

Addendum to Thetis Associated Islands Survey (2012) Results Summary

Comments received after the survey closed, related to Ruxton Island

Compiled September 20, 2012

1. Better clarity of the current bylaw. Safer access to/from the Island (i.e. allow for docks that respect the foreshore and meet Island requirements). Protection of parks and sensitive ecosystems. Encourage environmentally friendly off-grid living (water collection, wind/solar power).
2. It should stay the same.
3. When one bought on Ruxton you had a clear understanding of what it had to offer as in...No docks... 1 mooring per property... uncluttered shorelines... although a community dock would be welcome, the question has always been, where? We have a concern with regards to a septic put in that leaves a nasty smell at times, which is very close to where people swim. Being on a small island where one has to have a certain amount of responsibility, water containment should be a priority. Each property should have at least 2 gal per sq. ft cottage, out of respect for your fellow cottages. We have had a few scares with fire... Burning garbage/dumping in the ocean... hard to believe. As for goals and objectives, I think as small islanders, we all would like to see that it retains its charm and uniqueness, that the roads remain narrow, we are able to walk around the shoreline without having to scramble over numerous boat ramps... That we keep our playground (the ocean) clean for us and future generations... We feel so fortunate to have this bit of paradise...
4. I like the privacy of Ruxton Island, and its natural state. I would like for it to continue as a combination of recreational/year round island users. I would like to encourage green water/power initiatives. There are 2 things I would like to see in the future. For our Association to develop a system to ease the difficulty of docking with minimal impact to the island environmentally and its natural beauty. Also any development or change the Association plans for the island be with a high respect for nature.
5. We would like to see Ruxton remain as natural as possible and limit motorized vehicles to maintenance requirements. Keeping it dock/float free helps to retain its unique culture/environment.
6. Vision of a Future Ruxton

Thank-you for the necessity to consider the future of Ruxton. It has been an interesting, illuminating experience. Without a deadline we have taken almost too long to consider the aspects of Ruxton we value.

Overall, Ruxton's isolation has meant that it was difficult to do other than to tread lightly on the earth and ocean. This constraint and the community spirit it fosters gives Ruxton its unique

character. After a time away, it is the wild and quiet of Ruxton that brings relief. Initially, the advice of our realtor that there were no building codes on Ruxton was an intoxicating lure – almost like being pioneers.

Hopefully Ruxton of the future should find:

- No cars and low speeds for ATVs
- The construction bylaws are fine though on large lots the house size of 25% of the lot size could be excessive. We would like to see a new provision that recommended a similar portion of the lot must be left 'wild'.
- Fire retardant materials used on exterior for new construction
- Water collection and conservation – perhaps a water tank dedicated to fire protection in some time frame of development.
- Limited access to island – no ferries, no piers, no community docks – ease of water access depends on the type of boat you use – landing craft work pretty well if you don't want to dinghy ashore. Difficult access fosters our island focused solutions to problems. If you need to haul up a bath tub you do not rent a truck to lift it, you jerry-rig the dolly and use human power up front pulling and behind pushing. If your neighbor needs help, you help.
- Limit of 2 moorings per lot though this may not be part of land-use bylaws.
- Foreshore must remain accessible to all below the absolute highest tide. The quest to circumnavigate the island is a goal of many.
- Community footpaths should be continue
- Enforcement of bylaws is an issue and a clear understanding of definitions would help. Consequence to bylaw contravention as well as environmental transgressions should be clear.