

**GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
BYLAW NO. 129**

A BYLAW TO AMEND KEATS ISLAND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN, 2002

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee, being the Trust Committee having jurisdiction in respect of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area under *the Islands Trust Act*, enacts as follows:

Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 77, cited as “Keats Island Official Community Plan, 2002,” is amended as follows:

1. Bylaw No. 77, cited as “Keats Island Official Community Plan, 2002” is amended as shown on Schedule 1.
2. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Keats Island Official Community Plan, 2002, Amendment No. 1, 2015”.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER , 2015

PUBLIC HEARING HELD THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER , 2016

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER , 2016

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER , 2016

APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS TRUST THIS
26TH DAY OF OCTOBER , 2016

APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING THIS
6TH DAY OF DECEMBER , 2017

ADOPTED THIS 8TH DAY OF MARCH , 2018

SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON

GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

BYLAW NO. 129

SCHEDULE 1

Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 77, cited as “Keats Island Official Community Plan, 2002” is amended as follows:

2.1 PART A – ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION is amended as follows:

- a) A new Subsection is inserted after Section 4. AMENDING THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN, Subsection Update and Revision, as follows:

“Development Approval Information – Circumstances and Special Conditions

- 4.7 Development approval information may be required to ensure that development may be accommodated in a manner that sustains natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas and the rural character of the Keats Planning Area. Development approval information may be required to help the Local Trust Committee determine appropriate uses, density and siting of future development.”

2.2 PART B – GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES, Section 3. ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION, is amended as follows:

- a) To Subsection **Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems and Riparian Zones**, a new policy is added with the following text:

“P 3.19 The Province of British Columbia’s *Riparian Areas Protection Act* requires that local governments establish regulations to protect riparian areas. This designation is intended, in part, to protect riparian areas from development so that the areas can provide natural features, functions and conditions that support fish life processes.

Areas where land use and related development may have to be restricted to protect riparian areas include lands falling within Development Permit Area 1: Riparian Areas.”

- b) To Subsection **Coastal and Marine Ecosystems**, policy P 3.19 is renumbered to be “P 3.20”.

2.3 SCHEDULE A – OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN TEXT is amended by adding a new PART C, immediately following PART B – GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES, as follows:

“PART C - DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Section 919.1(1) of the *Local Government Act*, a community plan may designate areas as development permit areas for the:

- a) protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity;
- b) protection of development from hazardous conditions;
- c) protection of farming;
- d) revitalization of an area in which commercial use is permitted;
- e) establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development;
- f) establishment of objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial and multi-dwelling residential development;
- g) establishment of objectives to promote energy conservation;
- h) establishment of objectives to promote water conservation; and,
- i) establishment of objectives to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

For a property in a development permit area, no construction, structural alteration, or addition to a building or structure may take place prior to a development permit being obtained. In addition, a property in a development permit area may not be subdivided, nor the land altered, prior to a development permit being obtained.

As a condition of designating a development permit area in a community plan it is necessary to briefly describe the feature or site to be designated, state the objective to be achieved through designation and outline the guidelines to be complied within the development permit area. This format is used below to describe the development permit areas in the Keats Planning Area. These locations are also shown in map form in Schedule E.

1. DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 1: RIPARIAN AREAS

This development permit area (DPA) is established, pursuant to Section 919.1(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*, for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

The Riparian Areas Development Permit Area (DPA-1) is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*. Development approval information in the form of a report from a qualified environmental professional (QEP) may be required.

Terms used in this section that are defined in the *Riparian Areas Protection Act* are intended to be interpreted in accordance with the definition given in the *Regulation*.

Location

The Riparian Areas Development Permit Area, DP-1, includes all land designated on Schedule E of this plan, and any of the following that provides fish habitat:

- a) a watercourse, whether it usually contains water or not;
- b) a pond, lake, river, creek or brook; or
- c) a ditch, spring or wetland that is connected by surface flow to something referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

For a stream that is not located in a ravine, the development permit area is a 30 metre (98.4 feet) strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark;

For a stream located within a ravine that is less than 60 metres (197 feet) wide, the development permit area is a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 30 metres (98.4 feet) beyond the top of the ravine bank;

For a stream located within a ravine that is 60 metres(197 feet) wide or greater, the development permit area is a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 10 metres (32.8 feet) beyond the top of the ravine bank;

For a lake, wetland or other water body, the development permit area is 30 metres (98.4 feet) around the water body measured from the high water mark of the water body;

The designation and delineation of Development Permit Area 1 consists of a digital record stored and maintained in a Geographic Information System (GIS) at the offices of the Islands Trust. The actual location of the streams and water bodies and the actual extent of the Development Permit Area may need to be determined on a site-specific basis by a qualified environmental professional or a surveyor.

