

Denman Local Trust Committee Meeting Report

David Graham, Trustee

Despite evidence of an early spring having been observed days before, the Feb 25th Denman Local Trust Committees (DLTC) meeting was held with a foot of snow on the ground!

Steve Schut, Senior Aquaculture Biologist with the Aquaculture Environmental Operations, Fisheries Management team, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), made it to the meeting and gave a very interesting presentation on what his four member team does with regards to compliance inspections and aquaculture practices in Baynes Sound. Members of the Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards (ADIMS) were present and heard the answers to their questions, as well as those posed by the Trustees. In short it looks as if the recent change in who is responsible for aquaculture management; from the province to the federal DFO, might have put more inspection personnel onto the ground, resulting in higher levels of compliance by aquaculture practitioners.

Tristan Willmott, Aquatic/Terrestrial Biologist representing Madrone Environmental Services made it to the meeting and presented his report on Denman Island Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) Stream Identification. This work concludes an examination of all RAR applicable streams and wetlands on Denman. A Community Information Meeting is planned for sometime in the Spring to share this information and provide a forum for community members who have questions as to how this provincial regulation could impact those who live on lands affected by the RAR.

Trustees discussed recommendations made by the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) regarding proposed changes to housing regulations. Please watch for details of a Community Information Meeting, to be held this Spring. Suites and Cottages will be the topic. Proposed regulations including the "Where, How and What" details for these housing options will be up for discussion.

Finally the DLTC re-appointed three members to the APC: Jessie Edwards, Lindsay Graf and Henning Nielsen join current APC members, Ralph McCuaig and Daryl McLoughlin. Many thanks to those of you who put your names forward for consideration.

Next meeting will be April 1, 10:30 am in the Senior's Lounge.