

## MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

### TRUSTEES REPORT – OCTOBER 2014

The Local Trust Committee did not hold any meetings in the month of October. I did attend, as a member of the Mayne Island Fallow Deer Committee, an information meeting September 27th. Despite some competition from other meetings we had a good turnout of about 40 people. The purpose of the meeting was to update the community on the progress of this committee, which was formed last fall as a result of the extensive consultation undertaken by the Mayne Island Conservancy and the Ratepayers Association.

The committee after trying for a year for a response from the Wildlife Department, finally met with Sean Pendergast, senior Provincial Wildlife Biologist on September 15th. This meeting lasted 3 1/2 hours and was very thorough, addressing the concerns of Mayne Islanders as to the ongoing issue of these invasive and destructive animals.

The Fallow Deer issue is complex, and likely to take many years to resolve. Because of this, the committee has formed 3 sub-committees to work on various aspects of the Fallow issue.

1) Education: this group led by Marilyn Winterbottom, will focus on sharing information with the community on an ongoing basis and creation of a web page.

2) Permits: this group led by Jim Marsh and Richard Brown will focus on ensuring any permits issued have the support of the community. As well, there will be butchering workshops for those interested in how to process the large number of Fallow being culled. Expectations are that even more could be culled in the future.

3) Political Lobby and Long term Planning: Jeanine Dodds and David Maude will lead this committee. The focus will be on seeing a Fallow Deer elimination plan completed by the Local Trust Committee with input from the community. In addition, there is a need to lobby the various Provincial Departments for compensation and financial assistance as we go forward. Fallow Deer were imported to Mayne Island under a permit issued by the Ministry of Agriculture approximately 20 years ago. Escapes from this farm continued for numerous years before the permit was rescinded. Estimates of the current herd are 500; to date 986 have been eliminated by the permitted hunters.

Ian Dow has agreed to liaise with the Tsartlip First Nations to see if increased hunting on the reserve lands is planned.

Anyone interested in any of these committees please ask any of us, if you contact [jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca) I will forward you their email addresses.

The Local Trust Committee next meets November 26th at 1pm at the Agricultural Hall.

[jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:jdodds@islandstrust.bc.ca)

[bcrumblehulme@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:bcrumblehulme@islandstrust.bc.ca)