



Islands Trust

# News Release

1 - 500 Lower Ganges Road Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2N8  
Telephone **250.537.9144** Fax 250.537.9116

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660-2421. Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**

Email [ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Web [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

July 09, 2012

## PROPOSED BYLAW WOULD SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING, WHILE PROTECTING WATER SOURCES

On July 5, 2012, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee gave first reading to proposed Bylaw 461, a bylaw that could permit secondary suites as a pilot project in some parts of Salt Spring Island.

“Proposed Bylaw 461 identifies regions of the island along transit routes that are not water sensitive as ideal locations to pilot a secondary suites bylaw. It provides a balance between the need for more rental housing and the need to protect water-vulnerable areas of Salt Spring Island,” said Trustee George Grams, a member of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC). “It is the first phase of a longer term plan to legalize secondary suites elsewhere on Salt Spring Island. We are looking for community input into the proposed bylaw over the summer, before considering what improvements might be made in the fall.”

The proposed bylaw was developed to implement affordable housing policies in the 2008 Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (OCP), which resulted from extensive public input over a 10-year period. The OCP provides direction about how secondary suites can be permitted while protecting water supplies. The SSILTC and staff have been consulting with the community and working towards regulations that permit secondary suites since late 2010. If adopted, proposed Bylaw 461 would allow secondary suites on 1,598 new properties.

“We have benefitted from much community input into this topic,” said Trustee Peter Grove, the other local trustee on the SSILTC. “Legalizing secondary suites was identified as a need by the Salt Spring Island Housing Needs Assessment (2010) and the Community Affordable Housing Strategy (2011). Secondary Suites will increase the stock of rental housing and enable home owners to benefit from mortgage helpers.”

The proposed Salt Spring Island Secondary Suites Bylaw 461, including a map that shows where secondary suites could be permitted, can be viewed on the Islands Trust website by visiting <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lc/ss/lubproject2010suites.cfm>. There will be opportunities for input into the proposed bylaw advertised in the near future. Community members are encouraged to stay tuned and to give feedback at any time by contacting planning staff or members of the SSILTC.

The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust is responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, education, cooperation with other agencies, and land conservation. The area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island including Howe Sound and as far north as Comox (excluding Texada Island). The area is approximately 5200 square kilometres in size and includes 13 major islands and over 450 smaller islands.

### CONTACT

-30-

Justine Starke  
Island Planner  
250.538.5602

George Grams  
Salt Spring Island Trustee  
250.537.5439

Peter Grove  
Salt Spring Island Trustee  
250.537.1117

*Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment*

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis