

Pender Post February 2019
North Pender Trustee Corner
By Ben McConchie

This is my first post as Trustee for North Pender Island. As mentioned in the January Pender Post, Deb Morrison and I will alternate writing these articles every month, in order to better inform you, the taxpayers who help fund the Islands Trust, about North Pender issues and upcoming meetings. Firstly, Deb and I would like to thank all of those who stepped up during the December windstorm. There were so many stories of people helping those in need, and we are incredibly proud of how Pender Islanders took care of each other during this eventful time. We appreciate all of the efforts of our emergency services and the numerous volunteers, business operators, neighbours, and friends who showed what Pender is all about.

On February 28th at 10am, the Local Trust Committee will take place at the Community Hall. Even if you can't make our meeting time, there are many options to have your voice heard. We take every email, letter, and phone call into consideration when making a challenging decision on a pressing island issue. We encourage you to go to our website at www.penderislandstrust.org where you can find feedback surveys regarding some of the major issues we are dealing with during this term: Waste Management, Tourism, Communication, Housing, Climate Change, and Bylaw Enforcement.

Thank you to those who attended the information meeting on Tourism at the school and the meeting about the role of the Islands Trust in our community at the Hall on January 12th. We are hoping to continue to engage and inform people as much as possible during our term. Deb and I also attended Trust Council in Nanaimo on January 15-16. This meeting was dedicated to orientation and budget discussions. The Trust Council voted in favour of presenting a budget for public consultation in the coming months. Please visit www.islandstrust.bc.ca in order to review the proposed budget and have your voice heard.

Personally, I am incredibly impressed by the intergovernmental cooperation taking place during the early stages of this term. Both North and South Pender Island Trustees are committed to working towards preserving and protecting our island community, and are looking forward to working with the CRD (Dave Howe, Director), the Province (Adam Olsen, MLA), and the Federal government (Elizabeth May, MP) in order to ensure that our island continues to be one of the greatest places to live and raise a family, in the world. Your elected officials are engaged and connected. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time to voice your concerns or offer opinions. We look forward to hearing from you.