

## Mayne Island LTC Trustee Report – January 2018

Your trustees attended the quarterly Trust Council meeting Dec 5-7 in Victoria.

Trustees were honoured with special guests from the Kosapsum, (Esquimalt) and Lekwungen, (Songhees) First Nations who presented opening remarks prior to the start of our meeting.

Following this traditional ceremony our meeting commenced. Highlights were a presentation from Transport Canada regarding the Oceans Protection Plan, unfortunately the presenters, or ironically, were unable to attend in person due to fog conditions in Vancouver harbour. With the aid of technology we had a phone in presentation. The major highlight of this presentation was a clear No to the question about increasing anchorage sites in the Islands Trust area at this time, the waters around Gabriola Island had been proposed for more sites. A thorough review of anchorages will be conducted within the context of the Oceans Plan. Shipping in the Salish Sea is increasing in volume and complexity, the long standing sites in the Trust area have created concerns over the impact on the ocean environment as well as the residents on the shorelines; air quality and continued noise pollution has led to strong lobbies to change how ships are permitted to be anchored in our waters.

Councillors from San Juan County attended our Wednesday session. Our various Islands are strongly linked by location and we share the same challenges with both the natural and built environments, the growing concern over potential increased oil tanker traffic within the Salish Sea is a mutual concern and a motion was passed to request increased emergency response vessels be added to the Sidney area.

Both Brian and I wish to express our condolences to the family of Ann Johnston, Ann as you will know has been a long time champion of environmental protection, recently the conclusion of the purchase of St. John Pt. was the crowning jewel of her hard work which she undertook with many others. Ann was the recipient of an Islands Trust Stewardship award in 2006 for her work with the recycling programs of BC and as a driver behind our first recycle centre. Ann was a regular attendee at our meetings and we will miss her passion and enduring commitment to the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust.

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Presentations also came from Parks Canada regarding the revitalized National Marine Conservation Area proposal for most of the Islands Trust area, currently the boundary ends north of Gabriola and only includes the waters on the eastern boundaries of the Islands to the south of Gabriola.

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Trust Council anticipates a busy 2018 for its final term. Several new initiatives include a working group to study how to revitalize the Islands Trust Act and address better ways to collaborate with the various Regional Districts. Changes to the Islands Trust Act are long overdue but require Provincial willingness to see them to completion, something the Trust Council is hoping will happen in the near future.

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