

End of summer trustee report August 2018 – Kate-Louise Stamford

Summer is always busy, busy, busy as it's an opportunity to meet part-time property owners and participate in all the community activities that happen during this time.

July 21st **Sea Ranch 40th Anniversary celebration** – Trustee Rogers and I were invited to attend the community barbeque. Visiting the Sea Ranch at the head of Long Bay is like being on a different island with its gently rolling fields and distinctly agrarian history. More than 200 people attended the event and it was wonderful to witness how special this community is viewed by both current and past members.

July 26th Local Trust Committee meeting and **Community Information Meeting on Shoreline Protection for Keats** – Islands Trust staff presented current shoreline status on Keats as well as how trends in development and sea level change are affecting the shoreline. This was a productive first meeting to discuss with the Keats community members what, and if, further shoreline protection could look like.

August 9th – **Gambier Advisory Planning Commission** session on Riparian Area and Wetland Protection Regulations. There are still questions around definitions and landowner process for these draft regulations, but the overall goal to protect freshwater sources and habitat across the island is an important one, and I applaud the APC for their valuable input into this project. Please see this link for further information.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/projects-initiatives/riparian-areas-protection/>

The 2-year term for the Gambier Island Advisory Planning Commission is up and we are looking for new members. Please see this link if you are interested in participating.

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier.aspx>

August 11th – **Gambier Island Community Association AGM**. The focus for the Association this year is to follow up on safety initiatives and there was a request from the membership to address the problem of abandoned cars.

The SCRD Director Ian Winn and CAO Janette Loveys participated in a public dialogue after the AGM to specifically address trail development process concerns on the SW Peninsula.

August 15th - **Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative update at Gibsons Market**. This project, spearheaded by Brigade Bay community member Ruth Simons, is a way to raise the profile of this amazing region as part of the UNESCO Man in the Biosphere designation. Several other islanders took their private boat to attend this informative evening event at the Market as well.

For more information see link here

<https://www.howesoundbri.org/>

August 19th – **Safety meeting**. Following the Emergency Services meeting held at the end of April, the Gambier Island Community Association has initiated a safety committee to review emergency and safety coordination in all its facets from household medical preparedness to forest fire evacuation. I see my role as providing communication to other island communities and supporting the various projects where appropriate. This summer seems to have been particularly harrowing for islanders in terms of medical emergencies, so the more we can do to be prepared as neighbours, the better.

August 26th – **Eelgrass Conservation workshop**. A big thank you to the Gambier Island Conservancy for organizing with the Salish Sea Near Shore Recovery Project (Nikki Wright and Fiona Beaty) for this presentation and site visit about eelgrass restoration around Gambier Island. It was a little depressing to hear that the island's eelgrass beds are in particularly poor condition due to the long-term effects of historical log booming here, but there are exciting possibilities for replanting and restoration in several of the bays.

Other Activities

- July 17th – Islands Trust Conservancy - Victoria
- August 3rd – Ocean Watch Task Force Meeting (co-chair). As well as various phone conference meetings about different aspects of the Ocean Watch initiatives.
- Advocacy letter on behalf of the Local Trust Committee to DFO supporting fishing closure around glass sponge formations in the sound.
- Lots of calls, lots of emails and even a rescue!

UPCOMING

Trust Council – Keats Camp Keats Island Sept 18-20

The public is welcome to attend the last of the quarterly Trust Council meetings this term. The meeting will be held in the Chart Room at Keats Camp accessible by the Stormaway drop off at Keats Landing. I am working with staff to sort out the logistics of people from Gambier attending.

Please contact me at kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca or 778-235-2240 if you are interested and will provide you with further details.

Delegations and Town Hall – From 2 – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, Trust Council will invite members of the public to present their federation-wide concerns to trustees, ask questions and, make suggestions about the work of Trust Council.

Please see this link for further details:

<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/media/346277/2018-07-it-sept-2018-tc-news-release.pdf>

ELECTIONS

Look for local election information coming from the Gambier Island Community Association soon. The Sunshine Coast Regional District is offering a mail-in ballot option to electors for the first time. Please see link for further information:

<http://www.scrd.ca/General-Government>

I am running again for the position of Trustee to represent the islands in the local trust area.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about items in this report please contact me at kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca or phone 778-235-2240. If I can't answer, I'll find someone who can.

Respectfully,

Kate-Louise Stamford, Islands Trust - Gambier Island Local Trustee