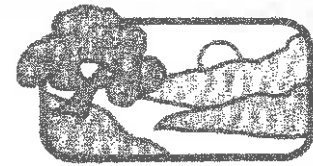


Trustee Notebook

By Laura Busheikin



Islands Trust

A Month in the Life of an Islands Trustee

These are not dull times for the Denman Island Local Trust Committee. Our two top projects – shellfish aquaculture and housing regulations – are complicated and challenging, and both have complex local histories stretching back decades. These seem to be the issues Denmanites most want to talk to us about, they are the ones I spend most of my research time on, and the ones I mull over throughout the day. They're hot topics!

At the same time, there are plenty of other things going on in the working life of a Local Trustee, and I'm going to devote this column to these. My fellow Trustee David Graham and I will continue to update you in our respective columns (mine here, his in the Grapevine) of developments on the two top priority topics, but for now let's widen our perspective.

The best place to get an overview might be my calendar. It tells me that tomorrow (I'm writing this in mid-October), I'm attending an "Building Housing Solutions Together" Forum presented by the Comox Valley Housing Task Force. This day of presentations by housing organizations and activists includes a special session for local government representatives. I'm hoping I'll learn something useful, get new ideas and motivation, and meet some interesting people.

Next Monday I will attend the Denman Island Residents' Association meeting. I (mostly) attend every month where I learn about what's going on in the community. I also make a (mostly) brief report on Denman Island Local Trust Committee news.

The third Tuesday brings our monthly Local Trust Committee business meeting, which will provide the Committee with an opportunity to move forward with our top priority items, review correspondence, respond to any rezoning or other applications, and hear from the public both informally, in the Town Hall session where anyone can speak, and somewhat more formally, through delegations (anyone wanting to speak as a delegation should contact planning secretary Becky McErlean and/or our Chair Peter Luckham 10 working days prior to the meeting.)

Soon after that is an annual meeting with the RCMP to discuss issues related to policing on Hornby and Denman islands. I attend along with Trustee Graham, and the Denman Fire Chief. so we can discuss any issues related to policing on Hornby and Denman Islands. In past years, it's always been interesting to see how different

each Island is, with policing being, generally, a much more significant topic on Hornby, which in the summers has a wider spectrum of policing issues.

The week after, I attend the quarterly Hornby and Denman Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting on Hornby Island. I sit on that committee as a DLTC representative, alongside members representing the Denman Fire Department, seniors, school, DIRA and Denman Works, a full team for Hornby, and a selection of management from BC Ferries.

The FAC's main role is to be a conduit of information between the community and BC Ferries. Since I joined two years ago, our meetings have consistently included plenty of discussion of the cable ferry, as the FAC has worked hard to represent our communities' concerns in ways that could lead to favourable results. Cable ferry questions continue to fill our agenda. Meetings are open to the public.

In early November I will attend a Trust Programs Committee meeting in Ladysmith – this group, made up of about 10 Trustees from throughout the Trust area, is responsible for developing strategies *other* than regulation to achieve the Islands Trust's object to "preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment..."

Throughout the month, I spend a lot of time taking in information; for instance each of the Trust meetings mentioned above is preceded by a voluminous meeting package, sometimes several hundred pages long. We are tasked with making evidence-based, balanced decisions and that means gathering information and thinking things through.

These are fairly typical of the types of things local Trustees do, as well as dealing with our top priority topics and all the other items that show up on our business meeting agendas. These, by the way, are posted outside the Old School and Seniors' Hall, and can be found online at islandstrust.bc.ca/ (the landing page shows a map; click on Denman Island to get to get to our meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, and more).