

September was a busy month for your Trustees. We had our Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting on the 6th. We passed motions to amend our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) so we could rezone our two Community Parks to actually be zoned Parks. We moved ahead with our **draft** Riparian Area Regulations Bylaw so it will be the topic of a Community Information meeting and Public Hearing at our meeting on November 8th. We instructed staff to prepare a **draft** Bylaw that would amend our LUB to permit ocean loop geo-exchange systems (basically these are geo-thermal heat exchange systems that use the ocean rather than the earth for their heatsink).

And with those three Top Priorities on our Work Program nearing completion, we moved to make these the next two Top Priorities on our Work Program: **1.** A review of our Land Use Bylaw, particularly where it relates to economic opportunities. **2.** A review of aspects of our OCP related to densities, in particular the density cap and the density bank. You can see all this and much, much more if you go to the Trust Website and click on Saturna Island.

We were on Bowen Island for the fall Trust Council meeting. Our biggest issue at Trust Council was deciding what would be in the Strategic Plan for this electoral term. One of the goals was to make this term's plan more do-able than past Plans by paring it down to a few good items that we could realistically hope to accomplish, rather than it looking like a wish list with far too many items on it to for us to actually be able to accomplish them all.

When we were finished, I wasn't sure we had accomplished this as it was 9 pages long and still felt like it had a lot of items, but – when preparing this article, I pulled out last terms Strategic Plan and it was similar, but 6 pages longer. While this is start in the right direction, some losses occurred, as Trust Council voted against a strategy to “use land use planning tools and decisions to support economic opportunities compatible with conservation of resources and protection of community character”. However, the strategies to use land use planning tools to promote food security and affordable housing were retained.

The resulting Plan is (or will be soon) available on the Island Trust's Website. Go to the Islands Trust homepage, click on Trust Council and the Strategic Plan is the last item on the drop down menu. If it isn't there, on that same drop down menu, click on Administration and choose Council Minutes. Hopefully, the minutes from our fall Trust Council will be there by the time you read this and you can see the new strategic plan there, along with some of the process we went through to come up with it, and all the other things we did at Trust Council. These include passing a motion in support of a (Federal) Department of Peace and having the Trust write BC Hydro asking (them) to allow people to opt out of the Smart Meter program.

And finally, a reminder and request for your input once again. I attended the Open House Parks Canada held on Saturna this summer and had a conversation with Superintendent Wayne Bourque who had some very interesting ideas about tying together local accommodations and expanded trail systems to offer Park visitors a more complete

vacation package. I thought it was a great idea and in my June Scribbler article encouraged anyone who agreed to let him know or to let me know as I serve as the Trust's representative on the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR) Park Advisory Board (PAB).

We have had one PAB meeting so far and while the management plan for the park was on the top of our agenda, we really couldn't get much done because the budget cuts had slashed so deep that no one in really knew where things stood at that time. Lots of positions had been eliminated (one being the person who had been working on the management plan).

Well, we are finally back on track. Completing the Management Plan for the GINPR has been made a priority by the powers that be and a Park Planner has been assigned to complete the GINPR Management Plan. Unfortunately, the planner is based in Winnipeg. However, they are being flown out to see the Park, meet with staff and also meet with the PAB. Our meeting is on October 25 so it is really important to let the folks at the GINPR know your visions for the Park; well before Oct. 25 if possible.

When Parks Canada first came to Saturna, they were given a pretty strong message that we weren't interested in tourists and particularly not campers, so they were quite surprised to hear me say that in my opinion times had changed and there was definitely a place and a need for tourism in our economy. But they need to hear it from everyone who feels that way. So tell them, tell me, tell everyone who will listen. It is so very true that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease".....