

Trustee Report – Dan Rogers – July, 2015

As we “suffer” through another rainless day on our Islands, I think back to all the endless cloudy, wet days that are our winter norm when we longed for sun. I truly hope that our current drought is not our new “norm” but there are certainly signs we need to adapt for that potential and likely reality. Water conservation is just the beginning as we learn about drought resistant plants and taking care of the beautiful Islands that we are blessed to live on. At a recent meeting I was given a button that says “You have to be more careful with an Island”. It is more true every day.

I was pleased to represent the Islands Trust at the official opening of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail in Gibsons on June 28th. What an enthusiastic crew of volunteers and paddlers. As I said to those gathered, this is the type of “development” that is easily welcomed in Howe Sound. And as part of the Trans Canada Trail, Howe Sound is now officially “on the map” so to speak for this great project scheduled to be completed in 2017 as part of Canada’s 150th Anniversary. For more info go to <https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/news/on-the-trail/item/87-sea-to-sky-marine-trail.html>.

Trustee Kate Louise Stamford and I continue to work with a group of dedicated volunteers looking for solutions to the lack of reliable, affordable High Speed Internet on Keats and Gambier. We have had a number of conversations with Connect BC and hope to have some good news to report soon.

I attended the Islands Trust Council meeting on Galiano Island from June 23rd to June 25th. It was fun to be on Galiano again as I hadn’t been there in some 25 plus years. It hasn’t changed that much. We spent a fair amount of time discussing the Strategic Plan for the Islands Trust but also dealt with many other matters including a motion to review the location of the Head Office. Trust Council is an interesting and challenging 2 plus days with 26 Trustees and 4 or 5 staff all working together to move the Trust forward. All of the materials for our Trust Council sessions (except in camera sessions) are on line. Our next Trust Council is September 15 to 17 on Bowen Island so if you are interested, make plans to come over and in particular if you wish to make a representation to Council make sure you get on the Agenda.

Unfortunately, our protocol meeting with the SCRDC set for July 6th had to be cancelled due to the fire raging north of Sechart. You may recall the smoke was filling the sky in a way I’ve never seen before here. Obviously, the folks at the SCRDC had more important matters on their minds.

Speaking of meetings, the next Gambier Local Trust Area meeting is on Gambier Island at the New Brighton Community Hall at 10:30 AM on August 6th. I am away next week when the Agenda comes out but you can find it on our website next Thursday at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/meeting-calendar,-agendas-minutes.aspx>. In addition to normal business like Development Variance Permits, we will be discussing the Riparian Areas Regulation process which is progressing on Keats, Gambier, Anvil and Bowyer.

I will unfortunately miss one event I like to attend every year and that is the Keats Island Fire Equipment Groups (“KIFEG”) annual fundraiser. The event is a fun beer BBQ and auction event with a Western theme this year. It is on August 1st in Eastbourne at about 5 Pm and all are welcome. All proceeds go to support KIFEG which plays such a vital role on Keats Island.

Lastly, an update on the Woodfibre LNG environmental assessment process being run by the BC Environmental Assessment Office. It is currently “on hold” pending a review of the project being done by the Squamish Nation. The Squamish have set out 26 “conditions” for its approval. Other than the top 5, the full list of conditions has not been made public as I write this. I will keep you posted.

Enjoy the sun and let’s hope for some rain.

Dan