

Trustees Report – February 2015

Alex Allen and Tony Law

A Happy New Year to one and all. We are both looking forward once again to working with you, our community, in continuing to honour the mandate of the Islands Trust. Now that we have completed the final readings of our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) review, we can focus on your common concerns.

Projects List

Top of our projects list is to explore affordable housing needs, which could encompass subdivision of lots; building secondary suites or cottages; and other community-driven alternatives. And, as we are all aware, the challenge is to balance the preserve and protect while maintaining a vital community, both economically and culturally.

And of course, the other item on the top of our list is the contentious Riparian Areas Regulation, which the provincial government insisted we all comply with in our LUBs. We have therefore asked staff to conduct early referrals with other agencies so that we can consider moving ahead with bylaws early in this term after the OCP and LUB have been adopted. We will also be holding a public meeting in the Spring, so keep your eyes open for details. [For those of you who are unfamiliar with RAR, check out our web page on the Islands Trust web site for good information.]

Islands Trust Proposed 2015-2016 Budget

Some highlights of the *proposed* budget include:

- An increase in expenses of \$130,190 over 2014-2015
- A transfer of funds from the General Revenue Surplus Fund of \$262,223 to projected General Revenue Surplus Fund Balance of \$2.04 million at March 31, 2016, 8% more than the recommended balance
- An increase in Provincial Grant revenues based on new funding proposal
- An increase to Trustee remuneration as per the Trustee Remuneration Policy and current CPI projections
- Hire a Senior Aboriginal Advisor

The Financial Planning Committee is recommending that the Islands Trust Council adopt a budget of \$7.189 million for 2015-2016. The good news? No tax increase associated with this budget, except for Salt Spring Island and Bowen Island.

You have an opportunity to share your input regarding this year's budget, through many different avenues:

- Email: budget@islandstrust.bc.ca
- Snail mail:

Islands Trust Council
Attention: Treasurer
200 – 1627 Fort Street
Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8

- Fax: (1) (250) 405-515
- Talk to either of us, your elected trustees via email or telephone [see below].
- Make a presentation to the Islands Trust Council at our March 10-12 meeting on Gabriola Island. [See the Islands Trust website for more information about the meeting and tips for successful delegations.] Email Jas Chonk at jchonk@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Your input must be received BEFORE NOON Friday, February 27, 2015 for Trust Council's consideration at its March 10-12 meeting.

If you send your input BEFORE NOON Wednesday, February 11, 2015, the Financial Planning Committee can consider it as part of its budget recommendation to Trust Council and include it in the Trust Council meeting package. If Islands Trust receives your input BEFORE NOON Thursday, February 19 it will be in the Trust Council meeting agenda package. [Please note that Trust Council's meeting package and all public input will be posted to the Islands Trust website as well.]

We are looking forward to our new term. Please join us at our first LTC meeting of the term and welcome our new Chair Laura Bushiekin, from Denman Island [her mother is our very own, Sharon Milstein], on Friday, February 13th, 11:30 am at Room to Grow in the Computer Access Centre building.

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(or toll free at 1-800-663-7867)

Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>

Meeting notification service: <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/meetingnotify.cfm>