

## **South Pender Local Trust Committee**

### **OCP Review Update**

Following a public information session on June 4 explaining and receiving comments on proposed changes to the Official Community Plan, the Local Trust Committee approved first reading of the OCP at its June 7 meeting. The LTC has prepared a Trustee Newsletter to be sent to all property owners by the end of June describing proposed changes to the OCP and the reasons for those changes – if the mail strike prevents the mail-out from occurring, the same information is available on the Islands Trust website on the South Pender page, together with the various drafts of the OCP that have been prepared since the review started in January.

The next step in the review process will be a public hearing on Saturday July 23 at 1 PM in the Community Room of the South Pender Firehall. If we are able to reach general agreement on the proposed changes to the OCP, we expect the revised OCP to be in place before the end of 2011, with complementary changes to the Land Use Bylaw (which translates general OCP directives into specific regulations) to follow soon after.

Most of the proposed changes to the OCP are of a housekeeping nature – for example, updating references to relevant provincial ministries and laws and clarifying ambiguities in the current OCP. The proposed revisions also include a vision statement crafted by the Advisory Planning Commission, which in recent months has done a great deal of preparatory work to enable appropriate revisions to occur. Substantive proposed revisions to the OCP include the following:

- Provide direction to create three Rural Residential zones in the Land Use Bylaw in order to clarify lot area requirements for subdivision (currently one acre or two acre depending on ocean frontage).
- Allow long-term as well as short-term occupancy of cottages (a secondary single family dwelling smaller than 600 square feet), to encourage housing diversity and increase owners' options.
- Eliminate cash-in-lieu as an alternative to parkland dedication as a prerequisite for subdivision approval, to ensure a reasonable benefit to the community.
- Introduce new policies for groundwater protection and to discourage well hydrofracturing, to address increasing concerns about groundwater quality and quantity.

### **Islands Trust Council June Meeting**

The 26 trustees representing the 13 major islands in the Trust meet quarterly to discuss and vote on issues affecting the Trust as a whole and to receive delegations from islanders wishing to place concerns and suggestions before the council. The following is a synopsis of some of the issues raised at the June meeting of Trust Council on Denman Island:

- Trust Council received from its Policy Statement Assessment Task Force a report recommending a review by the next Trust Council of the Islands Trust Policy Statement and suggesting priority topics for review.
- Trust Council heard presentations from the Denman Island Marine Stewardship Committee expressing concerns about Baynes Sound shellfish aquaculture practices and the absence of provincial and federal aquaculture standards, and from Gulf Islanders for Safe Technology raising concerns about the health implications of BC Hydro's forthcoming "Smart" Meter Program.
- Experts in the carbon offsets field, together with Islands Trust staff, provided a detailed presentation on options for achieving carbon-neutral operations and how to employ carbon offsets. As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the Islands Trust is committed to achieving carbon-neutral operations by 2012.

- The Cortes Island regional director, Noba Anderson, gave a presentation on Cortes Island's experience with "Rural by Design" planning emphasizing sustainable forestry, aquaculture regulation, and climate change mitigation projects.
- The Council approved resolutions directing the chair to write to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure advocating for provincial support to stabilize ferry fares on minor routes and to the Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency expressing concerns about the proposed Raven underground coal mine on Vancouver Island.

### **Community Stewardship Awards**

At its June meeting on Denman Island, Islands Trust Council selected the recipients of the 2011 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards, given each year to recognize individuals and groups for significant contributions to preserving the community, culture or environment of an island. We are pleased to report that three of the six awards given this year went to the Penders:

- A group award to the Pender Island Fire Rescue Department for its outstanding performance not only in ensuring an efficient emergency response service but in fundraising for the food bank, providing regular fire safety classes and demonstrations, running a cadet program to introduce island youth to the value of volunteerism and protecting their communities from fires, and generally galvanizing community and helping make us all feel proud to be Penderites.
- The enduring achievement award to Sara Steil, whose many years of dedicated community work have included supporting the Islands Trust mandate as a founding and leading member of the Pender Islands Trust Protection Society; promoting understanding of and protection of the marine environment through boater education, working for the establishment of a national marine conservation area, and promoting prevention of pollution of the marine environment; and, with her husband Dick, placing a conservation covenant on part of their land to protect it in perpetuity.
- The climate change award to Barry Mathias, for spearheading Moving Around Pender, the transportation alternatives project that brought us Car Stops and that continues to work toward practical and imaginative solutions to island transportation challenges.

### **High Speed Internet Update**

Shaw Communications plans to make high-speed internet service available by the end of August to all South Pender residents who want it. In the meantime, Shaw intends to send a mail-out to all islanders this summer explaining available options and their costs and requesting an indication of whether you want Shaw service. If you have any questions or concerns that Shaw hasn't addressed for you, please feel free to ask Trustee Greer to obtain the information you need.

David Greer 250 598-3607 [dgreer@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:dgreer@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Wendy Scholefield 629-3681 [wscholefield@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:wscholefield@islandstrust.bc.ca)

### *Dates to Note:*

July 23 – Public hearing on the OCP review, South Pender fire hall community room, 1 pm

July 27 – Local Trust Committee Meeting, South Pender Firehall Community Room, 11:30AM.