

End of 2016 - Trustee Report

Hello all Keats Islanders. We are close to the second busiest time of the year on Keats (New Years) and I thought I would update you on a few things as we get ready for 2017.

At Islands Trust, we continue to work at protecting Howe Sound and the Salish Sea. This includes keeping an eye on and monitoring marine and land based activities that affect our surroundings and the environment. As you likely know, Howe Sound is facing a lot of development pressures from LNG to gravel mining to wood lots to many housing/tourism development proposals. Islands Trust is primarily a land and marine bylaw and zoning authority but it also has an advocacy role (set out in our legislation) - to “preserve and protect” the area for the benefit of the residents and (importantly) for all of BC. I take that role very seriously and I hope you do too.

UPDATES

Burnco

This is the application to develop a gravel extraction, processing and shipping facility at McNab Creek across from the north end of Gambier Island. The application is currently at the Environmental Assessment stage and the Proponent (Burnco) has asked that it be held in abeyance for some time as there have been some issues arise it needs to address. At this point no final report or approval has been given. After meeting with the proponent and reviewing the proposal in detail, the Gambier Local Trust Committee filed a letter with the Environmental Assessment Office opposing the application based mostly on “neighbour” concerns i.e. light, noise and air contamination issues. I forwarded our letter in September but if you’d like to receive it again, let me know and I’ll forward it.

Proposed Fixed Link

You will no doubt have heard of the concept of a “fixed link” to the Sunshine Coast. The preliminary study by the contractor hired by the provincial government was completed and four options were highlighted. Three involved roads through Squamish and one involved a bridge spanning Howe Sound travelling through Anvil Island. The “decision” as to whether to consider any of those options further is pending from the Provincial Government. FYI the Local Trust Committee took a position against the “bridge” proposal, as Islands Trust has a policy against bridges to islands within Islands Trust.

Woodfibre LNG

As you have likely heard, both provincial and federal environmental approval for this project has been given. There remains a ways to go before the project is started as the Federal Government and the Squamish Nation have placed a number of conditions on their concurrence in the project. One item of note this fall is that the proponent amended one of the most controversial parts of the project by changing its “cooling” system from an “ocean cooled – once through system”, which would have seen

large volumes of warm water pumped into Howe Sound, to an air cooling system. There continues to be substantial opposition to this project up and down Howe Sound.

Howe Sound

This fabulous area has been the home of First Nations people for thousands of years. The Gambier Local Trust Committee is determined to continue to establish good relations with the Squamish Nation and others who resided here for millennia before the settlers arrived. I now refer to this area often as Aht- Cum-Sum (phonetically the Squamish peoples name for the area). As we move forward with issues in our area, working alongside the Squamish, the Tsleil-waututh and the Sechelt is necessary and valuable. We look forward to continuing those relationships.

West Beach

I wanted to remind people that there will be the annual polar bear swim on January 1st at West Beach at 12:30 sharp. Come in costume... all Keats Islanders more than welcome. There will be a bonfire. It promises to be a chilly day. Please note with the heavy rains and the high tides, the bank above West Beach has been severely compromised ... a couple of trees came down with the snow in early December and others are threatening to come down. Please stay on the paths to the beach, keep an eye out and don't climb up the banks.

BC Ferries

Please note the new BC Ferry Schedule until January 18th for Keats Island here <http://www.bcferrys.com/schedules/mainland/lgik-current.php?scheduleSelect=sch12221605.html> and then the schedule starting January 19th here <http://www.bcferrys.com/schedules/mainland/lgik-current.php?scheduleSelect=sch10121602.html>. Of importance, note that commencing January 19th the Stormaway will depart and arrive from Gibsons Marina until April 6th! This will cause some logistical issues of course so watch for more info regarding shuttle services etc to Gibsons and plan on this trip taking longer during these months. As I find out more I will send it out.

Many thanks

As always, there are many people that make Keats Island work as well as it does. Thanks to those that serve on the Ferry Committee and the Road Committee. A renewed dock advisory committee is apparently in the works at the SCRDC so watch for opportunities to help on that. Thanks to those from Barnabas who provide coffee, ice cream, eggs and produce all summer long. Thanks to those that go out in the rain to fix the roads when the damage is done by increasingly heavy rains. Thanks to Joan G for the Keats News. And thanks to everyone for making this an amazing place.

Keats Landing

The application for subdivision DL 696 has been filed. This is the land at Keats Landing that is owned by the Baptist Convention and includes Keats Camp, Salmon Rock and the various leasehold cabins. Effectively there is an application to subdivide the land owned by the Baptist Convention so that the

various cabin owners (currently lease holders) can buy the land their cabin is sitting on and own it outright. This project has been ongoing for decades with a number of attempts that were unsuccessful in years past. It is a complicated proposal involving septic, water supplies, roads, parks, archeological sites and dock access amongst other things. It engages many levels of government as a result including (but not limited to the SCRD, Islands Trust and the Ministry of Transportation – which approves subdivisions!).

There is much information about the proposal on line and you can review the various documents surrounding it here <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/current-applications/> (particularly the October Staff report). In brief, the proposal would create 110 + or – new lots where there are existing cabins, develop new septic fields for these cabins so they meet code, bring into compliance any marine issues on the waterfront, dedicate the path to Salmon rock to the Ministry of Transportation as a road allowance (although vehicles will not be allowed), transfer Sandy Beach to the Trust Fund Board as a nature reserve and confirm the current road to the dock as well as the dock access.

One issue that generates a lot of discussion is the idea of the dedication of a park to the SCRD near the eastern end of the land. Approximately 3 acres was proposed the last time this issue came up in an area called the Triangle park just south of the main road. The current proposal doesn't include that area although discussions are ongoing with the SCRD and Islands regarding that idea or what I refer to as the "halfmoon" park. See rough diagram on next page. The idea is that an area would be set aside for community purposes. It would be zoned to allow for potential future community amenity (a meeting space?) and in the meantime would be left in its natural space ... not advertised or promoted as a camping or recreation purposes. If you have views about the setting aside of an area like this (normal in a subdivision) please let the SCRD know through Andrew.allen@scrd.ca and copy Aleksandra at abrzoowski@islandstrust.bc.ca, khealy@creus.ca, Josh at keatsquestions@gmail.com and myself. There will be more public information and input opportunities as this application works its way through the various processes but this is a good time to let your thoughts be known about the "concepts".

