

South Pender Island Trustees' Report

Trustees have recently returned from the Islands Trust Council quarterly business meeting of June 17 - 19 on Saturna Island. The following are some meeting highlights of special interest to South Pender Island (SPI).

The SPI APC (Advisory Planning Commission) traveled to Saturna Island to make a strong case to Council requesting they consider very carefully before adopting new, stricter conflict of interest rules for Advisory Planning Commissions. As advisory bodies who make recommendations to decision-makers, APCs can function optimally without being overly encumbered by rules and strictures. South Pender's APC bylaw does not include wording on conflict of interest rules, although participants generally declare a conflict when they have a concern, a standard practice for most committees. An updated model for APC bylaws is currently being considered by the Local Planning Committee and this model would have implications for Local Trust Committees across the Islands Trust Area.

Also of interest for SPI, a voluminous and costly briefing, requested by Trust Council in March 2014, was the subject of critique and debate at the Council meeting. The briefing concerned the handling of an alleged conflict of interest for a South Pender Island property owner then serving as an APC member. The former APC member was on hand at the meeting to provide comments and corrections during the delegations and Town Hall session. The report, available in the Trust Council agenda package, provides the background for the contemplated changes in APC bylaws.

The 2014 Community Stewardship Award recipients were announced on Wednesday, June 18, and there are 3 richly-deserved awards for the Penders. South Pender's Paul and Monica Petrie and the Brooks Point Completion Committee were recognized for their inspiring work to protect Brooks Point for future generations. Awarded posthumously, Barry Morrison and Nancy Waxler-Morrison were recognized for their many significant contributions to conservation, including the Nancy Waxler-Morrison Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund which assists Pender property owners with the cost of placing conservation covenants. Well-known on all of our islands, Pender resident, Christa Grace-Warrick, co-founder, owner and editor of Island Tides, was awarded for her 25 years of promoting community connection through newspaper publishing. Our congratulations go out to all the 2014 CSA award winners. For a complete list of winners, please see the Islands Trust homepage and look for "What's New?"

Of interest to all in the Islands Trust Area are the findings of a new report commissioned by the Islands Trust Fund regarding carbon sequestration in the Islands Trust Area. The study, conducted by UBC researchers, found that, on average, forests in the Islands Trust area store 82% more carbon per hectare and have the potential to absorb 43% more carbon per hectare over the next 20

years than forests in the rest of the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) zone. The report states that these results are likely due to a higher forest density in the Islands Trust area, and more forests in a mature or maturing state, which tend to store and take in more carbon. The report also found that bird community diversity is 39% higher in the Islands Trust area than in other parts of the Coastal Douglas Fir zone. You can access the full report here <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/media/71757/carbonassessment.pdf>

By the time you read this report, we will have completed the June 24 Local Trust Committee business meeting, including updates and next steps for the Land Use Bylaw review process and the Project Charter. The 3 Focus Groups have completed their 8 meetings and submitted the chairs' reports to the LTC. These are available in the June 24 LTC meeting agenda package at the South Pender Island homepage. The Project Charter outlines the anticipated next steps, including a Community Information Meeting sometime in August to consider the Focus Group final reports. The date of that meeting will be announced in the August Pender Post report, and also at the Islands Trust website and on the notice board at the Fire Hall on Gowlland Point Road, South Pender Island. We hope you will join us.

The next South Pender Island LTC business meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2014, at the SPI Fire Hall at 10 AM.

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Submitted by Trustee Montague