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June 2, 2015

File Number: TH 6500-20/Shoreline Protection

Re: Green Shores™ education and training for shoreline decision-makers program

The Thetis Island Local Trust Committee is pleased to support the Stewardship Centre of British Columbia (SCBC)'s application for funding assistance for a Green Shores for Homes education and training program.

Over the last few years, the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has set shoreline protection as a top work priority. We have been actively involved with the Green Shores for Homes program for the last two years, most recently as one of four pilot communities in the Green Shores for Homes BC Pilot program.

On June 14, 2014, we held a shoreline workshop that successfully brought together technical professionals, contractors, homeowners, community members, and local governments to pragmatically explore soft shoreline solutions for some common issues on the island. Following the site visits was a long and candid discussion about what incentives could help to make Green Shores happen on Thetis Island. Notably, the incentives raised in the conversation spoke more to education and outreach than to financial incentives. A better understanding of "the right thing to do" and the process required to do it seemed to be a crucial obstacle to incentivize. Specific incentives identified included practical workshops with site visits, training for the local community on green shores approaches, and a Green Shores information program for youth.

The opportunity to offer a formalized and robust series of training workshops at a local university is precisely in line with what our community has said would be a substantial incentive to promote the soft shoreline ethos on Thetis Island. We appreciate in particular that all target audiences would be able to participate in this workshop series, as we have found that collaborating across the spectrum of shoreline decision makers fosters a much better understanding of the potential for soft shoreline solutions.

In closing, the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee is pleased to lend its support to this funding initiative and looks forward to collaborating with the Stewardship Centre of BC on this program.

Sincerely,

Susan Morrison
Chair, Thetis Island Trust Committee

cc: Thetis Island Local Trust Committee