

“The conductor of an orchestra doesn’t make a sound. He depends, for his power, on his ability to make other people powerful.” – Benjamin Zander

After a very, very dry summer, fall seems to be descending on us rather quickly. For those of us on tenuous water systems and large garden – the rain couldn’t come quickly enough!

As many of you are aware we currently have a number of challenging projects on our work plan. Our intention is to work with you as well as our South Pender and CRD colleagues to come up with approaches that make sense for our community and the environment. To achieve outcomes that make sense now and into the future, will require all of us to contribute our best thinking in a respectful and thoughtful manner. We are really looking forward to your ideas and involvement as we move forward in this work.

Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

At the September 10th Local Trust Committee meeting – held earlier than usual due to the scheduling our quarterly Trust Council meeting - much of our discussion focused on our solid waste work plan item. In partnership with the South Pender Island Local Trust Committee and our Capital Regional District Director we have established a Waste and Resource Management Commission. It has taken some time to establish this Commission, as there has been a lot of concern and focus on issues of conflict – which are not usual given the size and collaborative nature of our island communities. The issue of conflict now seems to have been adequately addressed and as of September 16th the Commission has begun to focus on the task at hand – to come to a consensus on the location/scope of waste management on the Pender Islands. Commission meetings are open to the public. We welcome your attendance. Meeting times and locations are posted under the projects tab of the North

Pender Island section of the Islands Trust website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender.aspx).

Housing

Work on this broad topic continues. We have chosen to focus on the topic of Short Term Vacation Rentals. Our Planner, Justine Starke has begun to pull together a variety of background information materials to inform a community discussion to be held some time in November 2015. Stay tuned for the date!

Age and Disability Friendly Communities

Work continues on the Age and Disability Friendly Community Planning Project. Our consultant, James Van Hemert facilitated two workshops over the summer. The dialogue on both occasions was rich and illuminating. James has submitted a baseline research and analysis report, which is available on our website. A meeting between the various government agencies responsible for the delivery of infrastructure, services and planning will be held in late October to discuss Mr.

Van Hemert's findings. More information on the Age-Friendly project can be found on the North Pender Island section of the Islands Trust website.

Bylaw Enforcement

In an effort to help address ongoing waste issues on North Pender, a change to our bylaw enforcement policy was passed at the September 10th meeting, which permits our bylaw enforcement officers to investigate and enforce regulations with in our Land Use Bylaw pertaining to the storage and disposal of waste and vehicles without written complaint.

Trust Council

Trust Council's third quarter meeting was held on Bowen from September 15th – 17th. We had very full agenda and lots of intense discussion and debate. Significant items included the establishing the goals, objectives and strategies of our 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, an update on the hiring process for our Chief Administration Officer, establishing the Terms of Reference and Committee membership for the Victoria Office Relocation Review process and the establishment of the Natural Areas Tax Exception Program for Bowen Island. We had a great joint meeting with the Bowen Island Council and fantastic presentations on a number of important marine protection initiatives being pursued in the Salish Sea.

For many of us, this was our most challenging Trust Council meeting yet. There is a lot of interest and commitment in trying different approaches to better achieve our mandate at a time when many of the challenges that we face are outside of our jurisdiction and direct influence. Fortunately, everyone appears to be interested and committed to the task and is working in a very collegial and productive manner.

Water

On Saturday October 10, 2015 the Pender Island Trust Protection Society will be hosting the event: "Truths and Misconceptions about Pender Islands Groundwater: Planning for the Future" with Dr. Jim Henderson from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pender Islands Community Hall. We encourage anyone who has an interest in this timely topic to attend. After coming through one of the driest summers on record, we expect that there will be a lot to learn and discuss!

Community Involvement

It has been great to see so many new and interested faces at our monthly meetings. Spurred on by our projects we are hoping to begin to provide audio recordings of our meetings and those of our committees soon! This will enable those who aren't able to attend to listen in on the discussion and decisions. We continue to explore the possibility of trying an early evening meeting to see if this results in even greater participation. Our hope is to achieve this for the November meeting.

We are committed to improving the accessibility and participation in our local democratic process. We are also open to any ideas you might have to improve participation – particularly from our youth, who are noticeably absent from our meetings.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this month's report please feel free to leave a message at our Hope Bay office 250.629.3476 or contact us directly by email at dbarber@islandstrust.bc.ca or dmasselink@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Cheers!

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