



News Release

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LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE REZONING SUPPORTS COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

SALT SPRING ISLAND — On September 20, 2012, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee approved zoning which supports a new building supply centre and agricultural production facility on Salt Spring Island.

The rezoning application was initiated by property owner, Beddis Developments Ltd. Following discussions with local agricultural producers, the Agricultural Land Commission agreed to allow exclusion from the Agricultural Land Reserve of a portion of a five-hectare site on Beddis Road for relocating and expanding the Slegg Lumber building supply centre. In exchange, the ALC asked that a 0.6 hectare parcel and funding for a storage building be donated to Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society, for a farm-grown food distribution centre close to Ganges Village.

In past years, the larger portion of the site had been used for sawmill and gravel extraction and, more recently, for lumber storage. The rezoning approval allows construction of a 3,250 square meter retail and wholesale facility, intended for Slegg Lumber. After relocating to the new, larger centre, the current Slegg Lumber site on Fulford Ganges Road will be available for another industrial business.

During the Islands Trust rezoning and development permit process, measures were put in place to retain storm water drainage on site and to protect two watercourses on either side of the property. A treed setback will remain to buffer neighbouring agricultural lands.

“This is an excellent model of rezoning” said George Grams, local trustee, after the Local Trust Committee voted to approve the zoning bylaws. “Slegg representatives may be good advisors to other applicants pursuing development opportunities in the Gulf Islands.”

“I want to thank Beddis Developments Ltd for being so responsive to working with its neighbours in the agricultural community, particularly the donation to the Farm Land Trust Society,” said local trustee Peter Grove. “I am looking forward to seeing the site developed following subdivision”.

The land donation and ALR exclusion are scheduled to occur at time of final subdivision registration.

The Islands Trust is a federation of local government bodies representing 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 Islands 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.

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