

February Trustee Report

Well, I'm back from Mexico and the vacation is definitely over. I came back on the 2nd, and attended my first Trust Council Local Planning Committee meeting in Victoria on the 8th.

On Saturna we had our first Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting on the 9th and two special Community Information Meetings, one on the 18th and one on the 25th.

Back in Victoria for two more meetings, Paul attended another meeting of the Financial Planning Committee and his first Trust Programs Committee meeting where he was elected as chair.

The Local Trust Committee meetings are the ones held on Saturna where we attend to Saturna Island issues. In attendance are your two Saturna Trustees and one Trustee from the Trust Council Executive Committee who chairs the meeting. In our case that is Trustee Ken Hancock from North Pender. We are also joined by minute taker Jenna Foster and our Island Planner, Gary Richardson. This meeting was also attended by Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager for the Southern Team, and Bylaw Enforcement Officer Miles Drew, who made a presentation about the newly proposed Bylaw Enforcement Notice & Dispute Adjudication System. And we were very please to have about 16 members of the public in attendance as well!

What did we do? We decided keep the bylaw that allows storage buildings on vacant lots as it allows owners of vacant lots to develop their lots slowly by first building a safe, secure storage building. We acknowledged the concern some have about allowing storage buildings without forcing them to have a concurrent water catchment system, and will take a look at that issue at a later date.

We tackled the provincially imposed Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) by recommending that staff proceed with community consultation on RAR implementation. We agreed with staff that reviewing the Lyall Creek Development Permit Area (DPA) for compliance with the RAR was a much preferred to the more restrictive rezoning approach.

Simply put: the Lyall Creek watershed is the only riparian area affected by these regulations and we want to offer those landowners the chance to talk

with the Planners (and us) about how this impacts their property. Fortunately there is already a DPA in already in place on Lyall Creek that just needs to be enlarged in a few areas to satisfy the provincial RAR mandate.

We altered our Work Program Top Priorities by splitting the amending of Park Zoning into two categories; Community Parks (like Thompson Park, which is currently zoned “agricultural”, and needed a “Temporary Use Permit” to allow the new gazebo to be built) and other (i.e. Federal Parks) and are keeping Community parks as a top priority and moving other parks to the back burner.

Also, we appointed Amanda Pearson, John Gaines, Peter Seed and Wayne Quinn to the Advisory Planning Commission. They will join Charles Reif, Hubertus Surm and Tony Green, who are in the middle of their terms. We would like to thank Andrew Money, Bill Sheffield, Harvey Janszen and Priscilla Ewbank, for their service on the APC last term.

We have referred the newly proposed Bylaw Enforcement Notice & Dispute Adjudication System to the APC and will be sending most other issues their way too.

The biggest issue this month has been the \$250,000 Gas Tax Fund grant for a Policy Statement Review. It was front and centre at my Local Planning Committee meeting and Paul’s Financial Planning and Trust Programs Committee meetings. It was also discussed at our Local Trust Committee meeting and was the purpose of the two special Community Information Meetings. We had a great turnout at the first meeting with 28 islanders showing up to ask questions and voice their opinion.

To learn more about about the Policy Review go to the Islands Trust website at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/tc/polstreview.cfm> .At the Trust Council meeting this March 6 – 8th we will be deciding whether to accept this grant of up to \$250,000 from Canada’s Gas Tax Fund to initiate a three year, full scale review the current Policy Statement.

Paul and I need your opinions to help us decide to vote for or against this initiative. You can reach us at pjanszen@islandstrust.bc.ca or pbrent@islandstrust.bc.ca, or you can send your comments directly to the Islands Trust at policyreview@islandstrust.bc.ca.

We have created our own website here on Saturna specific to us. If you want to share your thoughts on the policy issue or any other island issue, you can do so at our new website forum at <http://forum.saturnaislandstrust.net/> Harvey is building this website for us and it is in early days yet, but we wanted to get it up and running so we could use it for this purpose. So, come out to the meeting, send us an email, write to us on the forum or give us a phone call. I'm at 250 539-5150 and Paul's at 250 539-5454. And a big **Thank You** to everyone who has already done so!