

South Pender Island Trustees Report:

Since our last report, we've held our first LTC (Local Trust Committee) meeting, and each attended our respective trust-wide committee meetings. While keeping local trust matters a prime focus, Liz has joined the Trust Programs Committee, which deals with issues across the Trust Area, including land conservation, marine ecosystems protection, water and resource management, sustainable communities and public education. Liz will also serve as liaison to the Parks Canada Committee.

Mike has joined the Local Planning Committee which is responsible for sustainable community planning, including development management, local planning services and trust committee functions, tracking, and promoting public awareness. A trust-wide focus on these issues promotes collaboration and access to more models and broader discussions about challenges we islanders share.

At the February 14th LTC held at South Pender Fire Hall, we were pleased to have five members of the community in attendance. The LTC granted a request for funding at the level of \$300 to Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA) for a report and inventory of the unusual mosaic of ecological areas and the important plant species found in the Brooks Point park. This work is part of the Phase 3 Brooks Point conservation project. While the LTC's capacity for funding such projects is limited, there are cases such as this, where the funded work falls directly within the Islands Trust mandate.

The LTC decided upon its work priorities and these focus on land use bylaw amendments, including outbuildings, shoreline protection, including docks, and climate change as a whole.

In the town hall portion of the meeting, we, as new trustees, were reminded by community that we, not Trust staff, are there to make decisions on behalf of our community. We appreciate the reminder on this and any other relevant issue, and we rely on community participation and feedback to let us know how we are doing. As new trustees, we have found Trust staff respectful of our decision-making role and careful to point it out when we seek advice on procedural or substantive questions.

As a trustee, Mike has accessed some interesting reports, particularly about oil spills.

- Did you know that in the event of a spill there is no money available for cleaning wildlife?
- Or that recovering 15% of the spilled oil is considered a job well done?
- How about that the bitumen from the tar sands that is transported by tankers sinks in water, making clean-up next to impossible?

We know these are broad-based concerns. We recently attended a meeting organized by Pender community to raise awareness and discuss how we can respond to protect our marine ecosystems.

Mike is currently looking into marine safety and should have more to report after the quarterly Trust Council meeting on Gabriola Island in early March. If you have any thoughts on this or any other issue, please write to Liz or Mike, or send an email at the Islands Trust website: www.islandstrust.bc.ca