

### **Trust only movement.**

Or to capture the full quote by Alfred Alder “Trust only movement. Life happens at the level of events, not of words. Trust movement.”

And I’m pleased to say we’ve seen some movement in our actions list, having (finally) adopted provincially compliant Riparian Area regulations (Bylaw 109). We’ve also passed Bylaws 107 & 108, which made the zoning for our CRD parks reflect their actual (park) use.

I understand that (our) Bylaw 110 will be reviewed for (Trust) executive approval in about a month, which if passed will allow the use of ocean loop geo-exchange systems on Saturna. These systems provide a dramatic reduction in energy consumption and carbon footprint. They are permitted in all states and provinces in North America and many other jurisdictions around the world, and on other islands in the Trust area. Which is why I’m amazed that it has taken 20 months so far in the process to have it approved for use on Saturna.

One would think a fast-track process could be adopted for such obviously safe and beneficial uses, freeing up valuable resources to devote to more complex issues. Mind you, it took us over 6 years to comply with our provincial Riparian area regulations. It must be very frustrating and at times demoralizing to talented Trust staff to have their valued work delayed by such cumbersome processes.

The completion of these activities allows us to prioritize other things. So our action list now includes a review of some our island bylaws and portions of our Official Community Plan regarding density transfer and the Community Amenity Density Reserve (CADR). Why these you might ask?

Well, we’ve heard from Saturna-ites that the economic sustainability of our community is a very serious concern. Island businesses are suffering, some have closed, and others report seriously reduced revenues. The amount of available accommodation for tourists has plunged. Employment opportunities have declined, and if there were some, affordable housing could be a further barrier.

In the decade before our OCP was adopted, Saturna’s population grew by almost 2% a year. It is now in steep decline (a near 7% decline since the last census), with our younger population in near free-fall. It appears that only two island children will be enrolled in our school this September. A far cry from when 20 to 30 children were the norm. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to look around and see the huge demographic shift on our island, both in age and in full-time residents. And our land has changed too, almost a ten-fold increase in parkland, with well over 3,000 acres added, now encompassing almost half the island.

The facts clearly suggest a review of some of our bylaws is due, as well as portions of our OCP. Such reviews are not uncommon in the Trust area. And they need not lead

to major change, but to necessary adjustment to reflect the realities that we face. And the review will be with full community consultation.

The Island's Trust is ready to begin receiving nominations for this year's Community Stewardship Awards. Awards are given to either individuals or groups (organizations, societies, community groups, etc). Nominees are assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relationship of project or work to the Islands Trust policy statement
- Benefits to the community or Islands Trust area
- Collaboration with others
- Innovation
- And the level of community support and involvement.

Normally, seven awards are presented throughout the Islands Trust area. Last year the Saturna Ecological Education Center (SEEC) won a group award and in 2010 Jon Guy received an individual award, so Saturna has a well-deserved history of achievement, and a promising future for further awards. We are a community of volunteers, so lets see some nominations to recognize those efforts.

Please take note that our next local trust committee meeting is at the Rec Centre at 12h30 on April 18<sup>th</sup>.