



Trust Matters *Preserving Island Communities, Culture and the Environment*

Jeanine and I attended Trust Council on Gabriola Island from March 12th – 14th. Highlights included approval of the Trust budget and Trust Council made the following declarations regarding reconciliation:

“The Islands Trust Council acknowledges that the lands and waters that encompass the Islands Trust Area have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial and honours the rich history, stewardship, and cultural heritage that embody this place we all call home. The Islands Trust Council is committed to establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Islands Trust states a commitment to reconciliation with the understanding that this commitment is a long-term relationship-building and healing process. The Islands Trust Council will strive to create opportunities for knowledge-sharing and understanding as people come together to preserve and protect the special nature of the Islands within the Salish Sea and that the Islands Trust Council request the Chair to write to First Nations in the Islands Trust Area



to provide Trust Council’s declaration regarding reconciliation.”
The Commercial Land Use review continues, with a public information meeting having been held on March 25th. The positive comments received to date on this initiative make this long and complex project a worthwhile exercise.

I attended the Mayne Island Housing Society’s AGM on February 16th, where they brought the members up-to-date on the progress of their plans and a wonderful talk was given by Peter Robinson, former Director of BC Housing. At the same time Jeanine attended ‘Seedy Saturday’ at the Ag Hall, where she was honoured to be able to hear First Nations Elder Dr. John Elliot’s opening of the event.

The Islands Trust offices in Oak Bay are currently undergoing an extensive renovation, making life for staff somewhat difficult but also allowing our Planner, Gary Richardson, to have more time on the Island and to meet with those in need of planning services from the Trust.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact Jeanine or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Submitted by David Maude

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