

This newsletter is published periodically for residents and landowner of the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee comprised of Anvil, Bowyer, Echo, Franklin, Gambier, Jack Tolmie, Keats, Merry, the Pasley Group, Passage, the Thormanby Group, Tiki, the Trails Group, Turnagain, Woolridge, Worlcombe, and numerous islets.

RIPARIAN AREA REGULATIONS - COMING TO AN ISLAND NEAR YOU

The Islands Trust primary mission is to “preserve and protect” the jewels that are the islands of the Salish Sea. At the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee (“GLTC”) we are about to embark on some important work to preserve and protect critical aquatic habitat on the Islands.

The GLTC is considered to be a local government under Provincial Legislation. As a result, pursuant to the *Riparian Area Regulations* (RAR) of the *Fish Protection Act*, we are required to enact Bylaws providing for protection of watersheds identified as “riparian” (broadly defined as fish-bearing or potentially fish-bearing). We have started that process for islands identified as having riparian watersheds including Keats, Gambier, Anvil and Bowyer Islands. For information on the background to the provincial requirement for these bylaws see

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/riparian-areas-regulation>.



Most municipalities and regional districts throughout BC have already enacted Riparian Area Regulations including the Sunshine Coast Regional District. These regulations are administered in a similar fashion to other restrictive covenants such as in flood or slide-prone areas.

Over the next number of months, the GLTC will be considering draft bylaws setting conditions around RAR identified streams. We will likely consider Keats, Anvil and Bowyer together as they have limited identified watersheds and Gambier separately because of the large number of identified watersheds. Watch for information about upcoming meetings whether you are interested in this because you may be an affected landowner or because you have an interest in the protection of important aquatic habitat. You can review the report which identifies the affected watersheds and also other back ground information at

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/projects-initiatives/riparian-areas-protection.aspx>

FIXED LINK STUDY FOR THE SUNSHINE COAST AND HOWE SOUND

There has been a lot of talk lately about the Ministry of Transportation's announcement of its intention to study the general support and technical merits of a fixed link (bridge/tunnel/road) to the Sunshine Coast. Rumours of plans for bridges and roads across the islands have been discussed for many years and it is possible routes over several of the Howe Sound Islands will be included in the study. The Islands Trust has an over-arching policy against any fixed links to the islands within its federation including all the islands in the Howe Sound. In addition, some island Official Community Plans including Gambier's, state an additional goal to remain accessible by passenger ferry only. The Local Trust Committee has written a letter to the ministry requesting that the landowners on the Howe Sound Islands be properly consulted with in the course of the study.

A rainbow "bridge" between Bowen and Gambier



GLASS SPONGE REEF PROTECTION

Department of Fisheries and Oceans have closed all commercial and recreational bottom contact fishing activities for prawn, shrimp, crab and ground fish (including halibut) around federally recognized glass sponge reefs in Howe Sound and the Georgia Strait. At this point this action does not include the reef formations off Halkett Point, but recognition of this reef and garden as part of an expanded Halkett Bay Park is looking promising.

MERRY ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE



In 2012 the Gambier Local Trust Committee applied to the federal government for heritage status for the Merry Island Light station, one of the few staffed lighthouses left on the BC Coast. We were pleased to learn in June that this local maritime icon has been put on the heritage lighthouse list. By having heritage status the federal government is required to support the heritage character of the buildings as well as provide public notice and consultation in the event of any intent to change the use of the property.

ISLANDS TRUST TAKES STRONG STAND OPPOSING THE KINDER MORGAN EXPANSION PROPOSAL

We are quite sure that all residents of the Gambier Islands Local Trust Area have heard about the proposal by Kinder Morgan to expand its oil pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby (to effectively double it) so that it can markedly increase shipments of crude bitumen from Burnaby to sell overseas. Effectively large amounts of crude bitumen from the Oil Sands in North Alberta would be shipped to Burnaby, loaded onto large tankers for shipment to the Asia Pacific region for processing. It is highly likely you have heard or read about the tremendous opposition to this proposal

including from the City of Vancouver and the City of Burnaby. You have also likely followed the news regarding the protest on Burnaby Mountain in the spring as well as the controversy over the process being followed by the National Energy Board in considering this proposed development. Many have criticized not only the proposal but the independence and process of the National Energy Board. August 18th was the deadline for “commenters” to file their letters of comment with the National Energy Board. While the Islands Trust was not granted “Intervenor” status, it was a commenter. We are proud to advise that in its comment, the Islands Trust took a strong (and we think persuasive) stand against the Kinder Morgan proposal. This letter of comment represents the position of the Islands Trust as a whole and is an important expression of the mandate of the Islands Trust to preserve and protect the Islands of the Salish Sea. We invite you to read the submission.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/334249/Islands-Trust-Letter-of-Comment-re-Trans-Mountain-Pipeline-Expansion.pdf>

FALL BACK-YARD BURNING

Rules and regulations are around burning on the Islands are set by the Province through the BC Wildfire Service but fall is a good time to remind everyone of good burn practices – if there is such a thing.

All wood smoke contains particulate and this particulate gets deep into the lungs exacerbating existing respiratory and heart conditions. In addition, wood smoke contains many toxins. The US EPA (see website) estimates that open burning of just 10lbs of wood releases 4300 times more carcinogenic airborne compounds than 30 cigarettes. Regular inhalation of wood smoke from either an outdoor fire or an open fireplace indoors can increase ones cancer risk by 12 times more than from smoking.

