

"You can observe a lot just by watching." – Yogi Berra

And you can learn just as much just by listening.

This past month has involved a lot of observing, listening and learning. We have witnessed our community's ability to come together around complex and challenging issues in very a mature, open and thoughtful way. We have seen our community open its arms up to our First Nations brothers and sisters who have been so wronged and impacted by colonization and settlement and as we prepare to extend the same kind of hospitality to a Syrian family displaced by the unimaginable violence and horror that is being perpetrated half a world away. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place, with marvelous, impressive and capable people. As we come into this Holiday Season, this is something to celebrate and be thankful for.

Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

Discussions continue around waste. The Waste and Resource Management Commission has held a number of meetings as it develops a better understanding of the situation. We are hoping that the members of this Commission will be able to turn their minds to this important issues and service area and come to a consensus on the location and scope of waste management on the Pender Islands. Commission meetings are open to the public and the Commission will be hosting public consultation sessions as their work progresses. We welcome your attendance. Meeting times and locations are posted under the projects tab of the North

Pender Island section of the Islands Trust website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender.aspx).

Housing

On Saturday November 7th we hosted a workshop at the Anglican Hall to begin to talk and think about Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs). The meeting was very well attended and facilitated by our Planner, Justine Starke. Attendees spent time in small groups discussing their experience with STVRs as well as their hopes and fears. People then had the opportunity to share what they had heard and learned back to the whole group. It was a very encouraging meeting that allowed us to respectfully learn about and hear each other's perspectives and positions. Another meeting is planned for the New Year and will be posted on the North Pender Island LTC project portion of the Islands Trust website.

Age and Disability Friendly Communities

At the October 29th Local Trust Committee meeting, we accepted a draft copy of the Age Friendly Community Action Plan. This followed an earlier meeting between the various government agencies responsible for the delivery of infrastructure, services and planning on our island to discuss the recommendations suggested in the plan. A final version of the plan will be posted on the North Pender Island section of the Islands Trust website, likely in early December.

Freighter Anchorages

On November 3rd the Islands Trust facilitated a meeting in Victoria focused on the issue of anchorages for large vessels within the Trust Area. The meeting was chaired by our MP Elizabeth May. Attendees included Trustees and concerned residents from affected islands, the Pacific Pilotage Authority, the Canadian Chamber of Shipping, the Nanaimo Port Authority and Canadian Shipping Lines (CSL), the company that owns and operates the gypsum boats that moor and off-load material in Plumper Sound

off of North and South Pender. This was the second meeting for a number of us – the first of which had been held in Hope Bay last February, in response to concerns with CSL’s operations. Similar to the first meeting, the conversation was wide-ranging and respectful as we learned and shared more about our respective interests and concerns, and considered potential alternatives that would reduce the impact of these shipping activities on our islands and the environment. A more detailed summary of the meeting can be found on the Gabriola Sounder News website (www.soundernews.com/news/human-impacts-should-outweigh-cost-of-alternatives-to-anchorages-say-island-trustees.html). We have posted background information on this issue on the Islands Trust website, which can be found by entering “anchorage” in the search box located at the top of the page.

Trust Council

Trust Council’s fourth quarter meeting will be held in Victoria from December 8th – 10.th The agenda package will be available on the Trust website before the meeting. The big news this quarter is the appointment of Ross Hotsenpillar as our new Chief Administrative Officer. Russ will replace our current CAO, Linda Adams, who has held the position since 2004, and who will be retiring early in the New Year. Russ comes to us from the Strathcona Regional District where he has held the position of CAO since 2013. The Victoria meeting will give us an opportunity to meet Russ and for him to participate in an important aspect of the governance of the Trust.

Peace and Good Will

Thank you for everything that you do and give to our island home. We hope that you are able to take the time to reflect and celebrate the remarkable nature and condition of our community. We wish you, your families and your friends the very best this Holiday Season and all the success in the coming New Year!

Cheers!

Local Trustee Dianne Barber dbarber@islandstrust.bc.ca

Local Trustee Derek Masselink dmasselink@islandstrust.bc.ca

North Pender Island