

Dear Trustees,

I was unable to attend the last LTC meeting on Oct. 4, 2018 . After reading Trustee Brent's article in the December Scribbler I met with Gary Richardson. It was then that I was able to see a copy of the Minutes of the October meeting and learn that Gary had been directed to draft amendments to Proposed bylaw No 122 "in order to allow secondary suites in all residences within the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee area and to require water catchment and storage systems for secondary suites in areas identified as having moderate, moderately high, and high vulnerability to saltwater intrusion, unless those areas are served by a community water system. " Gary indicated that he had spoken to Pat Lapcevic at FLNRO and that she was ok with these amendments.

Since Pat Lapcevic had previously spoken against a proposed secondary suite bylaw 4+ years ago and another one in the summer of 2018 because of concerns about lack of groundwater protection I wondered why she would now think that a bylaw that offered less protection to groundwater than the last one would be acceptable so I contacted her. The following is from an email I received from Pat Lapcevic on December 20, 2018. "Thank you for your email. I appreciate your concerns that the By-law doesn't go far enough in regards to groundwater protection. To clarify, our comment: "if a property owner was using rainwater catchment as their primary source of potable water and could demonstrate that their supply is adequate for the secondary suite, then the restriction in Schedule D could be waived". The recommended restriction in Schedule D was not to permit secondary suites in Moderate, Moderately High or High vulnerability areas. I didn't see the final text for the by-law so I don't know how my comments were incorporated. Yes, it is still an offence under the Water Sustainability Act to pump excessively and cause saltwater intrusion regardless of the private domestic user exemption."

I am indeed concerned about the lack of groundwater protection when allowing increased density and intensity of groundwater use associated with secondary suites (and STVRs). With one exception I think that the community water systems on Saturna do a reasonable job of protecting

groundwater with their regular monitoring and testing and feel comfortable if they choose to allow secondary suites on their system. However there is no regular monitoring or testing of private wells and no control over the amount of groundwater used by them. As a result the overpumping of groundwater from private wells has lead to the well documented degradation of the aquifer at East Point and possibly in other areas. I urge our Trustees to make land use decisions that preserve and protect our water resources and not to allow new development/increased density that would increase the intensity of use of groundwater from private wells in areas of moderate to high susceptibility to salt water intrusion.

Sincerely,

Janet Land