

SATURNA ISLAND TRUSTEE REPORT

JULY 2014

By Pam Janszen

Well, Trust Council has come and gone and it was a huge success. The 25 Trustees, Islands Trust staff member,s and our guests from the San Juan Islands were all favourably impressed with their time here. The food was outstanding, the best ever some said. We began Tuesday evening with an outstanding dinner at the Pub, where the warm sunshine allowed almost everyone to sit on the deck and enjoy the scenery. And the meals that followed continued to please as Hubertus, Aleah, and the Lodge all put forth their finest for us and everyone was delighted.

During the business meeting there is always a spot for the host island to shine a light on something they are particularly proud of and we chose Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society (SIMRES). Maureen Welton put on a great presentation of SIMRES past, present, and future and our fellow trustees were suitably impressed at all that has been accomplished. They were also very impressed with our Rec Centre (where the meeting was held) wondering how we managed to produce so much as we are an island with such a small population – dogged determination and a huge amount of volunteering was our answer.

The meetings are always long, a mixture of Trust housekeeping business, presentations from other agencies and delegations from the public. One of the highlights at the June Trust Council is the Community Stewardship Awards - this year Saturna's former Trustee Brian Hollingshead was chosen for an award for his 15 years of outstanding work championing coastal ferry services (see details elsewhere in the Scribbler). We also had a presentation from Susie Washington-Smyth urging us to purchase of some the BC Ferry Coalition's bright yellow and black lawn signs and buttons you may have noticed popping up on Saturna as part of their media campaign to make it understood that BC Ferries are our highways.

Other presentations aren't as much fun; one was about the increasing amount of micro plastics and toxins in our waters and the harm they cause. Another was about banning Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tankers in the Salish Sea with a rather horrifying graphic description of what would happen should there be a spill and a resulting fire. The speaker presented quotes from the Harper government when tankers from Maine wanted to travel through New Brunswick waters in 2006. ..."the Canadian Government views LNG as dangerous cargo that can be banned from transport in Canadian waters". And from Stephen Harper himself, "We oppose the passage of LNG tanker traffic through Head Harbour and we will continue to do so." I'm afraid I have little faith we would get a similiar response from the federal government today.

If you want to know in greater detail all that went on at the Trust Council meeting, go to the Islands Trust website where you will find the agenda package except for the in camera session. Our package was 550 pages this time so happy reading.... and on the happiest note of all, one of the main reasons Paul and I wanted to bring Trust Council to Saturna was for the economic benefits. I am pleased to report that we added \$11,200 to

Saturna's economy - \$6500 for catering, \$600 for the Rec Centre rental and \$4100 for accommodations. This does not include what individuals spent on alcohol while at dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday or other personal amounts they may have spent while on Saturna.

On the home front, at our LTC meeting on June 5 we continued to tweak our three top work projects, the proposed changes to the Community Amenity Density Reserve, the allowing of secondary suites and the use of temporary use permits to allow short term vacation rentals where they are otherwise not legal (should they pass the permitting process).

Our next Local Trust Committee meeting is on July 10, 12:30 at the Rec Centre Lounge where we will continue on the path toward turning these changes into draft bylaws and then back to the Community Hall AT 12:30 on August 6 for the public hearings on these draft bylaws as we move ever closer to their adoption.

Drop by and visit us at our booth at the Lamb BBQ and do come out for our meetings in July and August. And a very happy summer to you all!

Stewardship award winner
Brian Hollingshead,
Championing coastal ferry services

For 15 years, Brian Hollingshead has voluntarily gathered, analyzed and shared information about BC Ferries to support the ferry advisory committees and other agencies. As co-chair (with Tony Law of Denman Hornby Ferry Advisory Committee) of the Ferry Advisory committee Chairs group, Brian provides information about BC Ferries' scheduling, finances and operations information to ferry-dependent communities. He also coordinates the coastal communities' response to the actions of BC Ferries and the provincial government.

Brian's leadership qualities include creativity, expertise, professionalism, analysis and collaboration. Having all of those attributes wrapped into one person dedicated to protecting our basic transportation link is a rarity – that rare citizen is Brian Hollingshead. Without his thousands of hours of volunteer service in this area, ferry service for island residents, businesses and community organizations would be much poorer. Brian Hollingshead's leadership legacy will last for decades.