

South Pender Trustees' Report

The Islands **Trust Council** held its regular quarterly business meeting September 9 through 11 on Gambier and Keats Islands in Howe Sound. During the meeting, council voted to allow the use of mail ballots in the upcoming local elections. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/legislative-pdf/2014applicationtovotebymail.pdf?sfvrsn=2> The following link provides the needed information on applications and deadlines: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting/voting-opportunities-mail-ballot-voting>

At the **September 16th South Pender LTC (local trust committee) meeting**, Trust committee and attendees discussed the updated work from focus group meetings on the LUB review, as presented by Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager for the Southern Team. The table format with the issue or question on one side and staff response or suggestion on the other makes review and tracking quite easy. There were no decisions to consider at this time since the final report from the focus group meetings, submitted September 12, needs to be incorporated into the table. While the list of flagged issues is long, many are "house-keeping" items. The more substantive issues will be taken up by the incoming LTC after elections in November. The table is available in the September 16 meeting agenda package at the South Pender webpage of the Islands Trust website.

During the meeting, the LTC discussed and provided comments on a North Pender Island LTC referral regarding a solid waste/composting/recycling proposal. Because there are many changes underway at the regional level and uncertainty about how solid waste management will roll out, the SPI LTC recommended against proceeding with the proposal until a planning process for South and North Pender is undertaken that includes community participation and an examination of large scale composting technologies that could improve solid waste management on our islands. The regional Hartland landfill site will no longer accept food waste after January 1, 2015, a deadline that puts pressure on municipalities to respond. One of the upsides to safely composting food waste locally is that the end product - high quality compost - is a much-needed ingredient for island soils in gardens, farms and overall food production on our islands.

As a final event of our meeting, the SPI LTC was honored to present Monica and Paul Petrie and the members of the **Brooks Point Completion Committee** with an Islands Trust Stewardship Award for 2014. Completion Committee members include Rhonda Porter, Ursula Poepel, Jill Ilsley, Trallee Dunn, John Chapman and Kathleen Moriarty. Many more organizations and individuals contributed to the completion of the Brooks Point Regional Park, too many to name, but all share in this honor and achievement. Following the award presentation, cake and coffee were served.

Trustee Liz Montague now serves as the South Pender Island representative on the **Steering Committee for the SGIFAS** (Southern Gulf Islands Food and Agriculture Strategy), a project established under the auspices of the SGI Economic Development Commission. The project includes 5 participating islands - Mayne, Galiano, Saturna, North Pender and South Pender. The steering committee represents each participating island, as well as the consultant team, Masselink Environmental Design, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the CRD regional planning, the SGI Regional Director, SGI Economic Development Commission, a rotating representative from the Local Trust Committees, and Islands Trust planning. The committee is chaired by Michael Dunn, Mayne Island, appointed by the SGI Economic Development Commission to be the volunteer Project Manager. To date, the steering committee has met twice, once on Mayne and once on Saturna Island. Community meetings have taken place to roll out the Land Use Inventory and updated mapping parts of the strategy. A project website is under development for people to learn about the project. More community engagement opportunities will be created as the process unfolds. Information and updates can be found at the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission's website: www.sustainableislands.com

The next scheduled business meeting for the SPI LTC is November 4th, at 10 AM at the South Pender Island Fire Hall. We hope you will join us.

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Submitted by Trustee Montague