And this is just regular wood; the open burning of household garbage is much much worse. Burning garbage (including paper and cardboard) releases dioxins, furans, lead, PCB's, mercury, hydrochloric acid and many other poisons into the air as well as fused into the ash. **According to Environment Canada, in this country “the open burning of garbage produces more dioxins and furans than all industrial activities combined.”** (see their website for more information)

Open burning not only affects you and your family's health but also the health of your neighbours because the smoke inevitably drifts with the wind and accumulates in low areas. For this reason many rural communities in BC have tight bylaws governing back yard burning and others have banned the practice outright.

There are alternatives:

- Mulch and compost garden debris. Leaves are especially good for composting and especially bad to burn as they contribute the most to airborne particulates
- Woody waste is extremely abundant in Howe Sound but the same damp that makes things grow also accelerates decomposition. Debris berms or piles kept aerated and damp will disintegrate into soil.
- Work with your neighbours to invest in a community chipper then mulching becomes a breeze.

If you do burn your backyard woody debris then do it right. Make sure the wood is as dry as possible and keep the burn pile small only adding more once the fire is good and hot. Never use a chemical accelerant, the heated gases are incredibly toxic. Don't let the pile smolder – keep it hot or put it out. **AND NEVER NEVER BURN GARBAGE**; reduce reuse recycle and take your regular garbage off the island for proper disposal.

We all have the right to clean air

SPECIAL EVENTS IN HOWE SOUND

There are many special events on the Islands of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area especially over the summer. Many islands have community picnics, lamb roasts, fundraisers, pot luck dinners etc. As Trustees we get invited to many of these and try and make them (please invite us to yours when they happen!! We promise to contribute to the pot luck table.) These events celebrate the communities in which we live. And this summer's weather has been especially conducive to outside events.

Occasionally there are "special" events that involve visitors to this area or recognize achievements. We'd like to mention 3 that we were involved in as Trustees.

First, Trustee Dan Rogers represented the Islands Trust at a ceremony to open the Sea to Sky Marine Trail in Howe Sound in Gibsons on June 28th. He was joined by local municipal officials, representatives of the Squamish Nation and about 30 water craft including a traditional First Nations canoe. This unique trail maps out a series of camp sites for canoes or kayakers in Howe Sound and is officially part of the Trans Canada Trail. As those working to complete the Trans Canada Trail reached Howe Sound, they were stymied by the topography in connecting Horseshoe Bay to Squamish and thus the idea of a marine portion of the trail was introduced. After years of work, it is officially with us. As Trustee Rogers said in his remarks at the ceremony, this is exactly the type of development we welcome in Howe Sound. Have a look at the following links for details.

<http://www.trailsbc.ca/tct/lower-mainland/howe-sound>

<https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/news/on-the-trail/item/87-sea-to-sky-marine-trail.html>

Second, we wanted to take a moment to recognize that the Keats Islands Fire Equipment Group was nominated for an Islands Trust "Stewardship Award" during 2015. These awards reflect outstanding contribution to the mission and work of the Islands Trust by individuals and groups within island communities. While the Equipment Group didn't receive an Award, the fact they were nominated recognizes the tremendous work that they do on Keats in bringing the community together and enhancing the safety of Keats residents.

Lastly, Trustees Kate Louise Stamford and Dan Rogers were honoured to be invited to Camp Fircom on August 14th for the ceremony concluding the first ever "Camp Suzuki". This camp brought together 50 young people for training, programs and exercises in environmental leadership. It was sponsored by the David Suzuki Foundation with the support of the Squamish Nation and others within Howe Sound. During a moving closing ceremony led by 4 representatives of the Squamish Nation, the attendees of the camp were honoured with a blanket ceremony and Dan and Kate were given the opportunity to speak about how important the work being done there is the future not only of Howe Sound but of the planet generally. It was inspiring to see so many young people engaged in the work of social change and protecting Howe Sound.

The Islands Trust Website has a
wealth of information for
land owners

Visit us at islandstrust.bc.ca

UPDATE FOR LANGDALE FLOAT

Ever since the Langdale Float agreement with BC Ferries came into existence 2012 island residents in the Howe Sound (SCRD Area F) have paid a special levy with their property tax to pay for it. This amenity works well for islanders with boats to access the facility, but there has long been an issue with the commercial water-taxis that also use the float free of charge. This is especially frustrating in the summer months when the water-taxis run regular afternoon services for Sunshine Coast commuters out of Horseshoe Bay.

In response, the Sunshine Coast Regional District has now developed an agreement with BC Ferries to charge an annual docking fee to commercial water-taxis providing scheduled service to Horseshoe Bay. The monies collected will go directly into the Langdale Float function to offset the overall costs of the facility. Although it is not a huge amount it will help to share part of the costs with heavy users and reduce the levy to taxpayers.

2015 ISLAND CLEAN UP EVENT BY THE NUMBERS

This summer's island cleanup netted some impressive statistics:

-  24 tons of household garbage
-  20 tons of scrap metal
-  40 tires
-  4500 lbs of batteries
-  75 propane tanks
-  40 stoves
-  50 fridges
-  1500 cans of paint

That is a lot of garbage no longer littering our islands

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE



Chair, Susan Morrison (Lasqueti Island)
smorrison@islandtrust.bc.ca
250-333-8589



Dan Rogers drogers@islandtrust.bc.ca
604-220-1500



Kate-Louise Stamford
kstamford@islandtrust.bc.ca
604-886-4752

*If you have any specific questions about your property please contact our Northern Office on Gabriola Island at 250-247-2063 or toll-free through Inquiry BC 1-800-663-7867
The Local Trust Area planner is Aleksandra Brzozowski abrozowski@islandtrust.bc.ca*