Justification

This development permit area contains streams, lakes and wetlands and their associated riparian areas, which have been identified as potential fish habitat. Riparian areas are necessary for stream and watershed health. Our job as stewards of the land is to ensure that these areas continue to function well into the future.

Riparian ecosystems perform a number of valuable services to humans, plants and animals alike. They support a diversity of plants and animals, provide important refuges and migration routes for birds and wildlife, and support fish life processes. Vegetation in riparian areas moderates the volume and rate of water flowing through the watershed and stabilizes stream banks by holding soil in place. Plant root systems enhance the soil's ability to absorb water by making it more porous. This allows water to be stored and released slowly into the watercourse, reducing potential for erosion and flooding. Soils also filter impurities and sediment from runoff water, improving water quality in the stream channel.

Riparian vegetation provides food and shelter for fish. Shade from trees within the riparian area regulates water temperatures within the stream, which is critical for salmon, trout and other fish species that need cool water to survive. Logs and other woody debris fall into streams from the riparian area influencing stream channel morphology, dissipating the stream's

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natural erosive energy and providing habitat for a diverse range of species. Land use practices, including land clearing, road building, construction of buildings and structures, and location of septic systems in or near riparian areas, can jeopardize these habitats and water quality. Protection of riparian vegetation and watercourses is therefore necessary to protect the natural environment, ecosystems and biological diversity of Keats Island.

It is a policy of the Islands Trust Council that local trust committees shall in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or water courses, wetlands or riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.

Furthermore, the Province of British Columbia's *Riparian Areas Protection Act*, requires that local governments establish regulations to protect riparian areas. This designation is intended to protect riparian areas from development so that the areas can provide natural features, functions and conditions that support fish life processes.

Objectives:

The objectives of this development permit area are as follows:

- OBJ 1.1 TO PROTECT THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND HABITAT VALUES OF RIPARIAN AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS;
- OBJ 1.2 TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT NECESSARY TO CONSERVE PRODUCTIVE FISH HABITAT, INCLUDING BOTH STREAMS AND THE ADJACENT LAND AND VEGETATION; AND
- OBJ 1.3 TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF LAND USE PRACTICES ON WILDLIFE HABITATS AND PLANT HABITATS IN RIPARIAN AREAS.

Development Approval Information

Development Permit Area 1 is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*. Development approval information in the form of a report from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) may be required due to the special conditions and objectives described above.

"Information Note: Development Permit Area Guidelines for DP-1 Riparian Areas are in the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw."

2. DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 2: STREAMSIDE PROTECTION

This development permit area (DPA) is established, pursuant to Section 919.1(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*, for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

The Streamside Protection Development Permit Area (DPA-2) is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*.

Location

The Streamside Protection Development Permit Area, DP-2, includes all land designated on Schedule E of this plan. The development permit area is 30 metres (98.4 feet) measured from the natural boundary of the stream.

Justification

Streamside areas support a diversity of plants and animals, provide important refuges and migration routes for birds and wildlife, and support aquatic life processes. Vegetation in riparian areas moderates the volume and rate of water flowing through the watershed and stabilizes stream banks by holding soil in place. Plant root systems enhance the soil's ability to absorb water by making it more porous. This allows water to be stored and released slowly into the watercourse, reducing potential for erosion and flooding. Soils also filter impurities and sediment from runoff water, improving water quality in the stream channel.

Logs and other woody debris fall into streams from the riparian area influencing stream channel morphology, dissipating the stream's natural erosive energy and providing habitat for a diverse range of species. Land use practices, including land clearing, road building, construction of buildings and structures, and location of septic systems in or near riparian areas, can jeopardize these habitats and water quality. Protection of riparian vegetation and watercourses is therefore necessary to protect the natural environment, ecosystems and biological diversity of Keats Island.

It is a policy of the Islands Trust Council that local trust committees shall in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or water courses, wetlands or riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.

Objectives:

The objectives of this development permit area are as follows:

OBJ 2.1 TO PROTECT THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND HABITAT VALUES OF STREAMSIDE AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS; AND,

OBJ 2.2 TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF LAND USE PRACTICES ON HABITATS FOUND IN STREAMSIDE AREAS.

Development Approval Information

Development Permit Area 2 is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*. Development approval information in the form of a report from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or another professional may be required due to the special conditions and objectives described above.

"Information Note: Development Permit Area Guidelines for DP-2 Streamside Protection are in the Keats Island Land Use Bylaw."

- 2.4 A new schedule is inserted titled "**SCHEDULE E – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS**", as shown in Plan 1, which is attached to and forming part of this bylaw.

