

Pender Post November 2018
North Pender Trustee Corner
By Deb Morrison

Many of you may know me as Marina and Seth's mom or Graham Garlick's partner as I have been a quiet member of this community, though active in terms of organizing the Penducky Derby for Moving Around Pender and the Lions Club. Information on my history and professional connections is available at www.debmorrison.me. As your incoming local representative for the Islands Trust, I want to give you some idea about my values and beliefs beyond what my website provides so I'll try to answer the questions: What are my commitments? And what do I want to see for Pender in the future?

As a citizen, I have a deep commitment to justice and have been a long time advocate for scientific literacy. I make decisions based on the best available evidence, though I also understand that there are often multiple perspectives and sometimes conflicting evidence in certain situations. In such situations, I seek out knowledgeable local experts to inform me, listen deeply, and weigh different perspectives while also considering available data. I believe in a strong community ethic where collectively we make decisions to preserve the health and well being of our lands and waters, our families, our neighbors, and our community as a whole. I also believe that everyone has responsibility to step up and do what needs to be done to make our community strong. I will always have our collective best interests at heart and in my actions.

For the future of Pender Island, I would like to ensure that everyone here has sufficient, accessible, clean water and that any future development integrates water management in design considerations beyond drawing on already limited aquifers. I would like to see that our use of resources, including land, is done in a way that preserves the health of our environment and maintains our shared goals as a community. I know that affordable housing has been a continued and difficult problem for many people; to this end it would be good to work with the Islands Trust planners to figure out long term solutions that work within our environmental guidelines for riparian preservation, water conservation, sewage management, and ALR zoning restrictions.

I would like to invite people for coffee chats at the community hall cafe on Oct. 27 and Nov 3 from 10-11am to get to know each other better. I hope to be able to continue this in the future a few times a month and will post future dates in the Pender Post each month. I highly encourage you to communicate with me by email (educator.deb@gmail.com) or on a Saturday morning chat time so that I can carefully consider and record your thinking. Know that while I love it if you stop me in the grocery to chat, it is harder for me to ensure your thinking is fully documented when I go to make decisions for us as a community so please follow up with an email. I look forward to serving your interests in the coming four years.