

Gambier Trust Area Trustee Report – October 2017 – Dan Rogers, Keats Island

Welcome to the deluge and windstorm that is “winter” after the drought that was summer in our region. At least the forest fire threat should be eliminated for now and wells fully recharged. It’s harder for those who don’t live on an Island to get there this time of year but we enjoy the time of quiet and change after the busy summers. Did anyone else notice more boat traffic and visitors than ever before?

Since my last report there have been two Local Trust Committee meetings. The first was on Gambier on August 31st and the second was a special meeting on September 20th in North Vancouver to discuss the current issues related to the subdivision proposal for DL 696, Keats Landing.

I want to acknowledge all the folks that came out to the September 20th meeting reflecting the high degree of interest on Keats for this much loved part of Keats Island. At Islands Trust, we are well aware of the passionate commitment to moving forward and to protecting the environment, water sources and access to important places on Keats. As I expect most of you are aware, this is a complicated process and we are proceeding in an organized fashion taking into account the best information available and the views of everyone willing to share them. Please take the time to make your views known either by coming to a meeting on this topic or by writing to the Local Trust Committee. You can find the current state of the application at our “applications” web page here www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/current-applications/current-application-documents/. Any questions or comments can be directed to me or to the Island Planner, Sonja Zupanec, at gambierplanner@islandstrust.bc.ca.

I also attended the Islands Trust Council meeting on Denman Island from September 12th to 14th. As always, the discussion was interesting and lively. I love to learn what is going on on all the different islands. Much of the discussion revolved around the outcome of the vote on Salt Spring on September 9th on whether to incorporate as a municipality or not. (Bowen Island is the only “municipality” within Islands Trust). As you may have heard, the proposal was rejected by 62% of the voters. Governance issues for the over 10,000 residents of Salt Spring remain however the fact Salt Spring voted to remain as a Local Trust Area within Islands Trust was received as good news across the Trust. Trustees across the Trust Area are committed to working with Salt Spring to come up with better ways to make local government work for them and all of us.

On October 13th I attended the Howe Sound Forum at camp Elphinstone just north of Langdale. As always, it was attended by all the local governments in the Howe Sound (Atl'Kitsem) area as well as by a number of representatives from the provincial and federal governments and First Nations, and by scientists and environmentalists and representatives of industry from all over the Lower Mainland. There was so much information at one of these events but one thing I want to share is about an initiative by a number of residents of this area to apply for UNESCO designation of Howe Sound as a Biosphere. It is an inspiring campaign that you can find more about at <https://www.howesoundbri.org/>. Great images and a great video.

Lastly, a reminder that our next Local Trust Committee meeting is on October 26th at 10:45 at John Galbraith Community Centre. <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/meeting-calendar-agendas-minutes/>.

As always, I am happy to take your questions or comments at any time. I can be reached at 604-220-1500 or at drogers@islandstrust.bc.ca

Dan Rogers