learn more by googling 'forage fish beaches". If this is a project you might be interested in, let me know and maybe we can get something started on Saturna. Happily, we protect our own beaches are very well so I imagine we have lots of baby forage fish safely hatching and getting ready to be eaten up by our Lyall Creek Salmon.

Trust Council was also full of a lot more boring (to me) stuff; reports from various staff and departments, budget updates and much more. You can always take a look at our agenda package on the Trust's website. One thing we did do, which really pleased both your Trustees, was to vote down a recommendation that all Local Trust Committees increase their bylaw fees by 10%. Things can move extremely slowly at Trust Council and this suggestion was a result of work done by last term's Trustees. When it came to a vote there wasn't much appetite for an increase. Even if Trust Council had voted for an increase, it is still up to each Local Trust Committee to adopt or not adopt an increase.

Back at home: we received the results of the surveys we asked you to complete last month. We had 106 responses, which is absolutely fabulous! So a huge thank you to everyone who responded to our density and accommodation questions. The results, complete with your comments, but not your names, can be found on the Saturna page of the Trust website. In general, the yeses outweighed the noes by 3 to 1. Should the LTC review the density provisions in the OCP? **75.25% yes to 24.8 % no**. Should the policy limiting density be reviewed with a view to considering allowing an increase in density in certain circumstances? **69.9% to 30.1%**. Should the LTC consider density previously contained within the lands occupied by the National Park if considering an increase in density on the lands outside the Park? **49.5% to 50.5%**. Should the LTC consider using density from parkland solely for use in the Community Amenity Density Reserve and only in the event an "appropriate" community is provided? **43.3% to 56.7%**. Are there any other comments you would like to provide to the LTC regarding density on Saturna?

85.5% of you left us suggestions, which was great! Should the LTC consider reviewing the Land Use Bylaw regarding short term vacation rentals to permit them in more situations? **72.8% to 27.2%** Should the LTC consider creation policies and regulations that could allow private campgrounds? **64.6 % to 35.4%**. If the LTC does consider permitting private campgrounds, should they consider allowing campsites that permit vehicle access? **62.% to 38.%**. Should B&Bs be permitted to serve meals other than breakfast to their guests? **80.8% to 19.2.%**. Should B&Bs be permitted to include kitchen facilities for their guests? **67.7 % to 32.3%**. Should the LTC consider allowing secondary suites? **84.2 % to 15.8%**. Should the LTC consider policies and regulations that facilitate affordable housing or special needs housing? **82.7% to 17.3%**. Are there specific types of tourist accommodation that you would support? **88.2% to 11.8%**. And finally, 84 of you gave opinion of what our most important work should be over the coming months.

While all in all, I feel grateful so many of you were so willing to participate in this exercise in democracy, it was also clear from some comments that there is some confusion in exactly what it is the Local Trust Committee actually does or can do. We are in charge of land use and our main tools are things like zoning, temporary use permits, covenants and development permits. The Official Community Plan and our Land Use By-laws are required to be reviewed regularly, they are not meant to be written once and then stand forever unchanged. Our first OCP was adopted in 1975. It was completely reviewed in the late 1990's at which time the reviewed document was repealed and a new, revised OCP was adopted in 2000. Our Land Use By-laws underwent a similar process to keep them current with the latest version of the OCP. Both the OCP and the LUB continue to have amendments made to them as necessary; for example, both documents were amended when we rezoned the Thompson Park from Farmland to Parkland. Both documents are available on the Trust website or a hard copy can be yours for the asking, just let me know you'd like one.