

January Trustee Report – Dan Rogers

Welcome all to 2016! This promises to be a busy year in the Gambier Islands Trust Area as we try to finalize Riparian Area Regulations (RAR) for Keats, Anvil and Bowyer Islands and get a good start on both RAR and an Official Community Plan review for Gambier Island. While we want to be efficient with our time, I (and the whole committee) am committed to ensuring fulsome public participation and a fair and open process. As always we invite everyone interested to communicate with us or even better come to a Local Trust meeting where these (and other) issues will be discussed. The schedule of our meetings is on our website which is <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/meeting-calendar-agendas-minutes/>

Since my last update there have been a number of events occur. The Gambier Local Trust Committee met on November 19th and had a good discussion with a number of electors present about Riparian Area Regulations amongst many other matters.

On November 21th, Kate-Louise Stamford and I attended with Islands Trust Staff at a meeting with Metro Vancouver to discuss issues of common concern related to Bowyer and Passage Islands that are in our Local Trust Area but serviced by Metro Vancouver. We had a good discussion and staff is working on a protocol agreement with Metro Vancouver.

I attended a meeting of Bowen Island Council on December 14th to see how they operated. Two of their Councillors are also Trustees with Islands Trust and I think there are issues (particularly marine and foreshore issues) that are of common interest we should be working on jointly. While Bowen is a municipality and thus also involved in service delivery, many of the issues were similar to what we deal with at the Gambier Local Trust committee and of course common to issues that arise on the Islands in our trust area.

There was some good news in December that Metro Vancouver had “shelved” its plans to build a waste incinerator outside of Port Mellon (or any of the other locations it was considering). While it has not been permanently discarded, it is off the table for now meaning that particular threat to our area and air quality has been removed.

Some of you may have noticed in the news that the Province has announced a “study” for a fixed link from the Lower Mainland (i.e. the eastern shore of Howe Sound) to the Sunshine Coast and beyond. A number of “options” are in the government Request for Proposal including one that would be a bridge to Anvil and Gambier and then to mainland south of Port Mellon. I can assure you that Islands Trust and the Gambier Islands Local Trust Committee will be actively involved in the consultation on this issue. Islands Trust has a firm policy opposing bridges to islands in the Trust area.

The December Islands Trust Council was held in Victoria and we met the new Islands Trust CAO Russ Hotsenpiller. Council met Russ and welcomed him to his new role replacing Linda Adams who has retired. If you want to know the work done by Trust Council check out this document

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/339062/december-2015-council-decision-highlights.pdf>. I can say that the first “cut” at our Budget for 2016/17 is based on a zero % tax increase.

I will be attending the opening of the Constituency office for our new MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones on January 14th and will encourage her to focus on an overall strategy for Howe Sound and area. I wrote her about that and other issues and my letter can be found at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/local-trustee-corner/>