

# Trustee Notebook

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Islands Trust

## Community Stewardship Awards deadline April 16

Have you ever felt a compelling need to publicly thank one of our Island's many amazing individuals or groups for their invaluable contribution to our Island? The Islands Trust Community Stewardship Awards offers one way to do that.

The Islands Trust Council gives these awards to individuals, groups, businesses, and schools and classrooms who have made significant contributions to the object of the Islands Trust, which is "to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the trust area and of the province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of British Columbia."

Denman Island is generally a strong presence in the awards -- there are often multiple nominees from our Island. Last year, Ana Miriam Leigh won a post-honorary award for her many years of work supporting women and combating family violence. The previous year, Peter Karsten was recognized with an award for enduring achievement.

As I wrote last year, this is not an indication that we have "better people" than other Islands, but rather that we seem to be good at honouring them, which is what the awards are really about. And more than that -- the awards are also a way of spreading the word about good work being done, and thus inspiring others. It's a form of cross-pollination, Island to Island.

So if there is someone, or some organization, that you'd like to thank -- a tireless worker, an inspiring visionary, a lynchpin of the community -- please consider taking the time to fill out an application. Award nominees can come from just about any field -- environmental protection, animal welfare, arts and culture, education, business, media, health care, and more.

You can apply on-line or print out an application to send by post. The deadline is April 16. Rewards will be announced in June and will be presented in the fall. More info and applications at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/projects/stewardship-awards.aspx>.

## Report on "External Affairs"

You may have noticed, in reading the Islands Trust mandate above, the phrase about cooperating with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, etc. Some of this work isn't particularly visible to the public, because it may not happen at our regular Local Trust Committee meetings, so I'll take this opportunity to report on two meetings I attended over the last month.

### Talking with the Comox Valley Regional District

On February 28, the Denman and Hornby Local Trust Committees, along with Islands Trust staff, met with our Regional Director Bruce Joliffe and staff of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD).

Among other topics, the CVRD reported on its current review of its Rural Official Community Plan. Denman Island is not governed by this plan, since as a Trust Island it has its own OCP, but as immediate neighbours we may still find it relevant.

We learned that people living in rural Comox Valley (all the areas of the Valley not included in the three municipalities of Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland) are talking about a lot of the same issues we talk about on Denman: the state of the environment, housing, ageing in place and other challenges/opportunities connected to an increasing seniors' population, watershed protection, self-sustainability, retaining and engaging youth, and finding ways to support economic activity that works in a rural context. More info on the Rural OCP review is on the CVRD website.

The CVRD also reported on plans for the next phase of the Denman cross-island trail project, which will stretch from the top of the big hill to the Old School. Funding is in place and we can expect to hear more about it by late Spring or early summer.

### Talking with Treaty Negotiators

On February 21, the Denman Island Local Trust Committee met with Provincial Treaty Negotiators to talk about the treaty process generally and the history and status of the K'omoks First Nation treaty in particular. There's so much to learn about first nations issues, and I find this aspect of being a Trustee particularly fascinating, relevant and complex. I hope to report in more depth about this topic in an upcoming Trustee Notebook. For now I recommend, for anyone interested, a few information sources:

The BC Treaty Commission: <http://www.bctreaty.net/>  
BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/>  
K'omoks Band website: <http://www.comoxband.ca/>