

# Denman Local Trust Committee Report

*David Graham*

Spring flowers, Bumble Bee and bird activity provided evidence that Spring is here! Despite the date, April 1st, no jokes were perpetrated, but the Denman Island Local Trust Committee (DLTC) did meet and conducted business as usual in the newly renovated Senior's Lounge.

Highlights included reviewing Marine Advisory Planning Commission (MAPC) recommendations regarding which beach accesses would be suitable candidates for vehicle control measures aimed at preventing unauthorized vehicle activity on the foreshore. Millard Rd, Hinton Rd and Denman West Rd beach accesses made the list and will be considered by the DLTC once further options are fleshed out by a subsequent referral to the MAPC. Sandy/pebble beaches provide spawning areas for forage fish. Burrowed within the sand grains, Pacific sand lance, clams, worms, and amphipods attract many predators. Salt-tolerant grasses line vibrant estuary shores, essential nurseries for salmon and countless bird and fish species. All of these suffer from compaction due to vehicles driving on the beach.

Correspondence, condemning any increase in aquaculture activity in the waters of Baynes Sound, which has been sent to the provincial regulatory agency responsible for issuing tenures, and copied to the DLTC, was received. Trustees noted the high level of science based evidence submitted which points to an already oversubscribed industrial level of activity.

The DLTC received the Trust Fund's final report: **Nearshore Eelgrass Inventory 2012-2013**. Mapping results confirm that approximately 33.2% of the shoreline of Denman has eelgrass present. This is the highest shoreline coverage in the Islands Trust Area! A potential eelgrass restoration site was identified near Metcalf Bay. The eelgrass map is accessed through the Islands Trust MapIT program. From the main Islands Trust Web site click the **MapIT** symbol found at the bottom of the page or search <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/maps/mapit.aspx>

Finally the DLTC received the, **Gulf Islands Groundwater Protection - A Regulatory Toolkit** publication which was a product of Trust Council's Local Planning Committee. This tool kit has information about freshwater and various regulatory tools which can be used by local governments to protect it.

The next meeting is Wednesday (not Tuesday!) May 7th at 10:30 in the Senior's Lounge. Agenda items are posted on the Islands Trust Denman web page and locally at the Denman Store, Senior's Activity Centre and Old School Bulletin boards.