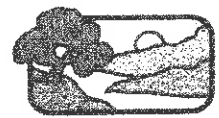


Trustee Notebook

By Laura Busheikin



Islands Trust

JOIN AN ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION — there are now three to choose from!

As the name suggests, an advisory planning commission (APC) is a group of Denman Islanders appointed by the Local Trust Committee (DLTC) to give advice. An APC can meet once a month or once a year, depending on how much work is referred to it.

APC advice is a key part of the DLTC decision-making process, because the DLTC has a duty to consult. Yes, we have many other ways we hear from Islanders, such as correspondence, comments at public meetings, delegations, and conversations both formal and informal. This is all valuable, but the APC provides something a bit different: feedback from a small group of volunteers who have been given a specific topic, briefed ahead of time, and spent a couple of hours in focussed discussion.

Why would someone join the APC? As a former member, I'll attempt to answer that: I valued the opportunity to become more deeply educated about local issues and about how local government works. I enjoyed working with Trust staff and Trustees. I liked the challenge of articulating my ideas about community issues and seeing how they compared to others' ideas, in a small group format. And, of course, I appreciated having input into local decisions. APC involvement was one way of digging my roots a little deeper into local soil.

We now have three APCs, all needing members:

The Advisory Planning Commission, in the past couple of years, has scrutinized a proposed bylaw for the protection of streams, lakes and wetlands, and commented on a rezoning application for affordable housing. It needs three more members.

The Marine Advisory Planning Commission was formed a year ago and has yet to receive a referral, but the LTC has a review of marine regulations and guidelines slated for 2013, this commission will be called into action. It needs three more members.

The Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission is brand new, created out of a recommendation in the Denman Island Farm Plan. It can deal with anything relating to agriculture, for instance, how to make some of the recommendations in the Farm Plan come to fruition. It needs six members.

Interested? Newcomers to this kind of work needn't be intimidated: you'll receive training and have staff on hand to answer questions. The deadline for expressions of interest is Feb 24, 2013; watch the local papers for more info on how to apply.



INTRODUCING ALEKSANDRA BRZOWSKI

I'd like to introduce you to our new Island Planner, Aleksandra Brzowski. Planner Brzowski began work on December 3, 2012, taking over the position from Courtney Simpson.

Aleksandra has a diversity of experience including several years with the City of Coquitlam, as well as with Sustainable Cities International in Durban, South Africa. She has a Masters in Planning degree from the University of British Columbia, and a bachelor's degree in Geography.

I asked Aleksandra why she wanted to work for the Trust.

"The chance to manage projects that deal with such unique circumstances," she answered. "After traveling the world for a while, I feel lucky to have found "exotic" planning work close to Vancouver. I have wonderful memories of visiting the Gulf Islands when I was growing up."

Aleksandra describes herself as a singer, an avid rambler, and someone who loves learning new things.

Previous Island Planner Simpson has moved into the position of Acting Regional Planning Manager for the Northern Islands. On behalf of the Denman Local Trust Committee I thank Planner Simpson for her professionalism, hard work, and her obvious passion for serving the Denman community and the Trust. She has always been a pleasure to work with. Luckily, in her new position she will still be at hand for questions and will be regularly involved with Denman planning work.