

Trustee Stamford July Report

Here are some highlights from the previous couple of months.

June 14-16 Trust Council – North Pender Island. We received an excellent presentation by representatives from the Port of Vancouver, Port of Nanaimo, Chamber of Shipping BC, Transport Canada and the Rainforest Conservation Foundation on shipping safety on the West Coast. Here are links to a video one of the trustees took of the presentation.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=s3JcM5zhEPs>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6NbaGcKC4g>

For other highlights of the council please follow this link.

[Trust Council on North Pender Island - decision highlights](#)

June 17 –Howe Sound Socio-Economic Workshop at the Vancouver Aquarium – Hosted by the Suzuki Foundation, Coastal Ocean Research Institute, Vancouver Aquarium and the Squamish Nation. A wide array of political representatives, first nations representatives, small and large business owners, developers and planning staff were brought together to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the Howe Sound economy. One of the primary takeaways I saw was lack of current data that would help communities and businesses develop appropriate plans. I will provide a link to the report once the workshop coordinators have compiled it.

June 23 – Fixed link feasibility meeting – Met with other local representatives and MLA Jordan Sturdy to examine route ideas for public presentations in the fall. I requested that future public engagement meetings be held in the evenings in West Vancouver and within the Stormaway schedule in Gibsons to accommodate as many Islanders as possible. Here is an article if you are interested in further details - [Coast Reporter article on fixed link feasibility study](#)

June 27 – Visit to Barnabas Landing. Spent a fascinating day at Barnabas on Keats Island (the new build and farm you see on the Keats coast facing Gambier). Barnabas is a retreat and farm that is growing array of agricultural projects for on site use and local sale. Barnabas also has a lovely little tuck shop that opens in the afternoons. It was incredibly impressive to see what a dedicated group of motivated people can accomplish. Thank you to Kim Wilkinson for taking several hours out of her busy day to show my family and I around.

June 28 – Attended the Area F Advisory Planning Committee on behalf of Director Winn as SCRD Alternate.

July 9 – Visit to the Thormanby Islands. Trustee Rogers and I spent the day on two of the most remote islands in the Local Trust Area but also two of the most unique and stunning places in the whole Islands Trust. The Thormanby's, which are actually joined by a spit, are partially

made up of a rare sand ecology and have two long-term recreational communities. We also had a very well attended community meeting with SCRD Emergency Services Program Coordinator Bill Elsner where a variety of issues were discussed. Thank you to Al “Bunny” Haley and Shirley Higginson for organizing this productive day with landowners.

July 16th - SCRD Trails in the South West Peninsula – Parks Planning Coordinator Sam Adams presented the results of the trails questionnaire. The results gave the SCRD a mandate to move forward with creating an overall trails development strategy for the South West Peninsula and they will be looking for further community input into the process in the coming months. Sam said that although support for trails was clear, the community was also quite concerned that issues around privacy, safety and environmental sensitivity be addressed appropriately. Director Winn will be sending out a link to the questionnaire results and further details about the meeting shortly.

July 19 – Trust Fund Board meeting – phone in. Some exciting movement on new proposed covenants on a couple of the southern Gulf Islands. I will provide further details on a less busy report.

Burnco Working Group – There has still been no formal submission of an environmental assessment application although it is expected to begin sometime this month. As soon as I get firm dates and times for public comment I will let community members know.

St’a’pas (Gambier) Working Group – Summer has turned out to be very busy for everyone and we have not had the opportunity to follow-up with the Squamish Chiefs and Council. There is now a tentative proposal to meet again on Gambier towards the end of August.

So as you can see summer is really the busy time for Trustees in the Gambier Local Trust Area as this is when most community members are around. Apart from preparation for the meetings outlined above, there is always a lot of one off contacts with community members on a variety of issues from hunting, survey issues to road conditions and fire concerns. Some issues can be redirected but many do turn into more long-term albeit interesting work.

Always enjoy getting your feedback.