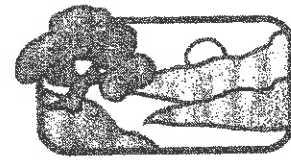


# Trustee Notebook

By Laura Busheikin



## Islands Trust

### Community Stewardship Awards

Every now and then, I'm flooded with gratitude for something someone on Denman has done. It happened to me the other day in Central Park. I noticed the trails had been refreshed and thought about the people who had made that happen – how much they give, and for nothing other than the satisfaction of getting it done.

This feeling strikes me regularly, about all kinds of things. Ambulance workers and firefighters, local businesses, healers and caregivers, farmers, activists, builders, and all the inspiring folk who walk their talk every day -- at some time I've been absolutely and quite dramatically filled with appreciation for each of these, and others.

Usually what I do is write an effusive letter of thanks in my head, imagining I'll publish it in the Flagstone. But somehow this never quite happens – I'm too busy, I feel shy, I worry about leaving all the others out, I've missed the deadline.... Excuses pop up as abundantly as weeds. Perhaps that's why I enjoy taking part in choosing the recipients of the Island Trust Community Stewardship Awards, given annually by Trust Council to individuals, groups, businesses, and schools and classrooms in the Trust Area who have made significant contributions to the object of the Islands Trust.

This year's nominations include two Denman Island entries: Ana Miriam Leigh has been nominated posthumously for her work with the Denman Island Women's Outreach Society, and the Denman Island Volunteer Firefighting Society has been nominated in the group category. There are 14 nominations altogether and you can read about them at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/poi/awards.cfm>.

Denman tends to be well-represented in the awards (last year, Peter Karsten was recognized for enduring achievement), which pleases me, not because I believe that we have "better people" than other Islands, but rather because we seem to be good at honouring them. It takes time to go to the bother of filling out the application forms (and there's no award for that job) and I want to say thank you to the nominators.

Choosing the winners is of course a somewhat frustrating experience, as generally they are all extremely deserving. The Trust Programs Committee (which I sit on) reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to Trust Council, and it is that body, which consists of all Trustees from throughout Trust area, that makes the final decision

(this will happen in June). Winning is not the main point – these awards are above all a way to honour the inspiring fact that our Islands are full of remarkable individuals and groups, who give so generously of their time, creativity, minds and hearts.

### New Denman Island Planner

I'd like to introduce our new Island Planner, Rob Milne, who comes to us highly qualified and with a good knowledge of this region. Rob replaces Aleksandra Brzozowski, who will remain on staff but move to other assignments after a transition period. Rob will be the Island Planner for both Hornby and Denman Islands. Rob has spent the last four years with the Town of High River, Alberta, first as Director of Development Services then as Director of Special Initiatives. Prior to that, Rob spent many years as a planner at the Comox Valley Regional District and its predecessor, the Comox-Strathcona Regional District. He is looking forward to moving back to the west coast to be closer to family and friends.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Rob and thank Aleksandra for her excellent work on our Island.

### Upcoming Housing Regulations Review

Starting this summer, the Denman Island Local Trust Committee will be reviewing our housing policies, focusing on secondary dwellings units (this includes suites and accessory cottages). We plan to start with a thorough community discussion before moving into possible consideration of any changes to the Official Community Plan and/or Land Use Bylaw. This project is a response to ongoing community concerns about affordable housing, elder and caregiver housing, and the dynamics of providing visitor accommodation.

We are fortunate to have a summer Student Planner assigned to help organize this: *Seth Wright* is a Masters in Planning student at the University of Toronto with an undergraduate degree in Geography from the University of Victoria. Before moving to Toronto to study, he worked at Stowel Lake Farm on Salt Spring Island as Farm Manager for two years. Welcome, Seth.