

September 2014 Newsletter

September 2014 Trustee Report – Stamford

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee did not meet in August but, as you all know, summer is the busy season for our Islands so there were lots of events to attend

July 19 – Gambier Island Community Association AGM – another successful year for the dedicated volunteers who support the Community Association. One of the highlights was a full discussion about trails and their impact on land owners.

July 24 – FLRNO meeting re proposed woodlots on Gambier at St Francis in the woods, West Vancouver – Attended, along with about 250 interested community members, to hear and be heard on the additional woodlots on Gambier. This was the only opportunity the general public has had to express their opinions about FLRNO's plans for a large portion of the Wilderness Conservation zone on the island. The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee continues to advocate for process, community engagement and upholding the spirit of the Gambier Island Official Community Plan.

July 25 – Community to Community meeting with Sechelt Nation in Sechelt. We honoured to be invited to a day-long joint session between the Sechelt, Sliammon, Squamish nations and locally elected community representatives from the Regional District, Gibsons and Sechelt Councils. Discussions ranged from traditional connections among first nations to the potential impact of the Tsilhqot'in Decision on land planning on the Sunshine Coast.

July 29 – Parks and Trails sub-committee meeting .

August 2 – Gambier Family Fair - set up an information booth

Aug 5 – Municipal representatives were invited by Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, federal liberal nominee for Sea-to-Sky/Sunshine Coast/West Van, to discuss the federal role in municipal challenges with Justin Trudeau. I brought up the coast guard, derelict vessels and was also interested in seeing better infrastructure (internet/cell phones) to remote areas.

Aug 11 -Trust Planning committee meeting via goto meeting.

Aug 21 – Attended Eastbourne Community AGM. I always enjoy attending the AGM with this tight knit community. Their common water system keeps everyone in touch especially during the drier summer months, and their support of the fire equipment group is outstanding.

Aug 25 – Attended a meeting organized by Ruth Simons of the Future of Howe Sound Society with MP John Weston and MP Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment. This round table of about 20 community representatives were consistent in their message to our federal government that staffing has been gutted in marine enforcement and scientific departments. As well, there was also an overall call for funding to provide proper planning for the Howe Sound area. MP Carrie listened and outlined the federal funding opportunities for small scale environmental initiatives.

Sept 9-11 Trust Council – The final Trust Council of the term met in this Local Trust area for the first time in 6 years. There were 2 half day business sessions on Keats at Barnabas Retreat and a full-day meeting at the Gambier Island Community Centre. Adam Taylor of the Marine Life Sanctuaries Society gave a presentation on glass sponges of Halkett Point and there were delegations from the Gambier Island Conservancy, Future of Howe Sound Society and Stephen Foster of the Suzuki Foundation. For a review of the highlights of the council meetings over the past term please see the following link:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/283212/2011-14-trust-council-term-review.pdf>