

March 2016 Trustee Stamford Report

Spring has sprung with a vengeance as the Stormaway really lived up to its name this morning on some of the roughest water I've crossed since moving here. Thanks to Scott Pay for his excellent skills at the helm. Activity around the islands is rapidly increasing so here are some of the highlights from the past six weeks.

January 27 – **Great Bear Marine Planning at Science World.** This event was sponsored by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the David Suzuki Foundation and outlined the comprehensive marine planning partnership developed for the central BC coast area. There is potential for this to be a prototype for other marine areas including Howe Sound.

February 17 – **Special Business Meeting** to consider a Variance Permit for new Hydro shed on Keats. Variance was given.

Feb 22 – **Trust Fund Board meeting.** Highlights included a discussion around local government's role in protecting Species at Risk specifically the northern goshawk and marbled murrelet. Also the potential of the Coastal Douglas Fir Conservation Partnership and its conservation strategies to be included in local official community plans.

Feb 29 – **Proposed Woodfibre LNG Public Meeting in Gibsons.** See link below for detailed information about this meeting.

[Coast Reporter - WLNG Public Meeting](#)

March 3 – Trustee Rogers and myself met with the new **Sea to Sky/Sunshine Coast MP, Pamela Goldsmith-Jones.** We discussed derelict vessels including the flotsam and jetsam clean-up problems, regional planning for the Howe Sound area, proposed industrial projects and the potential for protected areas around the islands. Dan and I look forward to seeing our new MP again at the Howe Sound Community Forum that the Local Trust Committee is hosting at Camp Fircom on April 29th.

Board of Variance – if you are interested in becoming a member of the Islands Trust Joint Board of Variance please see link [Board of Variance Northern Islands](#). Deadline is March 18, 2016

Sunshine Coast Regional District updates

Feb 17 – **Island Cleanup 2016.** Attended the first meeting of the year to discuss the summer garbage collection. General discussion about the constraints of hazardous materials including drywall. SCRDR staff will provide a communication piece to islanders about why certain items are not collected and the appropriate method of private

disposal. Some ideas for special pick-up included wood furniture but the logistics of this need to be further considered.

Here are the tentative dates for the summer garbage collection:

- July 9th Keats/Pasley flag stops
- July 15th Trail Islands
- July 16th Volcroft/ Buccaneer
- July 23rd Keats/Eastbourne
- July 30th Gambier flag stops
- Aug. 6th New Brighton

Feb 22 – **Public Wharves Advisory Committee**. Although I did not attend this particular meeting, it is worth noting it was the last meeting of this committee as the SCRD is disbanding most of its advisory committees in favour of a different consultation methodology. PWAC was one of the few groups I worked with that represented both islanders and Sunshine Coast people equally. The members deserve a lot of thanks from the community as they were tasked with the often thankless job of liaising between community wishes and regional budgets and priorities. I'll make sure that islanders are made aware of the new consultation process for the SCRD docks as soon as it comes on line.

In the mean time if you have any questions or concerns about the public docks (other than the New Brighton pier/float) please contact:

Jose Martinez, SCRD Transportation Superintendent, Infrastructure Services.

Email address: jose.martinez@scrd.ca

Work Phone Number: (604) 885-6893

Work Cell Number: (604) 741-2741

It looks like both West Bay Dock and Gambier Harbour Dock are being worked on this week so be prepared for possible access restrictions.

Coopers Green Barge Ramp closure to commercial traffic – I am supporting Trustee Rogers in his advocacy efforts on behalf of “Area B” islands (the Thormanbys, Merry, the Trails etc.) to maintain reasonable ramp access. We have met with SCRD Area B Director Garry Nohr, he is aware of the importance of safe access for supply barges to these islands and is following up.

SCRD Rural Grant-in-Aid applications for 2016 are due March 30th. If your community group is interested in participating, please see link

<http://www.scrd.ca/Grants-in-Aid>

Cougar news – I'm very sorry to hear that another dog was killed by a cougar on Gambier Island between West Bay Landing and Centre Bay on February 25th. The Conservation Officer, Dean Miller, did come to the island but did not track the cat. A local resident spoke to the CO who stated that there have been approximately 5-7 reported cougar incidences in the past 3 years on Gambier. This includes my dog who was killed in 2014 and a farm animal was taken earlier on the east side of the island. The CO considers this a fairly low instance of human/cougar interaction given the small size of the territory and the number of people here. He emphasized the importance of keeping children and pets close when in the bush and staying away from suspected predator kills. Please report wildlife problems on the RAPP hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

For further information about cougars please go to
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/cougsf.htm>

You may be interested in the **Glass Sponge event** at Science World March 23rd - [Sea of Glass lecture](#)