

TRUSTEES' REPORT

News and Updates

December 2015 / January 2016

GABRIOLA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST AREA



Islands Trust

Happy New Year!



Heather O'Sullivan

Melanie Mamoser



Welcome to the year end edition of your Local Trustee Report. We'd like to take this opportunity to reflect a bit on the lessons learned during our first year as your Trustees., as we look forward to an exciting 2016.

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season, with lots of time to connect with family, friends and neighbours.

Looking Back at 2015—The Year in Review

2015 was quite a year for Gabriola. We faced uncertainty and challenges, but we also pulled together and grew stronger as a community. We experienced a fair degree of divisiveness over the bridge issue, amplified by the Province's decision to sink \$200,000 into a study that not everyone agreed with. (And where is that study, Minister Stone? Summer is long over. It's a bit late, wouldn't you say?). Gabriolans were also shocked by the Pacific Pilotage Authority's proposal to establish 5 new anchorages for cape-size freighters off our shores. Swift and co-ordinated public response led the proponents to agree to an engagement and assessment process, which bought time for islanders to rally. A strong grassroots movement continues to build momentum, spearheaded by local group Gabriolans Against Freighter Anchorages. The Islands Trust, after bringing all stakeholders to the table to discuss the issues, sent a [letter](#) to Minister Marc Garneau underscoring environmental and community impacts and seeking his leadership on the issue.

On a more positive note, Gabriolans celebrated each other enthusiastically this year, with a record number of nominees and winners of the Islands Trust Stewardship awards. This was also an historic year as we sent one of our own, former Gabriola Trustee and Islands Trust Chair Sheila Malcolmson to represent us in Parliament. The Gabriola LTC set our priorities for the 2014-18 term, completed the Official Community Plan (OCP) review, and adopted regulations for protection of streams with fish habitat to comply with the provincial Riparian Area Regulations. 2015 also saw the very first LTC meeting on Mudge – hopefully the start of an annual tradition. Both Trustees were very active in the community, participating in a wide variety of local events, forums, committees and celebrations, and also hosting the first Trust Council of 2015 here on Gabriola. These are only a few of the highlights of what proved to be a busy year indeed!

Your Islands Trust

The Islands Trust is a federation of local governments, responsible for preserving and protecting the unique amenities and environment of B.C.'s beautiful Gulf Islands. Together with Chair Laura Busheikin from Denman Island, locally elected Island Trustees form the Local Trust Committee which is responsible for land use decisions in the Gabriola Local Trust Area. We depend on broad public input, so please take the time to connect with us and help us shape the future of Gabriola, Mudge and the surrounding islands.

Contact Your Local Trustees

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The **Islands Trust Northern Office** is located at 700 North Rd, Gabriola Island, BC, V0R 1X3. Call (250) 247-2063 for general inquiries.

Looking Forward...

So what can you expect from your Local Trust Committee in 2016?

We will continue to endeavour to respond to emerging issues with our Land Use Bylaws in a timely and efficient manner. We will also continue to work through projects identified by our community as being in need of LTC attention. As our primary, most complex project we will undertake a review of policies and regulations that impact the attainability of housing.

“Attainable housing, is that the same as affordable housing?” you may wonder. Your Local Trust Committee has chosen to expand the scope of the review of “affordable housing”, identified but not completed during the last review of the Official Community Plan, to recognize that meeting the housing needs of our community is not just about housing for lower income families but also about ensuring that our policies and bylaws enable a variety of housing options to support our diverse population.

Much work has already been done on this topic. We will be drawing on the results of the Gabriola Housing Needs Assessment completed in 2009 and the Islands Trust Community Housing “Tool Kit” completed in 2010. Since the last time this topic was reviewed by your Local Trust Committee, many other islands within the Trust have leveraged the tools provided by this comprehensive study to enhance their supply of affordable housing. This means we have the opportunity to draw on the experiences of other communities that face similar challenges meeting their housing needs while preserving and protecting their unique ecosystems and rural character.

We are in the beginning stages of this project and look forward to hearing from as many people in the community as possible as we move forward.

**All meetings
are open to the
public. Please
join us.**

**Agenda
packages are
posted at the
local Islands
Trust office
and online.**

Upcoming Events

Gabriola Island LTC Meeting, Jan. 14, 2016, 10:15 a.m.,
Gabriola Arts Council Hall, 476 South Road

Gabriola Island LTC Meeting, Feb. 11, 2016, 10:15 a.m.,
Gabriola Arts Council Hall, 476 South Road

Gabriola Island LTC Meeting, Mar. 10, 2016, 10:15 a.m.,
Agi Hall, 465 South Road

Trust Council Meeting, Mar. 22-24, 2016,
Hornby Island.

Useful Links

[MapIT](#)—explore zoning, watersheds, sensitive ecosystems and more

[Gabriola LTC](#)—the home page for our Local Trust Committee, with calendars, contact info, Trustee Corner and more

[Meeting Calendar for Gabriola LTC](#)—find meeting dates, agendas and minutes

[Trust Council Calendar](#)—learn about what’s happening with Trust Council, the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committees

[Islands Trust Fund](#)—everything you need to know about the conservation land trust dedicated to preserving and protecting islands in the Salish Sea

[NAPTEP](#)—lower your property taxes with the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program