

Annual RCMP Meeting Report

Denman apparently had less need for the RCMP in the summer of 2013 than 2012.

I learned this at the annual meeting between representatives of the RCMP and Denman and Hornby Island communities. This meeting is organized by the Comox Valley Regional District to provide an opportunity to talk about whatever issues we wish to put on the agenda.

To be more specific about my opening statement: from May 15 – Sept 15, 2013, there were 28 founded calls for police service made from Denman Island, 26% fewer than in 2013. As a reference point, we can compare this to Hornby Island, which has a similar population: in the same time frame, they had 153 total founded calls for services, up from 137 in 2012.

Turning our gaze back to Denman, I was interested to see that 10 of these calls were for criminal code violations, 67% more than in 2012. These violations included one assault, one utterance of threats, one motor vehicle theft, two thefts from a motor vehicle, one case of mischief, two cases of causing a disturbance, and two miscellaneous offences.

As well as providing statistics, RCMP members let us know that the level of policing on both Islands will remain steady, with four members assigned to the two islands for the summer months.

We (by which I mean the community reps from both Islands – Islands Trustees, Residents' Association Chairs, Fire Chiefs) asked the RCMP to keep the Islands informed about policing issues. Since then, I've spoken with the Community Policing/Media Liaison who will be following up with occasional updates in our local media.

Although the Local Trust Committee has no involvement in policing, we attend these meetings in a liaison role. I am, in these sorts of situations, always very aware that the whole idea of "speaking for the community" is nebulous at best, and do my best to keep our wonderful diversity front and centre in my thoughts. Luckily, there are no contentious policing issues at this point – may it ever be so!

Housing Regulations Review

The Local Trust Committee is moving steadily forward with our review of housing regulations. At our October meeting we re-affirmed our scope to focus specifically on secondary cottages and suites as a potential way to help meet a range of evolving housing needs on Denman.

The review will include work on definitions for these

terms, but for now I'll try to put it in lay language: a "secondary cottage" is a freestanding building set up as a residence on the property of a main residence. You could call it a cabin if you like. A "secondary suite" is a self-contained room or set of rooms functioning as a residence within the footprint of the main dwelling, often with a separate entrance. We are including consideration of movable dwelling units (such as trailers and caravans) in the review, and are discussing using a Temporary Use Permit – something new for Denman – as a regulatory tool for the secondary cottages.

As I write this, I am looking forward to our November meeting where we will be considering specific possibilities for bylaw amendments, as well as our next steps in bringing this forward to the community for input. Watch for Trustee David Graham's updates in the Grapevine to learn more.

Talk to Us

Just a reminder that you can contact Island Trust staff or Trustees with any questions, input or ideas. If you're not sure who to talk to, don't worry, we'll get you in touch with the right person.

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