

## **September Trustee Report – Dan Rogers**

### **Next Local Trust Committee Meeting**

Hi all. A brief update in advance of the next Local Trust Committee meeting which will be held on October 1, 2015 commencing at 10:30 Am. The full Agenda can be viewed at our local Trust website which is <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/meeting-calendar,-agendas-minutes.aspx> . Note: this will be our first discussion of a Riparian Area Regulation for Keats Island.

### **Meeting with SCRD**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Islands Trust Trustees and some staff met with the SCRD Directors and staff and Ministry of Transportation representatives regarding issues of common concern including service issues. Your Trustees continued to emphasize the importance of docks, roads and garbage removal on the Islands. On Gambier Parks and trails are currently a big issue. If you have any questions arising out of this meeting please get in touch.

### **Visit to Anvil Island**

On September 5 I visited Anvil Island for the day. Thanks to Anvil for the warm welcome. It was fascinating to learn the history of the Island (how many of you know there were two brick factories on the Island in the early part of the last century!!). The Local Trust Committee will begin dealing with Riparian Area regulations for Anvil and Bowyer Islands at our November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting which has now been scheduled for Gleneagles community Centre in West Vancouver.

### **Trust Council**

The Islands Trust Council was held on Bowen Island from September 15 to 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a busy 2 ½ days as we debated and adopted a Strategic Plan for this term. Of particular note for our area however is the fact that both Bowen Island and the Trust Council agreed to expand the NAPTEP program to Bowen Island so that it now is applicable to all the Trust area. NAPTEP is the “Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program” which provides tax relief for private property owners who place a protection covenant on all or part of their property.

<http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/initiatives/privateconservation/naptep.aspx>

This initiative commenced in Howe Sound due to the work of long time Trustee and former Trust Council Chair Kim Benson. It is an important part of the Preserve and Protect work of the Trust and the Trust Fund Board.

As always, if you have any comments please contact me by email or phone.

Enjoy the Fall. Dan

Trustee Stamford – October 2015 report

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – Suzuki Camp**– Attended the closing events of the inaugural David Suzuki youth camp at Camp Fircom on Gambier Island. Along with Trustee Rogers, Ruth Simons of the Future of Howe Sound Society and Peter Scholefield of the Gambier Island Conservancy, I was privileged to participate as a witness in the blanket ceremony conducted by members of the Squamish Nation. Thank you to Stephen Foster of the David Suzuki Foundation for the invitation.

**Sept 3 – GICA Parks and Trails sub-committee meeting.** Further discussion about results of the community open house on trails in the South West Peninsula on July 18 and how best to get information out to residents. SCRD parks staff attended and continue to work with local volunteers and encourage feedback from the community.

**Sept 5 – South West Peninsula Community trails meeting** – public meeting to discuss current and possible future trails, the process and the potential impact on neighbours particularly on the south west peninsula. Area F Director, Ian Winn and Services Manager Jeanette Lovey (now the SCRD's new CAO) also attended. This was an opportunity for several people to outline their concerns about the direction of trail development on the island. I am working on a written response to the many great questions that were posed and will continue to liaise with individual community members, the parks and trails sub-committee, as well as staff and representatives at SCRD for the best strategies for parks and trails on Gambier Island.

**Sept 15-17<sup>th</sup> Trust Council on Bowen island-** Finalized another ambitious strategic plan for the 2014-2018 term. There is a lot going on with Trust Council as a whole including the hiring of a new CAO, the potential impact of the Salt Spring Island municipal status referendum next spring and a study initiated to examine moving the Victoria office to an Islands Trust community. The highlight for me was a motion passed to advocate with Friends of San Juans in designating the Salish Sea (including the Howe Sound) as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area through the International Maritime Organization. This will recognize the Salish Sea at the level of other marine areas such as the Galapagos, Florida Keys, the Great Barrier Reef and the Canary Islands in terms of ecological and sociological importance. For more information about the Friends of San Juans here is a link to their website: <http://www.sanjuans.org/>.

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – Trust Fund Board.** After 10 years of expansion, the Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program now covers all the islands in the Trust. In addition, a motion was passed at the Union of BC Municipalities last week to develop the program across the province. So now that Bowen Island has signed onto the program the Gambier Island Local Trust Area is challenged with becoming the first area in Howe Sound to initiate NAPTEP. Please contact myself or Trust Fund staff if you are

interested in preserving sensitive ecosystems on your property for a break in your property tax.

#### Other activities

Responded to calls and comments on social media about the Sunshine Coast fixed link study announced by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as it could related to a route across the Howe Sound islands. Further details in a newsletter coming out shortly.

September 29 - Attended the Area F Advisory Planning Commission.