

## Mayne Island LTC Report

September 2015

**Gosh what a summer! Very busy for everyone and with the added stress of the drought. I understand Premier Plastic Tanks have had a 50% increase in water tank sales!**

**On the local political front, Jeanine & I have each had committee meetings through the summer and then last week, three days of very intensive meetings at Trust Council on Bowen Island. Beginning last term (2011/14), trustees became more engaged in the process of decision making and this term that has resulted in some very intense debate over fundamental issues. Council is required to prepare a Strategic Plan to guide staff work and over the years this has grown and become both complex and extensive so trustees have undertaken to focus on major issues and separate out responsibilities of the Islands Trust as a whole from those responsibilities special to each Local Trust Committee. All this was prefaced by a workshop in “Structured Decision Making” by CAO Linda Adams. The Strategic Plan debate itself was guided by a contracted facilitator, Alison Habkirk. Finally, on Friday morning, an agreement was reached for some reductions and changes in format. The discussion will continue at the next Council meeting in December.**

**Part of this engagement by council has resulted in an economic study of the location of the head office. The Islands Trust office is located in Victoria which is convenient for meeting and working with many agencies but lies outside the Trust area. Again, this engendered a lot of debate and on Friday morning, a Select Committee to Evaluate the Islands Trust Victoria Office Location, was struck. Six trustees were chosen representing a full geographic range of islands: neither Jeanine or I are on that committee.**

**As you will know, the province has agreed to fund a study on the potential for Saltspring Island incorporation as a municipality. The other island municipality within the Islands Trust area is Bowen Island in Howe Sound which was incorporated 15 years ago. SSI represents approximately 40% of the trust area population and in the event of incorporation, some of the services provided by the Islands Trust would move directly to the new municipality along with a chunk of tax money collected on SSI. In short, the IT would have a reduced budget. As this possibility remains unknown, staff and council need to be prepared. Again, this engendered serious debate but no decision was needed at this time.**

**If all this was not enough, our Chief Administrative Officer, Linda Adams, will be retiring in the early New Year. Linda has been a brilliant CAO for the IT: she has created a very competent staff and carefully guided many complex decisions in recent years. A Select Committee has been working over the summer to hire a replacement. This week, we were informed that 69 applicants were considered, a short list of three were given extensive interviews and as you read this, a new CAO will have been hired. There will be several months of overlap before Linda leaves in January to allow the new CAO time to settle in and visit each of the islands before the next council in December. We will let everyone know when this will happen on Mayne.**

**Still on Bowen: council were very pleased to meet and exchange ideas with the Bowen Island Municipal Council, especially since they relate to the very large Greater Vancouver Regional District (Metro). Bowen council have also been working with Trust staff on an Islands Trust program called Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP). This allows private**

**land owners to covenant all or part of an area of land for protection in return for a tax exemption on that land. Thanks to this new agreement, this program now extends to the whole Trust Area and may be copied in other parts of the province.**

**At our local meeting in September, we received a number of new applications and launched a new community engagement project to discuss commercial land use on the island. This is a kind of visioning for how the community might see commercial development on the island in the foreseeable future. It is always so much better if we can create an Official Community Plan that includes necessary commercial development to guide future applications. At this meeting too, we recognized Michael Dunn and the Agricultural Society as recipients of this year's Community Stewardship Awards.**

**The next LTC meeting will take place on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at the Ag Hall.**

**Have a great fall,**

**Regards,**

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